



The British
Psychological Society
Promoting excellence in psychology

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The Society has offices in Belfast, Cardiff, Glasgow and London, as well as the main office in Leicester. All enquiries should be addressed to the Leicester office (see inside front cover for address).

The British Psychological Society

was founded in 1901, and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1965. Its object is 'to promote the advancement and diffusion of a knowledge of psychology pure and applied and especially to promote the efficiency and usefulness of Members of the Society by setting up a high standard of professional education and knowledge'.
Extract from The Charter



President's column

Jamie Hacker Hughes

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Our main theme for November is drawn from the anniversary of the attempt by one Guido Fawkes to bring the then system of British democracy to an abrupt end. As we all now know and celebrate annually on Bonfire Night, that attempt was singularly unsuccessful and now we have not just one Parliament but two, with two further Assemblies.

The end of September and the beginning of October was Party Conference season and along with your Vice President Peter Kinderman, and the Society's Policy Advisor on Legislation, Tanja Siggs, we have covered the Labour, Liberal Democrat and Conservative events between us. This was an extremely successful exercise. Politicians of all flavours genuinely seem interested in what psychology, psychologists and the BPS have to say, and at all three conferences we were able to meet with and brief Ministers and their Parliamentary Shadows in both Houses on a number of initiatives that the Society is pressing at the moment: parity of esteem between psychological and physical healthcare, the inadequacies of the current system for workplace capability assessment and related concerns about coercive practices (and the potential role that the Society could play on advising on all these issues), and the briefing papers that the Society has produced on behaviour change.

Politicians are very keen to be briefed on current issues of importance to psychology so that they can be prepared to table written and oral questions, sponsor debates and campaign on important matters. All parties have Members of Parliament who have a background in psychology or a particular interest in it. For instance, Sarah Champion (Rotherham) the new Labour Shadow Minister for Preventing Abuse, is a psychology graduate, as is the Labour Shadow Prisons Minister Jenny Chapman (Darlington), while Stella Creasy (Walthamstow) the payday loans campaigner and runner-up in the campaign for Labour Deputy Leader, has a PhD in social psychology. Dr Lisa Cameron, the SNP member for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow, is a clinical psychologist; the Liberal Democrat former MP Don Foster was a psychology graduate; and Tracey Crouch, the Conservative MP for Chatham and Aylesford,

regularly speaks out on mental health issues. It has been good too that over the past few months I have been able to go to Westminster to meet with members of both Houses and discuss a number of issues with all of them. Politicians are therefore ever more open to being kept informed about psychological developments; channels of communication are already open, and developing continuously.

We began with Westminster and Guy Fawkes, but our BPS Scotland Branch is highly engaged with the Scottish Parliament in Holyrood, and our Welsh and Northern Irish Branches are also well linked into the Assemblies in Cardiff and Stormont respectively. In Wales the Society's work on suicide prevention was recently referred to by Plaid Cymru Member Elin Evans in the Welsh Senedd, and questions are regularly asked on issues of psychological health in the Assembly. In Scotland there is continuing work following on from last year's Parliamentary Event run by the Neuropsychology and Forensic Divisions and, after the event, the National Prisoner Healthcare Network set up a work stream to examine how brain injury issues fit in with healthcare and rehabilitation programmes in the criminal justice system. A report on this is expected next year and the Scottish Branch plans to hold a reception to cover this, together with the BPS position paper on children and young people in the criminal justice system.

"...policy, and support for policy, are hugely important issues"

Also, there has been good coverage of Cross Party Groups, Jacqueline Wilson presented on her clinical work at the Expert Parliamentary Group on Dementia, and the Branch hopes to link the BPS work on dementia to feed into development of Scotland's Third Dementia Strategy. Finally, in Northern Ireland the most important item on the policy agenda this year has been the Mental Capacity Bill which is now in the committee stage in the NI Assembly. From the consultation on the Mental Capacity Bill, a briefing paper was prepared in readiness for the Bill now making its way through the Assembly, circulated to all members of the Health and Justice Committee, and the Branch was very recently invited to give evidence to that committee on specific clauses in the Bill. Also, a briefing paper on Sexual and Gender Minorities and Talking Therapies was launched at the



'Psychology for Society Seminar Series' at the Branch's 2015 Annual Conference in Armagh, which I attended. Subsequently Alliance MLA, Trevor Lunn, who also attended the seminar in Armagh, announced that he had changed his voting position on possible same-sex marriage legislation from abstaining to a positive vote when next it comes to be debated at the NI Assembly and attributed his changed position to the influence of the NIBPS seminar. In June the NI Assembly Officer facilitated Stormont meetings between members of the BPS policy team, the Branch Chair and MLAs from all political parties and their policy advisers with the purpose of identifying emerging priorities for the political parties as they go into an election year next year. Also, in collaboration with the policy team, NIBPS is now preparing a list of BPS Key Priorities for NI Elections, to be launched at a forthcoming event in Stormont on 30 November.

We are still right in the middle of the review of our Society's structure, but a theme that came out particularly strongly in this summer's consultation was that policy, and support for policy, are hugely important issues and that there is a need for a much larger and better resourced national policy team as well as significantly developing and resourcing the Society's policy functions in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales and England. The issues of the presence, visibility, voice and impact of psychology are highly important ones, not just for me but, from the numerous conversations that I have had with members, to many, many others as well. The Board of Trustees, at its September meeting, voted to prioritise Strategic Objectives 3 (maximising the impact of psychology on public policy) and 4 (increasing the visibility of psychology and public awareness) for particular attention over the coming year, together with Strategic Objective 1 (promoting the advancement of the knowledge base of psychology and its practice through support for research, education and professional training).

If we are going to be able to deliver here, however, I believe that we shall need, as informed by the Structural Review, to consider how we are organised and resourced in order to be best placed to deliver against these objectives and to communicate the outputs from psychological research, education and



Remember, remember 'we need to talk'

professional training in the best possible way that we can. This may well require a London-based policy team and a revived post of Parliamentary Officer to capitalise on our existing relationships with Westminster, with similar teams operating from Branch offices in close proximity to Holyrood, Cardiff and Stormont.

We cannot, however, do all this by ourselves. We are already a member of the 'We need to talk' Coalition, along with several other consumer and provider organisations in psychological healthcare, including Mind, Rethink, Young Minds and other professional organisations such as BACP (the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy) and the RCGP and RCPsych (the Royal Colleges of General Practitioners and Psychiatrists). The Trustees also agreed in September that we should enter into a new collaborative framework agreement with BACP, the BPC (the British Psychoanalytic Council) and the UKCP (the United Kingdom Council for Psychotherapy) on matters of mutual policy interest. These coalitions, agreements and other relationships are very important, and we are also regular signatories to letters to the broadsheets on matters of national importance as well as making regular press statements and news releases on them too.

Meanwhile, Society business goes on as usual, including our very own

'Parliament', the General Assembly, who met this year in Leicester for our annual meeting. There has been a strong call through the Structural Review for this type of body to be a truly democratic structure with more 'teeth' and with a much greater role in policy and decision making. Let's see what the process produces as it continues throughout the next year.

November is, of course, also a time of remembrance and so the other theme of this month's column concerns psychologists working in, or with, the uniformed services. There has been a considerable canon of psychological research developed over several years on those working in the ambulance, fire and police services as well as with serving and veteran members of the Armed Forces. This is another sphere where psychology has so much to contribute and it seems timely that one of the potential new Sections going through the stages of formation is a Defence and Security Psychology Section (the other is a new Cyberpsychology Section). It is so good that the Society continues to develop and expand, with more and more members joining every week, a new East Midlands Branch that has just been approved and a proposal for a new East of England Branch too.

So – lots happening. Have a good November!



society

SOCIETY NOTICES

- Division of Neuropsychology Annual Conference, London, 27 November 2015** See p.864
- Undergraduate Research Assistantship Scheme – call for applications** See p.865
- Psychology in the Pub (North East of England Branch), 30 November 2015** See p.881
- Education & Public Engagement Board Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychology Engagement – call for nominations** See p.891
- Education & Public Engagement Board Lifetime Achievement Award – call for nominations** See p.891
- 'History of Mental Health' conference, Leeds, 22–23 March 2016** See p.895
- BPS Annual Conference, Nottingham, April 2016** See p.i
- Division of Occupational Psychology Annual Conference, Nottingham, 6–8 January 2016** See p.908
- BPS conferences and events** See p.913
- CPD workshops** See p.914
- Psychology in the Pub (South West of England Branch), 4 and 25 November 2015** See p.915
- DCP South Central Branch 'Maximise the impact of psychology on public policy', Newbury, 19 November 2015** See p.917
- Division of Counselling Psychology Annual Conference, Brighton, 8–9 July 2016** See p.917
- 5th European Coaching Psychology Conference, London, 10–11 December 2015** See p.919
- Community Psychology Festival, Manchester, 20–21 November 2015** See p.920
- SGCP Coaching Masterclass, London, 9 December 2015** See p.922
- Division of Educational & Child Psychology Annual Conference and TEP Day, London, 6–8 January 2016** See p.924
- Division of Clinical Psychology Annual Conference, London, 2–4 December 2015** See p.926

From the Branches Forum

The Branches Forum has been meeting regularly since early 2013 after a gap of a number of years. It is now the main arena where all of the Branch Chairs meet, either by teleconference or face to face at key Society events, to exchange views and share best practice. The Society has Branch and regional offices in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and active Branches in London, Wessex, South West, North West, West Midlands and North East.

We are delighted that the Trustees recently discussed the formation of new Branches in the last two remaining areas in Great Britain where there is currently no Branch activity. The formation of the **East Midlands Branch** has been building momentum over the past few years and we now have the required 10 per cent of the membership supporting the proposal to form the Branch. A motion will be put to the Society's 2016 AGM to form the Branch and an interim committee of supporters will be appointed to get the Branch running for a year before formal elections take place in 2017. The Trustees have also supported the proposal to form a Branch in the **East of England**, and we will shortly e-mail every member in the region asking them to complete an e-register confirming their support for the proposal. We hope that members will respond quickly and that we will achieve the required 10 per cent in a short space of time allowing us bring a motion to the AGM in 2016.

South West Branch has four Hub areas each running monthly or bi-monthly 'Psychology in the Pub' events. It ran a very successful student conference this year, with their 2016 event already in advanced planning stage.

North West Branch holds regular public and member events as well as engaging with students by supporting events at local universities. They supported the BPS Annual Conference and the Social & Developmental Sections joint annual conference with a 'Psychology in the Pub' event at each. They plan a one-day conference in 2016 jointly with DCP North West 'Critical Issues in Clinical Psychology'.

London & Home Counties Branch is holding events in London, Windsor and Hertfordshire to enable easy access to events to its large membership. Careers talks are very successful, and this year the Branch is holding a special event to mark World Mental Health Day 2015.

West Midlands Branch hosted its first Annual Conference in September (see <https://thepsychologist.bps.org.uk/literate-and-emotionally-intelligent>). At the AGM held at the conference, five regional hubs were launched that will run monthly events which will include

the famous Psychologist in the Pub. The hub areas are Birmingham, Oxford, Coventry, Stoke and Worcester.

North East Branch held a very successful Annual Conference in September. A student conference is planned for Sheffield and a number of 'Psychology in the Pub' events take place across the Branch area. As well as building our CPD offering, we are also making connections with other organisations in the area to improve our offering to members and enhance visibility.

Wessex Branch is hosting its Annual Military Psychology conference in November and this is preceded by a workshop. The Wessex Annual Careers Conference also takes place in November and a number of one-day events are also planned.

Welsh Branch works with Careers Wales to support sixth-form careers days. The Branch had another successful annual visit to the 2015 Eisteddfod. Hubs are being reinvigorated and an exciting programme is being planned for 2016. The Welsh Branch Chairs Policy Group meets monthly working on Society Policy matters in Wales.

Scottish Branch is hosting its 2016 Undergraduate Conference in Aberdeen. Committee members were heavily involved in organising and hosting the 2015 PsyPAG Glasgow Conference. Hubs are active. The Branch is working with other organisations to support health and wellbeing and plans to host the first of the Branch Forum originated 'Communities of Hope' events soon. Members are working on the new strategy on Dementia and the Mental Health Bill along with the Society's Policy Team.

Northern Ireland Branch has a series of three events in October in Limerick, Belfast and Derry supporting Dignity in Mental Health for World Mental Health Day. The Branch will be participating in 'Science at Stormont' which is an information session for local MLAs. In November the Branch is hosting an event at Stormont during which the Society's suite of dementia papers will be launched to an invited gathering. The Branches second A-level Conference takes place in December, uniquely giving an opportunity for A-level students to present on their research methods module. A number of public lectures are planned and 2016 promises to be hectic as the Branch celebrates its 60th anniversary with a number of prestigious events.

Anne Kerr
Branch Advisor

If you would like more information about what's happening now in your Branch visit: www.bps.org.uk/branches and click on the name of your Branch

William Inman Prize

A clinical trial of a home-based training programme that helps individuals with partial blindness due to brain damage has received the 2015 British Psychological Society's William Inman Prize.

The study, published in *Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair*, was undertaken by Dr Alison Lane and Dr Daniel T. Smith and colleagues from Durham University's Department of Psychology.

People who suffer brain injuries frequently experience severe loss of vision, typically on one side, known as a homonymous visual field defect (HVFD). HVFDs can have a negative effect on quality of life. Individuals with an HVFD experience difficulties reading and seeing obstacles in their blind visual field and often require help with daily activities such

shopping and driving.

Over the last 10 years the researchers have developed the Durham Reading and Exploration (DREX) training programme to assist in the rehabilitation of individuals with HVFDs. DREX involves a series of progressively more complex reading and searching tasks that enable individuals to develop new skills to compensate for their partial visual loss.

The research culminated in a published clinical trial that demonstrated DREX can be successfully delivered at home; improving patient access to rehabilitation at lower cost. The training significantly improves patients' ability to read, to explore their environment and enhances their quality of life.

Dr Lane said: 'We are very pleased to receive this award.'

Our research has shown that DREX is an accessible and cost-effective tool that produced improvements in patients' everyday lives. Without the training many would not have received any specialist rehabilitation for

their visual loss. An innovation grant from the Academic Health Science Network has enabled us to develop DREX in to a multiplatform APP that is free to all patients and clinicians.'

Society vacancies

British Journal of Educational Psychology

Editor

See advert p.925

Contact Lynn.West@bps.org.uk

Closing date 15 December 2015

Partnership and Accreditation Committee

Chair

See advert p.923

Contact Lucy.Horder@bps.org.uk, 0116 252 9596

Closing date 11 December 2015



The British Psychological Society
Conferences & Events

Organised by BPS Conferences

BPS conferences are committed to ensuring value for money, careful budgeting and sustainability

2015

Psychology4Students	19 November	Mercure, Sheffield	www.bps.org.uk/p4s2015
Psychology4Students	1 December	Friends Meeting House, Euston, London	www.bps.org.uk/p4s2015
Psychology4Graduates	2 December	Friends Meeting House, Euston, London	www.bps.org.uk/p4g2015
Division of Clinical Psychology	2-4 December	Radisson Blu Portman, London	www.bps.org.uk/dcp2015
Division of Sport and Exercise Psychology	14-15 December	The Queens Hotel, Leeds	www.bps.org.uk/dsep2015

2016

Division of Occupational Psychology	6-8 January	East Midlands Conference Centre, Notts	www.bps.org.uk/dop2016
Faculty for People with Intellectual Disabilities	13-15 April	La Mon Hotel and Country Club, Belfast	www.bps.org.uk/fpid2016
Annual Conference	26-28 April	East Midlands Conference Centre, Notts	www.bps.org.uk/ac2016
Division of Forensic Psychology	14-16 June	Hilton Brighton Metropole	www.bps.org.uk/dfp2016
Division of Counselling Psychology	8-9 July	Hilton Brighton Metropole	www.bps.org.uk/dcop2016
Social Section	31 Aug-2 Sept	Mercure Cardiff Holland House Hotel	www.bps.org.uk/social2016
Developmental Section	14-16 September	Hilton Belfast	www.bps.org.uk/dev2016