

## **ADCA Chair's Annual Report 2022/23**

### **REFLECTIONS ON THE LAST YEAR [Year ended 31 March 2023]**

This year was one in which ADCA continued to recover from the pandemic and to aim to support the increased number of members and carers who use our services.

This approach was splendidly exemplified by the magnificent Platinum Jubilee Celebrations we held in the Town Hall in June 2022. 120 people of all ages from 8 to 96 enjoyed a marvellous afternoon tea along with performances by Audlem Voices, Audlem Brownies and Audlem Youth Theatre. The whole event was live streamed and recorded for posterity. Thanks go to all the staff and volunteers who organised the event and to Cheshire Community Foundation who funded it.

When ADCA started in 2011, our members were in the 70s and early 80s. Now we have several members in their 90s with several currently aiming for that milestone. This just goes to show how friendly, social activity along with excellent food [continued thanks to Helen and Jayne for this] certainly keeps people going. Similarly with our excellent volunteers who now number 45, including the ADCA Trustees who work hard behind the scenes in a number of vital roles.

During the year, we said goodbye to Phil Lloyd, our Vice-Chair and former Treasurer as he and Helen moved away to be nearer family. He will be greatly missed given his hard work in just about every area of ADCA's activity. Peter Murray, our Treasurer, also stood down at the year-end after two years of stalwart service. We have been fortunate in welcoming Gary Cliffe as our new Treasurer. His experience in the voluntary sector organisations is already providing very valuable.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

Alongside our regular clubs in Audlem, Hankelow and Broomhall & Sound we also launched during the year our new Thursday Club for people living with dementia and their carers, with funding from Cheshire East Council which was based on a joint bid with Nantwich Thursday Club which runs a similar service. This has been a real success and thanks go to staff members Laura and Deb and the seven new volunteers who run it.

Our Medical Transport Services continues to be an important part of ADCA's services and has been sustained by Trustee Sue Hodgins, ably assisted by new volunteer Philomena Dolan and a faithful band of voluntary drivers. It now includes prescription collection as well as taking up to 15 people each month to GP and local hospital appointments.

Our Community Services Manager, Tracey, also started a successful Walking Netball club in the Town Hall which has brought women and men of all ages, including carers, to join in.

As ever, we continue to be grateful to all our funders, including Cheshire East Council, Cheshire Community Foundation, Police and Crime Commissioner, Masonic Charity Foundation, Coop Community Fund, Hatherton Parish Council and Audlem Charity Shop.

The funding highlight of the year was undoubtedly the receipt of a three-year Reaching Communities Lottery Grant from October 2022, which now provides about 50% of our total funding, thus securing ADCA's future for several years ahead. We achieved this through a partnership bid with Overwater Wheelyboat Services, Broad Lane Coffee Club and The Wingate Centre in Wrenbury.

We are also very grateful for the continued support given to ADCA by the Public Hall Committee, who have supported us throughout the up and downs of the last three years. We have them to thank for the continued excellence of the accommodation we use.

Our own charity fund raising continues to be vital. Thanks to Geof Clarke and his team, we had a successful Race Night, a Craft Fair and a Weekly Prize Draw, not only raising much needed funds but also enjoyably raising ADCA's profile, leading to recruitment of several new volunteers.

During the pandemic, we developed a small database as a means of keeping track of over 300 people who were using our Home Support Service and 80 volunteers. We recognised that this was not fit for purpose and the Committee commissioned a new database which would be fully compliant with data protection needs. We were fortunate to recruit Jonathan Taylor to undertake this work, which is now well on the way to completion. It will fully meet ADCA's operational needs while also ensuring data protection.

It has been busy year for ADCA as we have welcomed new members, carers and volunteers, while others have retired from their roles. Of particular note has been the increasing amount of individual support and advice which our staff and volunteers give to people who are experiencing challenges and changes in their lives. This now includes advocacy for carers and members in their dealings with statutory or other organisations

### **FUTURE DIRECTION AND PLANS**

Partnership working with a range of local voluntary groups remains very important to ADCA, as does the need to recruit new volunteers and support our existing ones.

Similarly, we continue to need to find people with experience of health, social care or running businesses or charities to become trustees, especially to take on active leading roles so as to enable long service trustees to step back a bit!

Our overall aim now has to be to consolidate the range of services we offer. In particular, we need to consolidate our work with people affected by dementia, including leading on achieving 'Dementia Friendly' status for Audlem.

Finally, we must continue to work on ensuring our organisational processes and systems work effectively, efficiently and safely - including our new Database and our Human Resources and Financial processes.