

AHPB Co-chairs' Page

Maxine Linnell and Sue Orton

It is now over eighteen months since Maxine and I shared our concerns about the management of AHPB and launched a blog to enable others to express views too. Our joint chairing emerged from the EGM alongside a new enthusiastic and experienced board; working with them has been a joy. AHPB is slowly stepping onto firmer ground: Julian has wrestled the membership and finance systems into shape, S&S now has new editors ably supported by Alexandra Chalfont, Sue Rowan and Marolyn Burgess. The Festival too is planned and booking well - don't miss it!

We are both feeling now that the rescue job AHPB started then is nearly complete for us, and it's time to let it go. We are both going to stop being chairs in July. It is our hope that AHPB can continue a shared approach to chairing, perhaps with a one or two year term. This would mean that not too much power or responsibility rests in one person. Chairing would be a function which is shared, transferable and sustainable. We are also trying to unravel what the chair's duties are. For too long in AHPB the chair has been overwhelmed with the responsibility and the work of holding the whole thing together - more of a Chief Executive role. We think the role of chair is to hold an overview of the organisation and its running and development, and to work with the board to clarify and put that into practice. That shouldn't be overwhelming, if the board is working well together as it is now. We'd recommend coming on the board as being part of an interesting, enjoyable experience of getting involved in AHPB. And we'd recommend having co-chairs wherever it's possible.

Although we still need a treasurer, we are taking on a book-keeper to free Julian up for other things. While Sue has been holding the financial side, this will release her from some of that. Maxine has been designing and running the website - again, not really a 'chair's' role, and one that she'd be really happy to help train others to take on, with a simple, free, web-based model (yola) which can be used in many ways.

While the finances have settled, we may need to look at a small increase in subscriptions at the AGM, which will take place at the Festival. Subscriptions are very low in comparison to other organisations. We'd like AHPB to get stronger, to be able to take on a more visible role in the world, to have more impact. The more we all get involved, the more possible that will be.