

Membership Secretary's Report 2017

Total membership at the end of the year 2016 was 670 UK members and 31 overseas; this figure does include life members and those organisations and overseas members who receive free copies of the magazine. We did say at the last AGM in July 2016 that we would continue to make recruitment of new members a priority. By the end of 2016 we had managed to recruit 44 new members, which means that overall our numbers remained nearly the same as the year before when non-renewals and deaths are taken into account.

We have had some success since the end of 2016 with new membership recruitment, and up to the date of this AGM we have managed to recruit 33 new members, this is the best result in recruitment for a half year that I have observed since becoming Membership Secretary. We still have a problem in this area in that we have currently about 50 pre-existing members who have not so far renewed, this does not include the 7 or 8 members who have died since the start of the year. We currently have a total of 648 paying members, including 24 overseas members. We send out 671 magazines currently, the discrepancy being down to Life Members (9) some Committee members and complimentary magazines sent to other SAM Chapters, the BMFA and the British Library.

We still have a problem in recruiting and retaining members but it is not as big a problem as it was in previous years. The Committee members who have worked hard to recruit new members are to be congratulated on their efforts, but the work must continue if we are to survive as an organisation.

One of the things I mentioned in my last report and am still committed to doing is to make it easier for members to pay their subscriptions by being able to pay directly into our bank account. I hope that this facility will be available from the start of 2018!

Overall our members are spread quite evenly across the UK with every county being represented. There is a slight North - South bias with slightly more members residing in the South than in the North of the country as a whole.

I would welcome suggestions as to how we can recruit more members, we need to do this to survive.