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West Midlands Branch

**AGM**

29<sup>th</sup> November 2022

# Welcome



We're pleased to have you join us for the 2022 AGM!

# RSB AGM

What is our Annual General Meeting (AGM)?

This is a meeting of the membership required by RSB bylaws, regulations and Royal Charter where members conduct business.

All RSB branches are required to hold an AGM each financial year (1<sup>st</sup> October – 30<sup>th</sup> September).

In practice, the AGM can be a very short session held before or after a regular branch event.

# Introductions



## **Current West Midlands Committee Members**

**Chair:** Dr Jill Johnson MRSB

**Vice Chair:** VACANT

**Treasurer:** Lesley Payne CBiol MRSB

**External Communication Secretary:** Lesley Payne CBiol MRSB

**Meetings Secretary:** Amelia Lakin AMRSB

**Student Engagement Coordinator:** Prof Phillip Young FRSB

**Events Coordinators:** Dr Sue Howarth FRSB, Dr Caroline Day CBiol FRSB, Dr Daniel Franklin MRSB, Dr Patricia Perez-Esteban MRSB, Laura Guest MRSB + **new committee members** Dr Rebecca Bignold MRSB, Georgina Wood MRSB, and Barbera Cimadoro MRSB

**Honorary members:** Norma Broadbridge MBE FRSB, Ben Glover

# Agenda

1. Introduction and welcome
2. Attendance and apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the AGM of 02.12.2021
4. Review of committee roles
5. Election of Committee for 2022/23
6. Branch Annual Report and questions
7. Branch Treasurer's Report and questions
8. Future events
9. Prof. Nigel Brown
10. AOB

DRAFT MINUTES

Taken by Sue Howarth. The meeting was recorded.

1. The purpose of the AGM was explained and members and guests welcomed.
2. a. Attendees: Carl Bethell; Nigel Brown; Sara Casey; Caroline Day; Daniel Franklin; Laura Guest; Barbara Hall; Jane Heathcock; Yiguo Hong; Sue Howarth; Jill Johnson; Lesley Payne; Robert Savage; Hayley Tripp; Yuk Wah  
b. Apologies: Norma Broadbridge; Patricia Esteban; Amelia Lakin.
3. Minutes of the AGM of 17.11.2020 were circulated and approved.  
Proposer: S. Howarth. Seconder: L. Payne
4. Review of committee roles: changes for the next year explained. Sue Howarth would move from Vice Chair to being an events organiser and Ben Glover would move from being an events organiser to an honorary committee member. Phil Young's position tbc. No other nomination forms received.
5. Election of committee for 2021-2022: the following were proposed and accepted. Proposer: B. Hall. Seconder: C. Day  
Chair: Dr Jill Johnson MRSB  
Vice Chair: VACANT  
Treasurer: Lesley Payne CBIOL MRSB  
External Communication Secretary: Lesley Payne CBIOL MRSB  
Meetings Secretary: Amelia Lakin AMRSB  
Student Engagement Coordinator: Dr Phillip Young FRSB tbc  
Events Coordinators: Dr Caroline Day CBIOL FRSB, Dr Patricia Esteban MRSB, Dr Daniel Franklin MRSB, Laura Guest AMRSB, Dr Sue Howarth CBIOL FRSB  
Honorary consultants: Norma Broadbridge MBE FRSB; Ben Glover.



# Minutes of the 2021 AGM

6. The Branch Annual Report including events 2020/2021 was presented. An opportunity for questions was given.
  - a. The branch twitter follower numbers were updated.
  - b. Q: Were branch events recorded? A: some, dependent on speaker preferences. Some events, like the Charter lecture, can be found on the RSB YouTube channel (link provided via chat).

7. The Branch Treasurer's Report was presented. An opportunity for questions was given but none asked. The report was accepted.

Proposer: C. Day. Secunder: S. Howarth

8. Future and potential branch events were advertised.

9. Professor Nigel Brown, Council Member and Chair of College of Individual Members, Royal Society of Biology talked about RSB updates, Council issues and how Council relates to the Branches.

Points included:

- a. the need for more female Fellows.
- b. the new rules surrounding CBiol.
- c. input wanted from anyone with expertise e.g. on climate change for the RSB policy dept.
- d. advice re holding off on indoor f2f events until further notice
- e. the change of the 'branches working group' to the 'branches group'; there will now be one member of this group per branch.
- f. the new 5-19 biology curriculum is now available on the RSB website
- g. Nigel then shared his email: [nigel.brown@ed.ac.uk](mailto:nigel.brown@ed.ac.uk) and made it clear that he would welcome contact with members.

10. There was no AOB.

The meeting finished at 19.40.

The AGM was intended to be followed by a talk given by Dr Patricia Esteban, Lecturer in Regenerative Medicine at Aston University, on Biology and Engineering: The Perfect Match. Due to illness, this talk was postponed until a future date.

The Branch Report 2020-2021 can be found on a separate PowerPoint



# Minutes of the 2021 AGM

# Review of Committee Roles

**Chair**

**Vice Chair**

**Treasurer**

**External Communication Secretary**

**Meetings Secretary**

**Student Engagement Coordinator**

**Events Coordinators**



# Voting

1. Current committee members staying in same role
2. Current committee members changing role
3. Nomination forms received for new committee members

# Voting

1. Motion is Proposed or Moved
2. Motion is Seconded
3. Motion is opened to General Debate
4. When debate is done Proposer has Right of Reply
5. Vote is Taken

Absent members may vote by email or in writing to the branch secretary or other nominated branch officer before the AGM takes place.

# Election of Committee 2022-2023



**Chair:** Prof Phillip Young FRSB

**Treasurer:** Lesley Payne CBiol MRSB

**External Communication Secretary:** Lesley Payne CBiol MRSB

**Meetings Secretary:** Amelia Lakin AMRSB

**Student Engagement Coordinator:** ?

**Events Coordinators:** Dr Sue Howarth FRSB, Dr Caroline Day CBiol FRSB, Dr Daniel Franklin MRSB, Dr Patricia Perez-Esteban MRSB, Laura Guest MRSB, Dr Jill Johnson MRSB, Dr Rebecca Bignold MRSB, Georgina Wood MRSB, and Barbera Cimadoro MRSB

**Honorary Consultants:** Norma Broadbridge MBE FRSB, Ben Glover

# Branch Annual Report – by numbers



- 1 Charter Lecture
- 3 new committee members
- 1 in person event (tonight!)
- 1 venue
- 4 committee meetings
- 7 events
- 849 Twitter followers @RSBWestMids (up from 687)
- 189 Instagram followers @rsb\_west\_midlands (up from 111)

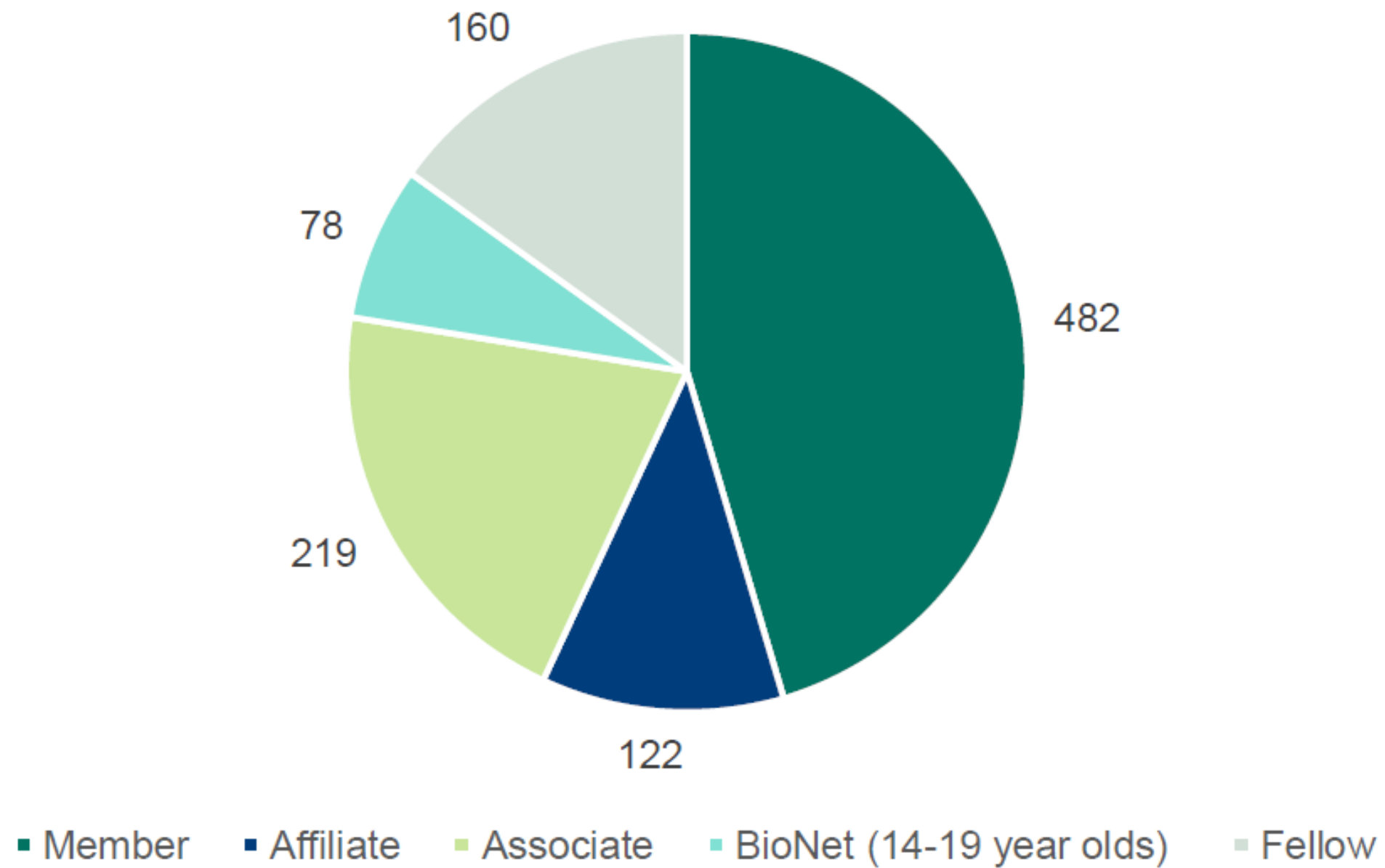
## West Midlands

Branch members: **975**

Subscribers: **86**



Membership grade of West Midlands branch members and subscribers

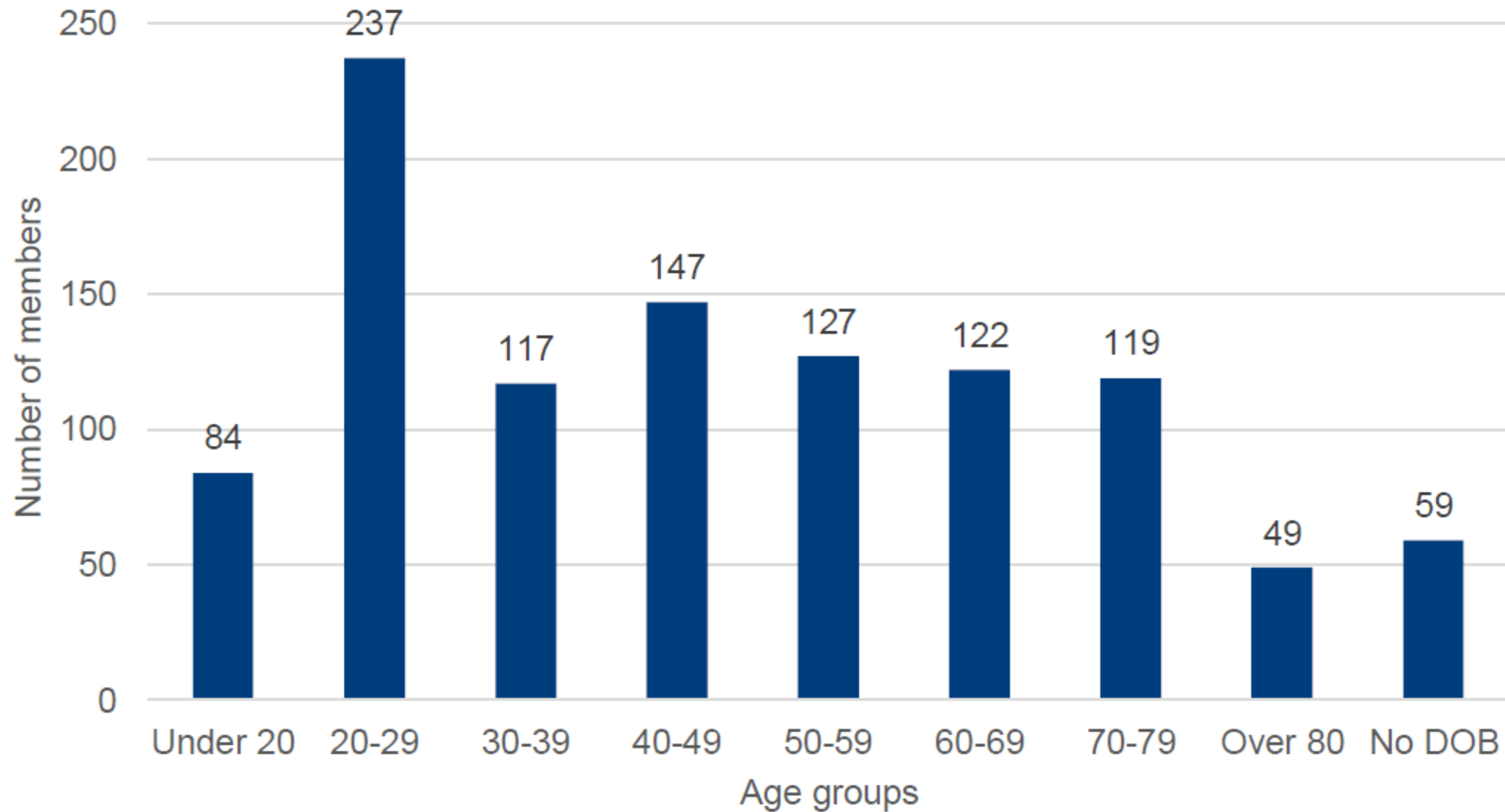


2022

(847 in 2020)

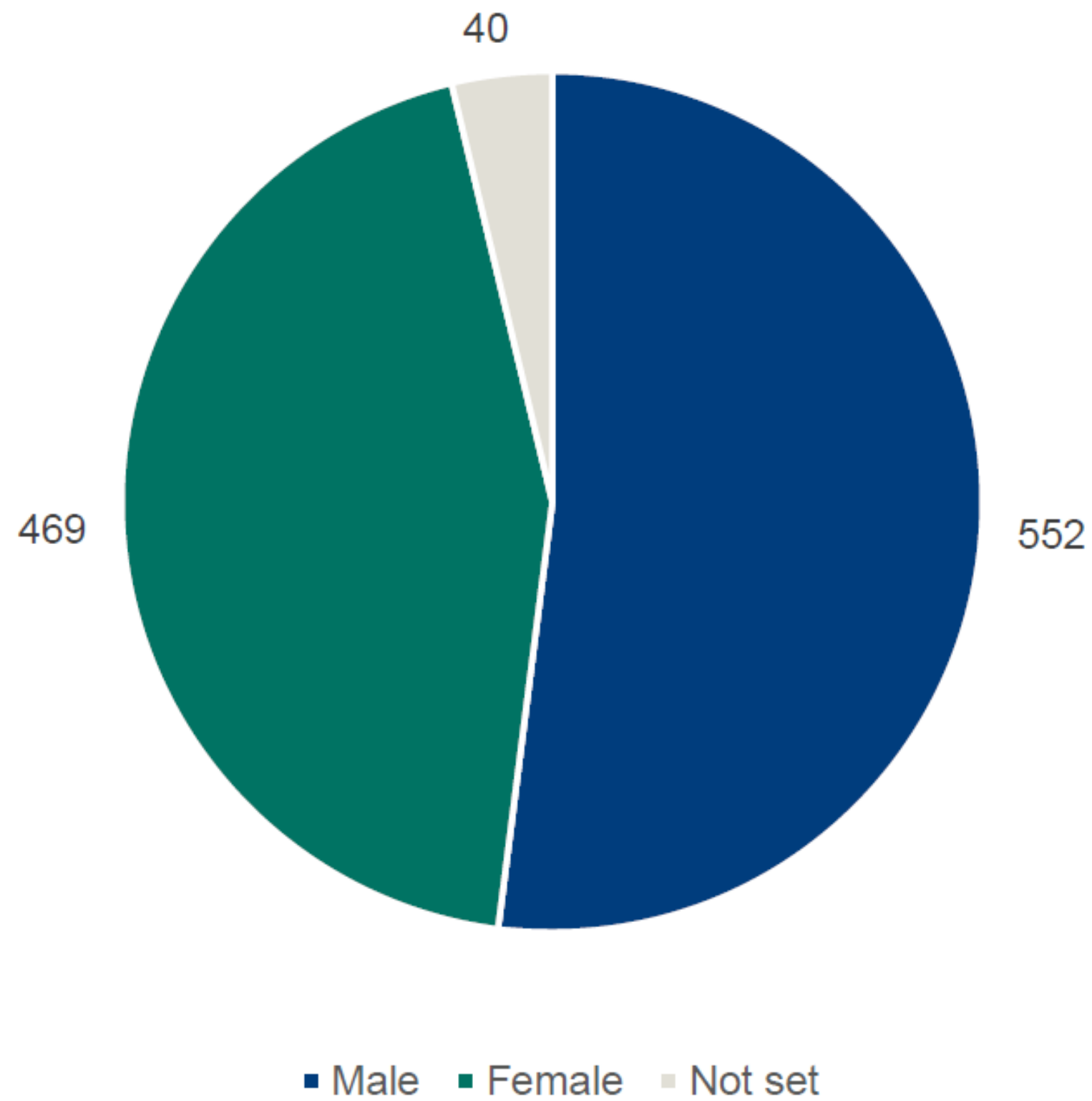
2022

Age of West Midlands branch members and subscribers



Gender profile of West Midlands branch members and subscribers

2022



# Events 2021-2022



- **Seasonal virtual quizzes** (four since the last AGM)

- 17 Dec 2021 Winter Wonderland
- 29 April 2022 Activation, Cultivation, and Proliferation
- 22 July 2022 Sun, Surf, and Sand
- 11 Nov 2022 Falling, Foraging and Fermenting

→ Our branch also provides advice to other branches wanting to carry out similar events

- **Virtual talk** *The Science of Christmas* given by Dr Kate Ashbrook 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021

- **Shrewsbury Darwin Festival talk** *From Felis to Felix – The Genetics of Domestic Cats* given by Dr Jill Johnson, on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2022

→ featured as an article in *The Biologist* in June 2022 and available on the RSB YouTube channel (currently at 472 views)

- **Charter Lecture** *Manufacturing Medicines* given by Dr Rana Khalife 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022

See our branch events reports page for more details

<https://www.rsb.org.uk/regional-activity/england/west-midlands/reports>



# Christmas Lecture

## The Science of Christmas

Join the branch for a festive talk delivered by Dr Kate Ashbrook, senior lecturer in biology at the University of Worcester, looking at the science surrounding the holiday season.

**Date:** Thursday 9 December | 19:00-20:00 GMT

**Location:** Online (Zoom)

**Price:** Free



# Online Committee Meetings in February, April, July, and October

www.rsb.org.uk



Royal Society of  
**Biology**

# From *Felis* to Felix

The genetics of domestic cats

Dr Jill Johnson MRSB  
Senior Lecturer in Biomedical Sciences  
Aston University, Birmingham UK



From Felis to Felix: The Genetics of Domestic Cats | Royal Society of Biology West Midlands branch



Royal Society of Biology  
4.83K subscribers

Subscribed



26



Share

Download



**Biology**

**Week**

# Charter Lecture: 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022

## Charter Lecture: Manufacturing of New Medicines

This year's RSB West Midlands branch Charter Lecture will be delivered by Dr Rana Khalife, University College London, and will discuss how aspects of regenerative medicine, bioprocessing and biochemistry have led to exciting new discoveries and treatments for diseases.

**Date:** Monday 10 October | 19:00-20:30

**Location:** Online (Zoom)

**Price:** Free



Find out more about us:  
[www.rsb.org.uk/WestMidlands](http://www.rsb.org.uk/WestMidlands)



# Questions

# Branch Treasurer's Report



Delivered by Lesley Payne

# Questions



# Future Events

## Virtual quizzes to continue on a seasonal basis

- Jill, Ben, and Becky
- Next quiz in January 2023
- Any ideas for themes, please let us know!

## Upcoming virtual lectures

**Tuesday 13 December, 19:00-20:00, Zoom**

### **The Science of Christmas**

A virtual talk from Dr Kate Ashbrook from the University of Worcester, about the science of the festive season.

**Tuesday 7 February, 18:00-19:30, Zoom**

### **Elephants, rainbows, flowers & bees: research driven by Botanic Gardens**

An online talk by Professor Beverly Glover, director of Cambridge University Botanic Garden, as part of Darwin Shrewsbury Festival 2023, looking at current research inspired by the Garden's living collection.

# Future Events



## **WWT Slimbridge Wetland Centre**

Bowditch, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire GL2 7BT

Provisionally: Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January

Meet at 11.30am for a guided tour at 11.45am (numbers are limited to 20/tour)  
Tour lasts about 45mins - thereafter explore at your leisure (reserve, cafe, shop and displays - many of interest to younger children).

See website for available attractions and those which require personal advance booking. <https://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/slimbridge>

# Future Events



## Worcester Medical Museum

A guided tour and talk of  
this fascinating facility

Planned for early 2023

# Future Events



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BIFoR aims to provide fundamental science, social science and cultural research of direct relevance to global forested landscapes.

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## BIFoR

Guided tour and pre-tour lecture

Planned for June 2023

## AOB – Information and Feedback from RSB Council Royal Society of **Biology**

- Careers: <https://www.rsb.org.uk/get-involved/biology-for-all/a-to-z-of-the-biosciences>
- Business Plan: [https://www.rsb.org.uk/images/RSB\\_Plan\\_2022-2024\\_.pdf](https://www.rsb.org.uk/images/RSB_Plan_2022-2024_.pdf)
- Policy Resource Library: <https://my.rsb.org.uk/item.php?orgresourceid=1>
- Policy Lates: <https://www.rsb.org.uk/policy/policy-events/policy-lates>
- Travel grants: <https://www.rsb.org.uk/get-involved/grants/travel-grants>
- Oxford Biology primers (25% discount for members) :  
<https://global.oup.com/academic/content/series/o/oxford-biology-primers-obpr>
- Emerging Topics in Life Sciences: <https://portlandpress.com/emergtoplifesci>
- Feel free to email: [nigel.brown@ed.ac.uk](mailto:nigel.brown@ed.ac.uk)

Any other business

