

Bolton Adult Asperger Support

AGM November 2014

Item 6. Secretary's Report

It is a great pleasure to be able to report a very successful year of activities for the group.

We have been in existence for some 16 months and these months seem to have flown by. There seems to have been something significant happening for members to be involved with every month from stimulating presentations on a wide variety of topics from Welfare Benefits to arranging Wills and Estate matters to hands -on therapy sessions. At the time of writing, group members are eagerly awaiting our December trip to the Grassington Dickensian Festival which promises to be a very exciting day out for all of us. Thanks go to Bolton School Coaches for a generous quotation that has helped make this trip possible.

As the Chairman has indicated in his report, our website was at last launched in October this year amidst great expectation and I think we can be very proud indeed with the result. However, we are not the kind of people to sit back on our laurels and therefore we shall be very pleased indeed for people to let us know if there are any improvements that may be usefully made to the site.

I was delighted to be able to help 'man' the group's stall at the recently held AGM of Bolton CVS held at the former Reebok Stadium. It was much more relaxing and exciting than I had expected and I am looking forward to next year's event. A great opportunity to network with other voluntary organisations and individual members of the public, raising awareness of autism generally.

The subject of Grant Aid and the need to pursue funds from grant aiding bodies is the subject of continuing discussion amongst committee members, Though we are enormously grateful to the funds so far received from Bolton CVS and Bolton Council we need to be both proactive and imaginative in our pursuit of further financial support if the committee's objectives for the next twelve months are to be realised.

An exciting calendar of activities and events is being planned for 2015/2016 and these will be announced in due course.

I am sure that there are many more parents and carers of adult children that are on the Autism spectrum living in Bolton that would benefit from being in membership of the group. I say in membership and that does sound as though we charge a fee. Not at all! We exist for the benefit of all parents and carers of adults 18 and over who have associated health conditions and we want to hear from you. Don't be shy we are here to help **you**. Our meetings are **open and free!** So to all such parents and carers, I say come and join us at one of our monthly meetings on the last Wednesday of each month at Thicketford Centre or alternatively, at our drop-in sessions on the last Saturday of each month at Bridgeman Place in the town centre. We are a very friendly bunch of people who have had and continue to have the same challenges and concerns that you have.

I am glad to be a part of the group and can confirm that just being able to share concerns, fears and anxieties in a friendly confidential environment has given me a great deal of peace of mind and reminded me that I am 'not alone'. This support has been invaluable and continues to be so.