

ELECTION ADDRESS – Sophie Fletcher, MNCH(Reg)

I joined the NCH when I first trained as a Hypnotherapist and have now been in practice for over 3 years, prior to that I worked as policy advisor in economic development and business growth. After successfully applying to the post of Executive Director late last year I was co-opted onto the board in early January with responsibility for Membership Services. The NCH is already established as one of the leading membership organisations in the sector, but there is still scope to increase the breadth of services that we can offer to our membership. I've already begun to evaluate those services and to explore what members think would help support their professional and business development. Over the next few years, I am looking forward to working with the other members of the executive to improve access to information for members, to build up an even greater sense of community amongst members and to give members a platform upon which to get involved in the NCH and the profession as a whole.

ELECTION ADDRESS – Rob Woodgate MNCH(Reg)

In the last 18 months as co-opted IT Director, I have completed Phase I of the overhaul of NCH systems, creating a robust and flexible platform to support future NCH initiatives whilst saving two thirds of the commercial costs.

Despite having to suspend duties for a few months for reasons outside my control, I have supported the NCH systems in house, saving the NCH the significant cost of third party support, and also developed a Phase II plan which will see new services rolling out to members via the website.

With your vote, I plan to continue supporting the evolution of NCH services by completing the Phase II development so that you get even more benefits and value for money over the coming year.

ELECTION ADDRESS – Trevor Silvester, FNCH

I've been a member of the NCH committee now for approximately 10 years, firstly as the editor of the Journal, then latterly the FAB member, Ethics Director and at present the Supervision Director. I see my present task as developing a supervision course the NCH can offer to trainers that fits the needs of the membership, and integrating the role of the supervisor more fully into the development of new members so that meaningful development becomes a true cornerstone of professional development. I've been active in the NCH for so long simply because I think it's the best organisation to move hypnotherapy towards becoming a true profession, and I'd be honoured to continue to represent you.

ELECTION ADDRESS – Donald Robertson, MNCH(Acc) Senior Clinician

I've been co-opted into the role as research director since early 2009, despite having to temporarily stand down for about 6 months, for reasons outside of my control, I've been quite busy... Some of you may know that I edited the collected writings of James Braid for publication by NCH. All of the profit from that book goes to NCH for the benefit of its members and you'll find NCH mentioned all over the internet as the publisher (free publicity!). I also negotiated a deal whereby NCH got free advertising in the Changes catalogue in exchange for distributing this to members. I developed proposals for a possible "research division" of NCH. I ran the NCH Facebook page until we reached over 1,000 followers, at which point I decided to pass on the responsibility. I spent several months revising the HPD (Version 2) to improve the standard of training and make it easier for more schools to deliver (published in the journal). I've also developed proposals for an NCFE Level 5 "Advanced Diploma" award in hypnotherapy. I helped develop proposals for revision of the supervision award. I'm the author of many articles in the NCH journal and I've been posting detailed summaries of research evidence for NCH, including online guidance on searching for hypnosis research and a summary of key studies on empirically-supported applications of hypnotherapy. As well as running one of the largest hypnotherapy training schools in the UK, I've been involved in the Coping With

Noise programme of research for about four years now, with a team of colleagues, conducting studies for a Government dept. on the benefits of hypnosis and CBT for noise-related stress – so I've got some first-hand experience as a published researcher (proper peer-reviewed research). In addition to NCH's The Discovery of Hypnosis: The Complete Writings of James Braid, I'm also the author of the forthcoming books "The Philosophy of CBT" and "The Practice of Cognitive-Behavioural Hypnotherapy" (published by Karnac) – so I'm very actively involved in the field of therapy. I've spoken at your conference three times and hope to do so again sometime soon. Basically, I've been a busy bee on your behalf, and working away on other relevant stuff – I'm well-known as vocal defender of hypnotherapy. I've always invited your requests and input as research director and many of you will have received my help and advice over the years. If you want to elect me as research director for another term I'd be happy to continue with more projects for the benefit of NCH.

ELECTION ADDRESS – Paul Howard MNCH (Reg)

I have been working as Marketing Director for the NCH since 2006. My focus has always been to drive up the membership to enable the NCH to be the biggest and the best. In that time we have instigated many new initiatives to bring more public attention to Hypnotherapy and the NCH and by definition more business to the members. The NCH appearance has increased significantly in the press and media and the NCH is now the main spokesperson for the Hypnotherapy profession with many top newspapers, magazines and TV channels. We still have a long way to go to get the profession accepted as an effective and ethical aid to many issues. I am happy to continue working towards those goals in the best way I can.

ELECTION ADDRESS – Andrew Hill

"I have been a committed and full-time therapist for the past 8 years having run over 7,500 one to one sessions to date along with related training courses and team coaching engagements. I am also a qualified trainer on behalf of the NGH.

I strongly believe in being the best that I can and am currently studying to attain my full UKCP accreditation.

I originally became a member of the NCH as it was at the time the most credible, independent, not for profit body representing my profession.

Of late I have become very concerned about the direction (or lack of direction) that the NCH is taking. The board of directors are supposed to be the servants of the membership and I am concerned that increasingly so this is not the case.

The NCH membership deserves experienced, open and fully accountable leadership that has integrity as its watch word. I believe that my experience not only as a therapist, but also businessman and team leader (my previous career was management in IT sales & marketing), coupled with my naturally altruistic approach is what the NCH is currently in need of.

I stand as a potential servant of our membership"

ELECTION ADDRESS – Chris Gelder

On the 20 June 451, when the Romans finally defeated the most feared man in Europe, Attila the Hun, they did so only with the help of the Visigoths, Franks and Burgundians. Clearly the secret of

the Roman General Aetius's success was in adopting an open-minded approach to his team selection. His only criteria were those of ability, motivation and a desire to win against formidable opposition.

With this in mind my application to stand for the NCH is based on putting together a winning team based on a mix of backgrounds and experience to truly reflect its members.

As someone new to the profession, I feel this is currently lacking, and further more, I know I am not alone in feeling that we newbie's are under-represented.

From my experience so far, there is a lack of feedback, empathy, contact, resources and support to help us through the initial and ongoing struggles of setting up practice.

The NCH has to be more proactive in its approach to keep members from looking at other organisations or simply quitting the profession, and I would like the opportunity to help old and new alike.

ELECTION ADDRESS – Neil Foster

Having worked in the advertising and marketing industry for almost 18 years, along with my experience of working with and leading teams of professionals, and having been in practice for the last 4 years, I believe I have the knowledge and experience to help the NCH position itself as 'The' Leading Hypnotherapy Organisation in the UK.

To add to my extensive knowledge of traditional media which includes, both above the line and below the advertising, as well as PR, over the last 4 years I have gained an extensive knowledge of all forms of online and social media, which I believe would help the NCH to keep in touch with its members and non members in a more efficient and effective way.

What I would bring to the Executive would be new fresh ideas on how to position the NCH within the Hypnotherapy profession along with new cutting edge communication tools to open the channels of communication between its members and the Executive Board, as well as other media professionals and the General Public.

ELECTION ADDRESS – Mo Ferrington

I feel very deeply that the NCH needs new, exciting, innovative and creative blood running through its veins.

Leadership, direction, to provide the body with new Life as the way things are at the moment it could be vastly improved.

The members are unclear on so many aspects of the NCH and are not really involved in the NCH which is primarily for the membership.

The NCH is an important National organization, which the public trust to assure them about the members of the organization, and the NCH needs to install faith, honesty, and integrity, not to mention ethics, to inspire and uphold.

I would like to help to put things back on track, as we are in a siding at the moment, idling, going nowhere fast .

I would like to encourage Pride in the NCH and bring back a real enthusiasm for our Profession.

ELECTION ADDRESS – Gina Davy

After completing my Hypnotherapy Diploma course in 2008, I have set up a full time practice, providing not only hypnotherapy, but also NLP, performance coaching, sports psychology and behavioural therapy. I have also used my previous experience working within education to develop strategies and treatment programmes for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and ADHD using visualisation techniques, hypnotherapy and NLP to bring about behavioural change and develop communication skills and social relationships.

My main area of specialism is anxiety treatment, although I have recently increased the volume of sports performance coaching clients, focussing on the areas of golf, martial arts, endurance sports and triathlon training.

I have a great enthusiasm for increasing the understanding and appeal for hypnotherapy, and I am constantly promoting it as an effective and respected treatment method. I would love the opportunity to increase my involvement with the NCH, as I feel this is a fantastic time to push hypnotherapy forward. Although I am young(ish!), I have a wide and varied knowledge base, and I strive to develop and evolve my methods continually to provide the best possible service to my clients and I would apply the same energy and dedication to a post within the NCH.

ELECTION ADDRESS – Lorah Townes

The skills I have developed from my work experience and academic background together with the knowledge built over the last 3 years working as a Clinical Hypnotherapist within the NCH organisation support my application for this position.