Membership numbers have continued the trend from earlier this year and so we are overall still slightly lower than last year and that on top of the larger dip that happened last year. It seems that we have had a similar growth as other years since February, but the renewals this year were lower than other years, which is probably understandable in the current situation.

Figure 1. Membership numbers on a monthly basis for the last 5 years

Figure 2. End of September UK and Ireland membership numbers according to grade
Looking at the different types of members, then the majority is still in the higher grades (Figure 2), which is lower than previous years, but then student numbers seem to have stabilised versus last year.

As from a membership development perspective, the same actions are being continued. Unlike at the start of lockdown, we have seen a slower rate of requests for support with elevation to senior membership, but we continue to offer this service, which is much appreciated by those that go through the process.

In the current climate it is important to bring more online activities to our members, and this could then also help eliminate some of the geographical issues we have had for years, so ensure you have online activities and advertise them to the whole section through e.g. the website, twitter, etc..

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