



BRITISH
ASSOCIATION
OF ART
THERAPISTS

Lifetime achievement award



The award might well be shared by clients and colleagues I have met along the way.

I strongly appreciate the health service colleagues (particularly **Hannah Godfrey**) who originally put me forward for this award. I always know that anything I achieve is shared with those who stand besides me, particularly the clients who have agreed to work with me.

Dr Chris Wood





Hannah Godfrey

- Hannah is the NHS art therapist who runs a service of more than eight people working in the arts therapies and arts for health. She originally put me forward for the award.
- Thank you too to **Michele Wood**, who spoke very kindly about the award at the AGM, and also **Melissa King** and **Jacqui Mckoy Lewens** who supported the award on BAAT council.

Thanks to the
lecturers
Di Waller and
Andy Gilroy *

- “When I thought I wouldn’t stay the course because I found it hard living in London. Di in her inimical way told me to stay because in London, I could find out all about the ways socio-political issues affect mental health. I qualified as an art therapist at Goldsmiths in 1979.
- Then during my interview for an art therapy post at Netherne Andy Gilroy helped me elaborate what I meant when I told the interview panel, I was an ‘eclectic’ practitioner.”



Netherne Hospital

- “The winding road ...to my second art therapy post, at the admission unit John Reid House.”

Netherne Hospital

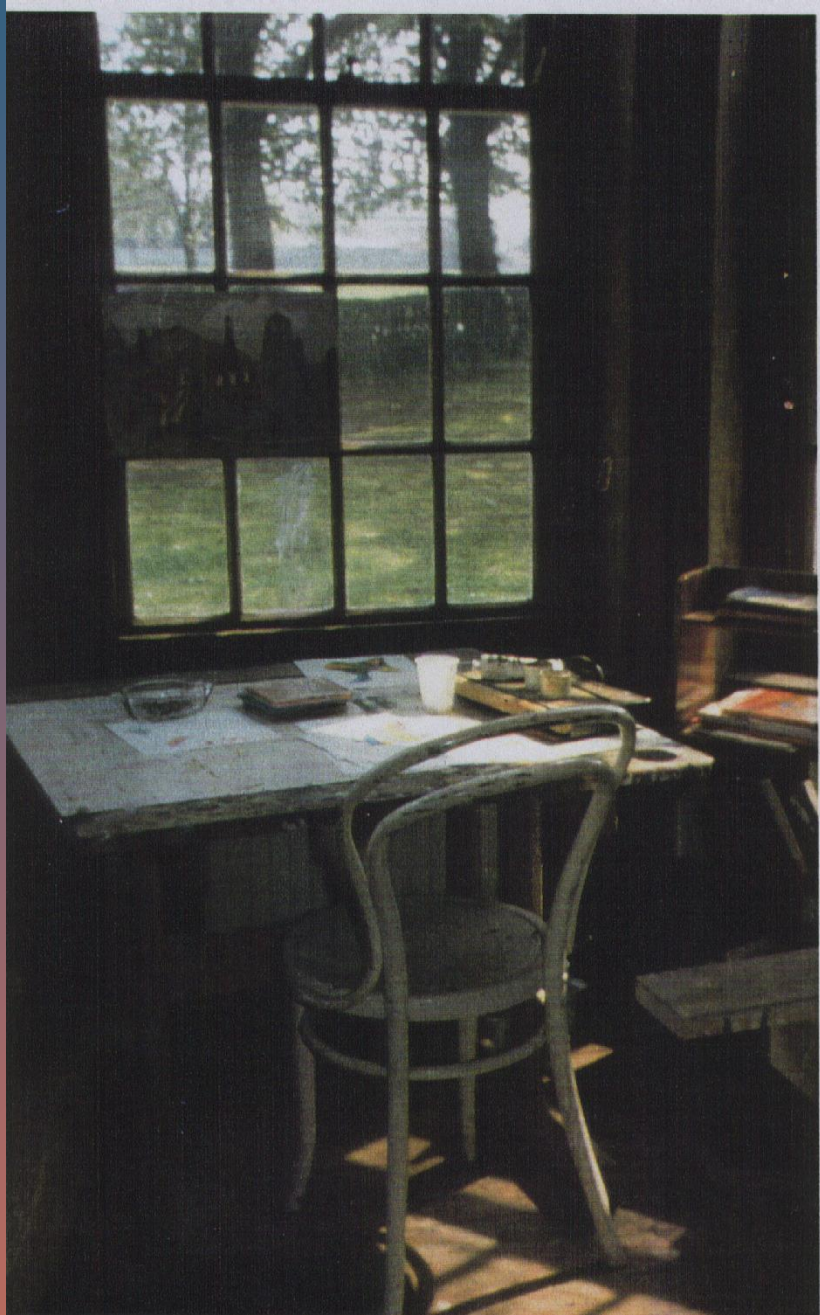


- The winding corridors and the mixture of Victorian asylum buildings and efforts to bring the building into the twentieth century.



In the lovely Netherne studio

- Here much younger with a very thoughtful client ..



Looking over lovely grounds

- One person's place in the studio.



a group sculpture

“A sculpture made with a lot of laughter by one group of clients and a great volunteer, who later became an art therapist. Together clients shared their thoughts and feelings about psychiatrists and their power. I think it helped us all address complex feelings. The psychiatrist they invited to see this laughed with them.”

Inside the Netherne studio





Me with a social work colleague

- “I ran a group alongside **June** the social worker. I learnt a lot working alongside her.
- I also learned a lot working alongside the art therapist **Julia Gudjonson** (who managed the service) and **Kevin Jones.**”



Inscape Journal

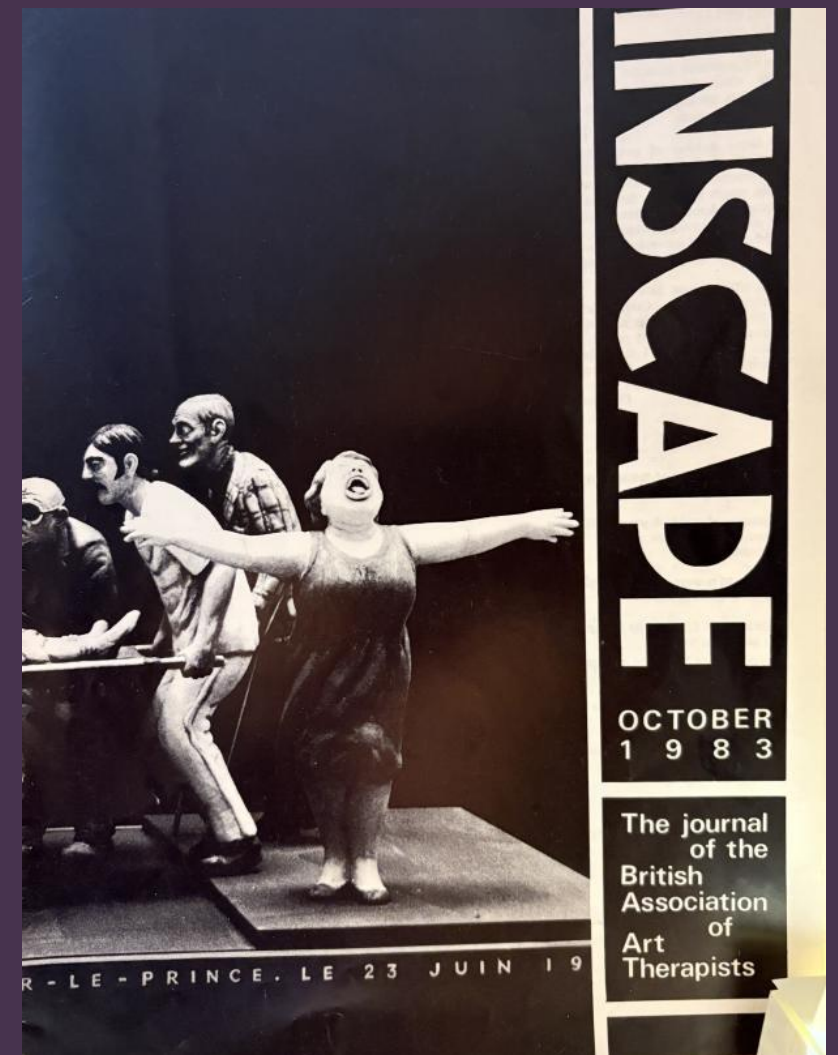
Between 1976 -1984, Chris Wood was Editor of *Inscape: Journal of the British Association of Art Therapists*.

“For much of the time I worked alongside the people in this photo:

**Maggie Waye,
Sally Skaife,
Cherry Lawrence,
Isobel Batiste and
John Hallam.**

Although we were young, we did well with the journal and it inspired us.”






Inscape front covers from that period: *Psichiatria Democratia* about the Italian reforms; the client slogan is still relevant today. And another with articles from Tony Cantle, David Maclagan, John Hallam & Diane Waller ...



Return to Sheffield 1982

- “In my next interview I was streetwise enough to know that ‘eclectic’ was not the word to use again. That interview panel asked: ‘How can an art therapist help a redundant steel worker?’
 - Answering this question helped me get a post in Sheffield’s health and social care services. At first, I worked at the ‘big house on the hill’ which was how local people described Middlewood psychiatric hospital (see next image).”
- 





Professor Alec Jenner

- “He was also eclectic; inspired by R.D. Laing and the Italian Psychiatric Movement. He worked cheerfully to help establish the art therapy service.
- We were supported by Dr Jim Gomersall who worked psychotherapeutically.
- At that time, we were three art therapists and a small number of students from other Universities. We worked across the city.”

At a conference for Edinburgh University settlement: Chris spoke on responding to the fear of people experiencing episodes of psychosis (1996).



Caroline Case, Chris Wood and Joy Schaverien after each giving related talks at the Red House in Manchester on ideas about the Triangular Relationship (circa 1990).



Thanks to Alec Jenner Sheffield had health service workers visit from Trieste in Italy and it saw many innovative approaches to mental health.

- “Many of us working in mental health in Sheffield learnt a lot from visitors who spoke about successful reforms in mental health, and we were inspired by the Italian *Psichiatria Democratica* movement (Wood, 1985).
- Also R.D. Laing visited Professor Jenner often and gave public lectures at the University (Wood, 1991).”

“The courage of these four people has been inspirational.”

Hearing Voices Network

In Sheffield there has been longest established regular **Hearing Voices (HVN)** groups in the world. The meetings were in the NHS they were for clients and led by clients. This picture shows some of the people who had a strong influence on HVN: **Peter Bullimore** (with LE), **Professor Marrius Romme**, **Professor Alec Jenner**, and **Sandra Escher**.

Also, Prof Jenner worked cheerfully to support the art therapy service. He was also eclectic; inspired by **R.D. Laing** and the Italian Psychiatric Movement **PD**. He invited Trieste mental health workers and **R.D. Laing** to give talks in Sheffield. We were lucky.”



Working in the community

- This is **Pat**, one of the nursing colleagues I worked alongside in art therapy groups in Sheffield.
- In 2003 I also began (again with Di Waller's help, she responded after we had a lot of cuts to services) to work with the joint quality assurance committee of the CPSM (a precursor of the HCPC), to write arts therapies guidelines.
- In 2004 I also helped with the work writing about arts therapists with the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) for Higher Education.



Art Therapy Northern Programme

An eclectic art therapy course at the University of Sheffield

Chris helped establish an art therapy course in Sheffield, alongside: “lecturers **Nick Howard** and Professor **Alec Jenner** (a generous political activist and a generous psychiatrist) and the committed art therapists below.

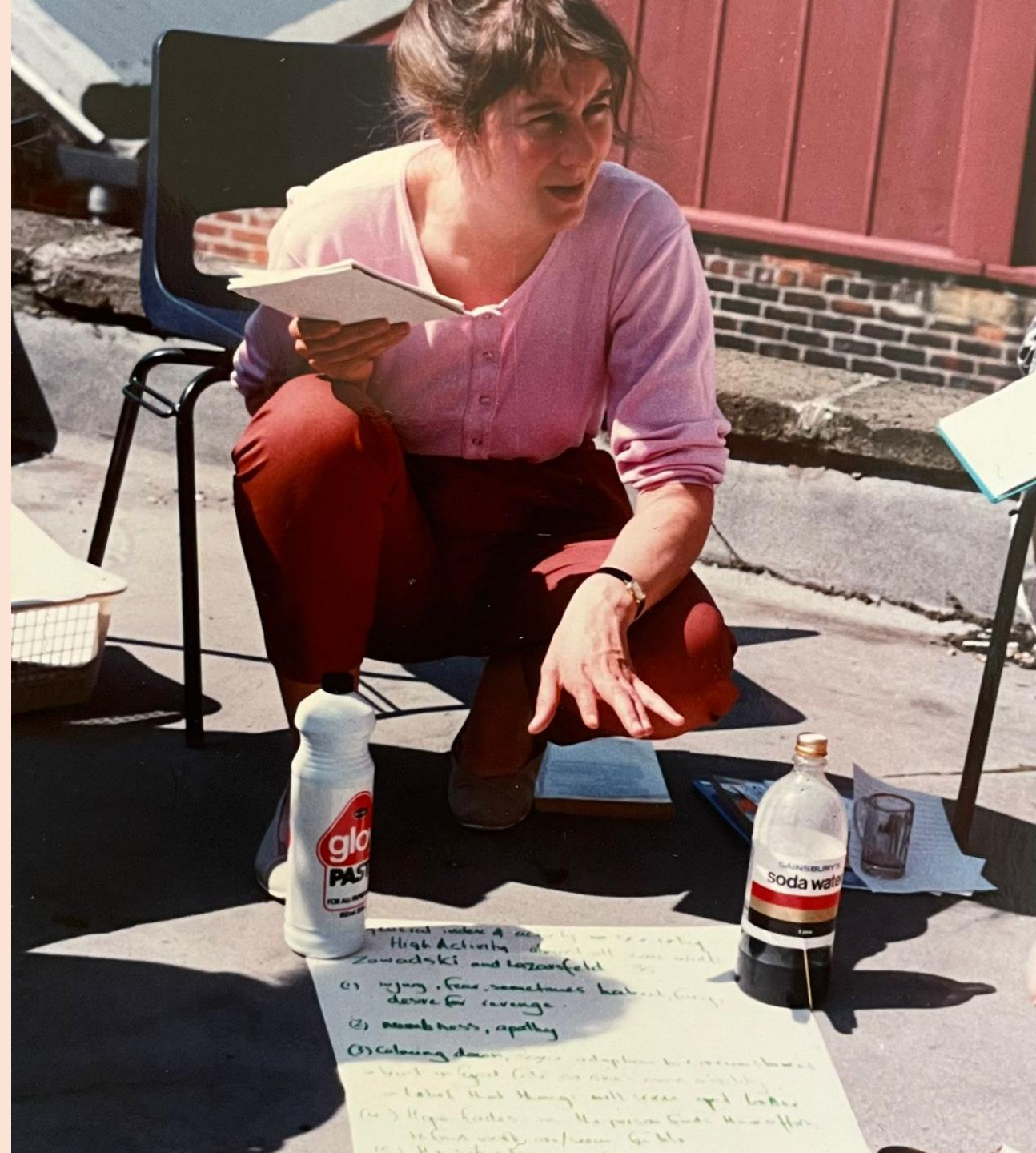
David Edwards,
John Henzell and
Joy Schaverien...

Also, **David Bird** who was regional Union rep for what is now UNITE, helped persuade BAAT Council of the need for a course in the North.”



Seventeenth century print showing a physician curing fantasy ((Philadelphia Museum of M

Working in a student group at the University of Sheffield.



Good friends and colleagues help keep me going (too many to mention) but here are Sally Skaife and David Edwards.



John Henzell and David Maclagan



Professor Michael Edwards gave much support to the course

Other Jungians were **Joy Schaverien** who worked as a course staff member, but we regularly visited by **Penelope Hall**. Also, we were visited by **Malcolm Learmonth** and **Karen Huckvale** and latterly by **Catriona McInness ...**

All of them helped the course focus on the artmaking and imagination in a particularly lively way. As did **Mary Jayne Rust** another Jungian seen in the next picture.





Mary Jayne Rust and me on a student outing along White Edge



PhD: (2001) 'Art,
Psychotherapy and Psychosis:
the nature and politics of Art
Therapy.'

Chris was supervised by
Professor Robert Young
and
Dr Joy Schaverien.

“All of the people in this photo
deserved the degree, for
standing alongside me
throughout: **Laura
Richardson, Pam Wood,
Clare Hughes, Maggie
McManamon, Geoff Wood
and Dick Pitt.**”



Laura Richardson former head of service having an eloquently expressed joke with me at work.



Leeds Beckett University

- Many students with brilliant staff Debs Gibson and George Bryant.

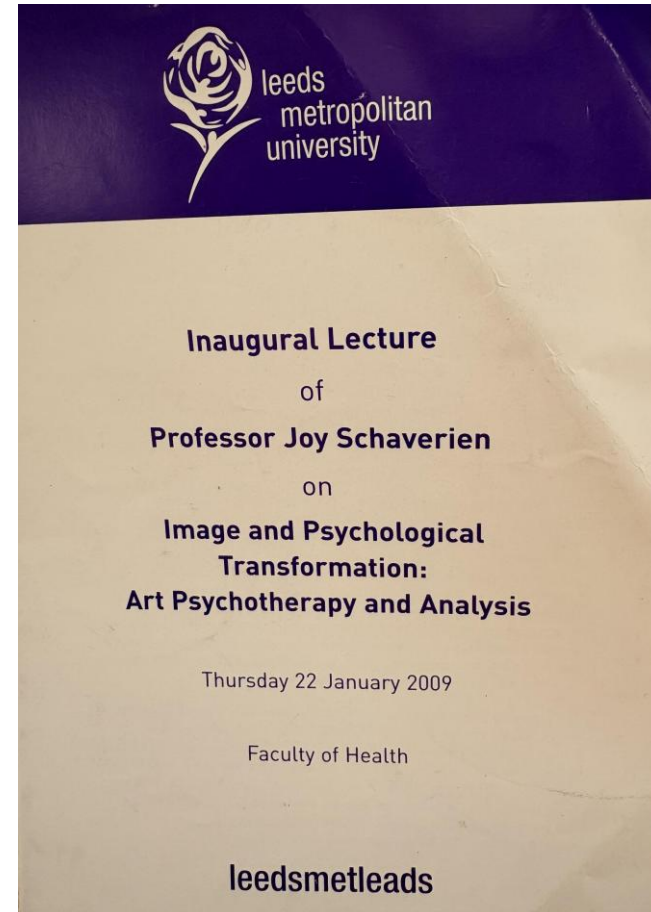
“Many students and staff throughout the years,
many good memories of them and appreciation
of their current work”

“**Debs Gibson, Debbie Michaels & George Bryant** and the student **Hua-Wen** and below in the middle of the student group, the much-celebrated administrator **Sue Turton** with the Leeds Beckett Course.



Joy Schaverien gave two inaugural lectures as she became professor

- One was at the University of Sheffield in 2001 ‘the eye of the beholder’ published in Inscape in 2003.
- The other was at Leeds Beckett University in 2009 ‘image and psychological transformation’.

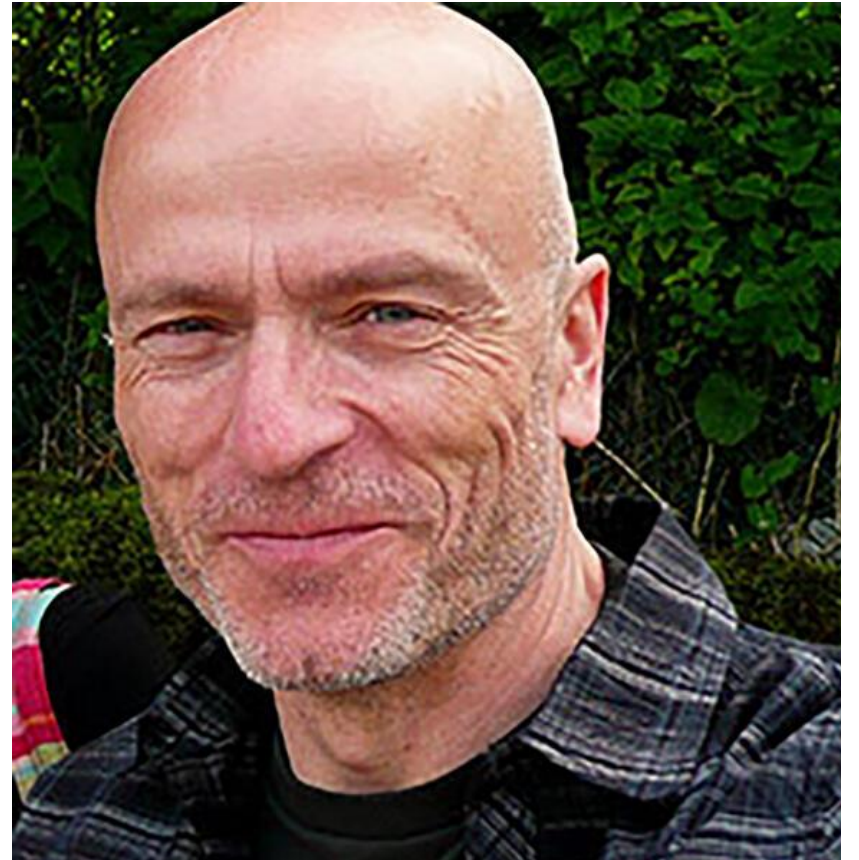




Many memories of students playing (from three different universities)...

Research Fellow

- Here is Professor Brendan Stone who helped me with the research fellowship at the University of Sheffield.
- As a result, I have access to excellent facilities for research, and I have been able to work alongside art and music therapists working towards PhDs.
- It has been good to work with Brendan because it enables me to pursue a pluralistic approach to research: by which I mean using both arts and humanities methods and when possible, evidence-based methods.
- It is excellent to work alongside the psychologist Sue Holttum and several experienced art therapists compiling the BAAT guidelines for working alongside people with a diagnosis of psychosis.
- Also, the work with Sue on an NIHR project researching the thoughts of clients on what works and what does not is inspiring.



It has been great to work alongside Brendan and arts therapists completing PhDs.

- Dr Deirdre McConnell, art therapist is literally playing after receiving her PhD!
- Dr Joy Gravestock, music therapist not only finished her PhD she wrote a book!



The Unions

- We also had to face austerity, in the services and HE and our response was to involve the Unions, and they definitely helped. I was proud to be involved in getting this leaflet off the ground.
-



Art Therapists

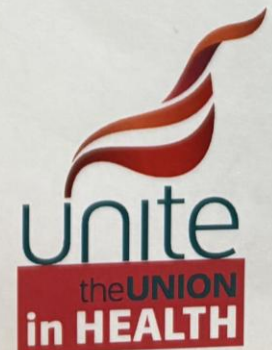
wherever you are ...

- You might be working for the NHS, Social Services, or in the Education Sector, in the Community or the Third Sector
- You're using your qualifications and HCPC registration to practise in a variety of different settings, even if you're not employed with the title 'art therapist' or 'art psychotherapist'
- Your clients could be children, young people, adults or older adults.

Let's grow together



www.unitetheunion.org/health





“Current course staff at Hallam keep the course growing and lively: with **Course leader Nem Perry, and staff Caroline Rhodes, Paula Rolston, Caroline Turner & Andy West** and many great associates like **Debbie Michaels, Cat Blackburn and Tara Brown .”**

“And here is **Laura Richardson** again today at Hallam, just before a lecture on working with Elders.”

“It is a privilege to work alongside Bobby Lloyd and Miriam Usiskin and the many excellent colleagues with *Art Refuge & Art Canopé* using the *community table model* written about by Miriam Usiskin from *Hertfordshire University*”

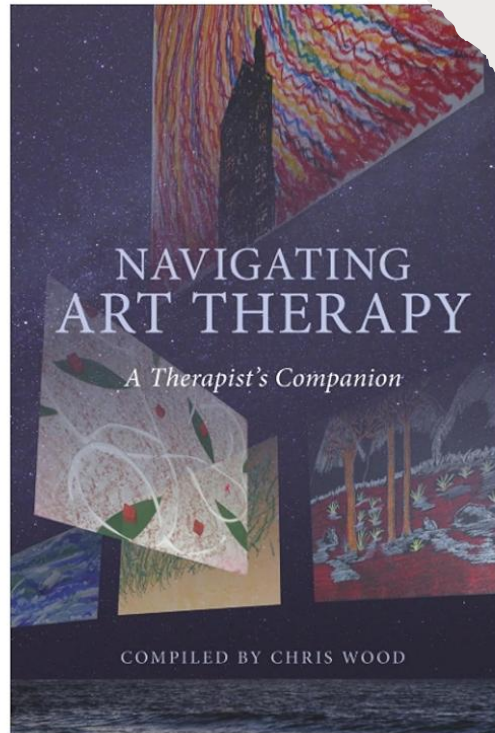


“Although part time, I still work for the NHS, the Hallam course, and as a research fellow for the University of Sheffield. I continue to publish. We all have a lot to do and offer; there is much imagination and much need out there.

I hope that more people from across a range of service settings, health, education and third sector re-engage with BAAT. It seems to me that in the coming period of austerity, and the economic crisis for young people (NEET), art therapists will need the support of a revitalized BAAT and the Unions once again.”



Selected Publications



- Wood, C. (2011) *Navigating Art Therapy*. London: Routledge
- Wood, C. (2026) 'How Do People Talk About Work in Art Therapy?' In M. Giatsi and E. Scandrett (eds.) *Life and Labour: Contested Occupation and Meaningful Alienation*. Bristol University Press
- Wood, C. with Colley, C. (2026) Chapter One 'Edward Adamson and Netherne Hospital,' & Chapter Two 'Edward Adamson in Context' in A. Colley and M. Batchelor (eds.) *Art Therapy in In-patient Settings: The Legacy of Edward Adamson*. London: Routledge
- Watts, P. and Wood, C. (2026 forthcoming) 'How can art therapists make their practice more responsive to the realities of poverty?' in M.R. Brady (ed) *A Handbook of Art Therapy for Children and Young People*. Jessica Kingsley.
- Wood, C.; McKoy-Lewens, J. (2023) An Art Therapy Education response to the linking of inequality and intersectional identity, in *International Journal of Art Therapy*, DOI:[10.1080/17454832.2023.2175000](https://doi.org/10.1080/17454832.2023.2175000)
- Wood, C. (2022) 'How might studios help? Further thoughts on the significance of studios', in C. Brown and H. Ormand (eds.) 'Contemporary Practice in Studio Art Therapy' Routledge

Selected Publications

- Wood, C. (2020) Acceptance in the Hearing Voices Movement: how might this be relevant for art therapy service-users? *International Journal of Art Therapy*, 25:3, 150-158, DOI: 10.1080/17454832.2020.1795697 To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/17454832.2020.1795697>
- Wood, C. (2020) Hearing Voices Movement and Art Therapy, *Art Therapy Journal of the American Art Therapy Association*, 37:2, 88-92, DOI: 10.1080/07421656.2020.1756138
- Wood, C. (2017-2020) a contributor to the work for *BAAT Guidelines on Art Therapy for People with a Psychosis Related Diagnosis* published in March 2020.
- Sue Holttum, Tim Wright & Chris Wood (2021) Art therapy with people diagnosed with psychosis: therapists' experiences of their work and the journey to their current practice, *International Journal of Art Therapy*, DOI: [10.1080/17454832.2021.1893370](https://doi.org/10.1080/17454832.2021.1893370)
- Wood, C. with Uttley et al. (2015) HTA-12/27/16: Systematic review and economic modelling of the clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of art therapy among people with non-psychotic mental health disorders.
- Wood, C. (2011, a) 'The Evolution of Art Therapy in Relation to Psychosis and Poverty', in A. Gilroy (ed.) *Evidence in Art Therapy*. London: Langer.



Huge congratulations to Dr Chris Wood for winning the 2026 Lifetime Achievement Award!

Alongside her research and writing, Chris continues to work as an art therapist and shape the future of the field by educating others. She also teaches on BAAT courses particularly those focused on psychosis.

If you want to check out her courses, visit: <https://baat.org/events/>

If you want to check out some of her publications:

Orcid <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6787-4448>

“I hope more people will get involved with BAAT council, the BAAT groups, and the Unions as we face another period of austerity. Somehow, we need find the humour, resilience and playfulness to keep defending the profession, our work, and our clients.”