

# Minutes of the 171<sup>st</sup> MSIG Assembly

## Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022

### Dates for diaries:

- MSIG ASSEMBLIES** Zoom until further notice at 8pm – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month  
June 7<sup>th</sup>/ Sept 6<sup>th</sup>/ AGM Dec 6<sup>th</sup>
- MSIG COMMITTEE** Zoom until further notice - Wednesdays - 7.30pm May 4<sup>th</sup> / Aug  
3<sup>rd</sup> / Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>
- REGION ASSEMBLIES:** Sundays 10:30am:  
20<sup>th</sup> March (pre-Conference); 26<sup>th</sup> June (Post Conference);  
25<sup>th</sup> September Workshops (all members welcome); 20<sup>th</sup> Nov  
(AGM and Conscience)
- MSIG WORKSHOPS** Home Groups – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – Venue TBA  
**\*\*For more information on the above dates please visit:**  
[www.aamidsurrey.org.uk](http://www.aamidsurrey.org.uk)\*\*

**Attendees:** Ali, GSR Guildford Womens; Paul, Aldershot Sat; Tania GSR Farnham Tues; Andrew D, Alternate Guildford; Nicola GSR; Rosemary GSR; Alistair H, GSR Sunningdale; Alistair, GSR Ockley; Angela, GSR Meditation Guildford; Carol, GSR North Holmwood; Charlie, GSR Cranleigh; Chris J, GSR Guildford Saturday; Donna, GSR Guildford Tues Lunchtime; Duncan M, GSR Mon Night BB ; Hugh, GSR Farnham Thursday; Ian H, GSR Monday Priory; Jane, GSR Sunday Night Guildford; Janice, GSR Mellow; Michelle, GSR L/Head Tuesday; Michelle, Walton Weds; Oonagh, St Peters Chertsey; Paul, GSR Monday Knaphill; Pete, Compton Friday Breakfast; Samantha D, Thursday Guildford; Sarah, GSR Monday Lunch; Steve, GSR Betchworth; Sue B, GSR Lightwater Weds; Tim, GSR Dorking Monday Night; Tom, GSR Brookwood; Tracey, GSR Weybridge Saturday;

**Committee Members present:** Bob, Chair; Jon, Vice Chair; Claire, Secretary; Karla, ECLO; Micky F, Share LO; Yvette, PILO; Sue A. Telephones, Jon L Treasurer, Seth J, ASLO; Barbara, Archivist, Marco PLO; Peter G Safeguarding Liaison Officer; Seth, Armed Services

**Apologies:** Sue, Alice Guildford Friday, Sam, Gerhard, Lynn; Friday Walton on Thames; Gail, Meeting In A Pocket; Sarah SLO; Stephen B, Region Rep; Sue A. Telephones; Trish HLO; Daren Tuesday Online Meeting

**Welcome New GSR's :** Rose, Shere Tuesday Morning, Sue Lightwater Weds, Ali Guildford Weds Night; Online Sam, Guildford, Ian Priory Chobham, Charlie Cranleigh Monday

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### Meeting Minutes

#### 1. Open

##### a. Welcome and Traditions

All were welcomed. Traditions read by Karla (ECLO / Women's Courage to Change Woking

## **b. Housekeeping**

- i. All were asked to ensure they appeared as 'name, service position and group name in Zoom and that all were muted unless speaking.

## **c. GSR and Officers introductions**

- i. All new GSRs of the assembly were asked to introduce themselves
- ii. New GSRs to ensure they've completed the form on <http://aamidsurrey.org.uk/gsr/> so that MSIG secretary has your details. Please also complete the pink form on [https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/AA-Meetings/Submit-Your-Meeting-Information-\(Pink-Form\)](https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/AA-Meetings/Submit-Your-Meeting-Information-(Pink-Form)) so that GSO, York has your details
- iii. Please also update MSIG and GSO (as above) if your meeting details change.

## **2. Administration**

A voting poll is now used on Zoom for vacancies and any other business. The voting process for elections is entirely confidential. We do not use the visible 'raised hand' function for Assembly decisions

## **3. Minutes from 170th Assembly**

Tania proposed to accept them. Yvette seconded – no matters arising

## **4. Vacancies & Elections**

### **a. VACANCIES**

- i. MSIG has one vacancy for Region Rep – No Candidates
- ii. New position: Safeguarding Liaison Officer; Peter G presented his application to Intergroup. Voted by poll. Accepted by majority. Peter was welcomed onto the Committee
- iii. Seth rotating out at the June Assembly: Armed Services Liaison Officer

5. **Chair:** Bob S. outlined a proposal to spend £1,600 on a full-page advertorial in the Surrey advertiser. It is felt that the timing is appropriate as MSIG is engaged in railway station poster advertising, the Darkness into Light exhibition in Woking and Guildford libraries and a PI event in Guildford Guildhall. The newspaper feature is planned for Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> April (2 days after the PI event) and will be supported by online activity (Get Surrey / Surrey Live) and on Facebook. MSIG will receive a feedback report to quantify the reach of our ad. The Mayor of Guildford will open the PI Event on 6<sup>th</sup> April.

Q: received by email; should AA advertise? Tradition 11? The long form of the Tradition encourages us not to engage in sensational advertising

Samantha D; liked the idea and agreed it's appropriate to use the Surrey Advertiser.

Volunteers needed to pop into each library throughout April to attend to the Darkness into Light exhibits, help to keep them tidy and advise PI of literature that needs to be ordered. **The proposal was agreed by a majority of votes on zoom poll.**

**6. Treasurer:** Jon updated that we finally have control of our bank account with HSBC. Contributions from groups is back up to pre pandemic levels. Income should be on budget at £26k. Costs over the last 4 months are on target. However, the cost of Google Ads has recently increased dramatically from £500 to £900+ per month. The volume of clicks and impressions has risen accordingly but it is difficult to justify such a huge outlay. Following discussions at Committee, the account has been put on hold pending further investigation. If the account remains on hold, we should save £6k - £8k this year. £4k of the budgeted £6k has been sent to SE Region. Intergroup to vote on the next contribution to Region at the June Assembly.

**7. Barbara** – Archivist; shelves and display stands have now been sent up. Barbara showed the storage and archives video; the new archives facility is located in the Big Yellow Storage unit near Brooklands Shopping Centre in Byfleet. Now open for AA members to visit. Email: Barbara (Archivist) or Bob (Chair) if you are interested in visiting. Barbara prefers weekends / Bob happy to visit on weekdays

**8. Yvette – PLO** – Railway poster advertising campaign running until 13<sup>th</sup> March on stations in the Mid Surrey area. Very successful campaign. Reason we switched from buses to trains is that Guildford bus station is now closed. On 6<sup>th</sup> April our main PI event is to be held at the Guildhall in Guildford. Officially opened by The Lady Mayoress and her Consort. Professionals in the local community to attend in the afternoon. Refreshments and AA literature packs supplied. Presentations, an Open Meeting Workshop and Q&A session. AI-Anon participation.

Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> June: MSIG Convention at Millmead Baptist Church

**Samantha** (Thurs Guildford) experience from another fellowship of the success of advertising in Wetherspoons pubs. Some intergroups have AA coasters or beer mats in pubs. AA coin disc to give to patients or doctors to keep in pockets. MSIG to get costs of coasters and coins for further decisions at our June Assembly.

**9. SE Region has asked us to support the Furlough contributions:**

Mid Surrey Intergroup voted by poll to support SE Region in its opposition to GSO receiving furlough payments during the pandemic. Conference 2022 will be asked to decide that the contributions should be returned to the government. The £36k will stay on AA's accounts until Conference or GSO reach a final decision

**10. Jon – Vice Chair**

Workshop on Home Groups – Venue TBC to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> May – approval for rent on premises and AA Literature is approved. Jon has a budget £250.

Peter G – Safeguarding Officer – to attend the Home Group workshop and be available to discuss his new role

Pete (Compton Friday Morning) – PI Service Position introduced at group level. Keen to know more and be more involved. Pete to connect with Yvette

Tania – requested a workshop on sponsorship

## 11. Any Other Business

Samaritans have stopped recommending AA due to the spiritual – God issues

GSR's to go back to groups to discuss if they want to Intergroup to return to Face to Face. Intergroup to look at venue, and technology in support a hybrid meeting

Alistair: Closed the meeting with the serenity prayer

### CONTACT LIST – MARCH 2022

Chair	Bob S	07968 194092	<a href="mailto:chair@aamidsurrey.org.uk">chair@aamidsurrey.org.uk</a>
Vice Chair	Jon E	07939 584033	<a href="mailto:vicechair@aamidsurrey.org.uk">vicechair@aamidsurrey.org.uk</a>
Treasurer	Jon L	07798 835589	<a href="mailto:treasurer@aamidsurrey.org.uk">treasurer@aamidsurrey.org.uk</a>
Secretary	Claire F	07711 379901	<a href="mailto:secretary@aamidsurrey.org.uk">secretary@aamidsurrey.org.uk</a>
Telephones	Sue A	07384 300769	<a href="mailto:telephones@aamidsurrey.org.uk">telephones@aamidsurrey.org.uk</a>
ECLO	Karla H	07476 100397	<a href="mailto:eclo@aamidsurrey.org.uk">eclo@aamidsurrey.org.uk</a>
Safeguarding	Peter G	07964 041515	<a href="mailto:safeguarding@aamidsurrey.org.uk">safeguarding@aamidsurrey.org.uk</a>
Health Liaison	Trish	07771 551766	<a href="mailto:health@aamidsurrey.org.uk">health@aamidsurrey.org.uk</a>
Prison Liaison	Darren O	07765 815148	<a href="mailto:prisons@aamidsurrey.org.uk">prisons@aamidsurrey.org.uk</a>
Share Liaison	Micky F	07974 925657	<a href="mailto:share@aamidsurrey.org.uk">share@aamidsurrey.org.uk</a>
Probation Liaison	Marco	07973 735378	<a href="mailto:probation@aamidsurrey.org.uk">probation@aamidsurrey.org.uk</a>
Armed Services	Seth J	07976 293471	<a href="mailto:aslo@aamidsurrey.org.uk">aslo@aamidsurrey.org.uk</a>
Public Information	Yvette	07976 965346	<a href="mailto:pi@aamidsurrey.org.uk">pi@aamidsurrey.org.uk</a>
Employment	Sarah C	07766 225329	<a href="mailto:employment@aamidsurrey.org.uk">employment@aamidsurrey.org.uk</a>
Schools	Sarah D	07792 305721	<a href="mailto:schools@aamidsurrey.org.uk">schools@aamidsurrey.org.uk</a>
Young Persons LO	Joe H	07846 916997	<a href="mailto:yplo@aamidsurrey.org.uk">yplo@aamidsurrey.org.uk</a>
Archivist	Barbara M	07890 133316	<a href="mailto:archives@aamidsurrey.org.uk">archives@aamidsurrey.org.uk</a>
Convention	Justin P	07949 267252	<a href="mailto:convention@aamidsurrey.org.uk">convention@aamidsurrey.org.uk</a>
Region Reps	Steve E	07887 490 909	<a href="mailto:regions@aamidsurrey.org.uk">regions@aamidsurrey.org.uk</a>
	Steve B	07930 136626	<a href="mailto:regions@aamidsurrey.org.uk">regions@aamidsurrey.org.uk</a>
Meeting in a Pocket	Gail:		<a href="mailto:miap@aamidsurrey.org.uk">miap@aamidsurrey.org.uk</a>