

Association for the Pastoral Care of the Mentally Ill



September 1993

c/o HOLY CROSS CENTRE TRUST
THE CRYPT
HOLY CROSS CHURCH
CROMER STREET
LONDON WC1H 8JU

A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Over the last year many people, both from within the Association and from concerned friends and allies outside, have wondered what has been happening. The National Committee became the focus for rumours of secrecy and loss of nerve ; inaction and loss of direction were presumed.

In fact, much work went on in consolidating what A.P.C.M.I. has achieved over the seven years of its existence, with a strong emphasis on the strength of local branches and on a re-evaluation of how the original vision could be taken forward within realistic boundaries. Adrian Tate manfully coped with duties of Administrator, Secretary and Treasurer, and it has been due to his perseverance that we arrived at the last A.G.M. intact. At the same time, Theresa Pride, from the Brentwood Project, led us through extremely well-focussed think-in days, from which has emerged the essentials of a mission statement and a clarification of the objectives to be followed for discovering new energies.

38 people attended the Annual General Meeting held at Croydon at the beginning of July, and there was an unanimous vote to commission a new Committee to work to find a necessary Second Spring for taking the Association forward into the new culture of Community Care. It is this Committee who met for the first time recently, and who now want to tell you what is happening.

First, who are we ?

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|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Patrick Dawson | Hastings Branch | Mental Health Social Worker |
| Bob Lepper | National | Mental Health Act Manager |
| Hugh Mayall | Kingston Branch | Community Work |
| Dick Norman | York Branch | S.V.P. Brother |
| Verity Pink | National | Community Psychiatric Nurse |
| Rev. Michael Pritchard | Forest | Chaplain, Claybury Hospital |
| Andrew Poulson | Southend | Mental Health Church Worker |
| Andy Sparkes | Bexley | Production Controller |
| Rev. Douglas Stevens | Peterborough | Parish Minister |
| Neil McKenzie | Croydon / Treasurer | Bank Manager |
| Pam Freeman | Croydon / Secretary | Teacher |
| Jeremy Boutwood | Guildford / Chair | Social Services Co-ordinator |

We are very pleased that the Founder, Jane Lindon, has given her support and best wishes for the endeavours of this Committee. Her 'baby' is still very young and needs the encouragement and support of the source of inspiration. We also acknowledge that, for Jane and Austin, their son Adrian was the true founder.

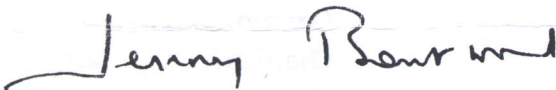
We wish to encourage new membership to the National Association through individual subscription, whilst recognising that local branches may want to develop a local membership, where local supporters can identify with local initiatives. So we believe that people should be allowed to register with local branches without being expected to pay up as full national members ; but we expect local branches and other independent projects to be affiliated to the National body by the payment for a Group Subscription. More on the nuts and bolts of this later.

The Hastings branch are choosing to become an independent local limited company with charitable status, whilst remaining affiliated to A.P.C.M.I. They thus join other projects, like the Bow & Poplar Befriending Scheme, which have a completely independent identity whilst remaining within the APCMI network. This could be the way forward - the APCMI acting as a catalyst throughout the country developing, encouraging and supporting mental health initiatives amongst local churches without expecting to 'own' them.

We believe that the National Association has an important duty in producing information and advice and guidance to 'feed' those who struggle to create interest and action for mentally-ill people within local church communities and beyond. To this end, the National Association will need a considerable increase in funding to pay for well-produced, attractive and colourful literature, to continue to create a sense of solidarity through the production of a regular newsletter, and the organisation of appropriate events to generate good practice and a sharing of ideas. We would like to employ an administrator who could act as a permanent focus for those who come to the Association for any reason. In the meantime we are grateful to the Holy Cross Centre Trust for allowing us to use their Office as a permanent address and for providing a regular meeting-place for the Committee. The excellent presentation about the work of the Holy Cross project at the AGM (to be featured in the forthcoming newsletter) made us feel that the aims of the Project are those we can confidently support.

We hope that by the New Year we will have produced a clear statement of our Aims and Values, which will provide the backbone of new publicity and for a business plan which can be sent to possible funding bodies when we apply. Then we will be ready to spread the word - that mental illness should be high on the priorities of church pastoral action at all levels, and to supply people and resources to promote this in areas where nothing is happening yet. The families, relatives and friends of those who suffer - the carers - are crying out that we become more effective.

Please let us know of any new ideas, and of any places where there is an embryonic branch. We are definitely 'open' and enthusiastic to move forward.



Jeremy Boutwood
Chair (on behalf of the
National Committee)