For all those who weren’t able to make it, here are some reviews - the first taken from Joanne Avison, one of the prominent presenters at the BFS who appeared on Bodywork Professional Development's Fascia Talkshows; the second is from our lucky ticket winner, Ann Yuill from Somerset.

Review 1 - Jo Avison: "British Fascia Symposium what a fabulous weekend. Jan Trewartha directed this symposium for practitioners. It had heart and compassion, as well as science and reasoned argument. Along with Julian Baker and their committee, Jan’s BFS team ensured that the intellectual detail and research was explained and applied in practice. Subjects from cranial practice to Bollywood dancing (as evening entertainment) somehow worked in to the occasion. Classical and contemporary presentations of anatomy, dissection, physiology, biomechanics and the variety of roles of the Fascia in the human form were all brought in to give everyone an opportunity to consider this tissue as a context for all we have learned in terms of content, whatever our modality. The weekend was directed with skill and a dedicated team of Hosts ensuring that delegates, speakers, presenters, exhibitors, sponsors, keynotes and everyone involved was taken care of and comfortable about learning and teaching. It managed to be about people; the human touch was welcome and relevant, considering the material!!!

“As a "practice-led symposium, designed for the working therapist" the British Fascia Symposium did what it promised to do. The staff at the Beaumont Estate Windsor were brilliant, as were those running the symposium event. Awesome achievement - look out for the next one in 2016. Movement and manual therapists will get a chance to make sense of the science inclusively, without being overwhelmed by exclusive terminology. Thank you to all involved.”

Review 2: Winning Ticket, Ann Yuill: "An early start from Somerset, spring sunshine all the way, through Windsor Park and with only 3 wrong turns there was the modest sign pointing to Beaumont Conference Centre. Turning up the drive through the gardens and past old and new buildings there were many cars but still some space in the top car park. A speedy walk down to reception for a warm welcome, badge and workshops sorted - so up the stairs and round the corner. Goodness visitors here, there and everywhere; stalls too. Then a most welcome cup of coffee! Not many familiar faces but some comfortable conversations and very soon a kind offer of a sofa for the night if my plan to camp did not seem quite so attractive later.

Into the conference hall, even more stalls, and ready for the first speaker. Ruth Duncan: clear, precise and interesting. Other speakers included Joanne Avison and the infamous Leon Chaitow with an information packed delivery – some unpacking to do! - but plenty of his books to chose from and a new one soon to be published. Lunch followed by a variety of 14 workshops or 8 talks. I overhead a neighbour say she had difficulty limiting her choices to 2.

Day 1 finished for some and a quiet drive to the campsite by the Thames for me; to rest and reflect. Not so for the many going to the Gala dinner and some wild late night Bollywood dancing!

Sunday lectures included more excellent speakers with Ceri Davis and his refreshing view of complementary therapists needing to be careful to ensure accurate nomenclature and backing theory and practice when possible with good science. And inspirational born again scientist /Rolfing instructor/Feldenkrais teacher/failed student of enlightenment Robert Schleip, who was both interesting and inspiring to listen to. He scientifically and therapeutically, and literally (at the end of the day’s Q&A session) sat in between Ceri Davis and Leon Chaitow.

Other well delivered talks and all guaranteed worth staying awake for were given by John Wilks, Michelle Watson and lastly Julian Baker with his lively and entertaining views and opinions, including of course the view of fascia from his dissection table.
I was very glad to be there and if in two years there is a second British Fascia Symposium and time and finance allows I will certainly book in. I am also going to purchase at least one of the DVDs recorded for all the sessions and that is the one for all the talks I missed when I attended the workshops.