



ASSOCIATION FOR CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH

Annual Report of the Editor, Bridge Newsletter

Annual General Meeting, 8 June 2007

The Association first published a Newsletter for its members in 1979. Since then, it has evolved in a number of very different ways, taking on new formats, adding in new sections, including new reports, experimenting with the odd splash of colour, increasing the number of pages, lightening up with the occasional cartoon different ideas to make it more enjoyable and readable. Needless to say, we all have ideas about what makes a Newsletter successful, about what readers want, which articles will be of most interest, what information is useful and so forth. Recently, a number of us at ACAMH have been finding ourselves carried along on a wave of fresh ideas – colour-photographs, different size, new presentation, consistent sections, defined areas for trainees, website reviews ideas which have the changing needs of our members in mind ideas which will take the Bridge into and beyond the 21st century

Whatever developments arise from these new ideas, they will work in harmony with the current strengths of The Bridge, in particular its healthy balance of more formal articles, such as national reports and strategic news, with informal branch profiles and local events. We have been particularly pleased with the success of our International CAMH Series, which has offered some very enlightening reports over the past year on child and adolescent mental health resources available in such diverse countries as Japan, America and Ireland, highlighting the issues facing our overseas colleagues and providing comparisons with our own services. Equally successful has been the section on professionals working within the various disciplines and we have featured nursing, speech and language therapy and child psychiatry. It is not always easy to have an overview of all the components which make up an effective service, and it is good to have the opportunity to remind ourselves of the important role played by these different specialisms.

Our conference reports continue to be well-received and offer members who have been unable to attend, the opportunity to read about the latest developments in the areas covered. While there are very useful discussions currently taking place at a national level on the benefits of supplementing physical events with electronic presence, there is also the still tangible requirement to provide information in a paper-format, which The Bridge will continue to do until, eventually and perhaps unavoidably, superseded by technology.

There cannot of course be a Newsletter without the contributions of others, in particular those who have written articles, submitted information, responded to our requests for feedback and smiled into our cameras. I am also especially pleased to welcome editorial support from our branches: Blanaid Gavin from ACAMH Ireland and Derek Smith from ACAMH Devon and Cornwall, who will assist with sourcing and editing content. This new arrangement, combined with the wonderful support from the London office team, will ensure The Bridge remains relevant and interesting to its audience.

Maureen Smillie