

Secretary's Report

Membership

	2021	2022
Primary members	505	519
Associates	584	645
Total	1089	1164

Of our current total of 1164, 975 receive the weekly email – Barry's Blather. This is important as receiving regular information encourages them to be active members of the club. We are one of very few branches who send out a weekly newsletter. The proportion of the membership receiving this has risen very slightly from 83.56% last year to 83.76% at the end of 2022.

Turning to our ability to retain members, between the end of 2021 and the end of 2022, we have lost 86 primary members (or possibly they have switched to Associate membership). In the same period, we have lost 110 Associate members. Put another way, 17.03% of primary members have left (compared with 27.15% in 2019-21). Offsetting this, we have gained 100 new Primary members and 171 new Associate members.

Apart from our usual walking programme, we were proud to contribute to the Association-wide celebration of the LDWA's 50th anniversary. Gavin Fuller kindly agreed to run two walks. One was a 50 miler, which took place on 18th June, and the second was the following day, Sunday 19th, when Gavin led a rather shorter walk around a final grand total of 51 London squares. Both were well supported and much enjoyed.

On 17th August Colin Saunders masterminded and, together with Godfrey O'Callaghan, led a walk to the Founders' Tree where a plaque has now been installed. This celebrates the 25th anniversary of our founding. It bears the inscription 'Saluting departed members of the Long Distance Walkers' Association, London Group.' The plaque incorporates a QR code which leads users to further information presently being assembled on our Group Website. This will give the history of how our branch was founded by Ann Sayer, Steve Clarke and local members Colin Saunders, Paul Lawrence, Ken Fancett, Sylvia Nagarkar, Don Bolton plus one other whose name has sadly been lost.

We have been working reasonably successfully to build club activities up after the difficult Covid period. We are still seeking to expand our programme, and would so welcome members coming forward, whether to lead walks or if they have any ideas for other forms of social event the Group could partake in.