



## ASTHP Newsletter: Number 1

**Welcome** to the first edition of a regular newsletter. Alan Holland from TWIGS in Swindon has kindly agreed to edit future editions so if you have any copy for your newsletter please send direct to him at Alan.Holland@RichmondFellowship.org.uk . The copy deadline for the next edition will be 15<sup>th</sup> October. Please email with comments and ideas.

**Conference 2013** – Following the success of last year’s conference, this year’s will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> November at Askham Bryan College, York. The theme of the conference is centred on measuring outcomes and demonstrating impact. We are lining up a range of interesting speakers, so do come and join us. A booking form is included in this mail out. (As a reminder of last year the Report of the 2012 Conference is included in this mail out)

**Annual General Meeting** – Our first AGM will be held at lunchtime during the Conference, and will include an update on the next steps in developing our Association.

**Membership** – Your committee appreciates that some of the momentum from last year’s conference has been lost (see the letter from John Cliff, Acting Chair, included in this mail out) but we do need to expand our membership. We have had a stand at the Care Farming UK Conference and at a recent conference on Green Care and Mental Health but what would really help is if every existing member recruited one new member a year. Membership remains at £10 per year until our range of services expands and membership and standing order forms are available from the website.

**Membership fees** – Our Treasurer has asked that anyone who kindly set up a standing order for their membership subscription could you please check that your bank has processed it correctly. Some of you paid cash for last year and submitted a form for this year, also those of you who bank with the Coop as ASTHP does, your payments only show on our statement as an internal transfer with no reference so it is hard to track who has paid!

**Website & Facebook page**– The website has now been updated and following discussion by the Committee we have dropped the idea of a members’ only page and have substituted it with a resources page which we hope will be useful to all and will be easier to maintain in the short term. We will be migrating the website to a different lay out in the next few weeks and this will give us more flexibility. The Association’s Facebook page has been updated. Please have and look and ‘like’ it if you do!

**Photos** - We would welcome more photos for the website and for inclusion in other publications in due course, to demonstrate a broader range of STH applications so if you have some please send them to John at [john.cliff@talktalk.net](mailto:john.cliff@talktalk.net) together with a completed permissions form (downloadable from the Resources page on the website).

**Your Committee** – We have met regularly however there some changes to the Committee. Bob Heath stood down for personal reasons at the last conference, but we are fortunate to have co-opted Imogen Gordon who is the Course Director for the Professional Development Diploma in Social and Therapeutic Horticulture at Coventry. Imogen is proving to be a very useful member of the team. Theresa Wedderburn has decided to take a sabbatical for personal reasons, but hopes to be back later on this year. Finally Angela Fordham, our tireless Treasurer, has decided to return to her previous career in nursing, and whilst willing to remain on the committee, cannot commit to the role of Treasurer while she is

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Together we can grow

Please reply to:

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undertaking her Return to Nursing Course. So.... **WE NEED A NEW TREASURER! Any volunteers, please contact Angela at [ange.fordham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ange.fordham@yahoo.co.uk)**

**Professional Development Diploma in Social and Therapeutic Horticulture - Course Review:** This is a one year post graduate professional development qualification that has been delivered by Coventry University in partnership with Thrive, the national charity for Social and Therapeutic Horticulture, for many years now. The course is due to go through the process of review to ensure its on-going currency for contemporary practice. We would like to invite practitioners and their service users and/or members to participate in this review. If you are interested please contact Imogen Gordon, by email for further information. Your contribution would be most helpful. Her email is: [i.gordon@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:i.gordon@coventry.ac.uk)

**Thrive** – Theresa and John met the new Chief Executive of Thrive, Kathryn Rossiter earlier this year for what was a most productive meeting. All agreed that there would be benefits in working together and so ASTHP drafted a Memorandum of Understanding setting out how we could work together in practice. This is currently under consideration by Thrive.

**Voluntary Professional Register (VPR)** – John attended the Trellis Conference in Perth, Scotland back in March and ran two workshops on the VPR similar to the session at last years' conference. It was interesting that, although there were concerns about such a register, the majority view was that it was a positive step forward and that we should aim for a UK wide register. John also attended a very useful briefing session with the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care, which would oversee our register. The impression was of a very helpful supportive organisation.

**Joint Research Conference** – Your committee is in discussion with Care Farming colleagues and academics from Cardiff University about a joint STH / Care Farming Research conference in the Spring of 2014. More hopefully in our next issue.

**Bob Heath** – Finally, some sad news. Some of you will have seen the entry on the Association's Facebook page. Bob, who was course director of the STH Diploma Course at Coventry for some years, died earlier this month, apparently of extensive cancer. Janet Austin, one of the Committee kindly attended the funeral on 23<sup>rd</sup> August on the Association's behalf. John Cliff, standing in as Chair in Theresa's absence, has written to Bob's partner, and enclosed a small donation to Macmillan on behalf of the Association.

**Please remember – this is your newsletter. Do let us have feedback and any items you would like included.**

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