

## **BOLTON ADULT ASPERGER SUPPORT**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015- SECRETARY'S REPORT**

I am very pleased to be able to report on another successful year of activities for BAAS.

Along with all our committee members I was delighted that BAAS secured the support of the Charity Commission in June with news that BAAS had been granted charity status.

This clearly represented a huge advancement for the group and will no doubt result in greater benefits as time goes on.

In addition to the granting of charity status, I must refer to our seminar on the 14<sup>th</sup> July at the Bridge Church. I was very proud indeed to be a part of the task group led by our Chairman that resulted in what has independently been classed as one of the best seminars on Autism in the region for many a year. We were privileged to have some wonderful speakers, both local and national. The feedback demonstrated the very great need for such an event and BAAS can rightly be proud of what it achieved on the day. I look forward to the next one!

The Chairman in his report has mentioned the very successful respite trips that have taken place over the past year. I would like to add my thanks to all those members who joined the trips to Grassington and more recently, the Lake District, and let's not forget also the trip to the Octagon Theatre last winter when we experienced a real treat with the production of Hindle Wakes by Stanley Houghton.

Respite trips are intended to provide relief for parents and carers from the demands and challenges of caring for a loved one on the Autism spectrum and we must not underestimate their potential value. It is important therefore, that we become involved in these trips and give them our full support. Thanks to grants from Bolton CVS we have enjoyed some memorable experiences together and hopefully there will be many more opportunities to share in companionship in the future.

I look forward to an equally exciting year for BAAS during 2016, I hope you all are too.

Barbara Brooks