

A bit more about Share

How the magazine is produced

Share is put together by the Share sub-committee which includes an editor, assistant editor and 'support staff' – a team of AA members who freely give their time and expertise. The only costs are for production, printing and distribution. In line with Tradition Seven, any surplus goes to Fellowship funds.

Share service structure in a Nutshell

The idea is that each group has a Share rep, as does each Intergroup and each Region.

Members of the Share sub-committee keep the Region reps up to speed, who keep in touch with the Intergroup reps, who report back to the Group reps.

How to organize a group subscription

It's simple. Just fill in a subscription form and send it off with payment to GSO. The minimum group order is one copy a month for a year, or two copies a month for six months – but to help groups get started, a one-off initial order of one copy a month for six months can be made. Subscriptions can be increased or decreased at any time by sending a new form to GSO. Payment can be made by cheque, Postal Order or Bank Transfer. To protect anonymity, magazines are always sent in plain envelopes.

Don't Forget

- Share is also available in CD format
- Selected articles from Share are available in audio format free on the AA website.



A big thank you to Ingi for the illustrations

Doing your share

Hints and tips on making the most of your Share service



Share service: a top message carrying opportunity

As our official Fellowship magazine in England and Wales, Share is right up there with the Big Book and other AA literature as a vital sobriety tool.

Produced by members for members, this accessible

and contemporary magazine is 'our meeting between meetings', giving you the chance to share with other members you may never meet. Subscribing and contributing to the magazine is great service – in fact, writing an article for Share is the Twelfth Step in action.

As well as being a good way for newcomers to identify with others and learn about AA, Share is a real lifeline for people who aren't able to get to meetings. And of course, it's an invaluable source of information on AA groups and events across the country and beyond.

Your role as a Share rep

Whether you're representing Share at Group, Intergroup or Region level, your job is to help boost subscriptions to the magazine and encourage members to contribute with articles and letters.

This way, Share will be able to stay self-supporting and keep on carrying the message to thousands of members. If subscriptions and contributions fall off, we run the risk of losing the magazine.

Some general tips

- Read the magazine!
- Look out for 'Share news', the regular bulletin sent out to Share reps by GSO.

Boosting group subscriptions in your area

- To see which groups in your area do and don't subscribe to Share, just contact GSO and they will send you details.
- Try to visit the groups that don't subscribe. Believe it or not there are lots of groups out there that have never come across the magazine, so take a copy along and give it to someone to read and pass on.
- Remind the meeting that Conference has recommended each group has a Share representative – in small groups this may be the literature secretary.
- Carry spare copies of the Share subscription form to meetings and other AA events. This is the form that appears in the magazine – you can get copies by calling GSO on 01904 644026.
- Use AA announcement time at meetings to raise Share-related topics.
- Get to know the magazine's upcoming monthly themes and encourage your local members to send in articles. Share is published quite a way ahead, so be aware of submission deadlines.

- Remind people that they don't need to stick to the themes, but can write about anything relating to their experience with alcoholism. And they don't need to worry about spelling or grammar – our editor takes care of all that.
- Collect old issues and give them to prisons, doctors' surgeries and other institutions – making sure the AA information pages are taken out.
- Suggest that groups give out a copy of Share with newcomer packs.
- Ask GSO for a Share workshop for your Region Assembly or Intergroup meeting. The Share team will aim to provide the people and information you need.

How it works... from the horse's mouth

In their own words, here's how three Share representatives have approached this rewarding service opportunity – at Group, Intergroup and Region level.

Christine on Group Share repping

While I haven't actually been a Group Share liaison officer myself, as Intergroup and Region officer I have helped support several new Group reps.

I'd recommend making a weekly announcement to the group about what's going on with Share. This helps both to remind members about the magazine and to build confidence, as does encouraging members to write articles.

Reading the magazine cover to cover every month helps to foster an understanding of the Steps and Traditions, as well as giving a wider awareness of AA in the rest of the country.

While regular attendance is important, you don't necessarily have to be there every single week. I know a Share rep who travels and isn't always able to make her home group meetings. She was really keen to have this commitment as it helps her stay connected – when she travels she always has her meeting in print with her!



Nick, Intergroup Share liaison officer

When I found out there was a Intergroup rep post I was interested, but felt I wouldn't be able to do it as I'm dyslexic and struggle to read

and write. But when the opportunity came up I put myself forward and was delighted to be accepted.

These are some of the things I do:

- Go to all Intergroup and Region workshops.
- Know the content and layout of the Share magazine.
- Be aware of what GSO can do and provide.
- Use back issues of Share to help promote the magazine – these can be obtained from GSO.
- At AA events, use the Share stands provided by GSO
- Visit other meetings to

promote Share.

- Talk to other Share reps.
- Liaise with GSO on which groups in my Intergroup subscribe to Share.
- Provide each group with subscription forms, posters, and 'Share news'.

I've learned so much and enjoyed this role which has helped keep me sober. There are no rules and this is only my experience, but I've found that as with the programme the more I give the more I get back.

Robert, Region Share liaison officer

My experience as Share Liaison Officer for London Region (North) was both engaging and satisfying.

When I took up the position, it had been vacant for many years. The first thing I did was reinstate the quarterly meeting of all Intergroup Share Liaison officers at the Southern Service Office. Out of 11 Intergroups, only two turned up to the first meeting! But over my three years in post, this gradually built up to around seven.

The Region liaison officer's role is to galvanise the Intergroup Liaison officers, who in turn should spur on the Groups to appoint Share reps and subscribe to a bunch of copies each month. Towards the end of the year it's important to get each Intergroup selling as many diaries and calendars as possible.

I also feel it's important to have a presence at the annual General Assembly and Intergroup conventions. In our Region we 'borrow' the very attractive display stand from GSO and sell Share, diaries, calendars and copies of the 60th anniversary book Share & Share Alike.

I've tried at all times to build an overall awareness of Share, to highlight it with newcomers, and to encourage everyone to contribute.