



THE ICKNIELD WAY ASSOCIATION

Membership Secretary's Report, 2025 AGM.

1. Increasing the membership. This continues to be one of the primary objectives of the Executive Committee. I am, therefore, delighted to report that 9 new members have joined the IWA during the past year, including several who joined at the 2024 AGM itself. All have received a letter welcoming them to the Association and providing information about its background and objectives, together with practical details about walking the Icknield Way Path.

2. Current membership. At last year's AGM I reported that the Association had 62 subscribing members, 7 of which were joint memberships. I am pleased to report that the figure now stands at 68 subscribing memberships, of which 13 are life memberships and one of which is a joint life membership. Also included in the 68 are 9 other joint memberships meaning that the total number of people enjoying membership of the Association is 78. However, that number includes 6 people whose membership expired in September 2024 and 14 whose membership during 2025. Emails will now be sent to those members reminding them their membership has lapsed, asking them either to renew their membership or to let me know they no longer wish to be a member and advising that any memberships not renewed by 1st November 2025 will lapse and their names will be removed from our records. Previous experience suggests that several people will renew their membership following such a reminder.

3. A sad loss. Last year I reported the loss during 2023/24 of 2 founding members of the Association, David Allard and Janet Moreton and the resignation of Janet's husband, Roger Moreton, due to ill health. Sadly, we have now learnt that Roger Moreton died in mid-September. It is anticipated that the Association will be represented at his funeral in October.

4. Spring Patrol.

As part of the campaign to secure National Trail status for the Icknield Way Path, the Executive Committee decided to ask our wardens to ensure that the full 110 miles of the Path were checked during April and May, that any issues were reported and that some text and photographs were generated for inclusion on our website. We called this our Spring Patrol and, as the committee member charged with liaison with the wardens, I co-ordinated the exercise. They rose to the challenge magnificently and each one submitted a warden's report, made sure any missing way markers were noted and replaced and suggested any potential spots for a bench along their stretch of the route. We are very grateful to the wardens for their help and support with this endeavour and, as a result, when submitting our briefing paper to MPs, we could be confident that the Path is in good condition throughout its length. You will find details of the campaign to secure National Trail status elsewhere on today's agenda.

Lesley Blundell, Membership Secretary.