

# A History of the Ad

## **The Adlerian Society (UK) and The is the British section of an internatio the Adlerian approach to psycholo**

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The first contact that Alfred Adler had with the UK was in Oxford, where in 1923 he attended the seventh International Congress of Psychology and gave a lecture in German on Individual psychology. He returned to Oxford University in 1926 before his first visit to the USA, and again in 1936. Soon after his first visit, a group was formed in London called 'the Gower Street Club of Individual Psychology', which later became known as 'the Adler Society'. Unfortunately this society became tainted with political bias and between 1928 and 1930 its medical members broke away and formed the Medical Society for Individual Psychology. Adler made a special visit to London in 1931 and removed his name from the former 'Adler Society'. Thanks to the Medical Society and its association with the International

Society (now the Association) for Individual Psychology, the Adlerian movement in Great Britain continued to develop. Later on a new group started in London with Adler as its President.

Not long afterwards, on May 28, 1937, Adler died in Aberdeen while on a lecture tour. His daughter Alexandra succeeded him as President. After the war and protracted discussions to find possible ways forward, a new society was eventually formed in the summer of 1952, with Dr Neil Beattie as its Chairman. This was 'the Adlerian Society of Great Britain', now known as the Adlerian Society (of the United Kingdom) and Institute for Individual Psychology (ASIIP).

The society formed in 1952 was linked by affiliation with the 'Medical Society', with Dr Neil

# Adlerian Society (UK)

**Institute for Individual Psychology  
social movement which aims to promote  
psychology, mental health and education.**

*Rita Udall, Paola Prina and Helen Anderson*

Beattie as its Chairman. From this time public lectures began to be held in the Friends Meeting House in central London. They took place monthly from October to June – a tradition which continues to the present. Now they are held in the Conway Hall, also in central London, where Adler gave three lectures in 1936. Around this time, Paul Rom initiated a newsletter. He was its first editor until his death. It was initially produced 'on behalf of the International Association of Individual Psychology'. Later on the UK society started its own newsletter, which continues to this day with four issues a year. In the late 1940s, a residential weekend began to be held annually. This tradition also continues and since the early 1970s it has been held at St Hilda's College in Oxford. It took a long time to progress from

fostering interest in Adler's work to getting organised training under way. The growth of the Adlerian movement in the UK owes a great deal to the teaching and training of Professor Manford Sonstegard (Sonsty), our current President. He first addressed the UK Adlerian Society in 1974, and returned to train the following year – and subsequent years. He now lives in England.

Training courses are held in London, Cambridge, Wendover, Liverpool, Wales and other parts of the country. There is also a 'mini-ICASSI' held in Buckinghamshire in August every year. Parent and teacher education are also under way in many areas. Since 1996, a new journal has been published annually – the ASIIP Year Book, containing papers from contributors based in the UK and abroad.