

NAO - National Activity Officers Report

Another year draws to a close, 2023 was always going to be different what with the NEC roadshows and me sadly not being in the right mental space to be organising the AGM back in 2022, so a first thanks must go to Adrian and Tina for stepping in and finding the Didcot venue and place to have a meal afterwards.

Nicky Rolfe won the tender for the AGM 2024 and have been working alongside her and Holiday Inn Reading South to allow us to have our first hotel AGM away from the Jacobean after so many years good relationship with them, well until settling the bill!!

Didcot AGM did prove what could be done with hiring an alternative venue, but in comparing that to a day room hire at a hotel the costs are similar. But it was a nice venue and people liked it. The Spring Holiday went ahead for its second year at the Hoburne Cotswolds site.

Sadly the two events made a loss. The AGM was **-299.00** and the Spring holiday **-£26.00**. Overall both accounts are looking healthy and monies are there to pay for deposit to secure future events.

The 80ish monies surplus of £235.01 has been transferred back into the Main Plus account. At time of writing, we still have spaces for both the NAGM and Hoburne.

As per the last few years, 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.

The latter half of 2023 was much the same events as 2022; Southern Area Center Parcs event, which was a lovely break at the Sherwood Forest site. The October pre Hoburne became a long weekend and then there was WASH 2023, well done to Keith and the team for the hard work and longevity of this event. Breakfast buffet was amazing and one day I got there for 9am and by noon I was still eating, I'm looking forward to seeing Ian Crawshaw tackle that buffet one year. The slight increase for food cost was understandable and I think offering the Thursday night accommodation was a genius move.

I've been pleased to see groups going strong with a mix of face to face meet ups for some and weekly zoom meetings for others still being organised. There has been a strong community support throughout COVID and long may this continue. In saying that if you've not seen or heard from a member in a while just reach out and say hi. It might be something as simple as this makes their day.

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 you're booking on your be in a twin room sharing with others already booked into the double rooms. £82.50 will secure you a space. So what with NAGM

February, Hoburne April and NEC roadshow this has definitely kept me occupied but I do love doing this.

As previously mentioned, I am pleased that the yearly Hoburne break still goes ahead with having a consistent about 50 attendees and going into its next holiday this April with between 40 and 50 people in attendance, all Plus members. So to have 1/5 of the whole membership at an event you run is amazing. The venue of Hoburne is still getting people to book on and I'm pleased to announce that Hoburne 2025 will go ahead, but see a couple of changes. Due to Easter 2025 the weekend will be the 25-28 April 2025 and we are trying our first year at the Hoburne Bashley site, at a non-hot tub accommodation price of £99.00 per person. This site like Hoburne Park has a room we can hire for the Sunday Quiz, so it won't be so nomadic as it had to be at Cotswolds. I must personally thank Adrian and Tina for always being the support backup with the running of the Spring Holiday. With another thanks to Nicky Rolfe of putting the efforts in to secure this year's venue. Ian C, I hope you get to the breakfast in time.

I then don't do much for the other 6 months of the year all events at different stages keeps me ticking over, especially at the end of year when I must pass them onto Katie for her independent audit. So due to this and as I heard Alison was standing down as NFO, I have decided to throw my hat into the ring for this role. Please be aware if I am voted in for this, I wish the best of luck to the new NAO for 2024-2025.

Due to that, I have also produced a separate sheet for the NFO role and my proposals and ideas moving forward.

Here's to an event filled 2024

Ben Allen
NAO
14 January 2024