The words ‘poisoned chalice’ comes to mind …

The British Pain Society (BPS) council asked me to chair a small group to help consider updating the BPS website.

Very few doubt that the online presence of an organisation is critical to its image and presentation of its values and aims. But more than simple marketing or advertising, veneer is at stake here. The explosion of internet speeds has meant that huge amounts of information can be transmitted directly and quickly to people without the need for paper – just as well considering the price of exorbitant postage and efforts to go green!

We had our first face-to-face meeting on 12th January 2012, in which we discussed many technical and practical problems including website maintenance, cost and other issues like simplification and integration of online membership application, renewal of special interest group (SIG) membership and conference booking. Most importantly, we discussed what we and indeed you want from the website in terms of content. Suggestions included the following:

- Discussion groups based around SIG members, making it easier to network and communicate
- Continuing medical education (CME)- accredited modules in pain management

We discussed the specific areas that should be available to members (Vs non-member areas) and some opined that unrestricted, open-access content would be better and would perhaps encourage people to join the BPS.

The group also consisted of Joshua Adedokun, William Campbell, Arun Bhaskar, Nick Allcock, Jenny Nicolas, Mick Serpell and Ken Oubbard. Now, we are inviting lay members and website developers to join us for the next meeting.

If you have any thoughts you would like to share with us, please email Ken Oubbard in the first instance at kenobbard@britishpainsociety.org.