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## **Dialogue and Dogmatism in a Post-Modern World: What Size the Ecological Footprint of *Your* Pineapple?**

It was with relish that I agreed to write Malcolm Parlett's column in this edition of *Studies in Gestalt Therapy: Dialogical Bridges* and, copying his "glass of wine and put-my-feet-up" style in volume 1, issue 2. I settled into my conservatory with a pot of tea for a luxurious read. I was not disappointed!

The aims of this edition are of enormous relevance and importance to me. I have a full-time "day job" in the British National Health System (NHS), which provides opportunity to work in a public sector civil organization with stated aims I hugely respect. It also gives direct experience of the potentially crushing effects of hierarchical organizations. I frequently encounter difficulties inherent in offering psychotherapy to people who seem "too complex, too difficult, or too unmotivated" to benefit from the too little, too late options that we can make available to them. On the other hand however, very few of these individuals are in any position whatsoever to pay for psychotherapy, let alone psychotherapy of the long-term and relationally-intense nature that many gestalt psychotherapists in this country offer in a fee-paying context. So, I was fascinated to see how the journal might help me feel that I am doing more than just salving my conscience, by continuing to adhere to my political principles of offering a service to those in greatest need, which is free at the point of delivery.

I read Phil Lichtenberg's paper with interest and excitement. Phil tells us in a range of ways about the value of dialogue, and the need to both own and express our inner experience, as well as retain our fascination and interest in that of others. I was struck by the undoubted "rightness" of his formulation that we need to bring our beloved gestalt therapy out of the rarefied settings of the consulting room and into our everyday encounters. I like to *think* that I do this, but I decided to experiment more actively and see how effectively I walk the talk!