

CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 2021 AGM

REFLECTIONS ON THE LAST YEAR [Year ended March 2021]

After an unprecedented year for everyone, the most important thing to recognise is the underlying strength of ADCA which has been built up over the last 10 years, the importance of our partnerships and the level of community support we have received during the pandemic. We really do have a very strong team of Trustees, Staff and Volunteers. We must also pay tribute to the resilience, determination and support we have received from our members and carers throughout this time. Celebrating your 90th birthday during lockdown is no easy feat.

We also continued to receive even stronger support from our community partners including the five local Parish Councils, Audlem Public Hall, Overwater Wheelyboat Services, Cheshire East Council, Community and Voluntary Services Cheshire East, Audlem Medical Practice, Boots Chemists and Brambles Cook Shop. A big thank you to everyone! This includes the many new volunteers – 65 in all – who came forward in April/May 2020 to assist with our new Coronavirus Home Support Service and our Volunteer Transport including Medical Transport. We also welcomed to ADCA, our new Treasurer, Peter, and Jayne and Debra as new staff members to support our expanded services.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Last year's Chair's report said that ADCA would respond positively to the pandemic in supporting as many people as possible across our wide rural area with home support services and that we would reopen our clubs and activities as soon as we are able to do so. Well, we have done all of that and much more!

We have established partnerships with Wrenbury Together and Broomhall & Sound Methodists and three Parish Council to the west of Audlem. ADCA now covers a wider rural area of 40 sq. miles. Our newly established Home Support Service has provided food shopping, prescription collection and telephone & doorstep support to an additional 160 older people and carers, alongside the 150 existing members of ADCA. We have also provided lunch and coffee club attendance for 9 new members, including more people with dementia, who have come to ADCA for support during the pandemic. Our Medical Transport Service has also continued to take people to vital health appointment including vaccinations.

ADCA has responded magnificently to the unprecedented challenge of the pandemic. We have worked hard together to keep everyone safe at home alongside the careful reopening of our clubs.

Our strong response to the pandemic has been recognised by Cheshire East Council who has continued to support us well and also by the continued grant support we have received from key donors including Cheshire Community Foundation, the Lottery and the Police & Crime Commissioner.

ADCA has maintained a good level of income during the year at £62,479 due to success in obtaining emergency Covid related grants alongside generous donations. Our expenditure of £55,866 means that a small surplus has made a significant contribution to our reserve figure at the end of the financial year which now totals £34,000. This is just below our revised reserves target of £35,000. This will assist us in the coming year to underpin the funding of our expanded services as we seek to maintain our new activities set up in response to increased needs across our area.

FUTURE DIRECTION AND PLANS

The challenge for ADCA is to maintain and develop our services across a wider area to help combat the loneliness and vulnerability of more, isolated older people and their carers which has been much intensified by the pandemic. This will include a greater element of vital exercise to enhance physical and mental well-being and improve people's resilience. We also plan to grow our Home Befriending Service provide additional personal support, especially to those who cannot easily leave their homes.

We aim to do all this as grant funding is harder to obtain and so will develop a robust Income Generation Strategy to increase fundraising, donations and sponsorships as a percentage of our total income. The challenge for ADCA is also to slowly reopen our existing lunch and coffee clubs, including our new ones at Sound, Hankelow and Aston to enable attendance by full numbers as lockdown restrictions ease. Oh and we will finally celebrate ADCA's 10th Anniversary during the summer with a knees-up in the playing field, perhaps including a brass band!