

## NAO - National Activity Officers Report

Wow what another year. Finally, some face to face activities and being able to financially bring a close to events with monies being forwarded due to Covid. It started off with our first hybrid NAGM, it was good to be at the hotel having the social weekend which has been lacking so much a part of my last few years. The Spring Holiday went ahead at the new venue of Hoburne Cotswolds site and not but not least the 80ish celebration planned for June 2021 postponed until July 2022.

I'm glad to report all three events made a surplus. The AGM was £90.05, the Spring holiday £1679.00, nope you read that right a £1679.00 surplus. You do have to take into account that £300.00 of that was the deposit retained by Hoburne. The 80ish with thank to a timely intervention by Tina Bunyan made a £235.01 surplus rather than a £264.99 loss.

The 80ish monies are to be transferred back into the Main Plus account. At time of writing, we still have spaces for both the NAGM and Hoburne.

I have slightly changed how I process the accounts for 2022 and as well as doing an event account there is also a separate sheet for the bank account for the 01 January to 31 December year, which I have found to be beneficial when reconciling the accounts for these to be audited by Katie. I was unable to have enough paperwork to hand to work out the surplus or loss the AGM had made back as far as 2016, but going forward I have records for the most recent years.

Sadly 2022 was a challenging time mentally for me, working from home finally took its toll on me and reached out to people to assist, I urge anyone to do this be family, friend or medical professional. As most people have commented to me post event I was definitely not myself at the 80ish do, but thanks to Erik Bean for being my chauffeur that day I was able to make it to and from the venue. The latter half of 2022 was much more positive we me being able to attend the Southern Area Center Parcs event, which was a lovely break and nice to see so many people physically after so long working from home at the Elveden site. Then came the news from work I was dreading your wanted back in the office... but with hindsight it was the right move for me. I was not able to make the week in Hoburne which is in October and has been pre cursor to the Spring Holiday event where me with Tina and sometimes Adrian sample the site and local area, with me instead spending a much needed chilled week in Stevenage. Talking about caravanning holiday then came the return to Searles for WASH year two, it was nice to have so many groups and people to attend on what's become one of Plus's flagship events, the site also provided and excellent breakfast buffet which created a social buzz which the event has not had before, I also recommend paying the extra £5.00 per night to have the evening meal. One evening I did have to smile as Keith was walking through with three other adults looking like the Headmaster proudly walking down his school hall with a governor visit. Well done to Keith and the team, I look forward to joining you again this November.

I've been pleased to see groups going strong with weekly zoom meetings still being organised. There has definitely been a strong community support as I'm sure as many others my year has been full of ups and downs, but to also be seeing re-emergence of weekly clubs

meeting and weekly events being held. To have that face to face interaction has been well needed.

I still have a full folder of activities groups have run in the past if anyone would like some ideas of things that can be run in the future, talking about that we still have spaces for the Spring Holiday, but the caravans were confirmed to the site at the Friday of the NAGM as its now 8 weeks out, so if your booking on your be in a twin room sharing with others already booked into the double rooms. £75.00 will secure you a space. So what with NAGM February, Hoburne April and 80ish in July this has definitely kept me occupied but I do love doing this.

I then don't do much for the other 6 months of the year all three events at different stages keeps me ticking over, especially at the of year when I must pass them onto Katie for her independent audit.

As previous mentioned, I am pleased that the yearly Hoburne break still goes ahead with having a consistent about 40 attendees and going into its next holiday this April with between 40 and 50 people in attendance, all Plus members. So to have 1/6 of the whole membership at an event you run is amazing. The venue of the Cotswolds is still getting people to book on and I'm pleased to announce that Hoburne 2024 will be the same weekend 19-22 April 202, at a non-hot tub accommodation price of £80.00. I must personally thank Adrian B and Tina for always being the support backup with the running of the NAGM and Spring Holiday.

I would like to re-stand for the role of National Activities Officer for 2023 to 2024.

Ben Allen  
NAO  
11 February 2023