

ARCHIVE REQUEST!

Does your group's literature box look like this?

Does your treasurer's file hold accounts and receipts from 1955?

Have you given up on bringing the group handbook to meetings, as it is too heavy?

WE CAN HELP!

Please look through all your AA folders & boxes for your group. I am looking for flyers, correspondence and also old literature, books and correspondence, convention flyers and badges, and any memorabilia from all over the UK and USA.

I also really need **MSIG Assembly Minutes** from **1980—1987**

I will bring special items of interest, for people to look at, to workshops and conventions on request: archives@aamidsurrey.org.uk

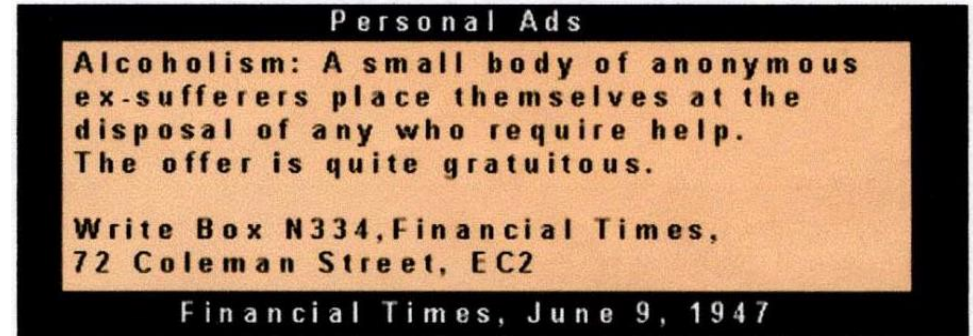


Some of the Mid Surrey Archives on display at the Summer Convention this year in Guildford



Mid Surrey Archives

History of AA in Mid Surrey Intergroup **Volume 1**



This is a copy of the very first PI activity in the UK. A group of alcoholics who had got sober in America got in touch with each other via GSO in New York, and had the first recorded meeting of AA in the Dorchester Hotel in London on March 31st 1947.



The Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, London

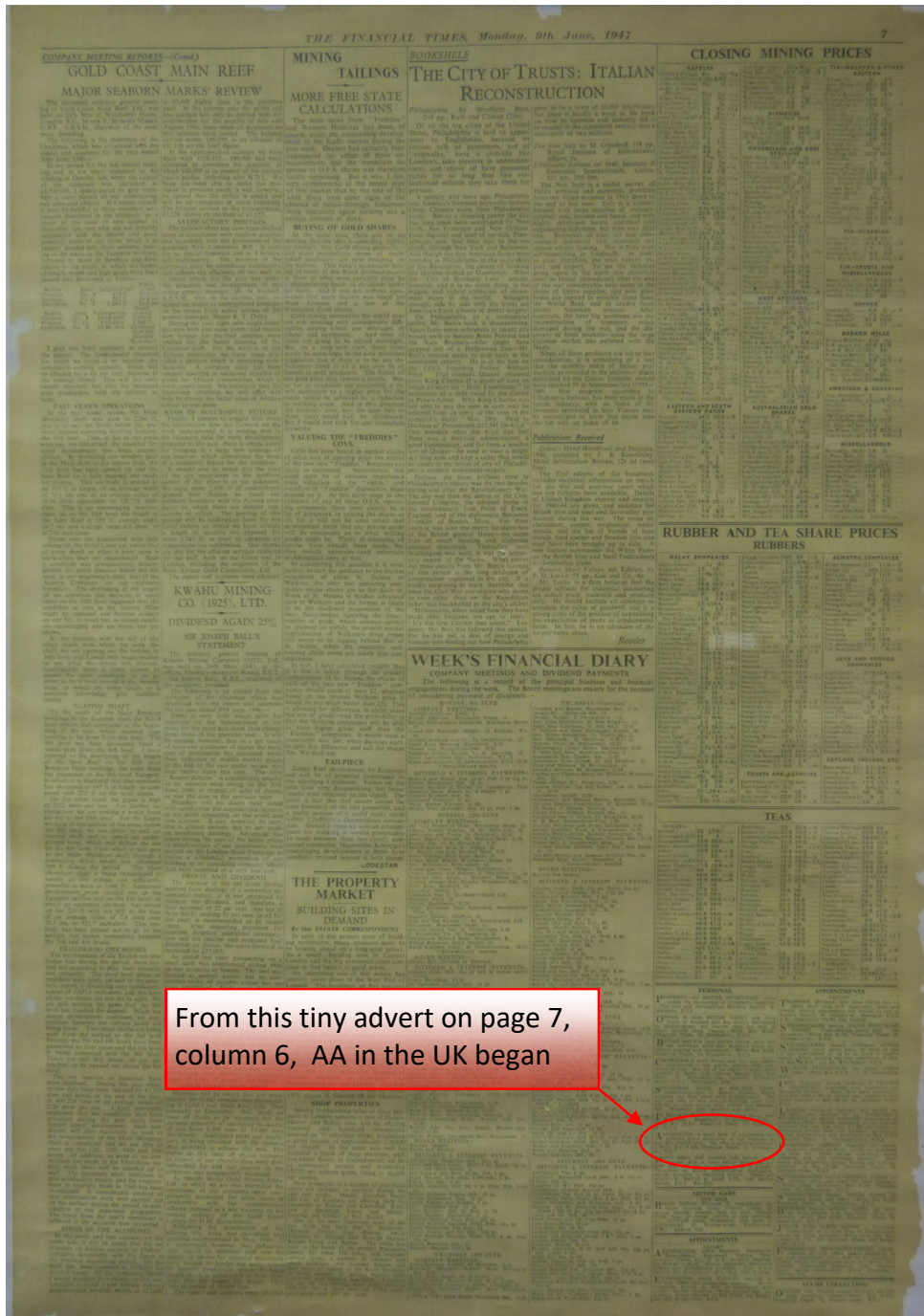
Shortly afterwards a regular meeting was set up at Canadian Bob's house in Mortlake.

The fledgling group decided to advertise their presence in national newspapers. All of the papers they wrote to refused to place their add, apart from the Financial times, who ran the above advert. It was a tiny entry on page 7, in the Personal

Column. (column 6, bottom right, see over). Despite the tiny size they were disappointed only to receive one phone call from Lottie T's husband. Lottie became the first female member of AA in the UK.

"The main purpose of archive activity is to keep the record straight so that myth does not predominate"

Bill W



full stops were used much more liberally than is common nowadays! It was not until 1959 that Xerox developed a photocopier suitable for general use in offices, hence each copy of this newsletter would have been individually typed!

January, 1949

A L C O H O L I C S A N O N Y M O U S

ADDRESS: BM/ AAL, LONDON, W.C.1

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

RESULT OF ELECTION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR 1949

On Thursday, 27th., January, a meeting was held at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W.1 for the purpose of electing the Advisory Committee for 1949.

No nominations were received.

The retiring members of the Advisory Committee, Lottie, Bill, Maurice and Bob (ex-office at his own request) offered themselves for re-election and received a unanimous vote of confidence by a show of hands and the proxy votes received by post.

OPEN MEETING: THURSDAY, 24th., FEBRUARY. 1949

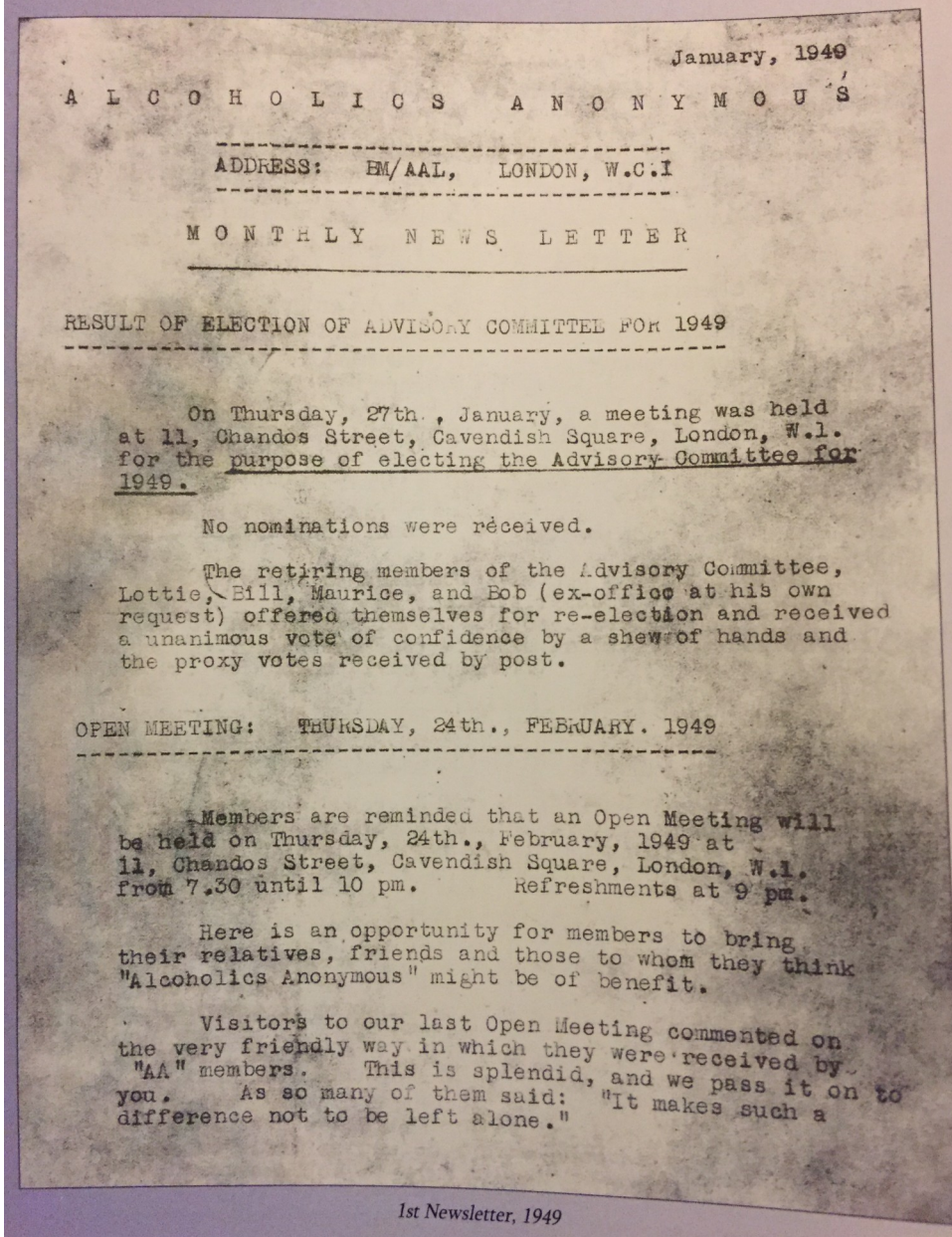
Members are reminded that an Open Meeting will be held on Thursday, 24th., February, 1949 at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London W.1. from 7.30 until 10 pm. Refreshments at 9 pm.

Here is an opportunity for members to bring their relatives, friends and those to whom they think "Alcoholics Anonymous" might be of benefit.

Visitors to our last Open Meeting commented on the very friendly way in which they were received by "AA" members. This is splendid, and we pass it on to you. As so many of them said: "It makes such a difference not to be left alone."

The Beginnings of SHARE

This is a copy of the oldest surviving UK AA Newsletter from January 1949. I have re-typed it on the page opposite as I found this copy quite difficult to read. As I typed it, it became apparent that commas and



MID SURREY ARCHIVISTS

John M was the first Mid Surrey Archivist, elected in 2006. When he became the Regional Archivist in 2008 Jill D took over. I volunteered to help Jill in 2012. I have been the Mid Surrey Archivist since 2013 and have spent the time getting to grips the job while helping to organise the Magical History Tour for the last 2 years, and presenting various displays at conventions and workshops.

Between John, Jill and I we have a very large collection of Archives, and a good collection for Mid Surrey, however I know from visits to groups, that there is a lot more out there! I have just collected the last of the Archives Jill had been storing and have spent a few weeks sorting them. I would like to start publishing a regular Archive Newsletter for Mid Surrey, to share your groups' histories with you, to encourage people to correct inaccuracies (of which there are many) and fill in the gaps! John has interviewed close to 100 alcoholics with long term sobriety all over the country, and based on the oral histories he recorded, he produced a book about AA in Mid Surrey in 2008. At that time there were 55 groups in MSIG, today we have 68, some of whom have joined us from neighbouring intergroups. I would like to continue his research into the histories of our groups, and add information about our new members groups since that time.

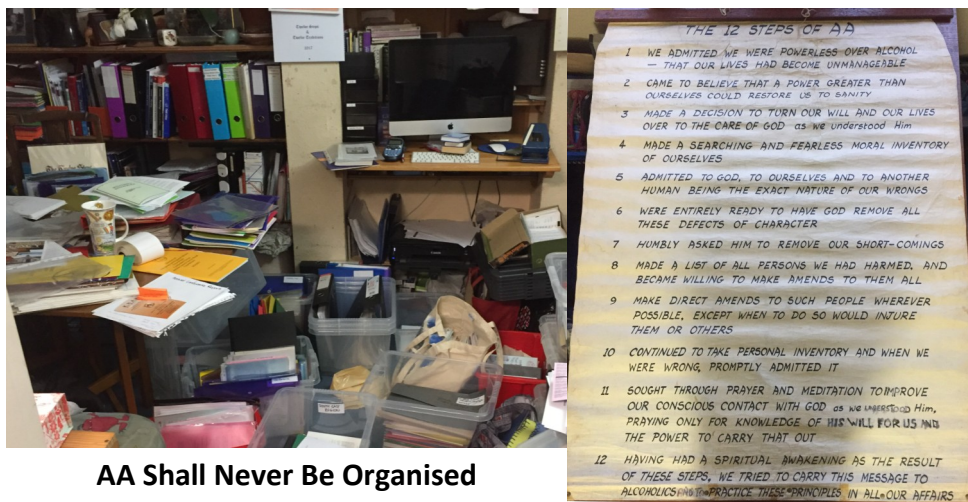
"We are trying to build up extensive records which will be of value to a future historian..."

"It is highly important that the factual material be placed in our files in such a way that there can be no substantial distortion..."

"We want to keep enlarging on this idea for the sake of the full length history to come..."

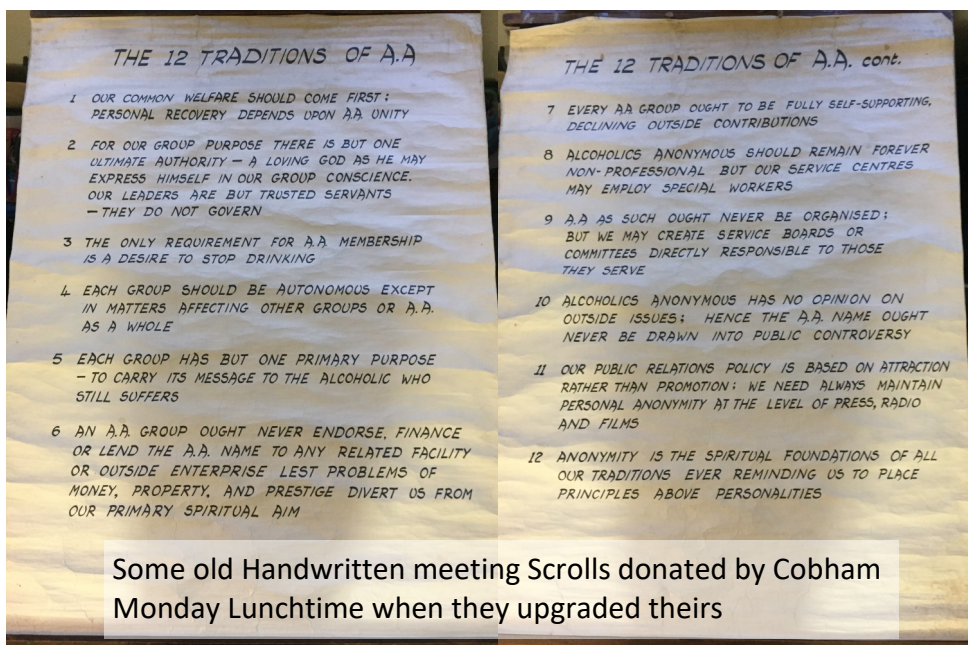
Bill W, 1957

Please bring any archives you find to Intergroup for me to collect!



AA Shall Never Be Organised

My dining room this December when I collected the remainder of the MSIG Archives from Jill who had been storing them for me. I began the mammoth task of sorting them! My family was worried if we would find our table for Christmas dinner!



Some old Handwritten meeting Scrolls donated by Cobham Monday Lunchtime when they upgraded theirs

"We need to preserve the richness of our heritage to ensure the future"
"Whenever a society or civilisation perishes there is always one condition present: they forgot where they came from"
 Bill W



Many days later, I moved all (well, most of) the sorted archives to their new home in our garage. Being able to look through the entire collection MSIG archives really enthused me to produce this newsletter and share some of my finds with the rest of the fellowship! I discovered for example that the question of splitting MSIG as it was considered too large (30 groups) was first mooted at the 31st Assembly in October 1987, and working party was set up to look at the logistics of splitting

POINTS TO PONDER over coffee: GSRs discuss with your groups and bring their views to the next Intergroup Assembly.

1. Is MSIG becoming to large - we now have 30 Groups.
2. Volunteers required to be Convenor for Tilford '88.
3. Jack has volunteered to be Prison Liaison Officer.
4. Please bring a member from your Group to the I.G. Assemblies - the are very welcome.

XMAS GREETINGS AND A HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL.

Intergroup again in 1994 when there were 35 groups in MSIG.

MISSING MINUTES

Having sorted through all the boxes, folders, files and bags, I now have an almost complete set of the Minutes of MSIG from its first meeting on the 9th July 1980 to the 150th Assembly this December. I'm missing minutes from the **2nd Assembly** on the **8th of September 1980** to the **27th Assembly** at the end of **1986**. I'm also missing minutes from the **128th, 129th and 132nd Assemblies**, on **June 7th & August 30th 2011** and **May 29th 2012**. If you have any of these, please could you send me a copy?

