



**The Trustees' Annual Report
and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st March 2016**

Annual Report

A Brave New World

A lot of things have happened since our last AGM. We have voted as a nation to leave the European Union, we had a change in Prime Minister and I lost my office at home to make way for my Grand-daughter's bedroom. The last point does not impact on GOPA but the first two may.

So what about our last year?

First may I report that we are finding, similar to other charities, our financial position challenging but we still received support from a number of funders without whom we would not have been able to cover our operating expenses.

During the year we received funding from Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner; Stroud District Council and Age UK.

As such I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their on-going support. Further information is contained in the Financial Statements prepared by our Treasurer. Without that funding and the support of our partners across the voluntary and statutory sectors we would not have been able to do what we have done. Specific partners I would like to mention include Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Trust; Stroud District Council; Age UK; Age UK Gloucestershire; Richmond Painswick Retirement Village for hosting our meetings throughout the year and Gloucestershire Constabulary.

Due to the aforementioned activities we are still recognised as a charity that can engage, facilitate and provide results whilst achieving our aims of:

- Continuing to act for older people and is run by a committed group of volunteers.
- Ensuring that older people are alert to the needs of older people.
- Being committed to working in, and seeking, partnerships across the statutory, private and voluntary sectors.
- Being committed to improving the quality of life for older people

I would also like to thank you our membership for your support after all we are here represent you and reporting on your concerns. We are also here to let you know of upcoming events that we feel could be of benefit to you. As such we have a Web site www.gopa.org.uk where we publish notices to inform you. Please feel free to visit.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Anna Gibbins who became a volunteer this year. Anna has been volunteering for a number of agencies and her ability to engage with them on our behalf has been pivotal in us being able to carry out our aims.

So what of the future?

For years we have all been advised to aim towards doing more with less. As Central government works towards reducing the nation's budget deficit it has become apparent that the "Not for profit" sector needs to look at new ways to allow them to deliver their services.

We believe that the sector needs to see themselves as a business. A moral, ethical and sustainable business. We will need to do things that private business does such as partnering, forming joint ventures and in some cases merger.

One of the ways is to try and partner with other agencies, not only in services but maybe in areas such as “back office” costs. We at GOPA have seen this in action within Gloucestershire where an agency had some spare capacity within their offices and they offered a room to another agency. Funders may also need to change their “operating model” as finances reduce. They may wish to see a number of groups form an alliance to deliver the same “need” but with reduced finance saving on items such as meetings and possible “overlap” of functionality. We believe that GOPA is in a unique position to facilitate that process. To act as a “trusted third party” and a possible conduit between funders and the sector.

Finally I, as Chair, would like to thank my fellow Trustees and Paul Harris for all the hard work and dedication in supporting GOPA and the aims of the Charity. Without their volunteering we would not be able to perform all the actions we are able to perform within our limited budget.

David Grant
24th October 2016

General Information

Gloucestershire Older Persons' Association

Charity Registration Number: 1124977

Trustees

The trustees serving during the year were as follows:

David Grant (Chair)

Jim Rollinson (Secretary)

David Hearn (Treasurer)

Pamela Tawse

Paul Harries (to 12th February 2016)

Dilys Warren

Bank

Cooperative Bank

Structure, Governance and Management

Legal Status and Governing Document

Gloucestershire Older Persons' Association is a registered charity. It was established in 2000 as the Gloucestershire Older Persons' Assembly and changed to its current name in 2010.

The charity is governed by its Constitution which was amended by Special Resolution in 2010 following the change in name.

The Objects of the charity are:

“To promote the benefit of older people in Gloucestershire who are affected by the issues of ageing, by associating the local authorities, voluntary organisations and older people in a common effort to provide facilities and services in the interest of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said older people.

To advance the education of older people in Gloucestershire through the development of activities that develop individual capabilities, competencies, skills and understanding about the issues of ageing, with the object of improving conditions of life for the said older people.”

Governance:

During the year the trustees held 10 meetings.

Management:

The Charity is managed by the Board of Trustees using self-employed facilitators and consultants for specific projects as funding and circumstances permit.

The Charity has no paid employees.

Reserves Policy:

It is the policy of the Trustees of the Gloucestershire Older Persons' Association to maintain a reserve which represents at least one year's cost of governance.

This policy is reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees or as may be necessary to comply with the duty of prudence.

History:

The charity was established in 2000 and over the next twelve years carried out a number of engagement and other projects working with and on behalf of statutory and voluntary organisations.

In 2012 the Trustees were forced to close the office in Gloucester and make the staff redundant. Following a series of consultations with key partners the trustees recognised that while the charity was not in a position to offer services there remained a need for an independent organisation to represent the many voices of older people. With financial support from Stroud District Council and two trustees the charity was able to continue to function and subsequently has obtained funding from a number of other organisations for specific projects.

The trustees recognise that in a period of austerity and continuing reductions in statutory funding they must be realistic in their expectations for the future. They have decided that in order to remain financially viable the charity would not maintain a permanent office or paid staff. They would seek funding for projects that met their current priorities on a case by case basis using both volunteers and self-employed facilitators and consultants. That model has been successful and will continue for the foreseeable future.

Review of funding and activities during the year:

Age UK Diversity Programme 2015

As a result of the contacts established through the projects we had run in previous years, in particular the Tea and Tell sessions funded by the Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner, we successfully applied to Age UK for a grant of £1,000 under their Diversity Programme 2015. That grant funded, or contributed to, a range of events held in June and July including:

- Social events for the 'African Caribbean community, including a lunch to celebrate American Independence Day at St Catherine's Court, Gloucester (with GOPA running an information stand).

- Multi-agency information, networking and social event in Gloucester for the Polish community.
- Engagement event with GLOSCATS, a Charitable Trust providing social support for the transgender community in Gloucestershire.
- A BME carers event at the Friendship Café and a social event at Charter Court for Asian elders in Gloucester.

All the events funded by the Age UK Diversity Programme Grant were organised by community leaders, or organisations supporting those communities, and were supported by a number of other agencies including Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (through the Community Agents) and Gloucestershire Care Service NHS Trust (through the Healthy Lifestyle Service).

Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner

We received a further grant of £5,000 from the Police and Crime Commissioner under the Older but not Overlooked initiative which enabled us to continue with our programme of Tea and Tell sessions and also support a range of engagement and other events across the county.

During the year we held over 30 events including:

- an engagement event for the Czech Roma community.
- an engagement event for the Traveller community at the Skillzone in Gloucester.
- an informal Tea and Tell session on ‘Silver Sunday’ at the café at Gloucestershire Crematorium.

It would not have been possible to organise many of the events without the support of a range of partner organisations including Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Trust, Age UK Gloucestershire and Gloucestershire Constabulary (through the Police Community Support Officers).

A report of the feedback received from older people through the Tea and Tell and other events was issued in late 2015 and will be updated on an ongoing basis.

Since 2012 we have been asking older people to take part in the following wellbeing survey:

STATEMENTS	NONE OF THE TIME	RARELY	SOME OF THE TIME	MOST OF THE TIME	ALL OF THE TIME
I FEEL SAFE IN MY HOME					
I FEEL SAFE WHEN I GO OUT OF MY HOME					
I LOOK FORWARD TO THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE					
I FEEL PART OF THE COMMUNITY WHERE I LIVE					
I ENJOY GOOD HEALTH					

As at March 2016 nearly 1,000 older people across Gloucestershire had taken part in the survey and that number is continuing to increase.

Stroud District Council

We received a Community Investment Grant of £3,072 from Stroud District Council which was used to fund activities in Stroud, in particular the Stroud District Older Persons' Forum. This has been a progressive year for Stroud District Older Persons' Forum which was set up in 2008 as an independent group of older people and organisations representing older people with the following purposes:

- For gathering views from older people as a conduit for disseminating views to Council members using the democratic process
- As a two way process of feeding information and views to Local Strategic Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Partnership
- For disseminating these issues to relevant organisations
- As a method of consultation for statutory organisations

It has evolved into a partnership of older people, with representatives from the voluntary and statutory sectors, including Stroud District Council officers and elected members.

It was agreed to hold four 'formal' quarterly meetings at Ebley Mill to link with the quarterly Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and Health and Wellbeing Partnership (HWBP) meetings, comprising representatives from the voluntary and statutory sector, of which SDOPF is also represented. In addition there is representation on the regional South West Seniors' Network committee.

The proposed outcomes are

- To identify issues within the specific SDC Wards and link to Ward councillors through a questionnaire and through discussion
- To give a higher profile to GOPA
- To make 'formal' meetings opportunities for discussion on issues gathered from the Seniors' events and for planning future events
- To make better use of funding and personnel resources

On 3rd November the Seniors' event in Berkeley Town Hall was attended by a total of 26 people including eight members of the public, 3 local Ward councillors. The remainder were GOPA representatives and staff running the stands on behalf of their organisations.

On 1st March, the Cam and Dursley 'Seniors' event at the Chantry Centre, Dursley in partnership with World Jungle. 43 people attended the Dursley event including members of the public and organisations sharing information on services. A full Report will be issued to SDC Officers and Councillors

In addition, 150 copies of Song Books have been printed for use with community groups and 50 were presented to World Jungle for use with their community events. The Song Books comprised old songs with a CD and led by Pat Sykes (a retired music teacher) who has also attended a Mindsong course which focuses on techniques with older people with dementia.

Networking

The trustees and volunteers continued to attend a range of networking and other events during the year and were also invited to attend a number of consultation events. They included:

- Stroud Local Strategic Partnership
- Stroud Health and Wellbeing Partnership
- Gloucestershire BME Network Group for Dementia
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy sub group

- South West Seniors' Network

GOPA is a member of a number of local and regional organisations including Gloucestershire Rural Community Council; Gloucestershire VCS Alliance; the South West Foundation; the South West Forum on Ageing/South West Seniors Network and is a Forum member of Age UK.

Providing information

A key element of all our programmes has been supporting organisations working with and on behalf of older people. We have an extensive library of information booklets and leaflets on a wide range of issues, produced by both local and national organisations.

Planning for the future.....

CURRENT PRIORITIES, FUTURE PROJECTS AND FUNDING

- Secure funding to cover overheads/governance costs for next 3 years
- Dementia
- Homeless
- Mental health
- End of Life/Bereavement
- BME communities/Travellers
- Networking
- Providing information/signposting
- Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender communities
- Isolation and Loneliness (in crisis situations)
- Updating policies and procedures
- Increase membership
- Recruit new trustees to fill skills/knowledge gaps

Future developments:

We are continuing to work with a range of organisations across the statutory, voluntary and business sectors to identify opportunities for partnership working.

Financial Statements

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Business Income		Bus. Expenses	
Fundraising	18.00	Insurance	399.60
Grant	9,072.00	Meeting Rooms	235.08
Other Income		Office	13.79
Repayment	75.00	Printing	407.69
	-----	Projects	
TOTAL Other Income	75.00	Age UK Diversity Grant	
		Other Expenses	722.03
TOTAL Business Income	9,165.00	Travel Expenses	33.25
Interest Inc			-----
Bank Interest	4.68	TOTAL Age UK Diversity Grant	755.28
	-----	Age UK Winter Grant	
TOTAL Interest Inc	4.68	Other Expense	100.06

TOTAL INCOME	9,169.68	TOTAL Age UK Winter Grant	100.06
		Day Care	
TOTAL EXPENSES	10,261.59	Consultancy	774.50
		Other Expenses	108.37
		Travel	8.30
OVERALL TOTAL	(1,091.91)		-----
		TOTAL Day Care	891.17
		PCC	
		Events	100.00
		Other Expenses	960.72
		Prep Planning	660.00
		Project Work	2,055.00
		Travel Expenses	678.20

		TOTAL PCC	4,453.92
		Stroud Projects	
		Consulting	380.70
		Other Expenses	872.99
		Printing	287.88
		Typing Minutes	30.00

		TOTAL Stroud Projects	1,571.57

Tea and Tell		
Other Expenses	6.13	
Project Work	70.70	

TOTAL Tea and Tell		76.83

TOTAL Projects		7,848.83
Subscriptions		74.00
Travel		
Trustee Travel	1,020.40	
Volunteer Travel	262.20	

TOTAL Travel		1,282.60

TOTAL Bus. Expenses		10,261.59

Balance Sheet

ASSETS		LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Cash and Bank Accounts			
Current	9,840.17	LIABILITIES	-

TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	9,840.17	EQUITY	9,998.11
Other Assets			
Salary Overpayment (SS)	157.94	TOTAL LIABILITIES &	-----
	-----	EQUITY	9,998.11
TOTAL Other Assets	157.94		

TOTAL ASSETS			9,998.11

SOME OF OUR FUNDERS, PARTNERS AND MEMBERS

 <p>Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Gloucestershire</p>	 <p>STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL www.stroud.gov.uk</p>
 <p>Gloucestershire COUNTY COUNCIL</p>	 <p>ageUK Improving later life</p>
 <p>Gloucestershire ageUK</p>	<p>Fair Shares community time banks</p>
<p>Gloucestershire Care Services  NHS Trust</p>	 <p>Gloucestershire Rural Community Council</p>
 <p>naylorpowell Estate Agents Letting Agents Property Managers</p>	 <p>RICHMOND PAINSWICK <i>Part of Bupa</i></p>