

## **Melton Mowbray u3a**

### **Membership Secretary's Report 2024**

After almost 4 years as your Membership Secretary, my term in the role has come to an end. I was initially contacted about the vacant role in June 2020, co-opted onto the Committee in July 2020, and formally appointed at the AGM of 2021. During my period of office many significant changes have been introduced into the administration of the Branch membership systems. The introduction of Beacon as our membership database; the introduction of fee payments by bank transfer; the introduction of Gift Aid to assist our finances; and changes to the membership renewal and application processes. We still have a journey to travel in achieving the potential benefits from the Beacon database, along with other processes to explore. I am sure that these will be evaluated thoroughly by our new Committee to improve the current systems still further, where possible.

Unfortunately, I must make everyone aware, once again, about the use of Bank Transfer (BACS) payments for membership fees. The payment of your membership fee by BACS does not constitute your membership renewal under the current system. Your membership renewal can only be processed with the receipt of a completed renewal form by the Membership Secretary.

During 2023 there were two New Members Meetings held, with 41 new members, in total, attending. They were able to meet with Committee members, and enjoy open discussions whilst having their coffee and biscuits. Further meetings are being planned for this year with the first due to take place in April.

The current membership number for 2024 stands at 651; compared to the 602 members at the same time last year. Following a membership renewal reminder sent out at the beginning of January, 15 members have resigned their membership, and at the end of January, after our 3 month renewal period, 57 members had their membership lapsed. Group Leaders will be made aware of the lapsed members to check that they are no longer attending their Group. The number of new members joining for 2024 already stands at 65.

On finishing my term of office, I would like to thank all of the Committee members that I have worked with for their understanding and support. Also thanks to the support afforded to me by the vast majority of our members. I trust that you will welcome your new Membership Secretary into this role and continue with this support going forward.

To sign off I am reminded of Abraham Lincoln's quote (*slightly modified*):  
"You can *please* all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, but you can't *please* all of the people all of the time."

**Eric Faulconbridge**

Membership Secretary