

Subscriptions secretary's Report 1st February 2016

Total paid up membership at December 2015 was 183 members compared to 165 in 2014.

Of those, payments were made up from; 104 by PayPal, 70 by cheque and 9 by cash at meetings. Some of those who paid by cheque or PayPal have paid for two years subscriptions. Payments by PayPal are rising with an increase of 31 this year. Members do not actually require a PayPal account to make a payment as there is also a facility within the PayPal section to use a credit or debit card to make the payment.

There has been a few problems this year with some overseas members making their PayPal payment via their own payee lists. These are using old information and this has been advised in several mailings and on the web to ensure payment is only made using the log in on the subscriptions page on the web site.

2015 Members come from.

Scotland	75	Norway	6	Netherlands	1	Canada	7	China	3	
England	58	Sweden	4	France	1	USA	8	Japan	2	
Wales	2	Denmark	2	Russia	1			N.Z.	1	
Ireland	7			Switzerland	1			Australia	1	
Jersey	1			Germany	2					
	143		12		6		15		7	183

Although members make payments throughout the year, membership for the purposes of the AGM is only recorded as exact at the end of the year in December to compare to the same time the previous year. Renewals for the next year are not included as they will be in the following year's figures. Just for information though, the Seed Exchange and Newsletter prompted a renewed interest in the group and 39 members paid their 2016 renewal by the end of 2015.

It would really be beneficial for the administration of the Group if members who have not already paid could pay subscriptions at the start of the year when the reminders come out, and hopefully by the end of February or before the AGM. This would mean that the administration could be done at just several times instead of the almost weekly way as is happening at the moment.

This year members who have email addresses will receive their receipt letter and membership card with new log in details for 2016 by email. This can be printed off and the card cut out should they wish. The log in details to the members section on the web site will change on 1st April 2016. Postal members will still receive their letter and card by post. All subscriptions require to be paid for the year or access to the 2016 seed exchange will not be available.

In 2015 there were 29 new members compared to 35 in 2014. Of that 11 were male, 17 were female and 1 family membership. Three of the new members for 2015 were actually returning lapsed members from several years ago.

These were made up from

Scotland 10		Wales 1		USA 3	
England 9				France 1	
Ireland 2		Sweden 2		Australia 1	

At the present time there are 8 honorary members, 11 complimentary members and no student members. If any member is aware of any students of Horticulture, Botany or a related subject who may be interested in our student membership please let them know of the Group's student membership.

As at 1.2.16, 109 Members have paid their subscriptions for 2016.

Members will be able to pay their subscriptions at the AGM on 27th February.

Sharon Bradley February 2016