

AHP Page

June Green

When you read this it will be the New Year with all its hopes and expectations. Maybe some of us are hoping and expecting to have a new Government after seventeen years of the same, and no doubt the debates about morality, family values, children, violence and the environment will continue. In any case AHP will continue to further its aims and make some contribution to that debate.

Dates for your new diaries

Saturday 26th April

The AGM will take place at College Hall, Malet Street, London WC1. We are planning to have a group event in the afternoon before the business meeting and then a social evening afterwards.

Saturday/Sunday 14th and 15th June

Alvin Mahrer has been invited by AHP to run two workshops: *Dream Work* on Saturday, intended for everyone, and *Supervision* on Sunday for practitioners Alvin Mahrer is

an American psychologist who has developed experiential psychotherapy and is a leading theorist in humanistic psychology.

Looking forward to the next conference, we are exploring the possibility of hiring an organiser. We will keep you posted with further details. For now, we wish you love and peace in the New Year and hope to see you at our events.

May we remind members that we still have copies of John Rowan's *A Guide to Humanistic Psychology* for sale. This is a comprehensive overview of the theory and practice of humanistic psychology which includes subjects such as couples work, co-counselling, bodywork, dreamwork and humanistic education, as well as individual approaches such as gestalt therapy, primal integration and transactional analysis. It also includes a comprehensive bibliography. If you would like a copy, send a cheque for £3.95 made out to AHP(B) to: AHP Administrator, BCM Box 3582, London WC1N 3XX

AHPP Page

Eric Whitton

With the consolidation of the association over the past few years which has been achieved with Whiz Collis as chair, I believe we can continue to grow. We had a lively AGM with many issues to

deal with in the coming months. As the new chair of AHPP, the keynote I have in mind for the coming year is development. Our membership is steadily growing. At the same time, we need to find new ways of

increasing the number of practitioners who might be associated with our humanistic aims and beliefs. If we gain collegial membership of BAC, I think we have a great opportunity to attract more counsellor members. The discussions of the Core Beliefs Working Party showed a strong interest in keeping a broad spectrum of practitioners in the accreditation of full members.

We are an association in good professional standing. We offer something quite different from other agencies in the field. We are independent from any particular 'school'. We enjoy both the shared philosophy of beliefs and practices that hold us together as well as the differences we bring from our various backgrounds. Some of these ideas we have in common with other organisations, but we are answerable only to ourselves — the membership. Apart from Ian Doucet, our administrator, who puts in more work than he is paid for, the officers, members of the board and committees give a lot of their time and thought to the wellbeing of AHPP. Let's hope that what we do is of increasing benefit to the

membership as a whole. I welcome the moves to forge closer links with other agencies. AHPP can play a significant role within the wide spectrum of humanistic practice. The human potential movement has spread into many spheres of work, and it is important that we seek recognition for AHPP.

We can build from our strengths. At the same time we can pay attention to where we can improve. One of the features of AHPP which I have admired is a willingness to be open and to look at itself and change. In setting up the Core Beliefs Working Party, we have initiated a process of self-critique about how we can apply our humanistic beliefs more effectively. For me one of the touchstones of being humanistic is enrichment. As a board member, I have experienced both warmth and positive criticism and I look forward to continuing to make the business both enjoyable and rewarding. And hopefully we will be able to share this sense of belonging to an association which values encounter and fulfillment in our work.

Letters

Dear S&S,

The November Ethical Issues pages raised a question that has long interested me. In my own practice I have never found that a client who is paying nothing, or a reduced rate, takes the therapy less seriously or benefits less from it. I have often wondered why some other practitioners (like those who responded to Philip's story) report a different experience.

Some of what Andy, Maxine and

Caroline say has helped me understand this. It seems as though it may be differences in the practitioner's attitudes that set up different responses in the client. Personally, I do not feel, as Andy does, that paying and receiving money is more 'adult'; in fact, I think it's a rather infantile way of constructing social relations! Nor do I agree with Maxine that the money nexus brings with it 'dignity and self-respect' —