

2021 AGM Minutes Appendix 4

The Friends of Raymond Membership Secretary's Report to AGM 14 March 2021

1. Membership position at 31 December 2020

Valid memberships*	2020	2019
Sole memberships	40	46
Sole memberships (honorary & concessionary**)	5	4
Joint memberships	16	18
Joint memberships (honorary)	1	2
Family membership	1	1
Total memberships	63	71
Total Individual members	82	93

*Does not include Patron, Tim Coghlan

**Chloe Brudenell is over 18 and no longer qualifies for Joint Membership

2. Variations on 2019

New memberships	2020	2019
Sole memberships	0	4
Joint memberships	0	2
Family memberships	0	0
Total new memberships	0	6

Memberships cancelled or not renewed*	2020	2019
Sole memberships	6	2
Joint memberships	2	3
Family memberships	0	1
Total memberships lost	8	6

*Long-term member William Procter resigned his membership, Jane Poulton's SO was not paid and, when contacted, she did not reply. The others had all joined in 2018 and 2019.

3. Income from membership subscriptions

See also 2020 Accounts P4 "Details of Income"

	2020	2019
Sole memberships @ £10	£400	£460
Sole membership @ £10 (for 2019 in arrears)	£10	
Joint memberships @ £15	£240	£270
Family memberships @ £20	£20	£20
Total income	£670	£750

4. Membership position at 14 March 2021

Non-paying memberships*	
Sole memberships (honorary & concessionary)	5
Joint memberships (honorary)	1
Total non-paying memberships	6

*Does not include Patron, Tim Coghlan

Memberships paid up for 2021 (inc new memberships)

Sole memberships	37
Joint/Family memberships*	17
Total memberships paid up	54

*One Sole membership has upgraded to Join/Family membership

New memberships in 2021*

Sole memberships	3
Joint/Family memberships	1
Total new memberships	4

**Two Sole memberships and one Join/Family are Narrow Boat Trust members. The third Sole membership is Chris R Jones's daughter, Megan.*

Memberships not renewed by 14 March 2021*

Sole memberships	5
Joint/Family memberships	2
Total memberships not yet renewed	7

**Three Sole memberships have said they will renew, one Joint/Family membership will possibly renew by SO in June, the others may be doubtful.*

5. The change in subscription rates and renewal date

The response to the changes appears to have justified the decision. The majority of members renewed in December and January at the new rates, and we are grateful to those members who renew by Standing Order and agreed to change their payment date. SOs for 13 out of 15 memberships were paid in January. Of the other two, one wishes to continue paying on 1 March, but I have received no response from the members whose SO is due on 29 June.

As predicted, a sizeable number of members who have tended to pay, say, £15 for a £10 membership, or £25 for a £15 membership did not change their overall payment, so the donation element was lost, but equally, others adjusted their payment accordingly or even increased their accompanying donation. So overall, the change has been a success, and has made a considerable impact on our cash resources at the turn of the year.

6. Conclusion

It is hardly surprising that 2020 was not a great year from the membership point of view. We lost eight memberships and gained none. This is in stark contrast to my optimistic report last year that, taking account of the six lapsed membership who renewed following my appeal, we had made a net gain of six memberships in 2019. However, we already have four new memberships for 2021, three of whom are also members of the Narrow Boat Trust, which can only help to forge closer ties between our two charities.

And continuing in optimistic vein, if as we hope, the Braunston Historic Boat Rally goes ahead in June, and that we are able to return to something like our normal routine thereafter, it is probably worth repeating my closing thought in last year's Membership Report, which is that we should aim to build on the small success we have achieved this year already, by taking active steps, not only to retain our existing members but also to attract new ones. So, if we decide to resurrect the idea of launching a fundraising appeal, possibly at this year's Braunston Rally, it may also be worth considering a proactive appeal for new members as part of it.