

## OFFICERS REPORTS - MARCH 2017

### PI - Jonny

PI is still very much active with follow up visit to Catalyst (formerly Sadas) planned for next month. We continue with regular school talks thanks to Andrew and NHS events co-ordinated by Mark and his team and sometimes myself.

The leads provided by Anne Milton MP haven't lead to any presentations yet but there will definitely be positive noises being add about AA in her office which can't do any harm. Many thanks to FN Newcomers for welcoming her when I was abroad.

### Sharing about Share - Lindsay - Share LO

I have been doing a bit of a 'Grand Tour' around the meetings in our Intergroup for the last few months and, firstly I would like to thank everyone for making me so welcome every time I have turned up announced to bang the drum about Share magazine. So far I have visited 40 meetings – and hope to get round to the rest of you within the next couple of months.

When I took over the role of Share LO in August last year, our support of Share was pretty poor – only 21 meetings out of 68 taking the magazine. That has now changed – with 31 meetings now taking Share – and more coming on board every week – so thanks to all of those who have taken out new subscriptions – whether to sell within each Group or (if your Pot is healthy enough!) to give out to newcomers.

But supporting Share **isn't** all about subscriptions. York is desperate for editorial, photographs and cartoons as well.

Share is **our** story, so please share **yours**. There are so many AA members who are not able to go to regular meetings: the housebound, single parents with children, those in the armed forces, on oil rigs, in hospital or prisons – and they rely on Share for their 'meetings in between meetings'.

It doesn't matter if you are newcomer or an old timers, Share would like to hear your story - and writing for Share is a great piece of service to help **you** and your sobriety – and well done to Jackie from Guildford and James from Woking

– both of whom had an article published in this February's issue of the magazine. A great start for our intergroup!

You don't need to be as brilliant writers. The Editor will take care of spelling and grammar. All you need to remember is 1) don't write more than 1,000 words (much less is OK too!), 2) Share covers off the steps and traditions each month (Step 1 is January, Step 2 February – and so on – so one of the steps or traditions is a perfect subject for an article. 3) You need to get your articles to York ([AAShare@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:AAShare@gsogb.org.uk)) **at least three months** in advance of the relevant issue to get your article considered for publication.

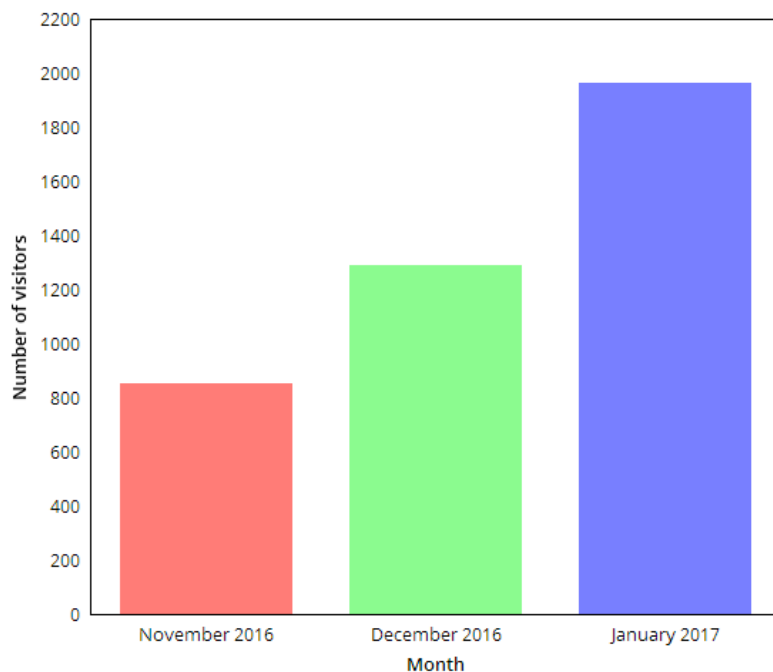
Don't forget – it isn't just articles Share needs. The magazine is happy to have cartoons and photos as well. When you are taking a picture for Share, make sure it is free from any possible identification (people/identifiable buildings or businesses etc) so that Share can still use it and keep anonymity. Again, pictures/cartoons can be emails to [AAShare@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:AAShare@gsogb.org.uk) but it needs to be high resolution (2MBs) or 6MB TIFFs/BMPs.

### **Group Share Representatives**

Finally, I attended a really interesting Share workshop on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January which highlighted the fact that, it is suggested (Page 77 AA Structure Handbook) that each group considers the appointment of a Share representative to look after subscriptions and remind us all to submit articles and photos. Now I wasn't aware of this – and I suspect a lot of the groups within Mid-Surrey are also not aware of this potential new service position. Maybe it might be worth bringing up when next you hold a conscious meeting??

### **Ellie - ECLO**

I am very happy with the performance of our new website, we are seeing a very significant and steady growth each month as more people are finding and using the new website and in January we received an impressive 1,962 visitors.



I have had another busy quarter developing the website and working on better ways of email communication and have also been working on ways to publicise the website among our members. So here is a brief summary of what I have been doing:

- Working with Barbera on ways to put Archives on the website.**  
 Barbera has put together a fantastic newsletter which she plans on doing twice a year so I will be using this as content for the archive section of the website. We are also in the process of gathering images so that we can put a gallery up on the website. This is still a work in progress.
- I have started work on a 'members stories page'**  
 I am quite excited about this as I think it is a fantastic recourse for members and newcomers. I have collected only a few stories so far but would like a lot more. If you or anyone in your group would like to submit their story for the website they can go to the members stories page and fill in the form. <http://www.aamidsurrey.org.uk/members-stories/>
- I have been working on ways to improve the email communication with the GSR's** by grouping emails together and presenting them in a clear way which directs to the website for further information and

downloads. I think this is a better system as documents can be printed or downloaded more easily rather than being in the body text of an email.

- **I Launched the new conference questions feedback form** – Hopefully this will make it easier and quicker for the GSR's to feedback their groups comments on conference questions.
- <http://www.aamidsurrey.org.uk/conferencefeedbackform2017/>
- **I have produced a tent card** for the GSR's to take back to their groups for display in meetings to make everyone aware that we have a website and encourage people to use it.

### **Next Quarter**

I am planning to finish the Archives section and the members stories page as well as thinking of more useful and interesting new content. If you would like to feedback to me about anything I have covered in this report please email me [eclo@midsurrey.org.uk](mailto:eclo@midsurrey.org.uk)

### **Sue - Employment LO**

This post has not been filled for some time so it is taking a little while to get to grips with it and to develop an approach. I have been using the resources on the GSO files to adapt some templates for letters to employers and presentations.

I am now setting aside a little time each week to work my way through the list of larger employers in our area, and am doing this systematically, offering meetings or presentations, but have had no take up to date. Feedback from other ELOs in other Intergroups suggests this experience is usual and that employers tend to prefer a slightly more hands off approach. Most of them don't think they've got a problem in their work forces until a problem arises! However, where I have established contact, I've been able to provide information and hopefully, this may be used if the occasion arises.

If colleagues in the other disciplines, particularly health and PI, have any contacts that may be useful, I'd be grateful for them and I'm always happy to join forces at presentations - I've adapted one for employment.

I've also been elected as regional employment liaison and I'm in the process of getting to grips with that - I see the two roles as complementary.

## **HEALTH LIAISON REPORT Nov 2016 – Jan 17**

Prepared by: Mark J

AA Mid Surrey now has a seat at the table at the Surrey Treatment Provider Group. This runs quarterly and allows us to provide literature to those that require it, provide explanations and advice on AA in Mid Surrey, organise one to one meetings and also arrange for talks and visits which are done regularly. Regular attendees are from but not limited to the below organisations:

Surrey CC

Justice Services

RAPT

SADAS

Catalyst

Women in Prison

Catch 22

Transform housing

Amber Foundation

Surrey and Borders Partnership

Kent, Surrey and Sussex community Rehabilitation Company

Surrey Hospitals

Regular meetings are now held with the Alcohol liaison teams at St Peters, Frimley Park and Royal Surrey Hospitals, which are proving to be very successful.

Training has again been requested by SDAC (Surrey Drug and Alcohol Care) and my thanks go to Trish B who will be helping out on the day.

An extremely successful 3 hours was spent presenting AA to Twenty-seven 3<sup>rd</sup> year Clinical Psychologists at Surrey University. All twenty-seven are now practicing in the community and this was their only exposure to a 12-step programme. There were nine AA volunteers, an introduction was held, followed by a full one hour AA meeting to which they

could observe followed by questions and answers. It proved to be a great success, will be added to the curriculum for next years course and will be hopefully repeated on other course around the UK.

Of the 27 who attended 23 completed feedback forms which were universally positive about the insight they had been given, and its relevance in their professional lives.

The comments were generally along the lines of the one that follows;

“Incredibly helpful session – it challenged my misconceptions and I feel I can more genuinely signpost people to AA now.”

Mark.

## **Telephones Peter**

With the handover from outgoing TLO officer Rebecca completed at the end of 2016 I started 2017 by attending The Burgess Hill Regional Workshop on the 22nd January. It proved to be an excellent morning meeting with fellow TLO's from South Downs and Kent intergroups. Top of the agenda was a discussion around how best to approach clearing up out of date phone numbers on our 12 Step list, other topics discussed included best practice for dealing with nuisance callers and the redirection of calls from the new free phone number to other regional intergroups.

Over the coming months I will be working closely with our responders team to continue to gather know numbers which no longer function on the 12 Step list to help improve the response time it takes to get a 12 Stepper out to the still suffering alcoholic.

I've also undertaken a mini-tour of our Intergroup meetings to introduce myself as the new TLO and to try to engage with the fellowship on a personal level to gather feedback and thoughts on how the telephone service is currently performing and could be improved.

The Telephone service is currently performing well on a day to day basis with a full complement of responders and three new responders shortly to join the team. I will in the coming weeks be relieving Bob S from his duties organising the monthly shift rota while we look for a new service member to assist in this role.

## **Probation Liaison Officer Report for mid Surrey February 2017**

I attended the Region meeting at Burgess Hill and was disappointed to find no other representatives for probation or prisons from the other regions. I joined the PI group and we had a useful discussion about how we could take AA out to more organisations. I talked about the AA meetings which are being held once a month in the Probation offices in Guildford.

All of the Responsible Officers (they are not a called Probation Officers anymore) have now sat in on a meeting. We held the first open meeting for Service Users and the Millmead Tuesday night meeting have kindly donated scrolls they no longer require. There were 8 of us and 2 strong chairs. No service users turned up and I hear from members who set up the Prison meetings that they do take time to get going. I have attached a flier which has been given out with the dates for the rest of the year (attached) and asked Ellie to put this on the website.

I have been approached with my regional hat on by someone from who has recently been appointed as a Probation liaison officer for Southdown asking for advice as she has no one to induct her into post. We have been in regular contact.

## **Report to MSIG on SER Assembly 170 (Burgess Hill) and Workshops - 22 January 2017**

### **Workshops**

Workshops were held for 2 hours on every service liaison position and also on the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts. Similar workshops are held twice a year and attendance is suggested for all Intergroup LO's. In addition any GSRs or other members are welcome to attend. They provide an excellent way of sharing service experience and discussing ideas, developments and any problems. On this occasion attendance was patchy and it was agreed that this was disappointing.

### **Nominations and Vacancies**

Sue D (Mid Surrey) was elected as Employment LO

## **SER Vacancies**

Telephone LO

Young Persons LO

6 Alternate Conference Delegates

Southern National Convention Committee member

All of these are urgent. The TLO vacancy has existed for some time now. Also this is the first time that SER has not had Alternate Conference Delegates in place and members are urged to consider this important service. In addition to supporting the 6 Conference Delegates, an Alternate is asked to attend Conference if a Delegate is not able to attend for any reason.

In addition there are a number of vacancies on National Sub Committees at GSO.

Any members interested in these areas of important service should contact the Region Reps.

## **Southern National Convention**

Carol W appealed for someone to come forward to support her by becoming the second SNC committee member from SER. Alan, SER Chair asked members to take Carol's plea to heart. 'Wonderful conventions don't run themselves'

The next SNC will be on September 1-3 at Mill Rytte, Hayling Island. Rooms available but mention AA Convention when phoning to book- 02392 460044. Volunteers needed.

## **Treasurer**

Liz reported that Contributions received by GSO are steadily decreasing at present. This is being considered by the Board.

After discussion, Assembly agreed with the recommendation that petrol expenses should be increased from 35p to 45p per mile.

## **Conference Delegates**

Two Delegates will visit each Intergroup to attend their Conference Questions workshops on dates to be arranged before the Pre-Conference Regional Assembly in March and can return to provide feedback to the Intergroup after Conference.

## **Archives**



John is retiring as LO after a long period of excellent service. A nomination to succeed him is being considered. He has drafted a history of AA in Mid Surrey and has asked for support on publication.

The final event will be held in Maidstone on a provisional date of 15<sup>th</sup> October

### **Next Region Assembly**

Pre – Conference 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017

### **MSIG Region Reps**

Andrew D (07717 537035) and Kevin L ( 07770 940866) – and at [region@aamidsurrey.org.uk](mailto:region@aamidsurrey.org.uk).