

Adur Voluntary Action Annual Report 2017—2018

1) ADRIAN BARRITT, AN APPRECIATION

The year has been marked by the sad and unexpected death of our Chief Officer, Adrian Barritt, and this shocking event has had severe implications for both AVA's current activities and its future prospects.

Adrian had been AVA's Chief Officer for the past 16 years and had steered it through several moves of premises, from Tarmount Lane in Shoreham to Chesham House in Lancing before settling in the Old School House. Many local organisations paid tribute to Adrian's dedication and support in a lengthy article in the Shoreham Herald, whether this was in identifying sources of funding for their organisations or in developing specific community projects – such as the Lancing Village Action Shop – which initiated much local volunteer support and voluntary action.

Less well known was Adrian's influence as a contributor to national voluntary sector debates via AVA's membership of its national body – NAVCA (National Association for Voluntary and Community Action). Trustees were surprised to be forwarded a collection of 20 plus reminiscences and testimonials - many quite lengthy and many also from people who had never met him - to Adrian's input to and impact on the NAVCA Chief Officers internal network blog.

The Trustees marked Adrian's professional contribution and life with an informal memorial event held at the Old School House and attended by about 40 people including members of his family and others who had travelled significant distances to be present. Many people have testified to Adrian's dedication to the Adur district together with his cheerfulness, intelligence and good humour – certainly AVA's Trustees endorse these sentiments and wish to formally record their appreciation of all that Adrian stood for and had achieved.

2) AVA ACTIVITIES

Adur Community Transport (ACT)

The service has continued to experience slow but sure growth throughout the year. It has supported 25 different groups who have taken the vehicle out on 207 occasions – either on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly. There are currently two regular drivers, and a third one has recently been recruited. Recruitment of drivers with the appropriate

vehicle type licence cover remains a difficulty, but we have resolved to support recruitment by paying for the medical examination required by drivers aged 70 plus.

Volunteer support

Following the loss of local authority funding we are no longer able to maintain a full-blown volunteer centre. However, we continue to maintain our volunteering website and to give personal support to anyone who approaches us, as well as to groups with whom we are actively working. Most volunteering enquiries are via the Lancing outreach sessions and the Co-op Community Space (see below).

Lancing Outreach

We hold drop-in sessions at the Tabernacle Church on the 1st and 3rd Monday mornings in each month, and weekly every Thursday at the Lancing Family Centre. In the former venue we help administer the Lancing Foodbank. More generally, in all venues, we host coffee & chat mornings to combat social isolation whilst also giving out information on a range of activities – on local volunteering opportunities and signposting to other services. Over the course of the year we have had contact with approximately 120 callers (Lancing 45 / Shoreham 75) not counting Foodbank clients.

Old School House

Work has continued to expand the role of the Old School House as a community resource. We now have seven groups regularly meeting on the premises – details below - and Adur Special Needs and Esteem also make use of desk-space and the meeting room for their events. We are also grateful to Esteem's volunteers for running the building's reception.

Monday's

Esteem Job Club – every Monday

I-Pad Club - first Monday of the Month (also Lancing Library first Saturday of month).

Esteem Drop-In - every Monday.

Wednesday's

Crib Club - every Wednesday.

Alcoholics Anonymous - every Wednesday.

Esteem Drop-In with Company Paradiso - every Wednesday.

Friday's

Cocaine Anonymous - every Friday.

Meditation - every Friday.

Shoreham Co-Operative Society outreach

We hold a Drop-in session every Tuesday morning at the Co-op Community Space and support the venue by facilitating internet access to the building via the Old School House's IT system. We also lend support in operating the out-of-term lunch club for disadvantaged families.

Sompting Big Local (SBL) support

With the loss of our Chief Officer AVA resolved to discontinue support (as finance holder, staff employer and supervisor / reporting role) as 'locally trusted organisation' to Sompting Big Local. Trustees felt that the role was too demanding for the circumstances in which we currently found ourselves but we continued to provide support to SBL pending the change, which is now only just reaching conclusion..

Budget holding for community groups

We have hosted small budgets for a number of community groups, and are pleased to continue to offer this free support for small projects, such as Men in Sheds, Keep Lancing Lovely, Fun4Us; Adur Churches Forum and Fishersgate Bicycle Workshop.

Adur Voice newsletter

This is another activity that has been badly affected by the loss of our Chief Officer. We have continued to circulate the occasional item for information but limited staff time has of necessity curtailed this for the time being. Our thanks go to Adrian's son Tom for his continued support in this matter.

Adur Churches Forum

AVA has continued to liaise with Adur Churches Forum in maintaining their food bank and money advice work and, more recently, in supporting an initiative to examine the realities and implications of poverty in Adur.

3) WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS?

The way forward, in part, awaits a fuller picture of our financial situation pending the conclusion of our withdrawal from the Sompting Big Local project. This year also happens to see the need to renegotiate the lease on the building, and we await the outcome of a decision by the Adur and Worthing Councils on this matter.

AVA Trustees, however, are agreed on the general need for the continuance of an infrastructural support body in Adur. Locally most voluntary activity reflects the more informal relational-based network of 'community' groups, as opposed to that of more formal / incorporated 'voluntary' organisations.

More specifically the Trustees, in the interim, would want to protect and build upon the successes of the transport service and some of the other specified activities outlined above with the existing staff and volunteers. Longer term we would look towards appointing, probably on an initial rolling short-term contract, a new 'Chief Officer' to draw up an 'Forward Plan' outlining the options necessary to put AVA on a firmer basis going forward.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to the following people for contributing their time and effort towards maintaining AVA through this difficult time.

Board members

John Lambourne, Chairman; Val Garland; John Hollington; Charmaine Skinner; John Kelly.

AVA Staff and Volunteers

Community Transport Co-ordinator: Sarah Leeding.

Community Transport Drivers: Keith Mitchell; Robin Ready; Roland Johns.

Outreach Services Volunteers: Lynne Emery; Mary Hassett; Jackie Cleaves; Jackie Bartram; Marie Mallett; Sheila Hollington; John Hollington; Andy Brooke.

Old School House Volunteer Gardener: Janet Derricott,

John Lambourne

Chairman, AVA Board of Trustees

Registered Charity no: 1131610

Limited Company no: 6922401

How to Contact AVA

The Old School House, Ham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, BN43 6PA

01903 854980 (main office), 01903 854988 (Volunteer Centre)

info@adurva.org (main office), volunteering@adurva.org (Volunteer Centre)

(to e-mail an individual staff member, use their first name followed by @adurva.org)

Website: <http://www.adurva.org>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/AdurVA>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Adur-Voluntary-Action/73390268638>