

# The Bath Centre for Psychotherapy and Counselling (bcpc)

More than twenty years ago, in 1984, two colleagues Peter Hawkins and Alix Pirani set up a one-year course in psychotherapy in Bath. They were soon joined by Judy Ryde and Anthony Elman, and further courses were added to the original year. In 1987 Tish Feilden and John Kirti Wheway joined the staff team, bringing its number to six. Bcpc subsequently joined the HIPS section of UKCP and also developed a Counselling Diploma, recognised by BACP in 1995. During these years we became a Charity with a Board of Trustees responsible for the overall running of the organisation. The Trustees include professionals from the local community and graduates of bcpc.

Bcpc's roots are firmly based in the principles of humanistic education that stress the importance of the individual discovering ideas for him/herself rather than being given theories to 'learn'. We have always aimed to make our tradition congruent with this, encouraging our students to value their experience and to dialogue with theory in such a way that it becomes their own.

Bcpc has always engaged a mixture of staff - some trained within the organisation, and some who have graduated elsewhere - thus hopefully embracing diversity and a non-dogmatic approach to theory. We encourage difference and individuality whilst honouring a common shared value - the search for authentic meeting. In the beginning was dialogue and relationship between the original six staff members. And dialogue has been the basis for the development of the training, with no one view dominating, but differences forging an integration.

The original staff group have gradually handed on the mantle of bcpc to a new generation of trainers, and some remain as consultants to the current staff team. The following articles, written by some members of the current staff group, convey the range of their own particular areas of interest and passion.

**Jane Purkiss**  
*Head of Training*