

## MINUTES OF THE 173<sup>RD</sup> ASSEMBLY – MID SURREY INTERGROUP

Tuesday 6 September 2022 – Quaker Meeting House, Guildford

### Dates for diaries:

**MSIG Assemblies: Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 8pm (AGM)**

**MSIG Committee: Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 7.30pm (zoom)**

**REGION: Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2022 (Burgess Hill, 10.30am) – workshops**

**Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022 (Burgess Hill, 10.30am) – AGM / Conscience**

**Apologies:** Karla (Electronic Communications), Barbara (Archives); Mags, Sat Weybridge Discussion; Sarah C (Employment); Claire (Secretary); Steve E (Regional Rep); Pete, Compton Fri Morning; Kelly Thursday Ladies Holmwood; Loraine Shamley Green; Jez Mens Hang Tight; Gurj Frimley Newcomers Thursday; Darren Tuesday Dorking Zoom; Tanya Tuesday Farnham;

**Refreshments:** Our thanks to Yvette S and Peter G for refreshments. Thanks also to Chris B (our Sound Engineer) and to Sue A for taking the minutes.

**Welcome** to new GSR's Chris B Cobham Thurs Big Book; Mark F, Monday Guildford Meditation; Ashley H Farnham Tuesday Our Common Purpose; Jerry, Walton Friday night; Gurdeep, Egham Hythe Wed Step meeting; Kelly, Sunday Salvation Woking; Paul Sunday evening Byfleet; Marie Leatherhead Tuesday; Sarah Cobham Monday Lunch;

**Minutes** from 172<sup>nd</sup> Assembly were approved. Karl approved and Derek seconded.

### Vacancies:

**Current:** Young Persons Liaison Officer, Armed Forces Liaison Officer

**New:** Secretary, Schools Liaison Officer, Employment Liaison Officer, Share Magazine Liaison Officer

**December 2022:** Electronic Communications Liaison Officer

**Our thanks to** Sarah D, Schools; Sarah C, Employment; Micky, Share Magazine and Claire, Secretary for their valued service to Mid Surrey Intergroup

### VERBAL REPORTS

#### PRE-MEETING INCIDENT

Shortly after Assembly started, a member exited the meeting room to go into the kitchen and allow a man who had been banned from Assembly meetings in 2019 to enter the building. The Chair asked the man in question (MIQ) to leave the building. The request was repeated three times. On hearing his refusal to leave, the Chair asked the Safeguarding Liaison Officer to call the police using a previously obtained reference number. The MIQ left the building shortly afterwards. A complaint was then made by a GSR who saw another GSR filming the incident on her phone. The incident was being filmed out of concern that a physical assault would take place. As no such assault occurred, the GSR who felt that she appeared on the film and whose anonymity might be breached as a result, requested that the film be deleted. The video was subsequently deleted.

## Jon L – Finances:

Budgeted income for 2021/2022: £25,600 based on previous years estimates.

Money received to date 24 August 2022 £22,400

Contributions from groups: £18,682

Convention £2693

Gratitude week £955

Meeting in a Pocket £30

### Expenses

PI Expenditure £10,200 (Surrey Advertiser, Convention, Darkness into Light, Railway Station advertising campaign, Google ads.)

Admin Costs £9,000 (Archive storage, Literature, Tel Service, Website, insurance)

MSIG contribution to South-East Region: £6,000. Jon explained that there are 4,400 groups in GB of which 82 are in Mid Surrey Intergroup. 120 Intergroups in the UK, 15 regions, 11 intergroups in our region – the Southeast.

### **Questions/Comments**

Could the advertising results can be quantified?

Answer: it is virtually impossible to measure the results of any of our advertising. We are just showing that AA is anonymous but not invisible. AA carries out a survey every 5 years. The surveys usually include feedback on members who join AA because of advertising.

22<sup>nd</sup> Feb this year an expense was queried. The sum paid to the MSIG Chair was due to the use of a personal credit card to pay for advertising costs whilst awaiting the transfer of the bank mandate from our former treasurer (Ian K) to our new treasurer (Jon L).

**Meeting in a Pocket** Gail would like to do reprint Meeting in a Pocket. There are 80 copies left. 60p each and free for rehab centers. Voted to print another 500 copies. **Assembly voted in favour. MSIG will order 500 copies.**

Insurance certificates: South-East Region insures our meeting venues. We have received requests from some venues for a copy. If you need a copy, please let Bob know.

New AA Service Handbooks are out. Copies were available at Assembly

Latest edition of Where to Find cards are out. Copies were available at Assembly

### **CONSCIENCE MEETING – Chaired by Becca (CESIG)**

1 Mid Surrey Group website. On the opening home page – Latest news. The items are past events so maybe we should eliminate the Latest News section. The comment will be forwarded to Karla (Electronic Communications Liaison Officer)

2. Could AA groups now stock and display information on other 12 step fellowships? After discussion, was agreed we should only have AA conference approved literature at AA meetings. Tradition 6 was referred to (non-affiliation)

Comment was made re Convention that other organizations were there – ACA, Alateen, Al-Anon, Couples in Recovery. It is an AA Convention so why were other organizations represented? Assembly was reminded that the convention is AA with Al-Anon co-operation. This includes Alateen. ACA bring about 35 people, most of whom are in AA.

They all pay £5 each for entry but do not have a speaker on the AA / Alateen platform. A suggestion was made to take the question to the MSIG Convention Committee to discuss and decide on future cooperation with 12<sup>th</sup> step recovery fellowships beyond AA/AI-Anon.

3. Archives: Mid Surrey has the largest collection of AA intergroup archives in the country. Our archives are currently stored in a Big Yellow storage unit at a cost of about £3288 a year. We have been looking for a storage solution since 2011. Some people have objected to the current storage arrangement on the basis that:

- the cost is too expensive
- the location is not central to mid Surrey – Byfleet
- the access is not flexible enough (although there has only been 1 scheduled visit this year)

Currently, the archives are being catalogued and sorted through. Barbara is looking for help with that. Please ask for volunteers at your next meeting. Perhaps we could create a service position such as Assistant Archives LO. It was suggested that perhaps we advertise an open weekend in Spring 2023 and support the event with a flyer for the groups to put on their literature tables. Barbara has offered to make a video film to show the extent of our collection of archives materials.

**Assembly agreed to continue to store our archives in the current storage facility in Byfleet.**

Note: all GSRs and group members are welcome to visit our archives. Please let Barbara or Bob know that you would like to visit so that we can make arrangements to welcome you.

4. Would Mid-Surrey Intergroup consider a 3-month advertising campaign in Vantage Point magazine? There is a CA ad in Vantage Point with QR code. Guildford and Godalming circulation is 50,000 per month, plus salons, dentists, etc. They offer free artwork design. Suggested start date is November 2022 which would cover November – alcohol awareness month, December which is the festive season and dry January. In addition, Vantage Point is publishing a two-page editorial on addiction in January. There will be a spread in January over all 5 areas and it is thought we might have a quarter page ad in January. They have a platform on AA, Twitter and Instagram.

The train advertising next year would be £3600 so it is suggested that we try something different for a lower cost of £2100. The long-form of Tradition Eleven suggests that we not carry out “sensational advertising”. It was suggested that we try advertising on Facebook as you can see the return and see where your money is being spent. It is possible to target specific demographics. Vantage Point has great distribution but is not widely read by younger people. It is possible to advertise on Facebook without soliciting comments. It was suggested that we should embrace the modern technology that is available and move forward with the times.

In summary, Assembly felt that the Vantage Point campaign is a wonderful opportunity as we have been offered a discounted price and the distribution potential is high. However, we should embrace the idea of advertising to younger people through social media. **It was agreed to commit to the cost of advertising in Vantage Point but also to study opportunities for a social media campaign.** The MSIG Committee will seek advice from members who have specialist knowledge in this area and make a proposal at our December Assembly.

**Any other business:** Duncan is looking for a secretary at Big Book meeting Monday Guildford

**Next assembly** is on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December at the Quaker Meeting House, Guildford  
Dulcie from the Sunday Aldershot Living Sober group offered to do the teas and coffees.

Becca closed the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. YiF Bob S. 07968 194092

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