

Treasurer's Report for Shoreham District Ornithological Society Annual General Meeting on 9th April 2026

The annual accounts for the **year ended 31 December 2025**, together with explanatory notes, are being provided in advance of the AGM to 330 Memberships (**419** members). Sent by e-mail but by post to just 5 members without email addresses. (figures @ 6 February when 47 2026 subscriptions had not yet been received)

Principal costs:

Over recent years **costs** incurred in order to service our commitments to members have risen, principally hire of our new meetings venue, information technology, postage and speakers' fees which reflect inflation.

Information technology costs for our website and our computerised commercial database are £350 per annum, but higher in 2025 due to an overlap of facilities' and fees whilst Jo Whiting set up our new website..

Hire of Hall: St. Peter's RC church hall, hired for many years, was no longer available after the Covid-19 crisis. Since October 2022 we have been holding our meetings here at St Nicolas and St Mary C E Primary School where the annually increasing cost to hire is much higher at £462 per annum. (£66 per evening), almost double the pre-Covid £245 (£35 per evening).

Postage: Cost increases due to higher postal rates. However, we endeavour to minimise the impact by distribution of mail at indoor meetings and we thank members who have assisted with hand deliveries.

Cost Summary

My approximate budget to cover the basic membership provision is £750 to cover our newsletters and other printing and stationery; say £800 for evening speakers; £143 for insurance, £350 IT fees, £462 for hall hire, and £400 for postage, perhaps the most difficult expense to contain. Lets **say £3,000** to cover.

Income:

Our **income** is principally from membership subscriptions which have substantially increased over the past few years. For several years, our membership was peaking at 150 memberships (200 individuals) whereas, as at 6 February 2026 there were 419 individual members (*as above*). *This may decrease by non-renewals* within the 47 subscriptions not yet paid. At the comparable time in 2025 there were 370 individual members. Income from 2026 Subscription renewals and new members paid up to 6 February 2026 is £3,800.

Also, a new income feature in 2025 was £325 of donations following presentations given to other organisations.

Our income is augmented by members who attend evening meetings purchasing raffle tickets which contributed £286 in 2025, a reduction compared to 2024. **Don't forget to buy your tickets or to bring cash for that purpose..** We thank Margaret Costello for selling the tickets between January and April and Diana Gill between October and December. Also, we thank Marion Taylor, Rae Titcomb and their team for serving refreshments which contributed £70 towards the cost of the Christmas members evening meeting.

'Shoreham Birding', our Facebook site inaugurated in June 2020, has now reached 2,200 members. This social media facility, together with our New Website, set up by Jo Whiting, public engagement events, personal introductions, new 'business' cards, Instagram, X, You Tube and Alan Duffy's articles contributed to local publications will all have contributed to awareness of our Society resulting in an increased level of new Society membership applications and income.

The annual balance between income and expenses.

As Treasurer I keep a close eye on the position to ensure subscription income covers the cost of servicing membership commitments. Our subscription income which was £4120 in 2025 comfortably covers underlying costs where I budget **£3,000**.

Reserve funds

Increased income has resulted in an increased balance carried forward on 31st December 2025 of £11,244. This is after we made a substantial donation towards buoys at the RSPB Adur Nature Reserve, payment for a Barn Owl box and leaflets for the Swift conservation group. SDOS Council are looking for opportunities for further appropriate expenditure and another is for an information panel currently progressing at Brooklands lake in Worthing. Expected cost about £1,000.

Further subscriptions have been received in early 2026 resulting in approximately £9,000 of surplus funds prior to the Brooklands cost.

Conclusion

With an increased level of membership and therefore income, our financial position overall is healthy and membership fees can still continue at the 2006 rate for the time being subject to ongoing reviews and careful control of expenditure.

On behalf of SDOS Council I thank all members for your continuing subscription support.

Finally my thanks go to John Bould for examining the accounts. Thankfully John was able to step into this role at the eleventh hour last year and again this year. We are now seeking another volunteer to take over this once a year scrutiny.