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Membership Secretary's Report to the 2026 Annual General Meeting

Our current membership stands at 595 members, showing an increase of 30 over the past year. It is very pleasing to note that our members regularly renew their membership – looks as though we are doing something right!

We haven't raised membership fees – we are aware they are 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 at some point – the total cost of postage this year was a staggering £1,786. 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, including awarding grants to various projects on the islands. To achieve this we need to raise funds. Our membership base is a very important way in which we do this, raising approximately £2,500 after costs. We are also very grateful to many of our members for their generous donations which come through from time to time and we really appreciate that.

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

Anna Newton
OAS Membership Secretary