**PROTECTING YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION**

MERA has agreed a new policy and privacy notice in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). This legislation requires all organisations retaining personal data to ensure that it is kept securely and in line with the strict new rules ensuring that such information is acquired appropriately and not disclosed to third parties unlawfully.

Following a review of MERA’s practices and needs, a decision was taken that the basis on which residents’ data was kept would be by consent. This would ensure that clear permission was given by each resident to retain specific data including name, address, telephone numbers and email addresses. The last two would be optional, but in those cases where members opted out, it would not be possible to draw attention to matters affecting them, including the dates of our Annual General and Special General meetings, in an efficient manner.

We discovered that the majority of our residents preferred not to provide their telephone numbers and email addresses, thus negating our aspiration to provide an improved service for our members. We have therefore decided instead to keep our members abreast of the latest information via our new website.

This means that the only information we will now ask our members to provide will be their names and addresses, which we need to enable us to keep track of subscriptions and to deliver our regular MERA Magazines. We do not share this information with any other organisation.

Our privacy notice, which is in line with GDPR requirements, is available on our home page.