

This is my last page as Chair. After three years which seem to have flown past, I will be handing over at the AGM on 21 November to my successor. As I have noted here before, my main impression of the work of the Board has been a group of dedicated people who are doing an incredible job on behalf of the members. The report of the HIPS section of UKCP for their five year assessment was very favourable. We have due cause to be proud of our standing in the profession. Now it looks as though, in due time, we will be accepted as an accrediting body for the UK Register of Counsellors.

At the same time we are not standing still. We have considered future developments recommended by the think group and in the new year (millennium) which is our 20th birthday we will be inviting members to take an active part in these new ventures. The events committee have come with an exciting programme which will be circulated and advertised soon. Alongside these events, Peter Bennett has agreed to be responsible for recruiting new members. The Board has also decided to take the first steps to test the viability of sponsoring publications and training.

We are taking a major step in proposing at the AGM that we separate formally from AHP(B). We have discussed this during the past year and although there are some arguments against this move, a large majority of the Board believe that this is, in the long term, best for the Association. If this proposal goes through, there are

still a lot of negotiations which need to take place before we change our relationship. This is not the time to go into detail but I am sure the readers of *Self & Society* will be kept informed of developments.

We have now produced our new Membership Directory which both is and looks impressive. Appreciation is due to Christopher Coulson and Ian Doucet for the immense amount of work that has gone into this. We are planning to update this next year which will be a much easier task now that so much ground work has already been done.

It is fitting for me to express my satisfaction that during my time as Chair the AHPP has moved through a stage of growth. And I feel glad to have had such a committed and lively group of people to work with on the Board. We have experienced fun as well as conflict and maintained a good sense of one another. I am constantly aware that it is not easy for therapists, counsellors, etc. to work effectively in an organisation. So it is no small achievement that while we maintain a rugged individualism, we do find a way to contribute as a group in the interests of the membership and I am sure through our interaction we learn a lot which benefits us personally and professionally. My thanks to all those who have supported me during the past three years. I am now planning to take a break for six months and expect to come back with renewed energy for a new task in this rewarding enterprise called AHPP.