We want to ensure that psychology is seen as making a real difference to the major issues facing individuals and societies – by influencing policymaking and explaining the value of psychology more effectively to the public.

Cover: Tower of London and art installation, Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red, saw 888,246 ceramic poppies planted in the Tower’s moat, each poppy representing a British military fatality during the war.
Other images: Tony Dale Photography, Marcos Bevilacqua Photography and the British Psychological Society.
I became President at the Society’s AGM in May, held at the Annual Conference where we launched our commemoration of the centenary of the First World War.

Whilst this four-year project clearly has a focus on looking back, for example at Charles Myers’ pioneering work, it is as always with history interesting to see what enduring themes emerge from this, and Myers had some very similar priorities for psychology to those that still preoccupy us today.

As Alan Costall wrote in The Psychologist in 2001, ‘Myers returned from the war desperate to see psychology applied more generally to human problems.’ He also campaigned to open up membership of the Society to ‘all those interested in various branches of psychology’.

These priorities – of ensuring that psychology has tangible impacts and welcoming more members to our increasingly diverse Society – are still strongly represented in our current work and our plans for the next five years as presented in the new strategic plan, published this year. We want to ensure that psychology is seen as making a real difference to the major issues facing individuals and societies – by influencing policymaking and explaining the value of psychology more effectively to the public.

And as the number of branches of psychology grows, we continue to try to open up our membership to those interested in the whole broad sweep of the discipline. Myers faced opposition and difficulties 100 years ago, and it’s certainly no easier today, but it’s still worth the effort.

For the first time in a few years, the AGM was held during the Society’s Annual Conference, which took place in Birmingham at the International Convention Centre (right next to the splendid new City Library, which I enjoyed looking round).

I was pleased to see that reinstating the AGM as an event at the heart of the conference enabled more members to attend and hear reports of the Society’s work over the last year as well as to congratulate recipients of Society Fellowship awards: Professor Saths Cooper, President of the International Union of Psychological Science, and Professor Dorothy Bishop, University of Oxford.

**Professor Dorothy Miell**

President
Strategic
Our 2015–2020 strategic plan summarises the Society’s ambitions and priorities for the next five years. Developed through consultation with Society members and staff, it sets out the six areas of work the Society will be prioritising.

When the plan was published, Professor Dorothy Miell, the President of the Society, said: ‘We will review progress regularly at Trustee meetings and report back through the member networks and, formally, through the Society’s Annual General Meeting and Annual Report. We welcome the contributions our members can make to helping us achieve these goals.’

For each of the six areas, the plan lists objectives, strategies, outcomes and measures for progress. You can find the full plan online, but the detail below will give you a flavour of its approach.

**Plan**

**Promote advancements in psychological knowledge and practice**
We will give members the opportunity to access wider audiences in the UK and internationally to share their expertise. We will support enhanced access to professional development and invest in our grants and bursary schemes.

**Develop the psychological knowledge and professional skills of our members**
The Society recognises the importance of providing excellent continuing professional development opportunities and will keep members up to date on the latest psychological knowledge at every career stage.

**Maximise the impact of psychology on public policy**
We will ensure that external audiences, and particularly policymakers, have better access to the excellent research and insight psychologists can offer. We will strengthen relationships with partner organisations.

**Increase the visibility of psychology and raise public awareness of its contribution to society**
The Society is already recognised by the UK and international media as a key source of information about psychology. We will continue to develop our capacity to give timely and authoritative comment on matters relating to our discipline. We will build on our successful programme of public engagement through lectures, talks, exhibitions and information stands at public science fairs.

**Attract new members and broaden our membership**
Our future rests in the strength of our membership and so we aim to grow this. We have already embarked on partnerships to open up national and international routes to membership. We also need to promote progression through the grades of membership and support our members at every career stage.

**Develop our organisation to support change**
We will continue to ensure there are opportunities for our members to be active within the organisation. To achieve this we will continue to review, simplify and strengthen the Society’s governance structures and provide them with support and training.

Read the full strategic plan
[www.bps.org.uk/strategicplan](http://www.bps.org.uk/strategicplan)
The Society organised fringe events at all three main Westminster party autumn conferences. These were staged to raise our profile, align psychology with themes that are high on the political agenda and highlight the contribution of psychology research to effective policy formation and implementation.

At the Labour Party conference we organised a panel debate in partnership with the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP). The event focused on ways of delivering psychological therapies in the context of Labour’s vision of ‘whole-person care’.

The panel consisted of our President Elect, Professor Jamie Hacker Hughes, two Labour MPs and representatives from BACP, the British Medical Association and the Royal College of Nursing.

Participants explored the benefits of such a model and how parity of esteem between mental and physical healthcare could be achieved in practice.

Our panel debate at the Conservative Party conference explored how psychology research evidence is used in policymaking and changing practices on the ground, with a focus on crime reduction and discovering what works – and what does not.

The panel consisted of representatives from Sense about Science, NatCen Social Research, Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne and Dr Lisa Morrison Coulthard, the Society’s lead policy adviser.

A similar panel debate took place at the Liberal Democrats conference. The panel included Sir Alan Beith, chair of the House of Commons justice committee, and the minister for crime prevention, Norman Baker, which provided a valuable insight into the views of both parliament and government on this key topic.

Below: Sir Alan Beith MP, Norman Baker MP and Prateek Buch at our Liberal Democrat Conference debate.
The awarding of United Kingdom degrees to students outside the UK is a growth area. More than three-quarters of our universities are now engaged in this type of provision, covering 200 countries.

In fact, there are more students studying for UK awards outside of the UK than there are international students studying in the UK.

For this reason the Society’s Board of Trustees, at its March 2014 meeting, approved proposals to make course accreditation available to UK courses delivered internationally.

These proposals were developed with the involvement of the Association of Heads of Psychology Departments and were positively received by the higher education sector.

In November Society representatives visited the University of Nottingham’s Malaysia Campus (UNMC) and its BSc (Hons) Psychology and the BSc (Hons) Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience became the first programmes outside the UK to be accredited by the Society (below).

After the decision was announced, Dr Elizabeth Sheppard, Head of the School of Psychology at UNMC, said: ‘Our students are very excited about the prospect of graduating with a BPS-accredited degree.’

Professor Dorothy Miell, the President of the Society, added: ‘I am delighted that we have completed the Society’s first successful international accreditation which will give students studying the course reassurance on its quality and coverage, as well as endorsing the academic and technical support they receive.

‘Extending the range of our accredited courses will help attract more students to explore psychology and ensure the future development of our discipline internationally.’

**International accreditation: [www.bps.org.uk/internationalaccreditation](http://www.bps.org.uk/internationalaccreditation)**
First World War
The lifelong effects of war have been well documented, but the First World War saw a turning point in the development of psychology and changed the way we think about military health.

To mark this important centenary the Society will be supporting a number of public engagement events over the next four years, as well as drawing together a raft of online resources to create a fully accessible repository by 2018.

The Society’s commemoration of the contribution of psychology and psychologists to the First World War, and of the development of the discipline as a result of it, was launched at the Annual Conference in Birmingham by our President, Professor Dorothy Miell.

‘Psychology and war’ was one of the themes of the conference, which opened with keynote addresses from Professor Sir Simon Wessely, founder of the King’s Centre for Military Health Research, and the historian Ben Shephard. The session was chaired by the journalist Kate Adie.

The first of the public engagement events took place at the Cheltenham Science Festival. There, Captain Duncan Precious, the first clinical psychologist to be commissioned into the British Army, joined military psychologist Professor Jamie Hacker Hughes, our President Elect and medical historian Emily Mayhew to explore the trauma of battle in a packed and moving session.

In October the History of Psychology Centre’s Annual Stories of Psychology symposium explored the legacy of war. Professor Hacker Hughes spoke on ‘99 Years of British military psychology’. He showed that many leading 20th-century British psychologists were involved with the military in one of the two world wars.

Edgar Jones, Professor in the History of Medicine and Psychiatry at King’s College London, spoke on ‘shell shock’ and the origins of psychological medicine. Andrea von Hohenthal from the University of Freiburg looked at the development of psychology in Germany between 1914 and 1918.

Professor Sonu Shamdasani spoke on the war’s influence on the thought of Carl Jung, and Professor Michael Roper on family life in its aftermath.

As we move through our commemorations, the Society will be developing resources and events on the themes of:

- Psychology and the physical trauma of war;
- The centenary of the conversion of Craiglockhart Hydropathic to a war hospital;
- Psychology and revolution;
- The psychology of peace and remembrance.

The theme for 2015 will be marking 100 years since shell shock was first reported in The Lancet. We shall be running a range of events looking at the journey from shell shock to PTSD and combat stress, as well as commemorating the contribution of C.S. Myers.

Left: The Tower of London and art installation, Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red, saw 888,246 ceramic poppies planted in the Tower’s moat, each poppy representing a British military fatality during the war.

First World War Centenary
www.bps.org.uk/ww1

The Tower of London and art installation, Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red, saw 888,246 ceramic poppies planted in the Tower’s moat, each poppy representing a British military fatality during the war.
Following the success of the inaugural Psychology4Graduates last year, 2014 saw a bigger and better event. More than 600 students and recent graduates gathered at Kensington Town Hall in December to hear about the wide range of career options open to them as psychologists.

The day included presentations and panel discussions from people who have pursued varied careers in psychology. They talked about their work and the people who had inspired them along their career path.

Speakers were drawn from the different areas of academic and applied psychology. Recent developments were reflected by the presence of a psychological well-being practitioner talking about his work under the government’s Improving Access to Psychological Therapies Programme.

Psychology4Graduates is already known for its friendly and relaxed atmosphere. The interactive break sessions, which provide a unique opportunity for those attending to meet and mingle with established practitioners, are particularly valued.

The end of the year also saw two of our established Psychology4Students events held, this time in London and Sheffield. Again the speakers were selected to give a broad view of the many areas of psychology, but the content is aimed particularly at pre-tertiary students and those considering taking an undergraduate degree in the subject.

Earlier in 2014, the Society had a stand at the Big Bang UK Young Scientists and Engineers Fair in Birmingham. Over the four days of the event, 75,000 young people, teachers and parents came to see science, technology, engineering and maths brought to life.

Below: Dr David Dean talking to participants at Psychology4Graduates.
Psychology came to the Manchester airwaves in 2014. ALL FM, a community radio station based in the city, broadcast a series of shows under the title ‘Psychology FM’. The programmes were created by Professor Rebecca Lawthom and PhD student Michael Richards to help people gain a better understanding of the evolution of the discipline and of its many professional applications today. To further their aim of changing public perceptions, the presenters were men and women who have learning difficulties.

Psychology FM was one of the projects supported during the year by a public engagement grant from the Society.

Another grant was made to Dr Sarah Bate from the University of Bournemouth and her work to raise public and professional awareness of prosopagnosia – ‘face blindness’. It was used to produce a series of DVDs highlighting the condition and to stage a breakfast roundtable meeting at the House of Commons to launch the project.

Grants were also made to our Northern Ireland Branch to support Origins NI – a project to record the evolution and impact of the science and practice of psychology in Northern Ireland – and to support work bringing multisensory illusions to the public at the Camera Obscura in Edinburgh.

Professor Catriona Morrison, Chair of the Society’s Education and Public Engagement Board, said: ‘The range and quality of this year’s grant recipients emphasise how much psychological science can contribute to wider society. Sharing this knowledge with the public is an important part of our work’.

Public engagement grants:
www.bps.org.uk/public-engagement-grants
From health to the economy, encouraging people to change their behaviour is the key to meeting many of the challenges modern society faces.

The Society set up its Behaviour Change Advisory Group (BCAG) to provide expert psychological advice to government and other policymakers to help in this endeavour. And in 2014 the BCAG published its Behaviour Change Portfolio – a series of short briefings on social issues which are aimed at policymakers but may also be of interest to researchers and practitioners.

The portfolio comprises five briefings:

**Energy conservation** considers the subject in the context of climate change. It examines the challenge of reconciling people’s understanding of the impact of carbon emissions with the way they behave in their everyday lives. It emphasises that, while climate change is a global problem, it is crucial that individuals understand the role they can play in solving it.

**Physical (in)activity** concentrates on the challenge of ensuring that more people engage in regular exercise. The briefing highlights the fact that, while most people are aware of the physical and psychological benefits of regular exercise, large numbers do not do sufficient exercise to enjoy them. It points to a series of psychologically based tools that can be used to motivate individuals to be more active.

**Tax and tax compliance** highlights the ‘hidden economy’ of tax evasion. It suggests three models for understanding and solving the problem of tax evasion: behavioural economics and nudging; insights from cognitive and social psychology into tax perceptions, tax morale, fairness and justice and the role of social norms; co-determination between customers and government. It makes recommendations for future action.

**Personal debt** looks at the way psychology can help answer three questions. Why do people get into debt? What is the psychological impact of being in debt? How do people get out of debt? It also makes a series of proposals to assist in reducing levels of personal debt.

The members of the BCAG are drawn from across the Divisions and Sections of the Society, providing expertise in many domains.

Understanding which factors impact upon behaviour provides the key to a more evidence-based policy culture. Interventions to bring about behaviour change may use a wide range of techniques and be delivered at an individual, community or societal level.

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Read the briefing portfolio
www.bps.org.uk/behaviourchange
The MindEd web portal provides electronic learning materials on mental health for anyone who works or volunteers with children and young people.

MindEd was launched in March at a one-day conference in Westminster, which was reported live by the Society on Twitter. The speakers included health minister Norman Lamb MP, the Children’s Commissioner for England Dr Maggie Atkinson, and Professor Shirley Reynolds from the University of Reading.

Professor Reynolds CPsychol is MindEd’s lead for the Children and Young People’s Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme. Dr Jaime Craig CPsychol was closely involved with the establishment of the project, and the Society President (2013–14) Dr Richard Mallows also attended the conference.

MindEd provides free online education to help adults identify and understand children and young people with mental health issues. It offers a wide range of e-learning resources, including assessment and outcome evaluation aids. Its £2.9m funding came from the Department of Health.

Further materials were added through the year, including new curricula designed for those working in child and adolescent mental health services and posters intended for the wider public.

The British Psychological Society is one of 10 professional and campaign bodies making up the consortium that runs the project. The others are the Department of Health, the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, the Royal College of Psychiatrists, the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy, the Royal College of General Practitioners, the Royal College of Nursing, the National Children’s Bureau, Young Minds and e-learning for Healthcare.

MindEd: www.minded.org.uk

Audio interviews

Over the year the Society built an archive of short audio interviews with eminent psychologists in which they talk about their own research and areas of interest.

The interviews were conducted by the science journalist Wendy Barnaby and can be found on our website.

In April an initial five interviews took place:

- Professor John Aggleton on the human brain and memory.
- Professor Chris French on parapsychology.
- Dr Sophie Scott on the science of laughter.
- Susan Van Scyoc on expert witnesses.
- Dr Richard Stephens on swearing and the expression of emotion.

The most downloaded interview is the one with Richard Stephens.

Other frequently downloaded contributions were Sophie Scott’s interview on the scientific study of laughter, and Chris French’s sceptical examination of parapsychology.

Later in the year a further eight interviews were conducted:

- Dr Lynne Dawkins on smoking cessation and e-cigarettes.
- Maggi Evans on women in leadership.
- Dr Thomas Farsides on the importance of altruism.
- Professor Dan Freeman on the stressed sex.
- Emeritus Professor Stephen Lea on the psychological consequences of personal debt.
- Dr Khadija Rouf on living with a severe food allergy.
- Dr Mark Uphill on ways of motivating people to exercise more.
- Professor Andy Young on the neuropsychology of face recognition.

The most popular interview from this second batch is Dan Freeman’s on men, women and mental health.

Audio interviews: www.bps.org.uk/audiointerviews
Birmingham’s striking International Convention Centre was the setting for the Society’s Annual Conference in May. The conference themes were:

- Psychology and war.
- The psychology of family, parenting and caring.
- The psychologist as expert.
- New directions in human neuroscience.

The programme included a rich mix of hot topic sessions, symposia, oral presentations, workshops and poster presentations spread across the three days of the event. The Standing Conference Committee received 241 submissions, of which 184 were accepted.

Our keynote speakers were:

**Professor Sir Simon Wessely** – What has forward psychiatry in wartime achieved?

**Ben Shephard** – Selling psychology to the military – from Bartlett to Seligman.

**Susan van Schooy** – Psychologists as expert witnesses: The mad or bad debate continues.

**Professor John Aggleton (below)** – Convergent methodological (and anatomical) pathways for memory.

**Professor Marinus van IJzendoorn** – New directions in attachment theory and research: Genetic, hormonal and neural approaches.

The first two papers were delivered in a memorable session chaired by the journalist and broadcaster Kate Adie.

A total of 513 people attended the event, including 104 who went to the student conference. This took place in parallel on the first day. Some of the postgraduate students presenting at the Annual Conference benefited from the bursaries provided by our Research Board.

As usual, the conference was of considerable interest to the media. Papers on the effect that pregnancy has on women’s ability to recognise faces, and the effect of temperature on how willing people are to cooperate, were particularly popular.
Impact
Recent years have seen a growing insistence that public policy should be informed by a scientific evidence base. At the same time, government has placed increased emphasis on the need for evidence of economic and social returns from its investment in research.

Recent meetings with government departments have shown they are keen to receive an input from psychologists, but also that this input must be in an accessible form.

So in 2014 the Society launched BPS Impact, a web portal to showcase high-quality psychology research that may bring social, economic or cultural benefits. Through its searchable database, readers can view peer-reviewed work that has the potential to have an impact on wider society, as well as research that has already done so.

BPS Impact was launched with summaries of six pieces of research. Each summary includes links showing that work’s impact and links for further reading, as well as a video of one of the researchers talking about the work.

They were:

- **Katie Adolphus** (Human Appetite Research Unit, University of Leeds) on the benefits that having breakfast brings to the academic performance, cognitive performance and classroom behaviour of children in secondary schools.
- **Professor Jane Oakhill** (University of Sussex) on the development of skills for reading comprehension in young children. This work, which has led to a clearer conception of the difficulties some children experience and the development of procedures to identify poor comprehenders, has already had a significant influence on the national curriculum.
- **Peter Branney** (Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust) on an information resource on penile cancer developed through a participatory action research methodology. This has the potential to improve patient care and the quality of life of men with the condition.
- **Professor Tim Jackson** (University of Surrey) on RESOLVE (Research for Sustainable Lifestyles, Values and Environment) – an influential programme that has harnessed the insights of social psychology to devise ways of encouraging and sustaining ‘green’ behaviour in the general public.
- **Peter Hancock** (University of Stirling) and Charlie Frowd (University of Central Lancashire) on EvoFIT, a system for helping victims or witnesses of crime create an image of the face of the perpetrator. This system has been extremely influential and assisted numerous UK and international police forces in identifying and convicting offenders.
- **Professor Robin Goodwin** (Brunel University) on an intervention to promote sexual health in the Caucasus that has had a demonstrable impact on HIV awareness, knowledge and risk-taking behaviours amongst adolescents in participating schools.

BPS Impact will, through the Society’s contacts with government departments, inform policymakers and increase the impact of psychological research.

It will also be of value to the people and groups who may benefit from the research it contains and also to those interested in service provision, legislation or behaviour change.

BPS Impact is now open for further online submissions showcasing impactful or aspirationally impactful psychological research.

**Impact portfolio:**
www.bps.org.uk/impact/search
The Psychologist

The Psychologist our monthly magazine launched a new website with numerous improvements. Visitors can now comment on and share content, view multimedia extras, follow the magazine on social media and use an improved search to browse a complete archive of more than 325 issues.

Society members, affiliates and subscribers who like the layout of the print version with added functions, can also access digital editions to read on desktop, tablet and smartphone.

Dr Jon Sutton, the magazine’s managing editor, said when the new site was launched late in 2014:

‘The site allows us to better reflect and build upon the print version: we report, digest, debate, feature, meet, review and look back. Breaking away from the monthly cycle, the aim is that The Psychologist and Research Digest become the daily authoritative sources of news, reviews, interviews and more in psychology’.

Meanwhile, the Society’s Research Digest blog goes from strength to strength. The editor, Dr Christian Jarrett, reports on the latest findings in psychology, and now the Digest includes posts by guest bloggers and material from regular contributor Dr Alex Fradera. There’s new content every day of the week except Sundays, when the previous day’s ‘Link feast’ provides plenty of reading.

This has helped visitor numbers to rise so that we now receive an average of more than 300,000 page views per month. On Twitter, @ResearchDigest has more than 48,000 followers and we now have a presence on Facebook, Google+ and Tumblr alongside our free fortnightly e-mail.

The Psychologist: www.thepsychologist.bps.org.uk
Research digest: www.bps.org.uk/digest
Journal impact factors

The 2013 impact factor release in July 2014 proved evidence of another excellent year for BPS Journals. Nine of our eleven journals saw their impact factor increase this year, with only two experiencing slight declines.

The British Journal of Occupational Psychology saw a large increase in its impact factor and achieved a score of 3.389 in 2013, up from 2.103 in 2012.

The Journal of Neuropsychology also showed a large increase and is now placed seventh in the ISI’s experimental psychology category. The British Journal of Educational Psychology and the Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology moved into the top 10 in their own categories too.

Total citations continue to increase across the BPS portfolio (a 9 per cent growth over the previous year), whilst zero-citation levels continue to decline (a 5 per cent decline).

We published a free virtual issue of the British Journal of Social Psychology to coincide with the 17th General Meeting of the European Association of Social Psychology in Amsterdam. It showcased some recently published work from the journal and some that will appear in future issues.

Meanwhile, Evidence-Based Mental Health, a joint enterprise between the Society, the Royal College of Psychiatrists and BMJ publishing, goes from strength to strength under the dynamic editorship of Andrea Cipriani.

Each quarterly issue contains the key details of essential new research articles presented with a succinct, informative expert commentary on their clinical application.

BPS Journals: http://psychsource.bps.org.uk

EBMH: www.ebmh.bmj.com

Student membership

2014 proved to be an excellent year for student membership of the Society. We saw an astonishing 80 per cent growth in our student member numbers, which rose from 4497 at the end of 2013 to 8077 at the end of 2014.

This growth is down to the significant work on several projects to increase interaction with, and membership take up by, psychology students. These projects include:

- **Multi-membership** – piloted by the University of Central Lancashire. This scheme enables universities to purchase individual membership for their students at a discounted rate. The popularity of the scheme has seen 11 universities sign up for 2015.

- **Spreading the word** – by attending a number of universities we have been able to talk face-to-face with students about membership, gaining experience and further training. Additionally, events such as Psych4Students and Psych4Graduates have provided an excellent platform for information and engagement with potential and current members.

- **Online applications** – the introduction of a fully online application system has proved extremely popular. Offering the option to join for the full period of study or for a single year, the system gives immediate access to membership benefits. These include a wealth of academic resources that will be invaluable to students.

Student membership is open to all those undertaking a Society-accredited undergraduate degree or conversion course.

With this work in place, we are confident that the next generation of psychologists will have every opportunity to contribute to the growth of our Society.

Student membership: www.bps.org.uk/student
The following awards were presented by the then President Dr Richard Mallows at a ceremony held during our 2014 Annual Conference.

The Research Board’s Lifetime Achievement Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychological Knowledge was made to Professor Andy Young from the University of York for his work on the neuropsychology and experimental psychology of face perception.

The Professional Practice Board made two Lifetime Achievement Awards. One went to Professor David Clark (University of Oxford) for his work integrating experimental and clinical studies to advance the understanding and treatment of anxiety disorders: the other to Professor Elizabeth Kuipers (Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King’s College London) for her contribution to research, training and clinical practice in the area of psychosis.

The Psychology Education Board’s Lifetime Achievement Award was won by Professor Dennis Child from the University of Leeds, who has contributed to psychology applied to education over many years.

Professor Tim Dalgleish from the Medical Research Council Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit won the Presidents’ Award for Distinguished...
Contributions to Psychological Knowledge. He is a leading international researcher in the field of mood and anxiety disorders.

The Psychology Education Board’s Excellence in Psychology Education Achievement Award went to Phil Banyard from Nottingham Trent University for his contribution to psychology education at local, national and international levels.

Professor Bruce Hood received the Psychology Education Board’s Public Engagement and Media Award for his exceptional contribution to the communication of psychology, which has been made with depth yet in an accessible and engaging way.

The Spearman Medal was awarded to Dr Jonathan Rosier from University College London for his work on the neurobiological basis of mental distress.

The Professional Practice Board made its Practitioner of the Year Award to Dr Peter Martin for his commitment to counselling psychology and to the work of our Division of Counselling Psychology.

Dr Stephanie Rossit from the University of East Anglia won the Award for Outstanding Doctoral Research Contributions to Psychology for her work on how visual information is processed for the control of action.

The Ethics Committee Award for Promoting Equality of Opportunity went to Professor Rachel Tribe from the University of East London. She was honoured for research that has translated into improved policies and practice for vulnerable people using health, social and educational services.

The inaugural joint BPS/Association of Technical Staff in Psychology Award was made to Ian Harrison from the University of Bolton, where he has worked for more than 35 years.

Four Book Awards were made.

• Academic monograph – Social Understanding and Social Lives: From Toddlerhood Through to the Transition to School by Claire Hughes.

• Practitioner text – Preventing Stress in Organizations: How to Develop Positive Managers by Emma Donaldson-Feilder, Joanna Yarker & Rachel Lewis.

• Textbook – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Queer Psychology: An Introduction by Victoria Clarke, Sonja J. Ellis, Elizabeth Peel & Damien W. Riggs.

• Popular Science – Time Warped: Unlocking the Mysteries of Time Perception by Claudia Hammond.
Dorothy Bishop, Professor of Developmental Neuropsychology at the University of Oxford, was made an Honorary Fellow of the Society at our Annual Conference.

Professor Bishop is the leading researcher on developmental disorders that affect language and communication. Communication problems feature in a range of developmental disorders including autism, dyslexia and learning disabilities of other kinds.

Her work has been a foundation for the genetics of developmental disorders: she has been a pioneer in the use of twin data to reveal genetic contributions to language disorders. Humans are born with some kind of capacity to develop language, but it’s not clear what it is, and there certainly is not anything like a language ‘gene’.

Professor Bishop has devised measures that differentiate types of language impairment and are now indispensable for both research and clinical diagnosis. By comparing and contrasting dyslexia, specific language impairment and autism, Bishop has challenged views of these as discrete conditions, and illuminated what is shared and what is distinctive about each disorder.

She has created important tests that help speech and language therapists and psychologists diagnose disorders and design interventions appropriate to them. And it is of fundamental theoretical importance, because understanding how brains deliver and decipher language helps us to understand one of the key ingredients in the complex recipe that makes us human.

Professor Bishop is a Fellow of the Royal Society, the British Academy and the Academy of Medical Sciences, and has Honorary Fellowships from the College of Speech and Language Therapists and from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. Her book *Uncommon Understanding* won the book of the year prize from the British Psychological Society in 1999. She has a long-standing interest in the question of why women are underrepresented in most areas of academia, though overrepresented amongst the student body in some.

Professor Bishop is known for her blogging on psychology. Last year she told *The Psychologist*:

‘I … like the fact that I can wake up in the morning with an idea, write 800 words or so, post them on my blog, and get comments from other people the same day. I’ve been pleasantly surprised at the extent to which my blogging has generated serious academic debate – e.g. about methods used in brain-imaging – as well as more light-hearted interactions.’

And as Deevy Bishop she published three humorous crime novels as Kindle e-books.
The Trustees are pleased to present their report and accounts of the Society and trading subsidiary for the year ended 31 December 2014.

General and financial activities
The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities and the Consolidated Balance Sheet for the year is set out in the following pages.

Review of 2014

Income
Despite the difficult trading conditions for charities, the results for this year have been well ahead of expectations. A reorganisation of membership has proved popular and this has been reflected in the figures. The journals partnership with Wiley Blackwell continues to perform well and now forms a significant part of Society income.

Expenditure
There has been pressure on costs during the year. The largest item of expenditure is salaries and these have been well controlled. Staff numbers have been maintained and it is expected that this will continue throughout 2015.

Structure, governance and management
The Society is governed by a Royal Charter originally granted in February 1965 and last revised in November 2010. It defines our objects as:
‘to promote the advancement and diffusion of the knowledge of psychology pure and applied and especially to promote the efficiency and usefulness of members of the Society by setting up a high standard of professional education and knowledge.’

You can find Society information, including details of our Trustees, on the back page of our full accounts or on our website: www.bps.org.uk.

Governance and internal control
Charity legislation requires Trustees to prepare annual consolidated financial statements that give an accurate view of the Society’s affairs and of the surplus or deficit for that period. In preparing those statements the Trustees have:
selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently; made prudent and reasonable judgements and estimates; stated that applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any departures explained in the financial statements; and prepared them on a going-concern basis.

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring we have appropriate systems of control – financial and otherwise. They are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose at any time the financial position of the Society and enable them to ensure the consolidated financial statements comply with Regulation 7 (2) of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2005 (SI2005/572).

They are also responsible for safeguarding our assets, taking reasonable steps to ensure the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. In so far as the Trustees are individually aware:
• there is no relevant audit information of which the Society’s auditor is unaware; and
• they have taken all reasonable steps to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Investment policy and returns
The Trustees have an agreed policy on ethical investment, which they review regularly.

The Society investments were managed during the year by Investec Wealth and Investment. These accounts reflect the improved returns seen in the previous year.
The Trustees have reviewed our reserves in line with the Charity Commission’s guidance. They have included unrestricted funds, restricted funds and the designated funds, and have agreed the following.

**Society reserves**

**Restricted funds:** The Society has a number of restricted funds at its disposal and the Trustees review these on a regular basis.

**Designated funds:** These funds represent amounts set aside for improvements to the infrastructure of the organisation, particularly IT and Leicester property improvements. No movements have been made during the year although it is expected that some transfers will take place in 2015 due to refurbishment work taking place within the Leicester Office.

**Achievements and performance**

The Trustees are aware of their obligations in respect of Charities and Public Benefit as defined by the Charities Act 2006. The Society aims to promote the science and practice of psychology while ensuring that the public can access and derive benefit from psychological knowledge. Below is a summary of some of the events that have taken place during the year relevant to these aims.

- **Membership:** 2015 saw further growth in Society membership, including an 80 per cent rise in student membership helped by an improved applications process.

- **Promoting the highest standards in learning and teaching, and professional practice:** The year saw the Society accrediting courses run overseas by British universities for the first time.

- **Providing excellent publications and events:** Our monthly magazine *The Psychologist* launched an improved website, and our popular Psychology4Students and Psychology4Graduates were again run. Our Annual Conference in Birmingham saw the start of the Society’s four-year commemoration of the centenary of the First World War.

- **Supporting Member Networks:** Collaboration between networks is at an all-time high, and their role and structure is being reviewed. Network websites are undergoing development to improve the services offered to members.

- **Psychological testing:** The year saw the launch of Society qualifications in Testing in Forensic contexts; there are now 43 holders of the qualifications.

- **Infrastructure:** The first full year of operation since the installation of the replacement windows resulted in a 34.9 per cent reduction in heating energy costs and consumption. The replacement roof for the Leicester building can be expected to eliminate ongoing costs due to lead theft and enhance energy savings.

- **Policy:** Our Behaviour Change Advisory Group launched a series of short briefings on social issues for policymakers. Fringe events were held at all three main party conferences in collaboration with other organisations.

**Public benefit**

The Trustees have reviewed this matter, in conjunction with the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit, and concluded that:

- the aims of the organisation continue to be charitable;
- the aims and work done give identifiable benefits to the charitable sector and that members of the public are aware of the high standards and education that members achieve;
- the benefits are for the public, are not unreasonably restricted in any way and certainly not by ability to pay;
- there is no detriment or harm arising from the aims or activities;
- the public is made aware of developments in the profession and the science that affect their daily lives;
- membership fees are modest and that there is a grade of membership that is open to the public who share an interest in the profession; and
- the courses and the website are available to all and not just members.

Baker Tilley UK Audit LLP is responsible for the audit of the Society and their continued help and advice is much appreciated by the Trustees, the Chief Executive and the Finance Director.

**Professor Ray Miller**

Honorary Treasurer

6 March 2015
## Abridged financial information

Consolidated statement of financial activities for year ended 31 December 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities in furtherance of the Charity’s objectives</th>
<th>2014 General funds</th>
<th>2014 Designated funds</th>
<th>2014 Restricted funds</th>
<th>2014 Total</th>
<th>2013 Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions</td>
<td>6,332</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>6,332</td>
<td>6,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registers and directories</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences and events</td>
<td>1,214</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>1,214</td>
<td>1,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journals and book publishing</td>
<td>1,912</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>1,912</td>
<td>1,819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income and grants</td>
<td>1,809</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>1,809</td>
<td>1,767</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities for generating funds</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trading income</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total incoming resources                              | 12,790              | –                   | –                   | 12,790     | 12,238     |

### Resources expended

#### Costs of activities in furtherance of the Charity’s objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>2014 General funds</th>
<th>2014 Designated funds</th>
<th>2014 Restricted funds</th>
<th>2014 Total</th>
<th>2013 Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advancement of psychology</td>
<td>1,823</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1,838</td>
<td>1,802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application of psychology</td>
<td>1,949</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>1,949</td>
<td>1,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences and events</td>
<td>1,254</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>1,254</td>
<td>1,234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperation with other organisations</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diffusion of knowledge</td>
<td>1,830</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>1,830</td>
<td>1,782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examinations and training</td>
<td>1,133</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>1,133</td>
<td>1,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership and conduct</td>
<td>1,979</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>1,979</td>
<td>1,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science and policy</td>
<td>677</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>677</td>
<td>657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Costs of generating funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>2014 General funds</th>
<th>2014 Designated funds</th>
<th>2014 Restricted funds</th>
<th>2014 Total</th>
<th>2013 Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trading costs</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment management fees</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total resources expended                               | 11,363              | –                     | 15                   | 11,378     | 10,932     |

| Net incoming resources before transfers                | 1,427               | –                     | (15)                 | 1,412      | 1,306      |
| Gains on investments                                  | 31                  | –                     | –                     | 31         | 1,186      |

| Net movement in funds                                  | 1,458               | –                     | (15)                 | 1,443      | 2,492      |
| Funds brought forward as at 1 January 2014             | 14,148              | 700                   | 77                   | 14,925     | 12,433     |

| Funds carried forward as at 31 December 2014           | 15,606              | 700                   | 62                   | 16,368     | 14,925     |

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## Consolidated Balance Sheet at 31 December 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed assets</strong></td>
<td>£000</td>
<td>£000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangible assets</td>
<td>4,133</td>
<td>4,229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>10,591</td>
<td>9,671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>14,724</td>
<td>13,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debtors</td>
<td>1,668</td>
<td>939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank and in hand</td>
<td>2,863</td>
<td>2,631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net current liabilities</strong></td>
<td>(2,887)</td>
<td>(2,425)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets less current liabilities</strong></td>
<td>16,368</td>
<td>14,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>(120)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Represented by**

**Income funds**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General funds</td>
<td>15,606</td>
<td>14,148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated funds</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted funds</td>
<td>16,306</td>
<td>14,848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted funds</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total funds</strong></td>
<td>16,368</td>
<td>14,925</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The summary financial information is not the statutory accounts but it has been extracted from the Society's audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014 on which an unqualified audit opinion was given. The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 6 March 2015 and have been sent to the Charity Commissioners. These summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the British Psychological Society. Copies of the full financial statements may be obtained from the Society’s Leicester office, St Andrews House, 48 Princess Road East, Leicester LE1 7DR.

**Professor Pam Maras**  
Honorary General Secretary

**Professor Ray Miller**  
Honorary Treasurer
Our London meeting centre is situated on Tabernacle Street, close to Silicon Roundabout and Old Street tube station.

It has nine fully air-conditioned and naturally lit rooms, some of which can be joined together to make superb event spaces for larger groups. A major investment in audio-visual equipment was completed in 2014 and there is free wifi throughout the building.

A range of catering is available, from light refreshments to buffets, and all dietary requirements can be accommodated on request.

The building is fully accessible for wheelchair users and an induction loop is available in the large main meeting room.

Eligible members can hire a meeting room and can also drop by from Monday to Friday to use two workstations with internet access free of charge, as well as our comfortable seating area, where free refreshments are available.

Room bookings by members on Society business, such as member network meetings, are free of charge. For other meetings, Society members receive a 25 per cent discount on bookings, and affiliate subscribers and charitable organisations receive 10 per cent.

Bookings for outside organisations – we are popular with training companies – are charged at full commercial rates and provide a significant income to the Society.

So if you have a meeting to organise in London, think of Tabernacle Street first.

Contact the London meeting office to discuss your requirements: thebpslondonoffice@bps.org.uk

30 Tabernacle Street
For further information on the work of the Society and to download a copy of our annual report, please visit our website or contact us at:

**t:** +44 (0)116 254 9568

**e:** enquiries@bps.org.uk

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