

Board Reports

to

Conference 2019

75th Anniversary Convention

In the 2016 Conference there was a decision to hold a 75th celebratory convention in 2022.

Since that time a committee was formed from a number of Regions, namely, North East, Midlands, South East, Scotia, North West and South West.

Terms of Reference were discussed and agreed.

The financial criteria we were given was to aim to be self supporting, so particular attention has been paid to budgeting and learning as much as possible from the information and records from the Convention celebrating the 50th anniversary.

Several locations were researched and Leeds Arena was the final agreed decision, so contracts have been signed and the deposit paid.

Your Committee wish everyone in the Fellowship to be included and involved in this event so the following initiatives have been and are being undertaken:

- i) A working group has been formed to produce a special edition of Share magazine for the event. The working group comprise of representatives of Roundabout, Share, Archives and a member of the 75th Anniversary Committee. All Regions have been contacted so that they can participate by including their histories in the publication.
- ii) A logo competition was held with over 100 entries.
- iii) Surveys have and will be distributed at Regions and Conventions to receive as wide as possible range of ideas from members of the Fellowship.

We now move on to detailed planning of the event and look forward to keeping you informed of progress.

Roger E
Trustee, 75th Anniversary Convention Committee

AA Service News

AA Service News (AASN) is the General Service Board's principal medium for communication of service events and developments throughout all regions of AA Great Britain. It is published quarterly, with articles that emphasise, in particular, matters affecting our primary purpose: to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

The Winter issue contains the Conference Questions and the Summer edition the recommendations from the General Service Conference pertaining to those questions.

Additionally, news and details about Parliamentary events in England, Scotland and Wales and other notable service events are published throughout the year in articles written for and by the Fellowship. These include General Service Board Sub-Committees vacancy notices (and information on how eligible AA members may apply), regional Seventh Tradition and In Memoriam contributions, as well as a Concept or Tradition and a Calendar of AA events in Great Britain and overseas.

Copies are posted to the mailing contacts for all Groups registered in the Great Britain Service Structure, to intergroup and regional officers and the General Service Board. If your group is not receiving AASN, please check that your Group Registration details are up-to-date via the Pink Form at the General Service Office. If in doubt, please contact the office.

I became responsible for AASN this year after the Summer issue had been completed. I want to thank Roger, our outgoing General Secretary, for putting together the Autumn edition and helping me learn the publication process.

I also owe a big debt of gratitude to the staff at GSO for their work to collate and pass along information for each issue, and especially to Sharon who gently helps me keep to the deadlines.

Thank you also to the volunteers – the AA members who gather at GSO four times a year to stuff the envelopes (usually including additional notices) so that AASN can be posted on time.

And finally, a big thanks to all contributors without whose articles and notices AASN could not be published. Your willingness to share your service-related experience, strength and hope informs the Fellowship and encourages all of us – and our groups, intergroups and regions – to keep AA's Legacy of Service alive and thriving.

We welcome news and articles about service and service events all year round.

Erik A
GSB Trustee, AASN

ARCHIVES

The Archives Subcommittee met four times during the past year and have been very proactive in their discussions on various issues during this time. These issues include the following: The Kelvingrove Public Exhibition "From Darkness to Light", lessons learned and how to take this forward; The Borthwick Institute Cataloguing and Digitisation Project; The 75th Anniversary Special Publication and ways in which to enhance and improve the support it gives to the Archivist Network.

The Kelvingrove Public Exhibition: This event was hosted by the 5 Scottish Regions and was opened by the Granddaughter of Sir Phillip D who along with Grace O were among the founder members of AA in Great Britain. This was the first of its kind to be held in a public space in this case, the Kelvingrove Museum in Glasgow. The Archivists worked alongside members from PI to put on an extremely successful event. The subcommittee are building on the success of this and similar exhibitions have been held in Manchester and other locations. It has been agreed to have a permanent display at GSO. This will take the form of banners displayed on the wall in the Archives room. The subcommittee are also keen to work with members of other service disciplines to help to enhance carrying the AA message to the still suffering alcoholic.

The Borthwick Institute Cataloguing and Digitisation Project: Conference 2016 unanimously endorsed the Committee 5 Question 1 recommendation to make the Fellowship's Archive more accessible digitally and therefore more widely accessible to the whole membership. The Borthwick Institute presented the General Service Board with a project proposal in May last year which fully meets the remit of Conference. They carried out a comprehensive assessment of the Archive held at GSO, along with the Archive material which they already hold in their storage facility. The Borthwick have employed a professional Archivist to carry out this project which is now at the cataloguing stage. This cataloguing stage will take some considerable time and the Board are being kept fully updated on progress by the Borthwick through the Trustee, Fellowship Archivist, General Secretary and Projects Coordinator at GSO.

The 75th Anniversary Publication Working Group: This working group was set up by the Board to oversee the production of a special publication along the lines of Share and Roundabout to commemorate this momentous occasion in the history of AA GB. It will also celebrate Share Magazines 50th Anniversary and commemorate the major contribution that Roundabout has made to AA's history especially in Scotland. It comprises of members from the Archives, Share, Roundabout and 75th Anniversary subcommittees. It is chaired by the Archives Trustee who reports to the Board on its progress. It also provides regular reports to all its constituent subcommittees listed above. Work is progressing well and it plans to produce the completed publication by June 2021. It has asked the Fellowship to provide material in the form of Regional histories including founder Groups and Intergroups. This also includes history of service disciplines.

The Archivist Network: The annual meeting of the Network took place in September last year. It was well attended and the discussions were lively and informative. The subcommittee came away with much food for thought and have started to implement ways in which to enhance and improve communication with the Network. These include circulating reports received from Archivists to the whole network and sending out bullet point summaries of subcommittee meetings. The subcommittee are also in the process of planning the

first ever Archives Seminar to be held in September this year. This will include guest speakers addressing a range of topics including the Borthwick Institute Cataloguing and Digitisation Project, the Kelvingrove Exhibition and Preservation and Conservation of archive collections.

The Archives Subcommittee: This report would not be complete without expressing my sincerest gratitude to this hardworking and extremely supportive subcommittee. We now have in place a Fellowship Archivist, Harry R from North West Region. He took up post in September and was introduced to the Network at its annual meeting. We lost two members during the year who sadly had to step down due to moving house and illness, Miriam T from South West Region and Graham S from South East Region were stalwarts of the subcommittee and we wish them well. We gained two members, Martin B from Scotia Region and John C from North East Region. The subcommittee now comprises of Martin B, John C, Joanna B from South East Region, Jim S from East of Scotland Region, Harry R as Fellowship Archivist, Emma W from GSO who is the Projects Administrator and myself.

My heartfelt gratitude also goes to Joe H, my predecessor for his invaluable support, insight and encouragement when I took on this role.

I must also express my sincere debt of gratitude to Jenny, Roger, Emma and all the Staff at GSO for all their invaluable support and help during this past year.

Archives is an extremely interesting and rewarding discipline which continues to go from strength to strength thanks to the unwavering commitment and support of the Archivist Network throughout our Fellowship, the Subcommittee and the GSO staff.

Clive K

Trustee for Archives and Chair of the Anniversary Publication Working Group

Armed Services

I am the new Trustee for the Armed Services and was ratified into the post last Conference and it has been a privilege to serve with the Subcommittee, RASLO's and ASLO's up and down the country. I would like to thank them for all their hard work in making the Armed Services pleasure to be part of.

Excerpt from Guideline 21

AA and The Armed Services: 'Intergroups and Regions are responsible for the appointment of an Armed Services Liaison Officer [ASLO] to work in conjunction with other Intergroup and Regional officers. The role of the ASLO is to establish and maintain communication between Alcoholics Anonymous and The Royal Navy, The Army and The Royal Air Force and to report back at all areas within Intergroup or Region. It is also important to cultivate similar contact and communication with Community Welfare Officers and organisations such as Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen & Families Association (SSAFA) and Veterans-U.K. Familiarity with the local area and a thorough working knowledge of the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain 2017 are vital before accepting the role of ASLO'.

At our last Sub Committee meeting in September we decided to amend our Terms of Reference TOR's at the February meeting.

- The 34 Hives are still receiving literature and posters
- The website has been updated and a CD with new handbook and two new stories.
- A white border will be placed around the QR code on the new Armed Services poster
- Provided information for Joanna Hrycak, Armed Services Covenant Project Manager, Joint Commissioning Team, People Directorate, Milton Keynes Council
- Inroads are being made to the RAF and to various barracks around the country.

Health Fairs were attended at Imphal Barracks and we were invited back in December by the CO to do a presentation.

A celebration of Bill Wilson's visit to Winchester Cathedral 100yrs ago was organised and was attended by 800 people it was a great success and many veterans were there.
Our Newsletter has been sent out as was discussed in the September meeting.

There was a Seminar which was well attended we had a guest speaker Major Mohammad Farout and a Q&A session and presentations.

A presentation at RAF Cranwell to welfare and employment officers from around the country as part of their training. Interest was shown in, perhaps, having such presentations at the individual bases. Contact details circulated should they wish this to go ahead,

It has been discussed and the go ahead for the Armed Services to have a stand at all the National conventions awaiting acknowledgement from the Convention Committees.

There have been many inroads to various barracks, there are some coffees mornings being held where the problems of alcohol are discussed these are in garrison towns and have an Alcoholics Anonymous presence.

There has been continued contact with US Military installations of RAF Molesworth, RAF Alconbury, RAF Mildenhall and RAF Lakenheath.

It is understood that the Chief of Defence staff has recognised that there is a problem with alcohol in the forces and has issued a directive that this should be tackled.

It has been noticed that some personnel from barracks where some presentations were given are seen attending meetings and this is a result of the ASLO's & RASLO's giving of their time and I thank them for their service and time.

In summary we have continued to maintain contact with the following:

- Director General, Army Medical Services.
- Services Medical Directorate.
- Service Base Medical Centres.
- SAAFA
- Royal British Legion.
- Combat Stress.
- Help the Hero's etc.

We also maintain our contact with publications such as:

- Pathfinder (Resettlement Information Magazine)
- Soldier (Internal Army Magazine)
- Civvy street (a relatively new publication)

The MoD intranet (Internal forces information website)

Flyers and copies of the Armed Services Pamphlet were handed out in West Lanarkshire to various members of different Groups, to be displayed with their Groups Literature.

Contact has been made with Leuchers Barracks Hive, (Hives are Welfare Centres for Service Communities), who have taken over the responsibility for the Army Bases in Scotland as the Edinburgh Hive has closed for the foreseeable future. GSO to send Armed Services and Park Bench Posters to the Leuchers Hive officer, who is then distributing them around the Scottish Barracks Medical Centres, in Edinburgh, Leuchers, Kinloss and Fort George in Inverness.

HIVE blogs around the country, to which everyone in the Army has access.

The materials will be permanently available on the blogs under 'health' or 'welfare' tabs.

<http://www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support/23438.aspx>

This concludes my report for conference

Mike P

Trustee, Armed Services

Criminal Justice

It has been a very busy year for the Criminal Justice Partnership with all the changes that has been happening at the Ministry of Justice.

Most of the talk involved prevention intervention recovery, Governors being in charge of budgets, Alignment of Probation Services.

Failure of Community Rehabilitation Company's Communication not Isolation, Empowering Prisoners Education, Technology the future paperless and Courts & Lawyers digital evidence inmates history digitalised, REHABILITATION & RESPECT.

Shortage of staff and funding, experienced staff leaving and new staff having to be trained up losing valuable experience.

We have had area zonal meetings in Warrington, Cambridge, Stirling, and Swindon where the Ministry of Justice gave a presentation and problems were identified with Clearance & Security.

Moving forward the two sub-committees are now up to strength and we have a new Trustee for the Probation sub-committee.

There are many tasks to be carried out including invites to various meetings like training establishments, pre-release classes compiling a list of contacts for inmates on release to keep the continuity of recovery in the community.

More co-operation with health teams etc, DRUG STRATEGY MEETINGS.

CHIT SYSTEM encouraging more groups to get involved pre-release pamphlet there is much to be done updating website and resources for Prison & Probation.

A SEMINAR will be taking place in the Park Inn on the 29th June 2019 for the CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP for anyone interested in this SERVICE.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all liaison officers involved in Probation & Prisons for all the hard work they have put in and to keep up that good work with the help of the Fellowship and Sub-Committees we shall overcome the many problems.

Pat McG

Trustee, Prisons & Probation

Electronic Communications

Our website has enjoyed a particularly busy year since last Conference, attracting some 1.25 million visitors. Many are newcomers who can find our Helpline number or can choose to contact us directly by email via our Online Response Service, or one-to-one via our ChatNow Service. Each of these is in contact with some 10,000 people each year to help them get started on their journey of recovery.

Many existing members access the website in order to find meeting information and since a high percentage of these are mobile users, a change has been made to the website design to make the pages easier to read on these devices. The 'Near me' function is ideal for AA members on the move.

A major overhaul of the website is reaching completion at the time of writing, particularly the 'back end' – the workings unseen by the user which interact with other areas, group records, shop etc. In this connection, the filestore has been rebuilt which requires all users to re-register, ensuring that we comply with current data protection legislation. Our Privacy Policy has been updated and published.

The website content is not changing significantly at this time, but its style and layout are being brought up-to-date. Most of the images on the site are from library stock, and ECSC invite members to send in any photographs that they consider suitable for publication.

New data protection legislation (GDPR) came into force in May 2018 and ECSC continues to offer help to the Fellowship to ensure compliance. In order to preserve anonymity and to comply with GDPR, we continue to offer generic email addresses for all posts at Intergroup and Region levels.

Norman B
Trustee, Electronic Communications

Employment

The Employment Discipline held their four quarterly Sub Committee meetings for 2018 and the Annual Regional Employment Liaison Officers meeting took place at GSO in York on Friday the 15th and 16th June. This meeting was preceded by a short Sub Committee meeting. Whilst the numbers attending the Employment Liaison Officers were low the content and quality of discussion was very positive. We received the reports from the Liaison Officers in attendance and the Sub Committee members were impressed by the amount of work being carried out by the Liaison Officers throughout the country.

A summary of work of the Employment Sub Committee is as follows:

1. **Website:** work continued throughout the year
2. **Hello ELO:** two newsletters were produced and distributed via the website and P.I. Service News. The first was in July and the latest in December and these included articles from Sub Committee members and Liaison officers
3. **Glasgow Forum:** The Employment Trustee attended at the Forum in October
4. **Videos:** Some members of the committee were involved in the production of the Employment Video
5. **Liaison Officer Reports:** we received reports from Intergroup and Regional Employment Liaison Officers who have contacted a wide and varied number of employers from many different areas of business.

Liaison Officers have been in contact with: The Department of Works and Pensions, local job centres, the Police, G.P.'s, Railways, Large employer's assistance programmes, the BBC, Large Hotels, Legal Practices, Occupational Health, Health Centres, Banks, Construction Companies, Institute of Personal Development, Metropolitan Police, Trade Unions and many others, passing on our message of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Looking ahead to 2019

At our final Sub Committee meeting in October we welcomed Mike P. Trustee for London Region North to the meeting who will be taking over the role as Trustee for Employment in January 2019. The committee still needs new members as the workload continues to grow. Overall it was another successful year and the members of the Employment Sub Committee are looking forward to 2019.

However, whilst each committee meeting proved to be productive it was agreed that future plans need to be put in place for 2019. The committee looked at what we could do to further carry the message to Employers. One of the most pressing needs was to try to recruit more Employment Liaisons Officers at Region level and support them to recruit officers at Intergroup level. Some suggestions of how to do this are to:

1. Have a presence at the 4 National Conventions
2. Hold a Seminar in York, at the Park Inn, on the 21st & 22nd June
3. Trustee for Employment to attend the annual Chairs meeting to raise awareness of our resources

4. Attend National Conferences aimed at Employers i.e. Chartered Institute for Personnel Development (CIPD)
5. Attend at Regional Forums
6. Develop a range of materials and resources to raise the awareness of Employment, such as pull up banners, posters and fliers, specific for Employers.

As an Employment discipline it is our purpose to carry AA's message to employers and to this end 2018 has been a success. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Employment Sub-Committee members and all those Employment Liaison Officers at Intergroup and Region level who work tirelessly to carry the message of our programme of recovery to Employers.

Denise H
Outgoing Employment Trustee

Fellowship Survey

The Board set up the Survey Subcommittee during the year to meet the remit of Conference 2017 Committee 5 Question 2. The subcommittee have met twice so far. The terms of reference were agreed and there are currently 3 members with the addition of 2 Trustees and the Projects Administrator at GSO. The subcommittee reports to the Board through the Trustees.

Work on producing the questions for the 2020 survey is well under way. The subcommittee are also discussing ways of how best to publicise this survey throughout the whole Fellowship. Marketing Means are involved with its production and will collate the results again as they have done for the past few surveys.

Our sincere thanks go to Lindsay K, Tillmann S and John W for their invaluable supportive and enthusiastic contributions to the subcommittee. Our gratitude also goes to Emma, Jenny, Roger and all the Staff at GSO for their unwavering support and commitment.

Mani Mehdikhani, Chair of Survey Subcommittee and Non-Alcoholic Trustee
Clive K, Trustee

Health

The Health Sub-Committee have been working closely with HLO's throughout the regions to carry the message at every opportunity to all Professionals working with the still suffering alcoholic. These include frontline Healthcare, Judicial, Universities, Emergency Services, Clergy, and many others. The Health Sub-Committee was asked to contribute to the NHS England 5-year Mental Health Plan and the trustee with responsibility for Health AAGB, was invited to attend and deliver a presentation at the annual AA event at the Scottish Parliament, which resulted in an excellent follow up from many and diverse professionals.

The Open Meeting Workshops have proven to be very popular and have been adapted and delivered in many locations and to more than 1500 people including GP surgeries, hospitals, treatment centres, dentists, universities, training colleges, nursing degree students, post graduate psychologists, etc. As follows:

South East Region - Brighton and Sussex Medical School, the University of Brighton, and Mid Sussex and Brighton General Practitioners Vocational Training Scheme.

London Region South – St. Georges Hospital Tooting and with Paramedics at the School of Health Science.

London Region North – General Practitioners Training Scheme, Bromley.

Glasgow Region - Health Liaison Officers are working closely with addiction nurses and doctors to assist with a home detox pilot project.

Highlands & Islands Region - University of the Highlands, Inverness and Outer Hebrides campuses, delivering presentations to first year nursing degree students.

This is a snapshot of the work being carried out by HLO's in all of the regions who are committed to working in service for the Fellowship to 'carry the message'.

Terri S
Trustee Health

Literature

It has been a great honour to serve on the General Service Board as a Trustee that has responsibility for Literature. The Literature Sub-Committee has worked extremely hard during 2018 and it has been a privilege to work with such a dedicated and committed team. The committee has met four times this year; February, May, August and November, but the majority of work has taken place outside committee meetings as members are paired up to work on specific pieces of literature.

Whilst there are still several projects, pending and in process, the Literature Sub-Committee has pleasure in presenting to the Fellowship, the following pieces of literature for consideration by Conference 2019. Some background information has been provided to give an indication how the new and revised literature came about.

New Literature

1. Now that I'm a GSR (Group Service Representative) What do I do?

Background Information – GSR Pamphlet for Submission to Conference 2019

The proposed pamphlet "Now that I am a GSR – What do I do" originated in the Cornwall IG, which passed it on to the Literature Sub Committee for further consideration and review. Members of the Cornwall IG created this pamphlet with the intention of supporting members who were considering taking up the role as GSR with precise and practical information about the various responsibilities of this role. It was felt that the current "Rewards of being a GSR" was good but needed a supplementary publication. Overwhelmingly positive response from both the groups within the Cornwall IG and the South West Region resulted in the decision to send it to the Literature Sub Committee for consideration at Conference.

A thorough review and edits by the Literature Sub Committee produced the proposed pamphlet, entitled "Now that I am a GSR – What do I do", which contains the original content of the Cornwall IG pamphlet with some additions from the current GSR pamphlet, minor edits in writing style, and some adjustments in design.

Additionally, the Literature Sub Committee proposes that this new pamphlet replaces the current GSR pamphlet for the following reasons:

- ❖ The proposed pamphlet is a good reflection of the role and responsibilities of the GSR, offers much practical advice, and also contains some of the information presented in the "Rewards of being a GSR" pamphlet.
- ❖ The "Rewards of being a GSR" pamphlet contains information, e.g. in the sections "a unique opportunity", "willingness", and "principles before personalities", that is not just unique to the position of the GSR.
- ❖ While the original pamphlet offers well-intended, and inspiring general information about the "rewards" of service, it lacks practical guidance.

We feel that the new proposed piece of literature could more effectively encourage members to take on the role of GSR, assist them with practical advice, and offer inspiration, thus making the current pamphlet redundant.

2. 12th Step Starter Pack

AA STARTER PACK: background to proposed revision

The AA Starter Pack is an important part of our literature, playing a crucial role in introducing the newcomer to the Fellowship.

In 2017, the Literature Sub-Committee (LSC) was asked by the General Service Board to review the contents of the Starter Pack. A member of the fellowship brought a particular source of concern which was the fact that it contained two separate questionnaires, in different leaflets, which would deliver separate and possibly conflicting messages to the newcomer reading the pack.

The LSC undertook a review of the contents of the pack and concluded that it should be revised. That revision needed to ensure that there was only one questionnaire. It should also aim to include fewer pieces of paper and avoid repetition. The theme of the revision should be to “Keep it simple”.

After discussion, it was decided to propose that there should be a single questionnaire, which would focus on the obsession from which the alcoholic suffers, the effects upon their mental processes, and upon those around them. The aim was not really to diagnose the alcoholic, but to provoke the newcomer to think, to get through denial, and to assist identification. Passages in the Big Book, and particularly in the Doctor’s Opinion were of value in formulating the questions.

More generally, it was concluded that the text of the leaflets entitled “Who Me?” and “A newcomer asks” should be amended so that they incorporated the crucial points from the cards “What does Anonymity mean to AA?” and “Hints and Suggestions on Internet Safety”, together with points from the leaflet “Is AA for You?” Those three items need then no longer be included in the pack.

As a result of this process, it is proposed that the Starter Pack should consist of the following pieces of literature:

“Who Me?” as amended and incorporating the questionnaire*

“A newcomer asks” as amended*

“Now that you’ve stopped - 15 Points”

“Just for Today” card

Card containing the Preamble, 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and the Serenity Prayer

The cards “What Does Anonymity Mean to AA?” and “Hints and Suggestions on Internet Safety” will continue to be available separately

* The amended texts of these leaflets are contained in a separate document and included with this literature report.

Item from Conference 2018

1. Your AA Group – and its place in the AA Structure

After receiving feedback from the fellowship, it was decided to withdraw this pamphlet from Conference 2018, to give time to consider all the comments. The Literature Sub Committees intention was to re-submit it to a future Conference after addressing the feedback raised. It has been decided to put this pamphlet on hold until a way forward has been sought. Our reason for this decision is that on considering all the background to this ‘revised’ pamphlet it was agreed that further work and thought is needed as to its purpose. Some points discussed were how great the current need for this pamphlet is and whether we should be focusing more on outward-facing literature. An idea was to produce a much shorter version as introduction that would not replace *The AA Group* pamphlet but rather summarize the most important points

The consensus was that if we devise an overall strategy for the Literature Sub Committee, we can make a better decision about what we want to do with this project and others going forward.

The following items will be going to Committee to approve the proposed revisions to:

❖ AA Structure Handbook - Page 79 – (Conference 2018 Committee 3 Question 2)

Summary:

We hope that the fellowship enjoys reading this literature and we look forward to hearing from you. If any member of the Fellowship has comments, questions or suggestions about these pieces of literature please contact the Literature Committee before the 31st March 2019.

This will give us time to make a considered and appropriate response to ensure the best possible outcome for the Fellowship. The Literature Committee can be contacted through GSO.

The Literature is being distributed electronically. However, hard copies will be sent to those without email addresses, and to those Delegates who request printed versions.

Denise H
Trustee for Literature

Public Information

Public Information (PI) operates through AA members, Groups, Intergroup, Regions. the PI Subcommittee and our Non Alcoholic Trustees assist with carrying the message to every area of the wider Community. PI is often the first contact the public have with the Fellowship.

Media Events

The PI Subcommittee is very conscious of all our Traditions which underpin our activity, especially when dealing with the media and external bodies. We are guided by the Public Information Section in the AA Service Handbook.

The need for adherence to the Traditions continues to be carefully explained to Journalists, their Editors and the Producers of TV Programmes. We have where necessary editorial control of the filming and editing of AA content.

During the year we have released articles for the press on our Public information events at the Parliaments of Holyrood, Westminster and the Welsh Assembly in Cardiff.

A Press release earlier in the year entitled 'Dying for a Drink' was put on the AA website in January has been picked up by Regional Newspapers and the content published.

During the spring and summer of 2018 Northdown Intergroup PI members ran a whole series of events in Winchester to celebrate the Centenary of Bill's visit to Winchester and his memorable sighting of Thomas Thetcher's tombstone in the Cathedral Graveyard. AA was able to put on a display commemorating the event in Winchester library, and in the cathedral later on in the year. In July, Winchester Festival commissioned a play about Bill W; it was written by a local playwright and was attended by many people in the Cathedral.

This was followed in August by an AA meeting in the Cathedral to celebrate the 100th anniversary day of Bill W's actual visit to Winchester. A couple of weeks later one of our Non Alcoholic Trustees, Mani was interviewed by BBC TV on its 'Songs of Praise' programme in front of Thomas Thetcher's tombstone. This

was a memorable record of Bill's W story and about the work the AA Fellowship does. In total the Winchester Bill W centenary story gave AA considerable exposure to both national, regional television, radio and press.

Advertising Campaigns

The two London Regions North and South, ran a large Poster Campaign on the London Underground in October. It was very impressive to see so many of our In-house AA posters on the London Underground at several stations!

Newcastle Intergroup likewise ran a Poster Campaign on their Public Transport System in November.

PI Video for Professionals

The new AA videos were approved by Conference in April, completed in the autumn of 2018 and made available to professionals through our AA website to all Intergroup and Regional PI teams. The PI video has been well received and is available with videos of the other AA disciplines for Health, Employment, Armed Services, Employment, Prison and Probation on the Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain website under latest news –click on videos for Professionals.

PI Sub Committee

We met four times during 2018. We continue to encourage Intergroup PI Initiatives with events for professionals and in working with both their local press and regional television. We held a Regional PI Officers' Meeting in York in September which was well attended. We held a six Southern region PI Officers event in Guildford, followed by the second one for the four Northern Regions in Warrington in December. The final event for Scottish PI liaison officers will be in Glasgow in March 2019. These events are motivating our PI teams and giving them a wealth of information and experience.

Alcohol Awareness month.

Even more Nationwide AA PI activity took place during the U.K.'s Alcohol Awareness week in November, much of the Fellowship's activity has been reported in the monthly PI Newsletter. It is clear many more Intergroups are now setting up a PI Service group within their Intergroup; the Public Information Officer (PILO) being the facilitator. This means much more PI activity within all the areas of Great Britain. We continued to emphasise at the PI Regional Events the importance of each Intergroup running PI Team as a group committee; with its own budget and annual programme of activity and events. Page 21 of the 2017 Service Manual has some helpful advice on forming a PI service committee.

PI Service News

This publication is circulated throughout the Fellowship at the beginning of each month. Any member can request a copy of the PI Service news from his PI team or intergroup secretary and by requesting to be added to GSO's circulation list. PISN shares current PI experiences, and acts as an archive for reference; It is distributed by E mail. We are most grateful to our editor who continues to produce this excellent publication on a monthly basis. Please keep your local PI news flowing and good luck with all your primary purpose work in 2019.

Peter F
Trustee, Public Information

Telephones

Terms of Reference for the National Telephone Sub-committee (NTSC)

To maintain the existing telephone system, to enable the suffering alcoholic access to a local contact through a single national telephone number, in a manner which is efficient, effective and economic.

To keep the use and cost of the system under constant review.

To be responsible for all changes to the system and to liaise with the system providers following consultation with Regions.

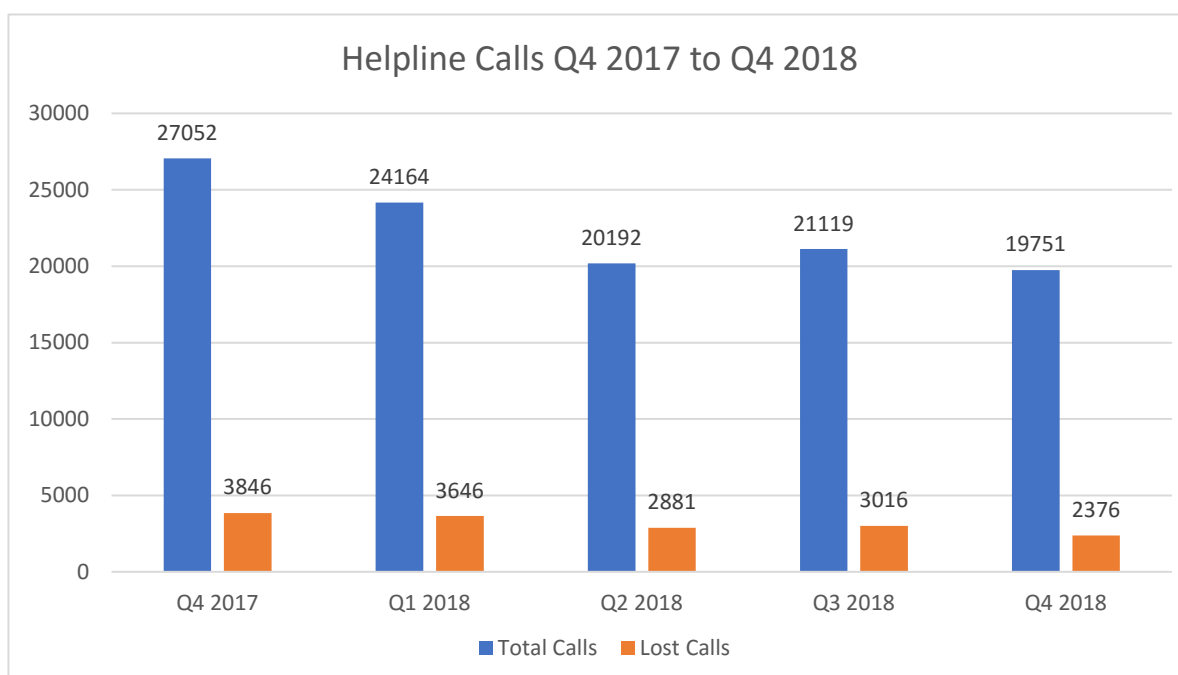
To investigate any new technology which may be beneficial to the Fellowship's telephone service.

To keep constant review of the facilities offered by other service providers.

The committee is a sub-committee of the Board and will be chaired by the Trustee with responsibility for the telephone service. Membership will normally consist of a minimum of four and a maximum of eight members drawn from participating Regions, who are suitably experienced to participate in committee functions. Where possible this will recognise geographical spread.

Membership of the Committee will be for a period of four years, allowing one year for sponsorship, thus the committee will be increased during sponsorship periods.

The subcommittee has been hard at work, supporting Regional Telephone Liaison Officers (RTLOs) and TLOs, some of whom are having a hard time introducing new digital services. At the annual meeting of RTLOs in August 2018, a representative from BT attended, with a wide-ranging discussion of the issues involved. A continuing problem is the failure of old BT infrastructure, leading to local Helpline numbers being dropped. This has been stressful for all concerned in trying to maintain the usual access for the suffering alcoholic to a local contact. Even when there has been a planned transfer from the old analogue to digital, things have gone badly wrong. Nevertheless, where helplines have successfully transferred there is praise for the ease of use and the benefits that a digital service can provide.



Telephone administrators (i.e. RTLOs) and responders are looking forward to reliable access to various features of the new AA website. There is an understanding that implementing the full features of the website takes time. Liaison between NTSC and ECSC is important and will continue.

It would seem calls to the Helpline peaked last year. Looking at Q4 2017 compared with Q4 2018 we can see that there has been a 27% decline. However, looking at the last three quarters the call volume is much the same. So, after year on year increases since the 0800 number was introduced, Helpline calls are levelling out.

At the same time lost calls, including Ring Tone No Reply (RTNR) calls (a caller phoning and no one picking up the phone) have declined. It is worth pointing out that the majority of the RTNR calls were under 10 seconds giving little time for the responder to pick up.

The number of calls to the 0845-number reduced to such a low level that the decision was taken to disconnect it. If anyone comes across the 0845 number still being displayed, please remove/delete it.

The Helpline depends on the tens of RTLOs, the scores of TLOs, the hundreds of Telephone Responders, and the thousands of Twelve Steppers. The Service they all provide is essential, valuable, rewarding and is always in need of more people coming forward to be involved at all levels.

We are all responsible for passing the message to the suffering alcoholic.

Jonathan P
Trustee, NTSC

Young People

Despite being the newest service discipline in the Fellowship, having come into existence at Conference 2015, we are being put under the spotlight so I thought it was important to share what we are doing and bust some myths that some of our work takes place separately from our traditional service structure.

I'd firstly like to thank my hard-working sub-committee – Gemma, Andrew, Dave and new members Helen and Mark. I'd like to also thank Jack, who rotated out of service and also welcome a new Trustee to the sub-committee, Sandi.

As you are aware Committee One are answering an inventory question on the Young People Liaison Officer service position and how it is integrating itself within our service structure.

We came into existence following a Conference question in 2015 and the following year the Young People's Sub-committee was formed.

Our primary purpose is to pass the message of recovery to the still suffering young alcoholic.

As a sub-committee over the past three years our initial aim has been to support as many Intergroup and Regional liaison officers into the position and to get them working with other disciplines.

We now have 35 Intergroup YPLO's in post and 6 Regional YPLO's and this is growing all the time.

Starting from the beginning is both rewarding and challenging at the same time with many liaison officers reporting some resistance to the role within their areas. It is important to say that the young people in AA want to be inclusive in the Fellowship and not exclusive.

The YPLO role is open to those who came into AA at the age of 30 or younger, and so will have experience of getting sober at a young age, the better to relate to the particular problems faced by young people seeking to live sober.

We want you to use the young people and YPLOs to help support your disciplines. Who better to talk to school children, youth clubs and university students than a young person already in recovery – that is how our YPLO's can work with Public Information officers.

We do not, as suggested by some of the Conference background information, work outside the service structure of AA, we work very much within our Steps, Traditions and Concepts and we do not endorse Conventions outside the Service structure of AA GB.

Young people can work with Prison Liaison officers, Health, Employment, Telephones, Armed Services and in fact many are already doing this very successfully as was made evident by our first seminar last year which was full of young people full of enthusiasm and commitment to serve the Fellowship.

In a short space of time many YPLO's have helped changed lives with the work they are doing from innovative ideas such as going into gyms and nightclubs to carry the message to school talks and media interviews to working with universities and hospitals. Working with agencies like Homestart and homeless charities.

One YPLO regularly holds a tea and cake meeting at her home with other Intergroup officers to discuss ideas and how they can best work together.

Up and down the country they are making a difference.

As a sub committee we have setup a closed forum for those in service in the post to talk to one another and share ideas. Each time a new YPLO comes into post they are welcomed and offered support so they know they are not alone.

Other work we are doing at national level includes designing a new poster for young people and working on a new young peoples video.

For those whose rock bottom comes much earlier than others knowing that they are not alone and that even at a young age there is life once you put down the drink these younger members are invaluable to show them there is another way.

As Bill W said in 1969: **"... in recent years, I have found nothing for greater inspiration than the knowledge that AA of tomorrow will be safe, and certainly magnificent, in the keeping of you who are the younger generation of AA today."**

Amanda S
Young Peoples Trustee

Roundabout

Roundabout this past year has gone through a change of Editor. Our retiring Editor is a hard act to follow but fortunately with the support of an excellent committee our new Editor should find the role fulfilling.

All dates for the issue of the magazine were met although December was dodgy as we went through the transition of Editors. The sub-committee rallied round to make sure that the schedule was met.

The Magazine produced a print run of 1400 per month Down from the heady days over the 80s and 90s of 3000-3500 approximately.

The magazine is still a great way to carry the message to the still suffering Alcoholic as well as an enhancement to many members sobriety, and long may it continue to do so.

Stevie S
Trustee, Roundabout

SHARE

I have been Trustee on the Share Sub Committee for ten months now and it has been a rewarding and educational experience.

Share continues to be a useful tool for the Fellowship and maintains its unique identity. The sub-committee, led by our new editor Stuart, works hard to keep standards high and production on time. We have welcomed two new members to the Share team this year and added the new position of proof reader/secretary. We only require an assistant editor to complete our sub-committee.

We held a well-attended workshop in November and we will seek to implement some of their ideas and suggestions at our next meeting in March. We hope to expand our readership and attract some of the younger audience in AA to participate and subscribe. We have a well-balanced team, who enjoy their service. Our editor and Roundabout editor have been invited to the Continental European Conference in Cologne in April to share their experience, which I am sure will be a mutually beneficial exercise.

There is good news on the diaries - all 800 are now sold, please relay this information to anybody thinking of ordering. There are less than a hundred of the calendars remaining so orders need to be made sooner rather than later.

Share subscriptions show a slight increase and January itself has been a bumper month with nearly a thousand extra copies ordered.

We look forward to another productive and self-supporting year in 2019.

Maxine W
Trustee for Share magazine

National Conventions

Northern

The Forty-Fourth Northern National Convention took place on the 23rd, 24th and 25th March 2018 at Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool. It was a fantastic convention with a great turnout, as usual, with a total of 1056 people attending with an increase of 135 from last year. The three main meetings were chaired by the Chairs from each the sponsoring Regions, North West, North East and Midlands. I had the great privilege of chairing the Final Gathering on a Sunday morning which was such a humbling experience to which I am truly grateful.

The opening of the Convention began on a Friday evening with a large 'Opening Convention Gathering' which was designated as an open public one, shared with Al-Anon and was attended by the Deputy Mayor of Blackpool. There was a varied programme with a full schedule of AA meetings, which included young people's and old timers' meetings, as well a service seminar, marathon meetings and a full programme of Al-Anon meetings. Entertainment was provided on the Friday and Saturday evenings with a DJ and open mic sessions. The cinema again was very popular with a good selection

of AA-related films being shown continuously during Friday and Saturday. The Road to Recovery Banner where AA members put their sobriety dates on had over 8000 years of sobriety. Again Charlie, the Archivist produced a magnificent display to showcase the wonderful memoirs of years past.

Following the closed AA meeting on a Sunday morning the Final Gathering (spiritual meeting) had AA and Al-Anon speakers and the usual sobriety countdown took place, with the longest-sober member presenting a copy of the Big Book to the newest person in recovery. The decibel-rating of the audience singing 'One Day at a Time' was thunderous and the meeting ended with the entire audience holding hands in a circle around the hall whilst saying the Serenity Prayer. An overwhelming and emotional spiritual experience felt by all was a testimony to the wonderfully uplifting Convention that, once again had many of us feeling ever so grateful to be part of such a wonderful fellowship.

Raffle ticket sales were £1,965 and Literature sales were £1,534.80. The income over expenditure revealed a surplus of £2867, and the Tradition 7 'Pot' was £1,313.20, (which is accounted for separately) and was sent directly to GSO.

Overall it was a wonderful convention, enjoyed by all and I am already looking forward to the 45th on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th March 2019.

Denise H
Trustee for the National Northern Convention

Southern

The Southern National Convention took place over the weekend of 1st, 2nd and 3rd of September 2018 at Mill Rythe on Hayling Island.

There was an excellent programme over the three days which included Open meetings, separate meetings for AA and Al Anon and Al-Ateen. There was the Saturday evening dance with the Mill Rythe live band which saw great support followed by the AA and Al Anon Raffles. This year on Sunday morning we started with shares by the old timers then followed by the Spiritual Meeting, complete with a home-grown choir. We finished with the Sobriety countdown. The attendance was 832 registered attendees both from AA members; this is again an increase on the previous year. All the resort's rooms were taken and we continue to get many members coming locally for the day or all the days!

The event was self-supporting and an increased contribution of £5000 was sent to GSO.

At the AGM in January this year each of the six supporting Regional Chairs attended with Treasurers or Secretaries. The accounts were accepted for 2017/2018 and the incoming Executive Committee for the 2019 convention was ratified. The full complement of the Southern National Committee Executive is in place for 2019.

Each of the six Regions nominate two representatives for the organising committee and there remains at present a few members to fill from two of the Regions. We trust that shortly we will have a full complement as it is a very rewarding service opportunity.

The Convention for this year is from the Friday August 30th to Sunday 1st September at Mill Rythe, Hayling Island. With the new booking system in place Mill Rythe can be contacted directly quoting the AA Southern National Convention for a room reservation. There are also nearby hotels, B&B's etc. Do come along on August 30th for a Great Weekend.

Peter F
Trustee for Southern National Convention

Scottish

Our 2018 Scottish Convention was relaunched after a year's absence and was marvellous.

The Convention was held during May at the Stirling Park Hotel that is within the delightful grounds of Stirling University...and we were fortunately blessed with great weather for the weekend.

Our sub-committee was a whole new committee and whilst there were some teething problems to be overcome, they all worked together to give our Fellowship a memorable weekend.

The Convention was well attended with many visitors from all Regions of Scotland together with visitors from England Wales and Ireland.

On behalf of AAGB we would like to thank the sub-committee for all of their work, and we look forward to our 2019 Convention which once again will be held at the same venue.

Stevie S

Trustee for Scottish National Convention

Welsh

Once again Wales and Borders Region offered a very warm welcome to all those who attended the convention. The theme was 'Sobrwydd - tiath gyffrous' 'Sobriety – an exciting journey'. The venue as usual, The Metropole Hotel, Temple Street, Llandrindod Wells, Powys which is in the beautiful heart of Wales.

The number of people who came to the convention was again up from the previous year – now well over 200, from all parts of the UK and Ireland. We welcomed old friends and new visitors alike.

The meetings were very well attended, and the speakers were, as always, lively, eloquent and entertaining, in carrying the message. A Welsh Language meeting, also well attended, was held and despite an issue with translation, was well received by both Welsh and English listeners. Come and Go meetings ran throughout Saturday.

A workshop on Health run by Stuart B. was a success and builds on the excellent work done by him and others to promote AA in the Health Services across Wales.

Everyone enjoyed the Quiz – always a talking point, and the dance and disco were a success.

The planning for the 28th Convention in 2019, is well in hand, and the theme remains the same. All the speakers have been confirmed and the entertainment organised. The dates are the 14-16th June 2019 and we look forward to seeing you there.

The Committee has, once again, worked extremely hard to create an interesting and enjoyable Convention. The feedback from all who attended was warm, positive and encouraging.

Jonathan P

Trustee for Welsh National Convention

Parliamentary Events

House of Commons, Westminster Event

The 13th event this year took place on October 23rd. This year's event was another successful occasion and I would like to thank the members of the Committee for all their hard work over the year. Members come from the Regions of London North, London South, South East and South Midlands. Bi-monthly committee meetings were held from November 2017 until the final wash-up meeting in November 2018.

The aim of the Event is to explain the effectiveness and work of Alcoholics Anonymous to Parliamentarians of all political parties and to members of professional groups which included Drug and Alcohol Agencies, Health Services, Police, Churches, Social Services, Housing Associations and the Criminal Justice Service.

This 2018 PI presentation was held in the Attlee Suite, Portcullis House, at Westminster and was sponsored by The Hon Liam Byrne MP, Chairman of the Cross-Party Parliamentary Group for children of alcoholics. Liam Byrne opened by speaking not only of the problems of alcoholism but of his own concerns of the affect alcoholism has but the affect it has on their children. He estimated there are over 200,000 children so affected in the UK.

Our professional speaker was Doctor Ash Khan, previously for eight years our Non Alcoholic Trustee, who spoke with his extensive knowledge on the issues of alcoholism and offered a strong endorsement of AA quoting from his deep professional knowledge.

Our AA speakers were Helen and Justin both of whom gave moving accounts of their journey to sobriety and how AA had transformed their lives from the desperate situation they had found themselves in.

We are grateful to our host Liam Byrne, Dr Ash Kahn and our two AA speakers, Helen and Justin, for giving us their time, knowledge and for sharing their experience.

This year we had a very good attendance with a gathering of over a hundred, including politicians and professionals. Guy D chaired the event giving a very able introduction on what AA can offer to the professional community. Guy lead an excellent Q&A session at the end of the evening.

Preparations are under way for the next presentation to be held in October 2019.

Peter F
Trustee for HOC Westminster Event

Scottish Parliament Event

Our 2018 Scottish Parliament Event was held during October and our Sponsoring MSP was Monica Lennon.

Our event was well attended with many representatives from both the Scottish Prison Service and the Scottish Health Service.

All five regions from Scotland participated in the event helping to show the Unity Recovery and Service of AA to great effect.

Monica Lennon opened the event and her knowledge and support for Alcoholics Anonymous was refreshing, we could certainly do with a few more like Monica.

Our AA speakers shared their experience on Health and Prisons giving an overview of the work our AA members give on a daily basis helping to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic in co-operation with our friends from the Health and Prison services.

We then had an AA share from a member with over 40 years sobriety, a day at a time, which reflected in part what AA means when we talk about recovery.

Hopefully, in time, the efforts of all who helped with our event will come to fruition.

It was a great event to be involved in and to see AA working in Unity as we should.

Many thanks to all who were involved.

Stevie S

Trustee for Scottish Parliament Event

Welsh Assembly Event

The event took place at Ty Hywel, Welsh Assembly Campus on Tuesday 13th November 2018. Caroline Jones AM sponsored the event and opened with a supportive introduction to the purpose and value of AA.

There were 14 professional attendees together with the GSO staff and 7 members of the Fellowship. The Wales and Borders Trustee gave an overview of AA and how it works with outside agencies, followed by a showing of the new Health and PI videos.

Terry B and Nicola R shared their experience, strength and hope, which was followed by a Q&A session.

There was much positive feedback from participants. People feeling that the presentation was "insightful", "honest", "encouraging" and "very useful".

As a result of this presentation there have been requests for meetings to be set up in several Hospitals and requests for PI/ Health input to a variety of Services and Projects.

Next year's event will be on 12th November 2019 and will, once again, be sponsored by Caroline Jones AM.

Jonathan P

Trustee for Welsh Assembly Event