

Editorial

**Eurig Scandrett
Editor**

This issue of *Concept* has been jointly edited by the outgoing editor and Stuart Moir, who takes over as editor from January 2013. Stuart has been an editorial committee member for many years as a community education worker in West Lothian, where he was also an active representative in the trade union Unison. Stuart is now Bicentennial Education Fellow at the Institute of Education, Community & Society in Edinburgh University. Congratulations to Stuart for both of these positions – as Fellow and as Editor.

The three years that I have been editor, since it became an entirely online publication, has seen a gear change in social policy in Britain affecting the work of community educators. The global economic collapse has been used as an opportunity to increase the pace of welfare reform and privatisation; closing down basic services in many communities experiencing poverty; forcing disabled people from welfare rights to dependency on the whims of private employers; shrinking public sector employment and redoubling pressure on women, whose jobs and services have been differentially cut. A comparable story has been told across Europe, as the wholesale transfer of resources occurs away from the social benefits to which the majority claim rights, and to the privileged elite codified in the persona of ‘the bankers’ (although in fact the entire class of corporate owners and executives). Resistance to this onslaught has been spasmodic –sustained in the more desperate frontlines of economic redistribution such as Greece – patchy in Britain amongst students, young people and trades unions who have been met with state repression.

Within these difficult contexts, community education practitioners continue to have an important responsibility and *Concept* aims to provide strong, critical analysis to support this, and to explore the spaces and opportunities for creative, educational and collective work in communities and movements. I wish the journal well under its new editor as it plays this essential role for all those who apply critical and radical approaches to educational work for change.