

DHN London Group Meeting minutes, Saturday, January 31st

at the Connaught Hall, London

The group met with 15 members, 2 visitors and 5 apologies for absence.

Voluntary Self-Regulation . After individual introductions were made, we were advised by Angie Buxton-King of the current situation relating to the voluntary self regulation of healers [VSR]. Here we were reminded of the past history when FIM set up a body to look at regulation of complementary therapists with an independent Chair financially supported for 2 years by the government.. This body was called the C N H C. 12 therapies joined, 3 subsequently left, and UK Healers declined to join at that time.

A new initiative was then set up called the Healing Practitioner's Regulatory Working Group [HPRWG], in close liaison with FIM. There are 15 healing members on this working group, [UK Healers, NFSH and ABK's group amongst others], some 'observers' will be allowed to attend also. This will be a short lived group who, when organised will form a new group called the Professional Specific Board [PSB]. This board will communicate directly to the CNHC.

New post. Angie Buxton-King was then congratulated on being appointed by the FIM to 'Lead their Complementary and Natural Healthcare' department. Another DHN ex-member Dr Michael Dixon is appointed lead member of the GP's department.

Parliamentary Group. We were then advised that the DHN had applied for corporate membership of the Parliamentary Group of Complementary Therapists, and paid the fee. Meetings are held at the House of Commons throughout the year. Information can only be obtained on their web-site quite near to the time of meetings, and all DHN members may attend. However, they need to give prior advice to this group before arriving for reasons of security. Dr Tim Ridge endorsed Angie's information and described his own visit as a fascinating experience that he hopes to repeat. [One never knows next to whom one may be sitting!] The DHN hopes to have more information about this shortly when we have received formal acceptance by this group.

Sound and other matters. Various members and guests then aired various unusual healing experiences, particularly those relating to the radio, TV, and the wider forms of sound therapy, with an example of therapeutic overtone singing by Marilyn Montclare.

Mr Robert Simmons our Osteopath invited guest then talked to us about his work and life as a Holistic Osteopath. Robert had started his life studying to be a vet, but he left his studies early with the expectation of becoming a DJ in South Africa. This experience was also short lived, and so he returned to the UK rather unsettled and unsure of his future path. His mother had been a sensitive spiritualist, and he realised he had inherited some of her gifts of healing, so his next step was to train as a healer with the CPS. He also trained in Osteopathy, and worked for some time at St George's hospital. He described his work in the Anatomy Department where he had a small room at the basement, next to the dissection room. Healthcare workers and others from Consultant Surgeon to Cleaners would come to him in a clandestine way, they were thrilled with the benefits they had received, but sadly, felt there were unable to share their healing with their

colleagues, or publicly. He taught Medical Students for a while, and was surprised that they were much more open-minded and interested in energy medicine than osteopathic students. As a healer-osteopath Robert found himself both unaccepted by his professional colleagues, and also the public. A discussion ensued about this common situation for healers, particularly those attempting to work in a professional setting. We discussed some of the ways we could deal with this personally, but also move the problem forward. The afternoon terminated with a short healing meditation.

Next meeting Our next meeting will be combined with our National AGM on Saturday, 4th April also at the Connaught Hall, with the meeting starting at 11.30 am. Please bring your own sandwiches, although coffee and tea will be available. In the afternoon at 2.00pm we will have 2 presentations: The first from healer Christina Mark who will talk of her experiences in the Borders Hospital Scotland. Here she has set up a growing group of healers who work and integrate within the General NHS Hospital. She has also written a new ground breaking book for healers, which should be published. The second presenter will be Lucy Lofting who will talk of her latest audit/research carried out at the hospice attached to Mount Vernon Hospital in Middlesex. Please place this date in your diaries.

Jean Galbraith, London Chair.