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AGM June 2008 Chairman's Report

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to our first on-line AGM. This has been a year of considerable progress for orkneycommunities culminating in the establishment of our 100th site as we approach our 5th anniversary. During the year we have added a Community Toolkit to the portal and provided training for new members and for existing members as they migrate to the new enhanced system. We have listened to the views of members and introduced improvements wherever practicable. We have created an interactive training facility to help members gain confidence in using the system.

Orkneycommunities provides a very powerful communication tool for community organisations at a very affordable price. I believe we are providing an important public service as people increasingly look to the electronic media for quick information and guidance.

The image library houses 4,780 pictures and 5,353 comments and now receives on average more than 5,000 distinct visits every day. The main portal page receives 1,400 visits per day. In June we will launch a Forum for webmasters and we are planning to improve the Orkneycommunities Plus site. In addition we intend to implement a package of upgrades adding new features to sites such as more editable content in left and right hand columns, a rich text editor on the news page, sub menus on navigation buttons and a better system for moving pages plus an additional default picture size for use on 2-column pages.

Finally I want to express my thanks to the management committee and to VAO and Steve Heddle for all their support.