

AHP Page

John Buckle

The times, they are a-changing

As we stagger to the close of 1998, we shall rise again with a volley of 'happy new years' to everyone and renewed vigour in 1999. We certainly didn't go out with a whimper: the conference was a great success and raised enthusiasm and hopes for more to come.

The sub-title 'Cycles of change and transition' could well apply to the whole of AHP. Change is underway not only in roles and personnel in *Self & Society*, administration and the AHP Committee but also in how AHPP relates to the whole organisation. This makes for a good opportunity for a fresh look at our association: what is it there for and how well it functions.

The Conference

Just over one hundred attended including some thirty non-members. The feedback papers gave a very good rating to the experience, especially to the quality of the workshops and the conference centre, Stoke Rochford Hall, together with the chance to meet and share with others. The main disappointment expressed was with the timing of Roger Woolger's keynote lecture, though interesting for many, as being too late, too long and unrelenting without immediate time for questions and discussion. Thank you to all who returned feedback sheets, there is much interesting comment to use and report in a later *Self & Society* page. A further twenty or so members would have made for a financial suc-

cess as well. What deterred members this time? Cost, time, travel, theme?

Self & Society

The editorial team is in transition. Maxine Linnell has already taken over from David Jones as commissioning editor and introduced herself with enthusiasm for the developments ahead. John Button and Fran Mosley will relinquish their editorial roles in the summer after carrying *Self & Society* through an unsettling year whilst maintaining the high standards that they have helped to establish. All three will continue to give support to the new editors.

Administration

Dylanie Walker gave notice of her need to resign from her post as Administrator. There have been personal factors that have made it difficult for her to continue. Our thanks to Dylanie for the work she has undertaken for the committee and *S&S*. She has been a lively contributor at meetings and has set a high standard of presentation. We wish her well for the future. Dylanie will hand over to her successor during January.

The Committee

Marolyn Burgess, a long-serving AHP member, has delayed her wish to step down from the committee for many months. She has steered through the process of incorporation to a point where the end is in sight and so now feels she can relinquish her role in these Saturday after-

noon meetings — much to our regret. But her wide experience, wisdom and concerns for the issues of VAT will still be available to us. The Committee expressed their appreciation to her.

James Mackenzie, the treasurer, joyfully announced (or was it with modest pleasure) that he has received three years of accounts (1995, 1996, 1997) from the accountants, which will enable us to proceed with incorporation — not the most exciting of events, but one that is important for the future of AHP. James was congratulated on his perseverance while he seeks a new accountant and checks out the VAT position.

June Green, as chair, gave a report of the year — a crucial one with changes and problems as indicated earlier. She welcomed the support given by the committee that works well together though welcoming new recruits. June has worked closely

with *Self & Society* developments and liaised with AHPP. She recognized the logic of a professional body needing to consider the pros and cons of separating from AHP. Certainly an issue for the coming year.

In thanking all those who had worked for the Conference, it was felt that Ruth Finer, John Button and Tone Horwood had made a huge contribution that should not go without acknowledgement.

Looking ahead, our tasks include

- establishing a strong financial position and exploring the possibilities of fund-raising
- promoting an increase in membership
- developing the organisation and ways of involving more members
- the possibilities of running taster evenings for AHP

In conclusion — change is in the air: a time for fresh starts and sustaining the enthusiasm generated at Conference.

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Eric Whitton

At the time of writing, there is an onset of a seasonal affective disorder called Xmas. This is nothing to do with the X Files and nothing to do with the celebration of Christ's birth though both have connections with extra-terrestrial visitations! No this is the time of year when you can't get a lock fixed because of the Xmas rush! Fortunately as practitioners, we are not caught up in the commercial madness. And this is the time to take a break. By the time you read this, it will all be over and hopefully you are all feeling better for it. Our recent AGM was well attended and

produced some stimulating discussion about the various issues raised. In the morning workshop we addressed the controversial subject 'Is supervision becoming a scam?' While most everyone was in favour of the principle of support of the practitioner, there was some fierce criticism of the way it has become a financial and political factor in both the training and development of therapists and counsellors. Two motions were passed at the meeting for the Board to explore the separation from AHP and renaming the Association to reflect its national basis. The

presenting issue of separating with AHP has been for accounting purposes but there is clearly an underlying issue of the different purposes of the two associations which needs to be discussed over the coming year. The Ethics Committee got the backing of the meeting to experiment with mediation as a primary approach in dealing with complaints. As Chair, I spoke about the need for development and my plans to set up a 'think/feel' group in the new year. Three people volunteered to join it and although I want to limit the group to six, if you have any ideas which may help to promote our work, don't hesitate to contact me. We are having our first meeting in January. Related to this, there was much discussion about the need for another major conference. This takes an

enormous amount of time and we need to establish what kind of event this might be in addition to the smaller events which we have mounted during the past year. The meeting had a sad note. Whiz announced her intention to stand down from the Board after seven years which is a long enough 'sentence' for anyone! As she will no longer be our UKCP representative, she will be replaced by Tone Horwood. It is hard to realise how much we will miss her — for her enthusiasm, hard work, sharp humour and commitment which has reaped an enormous benefit for us all. However we are glad to welcome three new Board members: Jessica Woolliscroft, Peter Bennett and Veronica Schembri. We look forward to another year of growth at every level.