

Secretary's Report

October 2023 – July 2024 inclusive.

Dorothy Morgan

Membership numbers have fallen this year, in spite of the recruitment drive launched last October at the Society's AGM. Two members have died; Millicent (Millie) East passed away in November last year, her obituary was in the Spring 2024 issue of *Points East*. Millie was a very interesting lady. Dr Jamie Sime, one of our members who lived in Scotland, passed away in January this year, his wife sadly predeceased him in October 2023. A condolence letter was sent to their son on behalf of the Society.

Twenty-four members were due to renew their subscription, now annual by May 1st. Two decided not to renew, two did not respond. Members in North America faced difficulties in transferring small amounts overseas because of the exorbitant costs and onerous conditions set by their local banks. This is concerning as our member numbers are now fast diminishing. The good news is that we have regained a former member, and welcome back Sue Crane to the Society. Thanks go to Pam Pearce for her help, encouragement and support in this. We are now down to 56 members, compared to 64 last year (Secretary's Report 2023).

The Society has rejoined the Family History Federation (formerly the Federation of Family History Societies) and now benefits from inclusion in their Public Liability Insurance, thus satisfying a condition mandated by our Society's Constitution.

The change of Secretary and Treasurer, together with the negotiations to rejoin the Family History Federation and the revision of material for the new website, greatly increased the Secretary's workload this year. Membership application forms, membership renewal forms, for both UK and Overseas, membership records (spreadsheet), all had to be updated. A new Christmas Greetings format for email and surface mail was developed.

A new Profile was written for the Society's entry on the Family History Federation website.

When I stood down from the Secretary post at the end of July I received some lovely emails from members. Thank you.