



# NEWSLETTER

*SOUTH EAST LONDON INTERGROUP (WEST)*

## 30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

### What are the aims of Intergroup?

The aims of Intergroup are to aid the constituent groups in their common purpose of carrying the AA message to the still suffering alcoholic and, by using their combined strength and unity, to improve and maintain good relations with all organisations in the community.

### What are Tradition 7 contributions to Intergroup used for?

Contributions to Intergroup are used to further our Primary Purpose of helping the still suffering alcoholic. AA's services such as the Telephone Helpline, AA Website and other services managed by York need to be paid for, and therefore all Groups are encouraged to make Tradition 7 contributions to Intergroup on a regular basis..

2023 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the South East London (West) Intergroup, so it was decided by the Intergroup to hold a day event focusing on the theme "Growing into Service" at its meeting venue, the United Reformed Church in Love Walk, Camberwell, in order to celebrate this milestone anniversary.

Discussions took place earlier in the year as to when to hold the event, and a decision was finally made to hold it on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June. This turned out to be rather apt, as although it was not realised at the time, it was later discovered by Rory, the Archivist at SELIG(West) that June was in fact the month when the Intergroup was originally formed back in 1993.

In order to build awareness of the celebration, a flyer designed by Jennifer [Social Secretary of SELIG(West) and as such also the organiser of the event] was distributed around the Groups in the SELIG(West) Intergroup area by Intergroup members. The flyer was also put up on the SELIG(West) microsite by Ben.

With a definite enthusiasm for making it all happen, several members volunteered to help set up at Love Walk the night before the event was to take place – Elizabeth, James, Andy, Rory and Mick all went along with Jennifer, the event organiser to get everything ready for the celebration the next day. It was clear on arriving at the venue on the Saturday that those involved in organising the event had made every effort to make it a great day of fellowship for all those attending; a superb selection of sandwiches, AA display items and literature, and a magnificent flower arrangement which had been created by Jennifer and positioned behind the speakers' table greeted those arriving at the very light and airy modern church when the doors opened at 12 noon.

At 12.30pm things got under way with Nigel introducing the first of three Intergroup service speakers, Stephen M who spoke for around twenty minutes on his long experience of service with SELIG(West). It was particularly informative to hear Stephen talk about the AA service structure from the Groups to the Intergroups, the Regions, Conference and the General Service Board, and how they all fit together to make AA function.

Rory then followed Stephen, again speaking for about twenty minutes on his experience as a Fellowship Archivist, as well as talking about AA's collaboration with the Borthwick Institute of Archives at York University with whom AA Great Britain has been collaborating to catalogue and store 75 years of AA GB records held at York, in order to provide the Fellowship with an online and physical catalogue of records from AA GB beginnings.

The third and final service speaker was Emma L, who as Health Liaison Officer at SELIG(West) had started the first Open Meeting Workshop for medical students at King's College Hospital in Denmark Hill. It was moving listening to Emma explain how, following the great success of the first workshop back in February 2022, these workshops had now become an established part of the teaching schedule for all third year medical students at King's, with its annual intake of some 400 students, and in addition, how the King's Workshops have now inspired plans to start similar workshops at another teaching hospital in Exeter. Undoubtedly an incredible start has been made at reaching the next generation of doctors.

A half hour break for food and fellowship, which really helped to make the occasion too, then followed the speakers' talks. A fantastic job was done by Elizabeth and Andy setting up and serving the food along with teas and coffees.

An AA meeting then started at 2pm. It was great to see so many members at the meeting and to listen to a very strong message of recovery from Nikos, who did the Chair.

There followed more food and fellowship after the meeting had closed with the Serenity Prayer, and there was a definite feeling that the celebration had been a success, and even what had originally been planned as a single event to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of an Intergroup, could perhaps become an annual Mini Convention.

## Service positions available at Intergroup...

*All service positions at Intergroup are vital to keep AA running and healthy. There follows a list of service commitments currently available at SELIG(West) that you, someone in your group or a sponsee would benefit from doing:*

### **Health Liaison Officer (HLO)**

The Health Liaison Officer is responsible for establishing links with health professionals and co-ordinating all aspects of carrying the message within the healthcare system.

### **Electronic Communications Liaison Officer (ECLO)**

This service role principally involves maintaining the SELIG(West) Microsite, and amongst other things, also involves attending ECLO London committee meetings.

### **Public Information (PI)**

The Public Information Officer is responsible for ensuring that information about the AA message and programme of recovery is conveyed to outside organisations to the best possible advantage. The service commitment will thus involve working with any outside events or institutions in order to attract the still suffering alcoholic to AA.

### **Probation Liaison Officer**

The Probation Liaison Officer is responsible for establishing links with the Probation Services and to keep Intergroup informed on a regular basis.

### **Regional Representative**

The Regional Representative is the link between the Intergroup and Region in a similar way that the GSR is the link between a group and Intergroup.

### **Young People's Liaison Officer (YPLO)**

The YPLO will be someone who came into AA at the age of thirty or younger. The service commitment will involve establishing close working relations with other service disciplines, in particular the Public Information Officer to assist with presentations where the audience is likely to include a significant proportion of young people, such as talks to schools, universities and young offenders' institutions etc.

Should you feel you could commit to any of these service positions, please contact SELIG (WEST) Chair Nigel on 07910 141916 or email [nigel\\_intergroup@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nigel_intergroup@yahoo.co.uk)

### **HEALTH, PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EMPLOYMENT MEETINGS**

Quarterly Health, Public Information and Employment meetings are now being held at: **The New Cut Housing Co-Operative, 106 The Cut, SE1 8LN**

This is a Regional Initiative and meetings are for all serving officers holding outward-facing service positions across all 6 Intergroups in the South London Region, as well as any other members interested in finding out more about the outward-facing Intergroup service disciplines.

Meetings run from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday 21st August and the meeting after that on Monday 20th November.

Should you require any further information prior to attending, please contact Stephen M on 07384 406861 or email [archiesjm@googlemail.com](mailto:archiesjm@googlemail.com)

### **Next Intergroup meeting**

SELIG (WEST) will be holding its next meeting at Camberwell Green United Reformed Church, Love Walk, SE5 8AE on Wednesday 27th September 2023 (7.15pm for a 7.30pm start)

