

Honorary Secretary's Report to AGM 2013

Membership

After the gains of the previous year, our individual membership numbers have fallen back slightly but our church and corporate membership continue to grow.

Membership	2012/13	2013/14	Increase
Individuals	113	94	-17%
Churches	23	27	15%
Corporate	12	21	75%

We are extremely grateful to all our members for their commitment to us in. We have been fortunate in securing donations both monetary and in kind from many of our corporate members and supporters. This will become an increasingly important part of our income stream.

Volunteers

Our current volunteer numbers stand at 87, slightly lower than this time last year. Between them they provide an estimated 5,500 volunteer hours a year. Many of these same volunteers also donate by giving food to supplement the supplies we buy in and with clothing, toiletries, sleeping bags and household items to help our clients. On behalf of the Executive Committee and all our clients, we thank you.

Changes to the Organisational Structure of R2R

As you will all be aware Routes to Roots finally became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in February 2014. It has been a long road and we thank you for your patience with us as we worked through this change.

You will also be aware that our joint working with BCHA and through them the contract for outreach services with the Borough of Poole came to an end at the end of March 2014. At the end of last year, Liz Bailey left to take up her new role as a grandmother. Scott Jones decided to pursue a change of direction and started his career with the Police in February. We were fortunate to be able to take on Alan Cook for the final part of the contract with Poole Borough and so maintained a professional service right to the end. We thank Liz, Scott and Alan for all their hard work and dedication in what was a difficult period in the contract.

We have now reviewed our business plan and are working to provide projects and activities to support and increase the well-being and skills of our clients. I am pleased to advise that we have now secured the services of Neil Robertson to take us forward and provide projects co-ordination.

Administration

As ever, I am very grateful to Caroline Foy in assisting with the preparation for the AGM as well as for all her dedication with an increasing workload throughout the year. I should also like to thank Gabi and Germann Keeling Ltd for the provision of excellent management services.

Lynn Foster

Lynn Foster
Honorary Secretary
June 2014