**Membership Secretary’s report for AGM on 12 December 2023**

At the end of the 2022-2023 season we had 59 members in total which was an increase compared to the year before.

Apart from new members, this total number included people who were long standing members and members who had joined the previous season whom we had retained.

We have been trying to find out how new members hear of us and are persuaded to join.

Of the 10 new members, 5 were people who previously had only been viewers of our lectures via Eventbrite . 3 other new joiners had discovered us via an internet search.

In several cases they had first attended a meeting as a guest and been impressed both by the lecture and the future Programme of talks and then decided to become a member.

It was not all gains, however, we did lose a few people who had joined during the pandemic and presumably had watched our lectures on Zoom but chose not to renew their membership after we were back to live meetings.

We also ‘lost’ one local member in 2023 who transferred to National Membership.

The number of National members affiliated to the branch in 2022/2023 was 87. This figure is always pretty stable.

Ann Scurfield Membership Secretary