

Norman Nicholson Society – Membership Report 2022-2023

I thank Glenn Lang for dealing with *The Cumberland* (formerly Cumberland Building Society) and lodging cheques and checking membership payments.

The current membership (10 March 2023) is:

- 146 of which 7 are Honorary Life Members and President, and 4 are Youth members (< 25 years of age). There are 20 joint memberships. We had 4 new members over the last year and 5 resignations and deaths reported over the last year.
- This is a reduced membership number from that reported last year (159). Aside from the deaths and resignations, this is due to regularizing the membership list according to failures to renew membership.
- Although we have a 'stable' core of members any annual addition appears to have slowed.
- We should try to increase the membership as Nicholson's poetry gains in popularity. Some publicity is gained from presentations made by members regarding Norman Nicholson and his poetry and the occasional reading of a poem on BBC radio. However, such events do not appear to increase membership enquires and some attendees to online talks have not joined despite expectations. The support for the Norman Nicholson House Project shows that there is an interest in Nicholson and the Society needs to capitalize on this.
- I propose that your committee looks again at the *Society's Membership Review and Action Plan* (which mentions some of the difficulties of increasing the membership) with a view to generating more income from membership numbers. Increases of postage costs for mailing 'Comet' need to be covered. We would also welcome ideas from the membership about increasing the 'visibility' of the Society and its work and to increase membership accordingly.

Brian Whalley
Membership Secretary
10th March, 2023