

## Summary of Conference Evaluations

57 surveys completed

### Why did you choose to attend?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Engaging with my Gestalt community	89.47%	51
Celebrating 25 Years of the British Gestalt Journal	40.35%	23
Connecting with friends and colleagues	63.16%	36
Personal growth and development	50.88%	29
Total Respondents: 57		

**Reasons given:** Professional networking, professional development; Combination of conference with AAGT AGM helpful; desire to run a workshop; professional stimulation

### What did you think of the format?

	POOR	SATISFACTORY	NOVEL	EXCITING	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
I found the format was	10.53% 6	15.79% 9	52.63% 30	21.05% 12	57	3.58
I felt the conference content was	7.27% 4	29.09% 16	30.91% 17	32.73% 18	55	3.53
The space for my personal development was	5.36% 3	57.14% 32	21.43% 12	16.07% 9	56	2.86
The range of workshops was	7.27% 4	45.45% 25	14.55% 8	32.73% 18	55	3.20
Overall the conference was	3.77% 2	32.08% 17	22.64% 12	41.51% 22	53	3.66

### Key Messages:

Overall, most respondents found the conference exciting and novel. A representative sample of comments:

- I felt so much more engaged with the whole community than I believe I would have been had there been the usual structure of keynote speaker, workshops and plenary.

- I loved that we stayed in community a lot - allowing, supporting a co-creative, collaborative engaging process .....+ invigorating, confidence building and still continuing as I digest.
- The only way it could have been more than "satisfactory " was if the conference was longer or allowed even more time with activities.
- Lovely to engage with the community present as a whole in more depth
- I really enjoyed the conference, meeting new people and discussing with them different issues. It was a very new experience for me and I really enjoyed it!
- I liked the novel & difference & sense of experimentation and inclusiveness.
- It was my first UKAGP conference and I delighted in meeting people and stepping into the Gestalt community but I also feel a bit 'ripped off'; as it was possible to create something really wonderful.
- I was invigorated by the contact I had with others and the sense of welcome that permeated my time there.
- The conference had a lovely flow, and sometimes meandered, and had other times of strong currents. The process groups helped punctuate the journey very supportively.
- I very much appreciate and value the organising. The process of organising and the way the organisers managed the process and looked after us all was absolutely superb.
- Crowded schedule did not leave space for digesting, especially early on, when I needed more time developing focus and interest.

The majority found the conference content and format novel and exciting, and the space for personal development satisfactory and novel:

- I wouldn't want every conference to be structured in this way but the emerging theme worked well and was needed at these challenging times.
- The format of an open, emerging structure was a new experience for me and an interesting experiment.
- The Process Group felt a safe & challenging space to understand reactions to emerging issues.
- The forming of emergent interest groups was helpful for me personally and my workshop was very grounding.
- The world cafe allowed for meeting and experiencing more delegates than might not have happened in another format
- The world cafe was brilliant and energising but that wasn't continued into the afternoon and so I felt opportunity was lost
- The Community meeting was a waste of time but process groups and workshop were great. Very relieved that ending dialogues took place with authors. Would have been great if this had happened on Friday eve or Saturday afternoon so there was enough time for integration and meaning making. This was a missed

opportunity. Got a lot out of it but could have got so much more if the attention given to the world Cafe had been replicated elsewhere in the program.

The range of workshops on offer was considered satisfactory, exciting or novel

- All workshops on at 9am Sunday felt a little too tokenistic. Maybe a space on other days would have worked out better?
- I would have liked more opportunity for small workshops as the ones offered were wonderful and very engaging.
- I presented a workshop and so can only say this. There were several I would have liked a chance to go to myself.

## Relevance of opening dialogues

	NOT HELPFUL	(NO LABEL)	(NO LABEL)	(NO LABEL)	MODERATELY HELPFUL	(NO LABEL)	(NO LABEL)	(NO LABEL)	(NO LABEL)	EXTREMELY HELPFUL	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
☆	3.70%	7.41%	7.41%	5.56%	18.52%	5.56%	18.52%	24.07%	5.56%	3.70%	54	5.98
	2	4	4	3	10	3	10	13	3	2		

- The opening dialogues were way too short. I came to engage with the authors and was shocked that this only happened right at the end.

## World Café

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
The conversations were absorbing	66.00% 33
The format allowed relating	72.00% 36
I broadened my knowledge	48.00% 24
I was able to voice my views	84.00% 42
The activity was inclusive	70.00% 35
The community energy was inspiring	60.00% 30
Total Respondents: 50	

## Key Messages

- The World Cafe was a new and exciting experience. Allowed for sharing opinions with a large number of participants.
- Excellent format - allowed cross referencing, themes to develop through different groups
- It was a novel and important experience

- The format was interesting and novel to me, every turn became an opportunity to add to my experience, a truly gestalt process of figure formation that left me with a clear figure at the end which I would have liked to have more time to depict.
- I would have liked it to continue for longer as I found my thoughts developed at each stage
- Really enjoyed hearing the different opinions & voices. Allowed for deepening of exploration of the subject. Starting & finishing in same group felt a supportive element of the process. Would have liked to have had further discussion from various groups continuing on the Saturday afternoon rather than the Community Meeting.
- I don't think I broadened my knowledge but I did deepen it. I like the structure and the freedom and moving and the contact.
- I enjoyed the world café and had some stimulating conversations, however it felt overly rushed. There was not enough continuity and it seemed rather frantic.
- I really liked the format but I would have found it even more interesting if we were doing it with another organisation who may not share our assumed "values" e.g. EDL! I think there was more dissent in the room than was drawn out. There was an assumption that we were all "Remainer" (I am a passionate one) and I only met Brexiteers at the last session. I wonder whether we should have been bold enough to more overtly draw out our differences at the start. That may have then enhanced the debate.
- This is a tricky question for me to answer. The opening dialogues were engaging and intriguing, however, I felt they didn't hold much relevance in terms of the World Cafe, which seemed to focus on the themes of just a couple of papers. So, whilst I like the idea of a World Cafe and meeting and exchanging ideas, I felt it was unrelated to a number of the opening dialogues. Therefore, I found the whole event rather confusing.
- It all felt too quick and too prescribed. OK for intellectuals, not so good for more body-oriented people.

## **Emergent Interest Group**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
The process to allow emergence was inclusive	52.94%	27
I felt able to offer a group	17.65%	9
The group options were varied	41.18%	21
I was able to join a group that interested me	60.78%	31
The group allowed me space to grow	37.25%	19
I enjoyed the group experience	74.51%	38
I feel I did not gain from the group experience	11.76%	6
Tell us about your experience of the Emergent Interest Group below	74.51%	38
Total Respondents: 51		

## Key Messages:

- This was one of my most positive experiences. A small group of like-minded people, which provided an opportunity for reflection and dialogue, which was lacking in the morning.
- Great, deep experience.
- This was one of three parts of the conference that I really enjoyed. It was a space in which a theme emerged and we found a way to come together and connect, laugh and be creative. Also, because I found there was so little space to relax in the conference agenda, the emergent interest group that I joined provided this.
- I valued the choice offered and took a risk in my group choice. It was a wonderful experience that solidified and supported me in understanding my relationship with difference and conflict.
- This space allowed me to become aware of how the figure that had formed during World Cafe was relevant to me personally and I think, was the most impactful
- The 'Don't know Group' was the antidote I needed to the cognitive zone I found myself inhabiting. I was able to spend some time noting and feeling. Criticism with process: I wonder whether this process had much relation to the writing, or may have become an escape/avoidance, as is my experience. I understand the need for self-organising and I wonder what was missed by a lack of direction to the opportunity to continue to develop the themes developed from the conference papers in order to maintain the holding offered by the conference aims and objectives. In the end the process was adapted to manage some of this with a final session 'meeting the authors'. That might have happened earlier.

- The process of forming and choosing the groups became rushed and supported those able to mobilise and voice quickly and was less supportive of allowing a space to clearly identify which areas had the most interest and forming groups from there.
- Felt lost and unclear and no clear figure emerged. I needed the organising of this to have been a lot slower and with more thinking time. A rush to action which made contact lacking.
- I found this part disjointed. For me the formation of emergent interest groups did not clearly build on the connections made in the world cafe format. I had expected the groups would be a distillation of the themes identified in the world cafe, but this did not seem to happen and I felt confused when we came to choose what group to go into. I went into a group which entered into some valuable political discussion but I don't feel that this really linked with what had gone before.
- Needed feedback from other group's experience.

## Community Meeting

### Key Messages

- Whilst there were some emergent figures that I appreciated, I found that the lack of focus and structure resulted in a lost opportunity for the community to explore issues relevant to us. I believe that the community space would be best used by members of the OC briefly highlighting current work and any topics that may come up at the AGM, and supporting a space where members can discuss, contribute, debate and explore these in a way that will support understanding and development and engagement of our community.
- The biggest learning curve was someone needed to be guiding that meeting. What I found more interesting is no one in that room really gave it any direction. It also shows that distance makes it harder for everyone to join. It could very well be part of the problem was the huge open space in the room. Having mikes spaced around the room instead of all in the middle. Not so good, but a learning experience for me. It was my first. And if I had spent more time with that group I would of asked some more questions of why the silence. I would not ask why not the conflict.
- Dreadful. If you want to start something unstructured with people who don't know each other, you need to give a lot of time, minimum a whole morning. This seemed a waste of time and very uncomfortable.
- Terrible! I think there was much confusion as to what community we were talking about. UKAGP? Gestalt in its widest sense? I feel very sure of my place in the GPTI community but was less certain here. We were also all exhausted and I think there were unspoken divisions in the room. A horrible session ...
- I thought this was a waste of time, space and money. We had these amazing authors with us, who wanted feedback and the exchange of ideas and we wasted this opportunity to be with them.
- Narcissistic performance and not inclusive.

## Evening Celebration

	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL	SCORE
I had a fantastic evening	0.00% 0	6.25% 2	25.00% 8	28.13% 9	15.63% 5	25.00% 8	32	2.72
I felt catered for well	28.57% 10	31.43% 11	11.43% 4	14.29% 5	8.57% 3	5.71% 2	35	4.40
I danced late into the night	26.83% 11	7.32% 3	14.63% 6	12.20% 5	21.95% 9	17.07% 7	41	3.54
I enjoyed being with friends	8.57% 3	5.71% 2	11.43% 4	14.29% 5	31.43% 11	28.57% 10	35	2.60
Celebrating the BGJ was a delight	14.63% 6	17.07% 7	24.39% 10	21.95% 9	14.63% 6	7.32% 3	41	3.73
The band was great	10.00% 4	5.00% 2	7.50% 3	22.50% 9	20.00% 8	35.00% 14	40	2.58

## Workshops

Were you satisfied with the workshop				
	NO	PARTIALLY	YES	TOTAL
Shame is Pryde's Cloak - Gaie	13.33% 2	13.33% 2	73.33% 11	15
Novelty, Excitement and Growth - Jane	33.33% 2	33.33% 2	33.33% 2	6
Embodying and Moving - Julianne	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 7	7
Five Explorations - Malcolm	0.00% 0	20.00% 1	80.00% 4	5
Writing and Belonging - Martin & John	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 10	10
An Outdoor Experiment - Melinda	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 4	4
Gestalt in a Social Media World - Mel	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0
Earthing Our Community - Vienna & Miriam	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 4	4

I feel energised by the workshop				
	NO	SOMEWHAT	YES, THIS EXPERIENCE WILL HELP IN MY WORK	TOTAL
Shame is Pryde's Cloak - Gale	7.69% 1	23.08% 3	69.23% 9	13
Novelty, Excitement and Growth - Jane	40.00% 2	60.00% 3	0.00% 0	5
Embodying and Moving - Julianne	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 7	7
Five Explorations - Malcolm	0.00% 0	20.00% 1	80.00% 4	5
Writing and Belonging - Martin & John	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 8	8
An Outdoor Experiment - Melinda	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 4	4
Gestalt in a Social Media World - Mel	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0
Earthing Our Community - Vienna & Miriam	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 4	4

I feel I have engaged with the novel				
	NO, THIS WAS FAMILIAR	SOMEWHAT	YES, I FEEL EXCITED AT THE POSSIBILITIES	TOTAL
Shame is Pryde's Cloak - Gale	15.38% 2	38.46% 5	46.15% 6	13
Novelty, Excitement and Growth - Jane	0.00% 0	60.00% 3	40.00% 2	5
Embodying and Moving - Julianne	0.00% 0	14.29% 1	85.71% 6	7
Five Explorations - Malcolm	20.00% 1	20.00% 1	60.00% 3	5
Writing and Belonging - Martin & John	12.50% 1	12.50% 1	75.00% 6	8
An Outdoor Experiment - Melinda	0.00% 0	25.00% 1	75.00% 3	4
Gestalt in a Social Media World - Mel	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0
Earthing Our Community - Vienna & Miriam	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 4	4

## Key Messages

- I enjoyed the pre-conference workshop and the workshop
- Mixed feelings. Malcolm's workshop was great.
- Personally I would like more workshops, as I'm just a trainee and would appreciate more knowledge.
- I felt there was good space for personal development and I particularly enjoyed the workshop on Earthing Our Community
- I think offering 5 workshops from authors on Sat and others on Sunday would of been fairer

## AGM

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Did you gain a sense of involvement with UKAGP and your community	81.82%	27
Did you feel able to make your point	24.24%	8
Did you offer to be involved in some way	15.15%	5
Did you feel UKAGP is developing as you need	66.67%	22
Would you have liked to hear more (add comments below)	6.06%	2
Total Respondents: 33		

## Key Messages

- I felt grateful and supportive towards those who give so much of their time and energy.
- Now looking forward to taking my experience of being in the committee to the 'ordinary membership'

## Pre conference workshops

	DISSATISFIED	SOMEWHAT SATISFIED	SATISFIED	EXTREMELY SATISFIED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Lynne Jacobs	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 3	3	4.00
Joe Melnick	0.00% 0	25.00% 1	25.00% 1	50.00% 2	4	3.25
Peter Phillipson	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	1	3.00
Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	66.67% 2	33.33% 1	3	3.33

## All Comments

Lynne:

- WOW!!!! Wonderful session. Everything I could have hoped for. So much learning and inspiration from the lightest of touch. Thank you for setting this up. I really appreciated all the speakers staying for the whole weekend rather than just flying in to deliver keynote addresses.

- A wonderful experience with a lovely person. I enjoyed the style, the open dialogue and seeing how she worked with those in the group. Really enjoyed exploring ERTs at first hand with Lynne.
- I felt energised and that the group was well held. Would have liked more of Lynne in the conference

Jo:

- I really enjoyed the workshop. I have learned a lot. Joe was a great facilitator and was able to transmit a lot to the group within a little time we had.
- Good to hear him talk about his model and appreciated the demonstrations and DVD. Became a bit repetitive. Would have liked a handout on his model.
- Would have appreciated more of Joe within the conference

Peter:

- Although there were only two participants in this workshop, which initially perturbed me and I expect was disappointing to Peter, the space was well held. I learnt a lot from Peter about movement and enjoyed seeing his response and involvement when we discussed our experiences.
- Would have liked more of Peter within the conference

Margherita:

- Margherita presented her ideas clearly, stimulating my theoretical thinking and supported this with a piece of work, which already has supported me in my private work with clients. I enjoyed this a lot.
- Would have liked more of Margherita within the conference
- These could have formed first (half?) day of conference and this would have helped to form a more solid ground for the rest of the weekend. Think the focus for the World cafe would have been stronger and more dialogic....
- Wanted to ask her why she used the metaphor of dance but yet didn't draw on any literature to support that from the world of dance etc.

## Conference Venue

### Key Messages:

- A bit "corporate" but the room was comfortable and the conference room, breakfast, lunch and dinner and seating areas were easily accessible.
- Potentially good but needs a huge improvement in management systems. The staff did everything they could and worked hard but there seemed to be very inadequate management and systems. Service therefore could be slow... etc. etc.
- The service was dreadful at the Reception desk and the bar. However, the Street area was excellent with lots of seating and drinks facilities available all day long.
- The grounds felt inaccessible, dominated by golf courses and car parking. The place felt lacking any soul - please don't book this venue again.

- I didn't enjoy mixing with golfers and others who were involved in very different activities. The bar especially needed many more staff and staff who are properly trained.
- Excellent bedrooms and en-suite facilities. The showers were so easily to work!
- The food on offer was like going back 20 years to the North of England. Carb heavy buffet, tinned fruit for breakfast, no filtered decaffeinated coffee available anywhere (only instant). I know you probably got a good deal - but even so. When I think how superb Nottingham was.....
- Shocking lack of allergy foods. Very poor and disappointing.

	GOOD	NEUTRAL	BAD	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
How would you rate ease of travel to the venue	78.18% 43	12.73% 7	9.09% 5	55	1.62
How do you feel Wokefield Park was as a venue	61.11% 33	35.19% 19	3.70% 2	54	1.85
How would you rate the accommodation and facilities	81.82% 45	14.55% 8	3.64% 2	55	1.44
How did the food meet your preferences	41.82% 23	47.27% 26	10.91% 6	55	2.38

### As a result of the conference are you likely to

	UNLIKELY	POSSIBLY	HIGHLY LIKELY	TOTAL
Subscribe to the BGJ	17.14% 6	14.29% 5	68.57% 24	35
Read the BGJ	4.88% 2	12.20% 5	82.93% 34	41
Submit papers to the BGJ	27.66% 13	61.70% 29	10.64% 5	47
Offer to help the BGJ	45.95% 17	51.35% 19	2.70% 1	37

### Conference as a whole?

	NOT AT ALL	SOMEWHAT	COMPLETELY	TOTAL
The conference was value for money	1.82% 1	36.36% 20	61.82% 34	55
The conference was informative and engaging	1.82% 1	41.82% 23	56.36% 31	55
The conference offered space to meet and dialogue	0.00% 0	25.45% 14	74.55% 41	55
I feel satisfied with attending	0.00% 0	31.48% 17	68.52% 37	54
I feel invigorated	7.27% 4	36.36% 20	56.36% 31	55
I experienced Excitement and Growth	5.45% 3	43.64% 24	50.91% 28	55

## Key Messages

- It is the amazing people and wisdom I love first, followed by dialogue. THANK YOU
- One of the better conferences I have attended. Well done everyone!
- Great fun, feel more 'of a community', made and renewed wonderful connections
- Felt inspired and learnt a lot about myself
- I really enjoyed the conference - in particular I loved the warm and friendly atmosphere. I really do hope the "conference as experiment" will happen again, as I think it is a wonderful and wonderfully Gestalt idea. That said, for me there was insufficient attention paid to the potential consequences of each action. As a result some parts felt rushed and even chaotic and other parts felt incomplete. I have not come away with any clear sense of an emergent theme. My best experience was in the Sunday morning workshop (I did the one on writer's block) and the Sunday afternoon when each of the contributors hosted questions about their work. However this last part needed much more time and also would have been so much better on Saturday, when we would have had time to digest the contributors' answers and maybe return to discuss more with them in the breaks or at a later time.
- I would have preferred more input from the opening dialogues and regret that the speakers seemed almost invisible for much of the conference. The cafe was an interesting experience - for me took up too much of the conference, which had so many other possibilities, and resulted in only 1 slot for workshops. The food was

generally good. The dinner was disappointing - lukewarm food. Accommodation was v comfortable, rather too "corporate". Lack of a specific dining area made it more difficult for me to interact.

- I did find the conference packed and very tiring. As I said before I wouldn't want every conference to be of a similar style but welcomed this one. I would have liked it to be more overt at the start that the keynote writes were to be holding "surgeries" at the end of the conference. Thank you to all the conference organisers who must have worked so hard. The conference itself ran seamlessly and everyone in the conference organising was a delight to be with and so helpful,