

MIDLAND REGION AGM

Sunday 22nd January saw the inaugural AGM of the Midland Region. The event was very well attended, especially as there was only two months to plan and set it up! The members voted Dan Whittaker as chairman. Dan works at the Frank Chapman Centre in Bewdley, Worcestershire. The secretary is Sonia Wright and the treasurer Mike Smart. Both work at Bell Heath Study Centre in the West Midlands. The members also voted on a small management committee and agreed the constitution for the Region. This constitution will now be passed onto the National Executive Committee for its approval. There are plans for another conference in October and a family day in May.

After the short AGM, Marcus Bailie spoke to the group. He touched on his role in AALA and it was great to see that the role we have to play in educating children is valuable. We know it, but sometimes it is nice to hear other people telling us we are doing things right. The statistics, Marcus used, showed that the number of deaths occurring on school visits, although upsetting, are very small compared to road traffic accidents and surprisingly suicides in young people.

Heather Brown was our next speaker and she explained about the role of IOL and APIOL. The Midland Region is on the second round of APIOL. The Region has 20 APIOL's, 10 assessors, 21 mentors and 14 aspiring APIOL's.

In the afternoon, Wendi Vick from Forest Schools showed how this initiative could be used across all ages. The practical session at the end was such fun and enjoyed by all those who stayed. It proved we are all kids at heart.