



Archives Newsletter for Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain and its English speaking Region in Continental Europe

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Hello everyone and Happy New Year

I have been looking back at 2011 and what took place. Here are a couple of highlights. At the Annual Archives Meeting we had 20 Archivists present, topics included the recording of Oldtimers, making a Will so as to donate or return our collections to AA, the "Don't Throw Me Away" sticker that was once available was asked about but I'm afraid there exists only the odd page or two, maybe someone could organise this.

We received as usual various contributions from Members across Europe and Great Britain including a lovely letter from Grace who lives in Glasgow with the tape of a song she wrote with her brother in mind. A sort of community song she thought we could use, not exactly what AA is about but the thought was nice.

I hope to get the Region Minutes and Agendas all microfilmed this year and make a start on the "Closed Groups" records. Again microfilmed.

A Topic that was always present needs to be looked at. This has cropped up twice now from two different sources. Carol explains opposite.

Stephen S. Fellowship Archivist

How to Archive Emails

Is something we are discussing without, as yet, a definitive answer. The Secretary of my region has just rotated out and has kept the last three years of correspondence.

Region agendas and minutes go automatically to GSO so no problem there. But there is all the correspondence so how do we decide to keep it and in what form?

Email from the outgoing secretary: (with his permission)

"First is that I can find no definitive way to archive emails. There are plenty of policies on what emails to archive, but none on how to do it, The best I can find is an "mbox" file. I can do that and even know what an "mbox" is. But will none computer literate people? Also it is a fairly generic file format, but I'm still worried that this may lock these emails away and they will never be recoverable.

I have some old Word Perfect files that I just can not access these days so I am only too aware of the problems.

Secondly, there is some sensitive information in these emails to do with peoples recovery. Any policy, suggestion, or help, please."

Carol H. Archivist London Region South



60 Years of AA in Jersey.

November 8th 1951

Bill S of Central Office wrote a letter informing Ann, the "Provinces" secretary, that a Group had formed in Jersey.

The Founder member of the Group was a lady in her 50s who had moved to Jersey from London.

"I am pleased to be able to inform you that having had correspondence with Jersey Channel Islands, I have had notification that a group has been formed there.

There are only two members at present but they are anticipating a great many more in the near future.....

I have sent her (Jersey founder member) the Secretary's Handbook and in addition she has other literature and I have asked her to keep in touch with me so that we can help this group on it's way."

General Secretary
November 8th 1951

To celebrate the 60years the anniversary was used as a P.I Initiative with articles in the Jersey Evening Post and in Parish Magazines, talks and announcements on the radio and sheets of mini shares sent to various venues.

There was also a party for members and families on December 10th.

The article put in the Jersey Evening Post in 1952 shows that AA was present in the Island at that time, although it is not certain that it was the same group that was in existence in 1960.

From 1969 onwards more and more groups were formed.

Today there are 24 groups in Jersey with many Members who owe a debt of gratitude to those first Jersey members.



Jersey Evening Post 1952

"I am very pleased to see that a branch of alcoholics Anonymous has been established in Jersey."

(Courtesy of our Friends in Jersey)

[Meeting on History of Alcoholics Anonymous 10 November 2011, Held at St. Aidan's Church Hall, Cannock.](#)

This is a summary of the above meeting by Sean Mac (Birmingham Archivist) and Kevin M. (CWIG Archivist).



Continued;

We were invited by Jeff P. to share on some of the history of the Fellowship in our respective Intergroups. We were made very welcome by the local members.

There were 3 presentations made on AA history at this specially convened meeting.

The first was by Derek B. on the Oxford Group and its relationship with AA. He mentioned the 4 absolutes of honesty, unselfishness, purity and love, which members of the movement were 'encouraged' to practice. Ebby's association with the Oxford Group and his visits to Bill W. before the founding of AA were also mentioned. Derek also spoke about the influence this movement had on the writing of the Twelve Steps.

Sean Mac (Birmingham Archivist) shared on founding of AA in Birmingham by two women, GM and Betty in 1951. He covered some of the history of the 'Pilot Club', which was in existence from 1973 – 1987. There were meetings there every night along with two day meetings, Thursday & Sunday. He also shared on the setting up of the Telephone Service and the role of Len S. from 1955 until his death in 1980 in dealing with calls from many parts of our region prior to the telephone service being set up in 1979.

Joe G. was another dedicated member who took responsibility for telephone calls from the early 1970s until his death in 1986. Both of them passed on calls to the telephone service from 1979. Sean also spoke about what is believed to have been the first AA Public Service Announcement (PSA) in England organised by

Birmingham Intergroup (consultation with GSO) screened by ATV Midlands during the week of 25 February – 1 March 1980.

Kevin M. (CWIG Archivist) spoke about the start of AA in Coventry & Warwickshire with the first meeting taking place in Binley Road, Coventry on a Monday night in 1957. He mentioned the early contact with Central Hospital, Hatton, Warwick in the 1960s and subsequent relationship with the Alcohol Treatment Unit from 1973, including the staff support for our Mini-Conventions held in the hospital from 1980-1990. He also spoke about the first Prison Service at HMP Onley Prison in 1983; the setting up of a Public Information – Co-operation with the Professional Community Committee (PI-CPC) in 1983 (active until 1991) and the Telephone Service in 1989. The growth of groups in the Intergroup area was also mentioned.

15 Facts about South East Region.

1. South East Region was the first Region to be formed in the Regionalisation of AA in England and Wales in 1980.
2. The First Regional Assembly took place on 6th June 1980 at The Clinic at Dene Street Dorking.
3. The Region was formed from three Intergroups, Central Southern, Solent and Southdown.
4. The First Tilbury Convention was in July 1976.
5. First Telephone Office was opened in Guildford in 1981.
6. South East Region celebrated its 30th Anniversary at the 137th Assembly in July 2010.



pastparticles

Continued;

7. There are 385 Groups in the South East Region registered at GSO.

8. By the end of the 1950's 18 groups were operating in the South East Area .(pre Region).

9. The first meeting recorded in the AA National Directory was in 1949 in Brighton and met at Harrington Place Another meeting in Bexhill started in the same year but no further information was given.

10. In 1959 the first Southampton meeting having been operating for three years still claimed only one Southampton resident, Johnnie Mac , a very active member.

11. Georgia G from Northdown Intergroup was the first archivist at GSO serving from 1985—'89

12. Addlestone Tape Service started in 1980 and is still operating. It has produced sales of more than £40,000 to date.

13. First Kent meeting started by Rueben at Slatter's Restaurant, Canterbury in 1955.

14. First Mid Surrey meeting opened its doors at the Guildford Institute in 1955. This had distinct military flavour being started by Brigadier Hugh and Squadron Leader Geoffrey.

15. The Ockham Wednesday morning meeting became quickly known as 'the doughnut meeting'. It was started by Chester , an American, and followed the American tradition of 'coffee and doughnuts'.

Many thanks to John M. Archivist, South East Region.

Notes.

And so we come to the end of another Past Particles. Any contributions for the July Edition would be appreciated.

Also does anyone have the address of a good conservation supplier for our list?

Thanks everyone for your input and hope to see you all at the Annual Archivists Meeting which will be held on the 12th and 13th of October this year, as usual at GSO York.

I shall be at GSO for a few days starting the 27th of February and any volunteers to help with sorting the documents would be welcome. Please get in touch before you come.

In AA Love and Service,

Stephen S.



[1st Edition Big Book](#)