



Chair Report – Andrew Bird

The last year has been one of change. As Maddie White stepped down as Chair last year and Jackie McPhail relinquished her role as Secretary I found myself contemplating the size of my feet being confronted with massive shoes to fill. The transition for me has been a challenging one made easier for me by the support of my fantastic wife LadyBird, my Manager, the wonderful team of nurses and prescribers at work and the fantastic committee and area reps that I have had the pleasure of working with. Carolyn Swash has done a fabulous job as the new Secretary I am delighted that Amanda Gunning has taken over the role of Treasurer which has allowed me to focus on this new role. Jennie Burch our Education Officer has worked tirelessly whilst juggling her day job and studying and Angie Perrin our Vice Chair has been a rock, being the only member of the committee to have been involved with organising a face-to-face conference before.

Over the year I have had the pleasure of representing ASCN at the House of Commons and at the British Journal of Nursing awards with Jennie where I had the privilege of announcing the BJN Stoma Care Nurse of the Year winner Maddie White in recognition of the excellent work she has done for our Association, and runner up Melanie Jerome for the work she had undertaken to set up and ileo-anal pouch clinic at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. I had very strict instructions from Maddie about which photos of her I could show and none included me so I stuck this one in because my Tux doesn't get many outings!

Angie and I also attended a working session hosted by Chris Stirling who was then the interim Director of the Department of Health and Social Care's MedTech Directorate that was established last year where a number of topics were discussed including AURs, Part IXA of Drug Tariff and Sponsorship within Stoma Care.

In June, I had the honour of being invited to the WCET/WOCN Joint Congress in Texas however was unable to attend due to a dog-related passport incident. Thank you to Angie Perrin, Maddie White and Wendy Osborne who flew the flag (literally) for the UK and ASCN.

We have also been using our voice as an Association to support our members with various issues and are happy to continue to provide help and support wherever possible.

Unfortunately, as many of you will know, we had to temporarily suspend the ASCN UK Facebook page earlier this year. We became aware that, what we hoped would be a safe space for our members to share best practice and raise concerns, had been compromised and sensitive information had been shared outside of the group. We recognise the value that the group provided to our members and we are committed to bringing it back with a greater emphasis on the safety and governance of it. This incident has highlighted to us the importance of getting things right and doing things well and with this in mind I would like to announce the creation of a new post on the ASCN UK committee. With so much currently happening in the world of stoma care, we feel it would be beneficial to have someone on the committee who can focus on the governance of the Association and external communications. I therefore would like to invite members to submit their nominations for the new ASCN UK Governance and Communications Officer by Wednesday 30th November. An email will be circulated at the end of conference but if you are interested in the role please feel free to come and see me or one of the other committee members for more information.

Andrew Bird, Chair, ASCN UK