

LIFE OF MOVEMENTS

ENGLAND

Brenda Willis took on the role of Treasurer and President.

A short account of what is happening in the UK Movement to date.

The very nature of the Life Ascending Movement means that all members are of retirement age and over. We have three regions, North, Westminster and Southwark as well as Associate Members.

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These are people who no longer attend Group meetings either because there isn't one near to them or because they are unable to attend

due to health reasons. Each of the three regions have five, seven and six groups respectively. As the moment, the number of members is similar to last year. I do not have the information to go back further than that. Undoubtedly, Covid and lockdown had an impact and this would have affected the membership numbers. This year the Interim President lowered the subscription rate (for 2024 only) in acknowledgement of the rising cost of living. As National Treasurer, I have to decide whether to restore the subscriptions back to last year's amount. However, we are all braced for a very tough Budget from the new government and so I will make a decision on the subscription rate after that.

One of the difficulties we are facing, as I'm sure all groups are facing, is the rising age of our members. At the moment we have enough 'troops' but not enough 'generals', and so our leaders are taking on more responsibility. We have also moved very swiftly into a digital age and this is reflected in the way all businesses are operating. We have now begun to conduct meetings via Zoom and, of course, all banking is done on-line. Not many of our members are able to deal with these changes.

However, we remain optimistic about the future and next year look forward to 45 years as Life Ascending UK.

Brenda Willis