

I am writing this during the "silly season" – a term associated with the media's attempt to drum up news during the parliamentary recess. There is also a psychological term called Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). The millennium will also soon be upon us. I call attention to these collective conditions because the field of psychology and personal growth is not altogether free of this sort of pathology. I call it Perennial Organisational Thrombosis. (POT). Leaving aside the mushrooming of "new age" activity which stretches the use of language to the point of absurdity with cleansings, magic, divine inspiration, etc., there has been in recent years a plethora of institutes of this, that and the other thing in the field of therapy and counselling which offer (at a price) authorisation to practice. While plurality has a useful place in a free society there is also a trend to claim almost divine if not political exclusivity for each product. I am sure most of this comes from a place of good will, but much of it seems to be out of envy.

We were sitting in Russell Square on Sunday having a picnic after our Board meeting reflecting on what effect, let alone knowledge most of those around us knew or cared about all of this. One in 1000, or probably even less. The reason for this splurge of scepticism is that we as an organisation are faced with some major changes in the coming year. 2000 is our 20th birthday. So we have been around for longer than most of the above. We have learned a lot and still have much to learn about how to be realistically effective in today's climate. We are questioning our relationship with our parent body AHP(B). We are thinking of changing

our name to compete with those who claim national authority. Comparatively we are small, but I dare to suggest that most of our members are in because we stand for something more than terrestrial power.

We have plans to celebrate our birthday with a celebration and events which may draw more attention to what we stand for and what we have to offer. Not only do we intend to raise the profile of the AHPP as it exists through better Primary Care, but also to extend the range of our activity into training, publication and networking. I have been aware during my time as Chair of how easy it is to get so involved in the business of the association, which is vital, that we can lose sight of what we are doing or why we are doing what or who we are doing it for! That has always been my deep concern throughout my professional life in education, training and psychotherapy - how is *this* of benefit to the practitioner, student, trainee or client? In order to answer that question, I need to be clear about what pay-off there is for me as an officer and not to get the two confused – the basic rule of good practice. I like the people I work with. I enjoy the conflict, humour and commitment I share with them. I believe in and am enthusiastic for finding out what it means to be humanistic and I hope that as my term of office draws to an end, that I have contributed something worthwhile towards a greater clarity of being a humanistic practitioner. I certainly know that I have gained a lot which has affected my work.

What's in a name? By their fruits ye shall know them!!