

AHP Page

Sue Mickleburgh

You probably remember my piece in the September issue of *S&S*, in which I pondered the *raison d'être* of AHP, and invited you all to attend a special meeting to do some brainstorming around where, if anywhere, AHP might be heading. I am delighted to say that this meeting was a great success, and that as a result of it AHP now has two new committee members — welcome to John Buckle and John Graves.

There were lots of suggested projects and we have come up with some very good and practical ways of bringing humanistic psychology to the wider community. More important, we have identified some people who are willing to contribute their time in order to put these ideas into practice.

One of the first projects we will be working on is to organise a Festival of Humanistic Perspectives. That's the working title — it may change as the concept evolves. The idea is to provide a one-day festival, celebrating all aspects of humanistic psychology (we decided not to use 'psychology' in the title, as some people might find it off-putting). There will be stalls representing a wide range of humanistic practice — psychotherapy, counselling, personal growth, transpersonal awareness, organisational consultancy, management training, collaborative research, experiential education, work with HIV and AIDS, racial awareness, gender awareness, and so

on. Stalls will be allocated by invitation only, and we have a venue that will have a ready-made body of people who are interested in this area.

I shall say no more now, but rest assured, it will be brilliant! I will give you more news about all this next time. I am now very excited about the future of AHP; as well as the Festival we have identified the following:

- A long-term project which involves training and will provide a service to members as well as fulfilling our educational objectives.
- A deeper exploration of the relationship between humanistic psychology, economics and power (particularly relevant with a general election not too far away), which will start in the pages of *Self & Society* and end who-knows-where?
- A themed issue of *Self & Society* on both self- and mutual empowerment.
- The formation of a sub-group to widen the circulation of *Self & Society* to bookshops and so on.
- To look again at our networking practices and to increase local networking within the organisation and outside. We will invite a speaker with a good success rate in this area to talk to us and give us some tips — possibly at an open meeting.
- To commission more publications like *A Guide to Humanistic Psychology* on other humanistic topics.

So, as you can see, we have plenty to keep us busy and it seems certain that, for the foreseeable future, AHP will continue to grow and to be the voice of humanistic

psychology in Britain. That makes me very happy. If you would like to contribute an idea, or participate in any of the above projects, I would love to hear from you.

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Whiz Collis

What does being a Member of AHPP mean to you? Do you just pay your membership fee when Ian sends a letter asking for it, and feel happy that your accreditation is secure for another year; that you will once again be able to go on the UKCP Register or in the BAC Handbook; that you can display your certificate of membership to your clients as a symbol of your competent and ethical practice in your chosen profession?

Before you send off your cheque this year, can I ask you to use this as an opportunity to reread the Code of Ethics and the Code of Practice, and to ask yourself, perhaps in a group with other AHPP practitioners, 'Am I practising in this way? Do I have difficult feelings that might be leading me to practice unethically? Should I be sharing these with my supervisor? Am I getting enough, and rigorous enough, supervision?' One of the guiding principles in humanistic psychology is self-responsibility: if we do not ask the questions about ourselves that we would happily pose to our clients, then we are practising a fraud.

We have had several expulsions this year, and I am saddened by the way these

practitioners have let us all down by using the name AHPP, but not subscribing to those ethics by which, in paying a membership fee, we give our word of honour we are guided. So I ask myself, can I honestly say that I respect the dignity and integrity of my client, that I work only in their best interest? Do I take seriously my responsibility for and professional relationship with my client? Do I consider their welfare and respect confidentiality?

In paying our membership fee we ascribe to these values, and agree to be bound by the procedures of AHPP should there be a complaint against us. This is our contract with the Association. It is a two-way procedure, and if AHPP is worth belonging to, then we also must be worthy of belonging to it. Without this the Association is meaningless.

So I ask you this year, and every year, to use this as a moment of reflection and assessment of your practice. If you feel you want to be part of this Association and can honestly say that you whole-heartedly work in a way that the Association would be proud of, then send in your cheque to Ian as quickly as you can!