

## BOARD REPORT MAY 2018

Greetings Members!

I hope this comes to you with the warmth of summer and longer evenings. That early evening period always feels special to me, the day's work is finished and it is time for ourselves, or at least a change of role for those of us with human or animal dependents at home!

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, the Board met for the first time since the BAPT conference. We took a moment to celebrate the success of this year's conference. A record number of delegates came and we even made a PROFIT of about £6,000! If you were lucky enough to be there I'm sure you would agree we enjoyed an epic line up of speakers, David Taransaud, Tim Woodhouse and Graham Music who delivered a fascinating set of presentations. Not to mention the thought-provoking and creative workshops on the Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. Even the AGM attracted 50 members....not bad all round.

The Board took some time to review the discussion about the BAPT magazine that was held at the AGM. We invited you to comment about whether the magazine continues in hard copy, who it's audience and access should be and if we develop an online version / alternative which may be more efficient, both in terms of voluntary effort and cost. Comments were gathered prior to the meeting and through a lively, passionate discussion on the evening. In essence, the subject spilt the crowd. This was mainly in terms of if and how the magazine should continue. However everyone agreed that BAPT members need a way to feel connected to each other, and that a version of the magazine enables this. The details are yet to be worked out between the Board, Janet, Nina Ridsdale (Editor), the editing team and Communications and Public Relations sub-committee but the overall mission is to increase communication with our members, which is more instantly accessible and relevant. A combination of a less frequent hard copy, which is hopefully of a better quality print, with a brief online 'newsletter' seems most beneficial. We will be in touch when there is further news on these developments. As you can see – this edition has made it out (Thank you Nina and team)!

The other hot topic at the Board meeting in May was GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation for those of you who have been hiding in a cave for the past 6 months). There has been a significant amount of work on this within BAPT, in preparation for the compliance deadline of the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Thanks particularly to Julie McCann and the working group led by Jenny Harrison (Treasurer) and Judith James (Company Secretary) for this. There are two parts to this work; to enable BAPT as an organisation become compliant (including new policies and procedures which will be scrutinised by the PSA at our renewal in November) and for BAPT to support it's members in accessing the right advice about becoming compliant themselves in their practice. Barbara Mitchell delivered a comprehensive training on this to interested members on the 28<sup>th</sup> April that was very well received. The Board heard feedback from this training and this will be forwarded to Barbara. Some

helpful guidance has already been sent out to members and Julie and the team are finalising a 'GDPR Checklist' that will be sent out shortly. Do contact Janet if you would like this guidance to be re-sent. You can also find it on the members area of the website. Thanks also to Janet who will be taking on most of the hard work to get BAPT compliant.

One of the 'Action points' from the Away Day was to review the Portfolio Route for Play Therapists aspiring to be BAPT members. This is one of our priorities for this year and a working group are finalizing a date to meet in August 2018. Any changes around this will be advertised in time.

Myself and Harriet Armstrong (former Vice Chair) continue to engage in quarterly Skype meetings with Monika and Jeff from Play Therapy UK. We seek to consider any possible joint projects to promote the profession generally and discuss any issues that arise from being holders of PSA accredited registers of Play Therapists. Monika and Jeff enjoyed the BAPT conference and we intend to attend their conference on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June. Harriet is also attending the PSA Conference being held on the 29<sup>th</sup> July – all welcome so get in touch if you want to come along.

Sue Elmer (Chair of Research) shared her vision for a 'new look' subcommittee. Sue has talked about the need to make this area of work more accessible and attractive for members. With that in mind, she proposed to re-name the Research subcommittee, 'Knowledge Exchange'. The Board agreed and hope this will encourage members to share their practice and evaluative methods more readily with BAPT, and for sharing with a wider audience. If you are interested in joining in conversations about evaluative measures or sharing good practice, please get in touch.

Finally, the Board heard that Suzy Anderson has regrettably stepped down from her role as Lay Person on the Board due to personal issues. Suzy has worked in schools for many years and was provided great insight to our Board discussions around the Education Sector. Suzy was instrumental in responding to a DoE publication and establishing the link with The Mental Health in Schools Conference that BAPT presented at last year. Thank you Suzy, we wish you all the best. Consequently we are on the look out for more Lay Persons. This will be advertised soon so please spread the word. Sean Girty, Public Sector Business Consultant, who facilitated our Away Day has been put forward to be interviewed for one of these roles and, if successful, will bring a much needed business mind to BAPT business.

Ruth Lazarus  
Chair of Directors