

BOLTON ADULT AUTISM SUPPORT
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 2016
SECRETARY'S REPORT

It seems no time at all since I put pen to paper to write my report for 2015. How time seems to fly!

Even throughout this year people still talk to me about our tremendously well received Autism Seminar. However, looking to the past year I have been very proud to continue as Secretary and help to move our charity forward in a time of fast moving change. Nowhere is the change reflected more significantly than in the reduced and still reducing grants that charities and voluntary organisations are facing. This clearly makes it more difficult for smaller organisations such as BAAS to grow. The climate of reducing financial support makes it all the more important that the voluntary sector operates more imaginatively; becomes more innovative and more focused on our core objectives to meet, and indeed exceed aspirations. In this regard, I and my fellow Trustees are confident that our Befriending service will soon become a reality.

We have, so far this year, enjoyed some excellent trips for carers, thanks to our friends Bolton CVS and look forward to our last trip of 2016 to the Palace Theatre to see the stage production of Billy Elliot. For those who have not been able to benefit from our trips this year we hope that you will do so next year- grant allocations permitting!

The Chairman has paid tribute elsewhere to members who have not been able to attend events due to failing health and related issues. I also thank those members for all their past support and hope to see many of them in the future from time to time. However, we welcome new members all the time and I would stress that being a member will not cost you anything to join because there is no joining fee. We would love to see you at our meetings and/or on our trips. If you are a parent or carer impacted by an Autism Spectrum Condition, do get in touch - you will be warmly welcomed.

Finally, I would like to thank all our friends and members who have given presentations at our monthly meetings. In doing so they have shared with us important information relevant to our members' lives and concerns and have also shared with us, in some cases, their personal journeys as they have addressed and overcome significant challenges that they themselves have faced, both personally and on behalf of their families.

Barbara Brooks

Secretary