

AVB Chairman's report 2017

I'd like to welcome you all to the Ascot Volunteer Bureau 2017 AGM, and particularly to welcome new members. Thank you to all of you who are able to be with us tonight. We have only 46 members so every person who attends is significant for such a small organisation.

At last year's AGM two suggestions were made. The committee discussed the proposal of having a raffle at the AGM to encourage members to come, however, it was felt that this was unlikely to be an inducement to boost attendance at the AGM, so it was decided not to go ahead with this idea. It was also suggested that the AGM minutes should be circulated to the members when they had been completed. I am pleased to say that this was done once the committee had approved them at the July committee meeting and we will continue with this practice.

In September our acting Treasurer attended a workshop set up by "WAM Get Involved" on the Disclosure and Barring Service (otherwise known as DBS checks which replaced the CRB checks). The workshop covered all aspects of DBS checks, including applications, length of clearance, types of checks, and regulated activities.

In December, John Thomson (our Coordinator) and I met with Terry Gorman, a trustee of the Sunninghill Trust to discuss how our two organisations could work more closely together to help people in our area. As a result of this meeting we have been providing some statistics to the Trust on a quarterly basis, and Terry is here today. He will be giving a talk about the work of the Trust at the end of this meeting. The Sunninghill Trust is our biggest benefactor.

Prospective volunteers continue to find out about us from various sources such as GP surgeries, the RBWM newspaper "Around the Royal Borough", the "Find It In" brochure & of course our website. Having the words "Ascot" and "Volunteer" in our name means that searches on the internet containing these words will put the Bureau high up the list. Brian continues to keep our website up to date.

Our regular issues of the Members' Newsletters attempt to keep everyone up to date with matters, especially regarding parking arrangements at local hospitals. Please do let the office know if you find that parking procedures have changed so that we can alert others. The driver parking permits have been reissued.

In December a very enjoyable Christmas buffet lunch was once again hosted by committee member Carol Glazebrook at her home, and as always we are very grateful to Carol for her hospitality. As in the previous year, the cost of the food and drink was covered by our clients' generosity in their contributions to our "Christmas buffet lunch fund". And we have been able to fund today's refreshments from this kitty.

I'd like to thank all our volunteers for the time they have given this past year. Without our volunteers we would not exist and the older people of this area would be deprived of an immensely valuable service. My thanks to John Thomson, who has been very active as our coordinator, and I would also like to thank Liz the Secretary, Brian the Acting Treasurer and the other members of the committee Heather, Marion, Carol and Trevor for all the extra time they give and for their support.

And last but not least I want to thank our benefactors. Without the support of all of our benefactors we would not be able to provide the services that we do, and we are extremely grateful for their continuing contributions.