

Norman Nicholson Society – Membership Report 2024-2025

I thank Glenn Lang for dealing with *The Cumberland* (formerly Cumberland Building Society) and lodging cheques and checking membership payments.

The current membership (31 March 2025) is:

- 159 of which 6 are Honorary Life Members, and 4 are Youth members. There are 23 joint memberships (two people at the same address). We had 3 new members (2 joint memberships) over the last year. However, the number 159 is probably somewhat too large as we have some members from whom we have not heard for some time. As from this 1st January, the membership year was restarted from this date. I hope to have a much better assessment of membership by the end of 2025 when there has been full adjustment in the receipt of membership fees.
- We have a stable core of members but with only a slow annual addition.
- We should try to increase the membership as Nicholson's poetry gains in popularity and members are used by, for example, educational institutions. Some publicity is gained from presentations made by members regarding Norman Nicholson and his poetry but the Society should continue to encourage members to join when we have online and other events. For example, the very popular September Symposium is heavily subsidised but not all attendees are members.
- We welcome ideas from members about increasing the 'visibility' of the Society and its work. Should we, for example, look more towards teachers and educators as a way of bringing Nicholson's work to a wider, younger audience? Perhaps members will have some ideas in the Post-AGM discussions.
- We are starting to look at events to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Norman's death in 2027 and I hope that this will engender some new members. I had previously suggested investigating a 'corporate membership' but this idea has been shelved for the present as we look towards potential bodies to support events in 2027.

Brian Whalley
Membership Secretary
5th April 2025