

Dear Member,

Welcome to this latest edition of the Spirituality and Psychiatry Newsletter, No. 25, July 2008. In this issue we have papers given at two meetings of the SIG. The first are from our one-day programme 'Researching Spirituality: Paradigms and Empirical Findings', held at 15 Belgrave Square, on 29th February 2008. Our thanks go to Professor John Swinton and Dr. Niko Kohls and Professor Harald Walach for making their texts available to us.

Second, we have papers from the SIG presentation 'Soul Matters: the role of spirituality in the treatment of mental illness', given at the College Annual Meeting, on 3rd July. Our thanks again to the three speakers, Julia Head, Dr. Paramabandhu Groves and Dr. Avdesh Sharma, who have enabled this publication of their talks.

Our next programme for SIG members will be on November 14th at the Society of Chemical Industry, 15 Belgrave Square, on '**Mindfulness, Meditation and Mental Health**'. Further details can be found in this Newsletter and in the recent issue of News and Notes to SIG members, where you will also find the application form. This programme has also been circulated to the Psychotherapy Faculty and we are expecting a full house. Please book early to make sure of being able to attend this very interesting programme.

As previously explained, we no longer have the option of holding meetings in the College and our costs have risen dramatically as a result. The SIG is obliged to balance its books, we have no reserves to pay non-College speakers and to cover travel expenses for speakers or business meetings and now depend entirely on income generation from meetings of the SIG. Please be assured that the Executive is doing everything it can to keep costs down to the minimum.

You will see Dr. Sarah Eagger's 2008 Annual College Report for the SIG on our webpage. Regrettably the Essay Prize for last year could not be awarded in line with the criteria set out on the website. But do consider entering for this year's prize, and ensure that your entry is received by the closing date of December 31st.

Finally, preliminary notice for your diaries of a forthcoming SIG programme on 3rd April, 2009 on '**Consciousness and the Extended Mind**', with three distinguished speakers: Rupert Sheldrake, biologist, (on research on telepathy in humans and animals), Peter Fenwick, neuropsychiatrist, (on 'the art of dying – a journey to elsewhere') and Simon Buxton, of the Sacred Trust Organisation (on shamanic states of consciousness).

As always, please let me have any articles you have written that you would like to see published on our Website, as Word or rtf files to sduncan@rcpsych.ac.uk and headed 'for the attention of Dr. Andrew Powell'.

With best wishes,
Andrew Powell