



***albinism***  
*Fellowship*

***2015***

***ANNUAL REPORT***

***Summary of Activities, Income & Expenditure***  
***1st April 2014 - 31st March 2015***

## *Activities*

### *Highlights of the year*

It has been another busy year for the charity. Our most recent highlight has been the success of our 2015 family weekend conference (more on this in a future report) but we are also proud of our increased social networking presence, the range of enquiries we respond to and the value of our events to bring people together to learn more about and share experiences of albinism.

### *Achievements and performance*

#### Providing information and support

We continue to deal with a small but important number of enquiries via our helpline and by post but by far the bulk of enquiries we receive now come to info or support@ and are channelled through our online OS Ticket system. In the last year we have dealt with 175 enquiries ranging from information from other organisations, approaches from the media, film makers and researchers, with proposals that may be of interest to us, fundraising queries and more complex questions from members and the general public. These are dealt with ably primarily by trustee Rosie Dempsey and some shared across our other trustees.

Our information resources online and in print continue to be of help and support is also provided through our range of events mentioned below. At present we have 1669 likes on Facebook and 679 followers on Twitter. We have 46 people subscribed to our video channel on YouTube. In the last year, our videos have had 4,265 views!

#### Raising positive awareness

We used the UN's International Albinism Day on 13<sup>th</sup> June as our main opportunity to promote positive awareness of albinism in the media.

We are pleased to be supported by active volunteer Andrew Bennett of **bennet words** who provides professional writing, P.R. and editorial services. Andrew has helped us secure positive media opportunities to promote a better understanding of albinism in the UK.

In particular in June we secured a number of pieces in the print and broadcast media including with the BBC mainly in the East Midlands and South East where some member families spoke about their experiences of albinism to help dispel the myths and misunderstanding sometimes surrounding the condition.

## Arranging opportunities for people to meet

Events enabling people to share their experiences, learn more about albinism and gain mutual support continue to be the mainstay of our work.

During the year we have held a number of family orientated day events sometimes purely socially based and at other times bringing in a guest speaker on a topic of interest. This year events were held in Belfast, Dublin, Nottingham, London, Brighton and Londonderry.

We continue to share with our member's details of other relevant events including those provided by Nystagmus Network, VICTA and others. We held our latest mini day conference in Dublin in November which was attended by 90 people. Many folk enjoyed a sociable weekend together alongside this.

## ***Structure, governance and management***

All of our trustees continued their commitment to the organisation during the year. We are grateful to Daniel Hill, Hilary Hill, Martin Lang, Rosie Dempsey, Will Fellows, Jo Bennett, Roselle Potts, Akeel Bari and Mark Sanderson for their continued support.

During the year we learned that Hilary Hill and Martin Lang intended to step down as trustees in 2015-16. Hilary stepped down in the summer and Martin in December. We are pleased that both will continue to be active supporters of and volunteers for the charity. We wish to acknowledge Hilary and Martins considerable guidance, support, practical hard work and wise counsel and support with our development given to the Fellowship over many years.

We have been able to identify Caroline James and Karina Lang as having appropriate experience and skills relevant to the board. Caroline is a parent of a child with albinism and works as an Operations Manager for John Lewis Partnership. Karina has personal experience of albinism and is an Events Assistant with the Microscopic Society.

## *Plans for the future*

This is my last report as Chair of AF. Although I intend to stay on as a trustee and play an active role in developing the organisations UK and Ireland conferences I have decided it is time to hand over the overall leadership of the charity to a new Chair. I'm delighted that the trustees have elected Roselle Potts to serve as AF's next and first woman Chair. Roselle has already brought considerable skills and experience to the board as a mother of a child with albinism, a lawyer and experienced charity trustee elsewhere. As Chair I'm sure she will be a great ambassador for AF and in particular help the organisation to extend its reach, be more diverse and deliver a focussed work programme. I wish her well in the role of Chair.

The Fellowship is in good order. We are lucky to benefit from a steady level of community fundraising income, not least of which from Martin Lang and his friend Adam Foster, who walked 100 miles from Winchester to Eastbourne to raise money for us. We want to further develop the quality and quantity of relevant information we provide especially online. We will continue to grow our range of events across the UK and in particular at the time of writing we've had a great success at our latest family weekend conference held in Derbyshire (November 2015) which we will report on further at a later date. The trustees are committed to strengthening the organisation, developing more of what we do well, but retaining the friendly, approachable family orientated nature of the organisation whilst reaching out to more people and becoming more diverse as a group.

*Prepared by: Mark Sanderson, Trustee/ Chair  
On behalf of the trustees, Albinism Fellowship*

## ***Income & Expenditure***

The following is a summary of our income, expenditure and balances for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 as agreed by our accountants Cryer Sandham Ltd. of Reading. A full set of our accounts can be viewed at [www.albinism.org.uk](http://www.albinism.org.uk)

### **Income**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Subscriptions (membership fees)	£1,456
Conference income	£1,251
Donations	£11,486
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£14,193</b>

### **Less: Expenditure**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Conference costs	£6,036
Secretarial and stationery (Inc. P O Box)	£142
Magazine expenses (Albinism Life)	£923
Regional events expenses	£905
Meeting expenses (Inc. Trustees conf. prep.)	£933
Telephone	£241
Travel (meetings, events & conf. planning)	£47
Bank charges and interest (Just Giving)	£216
Safeguarding training etc. (annual fee)	£39
Governance costs (e.g. accounts)	£1,048
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>£10,530</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>£3,663</b>

### **Balances**

Balance as at 31 March 2014	£1,952
+ surplus for 2014-15	£3,663
Balance as at 31 March 2015	£5,615