



THE ICKNIELD WAY ASSOCIATION

Membership Secretary's Report, 2026 AGM

1. Attracting new members has been one of the objectives of the Executive Committee for many years. Only 5 new members have joined the IWA since the 2025 AGM, by comparison with the 9 who joined between October 2024 and October 2025. However, the latter figure included several who joined at the 40th Anniversary 2024 AGM itself, when we had a high-profile guest speaker. In addition, people frequently join the Association at the point when they are planning to walk all or part of the Icknield Way Path and/or have purchased a copy of the Walkers' Guide. This year's exceptionally hot spring and summer months have inevitably deterred some people from embarking on such activities.

As usual, all new members 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 68 subscribing members, of which 13 were joint memberships. I am pleased to report that the figure now stands at 73, of which 13 are life memberships and 3 of which are joint life membership. Also included in the 73 are 31 five-year memberships, 4 of which are joint and 27 annual memberships, 5 of which are joint. This means that the total number of people enjoying membership of the Association is 85.

However, that number includes 25 people whose membership had expired by October 2025. A further 3 memberships will expire at the end of October this year. Owing to my ill-health during late 2025/early 2026 the usual renewal reminders were not sent to lapsed members, 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 a specified date would lapse. Previous experience suggests that several people will renew their membership following such a reminder, although many will not.

Lesley Blundell, Membership Secretary

Membership@IcknieldWayPath.co.uk

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