

Membership Secretary's Report to the 2024 Annual General Meeting

Our current membership stands at 535 members, with 41 new members registered in the past year. I am also pleased to note that very few decided not to renew their membership when it became due.

We do, however, need to give careful consideration to the membership fee for the future – currently this is very low in comparison to other Archaeology Societies around the country. With the increased costs involved in publishing and posting our annual Review we may need to increase the subscription next year. I know some of you suggest that the Review should be published digitally, but this really isn't an option for various reasons – not least the sheer size of the file.

It should be borne in mind that the primary objective of OAS is the support, protection and promotion of Archaeology in Orkney and that to achieve this we need to raise funds. Our membership base is a very important way in which we do this. We are also very grateful to some of our members for their generous donations which come through from time to time.

We are not proposing a membership increase at the present time except for the introduction of a new category of overseas members where the postage costs have risen to the extent that overseas membership actually costs the Society to administer. However members should be aware that it is possible – even probable - that an increase will be proposed in 2025.

After careful consideration, the Board has agreed to propose an overseas membership fee of £30. Additionally, the category of Life Membership should no longer be available as a subscription but should remain within the gift of the Board. The AGM will decide on both these proposals after the Secretary's report, when considering the proposed new Constitution.

Finally, I would like to add my personal thanks to our members for their continued support and look forward to being in touch with you all again during the year.

Anna Newton
OAS Membership Secretary