

Report for 19th AGM – 19th September 2018

Membership

Our membership currently stands at 224 – 32 more than this time last year. The membership figure is the highest it has been since 2002 and in recent years the trend in membership is steadily rising.

Around 76% of last year's members have renewed their subscriptions. This percentage represents a loss of 39 members which is the same as last year's 39, but since the last AGM we have recruited 62 new members.

The presence of RAGES at various summer events in East Lothian and Berwickshire was clearly a success in terms of raising awareness of the RAGES cause and increasing RAGES membership. This is something that should be continued in future years.

Reston members again outnumber all other station areas rising again to 48.6% of the membership, but along with Dunbar (14.7%) the two together still represent over half of our membership at over 63%.

RAGES have eight corporate members, five of which are community councils;

- Ayton Community Council
- Dunpender Community Council
- Eyemouth Community Council
- Dunbar Community Council
- Reston And Auchencrow Community Council
- Prendergust Farm Ltd
- Sustaining Dunbar
- T Tunnock Ltd

The use of electronic payment as a method of subscription payment continues, as a percentage this method is used by 20% of our members which is quite low given that over 72% of our members receive RAGES updates via email. It is the intention for next years subscription reminder to send out a standing order form to encourage more members to pay electronically.

If we have a member's email address acknowledgement of receipt of a member's subscription is sent by e-mail. This saves on the cost of stationery and stamps.

RAGES also received 14 donations amounting to £68 when members renewed their subscriptions.

Publications

The Electronic Newsletters continue to be sent on an ad-hoc basis to all members for whom I have e-mail addresses.

Web Site

The web site continues to be updated regularly. Since the last AGM we have had around 2950 visits, which averages out at 57 per week, very slightly up on last year's figure of 2900 visits and 56 per week.

Tom Dickson