**AGM 30th September 2017**

**FoDA Membership Secretary's report 2017.**

The Friends’ membership “year” now starts on 1st January. This will be the first full year where the subscription covers the calendar year. There were some teething problems where members’ banks ignored the changed dates of payment or the amounts to be paid. I hope that we have sorted all those out now. Our old year started on 1st October but I hope that we have cancelled all payments on that date. Our bank statement for October will tell us whether we have been successful!

Our total paid-up membership at 28th September 2017, counting Family members as 2, stands at 169 – compared with 181 last year. These include:

109 individual members - a loss of 11

17 Life members – 1 more than last year

11 Group members – a loss of 2

16 Family members – ie 32 members.

Much of the loss is due to me treating as lapsed members who have not paid at the new rates in 2016.

People who volunteer at the archives in Exeter and Barnstaple have also been invited to sign up to receive details of the Friends’ events without subscribing. So far 12 have taken advantage of that offer.

Sadly I have to report that one member died during the year, Mr Geoffrey Harding.

At this AGM it is not necessary for me to collect next year’s subscriptions. They are not due, under the new arrangements, until 1st January 2018. Any members who note that their banks are continuing to pay the old subscriptions on 1st October, or on any other day of the year, are invited to remind their banks of the new subscriptions and dates.

Anyone who normally pays by cash or cheque and wants to pay me now, please buttonhole me today. In case you are not sure, I have a list with me.

Peter Towey

Membership Secretary

28 September 2017