

**MINUTES OF NORTH WEST INTERGROUP MEETING HELD AT
CATTERALL VILLAGE HALL, GARSTANG ROAD, CATTERALL, PR3 1XN
ON SUNDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2025 at 11.00 am.**

Dear All, Jed our treasurer has asked me to convey his apologies for the poor showing with zoom on Sunday 9th February. He did not have enough time to do a full run through and adjust all the settings before the meeting, hence the difficulties. (We did start early cos of QfC).

Dear Jed, allow me to convey to you from all of NWIG our gratitude and thanks for the fact that you were prepared to take on this task as well as doing the Treasurers job. And Debs too for assisting, thank you.

THE NWIG BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS ARE: -	
Name of Bank	Unity Trust Bank
Name of Account	North West Intergroup
Sort Code	60 – 83 - 01
Account Number	20464532

Officer's Present:

Chair	Jenny D	1
Secretary	Chris D	2
Treasurer	Jed C	3
HLO	Nigel C	4
NWIG Convention Convenor	Carl M	5
Region Rep (and covering PI)	Phil H	6
TLO	Debs	7

GSRs Present: -

Adam D	Tarleton Friday	8
Adrian T	Carnforth	9
Anna D	Lancaster Arch to Freedom	10
Carl M	Clayton Brook	-
Chris (NWIG Secretary)	Settle	-
Chrissy	Ingleborough	11
Debs (NWIG TLO)	Parbold Saturday	-
Elaine C	Lancaster Women's	12
James F	Lindale	13
Jed (NWIG Treasurer)	Lancaster Step & Tradition (Wed)	-
Jim F	Longridge	14
Jo W	Kendal Monday	15
Kath L	Penrith / Shap	16
Lindsay A	Bartle Beginners	17
Margaret H	Lancaster Discussion (St Chads)	18
Nigel (NWIG HLO)	Fleetwood Freedom	-
Ollie	Leyland Young Person's meeting	19
Phil H (NWIG Region Rep)	Garstang Tradition 3 meeting	-
Tom B	Garstang Discussion (Mon)	20

Visitors Present: -

Wendy	Penrith Multigroup	21
Andy F	Lancaster Arch to Freedom	22
Gill R	Bartle Beginners.	23
Martin B	Kendal Monday.	24
Richard F	Catterall (Garstang)	25
Scott	Morecambe	26

Attending remotely: -

	GSR for	Visiting From	
Avril	-	?	27
Charlie	Lancaster Beginners (Thu)	-	28
Dave	Southport Friday	-	29
Dawn	-	Lancaster	30
Derek	-	Leyland	31
Duncan	Carlisle Monday	-	32
Jonathan	-	Appleby	33
Nick	-	?	34
Pauline	-	Carlisle	35
Sarah	Southport Sunday	-	36
Suzanne	Lancaster Living Sober	-	37

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Introduction: -

Welcome	By Jenny.
Thanks to the providers of technical support	Jed, Debs and Adam.
Thanks to the refreshment helpers	Scott and others.
Preamble	Read by Kath.
Traditions	Read by James.
Declaration of Unity	Read by Richard.
Aims of Intergroup	Read by Jenny.
Introductions	Around the table and remotely
Number of members present	23 in the room + 11 online = 34 at start. Plus 3 late comers = 37 in total.
Number of members with voting rights	37 – 11 visitors = 26.
Signing in sheet	Jenny reminded all to sign in please.

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To receive apologies: -

Suzie (Region Rep); Susan J (Lancaster Daily Reflections Online Meeting); Gemma E (Barrow Road to Recovery); Tim A (Telephone Committee member and GSR Southport Tuesday Lunchtime); Sam (ASLO); Natalie (NWIG Convention Committee member); Carla (YPLO); Neil (ECLO); Paul (Carlisle).

3

To agree the **Minutes** of the NWIG meeting of 10th November 2024. (Paper 2025/1)

It was agreed that a slight addition should be made to item 8, so that it reads: Jed asked for it to be made clear that the reason NWIG is continuing to withhold surplus funds from Region is because of these 5 points, “none of which have been resolved”.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of 10th November 2024 are accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting subject to the above correction.

Proposed by: Phil H.

Seconded by: Adrian.

4 **Chair's Report** and any matters arising. (Paper 2025/2)

Report Received.

Matters arising: -

- The Chair reported that this should be her last meeting as Chair but that in the event of no nominations for the vacancy she is prepared to chair one more meeting.
- She thanked Chris and Neil for hitting the ground running in their new roles of secretary and ECLO respectively.

5 Secretary's Report and any matters arising. (Paper 2025/3)

Report Received.

Matters arising: -

- GSR notes will not be read out at the end of this meeting before we leave, but will be circulated with the minutes asap. Please can GSRs take their own notes throughout the meeting if they can't wait for circulation of the minutes with the notes for GSRs.
- The Secretary thanked NWIG Officers and GSRs for submitting their written reports in good time.
- If any reports are given verbally today, either from Officers or GSRs, please forward brief details in writing to secretary.nwest@aamail.org after the meeting for inclusion in the minutes.
- The Action Points for NWIG Officers arising from the last meeting have all been completed.
- We have 74 groups in NWIG; its thought to be the largest number for any IG in the country. We have made really good progress updating the group contact list but there remain 17 meetings for which contact details are not held. Can everybody carry on trying to fill in the gaps and broadcast that NWIG would be delighted to hear from the remaining groups. A new list of which groups we still need contact details for will be circulated shortly after one final push to fill the gaps.
- The following offer of a venue for a meeting has been received: "My mother Margaret C, was responsible for setting up, attending and supporting a meeting that began in Standish, Wigan and continued for many years. I would like to continue the family's support for AA and offer a potential venue at a church hall near myself for meetings. Obviously, I would need your advice if this is feasible, there is a need for it in our area and offer my support for setting it up. The **Church Hall would be Our Lady Help of Christians in Tarleton, Preston**, where I am a parishioner. I look forward to hearing from you and any further assistance I can help with, I'd be glad to assist. Many thanks, kind regards, Richard C". This has been acknowledged and the writer thanked for the kind offer. If any members who are interested in exploring this possibility, please contact the secretary who can put you in touch with Richard.

6 GSRs **EXTRAORDINARY** items: -

As they had not submitted written reports the following GSRs gave brief verbal reports.

- James for Lindale Sunday.
- Ollie for the Leyland Young Persons meeting.
- Nigel for Fleetwood.

7 **Region Reports: -**

a) To receive the Minutes of the Region meeting of 1st December 2024. (Paper 2025/4)

Minutes Received.

b) To receive the NWIG Region Reps report. (Paper 2025/5)

Report Received.

c) To receive an update regarding the following ongoing concerns: -

- i) Inadequate level of detail in the GSO quarterly financial statements.
Update: No improvement. Report from the January meeting of Regional Treasurers awaited from NWR Treasurer.
The quarterly statement to Dec 2024, which would provide the latest deficit figure, is late and have only just been sent to trustees. (Why? It could have been produced on 1st January).
RESOLVED: Chris to pursue and report back.
- ii) Accounts for the 75th event.
Update: No reply from the Hon Treasurer received to the query re the figure of £26,000 unidentified trustee expenses. Reminder sent and still no reply.
RESOLVED: Chris to pursue and report back.
- iii) GSB spending notifications, clarify limit and means of notification.
The NW Trustee has reported that the Board do now intend to adopt an annual budget, despite the fact that our trustee previously reported that it would be impossible to adopt an annual budget.
RESOLVED: Chris to obtain more information at the next Region meeting and report back.
- iv) Data breach report.
No report and/or update on the data breach has been received.
- v) Prudent Reserve.
Update: No reply from the Hon Treasurer received to the queries re the prudent reserve defect. Reminder sent and still no reply. Current figure not even know because of lateness of Dec 2024 quarterly statement.
RESOLVED: Chris to pursue and report back.
- d) Any other matters arising.
None.
- e) Volunteers to deal with the refreshments at NWR meeting on 02/03/2025.
- Kath L. (Thanks a lot Kath. Chris has the actual supplies and will be in touch).
 - Jim F – probably.
 - It was pointed out that there is currently a vacancy for one Region Rep and that at the next IG there will be vacancies for two Region Reps, and that attending Region as a visitor to help with the brews would be a perfect way for anybody considering standing as a Region rep to get a feel for the position.

8

Treasurer's Report: -

- a) To receive the Treasurers Report. (Paper 2025/6)
- **Report Received – subject to the following correction: -**
 - **Opening balance 16,077.64**
 - **Income 3,611.57 as reported**
 - **IG pot 30.50 omitted from report in error**
 - **Expenses 2,468.47**
 - **Closing balance 17,251.24.**
 - Please put your group number on contribution's to NWIG so that they can be identified. Group Id in banking reference - please put in the first 4 or 5 characters of the reference.
 - The bank account details are on the website and will be circulated with the minutes. (Given at the top of the first page).
 - In future the expenditure will be broken down by discipline and not all shown as PI expenditure. In line with the way in which expenditure is budgeted by disciplines.
 - **All groups have been asked repeatedly to bring specific proposals for how to spend the surplus funds on reaching the still suffering alcoholic to NWIG for consideration.**
 - **It takes active participation to spend the surplus funds on reaching the still suffering.**

- All groups who are concerned about the surplus funds being accumulated are urged again to bring to NWIG specific proposals on how to use the money to reach the still suffering, along with details of exactly how they will actively participate in doing so.
- NWIG ran a bus advert last year and there is an opportunity to do so again this year. See item 9e.
- The Inspiring Service Sub-Committee will be reporting fully at the next IG meeting and will hopefully have specific proposals for consideration that are likely to require funds.

- b) To consider forwarding an amount of surplus funds to NW Region.
RESOLVED: To continue to withhold funds, apart from a contribution of £1,000.00 to cover insurance and conference delegate cost.

For: 14

Against: 4

- c) To agree a provisional amount of surplus funds to be forwarded to NW Region. (To be confirmed or amended at item 14)
RESOLVED: To contribute £1,000.00 to NWR.

9 **Liaison Officer Reports** and matters arising: -

- a) Armed Service LO (Sam). (Paper 2025/7)
- **Report received.**
 - Please note that although Sam has not resigned and therefore the ASLO post is not listed in the vacant positions, Sam would be happy to hand over if anybody is interested in taking this position on.
- b) Electronic Communication LO (Neil). (Paper 2025/8)
- **Report received.**
 - The Chair thanked the ECLO for the work updating the micro site.
 - The zoom account needs to be available for IG business. Such as the regular meetings of the Inspiring Service Sub- Committee.
 - Items can be added to the NWIG micro site via the ECLO.
- c) Health LO (Nigel). (Paper 2025/9)
- **Report received.**
 - The HLO gave a report on the success of the hospital 12 step list but also highlighted that there is still much more that can be done.
 - In particular, extending the 12-step hospital list model from Lancaster to other areas, such as Penrith, Preston and Southport.
- d) Prison LO (Vacant, but Phil and Nick covering). (Paper 2025/10)
- i) Lancaster Farms report.
- **Report received.**
 - If anybody knows the members thought to be running a meeting in Havering prison, please could you ask them to let NWIG have a report on the current position.
- ii) Wymott meeting report – sponsored by NWIG.
- **Report received.**
 - **RESOLVED: Secretary to let Nick know that there is a budget of £300 pa for prison LO that is at his disposal, so he can go ahead and buy the 10 Plain Language Big Books requested.**

- iii) To consider producing a NWIG Prison Pamphlet: Stories from members who found AA in prison and are still around at least five years after being released.
- Public Health England and the Cochrane Report show AA as high in the table of success re recovery, but there are no real statistics on where those people are two years later, in terms of their continued recovery and progress.
 - It is suggested that a professional looking pamphlet, containing approximately six stories of recovery from members who found AA in prison, and who are still sober say five years after their release, would be a really useful tool in spreading the word that AA offers a lasting solution. The pamphlet could be taken in to the local prison meetings in the first instance, and it might be possible to follow this up with visits to the local prison meetings by the writers at a later date. The idea is not to brag about AA, but to take the opportunity to let people know that it works, by the power of example of the still sober after a number of years.
 - What is needed are stories from members who got sober in prison, and are still sober five years later, and people with experience of printing/producing a pamphlet.
 - We still need members to get involved in other prisons.
 - **RESOLVED: To proceed with the production of a pamphlet for prisons.** The vote for this proposal was unanimous.
- e) Public Information LO (Vacant, but Phil covering). (Paper 2025/11)
- **Report Received.**
 - Everything is in place to repeat last year's bus advert if required.
 - Briefly, last year's advert was on the outside of 60 buses, by depot, in and around Carlisle, Lancaster, Preston and Workington. At a cost of £4,100. (Should have cost more but Jed did the art work and saved us money)
 - There is no way of knowing how effective it was.
 - **RESOLVED: Phil to obtain costings for running an advert in bus shelters.**
 - **RESOLVED: Phil to find out how many buses the advert could run inside of for a similar amount to last year's campaign.**
- f) Telephone LO (Debs). (Paper 2025/12)
- **Report Received.**
 - The TLO reported that the combined telephone service seems to work satisfactorily but that the statistics produced from the telephone system (Tamar) can be very misleading. She requested guidance from NWIG on how much detail is required re the stats; i.e. does NWIG just want the basic (and misleading) information usually produced, or would more detailed and more accurate stats be useful?
 - The TLO went on to report that there has been a lack of progress on action points agreed for the combined service over fifteen months ago, and no explanation for the continued delay. It is hoped that the recent appointment of a new RTLO will rectify this problem.
 - It was reported that the absence of responses from the RTLO over more than the last year had become a serious concern for the North West Lancs and Cumbria Telephone Service (NWL&CTS). It is hoped that the recent appointment of a new RTLO will rectify this problem.
 - It was reported that there are three telephone services in the North West Region (Liverpool, Manchester and NWL&CTS), and that in years past the practice of the RTLO was to deliver a report from each of the three phone services to NWR. However, in recent years the RTLO has only concerned himself with the Manchester telephone service and has largely overlooked the work being done in the rest of the Region. It is hoped that the recent appointment of a new RTLO will rectify this problem.

- **RESOLVED: That NWIG would welcome the more detailed and more accurate call statistics that the TLO is willing to take the time to produce.**
- **RESOLVED: That the TLO will forward the written report that we have all seen today to the new RTLO for inclusion in his report to NWR on 9th March.**

g) Young Persons LO (Carla).

Adam kindly read us the YPLO report from Carl, as follows: -

- Over the past three months myself and several other young persons have been into three schools to give talks to the students there. These were throughout the months of November and December.
- One was a school who I had previously visited who welcomed us back and have built an AA session into their curriculum for our yearly attendance.
- The other sixth form was incredibly grateful for us coming and asked us to speak with x2 year groups which we did and have now asked for us to go back yearly and also added AA into their yearly PD sessions. This is wonderful as the message is being carried.
- After Christmas I've not been as productive due to illness and other AA commitments.
- I have been helping the YPLO from Blackpool and Fylde. A venue has now been sourced and a new YP meeting will be starting in Blackpool on Friday 7th March.
- I previously asked for the pull up banners so I could take these to talks and use them at the Leyland YP meeting as we have nowhere to hang banners in our new venue. The banners we originally had will be donated to the new Blackpool YP meeting along with some leaflets that I have as a means of sponsoring the group and helping them find their feet.
- The Manchester YP convention will take place on 30-31 August at Pendulum hotel Manchester details for tickets will be announced soon.
- EURYPAA Glasgow will take place 8-10 August at Hilton double tree Glasgow.

10

Sub-Committee Reports and matters arising: -

a) Inspiring Service Sub-Committee Report. (Jenny and Debs). (Paper 2025/14)

- **Report received.**
- A request was made for all members to please speak a little about their own service work and the way in which this has contributed to their own sobriety when sharing in meetings.
- It was reported that there are currently three members on this sub-committee and that they meet once a month. The sub-committee would welcome additional members, six-months sobriety is the requirement.
- The sub-committee aims to produce two flyers promoting service;
 - One to list the activities and/or services that NWIG are responsible for, and
 - One to provide snapshots of service experiences.
- It is hoped to have the flyers ready for consideration and approval at the next IG meeting. (11/05/2025)

RESOLVED: That a budget of £300 pa for the Inspiring Service Sub-Committee is approved.

For 16.

Against 1.

Abstention 1.

b) NWIG 2025 Convention Committee Report. (Carl and Natalie). (Paper 2025/15)

- **Report Received.**
- Date now set as 23/08/2025.

- Venue now set as Garstang Community Academy.
- The committee need zoom access for regular meetings.
- The committee need volunteers – both to be on the committee, and volunteers for the actual event please.
- **RESOLVED: That a budget of £300 for the NWIG Convention is approved.**
- **RESOLVED: That all banking for the NWIG Convention will be through the NWIG bank account.**

11 **Nominations for vacant service positions:** - (See the Service Handbook for details of the roles and requirements).

i	Archivist	None.
ii	Chair	Phil H. Proposed by Chris D. Seconded by Nigel C.
iii	Employment LO	None.
iv	Prison LO	None.
v	Probation LO	None.
vi	Public Information LO	None.
vii	Region Representative	None.
viii	Share LO	None.
ix	Vice-chair	None.

12 **Election of Officers:** -

- **Phil H was elected as Chair of NWIG.**
For 15.
Against 3.
Abstentions 5.
- **Jenny D was thanked for her service as Chair for the last three years.**

13 **Any Other Business:** -

- a) To receive feedback from groups on the unapproved instructions to telephone responders and 12 steppers that appeared on the AAGB website. (This has a direct bearing on this year's questions for conference – especially C1 Q4)
CARRY FORWARD TO NEXT MEETING.
- b) Any other.
None.

14 Finance: Final agreement of the amount of **surplus funds to be forwarded to NW Region.**
Not applicable – fully dealt with at item 8 when it was resolved to send £1,000.00.

15 **Notes for GSRs to take back to groups:**

- Can everybody carry on broadcasting that NWIG would be delighted to hear from the remaining groups for which we don't have contacts at the moment.
- Announce the offer of a potential new venue in Tarleton.
- Think about visiting Region – especially if you are considering becoming a Region Rep.
- Please put your group number on contribution's to NWIG so that they can be identified. Group ID in banking reference - please put in the first 4 or 5 characters of the reference
- All groups are urged again to bring specific proposals to NWIG on how to use the surplus funds to reach the still suffering, along with details of exactly how they will actively participate in doing so.
- Advertise the ASLO role.

- If you have items to be added to the micro site, send them to the ECLO at ecomm.nwest@aamail.org
- Everybody interested in establishing a hospital 12-step list in their own area contact Nigel the HLO at health.nwest@aamail.org
- If anybody knows the members thought to be running a meeting in Havering prison, please could you ask them to let NWIG have a report on the current position.
- Request stories from members who got sober in prison, and are still sober five years later, for use in a pamphlet for prisons.
- Request help with the production of the prison pamphlet from members with printing and/or publication experience.
- Consider visiting a prison meeting to share.
- Consider becoming a telephone responder.
- Consider adding your name to the 12-step list.
- Announce that there is a new YP meeting starting in Blackpool on Friday 7th March.
- Ask everybody to speak a little about their own service work and the way in which this has contributed to their sobriety when sharing in meetings.
- Consider joining the Inspiring Service sub-committee.
- Consider joining the NWIG Convention sub-committee.
- Consider volunteering to help at the NWIG Convention on 23/08/2025.
- Announce all the vacant service positions at NWIG – particularly REGION REPS, because we will be down to only one at in May 2025. There should be three.

16 **Action points** from previous meetings not already dealt with above.
None. All dealt with or in hand.

17 **Dates of next meetings:** -

11/05/2025	In person and online
10/08/2025	In person and online
09/11/2025	In person and online

Actions to be added to the list of ongoing actions from this meeting: -

- Secretary to circulate the new list of which groups we still need contact details for.
 - Inadequate level of detail in the GSO quarterly financial statements. Chris to pursue and report back.
 - Expenditure query re 75th accounts. Chris to pursue and report back.
 - Budget arrangements by the Board. Chris to obtain more information at the next Region meeting and report back.
 - Prudent Reserve questions: Chris to pursue and report back.
 - Secretary to let Kath and Jim know whatever they need to know about arrangements for refreshments at NWR.
 - Treasurer to break down expenditure by discipline in future reports.
 - Treasurer to send £1,000 to NWR.
 - ECLO to let NWIG officers know when the zoom account is available for IG business.
 - Secretary to let Nick know he can buy books for prison out of the annual budget.
 - Phil to obtain costings for running an advert in bus shelters.
 - Phil to find out how many buses the advert could run inside of for a similar amount to last year's campaign.
 - TLO to forward the written report that we have all seen today to the new RTLO for inclusion in his report to NWR on 9th March.
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**The meeting then moved on to discuss the
Questions For Conference 2025: -**

**As published in the 2024 Winter edition of the AA Service News,
Available on the website, and
Circulated to all GSRs and group contacts by the NWIG secretary.**