

Editorial

This issue, *Research Communications 22*, devotes space routinely to the understanding and re-viewing of the past, but not, it must be asserted, in a spirit of living in that time-scale. Archival work frequently produces reflections that have immediate relevance to contemporary group situations. Nor does this necessarily imply failure: the earlier reflections simply underline afresh the problems of being human and the continuous effort required consciously to encourage our natural capacities into channels of improved mutuality. Look, for instance, at Dorothy Glaister's "Advice to those about to join Braziers" written in 1961.

Alan Clark referred to the above in his talk "Between Glaister and Faithfull : Honor's centrality in sustaining Braziers, 1957 – 1968" which is printed here. This Glaister lecture conveys incidentally the pressures of over-work at another period when too few people in Braziers were attempting too big a task, especially when one key figure was in Liverpool most of the time. However, in the quoted letters, the pressures and the tasks are revealed simply as the portmanteau job in hand: snippets of the latest information on farm, kitchen, "house-team" (including foreign students), courses and relevant blurbs to accompany advertisements. All these were the background of devising the courses, Norman Glaister's latest thoughts and the health of the group. In turn, this is the context for the continuing co-dependence of Honor and Glynn and their being part of a group whose aspirations have an effect on the lives of its members. Consciousness of such aspirations, touched on in the letters, suggests a new area of possible research: the differences we note in ourselves between our expectations and behaviour just as individuals, as individuals in a pair or in a family, and as individuals who are also committed to a group. Despite the variety of our personalities, do we "make a valued difference" to each other?

John Woodcock certainly made a valued contribution to Braziers, to other societies and to associates and friends. His death, which followed so closely after the 2002 A.G.M., seemed both shocking and tragic when we had expected a long and happy life to follow his retirement. He fostered the life of Braziers as a college and also interpreted changes in the community to suggest their import. Yet he was not always understood as a person. For this reason we offer both an Obituary and a Chronology to show the coherence of an active life in varied settings, but with an inner consistency in following through ideas that intrigued him first as a child. Keeping abreast of changes in scientific evolutionary theory, he sought out practical expressions of their implications for social change. These he offered to Braziers.

"Five Elements of Change applied to Intentional Communities" is by Alice Kemp-Welch who has long had an interest in the Asian philosophical meditative practices, particularly those which involve the body. This led her to study shiatsu, and take an apprenticeship in New York with a Korean dance meditation teacher, which included the Japanese performing arts. Seven years ago, Alice gained a scholarship to study in Indonesia for two years with a teacher of movement and psychology. The lecture she gave to introduce her course at Braziers in 2002, with extended comments on reactions and change in community life, is printed here. She observes that unaccustomed imagery and interpretations of choices groups make, like choosing to go into an executive mode when "they feel uncomfortable with the depth charge which is currently being expressed" must surely stimulate reappraisal of some of our own sessions and her reference to Charles Hendry's concept of the "psychological contract" we make – often unconsciously – in joining a new group will also lead to exploration and research.

The work of three artists is featured here. John Buckley's sculpture often contrasts the flawed aspirations of humanity with the need to reappraise its responsibilities in a damaged world. Two African sculptors attended International Artists' Workshops which have been held at

Braziers now for ten years. Both work effectively in wood and Chris Afuba has become our valued Artist in Residence.

Further delays in assembling this issue permit us to record changes in the personnel of the COM, so the committees are busy developing plans for sustainability and financial viability to be presented at the Members' weekend, with an SGM to follow. Tom Glaister is now our Chairman.

To our regret, Jean Robertson resigned at the A.G.M. in May. She has guided the BPSISR through many difficult and troubled periods and the School has cause to be grateful for her devoted and unswerving loyalty to its needs during the last twenty-six years.

Hilda M. Salter

John Murrell
