



Spring 2016

Annual General Meeting

In our efforts both to contribute more to our mission and to be financially stable we need to draw more on our broad network of people who have been trained by us or who have come across us through other programmes or events. Following the departure of our marketing and sales person, Louise Lessells in December 2015, we must also continue to explore new possibilities and approaches. These were some of the key messages that came out of our Annual General Meeting in Birmingham which was attended by around 15 people (see picture below).



We were also pleased to see **3 new Trustees elected to our Board**: Savita Custead (who returns to the Board after a two-year gap), Lesley Adams and John Cornwell. John lives in Mombasa, Kenya so his presence on the Board will not only strengthen our international work, but will also challenge us to improve our virtual communications! We are excited by the possibilities these new Board members bring.

World Bank book published

As reported in the last Newsletter, ICA:UK was part of a consortium writing "Evaluating Digital Citizen Engagement: A Practical Guide" for the World Bank. You can download it [here](#).

Spreading ToP in Europe



With partnerships developing with Akademia Facylitacji in Warsaw and Initiatives of Change in Switzerland, we now have trainee ToP trainers in Poland and Switzerland. IofC have started to establish regular ToP courses in Geneva (helped by UK Associates Jonathan Dudding, Bhavesh Patel and Rob Lancaster) while Ghee Bowman will be travelling to Warsaw in May to run the first ToP courses there. Associate Martin Gilbraith is also running regular ToP training in Brussels.



As part of the same expansion Jonathan Dudding recently ran a Participatory Strategic Planning course in Amsterdam for the ICA Netherlands team, plus trainee trainers from Poland and Switzerland. Discussions will continue on how to create more opportunities for ToP trainers to develop their competencies in Europe.

Wanting to share your experiences with facilitation, ask questions of your peers, and learn from each other?

Join our groups on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and follow [@ica_uk](#) on [Twitter](#)

Our Featured Trainer



Alan is an [independent facilitator](#) and is one of ICA:UK's most experienced trainers. He first found ICA

during a volunteering gap year from university, working in the Phoenix office of ICA USA. He moved to the UK in 2005, and has had a variety of relationships and roles with ICA:UK ever since. Among other projects, Alan led the development of the latest version of the GFM manual.

In addition to his work as a group facilitator, Alan supports community projects and voluntary groups as a volunteer, and has lead group working to bring the nearly-unknown sport of Disc Golf to Longford Park, near Chorlton in Manchester. When he isn't working in the community, Alan enjoys spending time in his workshop building things with his kids, most recently a banjo made entirely of recycled and leftover materials.

Alan is most passionate about helping groups build strong shared visions and plans for implementing them. He loves working with groups of passionate people who are ready to be *organised* passionate people, and he loves teaching others to use the ICA methods to creating change.

Most of Alan's work is in the charitable and public sectors, leading groups to do project planning, team building and high-level strategy.

Thank you Marge!

We love your feedback! We pay close attention to what you write in our evaluation forms, but even more we love to hear your stories and experiences after you've been trained. So, many thanks to Marge Ainslie, who [blogged](#) about her first experience of using the Consensus Workshop method. Please share your stories too!

Facilitation Meetups



IAF England & Wales has three free afternoon facilitation meetups coming up soon in our three regional meetup groups - RSVP now for [May 5 in Exeter](#) hosted by Ghee Bowman, (also) [May 5 in Manchester](#) hosted by Clare North of Northern Change Facilitators, or [May 17 in London](#) hosted by Penny Walker.

Featured Partner: TYTF

One of the driving principles of ICA is that development is best designed and delivered by local people. Our training is just one demonstration of this concept in practice- we want to build your capacity to do what you want! The same principle applies to our work with partners in Africa, and lies behind our [Village Volunteers](#) sponsorship scheme, which links UK individuals to community based organisations in Africa.

One example is the [Tuijendeleze Youth Trust Fund](#), active in Kenya and supporting young people to obtain the education they could not



TYTF staff, volunteers and Board members after their strategic planning event

otherwise afford, and to strengthen their contribution to community development as a result. Recently Village Volunteers sponsored an impact assessment and strategic planning process for TYTF, enabling them to look critically at what difference they are making and to plan how to improve their impact in the future.