



## PI Service News

*"Easy does it.....  
but do it!"*

Shared Service Experience



**AUGUST 2020**

Please pass on this newsletter to your friends in the Fellowship, either by forwarding via email or by printing copies to take to your local meetings. Anyone who wants their personal copy of the newsletter should send us their email address to the address below. You can also drop a line to GSO with any items for inclusion.

Please note the contact address: [aainformation@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:aainformation@gsogb.org.uk)

**South East Region's PILO Roger D** relates:- **One morning, last week**, I found myself standing before framed Guinness World Records with 'My Name' inscribed on them.

### **How did that happen???**

Every story has a beginning: mine started at the age of 10yrs, when a surgeon told me I was a cripple, never to enjoy physical activities again. - 61years later, on Mt Everest, I played in the Two Highest Games of Rugby in History.

Over time there have been many challenges and demons to fight in my 'interesting' roller coaster ride of a life. Necessity, chance and **Sobriety** evolved me from violent criminal into an entrepreneur, honorary eccentric and adventurer.

As I have grown older, more travelled and somewhat more informed I truly appreciate **Sobriety** is my most precious resource.

"A day at a time" I accept I am Trekking through Life just this once!

I choose not to waste the Adventure!

I relish unusual experiences: ranging from hard-core treks contrasting from the World's highest Trek in the Himalayas of Tibet to sunniest, driest and the nearly "rainless" Sahara, to say nothing of pulling my bulk 560km over some of the most desolate terrain on the planet to the North Pole.

Not to mention extreme Rowing Challenges, especially on the uncompromising South Atlantic Ocean..... -All done with commitment, humour and gusto!

**Only achieved by remaining clean and sober, one day at a time, since 2nd February 1981.**

# Westminster Alcoholics Anonymous Awareness for Professionals Event

**NEW DATE – 11<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021 at 10am** Please help us publicise this event among professionals in your area who would benefit from learning about Alcoholics Anonymous, and how to signpost people to AA.

**The event will be held on the morning of 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021, at Portcullis House, Westminster.** This year it is being held during working hours, 10.00 am to 12.30 pm, rather than an evening.

The event is to raise awareness among Professionals of how AA works and how to facilitate engagement. It is open to all those working in the health and well-being fields, social sphere and criminal justice system.

Please tell your local professional contacts about the event and let us know contact details of those interested in receiving an invite. Ideally, we will invite professionals in positions of influence in their fields. There may well be other potential invitees, all health and well-being workers, social & criminal justice system professionals and students are good to be invited.

Please help us compile a list of invitees, with the

- professional's name,
- job title and
- organisation /place of work
- email address.

Invites will be sent out via Eventbrite e-mail in due course.

**Please send contact details of potential invitees to:** [Angela-Varley@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:Angela-Varley@gsogb.org.uk)

*As you know, places are limited, costs are kept to a minimum, and budgeted to cover as many external professionals as possible, so this is not a general event for AA members. If you are both an AA member and a professional in the field, please free up places by encouraging your colleagues who are not already very familiar with AA to come along.*

**Many thanks for your help. Westminster Parliamentary Event Committee's** Louise f [pi5.sc@aamail.org](mailto:pi5.sc@aamail.org)

## **INTERGROUP NEWS – Carrying our message during the pandemic.**

**Glasgow North West – Health.** Trials are underway to use the Zoom platform to take the service to **Kershaw Unit** and **Eriskay House** online.

**Employment** have created a digital flier to distribute across closed social media pages which has attracted new *ELO* team members. All employment related AA Pamphlets are being reviewed for an *ELO* manual, proposed to be posted on the I/G webpage.

**Plymouth I/G HLO Jacqui H.** sent the AA zoom link on Saturday 2nd May to **Greenfield's Unit, Hamoaze House** and Jan Collis at **Derriford Hospital**, so the message is getting out there and thriving, providing a vital lifeline to the still suffering alcoholic. Also Jan has all volunteers phone numbers, should anyone need to talk.

**Coventry and Warwick I/G's P.I./Health LO Mandy K.** report staying in contact with **Castle Ward, Warwick Hospital** to remind them we are available to talk to any patients in AA.

The wonderful Castle Ward manager took a mobile phone on her ward round with an AA phone number written on the back of her hand. The spirit of Sister Ignatia is alive and well, working in Castle Ward.

**London West End I/G's PI/ELO Cait S** put together a 4 point plan of what to do over this time.

- Get in touch with all existing contacts
- Get in touch with other organisations that don't know about us
- Put flyers up in shops that are open
- Looking at media agencies

Letting people know AA is still open over this time.

**South of France PI** Committee report an Online Co-ordinator position has been created and Jenny was elected to head this up. The PI Committee opened a Zoom account in order to be able to have an Online IG Meeting not only for our June meeting but also for (perhaps) any future IG meetings should we decide to have some Online meetings and some Face to Face Meetings. There has been a thought that Groups themselves may well wish to avail themselves of this account for any of their Online Meetings rather than having to have a personal account (to be seen). As such GSR's are asked to take this possibility back to their Groups and advise whether or not they would be interested in this service.

**North Yorkshire I/G's PILO Laurence C.** reports 'It has been a time for the fellowship over these last 3 months. We have all had to adapt to new ways & we are still learning. We have not been able to undertake usual PI activities and had to adapt to online meeting formats very quickly. This gave us the task of informing outside organisations of the change in how we meet so we can pass on the A.A. message. Harrogate PI did this by sending an email to their contact list of a website which had been created with all the links to the meetings in the area. They also wrote an article which the local newspaper published giving this information & the helpline telephone number. York PI have informed their connections of the list of meetings in the area. PI committee meetings continue to meet in York & Harrogate on a monthly basis. Information talks have been put on hold until they can be re-arranged.

**York & District P.I. Team Carol T., Abbs R., Carol M., Jimmy W (R.I.P.)** report:-

We are still meeting in these strange times. Obviously, we are meeting through Zoom, online. We want to continue to keep our connection and see what we can do in P.I whilst we are in lockdown.

We have decided to draw up template letters to send to Doctors and schools, also offering digital presentations when they open if they so wish. These can be arranged through Zoom or any online platform they wish to use. It may open up more opportunities as people are often happier to go on a digital platform.

We are also going to offer our hospital contact a digital presentation for the nurses that is usually done in September. We have arranged to meet up with her, in due course, once we are able too.

York hospital, Changing Lives (Oaktrees) and Changing Lives (Lifeline) Carers and others have been sent an updated list of York Zoom A.A online meetings. We had recently changed the format in Changing Lives (Oaktrees) to a discussion group. We gave handouts of various discussion points in A.A, of which people always want to find out more about, in a relaxed setting such as The God word, the steps, home group, service and so on.

People often find it difficult to find out more and just heard these words in the meetings and did not really understand them. Not everyone is willing or able to speak up after a meeting or wants to get involved with people to find out what these things mean. It was very well received. We had excellent feedback from it.

It is our intention to take this format to an online Zoom A.A meeting (to be registered with GSO WTF) to be called ‘‘Your questions answered, workshop’’ (with thanks to Harrogate for the idea of the title). Having spoken with A.A members and people in treatment, early recovery etc. we feel this will be beneficial. It is our aim to give this a trial and see how it works out.

**East Lancs I/G’s PILO Daniel C** reports:- Attending **East Lancashire Hospitals Trust** induction to enable work on gastro wards at **Blackburn Royal Hospital**. Subsequent training of staff delayed by the pandemic.

‘‘Our Lancashire Community Meet Up’’ attended at **Blackburn Cathedral**, organised by the police, who have subsequently been willing to circulate an AA poster by email, and put AA information on their web pages, including local meetings when available. Cooperation achieved with local charities and voluntary groups.

Free DBS checks have become available for probation work at the **Burnley Pendle and Ribble Valley CVS**.

Provision and distribution of 12 step chips continues.

**PLEASE** pass on your experiences to the address below. PI Service news is fortunate to receive a great deal of information from throughout Great Britain and Continental European Region.

If anything you have sent hasn’t appeared, please try again.

**INTERGROUP SECRETARIES** – please pass on **Public Information Service News to Group Service Representatives, by e-mail or hard copy.**

Please note the contact address: [aainformation@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:aainformation@gsogb.org.uk)