

Board Reports

to

Conference 2023

75th Anniversary Convention

Introduction

Hi Conference.

In 2016 Conference voted to hold a 75th Anniversary Convention in 2022 and asked the Board to form a committee that included members from across our Regions that had the experience of serving on our National Convention Committees.

This was carried out and in 2017 the committee was ratified by Conference.

One of the aims of the Committee was to be self-supporting financially.

To this end the Committee viewed many venues and selected the Leeds Arena as the venue that gave us the best value. Our contract with the Leeds Arena was signed in 2018 and the work of the committee started to take shape.

Our projections were for 4500 to 5000 members attending which would be around 7-8% of AAGB attending which as a pre-covid figure was realistic.

Other aspects that the committee believed to be paramount were:

- To have the event affordable for most of our Fellowship.
- To Carry our message to the still suffering Alcoholic over the course of the Convention.
- To work in Unity with our Fellowship across all Regions for our 75th event
- To have all sub-committees within our Service structure attend and engage the Fellowship at large over the weekend.

As a committee, we can report that in many ways we exceeded all our expectations of the above. Sadly, the aim of being self-supporting was not met which gave many of us on the committee sleepless nights. We believe that Covid and the financial situation during 2022 hindered our drive to be financially self-supporting – please see the financial report below.

The dedication and effort of the Committee helped to achieve an attendance of approx. 3200, which given the circumstances, was excellent.

Below you will also find reports submitted by all Committee members of their experience as part of the 75th Committee together with a conclusion which includes some highlights.

Stevie S
Vice-Chair, GSB.

Finance

Hello Conference

I'm Clive and I'm an alcoholic. I'm also privileged to serve you as your Honorary Treasurer. As part of my duties as Hon. Treasurer of the Board, it was a great privilege and pleasure to work alongside Nick R who was the Treasurer of the 75th Anniversary Convention Sub Committee over this most momentous of weekends.

Before I get straight into the figures for the Convention, I would like to give a brief background to the event. Conference 2016 passed a resolution that requested the General Service Board to organise a special convention to be held in 2022 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Fellowship in Great Britain. One of the hopes for this convention was that it should aim to be self-supporting. We feel that whilst this memorable event did not prove to be as self-supporting as we had hoped, many other non-financial benefits were realised and indeed unexpected. One of these was the fantastic 5K fun run which was organised by Dean S, one of our Leeds based members on the Saturday morning of the weekend. **It is extremely heartening to remember that all these benefits were realised despite emerging from the covid 19 pandemic and the ensuing cost of living crisis.**

The Board went about setting up a Sub Committee to plan and organise this event with its unwavering support and also the wonderful support of the Fellowship through the Intergroups and Regions.

One of the first tasks of the Sub Committee was to find a suitable venue in a place which could be easily accessible for the Fellowship. Many Cities were looked at including London and Glasgow but their costs ranging from £200,000 to £350,000 were too prohibitive. The Committee decided upon Leeds as the Arena offered favourable amenities at the most reasonable cost, compared to the other quotes which were sought. The St George's Conference Centre was also used during the weekend, along with the Leeds City Museum for the Archives exhibition.

Please see below the costs for the 75th Anniversary convention.

As you will see, as it stands, we currently have a £41K loss approx. With a residual stock value of £106K approx. of stock.

The stock comprises our 75th Anniversary book of which we have 2833 left in stock from a print run of 6000. Total sales value will be £19,831.00 and we would expect these to sell out over the coming year, at which stage we will look at a possible future print run.

We have 837 copies of our Big Book with the 75th Anniversary cover which has a sales value of £6,696 again these can be purchased from our online shop and should be available at our National conventions this year. The remainder of the stock value is merchandise... £79k approx..... the sale cost of which can be discussed with our General Secretary based on volume.

TOTAL RECEIPTS	154,673.21
TOTAL EXPENSES	195,937.95
P+L @ 17.01.23	-41,264.74
RESIDUAL STOCK VALUATION	
ANTICIPATED FUTURE SALES	106,284.09
FUTURE P+L	65,019.35

<u>TICKET SALES</u>	<u>MERCHANDISE</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>
103,105.84	51,567.37	154,673.21
VENUE + EVENT EXPENSES	143,445.85	
MERCHANDISE	49,684.03	
TICKET CHARGES + REFUNDS	48.00	EXPENSES
OTHER EXPENSES	2,760.07	195,937.95

Secretary

I joined the committee at the beginning attending the first meeting in January 2017 as one of the six elected members, in non-rotational positions. The Vice Chair of the Board, the position that chaired the committee, was due to rotate in April 2017, so we had the next Vice Chair-elect present as well, who was due to carry on the chair duties on the committee. The other position held by the board was the treasurer, this post was due for rotation the following year, so come April we had another trustee join us as an observer for a year.

I felt lucky that my journey in service had led to having a wide range of friends throughout the country and that included all the trustees involved and three of the other six committee members. That certainly helped calm my nerves at the first meeting.

Having served on a sub-committee with one of the trustees my earlier experience as secretary was noted and the rest of the team was more than happy that I took on this role.

I set about ensuring we all had each other's contact details, set up mailing lists, arranged an email addresses with support from GSO and the Scottish Service Office, and a standard agenda. Although I don't think we ever really followed the agenda, concentrating on matters of importance each time we met helped keep us on track.

In our first meeting, we set out terms of reference in line with our remit and normal GSB/GSO business. Further discussion was had about where and how we would put this on and that was covered in later meetings.

Consideration of venue needed to be on many levels, price, location, and accessibility both for travelling and at the venue. Transport networks, whether by land, air or sea. We had to consider members from the far North of Scotland and the furthest South of England or the furthest west in Wales.

Locations looked at were Glasgow, Newcastle, Harrogate, Bolton, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, London and others.

Eventually, Leeds First Direct Arena was chosen as it ticked more boxes than the others, but it is fair to say, it didn't tick them all – I didn't know at that point that I would be living in Leeds by the time the Convention came around.

Having settled on Leeds and confirmed interest in the venue we had contract discussions, as a committee we had a hand in this, but the General Secretary had to have overall responsibility as Fellowship money was involved.

A budget for the event was made which was very quickly scaled back taking into consideration our task of aiming to be self-supporting. We needed to estimate numbers and used average attendances of all the national conventions and larger events nationally making a figure of around 4,500 our budgeted attendance target.

In considering the price of the event we looked at the International Convention pricing but felt this would be too high for our membership and by looking carefully at the budget and our numbers agreed on the pricing structure.

A website was designed to start promoting the event and sell the tickets and that left us free to start looking at the events of the convention, sadly at this point the Lockdown hit and it was difficult to progress anything, ticket sales ground to a halt.

We continued meeting on Zoom, but it was hard to complete any actions with the uncertainty around when we would be able to meet.

Lockdown eventually eased and we started progressing things further.

Andy H, 75th Anniversary Sub Committee

75th AA Anniversary Convention Report

When I heard the Fellowship had agreed at Conference that there was going to be a 75th Anniversary Convention I was very excited by the prospect and so asked my region to support my nomination having experience with local conventions and the Southern National Convention I was accepted onto the Committee. Knowing it was a 6 years commitment was daunting and little did we realise at the time what the future would bring us as a Committee.

We spent the first 18 months on a feasibility study, working out where the best place would be to hold the Convention, what type of venue and how much it cost. Then set up the fundamentals, the website, the publication, and the outline of the programme. Things were progressing well when COVID hit and as a committee, we had to adapt to meetings online and focus on the tasks we could do.

Website

With my experience in setting up websites, I happily accepted setting up the 75th Anniversary website. When we first launched the site and set up the counter with the number of days until the Convention Weekend it seemed so far away. Using the website not only to provide information but also for registration, volunteering and a way for members to contact us as a Committee asking a range of questions and providing some great ideas. Having Gillian and Angela from GSO support me in answering all the enquiries and updating the website was such a great help.

Adding new ideas, such as asking for peoples recovering songs to take part in the fun run and joining the choir meant that the Fellowship could be a part of the Convention in so many different ways.

Answering some of the questions and concerns from fellow members led me to arrange to meet a couple of ladies who were travelling and staying on their own in Leeds. Meeting for coffee at the Hotel, just two alcoholics talking to one another, sharing our experiences and realising our similarities has meant I have a new lifelong friend in Tracey D.

Volunteer Coordinator

We had over 400 people register to volunteer both before and during the Convention. Having the volunteers register through the website, selecting which service they would like and when they were able to complete their service helped us as a Committee to organise meetings with their volunteers. With the lockdown, this meant all the volunteer meetings were held via Zoom meetings. Meeting people from across the AA GB was great fun, the volunteers were so enthusiastic and had such great ideas for the information they needed. The request for volunteers to help on Thursday to pack the "Goodie bags" was a concern but true to form the Fellowship answered the call and the vans were unloaded, and all the bags were packed in such a quick time and the room was filled with laughter.

The volunteer coordinators for each service area were such a great help and Angela from NW was a massive support with the Greeters and her team never stopped providing a warm welcome to the Convention.

Jim T's registration coordinators never said no and covered not only registration but the cloakroom and helped train the other registration volunteers.

Being able to meet the volunteers in person after seeing them on the screen in many Zoom meetings was amazing, ensuring they had their T-shirts, introducing them to their coordinators and being able to thank them for their service with a 75th coin was a joy.

75th Ambassadors

Having ambassadors for each of the regions helped with gathering ideas from each of the regions, putting the ideas and feedback from each of the ambassadors into a newsletter after each of the meetings meant they had all the information they needed in a way they could share it with their regions and intergroups. I always looked forward to the Zoom meetings hearing how they were helping to register members, having stands at their local conventions and spreading the message about the Convention. Many of the Ambassadors volunteered to take up service at the Convention from helping to set up through to being the Newcomer ambassador by Billy the Post.

Having these meetings during lockdown helped me personally break up the monotony of long work hours and always raised my spirits and enthusiasm for the Convention.

75th Historic, Service and Gratitude Banners

I can't express how much I enjoyed this piece of service as it allowed me to learn about the history of AA GB from across all the regions, intergroups and service areas. The bullet points were provided by the 75th Ambassadors, archivists, GSB Board members and the National conventions. It was so difficult to limit the information and pictures to fit on one banner as we were sent so much and I would have used it all but needed to have the information fit onto one banner.

Reading all the different messages of gratitude for the Fellowship you can't help but feel the gratitude yourself and although we come from different areas, and backgrounds and are different people the gratitude we have for the Fellowship is so similar.

Seeing all the completed banners in situ along the walkway in the Arena was a real highlight that I took so many pictures and knowing that they will be used again and again providing a real legacy from the 75th Anniversary Convention.

Floor manager

Working with Andy on the Committee meant we could share the pre-work required. Andy covered all the Risk, Health and Safety requirements and I worked on the presentations for the AV company.

Over the Convention weekend, the Committee did very long days from Thursday through to Sunday, from the setting up to ensure the event went smoothly and working closely with the staff at the Arena, security and the AV company. All of the different companies who were involved said they learnt so much about what AA, Al-Anon and Alateen do and just as importantly what we are not, meant that we not only spread the message to other members but to those who can pass on the message to family members and colleagues.

Being a part of the 75th Anniversary Committee will stay with me forever as one of the best pieces of service I have been privileged to be a part of. I want to thank the other Committee members for their support and service during our time together.

I hope the Conference can see that the 75th Anniversary Convention accomplished the true spirit of Recovery, Service and Unity.

Clare B-D, 75th Anniversary Sub Committee

Floor Manager

I had been selected with another member as Floor Manager, I have experience in building management, so that made sense as we needed to liaise with the Arena about Risk Assessments for all our activities and I was able to do this and understand theirs.

In all areas, we got lucky that a member of the committee had some knowledge of the skills required, a committee treasurer with a business background, an IT person to help with the website, someone to source merchandise etc. It all fell together.

The last months of organising were hectic, sourcing alternative venues for extra activities and for me further risk assessment writing, site visits, and arranging the audio-visual requirements for the event. Another committee member arranged a volunteer task force to support requirements at the event, we couldn't have managed the event without those members who gave much of their time at the event.

As Floor Manager, I supported our partners in Al-anon in the Risk Assessments for the venue at St. George's that they would use due to the space constrictions at the Arena. I also supported the local Intergroup in looking at the venue prior to the early bird meeting that they arranged and hosted. It helped that I was part of that Intergroup and knew the members involved who set the scene for an excellent start to the weekend.

I had a wonderful experience being part of this committee and delivering on what we were tasked with.

The numbers in attendance were lower than we had initially hoped prior to the lockdown, and it is not surprising that as we emerged from lockdown many were still nervous on health grounds or financially affected. There was also the cost-of-living crisis starting as the date loomed, so it is no surprise that numbers were lower than we could have expected, however, our planning had aimed and without the unexpected backdrop, could have been fully self-supporting.

Thank you Fellowship for giving me this opportunity.

Andy H, 75th Anniversary Sub Committee

Registration Report

Being involved with the Registration procedure has been a delight as well as a much-appreciated learning process with procedures that I was thankfully shown by Gillian in the General Service Office. Developing ways of accessing and developing our CMS application in order to attend to members registering from our Fellowship, Al-Anon, Alateen, visitors and the under twelves. Not forgetting the total numbers attending our anniversary convention.

As we developed our procedures, with the help of Claire, one of the measures applied was having Convention Coordinators who met and got to know one another at online meetings prior to the event. In particular, these guys, John BD, Carrol, Nick, Mark, and Chris came together throughout the weekend of the convention to do extra shifts on Registration, which they did without complaint along with other thoughtful eager beavers who took the place of members who couldn't make it. For the Coordinators and others, this began on Thursday with the packing of our "goody bags"!

I was elected by the General Service Board to serve on the 75th Convention Committee because of my experience of Intergroup One Day Conventions and the Northern National Conventions when serving as a Board Trustee and Chair of one of the sponsoring bodies, North West Region. I was reminded once more that an elected committee when coming together to ensure the success of any event would be better served with the participation of the Fellowship.

The many members who responded to our invitation to fill in forms stating what they would prefer at our event, who later became involved and helped make the celebration a spiritual if not a financial success I thank you all for the opportunity of being a part of something rather special, a celebration of 75 years of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain, one day at a time.

Jim T, 75th Anniversary Sub Committee

75th Anniversary Publications Group

At the beginning of August 2018, what was to become known as the Anniversary Publications Sub-Committee met at York for the first time as a committee to begin the process of coming up with the way forward to best implement the writing of the history of our Fellowship in Great Britain since 1947. (The 75th Convention Committee had already been elected after Conference 2016).

Representing the GSB and Chair of the committee was Clive, Hon. Treasurer, Stuart Share, Martin B, Archives, Ranald, Roundabout, and Jim T representing the 75th Anniversary Committee. Later, due to rotation on the Board, Stevie, Vice Chair of the GSB and Chair of the Convention Committee joined our happy band on the Publications Group.

To continue the practice of inviting the Fellowships' involvement, we decided to divide the responsibility of contacting all sixteen Regional Archivists along with the possibility of the participation of the constituent Intergroup Archivists. Not forgetting those members who kindly offered material, almost forgotten, that was safely lodged in lofts and garages.

Although all the information pertaining to writing our book was available for the committee to put to use we decided the Fellowship working together as above, to bring about all our Group, Intergroup and Regional Histories had to be the way forward, and it was.

Contacting the Fellowship and explaining the process in which to bring our book together took time and effort but we were greatly rewarded by the growing enthusiasm of everyone involved. The book

continued to be assembled throughout the pandemic beginning in 2019. The committee continually meeting online at differing times to suit members' working schedules while frequently contacting Regional/Intergroup Archivists along with Share and Roundabout editors/committees, updating one another on the progress being made along the way.

Binding the manuscript together, with the continued efforts of everyone involved, our publisher Mark Comer investing both his patience and professionalism in doing *final after final* amendments plus assisting with our Timeline for the book cover which included evidence of a loner in Glasgow in 1946 who had contacted GSO New York for help.

Being involved in the 75th Anniversary Publishing Group gave all who participated the opportunity to work with each other from different parts of the country, most of whom had never met previously. A delight in all aspects but in particular, the finished article.

Jim T, 75th Anniversary and Publication Sub Committee

Stage Manager

I would like to thank the Midlands region for my nomination and the board for accepting me into the committee for the 75th Convention.

Convention position (Stage Manager/Speaker Secretary)

My role which was decided after some 4/5 meetings was as Stage Manager which was to organize the platform speakers and agendas for the convention, with all honesty this specific role did not start to get busy up until probably some three years before the convention. If I look back and think is there anything that could have been done earlier, I don't think there was as we did not want to set the agenda too early and ask the fellowship for speakers years before the event.

Choosing the Chairs

When we looked at how we could be fair with choosing speakers and chairs I think the decision of having the national convention chairs as the chairs of meetings was the right decision and if future conventions are to be organized then I think this would be the fairest way forward in using the national convention chairs as the chairs of each platform meeting and then for the final meeting using the convention chair as the chair.

Choosing the Speakers

When choosing the speakers, we felt the best way of doing this was to ask each region to nominate 2 women and 2 men from their regions, then based upon the number of speakers needed we would pick out of a hat the speakers based upon the regions nominations and making sure we had good representation from each region and an equal amount of men and women.

When it came to the old timers, we decided to make an announcement at the convention for people with 40 years of sobriety and we would have 8 speakers one for 10 minutes each and this worked well.

Based on the above for both the selection of chairs and speakers I think this was the fairest way and involves the whole of the fellowship.

Andy G, 75th Anniversary Sub Committee

Merchandise

Originally, we looked at using a merchandise company in Leeds as we felt it would help the city, we were going to hold the convention in but when benchmarking prices, we found that the cost was double, so we went direct to China to get costs and we reduced the costs by over 50% and below are the timelines we used to purchase the merchandise:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Agree on what Merchandise will be used. | 2 years before convention |
| 2. Agree on what quantity. | 2 years before convention |
| 3. Gain costs and design from China. | 18 Months before |
| 4. Agree on costs and quantities with the committee. | 10 Months before |
| 5. Order items from China | 8 Months before |
| 6. | |

The above was done due to the 30 to 40 days manufacturing time and due to the amount, the sea freight timing was roughly 8 weeks and therefore the process in total of about 3 to 4 months, this meaning we had all the merchandise in York for roughly March time.

When we looked at what to sell, we did ask around the Fellowship, but I do think overall we could have involved the fellowship in a better way to find out what they would have wanted, we choose the usual things such as coins, keyrings and mugs which all sold well.

We reviewed what to order, apart from the high-value items such as T-shirts and bamboo mugs of which we ordered roughly 500 of each of which sold well all other items we ordered on what we thought we would have attended the convention which was 4,500.

Sadly, this was not the case and therefore we had stock remaining which we due to not hitting the numbers and at the time Covid and cost of living.

I think if we had hit the proposed numbers probably about 85/90% of the stock would have sold, sadly, we did not get the numbers we had hoped, but I do believe the merchandise people were pleased with and should be offered again in future conventions.

Summary

I think overall the convention was a success with many good points, as a committee to be completely honest certain parts of the committee worked together as a team and others did not, but I suppose that's people within a team over a 5 years, but this had an impact on the team overall sadly.

I think having the committee for 5 years was too long and the disruption of then having 3 different treasurers and chairs also didn't help and this should be looked at.

My point above is not a bad point but a point for improvement, due to the length of the committee we had 3 chairs and 3 treasurers all of who have their way of doing things which is fine, but this did cause problems along the way, and I think if the term is reduced then perhaps it could be we keep the same board members on the committee for the duration.

The 4 meetings a year were perfect and prefer face-to-face to build up the team and covid certainly didn't help this and I think did affect the team's togetherness and output due to only being able to have team's meetings. Then of course, once we reached 12 months before the convention the frequency of the meetings increased which was needed and a good thing, this also included meetings at the arena which was good for the team to see all together.

I think the Leeds arena was an amazing venue and the PA company did an amazing job and the weekend went as well as it possibly could, but my thoughts were that it was sad everyone was not together. I am not saying where we choose was not amazing but it was high cost and there are many venues out there with a main arena holding 5,000 but then also having 5 or 6 other rooms that can hold 200/300 people and then this would mean that everything could be located under one roof and easier to manage.

Overall, an amazing experience with some amazing people and something I will never forget, thank you to all the Fellowship, the 75th committee and the GSO staff.

Andy G, 75th Anniversary Sub Committee

Report on Shops at 75th

From the early morning start, both Teresa B and Jo F worked tirelessly to dress and stock both the Literature and Merchandise stalls.

By 12 o'clock we were ready to open the shops and commence sales. As the shops were only open when there were no meetings in the main arena, the short periods of opening produced pronounced periods of busyness which the volunteers coped with really well as the training periods were very short. Thank you to you all.

GSO kindly provided staff to man the Card sales while the team of volunteers served the fellowship with cash sales. The pre-order sales sheets made buying and paying for the required items simple and quick, and despite the limited space, made the whole operation efficient. I cannot thank both Teresa and Jo for the hours they put into making it a slick operation.

Laurence C was hidden behind the scenes collecting and counting the finances for all operations and very efficiently produced the final counts required each day.

The 75th merchandise sold well and there were many comments on the quality of the products.

Probably the best-selling item was the special edition of the big book carrying the 75th logo on its sleeve, although much other literature sold well.

I think the shops provided exactly what the Fellowship wanted, and I thank all those involved in creating a wholesome service to the Fellowship.

Nick R, 75th Anniversary Sub Committee

Accommodation

My role as a committee member was to run the raffle and look at accommodation the latter was to look at possible camping sites that would be suitable for our members. I came up with the idea to get in touch with the camping and caravan club as they do temporary camping sites and are very well priced. They confirmed that they would have some of their sites available at the time that we would need them we could put this information on the website.

Raffle

The raffle was a longer process. First, we had to come up with a design for the tickets and get some quotes from printers once this was completed, we then looked at prizes. Having gone back to see what others

had done in the past and wanting these to express the concept of the occasion we felt the prizes should be meaningful and something would be cash prizes, but we also recognize the danger that this could cause if a newcomer should win and that's when the Amazon gift cards came to the front, as these would be sent out by GSO it would give the winners time to think about their good fortune and put things in place and as a gift card, they will be able to choose what they needed and not try to get a large flat screen television home on the bus.

All in all, the sale of the tickets went well but not great as some of the volunteers never showed up, but some of them did extra time. All the volunteers did amazing, and it was a pleasure to work with them and they were impeccable and a great reflection of the Fellowship.

Ron G, 75th Anniversary Sub Committee

Young Peoples Exhibition at the 75th Anniversary Convention

The Young People Sub Committee not only hosted a VIP room at the main venue at the 75th Convention in Leeds in June 2022, that was open to talking to people about what the Young Peoples Initiative was doing and how they could get involved, but they also put on an exhibition St Georges Conference Centre, one of the other sites for the 75th Convention activities. The exhibition highlighted the history of young people in AA. The exhibition included historical information and images of what has been going on for young people in AA over the years and a timeline showing how it has gotten to where it is today. They also held a meeting on both days and the meetings were extremely well attended.

The activities of the subcommittee and other young people volunteers at the convention have sparked more interest in getting young people's meetings and activities started across the country and attendance for the Young People's Seminar later in the year was very good and productive as a direct result of the success of the activities at the convention.

Gretchen S, GSB Trustee for Young Peoples Sub Committee

Archives Exhibition at the 75th Anniversary Convention June 2022.

Early in 2022, the Archives sub-committee looked at several possible venues for an exhibition of materials from AA's archives to accompany the 75th Anniversary Convention in Leeds. Once we discovered that we could use Brodick Hall, the central hall of the Leeds Museum, for our exhibition; there was no need to look further. The museum is a fine Victorian building, located near the Leeds Arena where the convention took place. The museum had no spare secure display cabinets for the display of original materials, so instead, we created high-quality reproductions of photos, documents and pictures on roller banners for the exhibition together with explanatory texts concerning them. This technique enabled visitors to view and read about the documents, photos (etc.) much more easily than if they had been locked into traditional display cabinets, and although one or two visitors to the exhibition expressed disappointment at not being able to see originals, most visitors were happy with the way in which the exhibition was mounted; we invited visitors to provide feedback concerning the exhibition, and we received about 200 comments, which were universally enthusiastic. A further advantage of using roller banners for the display is that they can be easily reused on other occasions. Indeed, in our exhibition, we included three banners concerning the development of AA in Scotland which had been created for the Kelvingrove exhibition in 2017. We also took advantage of the excellent video facilities at the Brodick Hall to show AA videos which were set up in a two-hour loop programme. Most of the videos came from the AA Archive and included the excellent historical video 'The Journey of Discovery'; we also included a video prepared by the Leeds intergroup concerning the development of AA in Leeds and the video created specially for the 75 Anniversary Convention. As a result, most of those who came to see the exhibition took the

opportunity to view some or all of these videos, which, they said, significantly enhanced their visit to the exhibition. We did not keep a tally of the number of visitors to the exhibition, but the Hall was often full-on Saturday; I would guess that in total about 600 people came. On Saturday the Hall was in fact used as the location for the AA LGBTQ+ meeting which had been scheduled for a different room in the museum, but which was so popular (with about 150 people wanting to attend it) that the meeting had to be moved to the Brodick Hall.

Two final points concerning the exhibition: first, the Leeds AA intergroup had organised a separate exhibition concerning the history of AA in Leeds, which was located elsewhere in the museum and was on display until the end of the year. This attracted considerable admiration and several visitors to it said that they would try to set up similar exhibitions in their own local museum.

Second, it is important to put on record the help we received from the staff at the Leeds Museum, both in allowing us to use the museum in the first place and in managing the large numbers of AA visitors during the Convention. We, the Archives sub-committee, thought that the Archives Exhibition at the 75th Anniversary Convention was a great success!

Thomas Baldwin, GSB Non-Alcoholic Trustee, Chair, Archives Sub-Committee.

Conclusion

The weekend of our 75th Anniversary started on the Thursday when the Committee, GSO staff, and many of our Fellowship Volunteers met at St. Georges, one of our venues for the weekend to pack up all the welcome packs for the weekend.

The packs included our new AAGB book which covers the history of the Fellowship in GB. This book was a labour of love for many and it's thanks to all who worked tirelessly on the working group with representatives from Share and Roundabout and the 75th Committee together with all Regional Archivists.

On Thursday evening we got off to a wonderful start with support from the members of West Riding Intergroup who held our evening early birds meeting attended by a good few hundred of our Fellowship.

Over at The Leeds Museum our Archivists and volunteers had been busy setting up an excellent exhibition which was open to the public as well as the Fellowship for the weekend and would be the venue for some great meetings over the weekend, our thanks to all who freely gave their Service for the weekend.

On Friday prior to our opening at Leeds Arena, we held a VIP event at the Leeds Museum which was attended by the mayor and invited guests.

On Friday Morning it was an early start for the Committee along with our many Volunteers, GSO staff, all Regional Ambassadors and Trustees to get the Arena prepared for the Fellowship arrival at 3pm.

For myself, it was a pleasure to set up our Historical Walkway another element that involved all Regions and many Intergroup Archivists with local research work to put this wonderful display together. Please note we still have some of these at GSO for those that did not take them home.

By 3pm we were ready to start with Registration. The enthusiasm of all was infectious and all the training hours of the Committee, GSO and Volunteers paid off.

On Friday evening our Chair of the Board got us underway with a warm welcome and the first viewing for the Fellowship of our History and Gratitude Video, specially prepared for our event. A terrific achievement

by our PI E Comms Sub Committee and all who participated.... let us hope we all make good use of this video over the coming years.

We followed the video with a special guest. The Governor of Wakefield prison attended to receive a copy of our special Anniversary Big Book. Wakefield was the first prison to welcome AA back in the day, and the Governor made a commitment to re-engage with AA following his experience.

During the build-up to the 75th Anniversary Convention our Prison Sub-Committee and West Riding Intergroup worked with local Prison staff to re-establish the relationship with Wakefield.... long may it continue.

As reported all Speakers and Chairs for the weekend came from our Regions and National Conventions and all meetings were well attended, our thanks go to them all.

Weekend entertainment came from Volunteers at the singsong and discos both at St Georges and the Arena.... You all did an excellent job and showed that service comes in many forms.

On Saturday morning there was a Fun Run for all our fit members, organised by local members, which was well supported and enjoyed by all. Thanks to the Volunteers for arranging this event.

At the Leeds Arena, Saturday was full on with meetings. Our Trustees and Volunteers staffing the sub-committee rooms were kept busy and thanks to their commitment we can advise that the GSB has had more members wanting to join Board Sub Committees than ever before.... many thanks.

Saturday evening saw the countdown and it was wonderful to witness so much sobriety from a week to about 63 years.... great fun makes me smile to remember it.

Our shops for Literature sales and memorabilia sales kept up with the constant demand.

Over at St Georges on Saturday we had a Young Peoples event running throughout the day...added to this was probably the best attended GSO Roadshow hosted by Ranjan our General Sec. as well as a 75th Birthday cake!

I'm told that the YP event has had a great positive impact within Leeds AA as well as throughout the country.

Also, at St. Georges on Saturday Al-anon held their meeting which was well attended. Originally Al-anon was to have held their meetings within the Leeds Arena but sadly the space allocated was taken away from us due to fire safety concerns.

Over at the Leeds Museum on Saturday, meetings continued for our Polish members as well as diversity groups and LGBTQ members which were all well attended.

Sunday saw another enjoyable day starting with our Oldtimers meeting and going through to our Spiritual meeting with a great choir... all volunteers, who first got together on Saturday evening for practice. Think we had about 50 and there were slight concerns that the stage couldn't hold the weight...Thanks to you all, you were great to listen to.

We closed our Anniversary event by saying the Serenity Prayer in the many languages of those who attended.

Another additional benefit of our 75th was the production by the BBC of a documentary about 75 years of AAGB. The programme was aired early December and will be available on iPlayer for the next year. We believe that the programme showed our fellowship in a good light, and we pass on our thanks to all that gave their time and commitment. Following the airing of the programme our website was visited by (17,000) ...seventeen thousand new visitors over 2 days... let's hope it is the start of a new beginning for many.

As Chair of the Committee, I would like to thank Conference and all who attended or contributed to our 75th Anniversary event on behalf of the Committee.

Finally

Each member who attended was a great ambassador for AA. The thanks and praise we received from the Arena staff, St. Georges, Leeds Museum, Hotels, restaurants, and the people of Leeds, it makes you proud to be a part of our Fellowship.

Stevie S, Vice-Chair of GSB

AA Service News

AA Service News has showcased new AA branding requested by Committee 2, Conference 2019. The publication is a radical departure from the former AA Service News that has been produced over a considerable time. We hope you like it.

AA Service News continues to be published quarterly, carrying details of Conference Questions and outcomes, together with Parliamentary events across the UK, and news of other notable service events. Your articles on AA service, and now your pictures, are always warmly welcomed. During the pandemic, AA Service News was produced in a digital only format, and has continued in this vein. The publication is emailed to those individuals, groups, intergroups and regions with a generic AA email address. As always, AA Service News is placed on the AAGB website, and in AA website Document Library. Many thanks to all contributors.

Jo F, Trustee and Louise Foxcroft, Non-Alcoholic Trustee

Armed Services

The Armed Services Subcommittee met five times this year three online and two at GSO. The Subcommittee continues in its primary role to support ASLOs and RASLOs.

The Subcommittee continues to maintain the Armed Services 12 step list which is now on Google document and is available for telephone responders.

Members of the sub-committee attended the Scottish National Convention.

The Subcommittee would like to update the existing relevant Armed Services literature and are actively seeking armed service members to contribute to this.

Members of the subcommittee with the assistance of volunteers ran a drop-in room at the 75th convention Where several members expressed an interest in contributing to the new literature and or getting involved in the service structure.

There are a number of vacancies on the sub-committee which if not filled may impede the ability of the sub-committee in its primary role to support ASLO and RASLO.

John C
GSB Trustee, Armed Services

Employment

To offer regular support, encouragement and enthusiasm to all Regional Liaison Officers, or their representatives, our active committee would welcome additional members. Principle requirements include a familiarity with our Traditions and experience of our service structure, including at Region.

A 'Flyer' inviting application for sub-committee membership was distributed at Conference 2022 and the 75th Celebration.

An article will appear in the next edition of AA Service News suggesting the journey of service and experience in Employment offered by our Fellowship in preparation for sub-committee membership.

Our quarterly sub-committee meetings are held face-to-face by choice; we have continued to meet briefly on Zoom each month to update and support each other. We have particularly valued refreshing our fellowship over an evening meal after our committee meeting.

At the 75th Celebration we continuously serviced our 'Employment' room presentation; interesting interactions being received.

Our June annual workshop for Regional Employment Liaison Officers was pleased to invite and welcome several representatives from Regions as well as the few Employment L.O.s in service. This gave very encouraging active and diverse sharing of employment experience.

Preceded by a rehearsal a few days earlier, our Employment Liaison Seminar on Zoom in October encouraged national delegates, offered a diverse agenda, and received positive appraisal from participants. Our subcommittee members chaired the meeting; talked about experience as an Employment Liaison Officer, resources available to an ELO, the Traditions and anonymity for the ELO; Services to employment, the subcommittee work; and the "Blue Light" initiative. "Blue Light" experience was given by the Humberside Police Wellbeing Team Manager; and an AA member who related experience of active alcoholism in the Fire Brigade and recovery with AA whilst progressively regaining working ability. A "Safeguarding" update was offered by a Board Executive member.

At the request of Midlands Region in August we presented a workshop to raise enthusiasm for serving as an Employment Liaison Officer.

The Plymouth Intergroup invited us to present an Employment Workshop at their September Assembly - with follow up Shares at later dates.

Our review of Employment Literature is underway. the ESC generated pamphlet "Now that I'm an Employment Liaison Officer - What do I Do?" is being reviewed by the Literature SC before submission for Conference approval.

Our Terms of Reference is updated. Our team maintains stimulating enthusiasm.

Charles R
GSB Trustee, Employment

First Response

The **FRSC**-First Response Sub Committee was set up on a trial basis, for one year, by combining **NTL-SC**-National Telephone Sub Committee, **ORS**- Online Response Sub Committee, formerly part of ECSC-Electronics Communication Sub Committee, and **Chat Now** also formerly part of ECSC-Electronics Communication Sub Committee. After the trial period, and a long discussion the Board decided to go back to the original **NTL-SC** and form a new sub-committee combining ORS and Chat Now to form the **FROSC-First Response Online Sub Committee**.

The **National Telephone Sub Committee** each week receives over 2400 calls to the national helpline number plus an increasing number of calls to local helpline numbers that are easily accessible from the AA GB website. The NTSC manages the 0800 number and currently we have a major focus on the structure of the National Helpline. We have also provided a training document to RTLOs and TLOs and are currently working on finalizing a safeguarding document.

Chat Now receives, on average, over 1000 messages a month. These messages are usually answered within 5 seconds, and very few if any get missed.

ORS receives and answers emails from individuals looking for help but aren't yet ready to call or chat with members.

Levey P
GSB Trustee, First Response

Prisons

It was decided last year to work as a joint discipline Prisons, Probation and Criminal Justice as a trial to see if it would work to our advantage as the two disciplines are closely connected with the work that we do and the lack of people on both subcommittees and liaison officers. However, it was found although we need to work closely together that people had more knowledge of either Prisons or Probation and found that with the volume of work it was easier to split into two groups to get the work we needed done. It was decided at the Board meeting in January to revert back to the two separate disciplines and meet at the same time when in York to share our ideas.

75th Anniversary

There was a room dedicated to Prisons to show our members the work AA does in Prisons. Our prison banner outside the room and inside there was a history of Prisons in the UK on show along with our literature, a description of the role of a liaison officer, adverts for our prison postal service, some letters written by the prisoners attending the meetings inside and the prison video on show. There was a prison liaison officer there to answer questions.

The Prison Subcommittee

Our first meeting was due to be held in June but due to the rail strikes that was held online and three in person in September, November and February.

Sadly, there are only two members on due to rotate out in February and I would like to encourage members of the fellowship to think about joining us. Along with myself we have Tom Fox a NAT on the committee.

We have been looking at updating the Service Handbook to make it more gender friendly and updating the prison files in the online document library.

Zonal Meeting

A Zonal meeting was held in Bristol in November where anyone with an involvement in Prisons and Probation who could travel there and back could attend. We had 14 attendees along with Trustees, myself and Hamish, and Andrew C our subcommittee member. The day was enjoyed by all and many questions answered. The main topic was queries about clearance for entering the prisons.

Seminar 2023

On 1st July we will be holding a joint Prison, Probation and Criminal Justice seminar at the Park Inn, York. I would encourage Liaison Officers to attend to gain more knowledge and have their questions answered.

Zelma k
GSB Trustee, Prisons

Probation / Criminal Justice Service

Probation / Criminal Justice Service liaison officers (LO's) have been making progress, post covid lockdowns, recent figures show that 515 Alcoholics Anonymous Groups in GB now offer the 'chit' system. Service work locally is increasing with enthusiastic members encouraging cooperation with the professional community. Amendments to the Service handbook were agreed at Conference and have now been published. The Probation Sub Committee has reviewed and updated the Starter Pack for liaison officers and updated Probation/CJS sections on the website with our Webmaster's assistance. A new generic contact email address has been put in place, to avoid confusion and increase effectiveness, providing a central point for members and outside agencies to contact the Sub Committee. Service roadshows took place at the Scottish National Convention in May and 75th Anniversary Convention in June with LO's and Sub Committee members providing great service and encouraging participation. Presentations were given online at the request of Plymouth Intergroup in June and HM Prisons and Probation Service (HMPPS) for their Approved Premises Managers in September. The latter has initiated a cooperative project to increase and reinvigorate connections on a local and national basis raising awareness of AA services. Recently cooperation has been taking place providing information to HM Courts and Tribunal service (HMCTS) to aid in Court users being signposted to Alcoholics Anonymous. Regional and Intergroup Service at the Glasgow Alcohol Court has necessitated the formation of a committee to continue this valuable initiative and a successful presentation to Justices of the Peace took place in October. The annual Regional Liaison officers meeting took place on 30th September / 1st October and was very well attended.

Two joint Sub Committee meetings took place with Prisons during the year, one online and the second in person. One joint zonal meeting took place in Bristol in November with enthusiastic participation from the local Intergroups and Regions. Following a year's trial of the Probation Sub Committee being joined with Prisons, all members of both requested to the Board that the separate committees be reinstated, and this has subsequently been agreed. This will assist both committees in their service to concentrate on their own disciplines, whilst having separate meetings held at the same time to allow for cooperative working where appropriate. Terms of reference have been amended.

Probation literature is being reviewed following requests from LO's and the probation members are actively working on this. A Joint Seminar with Prisons is booked to take place on 30th June/1st July 2023 in York. The Chief Probation Officer has been invited to speak as well as professionals from HMPPS and

HMCTS being invited to attend. It is hoped that a senior representative from Criminal Justice in Scotland will also be able to attend.

Hamish McS
GSB Trustee, Probation / Criminal Justice Service

PI and eComms

Following the amalgamation of the PI and communication committee in July of 2021 and changes taking place in ecomms and the telephone sub committees. it was agreed that ecomms would form part of a new PI and ecomms subcommittee.

Among the activities undertaken by the committee this year has been supporting the production of a major documentary for the BBC, marking the 75th Anniversary of AA GB. We are extremely grateful to the many members of the fellowship who gave of their time and experience to make this production possible. The programme was broadcast nationwide in December of 2022. Last year we worked on the production of a video for the 75th which was approved by the conference last year it was premiered at the 75th convention and is available for use by the fellowship.

Another major project which began in 2022 is the creation of a new AA website, this is also in response to a series of questions considered at the conference in 2022. It is anticipated that project will be completed in 2023 and we hope to demo the look of the new website at this year's conference.

Two liaison meetings were held one in August for Eclo's and another in September for Pilo's. Consideration will be given this year as to whether these meetings can be amalgamated.

In addition to this we have continued to deal with a wide range of media inquiries; media activity was particularly busy in December as a result of the interest generated by the documentary.

At conference last year we showed the first version of the Brand Guidelines which had been developed in response to a question at the 2019 conference. These guidelines are now available on the website and will be used in a variety of ways the literature subcommittee will use them for future publications, the new templates for Roundabout, AA Service News and Share are now being deployed and the new look website will conform to the guidelines.

The sub committees are also looking at a number of other issues on behalf of the wider fellowship including Social media and the use of platforms such as Google Ads.

We are happy to report that a number of individuals have joined the committee over the last few months and that there are presently no vacancies.

Tom Fox
GSB Trustee, PI and eComms

Roundabout

I attended several zoom meetings, before Conference 2022, with Terri, Roundabout Trustee, to introduce me to the Roundabout Sub-committee. I then attended the Roundabout Workshop in Pitlochry on 26/27 March 2022 where I met Cath, Editor, Ian, Link Officer and Dylis and Moira, proof readers, in person. We had an induction/training session and many good points were raised to be included in the Roundabout magazine. We also discussed how to encourage members to subscribe to Roundabout.

A zoom meeting was attended by the Sub-committee, on Saturday 30th April, to talk about the arrangements for the Scottish Convention to be held 20th to 22nd May in Stirling Court Hotel, University of Stirling. Three members of the sub-committee and I attended the convention. The Roundabout banner and back issues of the Roundabout were picked up from the Northern Service Office and taken to the convention. A survey, compiled by the sub-committee was taken to allow Roundabout to cater for all members. Members shares were also be recorded and written up later for the Roundabout magazine. At the Scottish Convention 4 interviews and 2 shares were recorded. Those who completed interviews and shares stated that they preferred to record rather than type.

A visit was arranged to attend the Direct Leeds Arena where the 75th Anniversary Convention is being held. A video was taken of the room which the Roundabout Sub-committee used. This was forwarded to the committee to familiarise themselves with the layout before attending the 75th Anniversary in June 2022.

We discussed the arrangements for the 75th Anniversary Convention in Leeds which was attended by myself and the four members of the sub-committee. Expenses were discussed for this and it was decided to submit a sub-committee budget form to cover this. Again a survey was taken and members shares recorded, at the 75th Anniversary convention, for the Roundabout magazine.

The Roundabout banner and back issues of the Roundabout were picked up from the General Service Office and taken to the convention. A survey, compiled by the sub-committee, was taken to allow Roundabout to cater for all members. Again members shares were also recorded to be written up for the Roundabout magazine. People came forward to sign up for Roundabout subscriptions. 100 surveys were taken to Leeds. More recent back copies of the Roundabout were available free. All pages of the June Edition were laminated and displayed to draw attention to our location.

The sub-committee felt that the 75th Anniversary Convention was a wonderful idea and allowed us to inform the fellowship of our services

Roundabout was invited to the one day Convention in Dundee on September 3rd and Iain, Roundabout Link Officer, and I attended. The Banner and Survey was used at this convention. Iain, Roundabout Link Officer reported that it was very successful with people interested in purchasing the Roundabout and he also taped 3 shares.

Moira attended the Cumbernauld One Day Convention on October 15th to assist at the Roundabout Display, the day went really well.

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Cath attended the Fort William Convention in November.

Gordon (RLO, West Lanarkshire Intergroup) and Jim (RLO, Monklands Area Intergroup) were given 25 cards, 100 flyers. Iain, as Link Officer will make sure they receive more cards and fliers when needed.

It was decided to use historical material from the 75th anniversary literature in our Roundabout. Moira is collecting only Scottish history to start and we will ask readers for feedback.

Terms of Reference state that the Roundabout subcommittee should have 4 meetings every year. We have had 3 zoom meetings, in April, May and July, and 1 workshop so far.

It was decided to hold the Annual Intergroup/Regional Liaison officers meeting in Renfield St Stephen's in Bath Street on 25th March 2023. Another sub-committee meeting was arranged to discuss a format for

this. Stephen, the Fellowship Calendar and Diary Editor, the Trustee for Share and the Share editor were invited to this meeting.

A date for a workshop/ training session for the Sub-committee in late summer 2023 is still to be arranged.

I hosted the Roundabout sub-committee meeting online on 10th October 2022.

The committee had heard that changes were to be made to the front cover of Roundabout. Some of the committee members were unsure if we could still use a photograph on the front page. I was asked to make enquiries and report back to the subcommittee. After contacting Tom (Fox) I was assured that we will still be able to use a photograph on the front page.

I received an email from Julie stating that she orders 1,400 Roundabouts per month and that approximately 1,380 are sold per month but that this can vary.

I attended the Nominations committee online meeting to observe Stephen being interviewed for the Fellowship Calendar and Diary Editor. It was a very interesting interview. I have learned that this position is linked to the Roundabout and Share committees. I would like to thank Barbara and the rest of the Nominations committee for including me in this.

Andrina C
GSB Trustee, Roundabout

Share

The SHARE committee has worked hard throughout 2022 to continue to bring you the best possible version of our 'meeting between meetings'.

It was great to see so many enthusiastic fellows join us at the 75th Convention. The team threw themselves into making the SHARE VIP Room an interesting and inviting space, creating bookmarks, wallet cards and history banners, as well as a PowerPoint presentation. Our Editor was on hand the whole weekend to welcome visitors, answer questions and encourage submissions. It was a tremendous success and as a result, all vacant positions in the SHARE SC were filled. We also noted an increase in the volume of articles submitted.

We have had two virtual sub-committee meetings in the past year, and one physical RSLO meeting at GSO, which we opened up as a hybrid meeting to invite intergroup liaison officers to join us online. There was plenty of discussion about how to spark more interest in the SHARE service position at regions and intergroups. We will continue with this inclusive type of meeting moving forward in the hope that more people will join us.

Our Editor, who was very busy in the latter half of '22 getting to grips with the changes in the style of SHARE (as requested by Conference 2019), unveiled the new look edition in January 2023. Although it is still very much our beloved magazine, we think the 'spruce up' looks fresh and attractive, and feedback from the fellowship is that it's definitely a welcome change.

Some of you may have already noticed that we now have a link on the AAGB website that takes you directly to the SHARE feedback form. All comments are read by the Editor and actioned accordingly. Your feedback is important to us.

My gratitude and admiration goes out to everyone on the team for their hard work and commitment to meeting all deadlines and producing a wonderful magazine.

Charon B
GSB Trustee, SHARE

Survey

The Survey Sub Committee has been a very small working group for most of 2022 but has just recently welcomed a new member onto the committee which means the committee currently has four members and the trustee Chair. The committee are still looking to recruit two more members who have some experience in delivering surveys or just a keen interest in the survey and how it can benefit the fellowship.

The committee has been working hard on an info-graphic based leaflet to report some of the results of the 2020 Survey. This leaflet has taken some time to get off the ground, but the results should be ready to use for PI purposes in the new year.

The committee have also been busy putting together a timeline of work for the 2025 Survey that includes four phases of the process that will begin in 2023/24 with deciding on content of the questionnaire and survey design to the final reporting and dissemination of the results in 2026. The timeline and the leaflet should be complete in the next few months and then the work will begin to put the questionnaire together.

Gretchen S
GSB Trustee, Survey

Young People

The Young People Sub Committee has had another busy year. They hosted a 'room' at the 75th Convention in Leeds in June 2022, as well as holding two very well attended Young Peoples meetings and an exhibition of the history of young people in AA. The exhibition included historical information and images of what has been going on for young people in AA over the years and a timeline showing how it has gotten to where it is today. Both the meetings and the exhibition were held at the St Georges Conference Centre, one of the other sites for the 75th Convention activities.

The committee held a seminar in September 2022 in York which was very well attended by enthusiastic RYPLOs as well as intergroup YPLOs. There were speakers from AA and someone from the University of York student union who has worked with AA in the past and talked about where the needs were from his perspective. There were several inspiring AA speakers sharing their experience of bringing the message to young people in AA.

The committee had two members rotate out this year and gained three new members. The recruitment of the new members was mainly down to the enthusiasm for the work that came about from the seminar.

The committee decided to hold a roadshow in Cardiff, having heard the fantastic report of the success of the road show in held in Leeds in November 2021, with Leeds going from a city with virtually no young people's meetings to several meetings across the city and other activities going on. The committee chose Cardiff as it looked like there were very few young people's meetings according to the online meeting finder on the AA website. The roadshow will be the 3rd weekend in April 2023.

Gretchen S
GSB Trustee, Young People

Parliamentary Events

Westminster

The Westminster Parliamentary Event Committee delivered a very well attended face to face event in the Atlee Suite in Portcullis House on 12 May 2022. The event was sponsored and hosted by Labour MP for Liverpool, Dan Carden. The two non-alcoholic professional speakers spoke highly of what AA had to offer and the AA speakers shared their experience strength and hope as well as talking about how AA is addressing the diversity issue and working to make the fellowship more welcoming and open to people of all different cultures and background.

After a brief summer break, the committee has reformed with new members and is well into the planning stages for the Westminster event for 2023, which will be held in Portcullis House on Tuesday 16 May 2023. The MP sponsor this year is Steve Brine, Conservative MP for Winchester.

The professional non-AA speakers have not yet been chosen but emails have gone out to the fellowship asking for people to get in touch with their health professional contacts and urge them to invite their colleagues who would benefit from hearing more about AA. This year, like every year, the emphasis is on getting health professionals and people who come into contact with the still suffering alcoholic and who don't know much about AA to come along to hear what AA has to offer. This is not an event for AA members or even the people we already work with in our PI initiatives although we rely heavily on them to encourage their contacts and colleagues to attend.

Gretchen S
GSB Trustee, Westminster Parliamentary Event

Scottish

The Scottish Parliament event is now booked to go ahead on 4th October 2023, following two years of this event being affected by COVID restrictions and again being rescheduled this year we are delighted it is finally going ahead. The theme is Alcoholics Anonymous Awareness, and we have four confirmed AA speakers and one of our Non-Alcoholic Trustee's, Mr Tom Fox. The emphasis will include the different ways that members came to AA from differing backgrounds and our speakers experience will give wonderful examples of this, carrying the message that Alcoholics Anonymous is available to all who suffer from alcoholism. An address from our Sponsoring MSP will be followed by our speakers and a question-and-answer session.

The committee comprises 2 Regional delegates from ideally all 5 Scottish Regions, and we are still looking for delegates from 1 Region. The committee decided a more structured approach would benefit the event and has agreed terms of rotation and record keeping. Administrative assistance is provided by the Northern Service office, and we are grateful for our workers there's support as well as support from staff at GSO. We would invite all members to suggest suitable Professional invitees through their Regional Delegates or directly to the committee for this event.

Hamish McS
GSB Trustee, Scottish Parliament Event

Welsh

The Annual Presentation at the Senedd took place on Wednesday 26th October 2022 in the Pierhead building. It went very well indeed and numbers were up on last year with a good turnout of Professionals, four Politicians and a member of Senedd Staff.

The aim of the presentation is to impart a better understanding of AA to professionals and parliamentarians.

I am grateful to Peredur Owen Griffith MS, of Plaid Cymru, for sponsoring and opening the event. Ranjan gave an introduction of AA and the General Service Office. I am the Trustee for Prisons and gave a short talk on AA within Prisons and the importance of AA being allowed into them. Followed by two AA speakers Charlotte and Vikki who gave their experience, strength and hope.

We opened up the floor for Questions and Answers. Followed by a buffet.

For Terry B, who Chaired this event on behalf of Wales and Borders Region, this was his last event and has now rotated out and will pass this onto Graham S. Many thanks to all involved and making this event a success.

Zelma K
GSB Trustee, Welsh Senydd Event

National Conventions

Southern

The Southern National Convention 2022 was held at the South of England Event Centre near Burgess Hill in West Sussex over the Weekend of the 30th September to the 2nd October. Rather fittingly, after the previous two Conventions were cancelled due to Covid, the theme was **Happy Joyous and Free**.

This was the first year at this new location as the previous venue in Hayling Island became unavailable during Covid. The Committee worked incredibly hard to find a new venue and considerable time and effort was required to locate and secure the South of England Event Centre. The amount of time available for initial preparations and publicising of the 2022 event was significantly reduced as a result. Nevertheless, just under 300 people attended over the weekend, everything ran smoothly and much positive feedback was received during and following the Convention. The new venue has a great layout, camping facilities, free parking, and plenty space for members to meet and chat. A full programme of meetings was held over the weekend, with Al-Anon participation. A very informative and well attended Chat Now workshop was presented by Casey C on the Saturday afternoon.

Convention 2022 was self-supporting with a small surplus available for the 2023 Convention. This will be held at the same venue with a theme of **Recovery, Unity and Service**. The Committee is pleased to announce that the Convention this year has been brought forward to the weekend of the 1st - 3rd September 2023. The earlier and (hopefully) warmer drier weather will allow more campers and caravaners to take advantage of the ample on-site camping facilities. Early Bird tickets and pre-registration is available on the Convention website (<https://aa-snc.org.uk>)

Work has already begun on the 2023 Convention and there are several places available on the Convention Committee. If you would like to take part and do service on the Committee and you are in Eastern, London South, London North, South East, South West or South Midlands Region, please put yourself forward for nomination at your Region. The Committee is friendly, welcoming and excited about putting on a great Convention in 2023.

Tim B
GSB Trustee, Southern National Convention

Scottish

The 65th Scottish National Convention, was held at Stirling Court Hotel from 20th to 22nd of May 2022. After initial challenges due to Covid 19 restrictions the Convention went ahead and was a sell-out success at capacity of 350, largely due to the unwavering and determined efforts of the committee. Online registration was used on the dedicated SNC website.

The convention took its regular form of meetings being hosted by each Region, with a Young Persons and Old timers meeting, the Saturday night meeting was open including an AI Anon speaker and rounded off with a sobriety countdown. AI – Anon also had their own meeting room and meetings were well attended. A calculation worked out 3000 years of sobriety were present over the weekend. The conservatory at the Hotel was given over to invited service disciplines, Roundabout, Health, 75th Anniversary convention, Prisons and Probation/CJS, Armed services, Archives, and a literature table.

The Committee met in person and online throughout the year and continue to do so providing dedicated and enthusiastic service. The planned 66th Scottish National Convention is to be held at a new venue due to increased demand for space and a change of business plan for the previous venue. The committee has booked The Queens Hall, Dunoon which has capacity in the main hall for 450. The 66th Scottish National Convention will take place 28th to 30th April 2023, we thank you for your continued support and look forward to welcoming as many of you there as possible.

Hamish McS
GSB Trustee, Scottish National Convention

Welsh

The Welsh National Convention was held in person at the Metropole Hotel Llandrindnod Wells on the 27th – 29th May 2022 with 143 attendees.

The theme of the Convention was Sobriety - Stronger Together or in Welsh Sobrwydd Cryfder gyda'n gilydd.

The Convention included a Welsh speaking table top session with simultaneous translation. Come and go meetings, entertainment and a Sobriety tree. The feedback was positive.

The dates for 2023 are the 2nd to 4th June.

Zelma K
GSB Trustee, Welsh National Convention