

THE PREAMBLE

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.

There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions.

AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes.

Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

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Annual Report of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Britain) Limited - 1 OCTOBER 2012 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2013

Introduction

As Chairperson it is my privilege to introduce the Annual Report of the General Service Board showing continued Primary Purpose activity, within Alcoholics Anonymous and the wider professional community.

The Board is made up of committed Alcoholic and Non Alcoholic Trustees and are supported by the General Secretary and staff of the General Service Office in York and the satellite offices in London and Glasgow.

Alcoholics Anonymous remains self supporting through sustained contributions from its members, sales of Literature and with increased investment returns we are able to plan for the future in a positive way.

The AA Service Handbook for Great Britain has been reconfigured, approved by Conference and distributed to Groups throughout Great Britain and English speaking Continental Europe. New CDs of the books *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* and *Living Sober* have been produced. A British Sign Language DVD of the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* was completed this year.

Our magazines *Share* and *Roundabout*, continue to be published monthly, with AA *Service News* being published quarterly.

As part of a Young Persons project new posters are being considered.

Cooperation with the professional community has continued through work with Prisons, Probation (Criminal Justice in Scotland) Employers and Armed Services. Public Health England has figured largely through Mutual Aid and Twelfth Step Facilitation Programmes.

Public Information has continued with Parliamentary events in Scotland, Wales and England, with the possibility of a future event in the European Parliament. Press Packs have been developed by our Non Alcoholic Trustees.

The National Telephone Number continues to be supported, and our newly launched Web Site has been well received, new contents are being added at an encouraging rate.

This year we have financially supported AA structures in Europe and Sub Saharan Africa.

Trustees have attended Conferences in European Countries and two Trustees attended the Sub Saharan South African Service Meeting in Johannesburg.

Sheila Davis

Chairperson of the Board
October 2013

GSB PERSONNEL

The following trustees retired from the Board this year:

John Abraham
Martin Black
Tom Turney
Donnie Vass
Tim Wallace-Murphy

The following trustees were appointed to the Board:

David Ator
Clive Davy
Judy Fowler
Carol Holland

Report of the Trustees

The primary purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is to pass the message of recovery from alcoholism to those who seek help, making that information available to professionals, the media and the public. The General Service Board works to ensure that AA's message is transmitted.

Our Tradition of Self Support underpinned by the Alcoholics Anonymous (Dispositions) Act of 1986 ensures that AA is supported solely through the voluntary contributions of members and therefore AA does not fundraise. Due to the encouragement of Treasurers throughout the structure of AA the charity has been able to achieve a good level of financial stability and therefore has undertaken initiatives that the Fellowship of AA has requested.

The economic climate has been improving since last year and gains in our investments have enabled the maintenance and development of projects including further production of material for use by the deaf community. Literature has been revised and produced; in particular the Handbooks as requested by Conference 2013 which have been distributed to those Groups which completed the request form. The *Service Handbook* and the *Structure Handbook* have now been printed and are on sale from General Service Office. The following pieces of literature have also been introduced by the Literature sub-committee, *Now you have stopped*, *15 Points*, *The Group Treasurer's Cashbook*, *Sponsorship - Your Questions Answered*, & *Growing into Service*, for the benefit of the Fellowship of AA.

Each trustee takes responsibility for a particular area of work within the Board activities, all of which are geared towards raising awareness of all that AA can offer those who seek help. These areas include Armed Services, Health, Prisons, Probation (Criminal Justice in Scotland), and Public Information. The trustees stay abreast of developments and co-operate with the authorities in these professional areas by communicating on a regular basis, attending conferences and exhibitions and by developing projects for each professional body.

Three parliamentary events took place at Westminster in May, Edinburgh in October and Cardiff in November and were well organized and attracted a wide range of guests from the professional community, many of whom will be friends of AA and advocates for us going forward. A feasibility study continues with our colleagues in Continental Europe Region to arrange a similar presentation at the European Parliament in Brussels.

The Public Information (PI) Sub Committee has been busy in preparing various PI events. In August 68 people attended the PI seminar in York, presentations were well received and a great amount of PI good practice shared and circulated.

PI Service News continues to enjoy uninterrupted circulation sharing valuable details of PI experience some of which are printed in AA Service News. Non-Alcoholic Trustees have been heavily involved in PI activities carrying the AA message through TV, newspaper and radio work.

2013 has seen the development of cooperation with Public Health England (PHE) in the implementation of their facilitated access to mutual aid programme. This programme, which is based upon evidence that recovery from substance misuse is more effective when treatment is combined with attendance at mutual aid meetings, has begun in two London Boroughs. Two of our Health Liaison Officers are assisting PHE in giving presentations to staff working in the recovery field. The programme is to be rolled out to the rest of the country and our network of Health Liaison Officers will work with PHE Centre staff in improving access to AA meetings and offering support to help newcomers to stay within our Fellowship. In addition Health Liaison activities continue to take place within local communities, as well as displays at national conferences such as Nursing in Practice and Royal College of General Practitioners.

A meeting was held with SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen's Families Association) in London and they are keen to involve Alcoholics Anonymous in attending the training days and annual general meetings of SSAFA in London. Combat Stress are interested in organising nationwide AA participation in training volunteers, presenting directly to veterans, and providing written materials for both volunteers and veterans. The Department of Health and NHS England are also looking at holding meetings with the top brass within the MOD and the three services responsible for addressing alcohol problems within the Armed Services. The aim would be to look strategically at what AA can offer and then to roll out service provision locally.

The meetings continue with the National Offender Management Services in the Ministry of Justice, of which there have been 4 this past year, have been informative, and look to be ongoing for the foreseeable future.

The Telephone Subcommittee are still (at the time of writing) awaiting an announcement from OFCOM concerning changes which may affect our National Helpline Number.

Our internal magazines *Share* and *Roundabout* continue to be published monthly, they both contain articles from members of AA reflecting their experience, strength and hope and provide a printed meeting between meetings.

In the last twelve months there has been an increase in the number of Employment liaison officers at all levels of service giving the fellowship the ability to reach a variety of Employers and Unions allowing the AA message to be carried to more employers and employees.

The Young People's Project was re-launched in 2013 which originally ran for two years from 2003 resulting in the publication *Younger People in AA*. The aim this time was to take inventory of the Fellowship's service structure and resources, including literature, posters and website and make recommendations to make AA more attractive and relevant to potential young members. The terms of reference were taken directly from our legacies: To attract young people with alcohol problems into **recovery** in AA. To engage them in the **unity** of the Fellowship. To encourage them into **service** via the service structure.

Committee 2 at Conference made a series of positive recommendations on young members' issues and an invitation to the Fellowship at large drew a good response of younger members willing to join the Young People's Project Team. They met at the Southern Service Office in September with three Board members and identified a range of objectives to take the Conference recommendations agenda forward. These aims are presently works in progress and further online meetings are planned.

AA's new Website (www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk) was made live in April 2013 to much appreciation and continues increasingly to be the way in which newcomers get in touch with AA and some attend their first meeting simply as a result of using the meeting finder. The website is developing rapidly and micro-sites for Intergroups and Regions are now available.

Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain also hosts the European Service Centre and will hold a European Service Meeting in Frankfurt in October 2013.

The ongoing purpose behind all of AA's activities, to carry the AA message of recovery from Alcoholism, continues.

Our principle of personal anonymity is of vital importance to us and especially to a newcomer to the Fellowship as it offers the assurance that personal confidences remain just that. Trustees have worked tirelessly over the last year to ensure that the message of recovery is available and to therefore keep Alcoholics Anonymous 'Anonymous but not invisible'.

Financial Statement

Procedures to ensure robust budgetary controls and ongoing reviews of expenditure have been developed further during the year to ensure good practice and the best use of funds to support the business of the General Service Board in achieving the primary purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous.

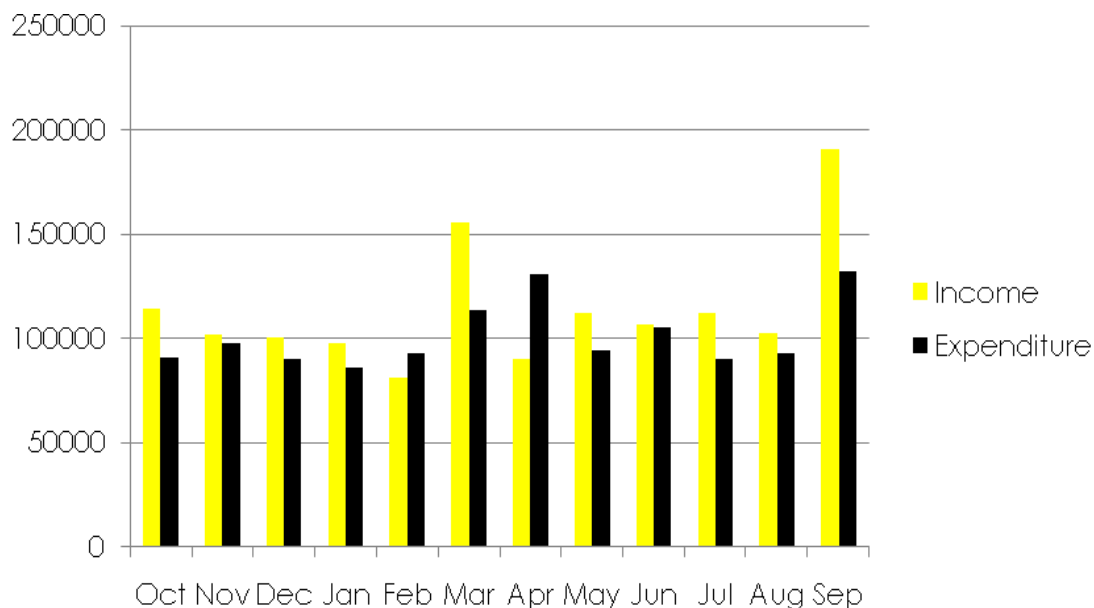
The General Service Office and the two satellite offices in Glasgow and London continue to operate efficiently and provide services to members, professionals and those seeking help.

Contributions have fluctuated month to month but overall are down on last year. However, literature sales are up.

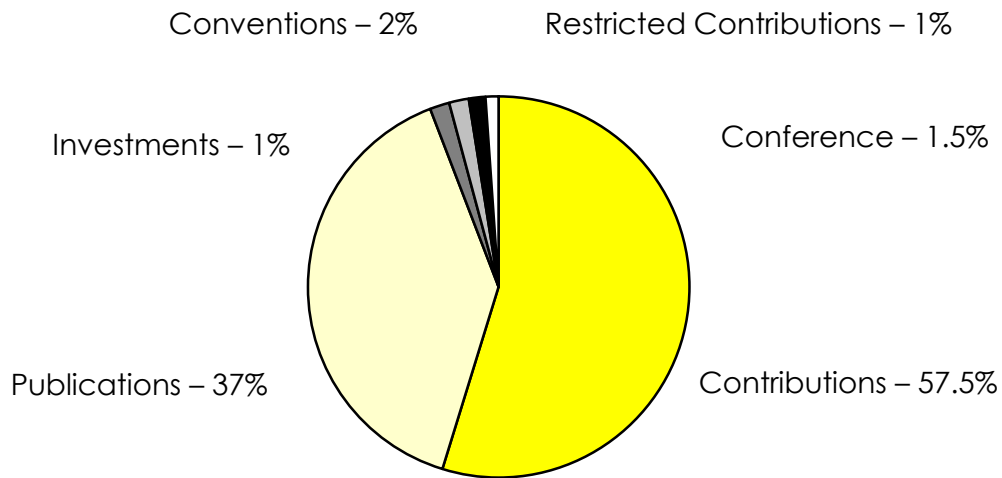
Expenditure for the year includes new and ongoing initiatives. The second stage of the British Sign Language DVD project has been completed and a new website has been launched. There has been a considerable increase in attendance at professional conferences and awareness raising events have been held at national and local level. New initiatives to carry the AA message into places of work have been undertaken and a Young Peoples' project has been set up. AAGB has supported the worldwide Fellowship through funding initiatives and visits to other countries to share experience.

The overall picture is positive. The Board keeps members informed about the financial position of the Fellowship and the implications for our primary purpose. Throughout the year the Board has maintained internal services to the Fellowship and continued the work of passing our message of recovery from alcoholism to professionals, the public and those who need help.

The final accounts show a surplus before movement on investments of £146,986 with our reserves standing at £2,096,315.



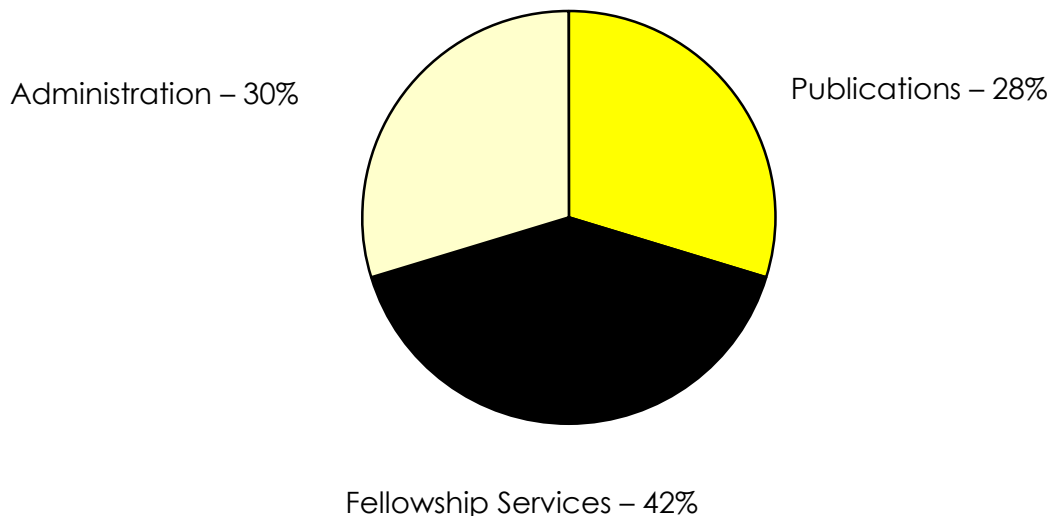
WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM (ALL FUNDS) 2012/13



Contributions	Publications	Investments	Conventions	Conference	Restricted Funds
£791,636	£508,882	£9,759	£30,213	£22,414	£12,200

Total Income all Funds - £1,375,104

WHERE THE MONEY GOES (ALL FUNDS) 2012/13



Publications	Fellowship Services	Administration
£345,814	£516,643	£365,661

Total Expenditure all Funds - £1,228,118

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2013
BALANCE SHEET

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2013 Total funds £	2012 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets	4,125	-	4,125	4,509
Investments	795,630	-	795,630	757,660
	799,755	-	799,755	762,169
CURRENT ASSETS				
Stocks	86,325	-	86,325	129,504
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	79,487	39	79,526	72,847
Investments	466,439	-	466,439	457,812
Cash at bank	651,294	79,670	730,964	572,317
	1,283,545	79,709	1,363,254	1,232,480
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due with one year	(66,694)	-	(66,694)	(86,048)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	1,216,851	79,709	1,296,560	1,146,432
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	2,016,606	79,709	2,096,315	1,908,601
NET ASSETS	2,016,606	79,709	2,096,315	1,908,601
FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds			2,016,606	1,824,367
Restricted funds			79,709	84,234
			2,096,315	1,908,601

This information has the approval of the auditors and comprises extracts from the full accounts which have been audited by Clive Owen & Co and delivered to the Registrar of Companies.

The auditors' opinion was unqualified. A copy of the complete audited accounts may be obtained on request from The General Service Office, PO Box 1, 10 Toff Green, York, YO1 7NJ

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2013**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2013 Total funds £	2012 Total funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary income	844,263	2,446	846,709	887,841
Activities for generating funds	508,882	9,726	518,608	512,138
Investment income	9,759	28	9,787	19,711
Total incoming resources	1,362,904	12,200	1,375,104	1,419,690
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Cost of generating funds				
Cost of generating funds	181,839	-	181,839	177,958
Investment management costs	3,867	-	3,867	3,936
Charitable activities				
Charitable	608,795	1,122	609,917	608,227
Governance costs	63,473	-	63,473	65,975
Other resources expended	353,419	15,603	369,022	379,711
Total resources expended	1,211,393	16,725	1,228,118	1,235,807
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES	151,511	(4,525)	146,986	183,883
Other recognised gains/losses				
Gains/losses on investment assets	40,728	-	40,728	66,648
Net movement in funds	192,239	(4,525)	187,714	250,531
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	1,824,367	84,234	1,908,601	1,658,070
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	2,016,606	79,709	2,096,315	1,908,601

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

All incoming resources and resources expended arise from continuing activities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2013

VOLUNTARY INCOME	2013 £	2012 £
Contributions	773,297	816,327
Covenants	20,785	19,997
Conventions	30,213	30,424
Conference	22,414	21,093
	846,709	887,841

ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS	2013 £	2012 £
Literature income	518,608	512,138
Literature expenses	181,839	177,958
Gross profit on literature	336,769	334,180

Literature is sold at a surplus to assist in support of the primary purpose

INVESTMENT INCOME	2013 £	2012 £
Fixed asset investment income	7,556	11,359
Deposit account interest	2,231	8,352
	9,787	19,711

COSTS OF GENERATING VOLUNTARY INCOME	2013 £	2012 £
Purchases of literature	181,839	177,958

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT COSTS	2013 £	2012 £
Investment management fees	3,867	3,936

CHARITABLE RESOURCES EXPENDED	2013 £	2012 £
Staff costs	217,609	224,240
Premises costs	89,844	92,017
Office expenses	104,631	97,887
Public information and publication costs	60,900	50,685
Conference costs	35,521	35,966
Website	17,283	14,157
British sign language	8,730	14,096
Irrecoverable VAT	40,618	39,617
Financial expenses	2,315	3,367
Investment expenses	22	468
General expenses	32,444	35,727
	609,917	608,227

.Included in charitable resources expended is £329,816 (2012: £319,853) relating to charitable activities and £280,101 (2012: £288,374 relating to support costs).

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES	2013 £	2012 £
Staff costs	235,744	242,926
Premises costs	70,092	71,737
Office expenses	22,705	23,617
Survey	-	-
General expenses	40,481	41,431
	369,022	379,711

GOVERNANCE COSTS	2013 £	2012 £
Trustees expenses	53,954	55,668
Professional fees	9,519	10,307
	63,473	65,975

Members of the General Service Board

Penny Allier
David Ator
Tom Burke
Jonathan Chick
Winnie Currie
Sheila Davis
Clive Davy
Judy Fowler
Del Hayes
Joe Henry
Carol Holland
Geoff Hopkinson
Wullie Innes
Ash Kahn
Brian Ladbroke
William MacDonald
Robert Muir
Paul Myles
Tom Sturley
Martin Weegmann
Phil Withecombe

Roger Booth General Secretary

Auditors

Clive Owen & Co
Oak Tree House
Harwood Road
Northfield Business Park
Upper Poppleton
York YO26 6QU

Bankers

HSBC Plc
13 Parliament Street
York
YO1 8XS

Solicitors

Bond Dickinson LLP
The Chocolate Works
Bishopthorpe Road
York
YO23 1DE

Investment Managers

Morgan Stanley & Co. International Ltd
20 Bank Street
Canary Wharf
London
E14 4AD

Registered Charity Nos: **226745** (England and Wales)
SCO38023 (Scotland)

The Twelve Traditions

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
6. An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
7. Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions
8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centres may employ special workers.
9. AA as such, ought never be organised; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never to be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.