

Norman Nicholson Society – Membership Report 2019-2021

I took over the role of Membership Secretary from Antoinette in 2020. Since then, we have had the Corona Virus to contend with and Antoinette has particularly suffered in the long term from its effects. I thank Antoinette for her long-standing role as Membership Secretary and in facilitating the handover (as well as editing the *Bulletin* and *Comet*) and Glenn for dealing with *The Cumberland* (formerly Cumberland Building Society) and lodging cheques and checking membership payments. (Our use has been less convenient during the pandemic because of its lockdown closure or limited opening hours in Ulverston.)

This report is for a two-year period as the AGM in 2020 was cancelled.

The current membership (April 2021) is:

- 146 of which 6 are Honorary Life Members, and 5 are junior members. There are 21 joint memberships.
- We are still chasing up lapsed members we had on the lists (possibly five). We had three resignations and have been notified of eight deaths over the last two years
- We appear to have a stable core of members with a slow annual addition. Over the last 18 months we have had 5 new members and some recent enquiries. This is reasonable but we should try to increase the number as Nicholson's poetry gains in popularity.

The Festival (2019) generated some eleven new members, and we hope that the same might follow for this year. Although the entry to the Lockdown Poetry competition was, perhaps surprisingly, large (over 230 poems from 129 poets) it did not generate any new members. In the light of the disruptions cause by Covid 19 I propose that your Committee look again at the *Society's Membership Review* and *Action Plan* with a view to generating more income and membership numbers.

Brian Whalley
Membership Secretary
21st April 2021