


Annual Report

of the General Service Board of
Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain
2024



2024

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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 2023- 30 September 2024

Introduction

Chairperson's Introduction to Annual Report

It is an honour to present this year's Annual Report on behalf of the General Service Board (GSB) of Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain.

The purpose of the GSB is to support the Fellowship in Great Britain and from English-speaking meetings in Continental Europe in its primary purpose – that of carrying the message of recovery from alcoholism to all who seek its help, to those associated 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. Our annual report aims to show how the charity has worked towards these aims in the last year.

Our Trustees, selected from our Regions, in addition to corporate governance, implement Board policy, conference recommendations and are responsible for the various Board disciplines. Additionally, we have at present three non-alcoholic trustees (NATs) on our Board. Our NATs provide immeasurable assistance in adding balance to the Board, and work hard to help inform the public about our message without the constraints of anonymity. They also serve on various Board SCs.

Unfortunately, again this year we have had vacancies for both categories of Trustee. We also had the sad loss of Tom Fox, a NAT who had just taken on the position of Vice Chair. His efforts in so many areas, both within his core activity in Prisons and Public Information (PI), and wise counsel across almost all our disciplines, are sadly missed. We also had the resignation of another NAT, for whom the time commitment was incompatible with his work role. Of course, these vacancies mean an increased workload for all other trustees, and I thank them for stepping into the breaches. We do offer attendance at Region Assemblies where there is no local Trustee and hope that this will encourage nominations.



Our annual Conference in April was held in York. Although delegates were given the opportunity to participate online, rather than face to face, none chose that option. Conference Steering Committee and the staff of the General Service Office (GSO) gave us a stimulating and unifying experience, for which many thanks. New films and literature items were approved and are being used by the Fellowship, as well as important direction given to the GSB. We presented a new alcoholic Trustee to Conference and expect to present four NATs and an alcoholic Trustee in April 2025. The GSB will be younger, and more diverse than ever before.

GSB Subcommittees now embrace fully the available technology with a comfortable balance of in person and online meetings. Hybrid participation is possible when meetings are held in York at the GSO.

Our three service offices are all available to the Fellowship for service meetings, while a weekly recovery meeting is now established at GSO in York. The Southern Service Office in London relocated during the year and now offers a wider range of literature as well as useful meeting space. The Northern Service Office in Glasgow hosts many service meetings.

Major projects realised during the year include our new website, which is attracting greater traffic than before and benefits from a home page focus on still-suffering alcoholics who are making their first contact with our Fellowship. Our National Telephones development activity has been frustrated by the chosen supplier being unable to implement a promised new system, but a new solution is being sought. The Fellowship, through its service officers, is using the NICE recommendations to great effect.

The GSB Inclusivity Committee is concentrating on three core areas: Race Today, LGBTQIA+ and Accessibility. The Conference-approved Safeguarding recommendations are being used by groups and Intergroups and a forum for shared experience from service position holders has been established.

The Development Fund has contributed to International Literature and to World Service Meeting Funds. Trustees have participated in the General Service Conferences of several European countries, and later shared experience in their disciplines, which has been very helpful.

Our trustee delegates to the World Service Meeting (WSM) were gratified by the reception given to AAGB's 'family look' literature, and the appreciation expressed by other national structures for the AAGB's 'leadership' on inclusivity and safeguarding. The "Plain Language Big Book (A Tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous)" was launched during the WSM and proved an instant success, with 42,000 copies sold in the first 24 hours.

All the National Conventions happened during the year and were much appreciated by attendees, with several newcomers welcomed to our Fellowship. Many thanks to the organising committees. Similarly, our three parliamentary events, in Westminster, Holyrood and at the Senedd all took place and continue to explain our message to those in political power.

Thank you for having allowed me to be of service.

Justin Tunstall
Chair of Trustees

GSB Personnel

Trustees who departed from the Board this year:

Tom Fox deceased 14th May 2024

The following retired:

Stevie Smith
Clive Kilmartin
Charles Roberts
Barbara Owen
Henry Lowe

The following trustees were appointed to the Board:

Angela Sheridan
Maxine Jefferies
Anthony Stephens
Carmel George

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): is the Board's Service Information and update newsletter that has expanded to 52 pages and is sent quarterly to 4000+ groups in print and to 2000 digitally plus intergroups and regions at no cost. AA Service News is also on the AAGB website, with back issues in the website Document Library. It includes:

- Conference questions and recommendations in the winter and summer editions
- Regular messages from the General Secretary
- Board meeting bullet points
- Job adverts for Subcommittees
- Parliamentary events across Great Britain
- Updates on special projects such as the British Big Book, and new website project
- Requests for inputs into new AA pamphlets and literature
- Articles on Service; sharing experience on benefits to the individual and the Fellowship

The Archive Sub Committee met four times during the past year two online and two at the general service office. We continue to invite the AA archivist at the Borthwick institutes and some other staff members to the subcommittee meetings as it is proving to be informative and productive.

The section in the AA structural handbook "A Brief History of AA in Great Britain" was updated and accepted by conference 2024 with a few minor alterations. The subcommittee continues to overhaul the existing and created new AA archivists supporting literature. Literature to be looked at in the coming year includes audio recordings, archive displays and cataloguing/storing of digital archives.

In September members of the subcommittee gave an online presentation outlining the process of collecting archives at the general service office, cataloguing and storing of archives at the Borthwick Institute. This was well received, and some more are planned for the coming year.

The archive network meeting was held on the 20th and 21st of September 2024. A total of 21 members attended 12 in person and 9 online. Those giving presentations included Emma Hollis, Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain Archivist her work at the Borthwick institutes, Martin B (Fellowship Archivist) on recording old timers, Charles C on archiving cataloguing.

The Armed Services Sub Committee: met four times this year twice online and twice at GSO. Of the 16 regions, 6 have regional Armed Service Liaison Officers in post. Of the 128 intergroups, 46 have Armed Service Liaison Officers in post. The SC continues in its role to support the Armed Service Liaison officers and regional armed service liaison officers. New family-style presentations are being developed, and national awareness-raising for Armed Services Support Organisations has taken place. The SC continues to maintain the Armed Services 12-step list which is on Google document and is available for telephone responders. The SC continues to update the existing Armed Services literature. It would like to create a new armed services pamphlet and is actively seeking armed service members to contribute to this. Unfortunately, we have had insufficient responses to take this project forward.

British Big Book Working Group: Conference 2024 recommended to the Board that a British Big Book be created for publication which included personal stories from Great Britain and English-Speaking Continental Europe, thereby providing us with a Big Book for AAGB that contains new, relevant and inclusive stories, making it contemporary to our Fellowship. It would also include the current Preamble, forewords, Doctors Opinion, first 164 pages, pioneer stories and appendices. The British Big Book (B3) project Working Group has been set up to deliver this and meets monthly online. A call for stories from the fellowship is in the Winter edition of AA Service News. The aim is to deliver the British Big Book to Conference no later than 2028.

The Employment Sub Committee: The SC has presented to Network Rail, Premier Foods, and as Chair we gave a presentation to members of the Welsh Senedd in November 2024. At our yearly Regional Liaison Meeting, outcomes included a project to refresh our presentation material for employers to be approved by Conference 2025 and asking PI & Ecomms SC for guidance on LinkedIn. Conference 2024 approved the new internal facing the Employment Liaison Officer leaflet.

The First Response Online Sub Committee (FROSC): is responsible for the administration of our two online services: Chat Now and the Online Response Service (ORS) which are live chat and email services. We successfully worked to attract more members to join the services by attending the Northern National and Southern National Conventions, and the Northeast Regional Forum and we will be holding an online workshop on Saturday 7th June 2025.

We have updated training guides for Chat Now and ORS including guidance on responding to enquiries from minors and any safeguarding issues. We have streamlined the application process and introduced a new job description and application form. All current responders have now undertaken DBS checks, and we continue to screen chats and emails to ensure that we fulfil our safeguarding responsibilities.

In the past, the two services have operated independently of each other, and the SC has made great progress in bringing them together to simplify all our procedures and enable each service to share experiences and learn from each other.

Health Sub Committee: Barbara O and Kieran M, Trustees for Health, presented at Conference 2024 on the revised National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance for treating people with Alcohol Use Disorders. The Guidance – called Quality Standard (QS) 11 - recognises 12-step fellowship programmes as effective ways of “maintaining abstinence” in their words – ‘staying stopped’ in ours.

NICE addresses QS11 to Health and Social Care, and also Criminal Justice, professionals in England and Wales. It underpins QS11 with 5 Quality Statements – which managers may or may not interpret as performance measures. We believe this opens doors for members doing Health service. Since Conference 2024, the Health SC has approached The Samaritans’ headquarters about including AA contacts in its Directory of Resources.

Conference 2024 approved a new Guide for Health Liaison Officers. With thanks to the Literature SC for proofreading, and GSO staff for design, it is now available from the online Shop (product code 3071). We have published online articles for professionals and written briefings about the NICE Guidance for members doing service in the Health and Criminal Justice disciplines. We are updating health liaison resources on the website and filestore.

The Annual Regional and Intergroup Health Liaison Officers (HLOs) met in September sharing their experience, particularly on the formal Safeguarding protocols in the health service which do protect members but may place an added cost with DBS checks and other measures. These issues will be addressed with further insights, information and assistance given at the Heath Seminar on 27 September 2025.

Inclusivity Committee: At the beginning of the year the Board set up the Diversity Group which with discussion morphed into the Inclusivity Committee (IC) which is Trustee led to oversee different working groups (WG) to explore different aspects of what Inclusivity means/does for us in AA. These are the Race2Day WG, the LGBTQIA+WG and the Accessibility WG. The Race 2Day WG has been working for 2 years following a Question for Conference in 2021 and one of their new projects is a ‘History Project’. The aim of this is to gather stories from ‘People of Colour’ members who have been in the fellowship a long time to those who are new. To be published in all our media outlets even including our new revamped website. The LGBTQIA+ WG, formed after Conference 2024 asked for a rewrite of the ‘LGBT Voices’ Pamphlet. And the Accessibility WG encompasses the breadth of the fellowship, from older people to members with Long-term mental health conditions, Motor or Mobility issues like wheelchair users, Hearing difficulties and the need for sign language. These are some of the

demographics the Accessibility WG will be taking a considered look at in a very exciting 2025.

Literature Sub Committee: Conference 2024 approved changes and additions to the AA Service and Structure handbooks. Each handbook now has a new glossary of terms, to make them more accessible. New Literature revisions/new leaflets include 'Health Liaison Officers', 'Employment Officers' and the 'Little Book' was reviewed and extended to provide members with a meeting-in-a-pocket/key texts often referred to and read from the 'Big Book'. It's referenced now as 'Little Book 2'.

New pamphlets produced were 'Pamphlet on 'AA as a resource for Criminal Justice Professionals' & 'DOES ANYONE ELSE LOOK LIKE ME IN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS'

Literature for Conference 2025 include revisions to the Service handbook & Structure handbook, 2 new leaflets and two revisions to existing leaflets. The SC updated its 'Literature Design Guide', for use by the committee.

Northern National Convention (NNC): The 48th National Northern Convention took place at the Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool, in March 2024. 1101 tickets were sold this year, an increase of 14% from the previous year, and is highest attendance over the last 20 years. The programme included a Regional Archives presentation, Chat Now and On-line Response, Yellow Brick Road Recovery Banner, a Service meeting presented by a Non-Alcoholic Trustee on behalf of the Health GSB SC, an Old-timer meeting, Disco Friday and Saturday evening, a quiet room, AA approved Literature stand, raffle, Al-anon participation, and AA related films were shown in the cinema. The raffle income and Tradition 7 contributions were down slightly compared to 2023.

The theme for 2025 is "A New Beginning" and will take place on Thursday 27th - Sunday 30th March 2025. The 50th National Northern Convention will take place in 2026 and the committee has already started preparing for this.

Scottish Nation Convention (SNC): The 67th Scottish National Convention, Queens Hall, Dunoon 26th to 28th April 2024. The SNC website <https://scottishnationalconvention.co.uk/> aided with planning and event management. The convention had its regular meetings hosted by each Scottish Region, as well as a Young Persons and Old Timers meetings. More meetings were 'open' this year to encourage attendance by our non-alcoholic friends. The Saturday night meeting included an Al Anon speaker. An Al Anon meeting room was also provided. The 'service area' was represented with Roundabout, National Telephones & FROSC and Probation / Criminal Justice.

The Committee AGM took place in July. Although the convention was not fully self-supporting, primarily due to a reduction in registrations, tradition 7 Contributions were up from the previous year to £1552.36. The Scottish Regional Chairs present reviewed the TOR and accounts and encouraged the committee to look at cost saving and increasing attendance numbers. The Committee have taken this onboard reducing various costs and have been working effectively, meeting online with one in person meeting planned prior to the convention.

The 68th Scottish National Convention 9th to 11th May 2025 at The Queens Hall, Dunoon.

Welsh National Convention (WNC): The Welsh Convention was held at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells from the 30th May to 1st June 2024. There were 197 attendees.

Platform speaker meetings were held over the weekend along with a Welsh speaker meeting on the Saturday afternoon with simultaneous translation into English via headsets. There was entertainment on the Friday evening with musicians and a disco and raffle were enjoyed on the Saturday evening. Marathon come and go meetings were run alongside the above. The Sunday morning spiritual service was held in both English and Welsh with a choir of our Welsh speaking members leading Calon Lan (pure heart).

The WNC will take place at the Metropole hotel Llandrindod Wells 30th May to 1st June 2025. The theme is Love and Gratitude. There will be information about Young People and Telephone discipline and fliers have been circulated.

Southern National Convention: The Southern National Convention took place on the 20th - 22nd September at Sand Bay Holiday Park in Weston Super Mare. Attendance peaked at 800 people with 628 people staying on site and a further 172 weekend or day visitors.

A full programme of Fellowship activities was held over the weekend with live entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights. There was also the option to stay on-site for a further night and enjoy additional Fellowship. The First Response Online SC hosted a workshop on Saturday afternoon which was well received.

After two years of uncertainty the Convention is self-supporting. There is a sufficient prudent reserve to plan for the 2025 Convention. The 2025 Convention will be the 50th Southern National Convention and approximately 400 bookings have already been taken by the end of December 2024.

National Telephone Sub Committee: Conference 2021 requested a review of the national telephone service, or the 0800 number which is a call distribution system and has no function as a helpline, which is done by the local groups. The SC recommended Gamma Communications to take over the call distribution from BT. Unfortunately, Gamma was not able to deliver the product it had promised us. It was decided to revisit another provider with whom we are now in the process of talking to ensure they can meet the requirements. We hope to present something at the next Conference.

The Scottish Parliament: Due to problems in finding an MSP to sponsor this event in 2024, there was no event at Holyrood in 2024. However, for 2025 Marie McNair, MSP for Clydebank and Milngavie will sponsor the event, titled: Dispelling the Myth: What do you know about AA? for Wednesday 12 March 2025 in the Fleming Room in Holyrood. The event will include a presentation by the Fellowship Archivist as well as another member of the fellowship.

Senedd Assembly: Our annual presentation at the Senedd was hosted by Peredur Owen Griffiths MS on 28th November who also spoke at the event. There were 2 speakers from AA in Wales and a presentation by the Trustee for Employment. The next presentation will be in November 2025.

The Westminster Parliamentary Event: took place at Portcullis House on May 21st and was sponsored by Rachael Maskell MP for York. 56 professionals attended with Mike Trace of the Forward Trust and Richard Scullion from the Met Police speaking in addition to 2 AA Speakers. 52 / 56 attendees gave feedback: 100% said that they would recommend the presentation to another professional and would recommend AA to a still suffering alcoholic and 10 said they would like to attend an open meeting. The 2025 event will take place June 3rd in the Cholmondeley Room and is hosted by Lord Cameron of Dillington.

PI & Ecomms: 2024 saw the launch of the new National Website, requested by Conference 2022. The website was presented to Conference in April and launched on the 13th of May. The contribution of the late Tom Fox to the completion of this project is recognised and will not be forgotten.

Initial web traffic spiked significantly before dropping back slightly. Traffic in the first six months has been consistently higher than the same period last year. Analytics show visitor numbers and amount of time visitors spend on site, trending steadily upwards.

Microsite usage has increased driven by the ease of use of the WordPress Content Management System. Each Region and Intergroup has the option to manage their own "website within a website" and present local service information.

Mention must also be made of Web Development Agency, Castigate IT, who continue to provide intuitive, consistent and professional support for the website.

A team is now in place to continue website updates, manage requests from the Fellowship and monitor site performance, leveraging the flexibility and functionality inherent in a website built on WordPress.

The first series of ads for the "National Ad Campaign" was launched in the first week of July and created quite a stir, triggering enquires from interested parties in England and Scotland and as far afield as Scandinavia. The second, and much longer, advertising period runs from Boxing Day 2024 to the end of January 2025 and an even bigger response is expected.

In August, the SC hosted the first combined Regional PILO and RECLO liaison meeting in York with both disciplines represented in roughly equal numbers. Feedback was positive and we plan to continue with the combined approach in 2025.

A direct outcome of the Liaison meeting has been extending the communication Group on Workplace to include both disciplines. This has facilitated more collaboration and co-operation, to share resources and carry the message of recovery to professionals and the general public.

Literature work has included updating the Hints and Tips for Internet Safety card and reviewing Chapters 1 and 3

in the AA Service Handbook before passing them on to the Literature SC. An Image Bank has been established at GSO holding royalty free images for use in AA Publications and by others doing service.

Prison Sub Committee: The SC met had a busy and fruitful 2024 with members from England, Scotland, Wales and Continental European Region (CER). It is busy creating a list of AA prison meetings to be updated by liaison officers and putting it into the document library in the form of a map. Beyond the Bars quarterly publication is now on its 2nd edition in its new form and is in the document library. The committee also created A Prison Sponsors pack for Conference 2025 and will be working on updating the prison chapter for our Service handbook for conference 2026.

The meeting of Scottish prison sponsors held in Perth in March 2024 was attended by around 20 members. Ian Whitehead, Deputy Director of Scottish Prisons spoke on how AA is needed and well received within most of the prisons.

The Prison and Probation SCs joint liaison meeting in July with presentations, one from HMPPS. Bulgaria AA invited AAGB to its seminar on 26th/27th September to speak about AA and prisons in the UK and assist in the development of service which we were delighted to accept.

The Probation Sub Committee (SC) has had another productive and busy year. Figures from our website show that between December 2023 and December 2024, the number of AA groups offering the chit system increased from 603 to 718.

Conference 2024 approved the new leaflet produced by the SC 'AA as a Resource for Criminal Justice Professionals' now available on our website. The previous leaflet has now been discontinued.

In May the SC delivered a national workshop online for Liaison Officers and members interested in this area of service. Over 55 members were in attendance and requested that this is run annually.

Our co-operation with HMPPS Recovery Focussed Approved Premises continued and in June we gave the first ever online Alcoholics Anonymous Awareness presentation to all 105 Approved Premises in England and Wales for staff and residents. This was not only a first for AA but also the Approved Premises. LOs and SC members are continuing to give presentations to Recovery Focussed Approved Premises.

In September we were invited to present to the HMPPS Health & Justice Leads at their Quarterly National Meeting online. Our presentation included information about the NICE guidance, gave an overview of the service Alcoholics Anonymous provides.

The SC has been cooperating with other disciplines giving Chit presentations to Prison LOs at the Scottish Zonal meeting, and online to the Armed Services SC. We have been approached by developing overseas AA structures interested in Probation/CJS service.

Our efforts in Scotland have been invigorated by new members joining the SC and they have been working with Intergroups and Regions to engage with the Scottish Social Work Departments across the country, the Scottish Courts and the Alcohol Court in Glasgow. We planned this strategy with Tom Fox, former GSB Vice Chair and NAT, who we sadly miss. Criminal Justice professionals were invited to and attended the Westminster Parliamentary event.

The Probation SC continues to review its content on the GB website and develop resources for Liaison Officers.

Roundabout: 2024 began with Roundabout's first price increase for 23 years, doubling from £1 to £2, and its rationale was explained in print, in person at the Roundabout Liaison Officer and by many emails and conversations. The SC itself had a busy year attending 12 conventions which raised awareness of the magazine, obtained articles and interviews and shares from them, as well as encouraging new Subscriptions to the Scottish magazine. It is also a way of attracting people into Service. As well as meeting online three times the SC met face to face for a Workshop in Pitlochry. The SC completed an induction course for the new members of the SC, updated the Terms of Reference and its style Sheet for the Proofreaders. Roundabout now has 7 members on the SC. At the Prison Sponsors Workshop in Perth where the speaker was Ian Whitehouse, Deputy Director of Prisons we heard from Prison Sponsors and heard how Roundabout helps facilitate sharing the message of AA in Prisons.

Share Sub Committee: In January this year the new pricing came into effect. It was quite a complicated switch over, taking into account prepaid Subscriptions, and the Fellowship has been very supportive of the changes that have taken place this year. We had some teething problems while we tried to work out the best way to accommodate the accessibility guidelines alongside suggestions from our regular Subscribers. The Share team also produced artwork for new Banners, Bookmarks and Wallet Cards.

We also have a new role on the Share team 'Share Liaison Officers Coordinator'. This will help to bridge the gap between the SLO's and the Editorial team.

Survey Sub Committee: The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Britain [GSB GB]) Limited have conducted a survey of the Fellowship every five years since 1972. The intention of these surveys is to learn more about the Fellowship in GB and Continental Europe so that AA's message of recovery may be disseminated more effectively to the still suffering alcoholic, thus helping us to fulfil our primary purpose. The Survey SC was established as a separate SC tasked to deliver the 2020 Survey. Previously the Survey was delivered by the PI SC. 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 results of the 2020 survey were reported to Conference 2021 and the committee produced an infographic leaflet for the fellowship and to be used as a public information outreach tool. The committee are currently finalising the content of the questionnaire and the timeline including communication to the fellowship. The survey will be launched in 2025 and the final results will be reported to Conference 2026.



The 28th World Service Meeting: 'The Three Legacies in Our Digital Era: Our Great Responsibility to the Alcoholic Being Born Today'.

The 28th World Service Meeting took place in New York from 27th to 31st October 2024 and was attended by delegates from 38 countries, including Great Britain (and Continental Europe). Presentations from various countries included 'AA in a Virtual World', 'Finding Balance Between Innovations and Traditions', 'Expressing Our Gratitude Through Service' and 'Country to Country Sponsorship.' There were also presentations on the International Literature Fund, the World Service Meeting Fund, and Licensing and Translation of literature.

The meeting included workshops covering topics such as 'The Seventh Tradition: Self-Supporting in the Digital Era' and 'Online Groups in the World: Here to Stay' which provided an opportunity for delegates to share experience on the ways in which their structures are adapting to the increase in online meetings.

Much of the discussion throughout the week focused on how we can best utilise the technology now available to us to carry the message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic, whilst also being mindful of the challenges that these innovations may present.

The service structures around the world vary greatly in terms of their size and how long they have been established, which meant that delegates had a wonderful opportunity to learn from each other, share experience, and offer support. The overwhelming feeling of unity and our shared purpose was a powerful and inspiring experience, and it is clear that Alcoholics Anonymous truly is a global Fellowship.

The Young People's Sub Committee (YPSC) Roadshow in Glasgow in May 2024, was attended by approximately 60 people. Presentations included topics such as the history of the YPSC role, sponsoring into service, experience of being a member of the YPSC and how it can lead on to other service positions, and the role of Conference. The next Roadshow is in Birmingham on 21st June 2025.

Based on discussion at the Glasgow Roadshow, and at our annual meeting, the SC will be putting together some safeguarding guidance for YPLO's when they are visiting schools, youth clubs and other outside agencies. We will be reaching out to YPLO's for their experience in putting this together.

We are also working on a newsletter containing shares about the various initiatives and projects being undertaken by YPLO's across the country. The idea is for the newsletter to hopefully act as inspiration for serving officers, and also to share with the wider Fellowship the work that is being done by Young People.

Financial Statement for 2023-2024 Annual Report

Annual Report Introduction

The Fellowship across AAGB has seen a reduction in its financial position compared to 2022-23. This is due to continued increases in costs, because of economic pressures felt across the country and a number of conference approved projects impacting our expenditure this year. There has also been a reduction in contributions from the fellowship. Whilst this has been offset from increased income from publications, this has led to increased publication costs. Our reserves are below our Warrant 2 reserves level at the end of the financial year.

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 £44,210 from our investments.

Overall picture

Our Total Income for the year is £1,830,465 compared to £1,769,948 in 2022-23, an increase of £60,517. This is largely because of an increase in income from publications, offset against a reduction in contribution income.

Our Total Expenditure for the year, inclusive of Restricted funds of £22,958 is £2,063,690 compared to £1,871,836 in 2022-23, an increase of £191,854. This is a result of continued increases in day-to-day operations because of economic difficulties. Several conference approved projects have also taken place this year resulting in increased costs.

This leaves an operating deficit for the year of £233,225 before gains on investments. Our net gains on investments for 2023-24 is £120,236.

Taking our net gain on investments our final surplus/deficit for the year is £112,989 down by £25,725 on the previous year.

Based on expenditure from our unrestricted funds (£2,040,732), our Prudent Reserve target for 2024-25 is £2,550,915. Our Free reserves calculated by taking unrestricted funds (£2,253,633) less fixed asset (£2,195) and stock balances (£147,945) equals £2,204,300. This leaves a Warrant 2 deficit of £346,615.

Literature

Income from the sale of literature amounted to £852,724. This represents an increase from the previous year's total of £785,768.

The literature costs realised £335,628 compared to £323,396 in 2022-23

General Service Office

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. In the summer of 2024, the Southern Service Office moved to new premises due to an expiring lease

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2024 BALANCE SHEET

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible Assets			2,195	1,521
Investments			1,239,179	1,118,943
			1,241,374	1,120,464
CURRENT ASSETS				
Stocks			147,945	195,673
Debtors			100,886	96,579
Cash at Bank			1,096,453	1,307,938
			1,345,284	1,600,190
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year			(63,025)	(84,032)
TOTAL ASSETS				
Less Current Liabilities			1,282,259	1,516,158
NET ASSETS			2,523,633	2,636,622
CHARITY FUNDS				
Unrestricted Funds			2,354,440	2,493,809
Restricted Funds			169,193	142,813
			2,523,633	2,636,622

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 30TH September 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
INCOME RESOURCES				
Income & Endowments from				
Donations & Legacies			933,531	940,583
Other Trading Activities			852,724	785,768
Investment Income			44,210	43,597
Total Income			1,830,465	1,769,948
EXPENDITURE ON				
Raising Funds			894,917	828,164
Charitable Activities			1,168,773	1,043,672
Total Expenditure			2,063,690	1,871,836
Net Gains on Investments			120,236	14,624
Net income / (Expenditure)			(112,989)	(87,264)
RECONCILIATION of FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward			2,636,622	2,723,886
Total funds carried forward			2,523,633	2,636,622

Continuing Operations

All incoming resources and resources expended arise from continuing activities
NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER 2024

Donations & Legacies	2024 £	2023 £
Fellowship Contributions	880,372	889,430
Gift Aid	25,695	24,277
National Convention Contributions	11,624	8,050
Conference and 75th Contributions	15,840	18,826
	933,531	940,583
OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES	2024£	2023£
Sales of Literature	852,724	785,768
Literature is sold at surplus to assist in support of the Primary Purpose		
INVESTMENT INCOME	2024£	2023£
Fixed Asset Income	35,057	34,496
Deposit Account Income	9,153	9,101
	44,210	43,597
EXPENDITURE – RAISING FUNDS	2024£	2023£
Purchase of Literature	335,628	323,396
Staff Costs	71,800	64,264
Premises Costs	45,284	40,809
Office Expenses	140,404	130,336
Public Information & Publication Costs	68,582	37,326
Conference & 75th Convention Costs	94,155	77,666
Website	40,945	41,471
Irrecoverable VAT	67,686	53,478
Financial Expenses	23,254	19,001
General Expenses	7,179	10,417
Provision written off old stock ¹	-	30,000
	894,917	828,164

Notes to accompany the Figures above

¹Written off old Stock relates to old literature items that Auditors found difficult to value.

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

Charitable Activities - Other Fellowship Services	2024£	2023£
Staff Costs	368,366	334,172
Premises Costs	86,644	76,292
Office Expenses	40,391	43,301
General Expenses	127,163	75,323
	<u>622,564</u>	<u>529,088</u>

Governance Costs	2024£	2023£
Trustee Expenses	51,673	58,168
Professional Expenses	35,445	45,447
	<u>87,118</u>	<u>103,615</u>

Management Costs	2024£	2023£
Staff Costs	272,844	244,202
Premises Costs	67,173	59,782
Office Expenses	41,335	49,287
Financial Expenses	60	60
General Expenses	77,679	57,638
	<u>459,091</u>	<u>410,969</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 Bourke
Andrina Cassidy
John Coady
Jo Faul
Carmel George
Emma Gipson
Maxine Jefferies
Zelma Kesans
Hamish McSwan
Kieran Moriarty
Levey Patocs
Angela Sheridan
Anthony Stephens
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.