

# A Celebration of David Jones

*Eric Whitton's speech at the AHPP AGM, November 2004*

David has been my long standing colleague and friend. When he announced that he's not renewing his AHPP membership in that he is giving up his practice, the Board decided he couldn't get away that easily, as what would an AGM be without his warm and witty presence! So we have decided to award him Honorary Life Membership of AHPP.

David has been an AHPP member since 1985 - nearly 20 years. And in various guises has been an active member of the Board over the years. From 1986 to 1990 he served as Deputy Chair, and recently for a couple of years as Membership Officer. Even when he was not on the Board he offered both his support and criticism of our work. During this time he brought a wealth of experience from his rich life. He was a lecturer in psychology at the LSE for 25 years until retiring in 1990. He then organised dynamic one year courses in Humanistic Psychology with Christianne Heal, which were both experiential and risky. I felt privileged to act as a consultant for them and I remember intense supervision sessions at my house during that time. I was impressed with his integrity and true humanistic spirit.

David also brought with him a link with AHP(B). He served on their committee for a number of years and was Chair for part of that time. He took over *Self Society* from Vivian Milroy (the founding owner) and when AHP(B) became the proprietor, he became Commissioning Editor from 1993 to 1999, when Maxine succeeded him. Here he contributed enormously to the humanistic movement, not only in covering central issues but in not being afraid to grasp controversy in a spirit of dialogue. One of his concerns was to take the humanistic contribution out into the wider world of psychotherapy. He was, and is still, willing to talk to anyone who has a worthwhile point of view, even though they may differ with him radically. S&S owes much to his energy and commitment to the humanistic cause. Over the years I've known David I've been impressed with his charisma and personal warmth, his care about people and his carelessness about institutions and self importance. I have shared a kindred spirit with him in his intolerance of intolerance!

I was so glad that he agreed to contribute to my recent book, with a chapter entitled in his own inimical way "Why I am a humanistic practitioner and a Winnicottian with a Buddhist meditation practice". I will end this tribute with a quotation from that chapter:

Celebration of who we are, what we experience and what we have achieved is often debased. Instead of giving recognition to it all, basking in it, elaborating on it and putting it in the foreground, there is often a tendency to put it behind us and move onto the next thing. Or, worse still, to have a party 'to celebrate' ... which ... actually robs us of the possibility of celebration.

Well, we won't let that happen today. I invite you join with me in celebrating the man David Jones - his considerable achievements and contribution to the AHPP in presenting him with an Honorary Life Membership of AHPP.

So, sorry mate, now you'll have to come to another AGM!

Eric Whitton