



planning and peer-monitoring of CPD and ensured its close linkage to the still evolving NHS processes of appraisal and revalidation. As before, predictions of doom proved unfounded and I am delighted to see the CPD Committee go from strength to strength under Joe Bouch's very capable direction.

Time does not permit me to dwell in detail on my work in recruitment and retention. I am delighted though that we have been able to collaborate as closely as we have with the English Department of Health, and that there has been a similar collaborative initiative in Wales. I am confident that the comprehensive recruitment and retention strategy we are developing will lead to real improvements both in filling posts and in encouraging constructive working styles for consultants.

Being Dean of the College has been a tremendous pleasure, honour and privilege. I shall miss it more than I can say. I owe a huge debt of thanks to many of the College staff, who have shown a uniformly high level of skill and dedication that I have not seen in any other institution. In this context, I particularly need to thank:

Vanessa Cameron  
Gareth Holsgrove  
Anne Dean, his predecessor  
Lena Hartley  
Carole Pashley  
Claire Drummond  
Robert Jackson  
Sam Bendall  
Cate Cole  
Marion Palmer Jones  
Joanna Carroll

I also need to thank Chairs and members of all the Special Advisory Committees and of the other educational committees within the College. Within that, my most particular thanks are due to the sub-deans past and present who have been so supportive over the years

Prof. David Cottrell  
Dr Kingsley Norton  
Dr Sue Whyte  
Dr Parimala Moodley  
Dr Jeremy Bolton  
Dr Kandiah Sivakumar  
Prof. Dinesh Bhugra

And last but not least, Professor Mary Robertson, who as many of you know has been seriously ill for some months and I am sure you would want to join me in wishing a speedy recovery.

The Education Committee and Court of Electors have agreed that there should be an update of the Education Strategy. I am delighted to leave this major task in the excellent hands of the new Dean, Professor Dinesh Bhugra, and the new Head of Postgraduate Education Services, Dr Gareth Holsgrove, and can confidently

predict that implementing it will keep them enjoyably busy for the next 5 years!

Cornelius Katona

## Librarian's Report

This past year has seen a further change in library staffing, with Alexandra Cohen joining us part-time as Library and Information Services Assistant.

The thrust of the Library and Information Service staff's work has been in three main areas. First, there is the electronic side of information services with an increasing move towards electronic journal subscription, an aim to have our book collection catalogue on-line, and with our continuing to contribute to the College website.

In some contrast has been our work concerning antiquarian books. The grant that I reported last year has been very successfully used in restoring to excellent condition a number of priceless texts.

The work on the College Archive continues, but of particular note in this area has been the development of a Records Management Policy by Margaret Harcourt-Williams. College activities are already significantly devolved at national level here in the UK and Ireland, but we anticipate further devolution within England, with all Divisions taking on more responsibility. If there is to be a corporate College voice, then this depends upon accurate information-gathering and record-keeping and this new policy will facilitate this.

My individual contribution has not been as much as I had hoped. Although there were some early recruits to the Virtual Library Committee, it was only in spring that we had full Faculty membership together with trainer and trainee representatives and so it is only now that I am seeking advice from my colleagues. As before, however, my intention is that this process will inform our providing a Library and Information Service that is sensitive to our Members' needs and we would hope to build upon that by advising colleagues as to their own local developments. I would hope to have something more substantial to report in this area next year.

David Tait

This concluded the business meeting, which was followed by the presentations. The Registrar presented to the President representatives from overseas psychiatric organisations, then College Prize winners and new Fellows. Following this, the Registrar called upon the Citators of each Honorary Fellow for 2003 to come forward and give their citation, as follows.

## Mr John Bowis, OBE, MEP

(Introduced by Professor Rachel Jenkins)

'It is the province of knowledge to speak and it is the privilege of wisdom to listen'

*The Poet at the Breakfast-Table*  
1872, ch 10 Oliver Wendell Holmes  
(1809–1894)

I have had the privilege of knowing John Bowis for over a decade, first as a health minister for 3 years, then as transport minister for just under a year, then working with me for something over a year in the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre, and finally as a Member of the European Parliament.

At school, he was very interested in drama, playing in the *Mikado* with gusto and handing out fearful punishments to all. He subsequently played Gloucester in *King Lear*, an experience that gave him insight into having disability, people with disability and tackling its surrounding stigma. This has remained a lifelong preoccupation in his work. It may be that this early dramatic interest not only led him to become a member of the Board of the National Theatre, but also into his political career.

Some of us have wondered why John was and is a member of the Tory Party, when he seems much more left wing than some. I can now reveal all. At Oxford in the 1960s, John decided to take an empirical approach to politics and he joined all the political parties to see what they were like. He found that the Liberals had lots of ideas but little likelihood of any opportunity to implement them. The Communists told you what to think. Labour was suffering from a very dominant left wing movement in those days, which displayed much 'control freakery', which he did not like. The Conservative Party did not have a particularly dominant right wing in those days, and in any case had little tendency to control freakery, and so John came to the view that he was more at home in the Conservative Party than the others.

He was and is an excellent constituency MP and positively enjoys listening and solving problems. Indeed I would have known him for longer if I had taken him up on an offer to come for a drink in the Commons to discuss my concerns about mental health services. This occasion arose before he was a health minister, when one of his team had come canvassing to my home (as he was coincidentally my MP) and I had treated the canvasser not only to a cup of tea, but also a brief or not so brief diatribe of current problems in the services. The poor Tory canvasser eventually made his escape, but a few days later I received a kind invitation from John to meet in the Commons to discuss my concerns at greater length, and I will



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always regret that I didn't take him up on it.

John has always been distinguished by an excellent grasp of local issues, having served on a Community Health Council and on a London Borough Council, where he chaired the education committee in the 1980s at a time of the special education needs debate, about getting children with learning disabilities into normal schools, and also at the time of the Swann Report on improving racial understanding in schools. So one of his drivers has been antidiscrimination and this drives him in politics.

A few weekends ago, he was in Prague, recalling how he had visited the shrine of John Palach, the Czech student who had stood in front of the Russian tanks, and is a lasting symbol of standing up to tyranny.

While in the Department of Health, he was an excellent Minister. He listened and discussed, and was very enthusiastic to see progress. He helped the implementation of Health of the Nation, was enthusiastic about tackling stigma, improving services, developing the Spectrum of Care, arguing for sufficient 24-hour nursed beds for small numbers who need continuing high levels of support for the national strategy for suicide prevention, and for integration of mental health into primary care. He took a vigorous approach to a number of issues. He supported the publication of the findings to a national psychiatric morbidity survey programme, including data on mental health and employment. He supported the moves to tackle the considerable problems around the health and social care divide, and helped initiate many developments, which are now coming to fruition. He was a major asset in the implementation of the care programme approach, which is now routine practice. We all missed him greatly when he was suddenly reshuffled off to Transport. Some months later he lost his seat in the general election, and as they say, 'every cloud has a silver lining'. I quickly found an opportunity to draw him into international mental health work, and John has moved from a national stage to an international stage.

While working with me in the WHO Collaboration Centre at the Institute of Psychiatry, he was great company, very thoughtful and a wonderful asset when visiting other countries. On the same principle that it enhances the impact if you can use a GP to teach other GPs, I discovered that using a minister, albeit a former one, greatly enhanced the impact of a meeting with ministers. They knew that John understood the constraints under which they operate, as they seek to do their best to achieve change while protecting their political backs. John's time as transport minister has meant he is a great enthusiast for public transport –

indeed, I often now think he would sit comfortably in the Green Party, which doesn't seem to have been one of the Parties on offer in Oxford in the 1960s. This passion for public transport, and indeed for walking, adds greatly to the excitement of visiting a foreign country with him, but occasionally has the unfortunate effect of arriving rather later for meetings than anticipated. John quickly became well networked, not only with government and ministers around the world but also with WHO, the World Psychiatric Association and a number of key non-governmental organisations including the Geneva Initiative on Psychiatry.

Although he is an MEP, he still does a huge amount of constituency work. He enjoys helping people find the way through the Kafka-esque bureaucratic maze to help them live freely and effectively. He has always listened, and this means he has a deep understanding of the complexities of mental health services and the problems experienced both by users and by professionals. While an MEP, John is continuing the WHO link on mental health and epilepsy, and continues to work with the Geneva Initiative in Eastern Europe and China. He raises issues on mental health in the European Parliament and is trying to get better facilities for mental health in Bulgarian prisons.

The European Network of Mental Health Policy Makers led by the Finns has worked hard since its inception in the mid 1990s to get mental health on the European agenda, and succeeded in getting mental health on the agenda of successive EU presidencies for a number of years. John Bowis has played a key role in this, giving a key note speech at the first conference in Tampere; subsequently chairing a session at the Belgian conference last year and most recently, the Greek Minister of Health, Costas Stefanis asked him to address the Greek Presidency conference on Stigma and Discrimination in Mental Health and John had helped him to pull in most of the health ministers from across Europe and the accession countries!

But this is just a small part of what he is doing for mental health. He is also mainstreaming mental health within the European Parliament itself.

In 2000, John wrote the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy. This report is entitled 'Public Health and Consumer Protection aspects of enlargement' (2000/2081 (INI)). It emphasises the improvements in the abuse of psychiatry, while drawing attention to the need to improve mental health services across primary, secondary and tertiary levels of care, and the need to end the health and social care divide.

Already this year, John has written the Committee of Development and Cooperation Report. It is entitled 'Commission communication on Health and Poverty reduction in developing Countries', and it calls attention to the low priority given to mental health in low income countries and its links with poverty, it calls on the Commission and member states to place greater emphasis on mental health, and for more investment in mental health in low income countries.

John is of course a brilliant speaker as many of us know and those of you who haven't heard him before are about to discover, and he speaks with conviction and resonance because above all he listens. It is a privilege to do this citation for him, and he brings great distinction to the College Fellowship.

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## Lord Bragg

### (Introduced by Professor Cornelius Katona)

Melvyn Bragg was born in 1939 in Wigton, Cumbria. He won a scholarship to Wadham College, Oxford, where he read history. He joined the BBC as a general trainee in 1961. Three years later, he was appointed editor of BBC2's first arts programme, *First Release*. Since then, he