

Almoner Report AGM 2023

This past year has been one where the Almoner position has increased activity on many fronts. We continue to receive reports of the sick and lonely and react to these as best we can.

We are blessed to such caring assistant almoners in the various regions who do their best to visit and counsel our members. Thank you to them. Without your support we will find things very difficult. The assistant almoner is usually the first point of contact for members and their families, although we do receive requests from other Countries and regions to establish the whereabouts of people and notifying us of problems affecting our UK members.

As Almoner, I have also arranged Trust grants for members where required.

We continue to counsel those with financial and pension and benefits problems. Several enquiries from overseas people or those with overseas assets and death issues have been dealt with.

The Almoner is often much involved when a member dies. Our Elysium Bereavement Guide is most helpful to families as it gives the A – Z of what to do when someone dies. The cost of sending this out to Members is met by the Trust – it is also most useful when planning ahead. Members who would like a copy to contact the Almoner on 07968 451854 or at almoner@bsapuk.org

We have sent out the BSAP cap and flag when requested for 9 funerals over the past year. Our appeal for more caps and flags resulted in an additional set. We do require a female version though for women members passing on.

A BSAP Affinity Group Travel Insurance plan has also been made available to members, as many will wish to travel abroad after lockdown. It is available up to age 80 (and by special application if over age 80). Someone recently taking up such a plan (age75) found it considerably cheaper than other plans on the market. This benefit continues to appeal with a number of members making use of it.

Other Almoner work includes dealing with various administrative issues, finding MIA, dealing with pension credits, encouraging non-member widows to join the association as well as former members. An appeal for motorised scooters and wheelchairs has resulted in a number being offered and placed. The Trust has also funded a couple of these requests. It is intended to have sub-almoner training in the coming months, which is a welcome initiative.

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