

BOLTON ADULT ASPERGER SUPPORT

Annual General 2015 Meeting-Chairman's Report

Looking back over the past twelve months, it is with great pride we are able to reflect upon another very successful year in the short history of BAAS. In June we were informed by the Charity Commission that our application for charity status had been accepted and this important milestone, together with the success of our Autism Seminar held on 14th July, must surely rank as very creditable achievements for any small voluntary organisation.

Our thanks to Bolton CVS once again for the support and guidance offered by Helen Tomlinson that was invaluable in obtaining charity status. This change in status of BAAS will certainly be reflected in our anticipated growth over the coming years with much benefit accruing to families of all those impacted by ASC's.

Preparations for a seminar were begun early in February and whilst slow at first, soon picked up momentum once we had secured a satisfactory venue. We were fortunate in obtaining the services of a number of excellent speakers, both from outside the Borough and from within, all of which helped in delivering a much appreciated seminar comprising 7 speakers, 4 workshops and a marketplace of 25 stalls and 175 registered delegates. Again, my thanks to all who supported the seminar in so many ways from Bolton Council to the Bridge Church to helpers, speakers, workshop leaders, stall holders and most importantly, parents and carers.

During the year we have been able to enjoy a number of respite trips organised for parents and carers. Our visits to the Octagon theatre, Grassington Dickensian Festival and more recently our trip to the Lakes proved very popular and were enthusiastically welcomed and enjoyed by our members. All these trips have been made possible by the generous support of Bolton CVS whom we regard not only as funders but also as friends of BAAS

It has been my privilege to attend various meetings on behalf of the charity. These have been reported upon throughout the year and have included Bolton Health and Wellbeing Forum. Bolton Autism Partnership Board and Independent Advisory Group meetings (the latter under the auspices of GMP) and BPCC. (Bolton Parent Carers Consortium).

For any voluntary organisation, funding of core and other activities is vital and we are indebted to Bolton Council, Bolton CVS, Forever Manchester, Comic Relief and Asda (Astley Bridge) for their generous support and encouragement throughout the year. Many thanks also to so many other organisations and individuals for their encouragement and assistance in attending our meetings and for friendly advice and support throughout the year.

And finally, my very heartfelt thanks to my fellow members of BAAS for their support and wise counsel over the past 12 months.

We look forward to an equally exciting and fulfilling year ahead.

We pay tribute to the following organisations who have supported us throughout the year.

Ants Junction

Asda (Astley Bridge)

Breaking Barriers

ASC Healthcare – Breightmet

Bolton Council (Children's and Adult Services)

Bolton Council (The Print Room)

The Bridge Church

Bolton Community and Voluntary Services

Bolton Community Radio Project

Bolton Community Transport

Breaking Barriers

BSS Coaches

BPCC

Cascade Magazine

Greater Manchester West Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust

Just4You Magazine

Luxson

National Autistic Society

NAS Family Services Development Project