

# Adur Voluntary Action Annual Report 2018-19



## JOHN LAMBOURNE, AN APPRECIATION

The year has been marked by the sad death of our long-time Chairman, John Lambourne, in February 2019 - this following the sudden death of Adrian Barritt the year before. John had been AVA's Chairman since 2007 and had been on the Board for several years previous to that. He worked closely with Adrian through several moves of premises from Tarmount Lane in Shoreham to Chesham House in Lancing before the Old School House. He not only chaired meetings of trustees but also acted as AVA's treasurer, as this post had remained unfilled.

John had been an active volunteer in Adur for many years, devoting many

hours to the Scouting movement and its camp at Hillside and also to Adur Community Transport as a Board member and volunteer driver. He also managed to find time to assist at the South of England showground at Ardingley. After Adrian's untimely death John's wish was that AVA should continue to serve the community of Adur and he led the trustee board in their attempts to find a secure pathway for the future.

## **DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE YEAR**

**Governance** – we have taken action to strengthen AVA's governance by the co-option of two new people to the Board. In addition we recruited a number of other supporters who have

taken on special responsibility for particular functions such as fundraising. We have undertaken a review of AVA's membership and have some success in increasing the number of organisations subscribing to our aims. We have also reviewed our monitoring procedures, particularly in relation to the community transport service's number of journeys, people and organisations using. Notwithstanding the progress made to date it remains a key objective to recruit new trustees going forward.

**Premises** – AVA's lease with the Council expired as of December 2018 and we had to negotiate new arrangements with them, and with Esteem with whom we now share a 'Tenancy-at-Will' lease and the management of the premises. Esteem

are also currently providing the reception for all the services in the building and we at AVA thank them for that support. Whilst rumours have circulated regarding the future of the premises we have no reason to suppose that the Council has any other immediate plans for the building, so our base should be reasonably secure for the foreseeable future.

**IT Support** – Such is the marvel of modern technology that it's astonishing to report that our systems were largely being supported by Adrian Barritt's son Tom based in Cardiff! We have been able to 'repatriate' our IT support by securing the services of a volunteer, recently retired, and his support has been invaluable in AVA being able to resume a number of previously dormant

activities. We have over the year consolidated the IT system by reviewing the hardware, updating the software and a provisional tidying up the content on our website. We continue to provide the internet access for the Co-op's Community Space across the way, and aim to generally improve our IT capacity over the coming year.

## **SERVICES**

**Adur Community Transport (ACT)** - the service has continued to experience steady but sure growth throughout the year. It has supported 33 different groups who have taken the vehicle out on 198 occasions either on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis, and the total number of passengers for the year was 2,658. There are currently three

regular volunteer drivers to whom we are very grateful for without them the service would not be able to run. Over the coming year we will need to review the charges for the vehicle hire fees in comparison with commercial companies as this has not been done for some time. More pressingly the current minibus is now getting somewhat old and we will need to identify a fundraising strategy for its replacement if the service is to continue.

**Volunteer support** - we continue to give ad-hoc advice and/or 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 at the Old School House. At the Lancing Outreach we hold

regular drop-in sessions at the Lancing Family Centre every Thursday morning alongside Lancing & Sompting Foodbank.

Whilst it is not feasible with current funding to offer a comprehensive 'Volunteer Bureau / V-base' service as before, we intend to review this in the coming year. We have volunteers currently updating our website organisation's directory and it may prove possible, in conjunction with our IT review, to offer more help going forward to both prospective volunteers and to organisations seeking volunteers.

**Adur Voice newsletter** – we continue to be members of NAVCA (National Association of Voluntary and Community Action) and to receive their

information bulletins on issues of interest to the sector. Updating our organisations directory, and our IT review, has enabled us to resume the circulation of our own newsletter to 234 local contacts, not least information on sources of charitable trust funding. We are happy to circulate announcements from local VCS organisations of events, job opportunities or other items of interest in the newsletter.

**Adur Community Network** – a number of representatives from Adur voluntary and community groups, statutory agencies and local councillors met recently to discuss the re-launch of the '*Adur Community Network*'. Andy Brook, chairing the meeting, explained the role previously played by the Network was as a forum for the

exchange of ideas and information, occasionally with visiting speakers. Network meetings would help illuminate in what way AVA could continue to support the local VCS and would, through the newsletter above, play a role in conveying concerns and issues to relevant statutory bodies. In conclusion, it was felt that there was general support for further meetings.

**Old School House (OSH)** – we continued to facilitate a range of activities and clubs in OSH and in Lancing:

- Esteem Job Club and Drop-in (every Monday);
- Crib Club; Alcoholics Anonymous (every Wednesday);
- Esteem Drop-In with Company Paradiso (every Wednesday);

- Cocaine Anonymous (every Friday).
- I-Pad Club Lancing Library (first Saturday of month).

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

## **WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS?**

The financial situation pending the conclusion of our withdrawal from the Sompting Big Local project has not yet been finally resolved, although the process is very near completion. In any

event it is clear to the trustees that we have sufficient monies to in the new year consider employing someone in a development role to take AVA's support to the VCS further. Both a 'round table' meeting of AVA supporters, and a meeting of the re-convened Adur Community Network, encouraged the trustees to think there is a role for working with the smaller, informal or more localised community groups in Adur. We will of course be actively looking to make funding applications to appropriate charitable trusts and other sources.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

As a legacy for John the board were determined to, at a minimum, continue the transport service and I would like to

give special thanks to Sarah Leeding who has run the service without John's support and also to our incredible volunteer drivers.

Others who have assisted us to continue AVA's work during this difficult year include our other volunteers working with Sarah at Old School House, the Co-op's Community Space and Lancing Tabernacle / Library / Children and Family Centre offering signposting to other services, supporting the foodbank and many other tasks.

Keri Hamblin, our book-keeper, has stepped up to take a more fulsome role in helping us try to resolve our financial relationship with Sompting Big Local, and in liaising with many others with whom we have financial dealings.

Although at the year end the future looked uncertain, AVA's remaining trustees agreed we would continue John Lambourne's approach towards continuing to try meet the needs of Adur's voluntary and community sectors as best they can.

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

## **Board Members**

John Kelly (Acting Chairman); Val Garland; John Hollington; Charmaine Skinner. AVA Staff and Volunteers

Community Transport Co-ordinator:  
Sarah Leeding.

Community Transport Drivers: Keith Mitchell; Robin Ready; Julian Read

Fundraising Volunteer: David Richardson

Outreach Services Volunteers: Lynne Emery; Andy Brook

Admin Support Volunteers: Jackie Cleaves, Sheila Hollington

IT Support Volunteers: Paul Shepherd, Tom Barritt

Old School House Volunteer Gardener: Janet Derricott,

John Kelly

Acting Chairman, AVA Board of Trustees

## How to Contact AVA

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

Facebook:

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

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