

Asociacion Social de la Tercera Edad Jávea

Membership Secretary

Good morning everybody. First of all I have some thanks to make:

The renewal desks and new members' desks are managed by volunteers. Without them we wouldn't be able to function. This year we were helped by Anne Radcliffe & Frank Campbell; Sheila Giacomelli & Janet; Maureen Bowen & Pat Ainsley; Delia Wilde & Theresa Pinfold; Hilary Grove & Duncan Robson; Yvonne & David Mulla; Linda & Richard Thompson; and last but not least Margaret Staines.

We do need more volunteers. It's really not fair to rely on the same people year after year and if you would like to help, please contact me via the Membership Secretary's emails address which can be found on the website.

I have special thanks to the Deputy Membership Secretary Julie Robson who so ably supports me at and after all the meetings and holds the fort while I'm in the UK. Julie has a great way with words when welcoming new members. Also thanks to Linda Coughlin, our Meet & Greet Officer who always meets new members with a smile. Linda was unable to help at this year's open meeting in January because of family illness back in the UK.

During this year we have had some difficulties with the new data base. It's fair to say that we are still on a learning curve but we are getting there, thanks to our dedicated IT team of Piotr Azia, John Wilde and Peter Bayliss and to Margaret March who has really personally helped me through this learning process.

Now for some general information on our present membership numbers:

We closed last year with a total membership of 1,388. So far this year 1,135 members have renewed their membership and we have welcomed 143 new members into our association. Our present membership therefore is 1,278, down 110 from last year.

Approximately 250 members have not renewed from last year. Obviously we all know a number of members who have now repatriated back to the UK. Sadly, old father time also has taken his toll. The fall in membership is further aggravated by the present emergency situation and is probably impacted also by the uncertainties surrounding the UK exit from the EU.

Despite all this I know that more renewals will be forthcoming and, because of the present emergency situation, I think we may have to show some flexibility regarding the deadline for renewals which is the end of April. Hopefully, this will give people time to arrange their renewal by whichever method they prefer.

We obviously, at this stage, do not know when we will be able to hold our next open meeting. Online bank transfer is the easiest thing to do and is encouraged as the best way to renew. If members can't do this themselves, maybe they can get a friend to do it for them. Make sure you quote the renewing member's name and (preferably but not mandatory) their membership number.

I'm nearly finished. The last thing I want to dwell on is - my replacement.

Having fought a hard election battle for the post of Membership Secretary, I expect to be re-elected to this position for the next year. This will be my third year in this position and it will be my last.

I am really looking for a replacement to maybe shadow me during this coming year and take over in twelve months' time. I will be happy to act as Deputy for a further year if necessary but I will be resigning as Membership Secretary at the 2021 AGM.

Stan Staines
Membership Secretary