



Honorary Chair Report 2019 – Maddie White

It has been a busy year for ASCN UK. We are almost ready for the 2019 conference in Newport, Wales; a brand new conference centre which will host us for their first ever conference! A lively site visit including hard hats and high viz jackets has left us feeling as though we contributed to its development!

We are also busy with planning our joint conference with WCET in 2020, to be hosted in Glasgow. Following several joint committee meetings, plans are shaping up to provide us with a tri partite meeting with notable key speakers in the fields of stoma, continence and wound management.

Financially, we remain solvent and in a position to develop the Association further. Ten percent of last year's profits were added to the Jean Preston fund to support nurses with attendance at conference and with support for courses.

The Committee have met regularly for strategy and conference planning meetings throughout the year as well as regular telephone conferences every month. We said goodbye to Gill Little, Honorary Treasurer this year who has retired and handed the reins to Andrew Bird, who will commence his position after 2019 conference. Incidentally, Andrew was the well deserving recipient of the BJN Stoma Care Nurse of the Year award in March: Angie and I had great pleasure in attending the awards ceremony at the Globe Theatre in London.

ASCN Area representative positions are mostly filled and regular meetings have taken place for planning for the future in the hope that this will help to raise the profile of ASCN UK and encourage future committee members. External speakers from CA UK and BHTA have helped to inform reps of the latest developments affecting our speciality and thanks go to Jackie McPhail, Honorary Secretary for co ordinating these meetings. There are some vacant posts at present; information is available via the ASCN UK website if you are interested.

In our aim to raise the profile of the Association and stoma care nursing, ASCN have attended UA, IA and Colostomy UK open days again this year. Purple Wings Charity also kindly invited ASCN to their annual open day and gala dinner. We have also actively supported the BJN awards in recognising outstanding contributions stoma care nurses have made to our specialism. We continue to work with the Mark Allen group in supporting stoma care with the production of 3 BJN supplements a year, free to all ASCN UK members. We have actively engaged with them also to support our Masterclasses and wish to develop this support further within the coming months. We undertook another successful masterclass this year in Manchester at Salford Hospital which focussed on Procurement and the issues that are currently being addressed nationally around stoma prescribing. ASCN has registered an interest in the national Bowel and Bladder project, part of the 'Deep dive' exercise into NHS expenditure for stoma care and continence products.

Wendy Osborne – Education Officer has continued to push ahead with Phase 2 of the guidelines which will be available at conference 2019 and has been instrumental in the launch of a new online ASCN Stoma Care Course, due to commence Autumn 2018. These are exciting times in terms of education. Band 2 and 4 Clinical competencies have now been written for SCN teams to support unqualified staff in the provision of stoma care services. After 9 years, Wendy will be stepping down as Education Officer after conference this year and we wish her every success for the future. She has worked tremendously hard with many nurses and associations to raise the profile of stoma care nationally as well as produce invaluable resources for clinical practice. I will miss her continued drive, enthusiasm and support. She will be replaced by Jennie Burch who will take over the reins after conference.

Wendy, Angie and I had the good fortune to attend ECET 2019 in Rome in June and strengthened our relationship with both ECET and WCET. As the International delegate for UK for both organisations, I feel that our presence at these events strengthens unity and collaboration and I would encourage nurses to contribute to future conferences by sharing their excellent work.

I look forward to another year of continuous growth for ASCN UK and see you all in Glasgow!

Maddie White Chair ASCN UK