

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS **Sheila Cope**

During these strange times it has been tempting to let routine tasks slip, so even greater thanks than usual are due to our members who have faithfully paid their subscriptions. Payment by Direct Credit is becoming increasingly popular and The Society's Bank sort code and account number are now included on the application form. Any payment method is welcome, particularly Standing Orders (not Direct Debits). We number around 460 at present.

Running our new database alongside our long-standing paper-based membership system is time-consuming but having more time available is one of the silver linings of lockdown.

Many members are content to continue to pay the £10 joint subscription after they have lost a partner or their circumstances have changed but I am suggesting, in fairness, that they might prefer to review their rate if they are now on their own. Needless to say, the larger amount is always welcome and some members generously pay the joint rate even when they are single. With increased postage and hall hire costs, the committee is prudently reconsidering our financial situation.

In spite of being obliged to cancel our AGM and summer outings we have nonetheless welcomed some new members. They are: Mrs Catherine Leadbeater, Mr David Lynch, Mr Richard Hamilton and Chris Nelson.

## River Dour Partnership

— Deborah Gasking —

Every cloud, and all that - Even though we have had no work parties this year, there is not much litter around because there aren't many people around. Which indicates (to me, at least) that people are a BIG problem...

However -

Yellow flag iris is starting to bloom along the river banks, whilst water crowfoot will soon be covering parts of the river with its attractive rafts of white flowers.

In May, and right on cue, the mayfly have started to appear. Volunteers who live in flats above the river have reported seeing

them on their walls. As many of you will know, adult mayflies live for no more than a day; after just a few hours partying by the water their life is spent and their tiny corpse falls into the river to be carried away by the current... Or they may be eaten by a bird, bat or fish, for which they are an important source of food.

I'm soooo looking forward to River Gang get-togethers - we're a lovely bunch, come and join us for merriment and all things environmental, or just for a friendly chat with friendly people - once we're back to regular life, of course.