


Annual Report

of the General Service Board of
Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain
2023



2023

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The Preamble

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

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

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

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

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

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Annual Report of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Britain) Limited

1 October 2022 - 30 September 2023

Introduction

Chairperson's Introduction to Annual Report

It is a privilege to present this year's Annual Report on behalf of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain.

The main rationale for the General Service Board is to support the Fellowship in its primary purpose of carrying the message of recovery from alcoholism to all who seek its help, to those associated with people with alcohol problems, and to the public at large. The charity is also concerned with the proper governance of its affairs and the most effective use of its finances. In this, we adhere to the requirements of the Charity Commission, the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous, and the Concepts for Great Britain, and for World Service. This annual report sets out to show how the charity has worked towards these aims in the last year.

Trustees who have commitments to their specific Regions are also responsible for the various Board disciplines. Additionally, we currently have five non-alcoholic trustees on our Board. Our Non-Alcoholic trustees (NATs) provide immeasurable help in ensuring some balance to the Board and have worked hard to help inform the public about what we do without having to adhere to the constraints of personal anonymity. Their work on the various Board sub-committees has proven invaluable. Among many accomplishments, work on a comprehensive set of evidenced based criteria for AA's inclusion in the NICE guidelines, real progress in inclusion and diversity, and guidance in the appointment of new auditors bear testament to the input of our NATs.

Once again, this year the Board has had vacancies for trustees both alcoholic and non-alcoholic. Despite this, we have supported all our service disciplines and external events, with individual trustees managing the resulting increased workload. Until we have a full complement of alcoholic trustees, we have formalised an offer of attendance at region assemblies for those regions without an incumbent. We hope this will encourage more members with the necessary qualifications to come forward as trustee nominees.



We were delighted to be able to hold our annual Conference face to face in York once more. Thanks to the work of the Conference Steering Committee and the staff of the General Service Office, this was very successful, the business of Conference was conducted smoothly, and the spirit of the Fellowship manifested itself in the decisions made. We also welcomed one new alcoholic trustee to our Board, and three NATs. Our board is now younger and more diverse than hitherto. We will have three new trustees who will be ratified at our Conference in April 2024 to replace those rotating out of service.

Our Fellowship has learned from our experience in the pandemic and meetings on online platforms are now an accepted tool, both for groups and for bodies in the Service Structure, wherein some business is now conducted online. Approximately half of the GSB sub-committee meetings are now held in this manner, with the balance happening face-to-face for fellowship, and to foster the most effective working relationships. Hybrid capability is now available in two meeting spaces within the General Service Office in York.

Our three service offices work collectively to handle enquiries from members, media, and the public, and have started holding 'open days', when all comers are welcome to visit. A small selection of our Archives collection is on display and coffee and tea always available! Naturally they continue to undertake the vital handling of meeting information so that 'the hand of AA' is easy to find.

The charity is responsible for several areas of our welcome to still-suffering alcoholics. Following Conference direction, we are in the process of delivering a new website for the Fellowship, testing for which is underway at the time of writing. The Telephones Sub Committee are future-proofing the 0800 number ahead of the cessation of wired exchanges and the shift to the 'cloud'. Both they and First Response are working to apply the Fellowship's Safeguarding guidance for the protection of alcoholics, members in service, and the charity.

Our revised design guidelines, now dubbed 'the family look', are being rolled out across the literature we produce, with the new pamphlets Younger People in AA and Sponsorship into Service being created in this format. We have also applied the look to our trusty 'blue handbooks', which are now in full colour and presented in a more accessible manner. It is hoped that this redesign will encourage more members to read and use them and then get involved in the rewarding service that is on offer.

As in previous years, to assist in the development of AA in other countries, we contributed to the International Literature Fund and provided financial assistance from our Development Fund. The Sub-Saharan Africa Service Meeting (of which we are a sponsor) took place online once more; our representatives were humbled by the commitment made by some of our fellow members to provide service for their countries with very limited resources. We can be grateful for our good fortune in AAGB.

Trustees attended general service conferences as observers in Ireland. The European Service Meeting was held face-to-face in York after being online in 2021, and despite travel woes for some, delegates discussed their common challenges.

With the help of the Fellowship, the board was able to hold all three of its traditional annual parliamentary events, in London at the House of Commons, in Edinburgh at Holyrood, and in Cardiff at the Senedd. Sincere thanks are offered to the parliamentarians who graciously sponsor these events. Professionals who have little awareness of how AA works are always welcome, and members are encouraged to nominate influential contacts in the fields of medicine, social work and government. Hearing a government minister ask, "How can we help?" bears testament to the potential of these events.

With thanks for allowing me to be of service, and to my predecessor, Amanda S, who sponsored me into this role,

Justin Tunstall

Chair

GSB Personnel

The following trustees retired from the Board this year:

Amanda Stocks

Thomas Baldwin

Mani Mehdikhani

Louise Foxcroft

The following trustees were appointed to the Board:

Holly Alexander

Ranjana Bell

Emma Gipson

Henry Lowe

Report of the Trustees

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

Our Tradition of Self Support, underpinned by the Alcoholics Anonymous (Dispositions) Act of 1986, ensures that AA is supported solely through the voluntary contributions of members. The charity continues to achieve a stable financial position and has been able to undertake initiatives that the Fellowship of AA has requested.

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

AA Service News (AASN) has grown in size and quantity. At the last count, it was carrying the message to 4000+ alcoholics in print and to 2000 alcoholics digitally and will continue to do so on a quarterly basis to individuals, groups, intergroups and regions. It helps meet AA's primary purpose by carrying the message across the whole Fellowship. It comprises your stories about the service you carry out daily across the Fellowship. Also included are:

- Conference questions and recommendations in the winter and summer editions respectively
- Regular messages from the General Secretary
- Board meeting bullet points
- Job adverts for sub-committees
- Parliamentary events across the UK
- Regular updates on how the website project is unfolding

There are also occasional requests for shares on particular topics for AA pamphlets, such as Mental Health, Sponsorship into Service etc. Given the increased number of applications for sub-committee vacancies, we know you are reading it, and we are delighted. We have tried to make it attractive to pick up and read! Your thoughts on improvements are always welcome, along with your articles on service and of course your pictures. Remember, AASN is all about you! As ever, we thank you for your contributions and making AASN an interesting, informative and enjoyable read.

The Archive Sub-Committee met three times during the past year the fourth meeting was rescheduled to January 2024 due to my ill health. Three members of the Borthwick institutes including the incoming AA archivist were invited and attended the Archives Sub Committee meeting in September 2023. The exchange of information and experiences between the Borthwick institute and the sub-committee was very productive. It was felt that it would be beneficial to both sides to do this on a regular basis. The newly appointed part time archivist for the AA archive at the Borthwick Institute commenced work in November. The sub-committee has overhauled the existing and created new AA archivists supporting literature. This literature can be accessed on the archivist section of the AA website. Led by the Fellowship Archivist the interviewing and recording of old timers has commenced it is hoped that these recordings will be uploaded to the new AA website when it is completed. The archive network meeting was held on the 22nd and 23rd of September 2023. A total of 24 members attended 14 in person and 10 online. Martin B gave a presentation on questions for old timers. Nick H gave a presentation on group histories. I gave the update on the work of the archive subcommittee. There was a sharing of experience from the different regions.

Armed Services Sub-Committee met four times this year two online and two at GSO. The sub-committee consists of three members including myself. One member will rotate out in February 2024. The sub-committee continues in its primary role to support ASLOs and RASLOs. The sub-committee continues to maintain the Armed Services 12 step list which is on Google document and is available for telephone responders. With the assistance of the General Secretary the sub-committee has re-established contact with Dr Ruth Rushton who is a researcher and practitioner in the field of alcohol treatment for UK military personnel. One of the sub-committee members is acting as a point of contact for her and any inquiries coming in from her defence clinician's colleagues. The sub-committee would like to update the existing relevant Armed Services literature and is actively seeking armed service members to contribute to this. Unfortunately, we have had no response to date.

Employment: Enthusiasm for carrying our message to Employers is encouraged by the development of care now required in employment situations. Greater responsibility is evolving for the welfare, safety, and health of employees. The specific department in the workplace for this purpose often welcomes the specific contribution available from AA. Experienced members have joined our sub-committee this year, including a NAT (Non-Alcoholic Trustee). Further members are invited. The revision of our pamphlet "What do I do?" is prepared for approval at Conference 2024. Our annual June workshop for Regional Employment Liaison Officers (RELOs) was supported by alternative regional members where no RELO was in service, as was our Employment Liaison Seminar in October. We suggested opportunities for interaction with Employers such as ongoing work with the Northumbria police. The London Fire Brigade have had a further presentation through London Region South to their Mental Health First Aid Team - appreciating AA's specific value, complimenting their own health and safety programme. Posters for 102 Stations! Network Rail Safety/Pastoral Care received presentations in September and November. Slots being used on Station digital billboards for information. A presentation given to a National Bank's "Enable Disability Network" was followed by a presentation of the "AA Group at work", "Tips on Living Sober" and a "Myth Busting" session. These events were recorded for the bank's internal use for those staff unable to attend the live meeting. Literature and an Al-anon contact were supplied. The bank group leader subsequently reported their valued experience of AA at our Seminar in October. Our enthusiasm is well founded.

European Service Meeting: Jo F and Levey P attended the European Service Meeting (ESM) in York, 20-22nd October 2023. The theme 'AA in a Changing World'. There were attendees from 20 European Countries plus 2 attendees from GSO in New York. The meeting is held in English, but we all spoke the language of the heart to discuss the challenges and opportunities in service: finding people to do service, to lead by example, and the importance of unity and safeguarding. Bob W, General Manager AA GSO US and Canada gave a talk on AA World Service (AAWS): 'Translation & Licensing Publishing'. Irene D, International desk AAWS gave the keynote address, 'AA in a Changing World'. AAs from Eastern Europe demonstrated the pioneer spirit with how as a structure they had gone to any lengths to stay sober and pass on the message of recovery overcoming barriers of poverty, politics, wars and language, showing how fortunate we are in Great Britain and English-speaking Europe to have our AA structure and literature in place. The ESM took place during the weekend of Storm Babette. One delegate from Finland took three days to get to the ESM! She arrived on the Sunday morning - it was so important for her to get there and meet other alcoholics doing service. The topic for the next ESM will be 'Unifying and Safeguarding our Fellowship.' Our thanks go to the General Service Office in York who put on a wonderful conference for us all.

The First Response Online Sub-Committee (FROSC) is responsible for the administration of Chat Now, a live chat feature, and the Online Response Service (ORS), an email service. Both are run through the AAGB website, to encourage the still-suffering alcoholic to either ring the helpline or attend a meeting. We work closely with the Telephones Sub Committee to share experience and best practice. Increasing numbers of still-suffering alcoholics are reaching out for help. Chat Now engages in approximately 1,200 live chats each month, and ORS averages 1,500 emails each month. To meet the growing need, we are working to raise awareness of these services and encourage members to become responders. We held a First Response Workshop in Glasgow in September 2023, and gave a presentation at South Midlands Region. We have been in touch with all regions to offer workshops or presentations on the services with several arranged for 2024. To fulfil our duty of care to responders and callers, we are in the process of introducing DBS checks for all responders, and continually reviewing the training and support they receive. These measures ensure that we carry the message of recovery to the still-suffering alcoholic, by meeting Safeguarding responsibilities and protecting the charity for future generations.

Health: Our biggest achievement this year has been the work our Non-Alcoholic Trustee, Dr Kieran Moriarty, has done in providing the evidence for the benefits of AA 12-step Facilitation Programmes to the NICE consultation on Alcohol-use disorders. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Quality Standards Guidance "Alcohol-use disorders: diagnosis and treatment" (QS11) published on 6th July 2023 now strongly endorses and recommends AA 12-step Facilitation Programmes. The NICE guidance provides "best practice" recommendations to national policy makers in England and Wales and as it now includes many references to the benefits of AA it is, and will be, an amazing support to the Fellowship and especially to our Health Liaison Officers. The Health Sub Committee (HSC) updated the "AA and Healthcare in the Community" Chapter 6 in "The AA Service Handbook 2023". Our pamphlet (produced in 2022) "A Guide for the Health Liaison Officer" which was originally intended as an internal document, will be presented to Conference in 2024 to enable wider distribution. The Health Sub Committee (HSC) continues to support the valuable work carried out by our Regional and Intergroup Liaison Officers, offering them the opportunity to share good practice at the annual Liaison event.

Literature: Conference 2023 approved changes and additions to the AA handbooks.

1. Revisions for 'Location of the Conference', 'Regional Assembly', how 'GSB operates through Committees' and the chapter on 'Conventions', in the AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain.

2. Revised Chapter 6: 'AA and Healthcare in the Community' in the Service Handbook for Great Britain. The Illustrated Traditions pamphlet was withdrawn from sale and as an interim measure, replaced with the 'Experience Has Taught Us' leaflet published by AAWS.

The following are proposed for Conference 2024.

Handbook Changes

- A new chapter in the Service Handbook: 'Publications' Chapter: Share, Roundabout and AA Service News; how the committees which deliver these publications, work.
- Revisions to the Service Handbook Chapter: Probation and Criminal Justice Services.
- The Structure Handbook under point 2 in the introduction has a revised history bringing AA Great Britain fully up-to-date, please see 'A brief history of AA in Great Britain'.
- Each handbook has a new glossary of terms, hopefully making them much more accessible to the reader.

Literature Revisions

'Health Liaisons Officers' leaflet, and 'Employment Officers' leaflet. The Little Book has been reviewed and extended to provide members with a meeting-in-a-pocket and seminal texts often referred to and read from the 'Big Book'.

New Items of Literature

Pamphlet on 'Probation and Criminal Justice Services' to aid professionals in these services understand AA and help members on their release from prison.

Up and Coming Literature

A pamphlet on Mental Health comprised of Fellowship stories of mental health in sobriety.

Northern National Convention (NNC) was held in March 2023 at the Norbreck Castle Hotel Blackpool, with an attendance of over 950. The NNC is sponsored by three Regions, Midlands, North East and North West and its committee is made up of three delegates from each region plus the executive committee. The committee meet regularly, and the AGM was held in October 2023 to enable preparations to commence for the 48th Convention to be held 15th-17th March 2024.

Scottish Nation Convention: The 66th Scottish National Convention, was held at the Queens Hall, Dunoon on 28th to 30th of April. Online registration on the SNC website assisted with planning and event management. 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. The dedicated service room was popular being shared by invited service disciplines and a literature table. The Convention Chair rotated out at the AGM after steering the committee through covid and troublesome times, we are grateful for her service and look forward to the continued success of the convention with our new Chair. The Committee has been working effectively and met in person and online throughout the year and continue to do so. The planned 67th Scottish National Convention will again be held at The Queens Hall, Dunoon with capacity in the main hall for 450 with more of the meetings being open to attract those interested in finding out more about Alcoholics Anonymous and Alcoholism. The 67th Scottish National Convention will take place 26th to 28th April 2024.

Welsh National convention was held at the Metropole hotel, Llandrindod Wells on the 2nd – 4th June 2023 with 163 attendees. On the Saturday there was a Welsh speaking meeting with a simultaneous translation into English along with other tabletop shares, a workshop and marathon meetings alongside. A room was available for AI-anon, and entertainment provided. This year's convention will be held at the same venue 31st May to 2nd June. All are welcome to join us for a warm Welsh welcome.

The National Telephone Sub-Committee has had a very busy year. After extensive consultation with the fellowship guided by expert legal opinion, we have written a training document for Regional Telephone Liaison Officers, Telephone Liaison Officers, 12th Steppers and finalised our safeguarding guidance for telephone helplines. The National Telephone Sub Committee (NTSC) has also proposed and is investigating a restructuring of the 0800 number, which receives over 2400 calls per week and how it relays these calls to the 40 or so local helplines, which themselves are receiving an increasing number of calls. The NTSC will oversee the implementation of the new platform which will work better with the regional & intergroup autonomous helplines through improving call efficiency by reducing missed calls and helping responders receive calls from the still suffering alcoholic. Progress will be reported on at Conference 2024.

The Scottish Parliament event took place on 4th October 2023, following two and a half years of this event being rescheduled. The theme was Alcoholics Anonymous Awareness. Following an address from our Sponsoring MSP our four AA speakers gave fantastic talks. These talks gave insight to our professional guests into the reality of the programme of recovery available in Scotland to all who suffer from alcoholism. Following our speakers there was an enthusiastic question-and-answer session. Feedback forms were used, and the response was overwhelmingly positive. The committee worked extremely hard to source professional guests. We are still looking for three Scottish Regions to put forward suitable members to fill their two service positions. The committee has benefited from a more structured approach in its operation and administration. We can build on the success of this event in 2024. The Northern service office provided administrative support, and we are grateful for our workers contribution. We would invite all members to suggest invitees through their regional committee members or directly to the committee for our 2024 event.

Senedd Assembly took place on the 14th of November 2023, hosted by Peredur Owen Griffiths MS, Plaid Cymru in the Senedd Cardiff Bay and was well attended with about 20 professionals present. The Armed Services video was played, and our Chair of the Board spoke about their role, and I informed on the role of the Wales and Borders Trustee. Two members shared their Experience, Strength and Hope and created the opportunity to for a Q and A session. The presentation helped us continue forming links and giving insight into the disease of alcoholism.

The Westminster Parliamentary Event Committee delivered a well-attended face-to-face event in the Atlee Suite in Portcullis House on 16 May 2023, sponsored and hosted by Steve Brine, Conservative MP for Winchester. 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 planning the Westminster event for 2024, on Tuesday 21 May 2024 with our sponsor this year, Rachael Maskell, Labour MP for York Central. The professional non-AA speakers are yet to be selected with the fellowship asked to invite their service professional contacts and colleagues who would benefit from hearing more about AA. The event's emphasis is on getting MPs and parliamentary advisors, health professionals, practitioners and people who encounter and work with the still suffering alcoholic, and who don't know much about AA, to come along to hear what AA has to offer.

PI & E Comms: During the year we continued to take forward work to relaunch the AA website, including the development of an improved database, new meeting finder and AA shop, easier site navigation and further on-site resources for use by the fellowship. Further progress was made in extending the new "family look" to AA publications, the AA Structure and Service handbooks, and AA Service News. In line with previous reports to conference the look will be applied to all future publications and reprints of existing publications. Members of the sub-committee attended a variety of events to widen the wider fellowship of the activity of the committee, including regional, intergroup and the Scottish national convention and are working on the development of a National Advertising campaign with approval from conference sought for the designs to be used. A new electronic publication will be launched in the new year to keep professionals and friends of AA up to date with our activities. We envisage this to be sent to a subscriber base free of charge via the new website. Finally, as trustees we would like to thank all the members of the committee for their hard work dedication and enthusiasm. Not only for their work on the initiatives mentioned above but also for all the routine yet vital work they do in supporting the help desk, file store and workspace.

Prison Sub-Committee had no members until the end of September due to four members simultaneously rotating out when three joined. The quarterly newsletter will resume for which letters either from prisoners or people with prison experience are welcome. In March I attended the Scottish and Northern National Conventions hosting Prison stands to inform on the roles within the AA Structure: prison sponsors, Intergroup and Regional

Liaison officers assisted with this by two regional LO officers, and our NAT Tom Fox, a Senior Civil Servant within the Prison Service and in June gave a presentation on the Prison Discipline at the Midland Region's Service Forum. In June we held our annual Regional Liaison Officers meeting and on 1st July held a joint Prison and Probation/CJS Seminar at the Park Inn York with over 60 in attendance. We had speakers Wendy Sinclair-Geiben, HMCIP who spoke of the Scottish prison service and Sarah Hancock HMPS, compliance manager who deals with clearance. The sub-committee investigated the possibility of conducting meetings using a video link via a 3rd party but decided against this as in addition prisons are approaching us to fetch AA into their prisons. It is my pleasure to be of service and if you have any questions, please contact me or the sub-committee, we will be pleased to help you.

Probation/Criminal Justice Social Work Services: This year the Board approved the separation of Prison and Probation Sub Committee to allow focus on differing aspects of criminal justice. In simple terms, inside and outside of Prison custody. This new structure will support more co-operation for the fellowship with Probation and CJS agencies throughout Great Britain. Probation / Criminal Justice Service liaison officers (LO's) have made progress with the chit system with the rise to 603 AA Groups from 515 offering the 'chit' system over the course of 2023. Through co-operation with HMPPS Recovery focused Approved Premises, a mailshot of AA information from GSO was distributed to all 105 Approved Premises in England and Wales. Following this LOs and sub-committee members took part in Recovery focused Approved Premises open days throughout the year. Alcoholics Anonymous has been included in a new national Court Directory for England and Wales and is progressing our primary purpose with both HMPPS and HMCTS at a national level. Within the fellowship, presentations and service information stands were hosted at National Conventions and Service Forums, the Sub-committee assisting RLO's and IGLO's when requested. The joint Seminar with Prisons in July was an enormous success with enthusiastic professional and recovering alcoholic speakers. Criminal justice professionals attended Westminster and Holyrood parliamentary events. Glasgow Court committee continues to provide service at the Alcohol Court and the Custody Suite service work in London Region North is making inroads. The Probation Sub Committee, has reviewed, updated, and submitted our external facing leaflet, now titled; Alcoholics Anonymous as a Resource for Criminal Justice Professionals for conference 2024.

Race2Day Working Group: What a year it's been for Race2Day! The Race2Day Working Group has had a very busy year. Our 2nd and 3rd Conventions were held in March and September with delegates from many countries, in particular from US and Canada who showed great interest, passion and encouragement. Workshops were also held at London and Birmingham Conventions with tremendous participation and input from ethnicities. The Pamphlet "Nobody Here looks like me in Alcoholics Anonymous" produced by Birmingham Intergroup will go to Conference in 2024. And in November in a new South Asian meeting was set up in Glasgow after outreach in the local community by the Intergroup and members of Race2Day. The response of the Fellowship to the initiative has been tremendous, in recognising and helping deliver Conference 2021's recommendation to improve diversity and better actualise our Third Tradition. We hope to maintain and increase the momentum with workshops booked for the Northern, London and Glasgow Convention in 2024.

Roundabout: A very busy year during the course of which, members of the sub-committee attended Share Liaison officers and sub-committee meetings and in co-operation with the Share team worked with AASN and the Literature Sub Committee on the revised Little Book and new AA Structure and Service Handbooks. Our Annual Liaison Officers' meeting was held on 25th March and attended by our PI Trustee and General Secretary. We held a stall at the Scottish National Convention and recorded shares and interviews and recruited new members to the sub-committee. I had discussions with PI trustees on developing a photo library to be used by all AA publications and attended the Chat Now Seminar in Glasgow. Members of the Share Sub-Committee also attended the Scottish Parliament event. In 2024 Roundabout will aim to attend all the Conventions attended in 2023. Most significantly the price of Roundabout will increase to £2 from January after being held at £1 since 2002. The magazine aims to be self-supporting and the price increase necessary for it to achieve this goal. We hope that our readers will understand the rationale and enjoy the publication even more than before.

Share: The Share team has had a hectic twelve months and there have been some major changes to our magazine. Having not had a price increase for over twenty years, we needed to take a look at how Share might become self-supporting and, having done the sums, we have increased the price to £2 per copy, taking effect from January 2024. We have also thought about ways to make Share more accessible and have increased the font size to bring it more in line with Accessibility guidelines. Of course, this affects the overall look of the magazine, increasing the number of pages per issue and altering the layout, from double to single columns. This is a trial that we are open to adjusting, according to fellowship feedback. We hope everyone will support us as we endeavour to make Share the best possible version of itself. The team welcomed our new assistant editor this year who has settled in very well, leaving us with no vacancies. We are working on new bookmarks for 2024, giving a presentation at the London Convention 2024 and continuing to produce a fantastic magazine

worth every penny of its new price.

Survey: The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Britain [GSB GB]) Limited have conducted a survey of the Fellowship every five years since 1972 to learn more about the Fellowship in GB and Continental Europe and so disseminate our message of recovery more effectively to the still suffering alcoholic. The Survey Sub Committee was established as a separate sub-committee tasked to deliver the 2020 Survey. Previously the Survey was delivered by the PI Sub-Committee. The committee produced an info-graphic based leaflet to report some of the results of the 2020 Survey. Due to Covid and lockdown the 2020 survey was delivered online for the first time. The decision to continue the survey online has been agreed using what was learned in 2020 to improve the content and method of communication to the Fellowship and increase engagement. The committee have put together a timeline of work for the 2025 Survey that includes four phases of the process that began in 2023. The committee are currently liaising with some of the relevant sub-committees to finalise the content of the questionnaire and considering the survey design. The survey will be launched in March of 2025 and the final results will be reported to Conference 2026.

Young People's service continues to be enthusiastic and engaged, with a lot of work being done across the country to help carry the message of recovery to younger people. A Young People's Roadshow was held in Cardiff in April 2023 which, like previous events, generated a lot of enthusiasm for the service with new Young People's meetings being set up, and more members engaging in service across the structure. Another roadshow is planned for May 2024 in Glasgow with a variety of interesting and inspiring speakers. The Young People's Sub Committee continue to hold online drop-in meetings every quarter to provide an opportunity for liaison officers and anyone interested in the role to get support and share experience. The sub-committee have also started a podcast called 'They Stopped in Time' which is available on the usual podcast platforms. There is an established and supportive community of Young People's liaison officers across the country, who share their experience, advice and resources to help each other carry the message of recovery.



Financial Statement for 2022-2023 Annual Report

Introduction

The Fellowship across AAGB has continued to recover, along with the rest of Society, from the pandemic. I'm pleased to inform that the Charity's finances have remained in a stable position despite additional pressures of high inflation with a Retail Price Index (RPI) increase of 21% between October 2021 and October 2023, with reserves slightly under our Warranty 2 Reserves Level.

Investments

Our investments continue to be managed by Churches, Charities & Local Authorities (CCLA) which is an ethical company. During the year the charity received an income of **£43,585** from our investments.

Literature

Income from the sale of literature amounted to **£785,768**. This represents an increase from the previous year's total of **£703,715**.

The literature costs realised **£353,396** compared to **£249,195** in 2021-22.

Our Total Income for the year is **£1,769,948** compared to **£1,852,346** in 2021-22, a reduction of **£82,398**.

Our Total Expenditure for the year, inclusive of Restricted funds of **£15,039** is **£1,871,836** compared to **£1,823,469** in 2021-22, an increase of **£48,367**.

Our Net Income for 2022-23 before gains on investments is **-£101,888**

Our Net Gains on Investments is **£14,624**.

Therefore our Net Income for the year is **-£87,264**, down by **£34,167** from the 2021-22 total of **-£53,097**.

Therefore our Prudent Reserve for 2023-24 is **£2,320,996**.

General Service Office Including Northern Service Office (NSO) and Southern Service Office (SSO)

All three offices have continued to operate with a full complement of staff. Our staff have continued to split their time between working from home and in the offices. This arrangement has continued to work well.

The above figures are detailed in the following pages of this Annual Report.

Clive K Hon. Treasurer until Conference 2024

Gretchen S Hon. Treasurer from Conference 2024

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023 BALANCE SHEET

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £	2022 Total Funds £
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible Assets	1,521		1,521	3,436
Investments	1,118,943		1,118,943	1,104,319
	1,120,464		1,120,464	1,107,755
CURRENT ASSETS				
Stocks	195,673		195,673	256,245
Debtors	96,579		96,579	103,245
Cash at Bank	1,307,938		1,307,938	1,300,032
	1,600,190		1,600,190	1,659,522
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year	(84,032)		(84,032)	(43,391)
TOTAL ASSETS				
Less Current Liabilities	1,516,158		1,516,158	1,616,131
NET ASSETS	2,636,622		2,636,622	2,723,886
2022 FUNDS				
Unrestricted Funds	2,493,809		2,493,809	2,597,375
Restricted Funds		142,813	142,813	126,511
	2,493,809	142,813	2,636,622	2,723,886

This information has the approval of the auditors and audited by BHP Accountants and delivered to the Registrar of Companies.

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating Income & Expenditure Account) for year ended 30 September 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £	2022 Total Funds £
INCOME RESOURCES				
Income & Endowments from				
Donations & Legacies	909,254	31,329	940,583	1,143,061
Other Trading Activities	785,768		785,768	703,715
Investment Income	43,585	12	43,597	37,899
Government Grant Income				(32,329)
Total Income	1,738,607	31,341	1,769,948	1,852,346
EXPENDITURE ON				
Raising Funds	828,164		828,164	811,285
Charitable Activities	1,028,633	15,039	1,043,672	1,012,184
Total Expenditure	1,856,797	15,039	1,871,836	1,823,469
Net Gains on Investments	14,624		14,624	(81,974)
Net income / (Expenditure)	(103,566)	16,302	(87,264)	(53,097)
RECONCILIATION of FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	2,597,375	126,511	2,723,886	2,776,983
Total funds carried forward	2,493,809	142,813	2,636,622	2,723,886

Continuing Operations

**All incoming resources and resources expended arise from continuing activities
NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER 2023**

Donations & Legacies	2023 £	2022 £
Fellowship Contributions	889,430	983,742
Gift Aid	24,277	50,026
National Convention Contributions	8,050	1,355
Conference and 75th Contributions	18,826	107,938
	940,583	1,143,061
OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES	2023£	2022£
Sales of Literature	785,768	703,715
Literature is sold at surplus to assist in support of the Primary Purpose		
INVESTMENT INCOME	2023£	2022£
Fixed Asset Income	34,496	33,975
Deposit Account Income	9,101	3,924
	43,597	37,899
EXPENDITURE – RAISING FUNDS	2023£	2022£
Purchase of Literature	353,396	249,195
Staff Costs	64,264	61,368
Premises Costs	40,809	36,902
Office Expenses	130,336	88,491
Public Information & Publication Costs	37,326	35,307
Conference & 75th Convention Costs	77,666	228,014
Website	41,471	18,342
Irrecoverable VAT	53,478	54,835
Financial Expenses	19,001	15,982
General Expenses	10,417	22,849
	828,164	818,285

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Charitable Activities - Other Fellowship Services	2023£	2022£
Staff Costs	334,172	319,113
Premises Costs	76,292	70,149
Office Expenses	43,301	35,672
General Expenses	75,323	82,853
	<u>529,088</u>	<u>507,787</u>

Governance Costs	2023£	2022£
Trustee Expenses	58,168	53,039
Professional Expenses	45,447	70,029
	<u>103,615</u>	<u>123,068</u>

Management Costs	2023£	2022£
Staff Costs	244,202	233,198
Premises Costs	59,782	54,528
Office Expenses	49,287	40,570
Financial Expenses	60	65
General Expenses	57,638	52,968
	<u>410,969</u>	<u>381,329</u>

This information has the approval of the auditors and audited by BHP Accountants and delivered to the Registrar of Companies.

Members of the General Service Board

Holly Alexander
Ranjana Bell
Tim Barker
Charon Burke
Andrina Cassidy
John Coady
Jo Faul
Tom Fox
Emma Gipson
Zelma Kesans
Clive Kilmartin
Henry Lowe
Hamish McSwan
Kieran Moriarty
Barbara Owen
Levey Patocs
Stevie Smith
Gretchen Swisher
Justin Tunstall

Ranjan Bhattacharyya

General Secretary

Auditors

BHP Chartered Accountants

Rievaulx House
1 St Mary's Court
Blossom Street
York
YO24 1AH

Bankers

HSBC Plc

13 Parliament Street
York
YO1 8XS

Solicitors

Wrigleys Solicitors

LPP 19 Cookridge Street Leeds
LS2 EAG

Investment Managers

CCLA Fund Managers Ltd
Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
London
EC4V 4ET

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

The Twelve Traditions

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