

Autumn 2025

# AA Service News

From the General Service Office of Great Britain



Carrying the Message

# 12 Traditions Checklist

## 1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on AA unity



1. Am I in my group a healing, mending, integrating person, or am I divisive? What about gossip and taking other members' inventories?
2. Am I a peacemaker? Or do I, with pious preludes such as "just for the sake of discussion," plunge into arguments?
3. Am I gentle with those who rub me the wrong way, or am I abrasive?
4. Do I make competitive AA remarks, such as comparing one group with another or contrasting AA in one place with AA in another?
5. Do I put down some AA activities as if I was superior for not participating in this or that aspect of AA?
6. Am I informed about AA as a whole? Do I support, in every way I can, AA as a whole or just the parts I understand and approve of?
7. Am I as considerate of AA members as I want them to be of me?
8. Do I spout platitudes about love while indulging in and secretly justifying behaviour that bristles with hostility?
9. Do I go to enough AA meetings or read enough AA literature to really keep in touch?
10. Do I share with AA all of me, the bad and the good, accepting as well as giving the help of the fellowship?

..... From the AAGB "Traditions Checklist"

# AA Service News

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of AA Service News.

We are really pleased to remind you that **AA Service News is now available in print and digitally**. Please find space for it on your AA literature table, and please hand out copies to group members and newcomers. You can find the Calendar of Events on the **AAGB website**.

## Share Your Service Experience!

Contributions on your service experience in the Fellowship are welcomed from all areas – individuals, groups, intergroups, regions, sub-committees, GSB. Please send in your articles, **AA Service News is about YOUR service!**

AA Service News is published in early March, June, September and December each year with deadline dates of the last Friday of January, April, July and October. The General Service Conference report is published each year in the summer issue and Questions and Topics for the following year's Conference in the winter edition.

Please send your service-related articles to:  
[editor.aasn@aamail.org](mailto:editor.aasn@aamail.org)

We look forward to hearing from **you!**



AA Service News,  
GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York YO1 7NJ

Email: [editor.aasn@aamail.org](mailto:editor.aasn@aamail.org)  
GSO Website: [www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk)

# AA Service News

## In the Autumn 2025 issue:

12 Traditions Checklist .....	2
AA and the GP.....	4
Mind Your Language: AA terminology.....	6
Meet the NATs.....	8
Working with Probation.....	10
Intergroup Secretarys seminar.....	14
FROSC workshop.....	15
Calendars & diaries order form.....	16
AA Irish conference report.....	18
Race2Day - share your experience.....	20
Liiving in the Past? The AA archives.....	22
GSB vacancies.....	24
Dear Fellowship.....	26
The new AA website: one year on.....	28
YPLO: the first decade.....	30
Polish AA conference report.....	32
Tradition 7.....	34
AA Service News Order Form.....	36

## What's happening in your intergroup and region?

**Don't forget to send in your region and intergroup Minutes and Agendas to:**

**[aainformation@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:aainformation@gsogb.org.uk)**

*Any pictures contained within this edition are stock images. They are not of alcoholics. No one's anonymity has been broken.*



## AA, the GP, and a new meeting: *our service can have surprising results*

***My name is Jonathan, and I'm an alcoholic.*** My sobriety date is 19th June 2000 and that miracle has been achieved by working the program of Alcoholics Anonymous as shown to me by those who went before, for which I am eternally grateful.

By attending my local Region Assembly and as a Conference Delegate these past 3 years, I have had the pleasure to follow the work of our Trustee for Health, the Health Sub-Committee and our RHLO especially with regard to the Cochrane report (A) and NICE Guidelines (B) as they relate to the recognition of the long term benefits of Alcoholics Anonymous [AA] in producing abstinence from alcoholism [*See 2025 Conference Committee 2, Question 4 Review of AA Service Handbook*].

Armed with the knowledge that my GP should be well aware of Alcoholics Anonymous, I decided to speak to her about AA and see if I could be of service.

To my welcome surprise she was immediately positive, though my elation was tempered when she asked where there was a local meeting to send patients to. Rather sheepishly I explained that whilst there wasn't a meeting in our town there were several meetings in nearby towns, however all of them were over 20 miles away. I did not feel comfortable with the answer I had given her. Clearly there was more action for me to take!

In order to set up a local group I needed other alcoholics. We would need to be reliable, otherwise our meeting would not be of good service to the still suffering alcoholics and would soon lose support from our health practitioners. I reached out to the local intergroup and the message was sent out to all groups. I also visited other groups where I could spread the message. Soon my telephone began to ring. I was not alone!

Having established a small core group, we approached a local church as a possible venue and again were met with open arms. Our intergroup helped with liability insurance, and we adopted the safeguarding policy in the Structure Handbook. A rent agreement was signed.

Having also agreed upon a format we registered the meeting at GSO [<https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/members/aa-meetings/pink-form/>].

I went back to my GP and told her the news of the new meeting during a visit for my own health. Her eyes lit up as she reached for her pen to take note. We almost forgot to deal with my own ailment for which I had made the appointment! GSO provided us with some posters, and we added a sticker to them advertising our local meeting – the day, time and location. These were pinned up at local churches, the library and newsagents. At the two health centres, the practice manager took scans of them to include them on the TV screens in the waiting rooms. Fantastic! We also regularly drop off copies of Share magazine at the Health Centre and library.



It's still early days, but we've had 3 meetings, and we are fully self supporting. Hopefully soon we can afford some literature to give to newcomers.

Who knows where this will lead, but by moving through my fears of failure and of the consequences of giving up my anonymity this alcoholic has remained sober, feels energised, and a more useful and engaged member of the community of AA and the local town. Thank you, AA, and especially the Health sub committee and liaison teams for all your efforts to lead the way.

If you are ever in Appleby-in-Westmorland on a Monday evening, then please come along to see us; you will be welcomed with a smile, a cup of tea/coffee and a message of recovery. We look forward to you sharing your journey with us.

***Jonathan***

References:

(A) The Cochrane Library is a collection of databases containing high-quality, independent evidence to inform healthcare decision-making.

(B) NICE guidelines are evidence-based recommendations developed by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) for the health and social care sector in England and Wales.





## MIND YOUR LANGUAGE:

### *Terminology, inclusivity and AA - clear communication?*

It's interesting how a seemingly simple question turns into a wholehearted look into oneself viewed from the AA perspective. The Inclusivity Committee was asked by the General Service Board to make a list of appropriate terms the Fellowship could use in our publications, media and any correspondence to ensure that it was unified and up to date. Language and the use of words change over time; take the acronym LGBT which is the title of the 'LGBT Voices' pamphlet which is now in the process of being rewritten.

As part of a response from conference, it was recommended that the Inclusivity Working Group (WG) look at changing the name to something else that wouldn't age. The WG discussed this extensively and said that they would call the pamphlet LGBTQIA+ Voices, which is the acronym that most organisations and governing bodies use today. However, that wasn't what struck me. It was the answer they gave: 'that is, who we are.' I found that to be a powerful statement of owning one's identity. Which leads us to discuss how we can do the same for Black, Asian and minority communities.

The term BAME (Black Asian Minority Ethnic) always baffled me. I truly don't relate to Minority Ethnic when I describe myself. I have always seen myself as Black British from Caribbean decent.

Don't get me wrong, I do get the meaning of BAME when you look at the acronym from broader viewpoint. In a majority white country, I am from an ethnic minority group. However, say you are Asian, and you grew up in a predominantly Asian country would you relate to yourself as an ethnic minority at your core or would you just say I am Korean? Perhaps you would add the region you were born in South Korea, or where your family hail from - Seoul, for example. Then maybe your religious background, such as Korean Catholic. BAME to me doesn't cover dual heritage and is weighted more to Black and Asian. Take my kids: people from my era would and still do call them mixed race. I remember my parents used to use the term 'half caste' which I no longer hear. I'm black from the Caribbean and their mum is white English. Not sure when it happened, if it was at secondary school or university that my kids formed their own view of themselves.

They told me off and said, 'it's not mixed-race, Dad, we are dual heritage.' In our Fellowship I have met all types of people from such varied backgrounds that it would be a challenge to find an acronym without leaving someone out; surely, we would miss one or two. What if you were Iranian - would you or could you instantly relate to BAME? What about people who are from mixed ethnicity? It is not our place to pigeonhole anyone, and I don't think it's any of our business how you identify: our primary purpose is to help the still suffering alcoholic and those that want to stay sober.

At a meeting I go to, one of the members introduces himself by his name then says he was born in France, but his family is from West African and that he is Muslim. As a person of colour myself I can identify with our colour and our drinking, but I have no real understanding of his culture or his traditions. The reason I say this is because I recently read a couple of books written by First Nation AA members from Australia and Canada. As I was reading, I could identify with some of the racism that they went through, but I couldn't understand the slang words they used, that only people from those areas would understand.

This, to me, speaks volumes to the newcomers from those communities that come into the Fellowship and read those stories during their early days. It says you're not the only one from your community which provides identification, and that there have been plenty more members from your communities that have come through the program of AA and got sober! An instant dash of cold-water realism which hopefully cuts through the alcoholic fog. In one of the Race2day meetings we decided on calling ourselves 'People of Colour' (PoC). Some people had objections as they didn't identify as 'coloured' and white is a colour as well. PoC resonated with me but at the time I couldn't say why. I can now: the Preamble tells us who we are and what are about: "A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organisation or institution". And "Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety."

For me this was the eureka moment in understanding why I felt PoC was right for this moment. PoC is a signpost to aid members in identification to demonstrate that they aren't alone, even though they may have walked into a meeting and found no one like them in the rooms. Our recommended terminology has been arrived at after consultation within the inclusivity committee and Race2Day Working Group of AAGB.

Most people I have met around the country tell me there aren't many people of colour in their area, let alone coming to our meetings. I live in Southwest London, and we have people of colour walking in and then walking out again as they don't identify with the majority of the alcoholics they see in the rooms.

The way I view this now is that when I came in, I was unwell and would have used any excuse to bolt, to say "it's not for me", which happens to all types of people no matter their colour or social demographic. As I said earlier, terms change over time and should be subject to review, to sync with society.

Currently our recommended terms for use in AA are:

- **People of Colour (PoC)** - *this term identifies people from ethnic/diverse/ minority cultures including Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities;*
- **LGBTQIA+**
- **Visible & non-visible disabilities**
- **Neurodivergent.**

**Tony S (He/Him)**

***Trustee, London Region South & Chair of the Inclusivity Committee***



# MEET THE NATS

***Your Non-Alcoholic Trustees (NATs) are here to support the fellowship and bring external, trusted perspectives to help the goals of the Fellowship: they can act as a public name and face to preserve the anonymity of our members.***

Four new Non-Alcoholic Trustees joined the General Service Board (GSB) this spring – Hassan Zaidi, Graham Duncan, Mike Newton and Jill Tolfey.



**Dr Hassan Zaidi, CSci, CEng MIET**

Hassan has a background in Technology, Innovation and Artificial Intelligence (AI), recently being

one of the AI science advisors within the UK Government.

He is a visiting researcher at King's College London at St Thomas Hospital, where his research interests include AI-based cardiac modelling and biomarkers. He sits on the Finance and PI & E Comms sub-committees. His outside interests include long walks, playing piano and triathlons.

## Jill Tolfey

Jill says "My experience is in health and wellbeing; most recently with blue light organisations, leading a charity and providing support for emergency responders impacted by



their work. Many use alcohol as a coping strategy to soften the day-to-day impact. I bring to the NAT role knowledge of how blue light organisations work, the challenges their people face and the barriers to good health and wellbeing."

I give my experience, my blue light and wellbeing knowledge, my experience of leading a charity and the third sector to help promote the great work of AA both on a local and national scale.

## Graham Duncan

As a 20-year veteran of the charity sector, Graham brings experience of governance, charity regulation and project



management to the AA Board. This builds on his expertise in finance, gained as a banker and management consultant in the UK and abroad.

Part of his role as a NAT is to act as one of the visible public faces of AA to the media. Graham is a member of the PI & EComms Sub-committee.

Graham says: "I was intrigued when I saw a magazine article explaining what NATs do. However, it was when Charon B, the GSB Trustee for London Region North, took me to a meeting - Angel Step & Tradition, that I was convinced I wanted to be a NAT. I was completely blown away by the warmth of the welcome and the genuine care that members of the meeting showed for each other. I could see immediately how AA meetings can rebuild and sustain people's lives. I feel blessed to be a part of it."



## Mike Newton

Mike says: “36 years happily married...all to the same lady. Three children...two boys and a girl. I am 10 years retired, with most of my executive career in financial services,

but also have some 20 years' experience in a variety of non-executive positions - Governor, trustee etc.

AA is an amazing organisation: I've heard and spoken to many brave people, talking about their addictions, helping the recovery of so many, and I'm delighted to have been invited on to the board to give my time and experience and be a very small part of this work - seeking to improve the lives of alcoholics.”



## Did you know?

Following a recommendation by Conference 2021 (*Committee 5, Question 3*) regarding the transfer of archive material to the Borthwick Institute Archives, the Alcoholics Anonymous Archives Catalogue is now the 4th most requested catalogue on the Borthwick Institute's website.

Archive information and how to request access can be found on the website:

<https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/about-aa/aa-borthwick-archives/>

Please continue to send **your** archive material to the GSO Archive to be added to the collection.

**See Chapter Eleven: Archives of the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain for more information.**



# GET SOBER, STAY SOBER, STOP OFFENDING:

## *How AA can help the probationer*

**My name is David H.**, and I am an alcoholic. My recovery journey in AA has not been a straightforward one. I came to my first meeting in 1999 and spent the next 9 years going in and out of the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous; I was (inconsistently) attending meetings but I realise now, I hadn't become a 'member'. During those 9 years, on many occasions, my sobriety lost its priority (S.L.I.P.). On one occasion I drank again after eighteen months of sobriety – I realise now that, back then, I hadn't 'let go absolutely'. I needed something in my program that would help me stay grateful for being sober on a daily basis. Eventually I discovered that service in AA is 'gratitude in action', and I committed myself to a life of service in Alcoholics Anonymous.

My favourite part of the Big Book is the first paragraph of the chapter 'Working with others' where it's written:

*"nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail"*

The most important part of my service work will always be sponsorship - taking other alcoholics through the 12 steps in the way which I had been shown, and sharing my experience, strength and hope; being able to be helpful to others in this way is a huge privilege and has been the most rewarding experience of my life.

Over the years, I have served in all of the group level service commitments. When I was GSR for my home group in Sidmouth, Devon, I attended an Intergroup for the first time. After a while, I put myself forward for the long-vacant Probation Liaison position and was voted in. Although I've never been involved with the criminal justice system personally, I easily could have been, given the things I got up to during my drinking days; I know that 'there, but for the grace of God go I'. I understood the clear connection between relapse and re-offending for others. It was my hope that, in the Intergroup liaison role, I could help to carry our message to probationers who were alcoholics.





For those in trouble with the law, because their drinking leads to crime, our solution can help them to get sober, stay sober, stop offending and make positive changes in their lives. I recognised the importance of our 'CHIT system', which provides proof of attendance at meetings. The Service Handbook suggested I got busy informing the groups in my area about the importance of offering CHITs. Surprisingly, some of my approaches were met with misunderstanding. Some groups would tell me "We don't need to offer CHITs because we don't get people asking for them here". I had to explain that, quite simply, people who need proof of attendance will not come to meetings that don't offer that. For example, a probationer in



an Approved Premises (Bail Hostel) would likely require a CHIT to attend a meeting as they would be returning after their evening curfew. It is the responsibility of every group to ensure that they remain 'attractive' to the still-suffering alcoholic; without that, there is little hope of fulfilling our Primary Purpose. As AA improves links with criminal justice and social services nationally, it is likely that even more of our members will require proof of attendance for meetings. For example, new initiatives such as 'Out of court disposals' will mean that the police may deal with minor offences that are linked to drinking with a requirement of attendance at AA meetings. In addition to developing the adoption of the CHIT system by groups in my area, I also established links with the local probation office. Through a local AA member, I was able to identify a senior probation officer at the Exeter probation office and was invited to conduct a presentation for their team. I visited with a fellow member with extensive prison-sponsorship experience, and another local member who had previously been on probation in Exeter and had actually attended that same office

Hearing their personal story, of how they had turned their life around through AA and the Twelve Steps, had a profound effect on the staff there. In my service experience, then and since, the sharing of personal recovery stories has always been the most powerful way of conveying the miracle of our solution to outside agencies.

Back then, I was very fortunate to have the support of a Regional Probation Liaison Officer. As my intergroup role had been vacant for some time, there hadn't been the opportunity for me to be directly 'sponsored into service' by a predecessor; unfortunately this happens far too frequently, and a lot of local experience and connections are lost when officers rotate out without a replacement. Thankfully, that regional officer was willing and able to share their service experience with me during our regular check-ins - usually around the time that they were compiling their reports to region and, therefore, getting in touch with me to request updates from my area.

When that officer was due to rotate out of position, and as I approached rotation out of my area liaison position, he suggested that I put myself forward for the regional role. I provided a written 'CV' of my AA service experience, attended region to be nominated by two other members, and made myself available to answer questions. I was voted in. As the new Regional Liaison Officer, I was able to support the other Probation Liaison Officers in our region (which has 10 intergroups).

In addition to the routine tasks of my regional role, I had the opportunity to collaborate with another regional officer in London on an exciting project to develop AA co-operation with the police. These days, I am based in London half the time, and I had been asked by a fellow to make contact with the local police force in the City of London to talk about AA. As a courtesy, I contacted the local Regional Probation Liaison Officer, and we went to the police station together to meet the Custody Sergeant and his colleagues. Over the last few years, we have held a number of meetings with senior officers and other staff at City of London Police.

By gradually building trust, we were able to establish effective co-operation with their custody suite at Bishopsgate police station. AA has now been allowed to have stencilled signs painted around the custody suite, including on cell ceilings, which raise awareness of AA and provides our helpline number. A room, where people could receive a call back from the AA Helpline to discuss their drinking in private, has been made available. As a consequence of this service work, London Region North have also developed a dedicated leaflet for use in custody settings which, it is hoped, may eventually become literature approved by Conference so that it can be used with other police forces nationally. This was the first initiative of this kind in the country and other police forces, including the Metropolitan Police (which has 28 custody suites), are now interested in developing stronger links with our Fellowship.



I was able to share my service experience with fellows, and learn about theirs, by attending the many forums, seminars and online workshops organised by the Probation Sub-Committee. When I was nearing the end of my Regional Liaison service commitment, it was suggested that I could apply to join that Sub-Committee; our Regional Chair kindly provided a letter of support for my application. I was subsequently interviewed by two AA GB trustees and I was appointed in September 2022.

During my time on the sub-committee I've worked on a number of GSB projects, including co-operation with HM Prisons and Probation Services to build links within Approved Premises and improving relationships with HM Courts and Tribunals.

I was also allocated a number of AA regions to support generally; where there was no Regional Probation Liaison Officer in post. I have been able to help local liaisons and visit their regional assemblies to speak about the importance of this service work.

Working closely with our sub-committee members and trustees, we've conducted a number of literature revisions, including a new leaflet for professionals (which has now been approved by Conference), and we are currently working on updating and amending relevant sections of the Service Handbook and the AA GB website.

Where requested, I continue to support regional and area officers and other fellows with their probation and criminal justice service work and regularly help to facilitate introductions to outside services, conduct presentations and participate in online workshops to inform and support our newer service members.

It really is an exciting time to get involved with AA service at any level. We have developed and continue to build upon strong links with many outside services and government departments. Those links make it easier for our local members to be connected with the right people to carry out their important service work. Working with other members to further our Fellowship's Primary Purpose has been an immensely rewarding experience – it is a great honour and privilege to serve and help other alcoholics find the hope and freedom which I have found in Alcoholics Anonymous. I would encourage any member of our Fellowship to get involved and help make a difference.

Please consider taking up the Regional Liaison Officer role for Probation/Community Justice if it is vacant at your region. We currently have a reasonable number of intergroup positions filled, but many of the region positions are vacant. For more information about the role, please contact Hamish McS on [trustee.eastscotlandregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.eastscotlandregion@gsogb.org.uk)

Yours in loving fellowship,

**David H.**

**Probation/Community Justice Sub Committee**





# INTERGROUP SECRETARIES SEMINAR 2025

On Sunday 25th May, the Regional Secretaries of AAGB, including CER, hosted an online seminar for intergroup secretaries. The purpose of the event was to offer support and to share knowledge and experience of the intergroup secretary role.

The main themes of the seminar were:

- **Responsibilities of the intergroup secretary**
- **Sponsorship into the role**

Carina (CER), Caroline (South West Region), Phil (Eastern Region), and Pragnya (South Midlands Region) gave insightful presentations, sharing their personal experiences in the role. This was followed by a lively and collaborative Q&A session.

To help shape the content of the seminar, Carina (CER) created an online questionnaire, which was distributed to intergroup secretaries in advance of the seminar. We're pleased to report that the seminar was well attended, with secretaries from over 40 intergroups. Thank you to everyone who participated or completed the questionnaire.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to all the regional secretaries for their dedication and service in planning and delivering the seminar. We've received a great deal of positive feedback, and as a result, the regional secretaries have agreed to host a similar online seminar every two years—look out for the next one in 2027!

**Charlie, Secretary, Scotia Region**





## **First Response Online Sub Committee: online workshop, 7th June 2025**

**The first of its kind**, following the recent and ongoing unifying of Chat Now with Online Responding, this workshop was felt by the Sub Committee (and we hope by those attending) to be a very successful event. Flyers were sent everywhere we could and with word of mouth to help we had approximately 40 members at the workshop. The event was 2 hours long and we held a dummy run or two to confirm timings. And individuals may have held more on their own with willing 'victims' - I know I did!

'My' section initially felt somewhat challenging but with the encouragement of the other SC members and the support of a team member who taught me the mastery of screen sharing, all went well. This skill has proved very helpful in other areas of service. Another opportunity for growth.

After our Trustee, Holly, had welcomed all and introduced the event the morning was divided equally between the two disciplines with the sub-committee members explaining their particular service and offering a variety of 'live' screen sharing and static screen sharing. Responders shared their experience, strength and hope of the services, and we had an explanation of the application process by our secretary. This was followed with time for a Q&A.

As a result of the workshop, we have had 9 applications to date (7th July 25) which is very gratifying, and they will be warmly welcomed. Both services still require more responders so if you or any member you know who has 2 years continuous sobriety would like the opportunity of helping the still-suffering alcoholic electronically, please get in touch. It truly is a hugely rewarding service.

Our secretary Sam can be contacted on **[secretary.fro.sc@aamail.org](mailto:secretary.fro.sc@aamail.org)** for more information – the job description and application form, and for flyers for your groups, intergroups and regions.

***I am responsible  
When anyone, anywhere,  
reaches out for help, I want  
the hand of A.A. always to be there.  
And for that: I am responsible***

**Lesley B , First Response Online Sub-Committee**



A year's  
worth of AA  
inspiration,  
one day at  
a time

2026  
Fellowship  
Calendar

2026 Fellowship  
Diaries & Calendars  
NOW AVAILABLE

Produced by members for members, the 2026 Fellowship pocket diary and wall calendar are full of Fellowship inspiration, with quotes from AA literature on every page.

Once again, the calendar features stunning photographs from AA members across the country – vivid reminders of the gifts sobriety gives us. Both represent great value at £7.50 for the calendar and £6.50 for the diary which includes postage.

To order, please complete the form below and send it with your payment to: Fellowship Calendar/Diary, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York YO1 7NJ.

In order to make payments direct through your bank please use the following information: Sort code: 40-47-31 Account no.: 63930408 (ref: Diary/Calendar)

Once you have instructed your bank to make payment, email – name, address and how many copies of calendars and/or diaries to: [carolinedavy@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:carolinedavy@gsogb.org.uk)  
This will enable us to match the payment when it arrives.

## FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR/DIARY ORDER FORM

Please use BLOCK CAPITALS to help us get your details correct – thank you!

Please send me ..... calendars at £6.50 each Please send me ..... diaries at £7.50 each

I enclose a cheque ☐ postal order ☐ BACS payment ☐

made payable to 'General Service Board' for £.....

My name .....

My address.....

Post Code .....



## Do you need posters?

A4 and A5 posters are available for PI service,  
and supplied free of charge.

Email for details to:  
[aainformation@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:aainformation@gsogb.org.uk)



***'There is action and more action. "Faith without works is dead." . . . To be helpful is our only aim.'***

**- ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, pp. 88-89**

# AA Ireland Conference March 2025

*Andrina and Justin, AAGB Trustees, assess their experience as observers at the AA Irish Conference.*

On arrival at Dublin airport we were met by an outgoing trustee, who ferried us to the GSO, based in an industrial park near both airport and conference venue. The welcome was warm, and they had bought pastries for us! The structure has no General Secretary, but a volunteer Board Secretary (who works c 30 hours a week) manages the office. This status may be reviewed for the next incumbent.

The office is otherwise staffed by non-alcoholics, all of whom are very well versed in the programme and structure. We enjoyed a visit to the literature store, where they had recently received a delivery of Big Books from us.

After dinner, the business of the weekend opened with a standard roll call and then the introduction of a conference inventory, which had not been done for some 14 years. This was moderated by an ex-delegate and took the form of general questions to the floor. Each of the four province's delegate teams sat at their own table, as did the trustees. Tables were asked to comment when no volunteers appeared.

The following morning saw a return to the more usual business of Conference, but with more reports taken 'as read' as time usually devoted to them had been used by the inventory.



**Above: Delivery of Big Books from AA GSB**

One important report was on a review of the Conference Motions process. The Irish Conference works quite differently to our own – the 50 years of separation has seen major divergence. Quite a few of the Irish delegates had observed our Conference at some stage, and all commented favourably on its efficiency, though some felt their structure too small to need all our processes. Some differences are detailed here with any revisions following this year's decisions:

We were then chauffeured to the hotel with a short time to get ready for the proceedings, which started with dinner, including potatoes served three ways...

- The Irish system does not put a question to Conference as we do. Rather a motion is submitted fully formed to debate and vote. Each motion is more akin to our committees' recommendations.

- The Irish system does not put a question to Conference as we do. Rather a motion is submitted fully formed to debate and vote. Each motion is more akin to our committees' recommendations.
- Motions have all been supplied by groups and are not anonymised before debate. *(Now to be anonymised)*
- All motions have been discussed by the whole Conference. *(Now split into three working groups to proffer opinion on the motion before a full Conference vote)*
- Unless a motion receives 100% unanimity, it does not get immediate Conference approval, being carried over for possible rescinding the following year. *(Now a 2/3 majority bestows immediate approval, while a simple majority comes back to Conference the following year)*

The motions contained three which sought to rescind a previous decision to recognise 'specialist meetings' (e.g. Womens, LGBTQIA+ etc). These were not passed, so a year after the Conference decision, the 2024 recommendation was adopted. One sought to remove the YPLO role from the structure and was defeated, as was a motion to remove acceptance of Areas paying insurance for groups. A similar end awaited the motion to reverse a suggestion that telephone responders had the numbers of outside organisations such as Samaritans to hand. All recommendations from the working groups on the motions were agreed with, though voting was not unanimous; the previous decision on accepting 'substantial unanimity' means that the process has sped up now.

As part of the PI presentation, we were interested to read of the Parliamentary event held at Stormont – so all 4 UK parliament events are established. Also, a new leaflet was approved: *Cooperating with the professional community*, which we forwarded to our Literature sub committee for review.

Amongst standing items for each Irish Conference is a vote to decide whether to invite observers from GB to the next Conference. This was approved (we are the only non-Irish observers invited).

Similarly, there is an election of observers to the AAGB Conference, which clashes this year with the All-Ireland Convention. Despite this, two were nominated and elected: Jenny from Leinster, with experience of the YPLO function and in the use of social media, and James from Ulster. They added to the AAGB Conference committees to which they were allocated.

The Irish Conference has often been unable to complete its business in the allotted time and has reconvened in September. Thanks to the process changes, this year Conference finished on Saturday afternoon, allowing for a convivial dinner and an early departure for many on the Sunday morning. With pre-booked flights, we could not avail ourselves of this opportunity but enjoyed a pleasant sunny Sunday on the outskirts of Dublin.

Thanks for the opportunity to look under the bonnet of another AA fellowship's structure!

## Justin T , Former GSB Chair



Above: Sign outside Dublin AA office

# Race2Day Working Group

**Welcome** স্বাগতম स्वागत है स्वागत है **Karibu**  
**Bem-vindo** मद्दागत है வருக خوش آمدید



*“The only requirement is a desire to stop drinking”*

*“We are people who would not normally mix”*

*Page 17 Alcoholics Anonymous Fourth edition*

The Race2Day working group is excited to announce the creation of a new a pamphlet entitled “Inclusivity: The AAGB Service Structure”

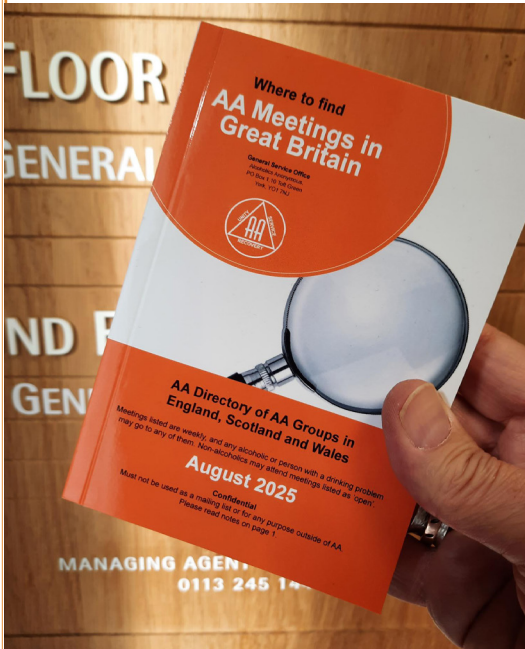
We would like to include stories from People of Colour (PoC), as well as those from white ethnic, diverse and dual heritage backgrounds, and the travelling community in the UK. We are keen to share your voice, experience, strength and hope in finding and sustaining sobriety in AA.

Please send in your stories in no more than 250 words by December 2025 to Pragnya at: [chair.race2day.wg@aamail.org](mailto:chair.race2day.wg@aamail.org).

*Thank you.*



**New and in stock now!**  
**AA GB Where to Find directory**



- ***Lists all meetings in England, Scotland and Wales***
- ***Meeting contact telephone numbers***
- ***Index of Towns***
- ***Telephone Service Offices & Helplines numbers***

Revised August 2025  
NOT available from the online shop.

Order by post enclosing cheque / PO or email  
[carolinedavy@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:carolinedavy@gsogb.org.uk) and send an online  
bank transfer to the GSO account:

Account name: General Service Board  
Sort code: 40-47-31  
Account number: 63930408

**£8 inc. p&p**

## **British Big Book**

*Update:*

Thank you to everyone who submitted their stories for the British Big Book. We greatly appreciate your time and creativity in contributing to this project. The next steps involve evaluating and selecting the submissions, and we'll be sure to provide an update once the process is complete. Thank you once again for being part of this exciting journey!

## **Survey**

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey. Your input is greatly appreciated and provides valuable insights. This survey is conducted every five years, giving us the unique opportunity to track changes over time. It's especially interesting to compare this year's responses with those from the 2020 lockdown survey, allowing us to see how things have evolved since then. The responses are currently being reviewed and analysed, and the results will be shared soon.

# Living in the Past?

## *Behind the scenes at the AA archives*

**My name is Emma Hollis** and I am the archivist for Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain. I am based at the Borthwick Institute for Archives, University of York, and work for AAGB half the week (Wednesday afternoons, Thursday and Fridays).

I have an interest in History, specifically American History. During my undergraduate degree, I had the chance to carry out archival research in the John F Kennedy archive in Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

I have a great interest in John F Kennedy and his presidency. Visiting this archive was the beginning of my interest in pursuing a career in archives. Whilst studying for my Masters in Archive Administration, I had the chance to carry out a placement in the National Library of Wales, digitising and cataloguing

minidiscs which held interviews of Forestry Commission workers in Wales, which then led to creating an online exhibition.

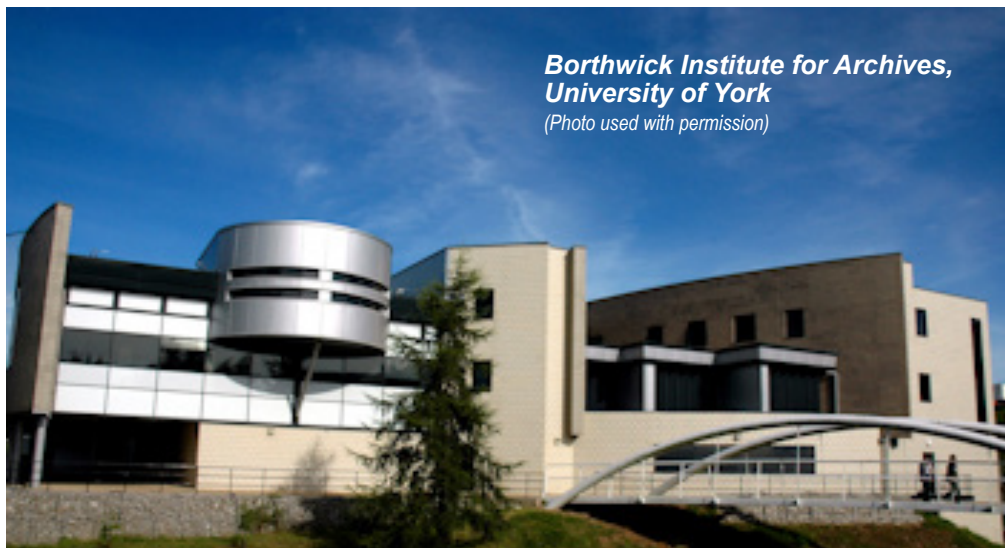
### **So, what is it like to be the archivist for Alcoholics Anonymous?**

What I can tell you is that no two days are the same!

I have been in the post for a year now, and I have spent a lot of this time learning about the organisation, how it is run, and about the service structure.

***Borthwick Institute for Archives,  
University of York***

*(Photo used with permission)*



Whilst being in post, I have found that there are many different aspects to this role, which I am really enjoying. I am currently working on cataloguing the 2022 and 2023 accessions that we have received from the General Service Office, which will soon be added to the 'Borthcat'. This is the online catalogue for the Borthwick Institute.

I have also had the chance to use the archive to support enquiries, which has led me to research about group and intergroup histories as well as the different conferences and events in England and Scotland. This has been really interesting, as I have been able to look through the AAGB archives and familiarise myself with the different regions / areas and their history, such as Glasgow, Bedford and Watford.

A small group of AA archivists also visited the archives at the Borthwick Institute in September, and I had the chance to show them some of the AAGB archives in person. My display consisted of artefacts, Share and Roundabout magazines, flyers and leaflets and an edition of the 'Big Book'.

I am really enjoying being the AAGB archivist and working for the Fellowship. If you want to find out more about what is contained in the archive, have a look at the online catalogue

<https://borthcat.york.ac.uk/index.php/aa>.

## What's in the AA GB Archive?

The Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain Archive spans the history of the Fellowship in Britain, dating back to the first contact with America in the 1940s through to the present day. In addition to the earliest editions of the Big Book, the oldest records held in the archive are correspondence from the first members of the British Fellowship, these include letters with Bill Wilson himself, American members, AA staff in New York (then known as the 'Alcoholic Foundation') and other individuals involved in the beginnings of AA in Great Britain. All parts of the service structure are represented in the archive, with material relating to activities at group, intergroup, and region. These records provide unparalleled insight into the workings, decision making processes, and governance at the foundation levels of the Fellowship. The archive holds a comprehensive set of reports and administrative records relating to the General Service Conference, dating right back to the first conference held at the Midland Hotel in Manchester in 1966.

*Extracted from the archives web page, see:*

<https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/about-aa/aa-borthwick-archives/whats-in-the-aa-gb-archive/>

## *The archives and the Big Book*

*As it is the core text of AA, there are a considerable number of editions of the Big Book held in the archives.*

*These include historically significant copies signed by Bill W, and first editions printed in Great Britain since 1955.*



# GSB Vacancies

## GSB Vacancies - Service on a Sub Committee

Rotation creates the opportunity for new members to join a General Service Board (GSB) Sub Committee (SC). The primary purpose of a SC is to deliver Conference recommendations.

If you have experience at intergroup and region and are 5 years+ sober, then we would welcome your application.

All sub committee members go through an application and interview process. Current vacancies are listed quarterly here in AA Service News, together with a deadline for submission for application, and the criteria which you will need to meet as part of your application.

### General requirements

- Understand the relationship between the GSB and a SC
- 5 years+ continuous sobriety
- Good knowledge and application of the 12 Steps / 12 Traditions
- An understanding of the AA structure
- Ability to 'carry the message' to audiences outside of AA
- Work with outside organisations
- Create and encourage open communication channels at intergroup and regional levels
- Work collectively as a team
- Ability to assist in delivering relevant Conference recommendations

### Additional requirements

- Have worked in a complimentary discipline to the one being applied for
- Understanding / application of the 12 Concepts for service
- A degree of confidence in establishing relationships to local, regional or national bodies outside of the Fellowship
- Conference experience

Successful candidates would be expected to attend four meetings a year; usually two in York and two online. The term of service is usually 4 years.

### How to apply

When applying for any of the sub committee vacancies below, please obtain an up-to-date application form from either **Jenny Pryke** at GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York YO1 7NJ: 01904 644026; [jennypryke@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:jennypryke@gsogb.org.uk) or from the Document Library (select 'Forms') at the AAGB website [www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk).

Your application must be endorsed with a covering letter from a currently serving officer of your intergroup or region. Your application and covering letter will need to be sent to Jenny Pryke at GSO by the application deadline.



Applicants will be interviewed online by two GSB members of the Nominations Committee. The next deadline for applications to join a sub committee is **17th October 2025**.

For any application, we would suggest you contact the Trustee responsible for the SC you are interested in working for. All vacancies are listed below together with relevant Trustee contact details.

***We look forward to hearing from you soon!***

## **Current Sub Committee Vacancies**

- **Archives**  
Email John C on: [trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk)
- **Armed Services**  
Email John C on [trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk)
- **First Response Online**  
Email Holly A on: [trustee.southwestregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.southwestregion@gsogb.org.uk)
- **Literature**  
Email Max J on: [trustee.midlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.midlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk)
- **National Telephones**  
Email Levey P on: [trustee.cer@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.cer@gsogb.org.uk)
- **Public Information & EComms**  
Email Tim B on: [trustee.southmidlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.southmidlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk)
- **Probation/Community Justice**  
Email Hamish McS on: [trustee.eastscotlandregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.eastscotlandregion@gsogb.org.uk)
- **Roundabout - vacancy for Assistant Editor**  
Email Cath, the Editor of Roundabout, on: [roundabout@aamail.org](mailto:roundabout@aamail.org)
- **Share - vacancy for a Liaison Officers' Coordinator**  
Email Charon B on: [trustee.lrn@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.lrn@gsogb.org.uk)
- **Survey**  
Email Max J on: [trustee.midlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.midlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk)
- **Young People**  
Email Holly A on: [trustee.southwestregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.southwestregion@gsogb.org.uk)



# Dear Fellowship...

## *Ranjan B admires the wit and brevity of the 12 Concepts*

"Ranjan, you work in a hospital..."

"Yes?" I wavered. Is he asking me to look at his piles?!

"Great! You can be our next Health Liaison Officer!"

I could have said no, but my sponsor said... And he was much bigger than me, and cowardice had been identified as a particular defect of character... So, to thine own self be true, I was embarked upon service at Intergroup to what fresh hell awaited.

Concepts! 12 of them, naturally; a framework of rights and responsibilities to guide the trusted servant and the bodies they serve. Fortunately, they did not seem as bizarre as the Steps and Traditions when I first encountered them newly sober. But they did seem totally excessive until I saw them in action and grew to admire their wit and indeed brevity for all that they encapsulated.

So, **Concept 1** was that service users (aka alcoholics in recovery in the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous), determine the services they require and **Concept 2** is about how that request is formulated and presented to the body that provides the service – the General Service Board / General Service Office through the Conference process.

**Concept 3** grants that the Right of Decision can only reside in the body, individual or group that exercises a decision and not under the control of a 'superior'. Should the group not like how that 'right' is exercised e.g. weak tea and no herbals, they may wish to remove the service from the servant. However, by dint of the service the fellow as participant has the right of vote in the way their service and others in the group is deployed, which is **Concept 4**.

**Concept 5** is an extension of Concept 4 in that by dint of participation and having a say and vote in how a service body operates, we therefore have the right to have our dissent recorded if the service body is in serious and obvious breach of the traditions.



Following on from Concept 3, **Concept 6** is the General Service Board's right of decision, given the legal and financial necessities of running a national charitable company governed by company and charity law. The Board has this right because the trustees are not only legally empowered but legally responsible and therefore cannot be held accountable for things they have no control over.

Nevertheless, **Concept 7** allows sufficient lassitude for the Fellowship to affect the Charity to amend its behaviour if the Charity breaks traditions and seriously affects AA as a whole, undermining unity and preventing our primary purpose from being exercised.

The Board itself is a non-executive Board that does not engage in the day to day running of GSO and only provides the policies for GSO to execute, they are not managers. Concept 8 is GSO's right of decision in that as staff are legally responsible and accountable for their actions, they have the right to make decisions to ensure the well-being, security and efficient working practice of the General Service Office.

**Concept 9** addresses how in a Fellowship of trusted servants, leadership is provided. Trustees, by virtue of that position, are expected to take the lead in new policy new initiatives and new direction. A secretary or chair is empowered to take decisions on the groups behalf and run a meeting to the best of their ability. Regular group consciences determine the policy, but its execution is the prerogative of the secretary or chair, and in carrying out their duties they must show leadership in making decisions on a moment-to-moment and day-to-day show basis.

The extent of leadership and of any role is outlined by **Concept 10**, job descriptions and terms of reference for committees. By giving clear instructions, they allow each person to do the best they can without interference and without stepping on the toes of others.

**Concept 11** - reimagining Tradition 8 - says that the Fellowship's 12 step work is voluntary, but the Charity is professional. To serve the Fellowship it must hire the best people available and therefore recompense them at the requisite market rate, in keeping with our tradition of being self supporting. The Fellowship is not supported by hiring at discount.

Finally, **Concept 12** restates the relationship of Conference with both the Fellowship, whose conscience it expresses, and the General Service Board. Most importantly, it restates the plain fact that Conference is not an authority, law giver or court but a loving congregation offering support to all levels of our Fellowship structure..



These rights, differently expressed, are an understanding that in the absence of statutory or contractual obligations, each body that makes up the Fellowship has entire liberty to do what it wants, and that the only real force is a spiritual appeal from one heart to another. The uniqueness of Conference is that decisions can be made or reversed by just such an appeal, which is the joy and wonder of this Fellowship's great adventure.

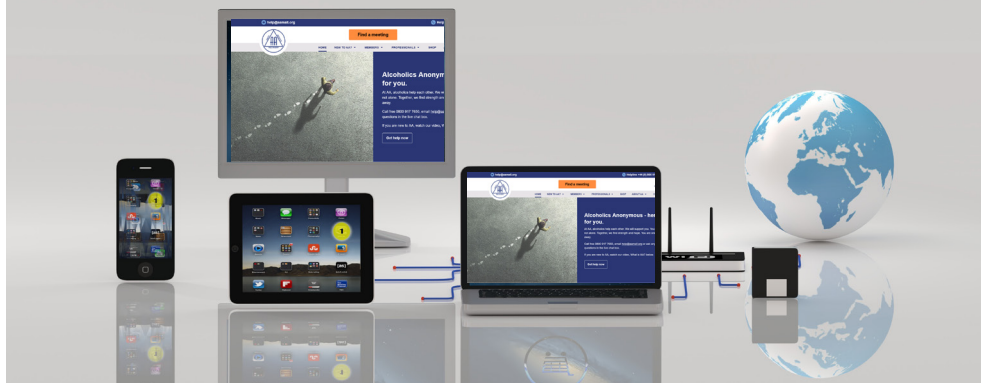
As there are no laws binding one level of the Fellowship to another, no laws regulating terms and conditions of volunteering for the service positions, and no legal regulation governing the relationship between the Board and the Fellowship, the Concepts guide these relationships to ensure that each part of our structure supports and nurtures the whole.

Bill saw the Concepts as being of equal importance to the steps, and they encapsulate our essence as a Fellowship working without and within the legal and financial realities of the society in which we are citizens, as well as recovering alcoholics. They ensure we take responsibility for our own piles and not others.

Or to summarise: ***Law is Not Order and Anarchy is not Chaos.***

*In fellowship,  
Ranjan B, General Secretary*

## Alcoholics Anonymous GB website: a year of online success!



### Milestone Achieved: One Year of Online Service

On May 13th, 2025, the Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain (AAGB) website celebrated its first anniversary online. The first year has showcased significant growth and engagement from the Fellowship, and beyond, with some significant developments and a positive user response.

### Key Improvements and Developments: A Year of Growth and Improvement

Immediately from the launch date the website delivered improved flexibility. Ongoing work has continued over the past year in delivering improvements to enhance user experience and accessibility:

- Ability to directly optimize website pages and content to improve Search Engine Optimisation (SEO)
- Geofencing for Enhanced Meeting Discovery: the implementation of geofencing technology has significantly improved the accuracy of meeting searches via our Meeting Finder. Finding local support is easier and more precise than ever before
- Streamlined Payment Options: the AA Shop now offers improved payment options, including the addition of Stripe, for greater convenience
- Meeting Registration simplified: the Pink Form has been refined to clearly differentiate between registering new meetings and updating existing ones
- Postcode Lookup: when ordering literature, a postcode lookup functionality has been added to simplify online orders
- Shop Categories: new categories have been introduced to the AA Shop for improved navigation
- Revamped Newcomers' Pages: the pages to welcome newcomers are being re-formatted for better clarity and support



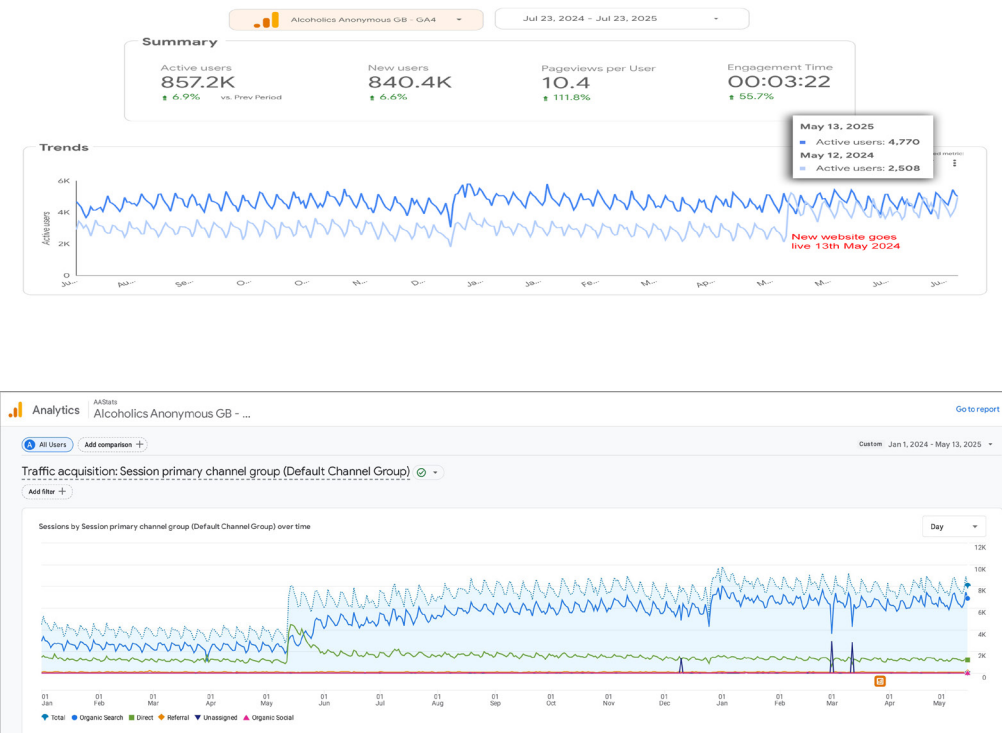
# Impressive User Statistics

The website's success is reflected in the impressive user statistics:

- 2.78 million User Sessions: a testament to the website's reach and impact
- Search Engine Traffic: 77.5% of traffic from search engines indicating high visibility and effective SEO strategies
- Over half a million Direct Links: shows strong engagement from members of the Fellowship and those already familiar with the website
- 8.9 million Page Views: highlights the extensive use of various sections of the website
- Meeting Finder is the most visited page which underscores the critical role of the Meeting Finder in connecting individuals with support
- Mobile-First: over 81% of users accessed the website via mobile devices, reflecting current usage trends

*The AAGB website's first year has been a remarkable success, providing valuable resources and support to individuals across Great Britain. The continued development and improvement of the site promise even greater impact in the years to come.*

## Tim B, Trustee PI & EComms

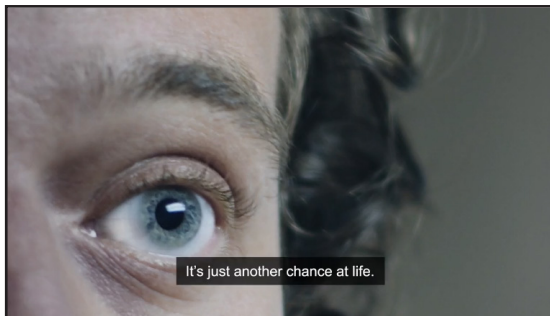


# NOW WE ARE TEN:

## *A decade of service for the Young People's Liaison Officer role*

**In 2015**, Conference approved a recommendation from Committee 2 that the Young People's Liaison Officer (YPLO) role be introduced to our service structure. The recommendation stated that the YPLO should ideally be someone who came into AA at the age of 30 or younger, that they should be "a contact and conduit for young newcomers with a desire to stop drinking" and that "One fundamental aim is to get more younger members into AA and involved in service generally. YPLOs should strive to be of service to AA in other disciplines, especially after rotating out of service as YPLO."

So, there are essentially two parts to the YPLO role: the first is to carry the message of recovery to younger people who are struggling with their drinking, and the second is to encourage and support members into service within the Fellowship. I am pleased to say that since the introduction of the role, the discipline has grown into a vibrant and enthusiastic community of members who support and inspire each other to fulfil our primary purpose, and many also go on to get involved in other service work such as becoming Conference delegates. Currently, 9 of our 16 regions have a Regional YPLO in place and many are sponsoring other members into service at intergroup and region level.



**Above: screenshot from YP video**

Fittingly, the tenth anniversary of Young People's service in our structure has so far been a busy and exciting year. There are increasing numbers of Young People's meetings across the country that are carrying the message of recovery and providing identification for the younger alcoholic. Intergroup and Regional YPLOs are involved in workshops, poster campaigns, school talks and attendance at 'freshers weeks', to mention just a few of the ongoing initiatives.

The Young People's Sub Committee held a Roadshow in Birmingham on 21st June, which provided an opportunity for members to get together to share experience and generate ideas. The format was a combination of presentations, a panel discussion and a workshop and it proved to be an informative and inspiring event.

Following discussion at the Glasgow Roadshow in 2024, and very useful input from the Regional YPLOs at our annual meeting, the sub-committee held an online Safeguarding Workshop on 24th April to gather experience and discuss guidance for YPLOs when they are visiting schools, youth clubs and other outside agencies.

The sub committee was represented at both the Welsh and Scottish National Conventions this year, and the North West Regional Young Person’s Convention - ‘Manypaa 2025’ - will be taking place in Manchester on 30th and 31st August, with the theme of ‘Young at Heart’.

The annual meeting with Regional YPLOs took place at the General Service Office on 25th & 26th July and generated enthusiastic and positive discussion on topics ranging from the use of social media in carrying the message of recovery, to how the sub committee can best support YPLO’s and RYPLO’s in their service.



Eurypaa – the European Convention of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous – was held in Glasgow on 8th to 10th August. Eurypaa is “an annual celebration for the young (and the young at heart) that highlights young people’s sobriety and their role in AA.” Although not part of the AAGB structure, Eurypaa is organised and run by AA members, provides an “inclusive and empowering space where young people can connect, inspire and be inspired” and plays an important role in encouraging younger members of AA to get involved in service.

Having been approved by Conference 2025, a podcast put together by the Young People’s Sub Committee - ‘They Stopped in Time’ - is now available online, with new episodes coming soon. We are also in the process of creating a newsletter to highlight the work being done by YPLO’s across our structure, which will be distributed to intergroups and regions. It is certainly an exciting time to be involved in young people’s service in AAGB!

**Holly A ,  
Trustee for Young People**



# *Energia i ekscytacja<sup>\*</sup> at the*

*\* Energy and excitement*

We were delighted to attend the 2025 Polish Conference as overseas observers, alongside members from Hungary, Bulgaria, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Romania and Ukraine. It was wonderful to see AI-Anon representatives welcomed as observers too, making the gathering feel even more inclusive and supportive.

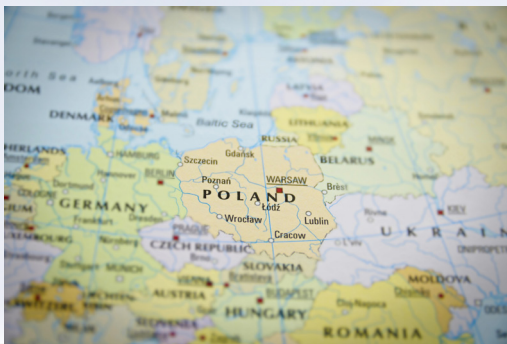
Support and guidance from both Poland and AA Great Britain play a vital role for fellowships across Eastern Europe, a sentiment that was clearly reflected in the expressions of gratitude and feedback shared by the attending observers.

The conference spanned four days, commencing on Thursday afternoon and concluding on Sunday. Upon arrival, we were introduced to our interpreters, who facilitated our participation and ensured we were present and prepared for each scheduled meeting.

We had no voting rights as only delegates who hold a Mandate Card are eligible to vote. All voting is conducted by hand and appeared to be managed efficiently. The organisers sought our feedback regarding the potential implementation of electronic voting and indicated their intention to introduce this system at their Conference in 2026.

We were intrigued by the introduction of an Inventory Workshop, during which the General Service Board discussed issues impacting the Polish Fellowship. This meeting, facilitated by the Board Trustees, was held as a closed session. The discussion was thoughtful and engaging, with the outcomes shared on the final day of the conference.

Our first evening began with a heartfelt welcome and plenty of excitement as everyone gathered to hear the presentations for hosting the next National Convention, set for 2029. These conventions happen every five years, with different Regions eagerly bidding for the chance to host. After celebrating 50 years in 2024—an event that brought together more than 7,000 members—the bar was set high! Two Regions shared their proposals, and throughout the weekend, there was lots of friendly conversation and questions before the final vote on Sunday.





# *2025 Polish AA conference*

On Friday morning, we had the chance to join a discussion group for members involved in Prison Service. It was inspiring to hear that AA runs regular meetings in 83 different penitentiaries and even hosts popular workshops for Directors (Governors) and prison officers. They also publish a quarterly magazine called the Hope Bulletin, filled with personal recovery stories from people in prison, and print 1,400 copies each time! The editorial team has even been contacted by other countries, and now there are plans to translate the magazine into English.

On Saturday afternoon, we enjoyed a lively presentation from the Public Information Trustee. We got a guided tour of their new website, including a look at the meeting finder, the AA shop, and their up-to-date events calendar. It was also great to hear about AA Poland's involvement in the Polish Rock and Roll Concert with POLYPAA (Polish Young Persons)—a five-day celebration where Al-Anon joined in as well! The event featured a vibrant mix of open and closed meetings, recovery workshops, plus meditation and yoga sessions. While selling AA literature isn't permitted, the members made sure to distribute helpful leaflets so anyone seeking support could easily connect with AA.

The final day was all about coming together for important votes—welcoming new Trustees, choosing next year's Conference Chair and Secretary, and deciding which Region would host the 55th National Convention. With much excitement, Lubin Region was selected by a simple majority, and everyone is looking forward to seeing them make the event truly memorable.

The whole experience was both energizing and uplifting! We always felt welcomed and truly included. While there are a few differences between the Polish Conference and our own, the warmth, unity, and shared dedication to service and recovery were unmistakable. It was inspiring to see the commitment to reaching out to the still suffering alcoholic.

In Love and Service

**Angela S - GSB Trustee for North West Region**

**Carmel G - GSB Trustee for South East Region**

# Tradition 7

---

*“Every AA group ought to be fully self supporting, declining outside contributions”*

---

Tradition 7 Regional Contributions April - June 2025	Contributions £
Some of these contributions come from regional assemblies, whilst others may come from individual members or groups	
Eastern Region	47,095
London Region North	11,606
London Region South	6,916
Midlands Region	9,710
North East Region	1,806
North West Region	2,740
South East Region	1,552
South Midlands Region	10,573
South West Region	1,050
Wales & Borders Region	2,975
East of Scotland Region	3,250
GLasgow Region	3,762
Highlands & Islands Region	5,392
Scotia Region	5,954
South West Scotland Region	5,976
Continental European	9,141
Sundry- Unidentifiable receipts	5,234
<b>Total</b>	<b>134,734</b>

*There were no In Memoriam donations received this quarter*



# AA Southern

## 50th National Convention

Like a gaunt prospector  
belt drawn in over the last ounce of food,  
**OUR PICK STRUCK**  
**GOLD**

-AA, BB, pages 128-29

To sign up for service  
please visit website and  
register from March  
onwards.

[www.AA-SNC.org.uk](http://www.AA-SNC.org.uk)

### SAND BAY HOLIDAY VILLAGE

Weston-Super-Mare BS22 9UR  
19 - 21 September 2025



# Subscribe to AA Service News

For your printed copy, update the group 'Pink Form' or contact Sharon at GSO [sharon.smyth@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:sharon.smyth@gsogb.org.uk) Alternatively, complete the below and send to the address provided.

Printed AA Service News is mailed in a plain envelope.



SEND TO (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Group Name/Day:

Group No:\*

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Email to:

**AA Service News, GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York YO1 7NJ**

\*GSO reference for each AA group - register with GSO by filling in the group registration, or 'pink' form