

CHO acquisition of BRCP gives boost to healers and aspiring complementary practitioners

Move coincides with launch of Healing Awareness Week

BRITAIN's foremost charity advancing the practice of healing, the Confederation of Healing Organisations (CHO), has acquired the British Register of Complementary Practitioners (BRCP), one of the UK's longest-running multi-disciplinary registers of complementary and alternative medicine practitioners.

CHO is the national charity advancing the practice, understanding and benefits of healing across the UK through research, live events and education. It has taken ownership of the BRCP from the Institute of Complementary and Natural Medicine, which is to close.

This acquisition will enable aspiring complementary therapists to be fully supported along their career paths from student level training to becoming senior practitioners at BRCP-accredited colleges.

One of the benefits for BRCP members is the CHO's experience gained from its significant progress in raising the profile of healing, through a robust public relations campaign. This continually raises the debate on healing and related therapies in the national, regional, local, online and broadcast media.

Furthermore, the CHO has embarked on participation at live shows, such as Mind Body Spirit Wellbeing Festivals, in addition to active engagement on social media. It will extend its dedicated marketing to the BRCP, promoting members and including them in high profile events as well as bringing case studies of success to the fore.

The BRCP acquisition coincides with the recent release of groundbreaking scientific research from the University of Northampton, which has ruled out the "placebo effect" as a reason for healing's effectiveness. The peer-reviewed research, commissioned by the CHO, tested healing on animals, plants and human beings, with a positive result recorded in each instance [PN January 2016].

Sue Knight, CHO chief executive, explains in an exclusive interview with

Psychic News: "The greatest significance of this acquisition is that both the CHO and the BRCP are renowned for their authority, track record and credibility. Bringing them closer will build on trust honed among the general public and widespread practitioners.

"We're also excited about the unique synergy this acquisition offers. While both organisations are seen as the hallmark of best practice, the CHO also brings its 'spiritual heart' – both are essential components in the delivery of patient care.

"Healing and other complementary therapies go hand-in-hand when it comes to educating the public about how they support and enhance medical treatment. We look forward to leading the debate, improving standards and furthering education for what can bring immense benefits to society."

During acquisition negotiations it was realised that Michael Endacott, an energetic and enthusiastic champion of natural healing, who passed on in 2005, and will be remembered fondly by many of our readers, was involved in the founding of both organisations.

Endacott played an integral part in initiatives to develop a centralised approach to multi-discipline regulation and registration of complementary medical practitioners. He was celebrated among the healing community for his unstinting optimism in the union of natural healers, complementary medical practitioners and alternative therapists and the development of an educational system that would promote good quality practice.

All BRCP members will retain existing member benefits in addition

to those offered by the CHO, including parliamentary representation through the CHO's membership of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Integrated Healthcare.

HEALING AWARENESS WEEK

SETTING the stage for future years to come will be the first UK-wide Healing Awareness Week, running from 1-7 May.

With the aim of raising awareness and education around the benefits brought by healing, it will also generate funds for charities actively delivering healing to individuals, organisations and other countries, where the need arises.

This initiative also gives individual healers a platform for promotion for themselves and their healing practice. Four leading healing organisations have come together to support and publicise Healing Awareness Week and encourage healers around the country to run events locally.

There will be a specific Healing Awareness Week page on each of the four organisations' websites where events can be listed. They are:

- The British Alliance of Healing Associations (britishalliancehealingassociations.com)
- UK Healers (ukhealers.info)
- The CHO (the-cho.org.uk)
- The Spiritualists' National Union (snu.org.uk)

CHARITABLE PROCEEDS FOR GREAT CAUSES

ALL MONEY raised throughout this week will be returned to a central contact and distributed to the chosen charities, which include:

The Healing Hands Network, a self-funding charity that is made up of



volunteer complementary and holistic therapists. Their members have supported those suffering from the mental, physical and emotional after-effects of war, and may be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Their valuable work extends to a healing clinic in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and several outreach locations for people suffering the after-effects of the Balkan War. They also work in the UK supporting veterans and UK Armed Forces serving personnel and their families. (healinghandsnetwork.org.uk)

The Sam Buxton Sunflower Healing Trust supports cancer patients and their families by providing, in particular, reiki and energy healing as complementary therapies.

The charity was created as a living tribute to Sam Buxton, son of founder Angie, who passed away on 5 August 1998, aged 10, from leukemia. Sam's life was three years longer than his initial diagnosis suggested, and the organisation's aim is to afford the same opportunity to others to



Above left: Michael Endacott, co-founder of both organisations. Above: CHO's top team (from left), healer Sue Newport, Sue Knight (CHO chief executive) and healer Diane O'Connell at Birmingham's NEC

be supported on their journeys with their loved ones.

During the years that Sam was ill, the most beneficial therapy employed was healing. This supported Sam through chemotherapy, allowing him to be active, vibrant and cheerful, despite the gruelling regimes he went through to rid his body of leukemia. (cancertherapies.org.uk/SBSHT)

Looking towards the future, individuals are being encouraged to organise a number of events that bring awareness of healing to the public. These can include demonstrations, talks, and coffee mornings about healing in schools, clubs or leisure centres, in addition to approaching GPs, surgeries or hospices, for example.

FESTIVAL AT OLYMPIA

A KEY event to kick-start Healing Awareness Week 2017 will be the CHO's presence (Stand G40) at the Mind Body Spirit Wellbeing Festival taking place at London's Olympia from 28 April to 1 May.

The CHO will be actively raising awareness around healing by talking to visitors at the show and offering healing sessions on site by donation to charity. Existing and aspiring healers will be able to learn about membership and explore further education around their practice.

CHO will also be participating once again at Aspects of Healing in Birmingham's NEC, which takes place from 3-5 November. ■

HOW HEALERS WORK

Accredited/Registered healers have been taught to a very high standard and work to a strict code of conduct, safeguarding both patients and healers. Many healers actively promote cooperation between themselves and the traditional medical profession, bringing a greater choice of healing options to patients. Healers impart healing energy by direct contact or over a distance to people, animals, plants or any other living thing.

Healing is generally offered in the following ways:

Contact healing: the healer seeks permission to place their hands on to the patient/client, whilst ensuring there is no cause for embarrassment or discomfort to all concerned.

Distant healing: healing is sent by power of thought to someone who can be physically present but does not want contact healing.

Absent Healing: the patient/client is not physically present so healing thoughts are therefore extended to them through the power of thought and visualisation.