

Spring is in the air. Shoots are appearing and everywhere is the promise of new growth. This seems a fitting analogy for where we are now as an organisation: well established roots and tender young shoots emerging as a result. The task is to nurture the new growth and provide solid stakes for support. Before you assume that Alan Titchmarsh has taken the Chair, I'll drop the gardening-speak and explain more precisely what I mean.

The separation from AHPB, our leaving home, was a huge step for AHPP but we have come through it relatively unscathed and keen to utilise the freedoms that becoming a limited company has brought us commercially. To refresh your memory, and to brief newer members, the notion of separation arose initially due to the difficulty of auditing two sets of accounts when the purpose of the two bodies were quite different and the fear that our joint incomes would render us liable for VAT. Some AHPP members resented paying a second subscription when all they really required was a route to accreditation.

Having achieved an amicable separation, we now face an independent future and the challenges associated with that change. We have a wealth of talent amongst the membership, many of whom are happy to contribute by becoming involved in future planning and projects. UKAHPP is run by volunteers (bar one paid part-time administrator who thankfully gives far more of his time and commitment than we could ever afford) and it can feel risky deciding which proposals will be viable and whether we have the human resources to see them through successfully. There is always an awareness of how much more we could achieve if we were able to employ extra help.

Ultimately it is our aim to improve finances to allow us to be bolder in our undertakings as well as capping subscription fees whenever possible. A new committee is currently exploring ways in which we can develop and market UKAHPP, whether it's by raising the profile of humanistic psychology in general or, perhaps, addressing our public image.

Increasing the membership is another goal and already the workshops have reached a number of non-members and given them a taste of what it is to work humanistically. It's also really important to raise awareness in training institutions – many students have never heard of us and that must change.

It seems to me that the greatest challenge we face in running UKAHPP is 'managing' whilst maintaining humanistic principles: respect, empowerment, authenticity, shared responsibility. Add to that list confidentiality, transparency, vulnerability, tolerance of diversity and you might recognise how they can be uncomfortable bedfellows in a commercial context. Difficult sometimes, but we manage it.