

Editorial

By **Richard House**
Newsletter Editor

Welcome, dear member and reader, to the very first online AHPb Newsletter for *Self & Society* (S&S). We hope the emailed newsletter reaches you before the customary therapists' summer/August break, so that if you wish, you can dip into its delights at your leisure whilst on your summer sojourns.

It's important to emphasize that this newsletter is most certainly not a repository for material that's not of sufficient quality to appear in our journal *Self & Society*. Rather, our aim is to include material in the newsletter of equal quality to that which appears in the journal itself. Indeed, this is in part because we are now publishing two paper issues of S&S a year; and also because we are sent so much high-quality material that, alas, we just don't have the space to include it all in the paper journal within a reasonable time-frame.

It's also important to emphasize that the material published in the newsletter is *unique to the newsletter*, and has not been previously published elsewhere. In addition, about one-third of the material herein will be made 'free open access' on the AHPb website; and the rest of the material will only be accessible to members and subscribers via our supplied access-password.

So, we have a rich and varied feast for you in this, our inaugural e-newsletter. Pride of place must go to our lengthy appreciation of the late, great **John Rowan** – widely regarded as the 'Father of Humanistic Psychology' in Britain – and an ever-present force in the life of *Self & Society* and of the AHPb since the early 1970s. We are delighted to include a moving and very personal article by John's widow, **Sue Rowan**, about the great man, and also a report on John's recent funeral. We also include some fond remembrances for the recently deceased pioneering person-centred counsellor, **Jean Clark**, principally penned by **Rachel Freeth**.

There are some recurring themes in the newsletter – namely, the perennial issue of the regulation of the psy therapies (not least, an Open Letter from the **National Counselling Society**,

reproduced here by kind permission); the question of (digital) technologies, including a substantial article by **Nick Duffell** on the massive democratic controversy surrounding Britain's Brexit vote and the wider impact of digital technologies on politics more generally; a range of interesting book reviews; poetry; and last but not least, several highlights from our recent annual AHPb conference, including papers by **Jill Hall** and **Jay Ramsay**, and a review by **Graham Mummery**. We also have an exclusive interview with researcher and writer **Mo Stewart** on the British government's neoliberal drive to demolish our welfare state; and the first in a new series on 'how Humanistic Psychology has changed my life', by an old friend of *Self & Society*, **Caroline Brazier**.

One of the virtues of the newsletter is that it will enable the publication of material far more quickly than has been the case with S&S for some years now – not least because there is no length constraint with the newsletter. Thus, we've been able to print two of our recent conference's talks herein immediately; whereas the papers from last year's conference will only be appearing in the autumn issue of S&S – nearly a year after the conference! So this new-found niftiness is going to be a great advantage for us 'going forwards' (an annoying phrase that I swore to myself I'd never use – but I just have...).

A great example of this publishing niftiness is the **Open Letter** sent by thirty eminent mental health experts **to the Secretary of State for Health** on 17 July regarding 'unprofessional' conduct of the Royal College of Psychiatry, which we are delighted to reproduce here, with kind permission. This letter popped into my inbox just a few days before newsletter publication – and hey presto, here it is! And please feel free to send the link to this important letter far and wide to interested and concerned colleagues and practitioners.

I'd be delighted to print any letters from members and readers in the next newsletter; and if you have any contributions, news or reviews that you'd like included in the next (Winter) newsletter,

do please contact me at the email address below. This includes notices about training courses. The next newsletter will be appearing around or just before Christmas this year.

Last but by no means least, there's far too much written by me in this newsletter! – and I certainly don't want this to be the shape of things to come in the future. Nor do I want to take on the major task of having to commission a great deal of the content: this is very much a members' resource – and it's up to you to use it as a showcase for your writings, and for anything you'd like to say that's broadly related to Humanistic Psychology and the humanistic therapies, and which you think readers would be

interested in.

Happy reading, and happy holidays, one and all! And PLEASE contact me with ideas, suggestions and submissions for the forthcoming Winter newsletter, # 2! – thank you.

Richard House Ph.D., C.Psychol. is the editor of this newsletter, and former co-editor of *Self & Society* journal. He currently lives, writes and campaigns on a range of political and educational issues in Stroud, Gloucestershire. *Contact:* richardahouse@hotmail.com