

AVB Chairman's report 2011

Welcome to the AVB 2011 AGM & thank you all for attending. Being a relatively small organisation everyone who comes along makes a big difference.

First of all I'd like to thank all of the people who give their time so generously both to man the office & to drive. Without our volunteers it wouldn't be possible for us to operate & provide such a worthwhile & essential service to our local elderly people. I also want to thank Liz Horrocks our Secretary, Brian King our Treasurer, Eileen Hayward our Coordinator & the other members of the committee for the extra time they give & for their support.

As you are all aware, Margot Carpenter who was our coordinator decided to step down from the role at the end of August last year. She had given 26 years of service to the AVB, the majority of them in the coordinator's role. I'd like to thank Margot for all the selfless work that she has put in over such a long period, without which the Bureau would have struggled. She has continued as a committee member & a driver. In recognition of the service she had given to local residents Margot was named joint runner up in the Volunteer of the Year Award run by the local authority in the autumn in the "over 50s" category.

Without the support of all of our benefactors we would not be able to provide the services that we do, & we are extremely grateful for their continuing contributions, particularly in the current difficult economic times.

During the last year we have continued to raise awareness of AVB locally, in particular as part of our continual search for volunteers. We were represented at the Golden Age retirement event in August. We had an interview published in Ascot Matters (on the internet) which gives details of what is actually involved in volunteering for the bureau. Also, with the help of a number of our members & their families, 685 leaflets were distributed to homes around the local area. Unfortunately this did not prove successful in generating enquiries from potential volunteers so we terminated this exercise. More successful was an advert in a local church magazine which has brought in some more volunteers. And of course we have our website which provides lots of information about AVB & gives our contact details & allows people to contact us by email. However, we still need more volunteers. Indeed the last couple of weeks have been particularly difficult as there have been many people on holiday or otherwise unavailable. So if you can think of any of your friends, colleagues, or acquaintances who you think might be able to spare some to time, either to drive or do the office, then do please get them to give us a call.

During the last year the committee have tried to discover what the Big Society might mean for AVB. It appears that local authority initiatives under this heading will have no significance for AVB.

Finally I'd like on behalf of everyone once again to offer our thanks to June Martin, our previous Chairman for her generosity in hosting the AVB Christmas party at her home & providing all the hospitality at her own expense.