

Autumn 2024

AA Service News

From the General Service Office of Great Britain



Welcome and Fellowship in AA

12 Traditions Checklist

9. 'AA as such, ought never to be organised; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.'



1. Do I still try to boss things in AA?
2. Do I resist formal aspects of AA because I fear them as authoritative?
3. Am I mature enough to understand and use all elements of the AA programme - even if no one makes me do so - with a sense of personal responsibility?
4. Do I exercise patience and humility in any AA job I take?
5. Am I aware of all those to whom I am responsible in any AA job?
6. Why doesn't every AA group need a constitution and byelaws?
7. Have I learned to step out of an AA job gracefully - and profit thereby - when the time comes?
8. What has rotation to do with anonymity? With humility?

From 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 **new 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

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



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AA Service News

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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

**Picture credits, thanks to:
AAGB Image Bank**

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

Website Update

The Fellowship requested a new website at Conference 2022, and this was delivered and launched on the 13th of May 2024. The site, which appears to have been a great success, is available at <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk>.

As is to be expected with such a complex project, there have been some minor teething issues, and these have been overcome by the swift attention of the Project Team and Castle Gate IT who are the Web Development Agency contracted to build the site and who will continue to support the website.

Since launching, web traffic analytics show a significant increase in visits to the site and more engagement by the visitors. Direct hits on the new site skyrocketed just after the launch date and have slowly reduced but are still higher than average visits to the old site. Organic searches from Google have shown a steady increase since the launch date and that trend continues upwards. As the analytics develop over time, we will be able to see a much clearer picture of visits to the site and how visitors travel through the site, as well as which pages are visited the most and which pages need to be updated.

It has been a real privilege and pleasure to be a part of the process, and we have received much positive feedback about the features of the new site. Highlights include the new meeting finder, which is much easier to use, particularly on a mobile device. This was a specific design goal as nearly 85% of traffic to the site is from a mobile device. The Shop is also easier to use, and if an account is created, makes re-ordering literature a breeze.

The new microsites provide access via the industry leading Wordpress Content Management System (CMS). This is much more accessible and flexible in providing a variety of ways to edit and publish content. An intergroup or region Electronic Comms LO can request access to their microsite directly from the Helpdesk page on the website.

Just launching the website is not the end of the job though. We will continue to review, improve and develop the website. Our aim is to keep it current, relevant and carry a great message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic. It's sometimes an overused cliché but ... watch this space!

Tim B
Trustee



Prudent Reserves for Groups, Intergroups & Regions

My name is Ian, and I am an alcoholic. It is a privilege to be trusted by Midlands Region to be their Treasurer. I was asked at last year's Finance Seminar in York to make a presentation on prudent reserves and after a lot of reading of our literature and input from others, I did this to the best of my ability. Since then, I have been asked at various meetings about AA finances in general and about prudent reserves in particular.

What a change from my early days as a newly appointed group treasurer when I had no real idea of what was expected of me other than counting 'The Pot' at the end of the meeting, paying for tea and coffee, for rent and insurance when I was asked, and sending money every so often to something called intergroup. Cash book balanced. Job done.

As a group treasurer, I gave little thought to the wider Fellowship. I often thought this was far removed from me and what did it matter to me or my group how much money AA Great Britain (AAGB) had or didn't have? Time in AA and experience as treasurer at intergroup & region have changed my thinking on this.

Tradition 7 in its long form, and our AAGB literature suggest that all groups, intergroups & regions should have a 'Prudent Reserve', which is an amount set aside to cover running expenses. Any surplus money is then passed down the service structure to intergroup, region and the General Service Office (GSO)

to cover the costs of carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

It is recommended that a group should have a prudent reserve of 1 months running expenses. For example, next month's rent, tea and coffee and literature should be held in reserve. Balances beyond a prudent reserve would then be passed regularly down the structure to intergroup. It is recommended that an intergroup should have a prudent reserve of 3 months of running expenses. For example, the telephone service and all other services provided by intergroup. Balances beyond a prudent reserve would then be passed regularly down the structure to region.

Likewise, it is recommended that a region should have a prudent reserve of 3 months running expenses. This may vary region by region, but examples are Public Liability Insurance, Conference Delegates fees, Liaison Officers' expenses, meetings & seminars, Public Information initiatives, and so on, as agreed by the Regional Assembly. Any surplus beyond a prudent reserve would then be passed down the structure to GSO.

Holding money in a bank account or a cash box 'just in case' it might come in handy or because 'that has always been the amount', or 'that's what it was when I took over' is perhaps not the best use of members' contributions. Whilst a big bank balance may be what we personally strive for, holding back money stops the flow needed for all our services to continue to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

The next time you put money in 'The Pot' perhaps ask yourself if part of it is flowing through the service structure and helping to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic or is it sitting in a bank account doing nothing? Perhaps ask your treasurer at your next group conscience?

LiF,
Ian (Midlands Region Treasurer)

Experience from an Outgoing Regional Treasurer

I am shortly going to be rotating out of this great service position and would like to thank the other Regional Treasurers who have been an amazing and supportive group.

Treasury service positions have always been 'my bag' (or 'purse'!) even though I do not have a finance background outside of AA. At group level I learned that the money we put in the pot at meetings helps to pay the rent and buy the tea and coffee, but also that groups need to be self-supporting. This means keeping an appropriate prudent reserve and then sending surplus money to our intergroup.

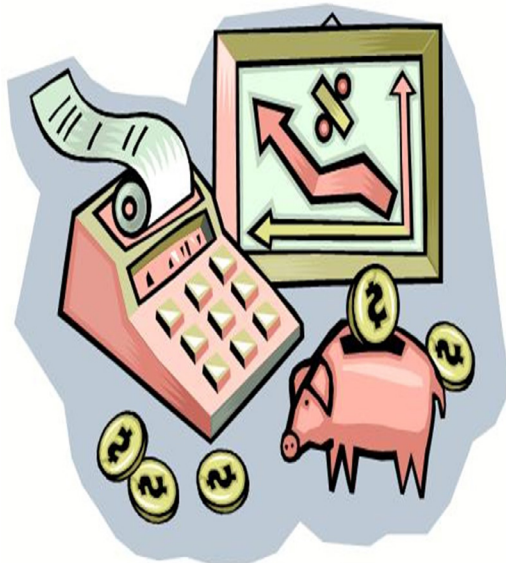
At intergroup level I learned that the money which is passed on from our groups is used to carry the message of recovery at a wider local level through primary purpose work and collective initiatives. At region level there are larger amounts of money passing through the structure; the spend is on wider primary purpose work.

I have learned the importance of transparency around how money is used, and that regions should retain an appropriate prudent reserve, sending any surplus funds on to the General Service Office (GSO) to be used at a national level. Money needs to be used for primary purpose work, not held onto. Money needs to flow through the service structure according to AA's guidelines, and that money must be accounted for at every level.

As South-East Regional Treasurer it has been great to be a link - part of the chain between intergroups and GSO. I have had direct communication with intergroup treasurers, and we have shared experience and good

practice through workshops. I have met with other regional treasurers and stayed in contact through a WhatsApp group. I have also been to York and attended meetings with the Honorary Treasurer and the Management Accountant.

At the regional service level, we have listened to what members are saying and have been pushing for more information in the reporting of how our money is used. Everyone in the Fellowship should be able to access this information easily and understand how our money is being spent. There ought to be transparency at every level - this has been a driver for the work of the regional treasurers group.



I was privileged to be part of the regional treasurers group which supported the last Finance Seminar (June 2023). We chose, 'Turning Money into the Message,' as the focus. As a group, we worked together to produce informative presentations, sharing best practice and helpful ways of working. For example, 'How can we encourage more Primary Purpose work?' as well as discussions about banking, insurance, prudent reserves and budgeting.

It is amazing that the money which we put in the pot at our meetings filters through a

service structure to help so many alcoholics at so many different levels. I feel fulfilled coming to the end of my service position as South-East Region Treasurer. I have grown in my recovery thanks to getting involved and working with the wonderful people I have met during my service journey.

With all my gratitude to this Fellowship and the great people who have helped me,

Sonia T (South East Region Treasurer)

Emma - The Fellowships New Honorary Treasurer

Meet Emma, one of the Fellowships Non-Alcoholic Trustees (NAT), and your new Honorary Treasurer.

Emma works as an Auditor for the Public and Third Sector and has been with us for over a year.

After being inspired by the BBC documentary, she wanted to join as a NAT because AA is something that is very important to her family. She would like to see AA grow even stronger in the UK and the Continental Europe Region, and help individuals and families as it has hers.



Tom Fox was a gift to AA



His initial calling was to the priesthood - he was a seminarian in Rome - but he left and embraced a career in local government before joining the Scottish Prison Service, where he dealt with media relations in a direct and honest manner much appreciated by journalists. Even though retired, he continued to consult for them, and also the Scottish Health Service, alongside his AA and other voluntary roles. Despite his busyness, he always found time for those who needed him.

He first saw the AA programme's power to transform lives during his work at HMP Barlinnie in Glasgow. He went the extra distance to facilitate the availability of AA meetings in the Scottish prison estate, and it was through a speaking appearance at a Prisons Discipline seminar in York that he was approached about becoming one of our Non Alcoholic Trustees, or NATs. Initially pressure of work meant he couldn't take up the offer, but in 2019 he was due to retire from his career job and was interviewed for, and subsequently appointed to our board.

His insight, wit and charm meant that he was soon respected as a sage on the General Service Board (GSB), making a massive contribution, particularly in the PI and Electronic Communications, and Prisons disciplines. His input can be felt in our family look for our printed material, our new website, numerous TV and radio appearances, and of course our AAGB Conference approved videos: Gratitude in Action, AAGB & Women, AAGB & People of Colour.

In 2022, he was elected Vice Chair, taking on the role after Conference this April. He had long been an advisor, confidant and friend, and I looked forward to completing my term of office in tandem with him. In early May he started to suffer from a flu like illness (not Covid) yet still attended the May GSB online, not missing a minute, despite his discomfort. We spoke on the Sunday after the meeting, and decided to pick things up when he was fit once more. He died three days later.

Tom was a fully committed servant to our Fellowship, for which he didn't qualify as a member. He was devoted to his wife, Kitty and his dog, Blue. He loved Italian food and culture - and fishing. Also fond of Tunnock's fine confectionery products, he rarely arrived at a board meeting without a substantial care package from north of the border.

His funeral attracted some 300 people whose lives had entwined with his. The service was performed by the Archbishop of Glasgow, with another Bishop and seven other priests in attendance. AA was well represented by a NAT and some two dozen members, some of whom had first met him in Barlinnie, all of whom had great memories of Tom. The wake was held at the Tannochside Miners Welfare Club, where an array of Scottish treats awaited us - Scotch pies, Tunnock's Caramel Logs, Wafers, Snowballs and all!

We miss him.

Justin Tunstall (he/him)
Chair of the GSB





Your New Southern Service Office

Hello Fellowship, my name's Ems, the Office administrator for the Southern Service Office (SSO) in London. I work alongside Lucile, our admin assistant, and we are delighted to welcome you to our **new office in 15 Bell Yard Mews, Bermondsey Street London SE1 3TY.**

SSO functions to serve the Fellowship in London and the south, and support the smooth flow of information to and from our General Service Office (GSO), groups, intergroups and regions.

We deal with enquiries from the Fellowship, professionals, public and the media, and provide administration support to the annual Parliamentary event hosted at the House of Commons.

We are here to help you in your service!

We host the AA London Telephone Service volunteers Monday-Friday 10am - 6pm. We also post literature requested by the still suffering alcoholic. With your assistance, we

also update meeting details and responder information.

At SSO you can purchase literature from our new AA Shop – stocked with best sellers, service pamphlets, the London Where to Find and sundry other items. Card or cash payments accepted.

We also store resources such as banners, posters, literature racks, a tablecloth (aka modesty cloth) so let us know if you need anything for your PI work or conventions.

At your request, SSO can stay open on weekday evenings to host small committee meetings, 6.30-8.30pm for **a maximum of 12 people**. Please let us know if you'd like to make a booking.

If you have any questions or queries about our work at SSO or GSO in general, please get in touch. We are here to help and would love to hear from you. You're very welcome to pop in to say hello if you're in the area – just give us a ring to make sure we're available.

We also intend to start an afternoon AA meeting once our move has completed and we are settled in our new home. Watch this space....

LiF,

Ems: sso@gsogb.org.uk

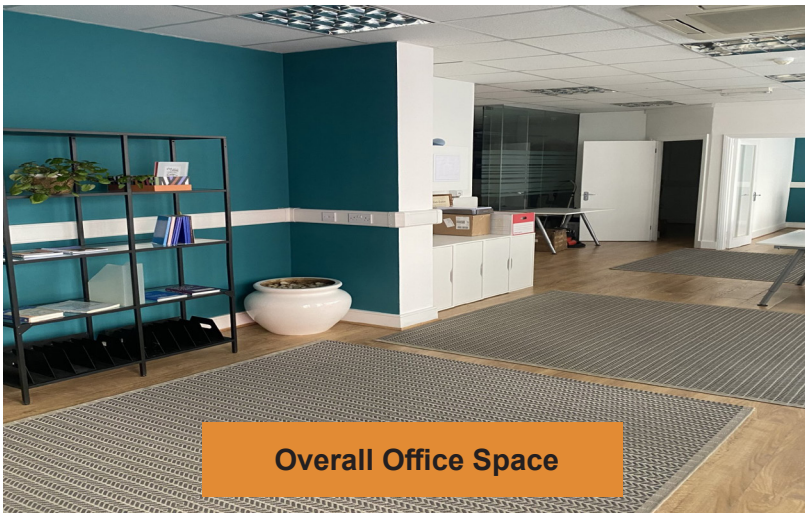
Lucile: adminsso@gsogb.org.uk
0207 407 9217



New Entrance



Meeting Room



Overall Office Space

Dear Fellowship...

Hope this finds you all well and good ODAAT. It's been a very busy 3 months post conference, most literally moving the Southern Service Office from its home for the past 10 years in Lafone Street, near Tower Bridge to Bermondsey Street a short hop away.

As Emma, the Office Administrator says in her missive, the new office will be available for evening service meetings and will hopefully host an AA meeting one afternoon. So please avail yourself of the facilities and go visit to chin wag and tale.

Change is the leitmotif of our programme and fellowship – we welcome the newcomer and the new or else we die. The newcomer, fearful, mistrusting, despairing and desperate is that agent of change, and space is willingly made for them.

For group, intergroup regional and board, service rotation creates that space, and over the last 2 years, take up of board sub-committee spaces post covid has been tremendous. So please also take up spaces at your intergroup and region, and as a first step, as a General Service Representative, to fill the gaps and carry our message of recovery. And for those in service I salute you as you carry that message, find, sponsor and nurture your successors.

We have 3 legacies, Recovery Unity and Service. With two we walk, with 3 we have fun and flourish.

Ranjan B
General Secretary



Being Truly Inclusive in AA

AA welcomes everyone, regardless of anyone's family origins, faith or beliefs. In particular, AA is aware that many people of colour may not have heard of Alcoholics Anonymous, or they may feel unable to attend Fellowship Meetings due to the perceived shame it would bring on them and their family. AA is working hard to break down these barriers and to ensure that AA is inclusive for everyone.

The dictionary definition of inclusive:

The dictionary definition of inclusive is simply something that doesn't leave any person feeling they are not part of a group. In other words, something is inclusive if it doesn't exclude a person or a group of people.

What does it mean to be inclusive?

Inclusion means that people with diverse identities feel valued, welcomed, respected, included, represented and heard. They need to feel they can be themselves, feel they fully belong to the group and have a voice.

What does it mean to be truly inclusive?

Being truly inclusive involves being genuinely curious about other ways of thinking and being, allowing those variations to exist and thrive in the same space. Being part of a group doesn't only look one way - people bring a diverse set of lived experiences to the group that we all can benefit from.

Making things happen

AA has created an Inclusivity Committee that will oversee the work of 3 Working Groups, Race2Day; LGBTQAI+ and Accessibility.

These Working Groups will implement the inclusivity agenda requested by Conference.

Currently, this includes:

- i) Recruiting for the LGBTQAI+ Working Group in order to produce a pamphlet requested by Conference 2024
- ii) Creating an Action Plan for agreeing the incorporation of inclusivity into:
 - a) Board policies
 - b) Guidance for Fellowship meetings to ensure that meetings are accessible for people with physical access needs, hearing and sight impairments and for people who are neurodiverse, for example.

The Inclusivity Committee members

The work is being led by Tony, trustee London Region South, with the assistance of Ranjana Bell, Non-Alcoholic Trustee, Zelma, trustee Wales and Borders Region, and Ranjan - General Secretary.

The Committee is keen to hear from any of you that might be interested in joining any of the Working Groups.

If you are interested, please contact Tony S at: trustee.lrs@gso gb.org.uk

We need to give each other the space to grow, to be ourselves, to exercise our diversity. We need to give each other space so that we may both give and receive such beautiful things as ideas, openness, dignity, joy, healing and inclusion.

Tony S
Trustee

Race2Day Working Group: An historical perspective

Some people/groups have enormous hurdles to overcome before even thinking of joining AA. Equality ensures that everyone has the same opportunities and given the same resources regardless of ability, background or lifestyle.

Equity recognises that each person or groups have different circumstances and matches resources and opportunities they need to achieve equal outcomes. Equity achieves fairness by meeting people where they are.

The 'journey' undertaken by the Race2Today working group encapsulates how putting the idea of equity before that of equality has helped people from different ethnic groups to feel they belong in AA. Our hope is that once this realisation takes place and becomes embedded, they will feel compelled to stay, grow in sobriety, forge strong relationships and engage actively within AA's service structure.

(Traditions 3 and 5, Concepts 1,2 and 4).

This is our 'journey' so far.....

June 2021

The story begins with a Conference 2021 question:

Is AA accessible and sustainable to everyone in society?

Conference voted with a 2/3rds majority on all of the recommendations. The Board created a working group to explore and adopt a combined approach through utilising the experience of existing ethnic AA members. Initially called the Diversity Group.

June 2022

The Diversity group hosted their first “Diversity” box at the 75th AA convention in Leeds where they took part in a workshop focusing on the representation/makeup of AA.

The question that kept cropping up was:

Are contributions, presence, ideas and perspectives of different ethnic groups valued and celebrated in AA?

Building on the 75th experience.....

After a series of lengthy and insightful discussions, the group decided to adopt the name Race2Day working group.

October 2022

The first ever worldwide online convention was held to coincide with Black History month in UK. Two concurrent workshops were held to address issues of accessibility and sustainability. This was a great success, lots of ideas were generated from participants who attended from different countries such as Sweden, Israel, Europe and the UK.

March 2023

It was decided to follow up on the October convention as soon as possible with a second online convention. Pertinent questions such as “They don’t look like me” that emerged from the first convention were discussed in practically oriented workshops.

September 2023

The enthusiasm and momentum created by the two conventions were seized upon to organise a third online convention in September of the same year. Topics comprising audio, literature and videos were at the heart of ensuing discussions. Great excitement was generated particularly in the advent of creation of a new AAGB website, where a dedicated page for diverse ethnic community groups with podcasts, literature links to different languages and community news amongst others was envisioned, which would also incorporate diverse inclusive imagery.

Achievements of the Race2Day working group so far:

1. Within the Service Structure:
 - South Asian meetings, online and face-to-face are taking place successfully in London and Midlands areas, and soon in Glasgow.
 - Birmingham and Glasgow have created a new Community Liaison Position (CLO) role within their Intergroups.
 - Bristol and District Intergroup have created a new working party to address issues of accessibility and sustainability.

2. Activities throughout the service structure:
 - In March 2024 an inclusivity workshop was held at the Northern National Convention in Blackpool.
 - In May 2024 an inclusivity meeting with shares was held at the London International Convention.
 - In the same month the Young People workshop in Glasgow had a speaker on Inclusivity.
 - In June 2024 similar workshops took place at the Birmingham and Glasgow conventions.

- All workshops/meetings report huge success and attendance with forging new links and getting that message of participation and engagement within the service structure to all.
3. AA Publications:
- Stories and articles from members of the group have already been published in the winter 2023/summer 2024 editions of AASN. Please submit your stories for Share/ Roundabout.

What is happening currently?

1. In the Fellowship:
- Conference 2024 approved of an additional version of the Big Book (keeping the first 164 pages intact), with stories reflecting diversity in UK, the leaflet “Does anyone look like me in Alcoholics Anonymous” and a video on “People of Colour”.
2. At Board level
- A new Inclusivity committee has been formed. It will oversee the work of three working groups:
- (i) Race2Day, (ii) LGBTQIA+ and (iii) Accessibility, including relevant literature.

What is happening in the very near future?

Another day online convention this year to coincide with the Black History month in October.

Date: Saturday October 26th (pm)

We would like to take this opportunity to ask you to take this information to your Regions, Intergroups, home and local groups and look out for details regarding the October convention nearer the time.

Please send any suggestions of what you would like the Race2Day group to do to trustee.LRS@gsogb.org.uk

Pragnya G,
member of the Race2Day working group



Race2Day: The Way Ahead

Saturday 26th October 2pm – 5pm

*The only requirement for A.A. membership
is a desire to stop drinking*



Race2Day presents a one day online convention
- Shares and History Project
There will be Q&A sessions

For more information or to register please email
AAInformation@gsogb.org.uk

Tel: 01904644026

Encouraging Young People into Service

Glasgow Young People's Roadshow 2024

The Subcommittee of Young People in AA organised and delivered a Young Persons Roadshow in Glasgow, in May 2024. The roadshow, like the three that have gone before it, had the following aims:

- to share ideas and evidence of what's already working amongst existing Intergroup and Regional Young Persons Liaison Office (YPLO)
- to encourage more young people in recovery into service,
- to connect young people already doing service within AA with others across the country.

The event was attended by over 50 young people from across the country, and saw the following topics covered...

- The history of the Young People's Subcommittee and YPLO role
- A review of what Glasgow's YPLO has achieved in post
- Advice on how to start a YPLO meeting
- What it's like being on the subcommittee
- How to encourage young people in AA into service
- How to make AA more diverse and inclusive
- How YPLOs can collaborate with other service positions

So far, the Young People's Subcommittee has delivered four roadshows in Winchester (2019), Leeds (2022), Cardiff (2023) and the recent one in Glasgow (2024).

Some of the impact of the Roadshows includes:

- Following the 2019 Winchester Roadshow, a Bristol YP WhatsApp Group was set up that helped sustain recovery and fellowship during COVID.
- Following the 2022 Leeds Roadshow, a group of Leeds-based YPLOs felt inspired to set up not one, but two separate young people's meetings that are still going strong today.
- Following 2023 Cardiff Roadshow, the Regional YPLO position was filled, a new Young People's meeting was set up at Cardiff Student Union.
- Directly led to 5 people being inspired to join the Young People's Subcommittee.

What impact will Glasgow have? Well, we'll have to wait to hear back from attendees to find out what impacts will come from our latest roadshow. However, there was a very positive, collaborative and encouraging atmosphere on the day with many attendees telling the Subcommittee they left feeling inspired, supported and better connected.

We've sent out a survey form and have also decided to create a regular newsletter that highlights the great work being done by YPLOs across the country, so watch this space to find out more.



If you have any questions, or would like to find out more about the work of the Young People's Subcommittee, please reach out to Holly, the Subcommittee's Trustee at trustee.southwestregion@gsgob.org.uk

Michael
Young People's Sub Committee member

New Films Carrying the Message of Recovery

Three new short films were approved by Conference 2024 to help carry the message of recovery to the still-suffering alcoholic and are now available for use by the Fellowship in our Primary Purpose work. **'Women in AA'** and **'People of Colour in AA'** were developed as part of our ongoing Inclusivity work. The third film **'Blue Light Employees and AA'** was created to encourage employers in Fire, Police, Ambulance and similar services to signpost AA as a resource for those with alcohol issues.

These films are only worthwhile if they are shown throughout the Fellowship to help carry the message. They're all available via the Media tab on the alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk website. Please share them with your group, your friends and even better, someone who needs the Fellowship.

Coming Soon!

There is a further film in preparation, for the LGBTQIA+ community, which will be presented to Conference in 2025. Interviews were shot in York alongside the other Inclusivity projects.



Stills from:

Women in AA



People of Colour in AA



Blue Light Employees and AA





Alcoholics Anonymous GB Employment Liaison Seminar

Saturday 19th October 2024

Zoom ID 844 5001 4154

Password 517332

Open to all members of the AA fellowship interested in the employment liaison officer (ELO) role. Workshop organized by employment subcommittee (ESC).

- 10.00 - 10.30 My experience as an Employment Liaison Officer
Jim G - London Region North
- 10.30 - 11.00 Anonymity, the ELO and Service- Ann ESC
- 11.00 - 11.15 Break
- 11.15 - 11.45 An employer's experience of working with AA
John Sidebotham from Network Rail
- 11.45 - 12.00 Role of the employment sub-committee - vacancies
- 12.00 - 12.15 Break
- 12.15 - 13.00 Open Forum

For more information or questions email employment.sc@aamail.org



AA on Edinburgh Trams

Hi, I'm the Public Information Liaison Officer for Edinburgh and Midlothian Intergroup, and I thought I'd share with the work we have been doing in Edinburgh.

We have just started a poster campaign on the Edinburgh trams, which involves ten trams with four posters on displayed on each one. After a bit of negotiation, we have secured the space for 12 months. This will take us through both the very busy Edinburgh Festival, and over the festive period.

They are prominently displayed and as you'll see, the posters have a QR code which, if scanned directly or photographed discreetly and then scanned, will take you to the meeting finder.

The trams run every 7 minutes from 5.20am and travel a distance of 11.5 miles through the city. In 2023, 9.3 million journeys were taken by tram, so the posters will have a lot of exposure.



Dougie K
PILO, Edinburgh & Midlothian Intergroup

The British Big Book

At Conference 2024 the Fellowship asked, through Committee 5, Question 2:

'Would Conference discuss and consider the viability of creating an additional version of the Big Book (Alcoholics Anonymous) incorporating stories from AAGB (including CER).'

Conference 2024 voted with a two thirds majority for the creation of an additional version of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Committee 5 listed the general requirements as:

1. Retain existing content:

- The Preamble
- The Forewords
- The Doctors Opinion
- The first 164 pages
- The Appendices
- Stories of the Pioneers of AA

2. Incorporate new content:

Personal stories from Great Britain and English-Speaking Continental Europe, thereby providing us with a Big Book for AAGB that contains new, relevant and inclusive stories, making it contemporary to our Fellowship.

The British Big Book (B3) project has now launched!

A Working Group has been set up to deliver this and will be meeting regularly. Updates will be provided in future editions of AA Service News so watch this space.

Max J
Midlands Region Trustee

We need your experience, strength and hope for a New Armed Services Pamphlet

The Armed Services Sub Committee is actively seeking the experience of AAGB members who are or have served in the armed forces for a future pamphlet. This can include members experience of service within AA if they wish.

A representative sample of submissions (guide lengths 800 to 1,000 words) will go through a selection process for the proposed publication.

The deadline for submission has been extended to 20 December 2024.

Please reply to John C, Trustee for Armed Services
trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

‘A Photograph is the pause button of life’

What better way to stop and take a breath than to capture a moment in time. If you would like to share your moments with the fellowship, then GSO invites you to submit your photos to our image bank where publications affiliated with AA can browse and select images.

Interested?



If so, please email imagebank@gsogb.org.uk
for further details

AA Service News Is Yours...!



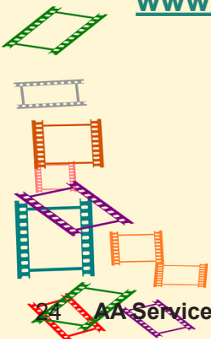
All of the service articles in AA Service News are written by members of the Fellowship. Your experience is valuable and very welcome, please do share it with others...

All you need to do is email the editor with your service articles at:

editor.aasn@aamail.org

Please note that the opinions expressed in AA Service News may not necessarily represent the views of the General Service Board

The Editor, AA Service News, GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York YO1 7NJ. Website:
www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk



GSB Vacancies

What is a Sub Committee and what does it do?

A sub committee is made up of alcoholics with usually five years sobriety and service experience down the AA structure. It is a committee that delivers Conference recommendations, and is chaired by a Trustee of the General Service Board

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

It's a rewarding job being on a sub committee, by both carrying the message and the conscience of the Fellowship.

Interested? Please read on...

Application

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 or from the Document Library (select 'Forms') at the AAGB website www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

The chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer or a currently serving liaison officer of the sponsoring region or intergroup must endorse the application by way of a covering letter. GSO will need to receive this covering letter by the application deadline.

If there is no covering letter by the specified deadline, then you will not be eligible for interview.

For any of the vacancies, you will need:

- Five years continuous sobriety
- A good understanding and use of the Steps and Traditions, the AA Service and Structure Handbooks for Great Britain, and other Conference approved AA literature
- Good experience in carrying out service at different levels of the AA service structure
- An understanding and appreciation of the relationship between the General Service Board (GSB) and sub committees

Sub committee applicants will be interviewed by two GSB members of the Nominations Committee in a single interview through an online platform, at a time agreed by the applicants.

Successful candidates will be expected to attend four meetings a year; two of these will normally be in York, but the other two may be held via an online platform. The term of service is usually 4 years.

The deadline for application is 18th October 2024

It is advisable to talk to the relevant Trustee before you apply or upon submitting your application. If you have any questions about specific responsibilities of service on a sub committee, then please contact the relevant Trustee by using the details /links found below each vacancy notice.

For up-to-date vacancies, please read on...

Archives

There are vacancies on the Archives Sub Committee of the General Service Board (GSB). The Archives Sub Committee advises the GSB on issues concerning the care and management of AAGB's Archives and reports to the Board through the Trustee responsible for Archives.

The Archives Sub Committee works with archivists at the Borthwick Institute to develop and enhance AA archive, while managing access to it for the purpose of research. Other AA archives are held by regions and intergroups, and are looked after by local archivists. The Archives Sub Committee liaises with these archivists through the Archive Network of regional and intergroup archivists.

The main AA Archive is now located at the Borthwick Institute for Archives of the University of York.

In addition to the standard requirements, some experience of archival work is desirable - especially experience as an intergroup or regional archivist within AA. Some knowledge of AA history is also advantageous, as are good communication and IT skills.

For more information about the vacancy, please contact John C Trustee for Archives
trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk

Armed Services

The Armed Services Sub Committee is looking for new members to join a committed team who are passionate about finding innovative ways of passing the message of recovery to past and present members of Armed Services.

Experience

Experience in intergroup and/or regional Armed Service Liaison or other relative experience would be advantageous, and good organisation and communication skills are desirable. The ability to produce written and verbal reports would be an advantage, as well as relevant IT skills. Service within the Armed Service is desirable but not essential.

Aim

The principal aim of the Sub Committee is to raise awareness throughout the Fellowship and to Armed Service communities and their supported community groups.

Its objects are to:

- Raise awareness of Alcoholics Anonymous within all areas of the Armed Services community, including serving persons, veterans, and their families
- Establish and maintain good relations with professionals and professional bodies connected with the Tri-services
- Offer support and advice to regional Armed Services Liaison Officers
- Be responsible for the Armed Services 12 Stepper list

- Assist in the implementation of Conference recommendations

For more information about the vacancy, please contact John C Trustee for Armed Services
trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk

Employment

There are vacancies on the Employment Sub Committee of the General Service Board (GSB) of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Our primary functions are to:

- Create a consistent message externally that differentiates AA from other bodies
- Establish and maintain good relations with professionals and professional bodies at national level
- Establish and maintain good relations with employers and companies at national level
- Increase public and professional knowledge of the AA programme
- Offer support to Regional and Intergroup Liaison Officers
- Create and maintain an accurate system of record keeping for future officers and events
- Communicate effectively with the Fellowship.
- Comply with the principles and guidelines of AA.

For more information about these vacancies, please contact Tony S, Trustee for Employment
trustee.LRS@gsogb.org.uk

First Response Online

There are vacancies on the newly formed First Response Online Sub Committee of the General Service Board.

The new sub committee comprises a group of people organising the initial contact, the first response, to the still suffering alcoholic via email or instant chat channels.

Chat Now:

The main purpose of the Chat Now Help Desk is to answer live, real-time queries from the still suffering alcoholic and to direct them to the telephone helpline and/or to a meeting.

Responders working from their home computers have live 1-on-1 conversations with people who are often just starting their journey or maybe questioning if they should do so. **For more information on the service and an application, please email us at:** chatadmin@aamail.org or Holly A at trustee.southwestregion@gsogb.org.uk

Online Response Service:

The main purpose of the Online Response Service (ORS) is to help the still suffering alcoholic who writes an email to help@aamail.org and is looking for fellowship and answers to their recovery.

For more information on the service please email Holly A
trustee.southwestregion@gsogb.org.uk

Please specify whether you are applying for Chat Now or ORS on the application form.

Health

Rotation has created the opportunity for new members to join this dedicated team.

If you have experience at intergroup and / or region preferably as a Health Liaison Officer (HLO) or in a complementary discipline, we would welcome your application. You will need to understand the relationship between the General Service Board (GSB) and the Health Sub Committee.

The primary role of the Health Sub Committee is to:

- Carry the message and increase the awareness of Alcoholics Anonymous and the 12 Step programme at all health-related establishments as appropriate
- Implement health initiatives as directed by the GSB on the recommendation of Conference
Provide support to Regional and Intergroup HLOs by providing information and advice
- Create and encourage open communication channels with regional and intergroup HLOs
- Establish relationships with health professionals and professional bodies at regional and national levels

For more information about these vacancies, please contact Carmel G,
trustee.southeastregion@gsogb.org.uk

Literature

To enable the Literature Sub Committee of the General Service Board (GSB) to fulfil its role of:

- Considering needs for new literature
- Undertaking selective review of the content and appearance of the entire range of the literature published by the Fellowship in Great Britain
- Assessing literature for its suitability for revision or discontinuance
- Work on material as requested by Conference

Its members would have a sound understanding of the Conference process (Conference experience is highly desirable, but an understanding of the process does not need to come solely from having attended Conference).

Essential requirements:

- Have time between committee meetings to work on assigned projects, liaise with other committee members, provide feedback on projects other members are working on, and prepare for committee meetings by reading all relevant materials
- Be familiar with the wide range of AA literature
- Have a sound command of English written grammar and style
- Be familiar with word processing and email programmes, as well as file-sharing
- The ability to work collaboratively as a contributing member of the Sub Committee. Most projects require members to work together in close collaboration, including in pairs or small groups, in the production of multiple drafts, with detailed editing, towards a final version
- The ability to work towards set deadlines

For more information about these vacancies, please contact **Jo F**
trustee.easternregion@gsogb.org.uk

Prison Sub Committee

The Prison Sub Committee is looking for new members to join its committed and vibrant team.

We are looking for a good geographical and gender spread of members who have experience of taking AA into prisons. Preferably with liaison officer experience at either intergroup and region, and attendance at Conference. A good understanding and use of our Traditions is required.

Our principal aim is to assist, appoint and support intergroup and regional liaison officers. We are keeping track of which prisons host AA meetings, and if not, we are encouraging local liaison officers to investigate the possibility of taking AA's involvement into those prisons, providing a coordinated approach to prison service. Other prison sub-committee work would be to:

- help identify successful and problem areas
- assist in the implementation of Conference recommendations
- hold a Regional Prison Liaison Officers meeting annually in York

You would be expected to attend both on-line and face-to-face meetings in York. We welcome your application to join our friendly and innovative team.

For more information, please contact Zelma K, trustee.w.bregion@gsogb.org.uk, mob: 07817125143

Probation/Criminal Justice Services

We are looking for members who:

- Meet sub committee criteria and are enthusiastic about probation / criminal justice service, preferably from different geographical areas
- Are willing to serve in the role, raising awareness of AA among professionals and professional bodies connected with the criminal justice systems of Great Britain
- Enjoys passing information on probation / criminal justice services matters throughout the Fellowship
- Can offer advice, support and encouragement to liaison officers by assisting the structure to function effectively, and encourage new appointments to criminal justice liaison posts
- Can assist with developing and maintaining appropriate resources for liaison officers.
- Have good organisational and communication skills along with the ability to produce written and verbal reports
- Have the willingness to work as part of a team who are directly responsible to the General Service Board, and comply with the principles and guidelines of AA.

For more information about these Probation and Criminal Justice vacancies, please contact Hamish McS, trustee.eastscotlandregion@gsogb.org.uk

Public Information and Electronic Communication

Can you help carry our message to the still suffering alcoholic?

The Public Information and Electronic Communications Sub Committee (PI & EComms SC) invites members of our Fellowship to join us in the exciting work of:

- Carrying the message of recovery
- Making the most of electronic communications to help those who need help
- Keeping existing members informed

The primary functions of the sub committee are to:

- Create a consistent message externally, that differentiates AA from other bodies
- Increase awareness of the AA programme with professionals and professional bodies, members of the media, and journalists at national level
- Offer support and advice to regional PI and ECLO committees and liaison officers
- Provide leadership to the PI and ECLO networks
- Assist region and intergroup ECLOs with micro-site set up and maintenance within the AAGB website
- Monitor and maintain the AAGB Filestore area, supporting users, and ensuring access requests are properly validated

- Promote and administer the use of WorkPlace as a communication tool for AA service, ensuring secure access and assisting new users
- Respond to service-related requests and queries submitted to the AAGB Helpdesk
- Monitor the AAGB website, working with the Web Content Manager in keeping it up to date and relevant
- Identify PI and E Comms information in other resources which requires updating
- Contribute to publication of the PI Newsletter
- Communicate effectively with all levels of the Fellowship
- Comply with the Traditions, principles and guidelines of AA

An interest in electronic communications and/or public information, with a desire to do meaningful service in a fascinating area, is more important than anything else in these roles, along with an understanding of how people communicate / the desire to help us improve what we do. Good basic computer literacy is required but our various IT suppliers provide direct technical support where required.

You will be working within PI Sub Committee Terms of Reference. You should be flexible in your time commitments, and be prepared to join us online, as well as attending meetings in York where accommodation is provided and expenses paid.

GSB Trustees for PI & EComms

Tim B trustee.southmidlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk

Angela S trustee.northwestregion@gsogb.org.uk

Roundabout

Roundabout - Could You Be Our New Assistant Editor?

Following our recent article on the role of a proofreader we had an excellent response and look forward to welcoming new members to the Roundabout Sub Committee soon.

For some time now, we have been without an Assistant Editor and this is a role I used to do myself before taking over as Editor, so I think I can give you an honest view of the role and work involved!

The Assistant Editor is there is back up the Editor who logs the incoming articles, arranges editing with the proofreaders and creates the magazine from scratch each month along with various other tasks. In an ideal world, the Assistant would create the magazine one month in every three to give the Editor some room for other work and would take over the administration of articles. This involves logging each submission and sending batches on to proofreaders for editing, and then logging them 'back in' afterwards.

General knowledge of computer use is essential but full training will be provided on the software we use (called Adobe InDesign).

All of the magazines follow a template and this, therefore, can make it a simple task of copying and pasting. If this sounds daunting, remember the Editor is always there for help and support, so you

are not alone. With Roundabout being a monthly publication, the work needed is regular (weekly) but not too onerous.

There is no pressure for the Assistant Editor to take over as Editor after rotation. This is a four-year service position, and if you do take over as Editor, you can extend the term to six years.

If you think this is something you would like to consider, please get in touch with me by dropping me an email at the address below.

Cath Editor

roundabout@aamail.org

Share

The Share Sub Committee has a vacancy for a Liaison Officers' Coordinator (LOC) for Share

This is a new role created to undertake some of the tasks currently carried out by the Editor.

The LOC will support the Share Sub Committee through maintaining regular contact with the regional and intergroup Share Liaison Officers (SLOs), regularly reviewing Share web pages and overseeing the Share FileStore. In addition, you will maintain and update the contact information regarding intergroup and regional SLOs by liaising with the General Service Office Admin staff (GSO).

Feedback from AA members, which is sent directly from the website or emailed via GSO, needs to be collated and made available to the team. The role will also involve reading and scoring all articles, circulated weekly to the team, to providing a guide for suitability to publish.

The monthly production of Share magazine is a team effort; it is essential for the LOC to be an experienced team player with good experience of service within AA, including service at intergroup and preferably service at region. Computer and email competence is indispensable.

This is a four-year unpaid commitment, although expenses may be claimed. They should be familiar with Conference-approved literature, such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, AA Comes of Age, Twelve Concepts and the AA Structure and Service Handbooks for Great Britain. The Share Sub Committee holds up to 4 meetings per year, either in person at York GSO, or online. These meetings are an integral part of this role and attendance is a requirement. The day-to-day business of the Team is carried out electronically.

Charon B Trustee for Share, trustee.LRN@gsogb.org.uk

Survey

Rare Service Opportunity to Take the Pulse of AA

Summary

The General Service Board (GSB) Survey Sub Committee (SSC) seeks new members to assist in executing the next membership-wide survey. Strategic planning sessions were launched summer 2022. Minimum 5 years sobriety. Details and application info below.

What is the Pulse of AA Post-Pandemic?

Every five years the GSB, as mandated by Conference, conducts a membership-wide survey to keep abreast of trends in our Fellowship's characteristics. The survey provides factual numbers for the professional community and public as prescribed by our primary purpose, to carry the message to those suffering from alcoholism.

The pandemic and its subsequent restrictions, however, upended 'business as usual'. In particular, a groups' reliance on 'snail mail' to receive important communications.

Consequently, the SSC, responsible for planning, execution and managing the 2020 survey, had to pivot at the 11th hour, and deploy an online-only survey model. Despite reaching only groups with an email contact on record with York, the survey produced critical key insights gathered from over 3000 Groups in Great Britain and the Continental Europe Region (CER).

Rare Opportunity

Valuable lessons were learned by the SSC from its first digital survey undertaking. Lessons it seeks to leverage, ensuring that the next survey measures what is most important to members, the public and the professional community in these fast-changing times.

But currently, the SSC is disadvantaged with too few committee members. The SSC's problem, therefore, offers you a rare opportunity to join its existing core team as they begin strategic planning for the 2025 Survey

Apply Now

Send your application (or questions) to Max J GSB Trustee for the Survey at trustee.midlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk

Telephones

The Telephones Sub Committee comprises a group of people organising the initial contact or first response, to the still suffering alcoholic via the telephone.

Experience of the telephone service at regional or intergroup level and a willingness to use and be informed about current communication systems would be an advantage. The role may require frequent contact with members involved in the telephone service at all levels of the Fellowship.

Requirements for the telephones sub committee are to:

- Maintain the existing telephone system to enable the suffering alcoholic access to a local contact through a single national telephone number, in a manner which is efficient, effective and economic.
- Keep the use and cost of the system under constant review.
- Be involved in all changes to the system and to liaise with the system provider following consultation with regions.
- Investigate any new technology which may be beneficial to the Fellowship's telephone service
- Maintain a constant review of the facilities offered by other service providers.

Please specify you are applying for NTL sub committee. For additional information please contact the NTL Trustee: Levey Patocs, trustee.cer@gsogb.org.uk

Young Persons

We invite you to join the Young Person's Sub Committee!

Are you ready to make a real difference in AA? Join the Young Person's Sub Committee and be a part of a team that is committed to creating a welcoming, inclusive and supportive environment that meets the unique needs of young people in AA.

By joining our sub committee, you'll participate in impactful initiatives such as hosting roadshows, circulating helpful resources and supporting the creation of young person's meetings.

As a member of the team, you'll work alongside like-minded individuals who share a passion for developing AA.

Main aims:

To assist in the recruitment and support of YPLO's at Intergroup and Region levels

To support the development of good practice and review/update literature, media resources and guidelines (subject to approval)

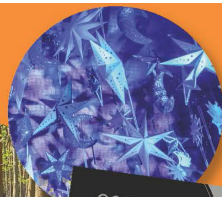
To establish and maintain good relationships with professionals and professional bodies

Requirements:

Experience of working as a Young Person's Liaison Officer (YPLO) at either intergroup or region level would be an advantage but is not essential. Good organisational and communication skills will be required, along with a strong grasp of AA service structure, guidelines and traditions.

If you have any questions contact Holly A (Young People's Sub Committee Trustee) before or upon submitting your application trustee.southwestregion@gsogb.org.uk

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



2025
Fellowship
Calendar



2025 Fellowship
Diaries & Calendars
NOW AVAILABLE

Produced by members for members, the 2025 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 the calendar and the diary represent great value at £5.50 each including 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@gsgob.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 £5.50 each Please send me diaries at £5.50 each

I enclose a cheque postal order BACs payment

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

My name

My address.....

..... Post Code

The General Service Office (GSO)

“All groups, intergroups and regions should accept responsibility for the funding of the General Service Office. The financial operations at GSO, the methods of accountability to Conference through the Board, and the broad financial strategies adopted on behalf of the Fellowship, are all subject to continuous review.”

Taken from AAGB Conference approved pamphlet “The Pot”

“Services can require committees, Delegates, Trustees and Conferences. They include small voluntary money contributions so that the group, the area, and AA as a whole can function. They range all the way from the cup of coffee to AA’s General Service Headquarters for national and international action. The sum of all these services is AA’s Third Legacy”

AA Comes of Age, page 140

The Role of GSO

With just under five thousand groups to service, GSO is the vital administrative centre of our Fellowship, supported by Northern and Southern Service Offices. It produces and distributes AA literature and publications, and is responsible for service meetings of Liaison Officers, for Conference and for meetings of the General Service Board (GSB). GSO liaises with and supports European and World Services. It is also responsible for Fellowship Archives. Staff also deal with all telephone calls from members, the media and outside organisations.

Prudent reserves

Suggested prudent reserves set out by Regional Treasurers at their Regional Seminar, January 2024

- Groups - 1 months running expenses
- Intergroups - 3 months running expenses
- Regions - 3 months running expenses
- AAGB - 1.25 years running expenses (as per warranty 2 in Concept 12, and the Charities Commission)

Tradition 7

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

Tradition 7 Contributions April - June 2024	Contributions £
Some of these contributions come from regional assemblies, whilst others may come from individual members or groups	
Eastern Region	26,302
London Region North	3,406
London Region South	646
Midlands Region	8,159
North East Region	13,662
North West Region	2,710
South East Region	2,832
South Midlands Region	7,167
South West Region	6,230
Wales & Borders Region	11,986
East of Scotland Region	4,900
Glasgow Region	15,433
Highlands & Islands Region	2,000
Scotia Region	2,463
South West Scotland Region	25,067
Continental European	11,016
Sundry- Unidentifiable receipts	2,468
Total	146,451

In Memoriam

1 April 2024 - 30 June 2024

In Memory of Wullie I	Dunure Group	£266.52
In Memory of Natalie Jane H	Manchester Group	£10.00
In Memory of Tony W	Norwich Diamond Centre	£439.31
In Memory of Velma	Sheffield Group	£200.00
In Memory of Bryan D		£555.00
In Memory of Plumber John D	Alexandria, Dumbarton	£250.00
In Memory of Norrie A	Helensburgh, Dumbarton	£200.00



Subscribe to AA Service News

For your printed copy, update the group 'Pink Form' or contact Sharon at GSO sharon.smyth@gso.gb.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