

Printed Membership List

The printed membership list was felt to be a valued and well used means of contact between members, particularly for those without access to the internet and so after many delays the new edition is about to be produced and will hopefully be mailed to members in the Summer edition of the Recorder Magazine. To ensure compliance with recent Data Protection Regulations it was clear that changes needed to be made to the membership forms and this then necessitated development of the membership system. Each member can now decide exactly what contact information (if any) they are happy to have published in the printed list and the new membership form includes a section allowing members to make those restrictions. Obviously a great deal of extra work was generated by the need to collect additional information and thanks are due to all the branches for handling these changes and entering data from the new forms. The process however took some considerable time and this regretfully led to the list not being delivered with the Spring copy of the Recorder Magazine as planned. Aside from processing all the new forms, the membership list is generated directly from the membership system and there were many modifications that needed to be made to it in order to process members' publishing preferences. Thanks go to Tina Friedrich for the significant amount of time she has spent working on the re-coding and to Anthony Hall for additional work and his input throughout the whole process. Thanks also to Sara Scorey for uploading all the new forms to the website so speedily. As a matter of interest some 113 members have withheld permission for their name to be published in the membership list. Of the remaining members (branch and central) who chose to be included, approximately 75% also included their address, 69% included a phone number and 83% their email address.

Membership System

At this point last year 36 branches were using the membership database to manage branch membership online. We now have nearly all (94%) of branches doing so. Entering data online is very straightforward, allowing easy marking of renewals and editing of members details whilst at the same instantly updating the monetary totals of branch subs and donations.

Once again please can committees electing new members who will have responsibility for handling membership make them aware that editing online will now be a requirement. The person elected will need to have internet access in order to carry out editing and must also be willing to send and respond to emails in order to resolve any queries that may arise.

Branch Membership Data (excluding Central members)

At this point in the year branch membership is currently 1299 compared to 1310 as the *final* total for the previous membership year. Please note that this is the total for branch membership only as central membership figures will be reported separately. Sadly, September saw one branch closure - West Dorset, although it is noted that a number of their members have rejoined other branches. Because yearly branch membership numbers can fluctuate significantly, often going up one year and down the next, the following comparisons have been made over a six year period. Over that period 27 branches have increased their membership, 17 branches have fewer members and 5 branches have an identical number of members. The number of branch members in the membership year 2013/2014 was 1259 which is 40 fewer than currently in the 2019/2020 year.

Adult Branch Members	Household Branch members	Young Person/Student Branch members	Life Branch Members	Total
1169	108	15	7	1299*

* This figure includes the 32 members who joined at the reduced rate in January 2020