


In our regulars section, **Andy Rogers'** Ethical Dilemmas returns, challenging as ever, and we have poetry from **Anthony Naumann** (with a commentary by **Julian Nangle**) and **John Rowan**. In our Reviews section, (which in the previous issue had to be cut short at the last minute for reasons of space), **Manu Bazzano** has assembled some fine reviews of must-read books. Along with James Davies's *Cracked*, we have Caroline Brazier's review of Manu's highly acclaimed *Spectre of the Stranger*, Manu's own review of a new biography of Jacques Derrida, plus reviews of Thomas Nagel's new book, and Richard's review of an important new work in the burgeoning field of Counselling Psychology (a field which is notably receptive to humanistic ideas.) And in our regular Retro Review Classics section, we have two offerings this month: **Annie Spencer** on David Abram's *Becoming Animal* (in keeping with this theme issue); and **John Rowan** on a classic from yet another pioneer writer in S&S, Jerome Liss (whose first article in S&S appeared in 1973).²

Finally, the forthcoming AHP Conference this year also sees the launch of a new PCCS-published book, *The Future of Humanistic Psychology*, edited by the three of us and comprising all the articles published so far under that heading in this journal (many of them extended and revised for the book), plus a number of new chapters specially written for the book. By the time you read this, the book will be available via PCCS or Amazon, and we very much hope it will help put Humanistic Psychology firmly back on the map, where we passionately believe it rightly belongs.

We very much hope you enjoy reading this rich and diverse issue - as we move from Summer into Keats' season of mellow fruitfulness! 

Richard House, David Kalisch and Jennifer Maidman,

Self and Society Editorial Collective

Notes

Tom Osborn, 'Who am I responsible for?', *Self and Society*, 2 (12), 1974: 1-10.

Jerome Liss, 'Emotional therapy means emotional discharge', *Self and Society*, 1 (5), 1973: 1-3.

Guest Editorial Introduction

Annie Spencer, Guest Editor

The discipline of ecotherapy is perhaps in one of its most creative phases right now and an exciting area in which to work. It is still open to many interpretations, and has not settled into a form that can easily be practised or taught in a way that is universally recognisable. This state of affairs offers practitioners the opportunity to experiment, and forces us to think hard and deep about the ways in which we are trying to work with clients. It is seeding a rich diversity of practice as therapists and educators are inspired to open up their work as they understand how good relationship to the earth and to animals can increase the well-being of their clients.

I have searched out some of the practitioners working at this edge while knowing that I have only scratched the surface, and that there are many others making important discoveries and developing new ways of working. But here is a small sample of interesting methods being explored with a range of different clients. The articles describe to varying degrees the practitioners' work and the beliefs that underpin it. In many cases these beliefs are in a state of development, and they explore and push the boundaries of our philosophies and belief systems around our relationship with the natural world and how this affects our emotional well-being.

Rose Flint writes about her work with people in hospital. They are too ill or too old to take out into the countryside and so she works with imagery, with outstanding results. Threaded through this work is a great understanding of our countryside gathered by frequent observant times spent walking the land by the author. Rose is a poet of some standing and I hope you will enjoy, as I have, the fluent prose of her article. **Kelvin Hall** explores working with horses and what this means for us, and conveys his great joy that this relationship has brought him. I only hope that our art department will be able to include a picture of the magnificent animal who is Kelvin's companion on his journey. **Lucy Scurfield** takes the simple and imaginative approach of converting two allotments into a therapeutic space, and describes both how this can be done and some of the great results she has achieved. Finally, **Michael Connors** writes about working with those suffering from cancer and also those reaching the end of their lives, and we are offered an insight into the ways in which the land can co-create healing for those in great need.

To tantalise you further I've also reviewed **David Abrams'** *'Becoming Animal: An Earthly Cosmology'*. I hope that one way or another we manage to whet your appetites for thought, discussion, further reading and new ideas of your own in this developing branch of psychotherapy. 