



The Newsletter of the Association for the
Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena

Issue 96 November 2003

Visit ASSAP on the web at www.assap.org

ASSAP Supports MADS

ASSAP has contributed two laptops towards a major project developed by Dr Jason Braithwaite of the ASSAP Northern Group. The project, known by the acronym of MADS (which is short for Magnetic Anomaly Detection System), is the most sensitive apparatus ever developed for detecting a range of electromagnetic environmental fields. Crucially, and unlike most of the 'Spectre-detectors' available on the open market, the MADS system is able to detect those electromagnetic frequencies which have been identified as directly affecting the operation of the brain.

MADS consists of a highly sensitive electromagnetic sensor, able to take readings of the absolute level of, and minute and transitory variations in, the local magnetic field. These readings are passed to a laptop computer which is used to record and analyse the results. There will in fact be two sensor and laptop units to allow for baseline measures to be taken by the second unit for comparison purposes.

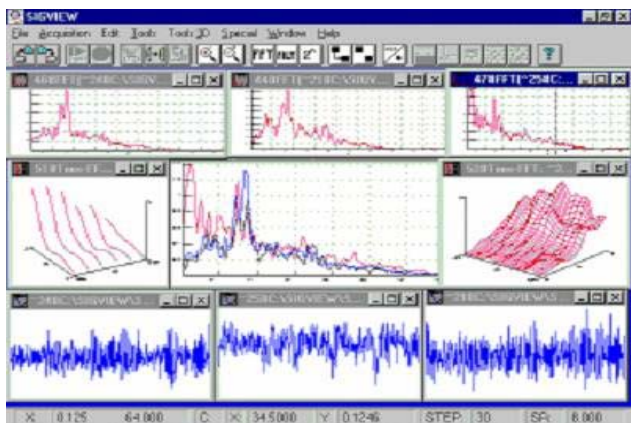
The role of magnetic disturbances on neural activity has been a point of discussion for a number of years following pioneering research by Dr Michael Persinger

in Ontario. Dr Braithwaite, a Cognitive Neuroscientist from the University of Birmingham, hopes to test his MADS system in a chamber similar to Dr Persinger's at a university in the UK. Once calibrated the device will then be available for use at ASSAP vigils and investigations, in addition to other non-paranormal uses such as geological surveying. Needless to say the system will undergo extensive lab and field tests before being fully commissioned.



Dr Jason Braithwaite
Photo V Hope

Clearly this is a very important development for ASSAP. As a registered educational charity we are very happy to be able to support genuinely innovative research and development, especially where it may have such a direct impact on investigations.



Sample output from MADS

The final word should go to Dr Jason Braithwaite: 'No other system currently being used is as fast, as sensitive, and as extensive as the MADS. Couple this to an appropriate methodology that we have been developing and we really do have a framework for the serious quantification of magnetic fields associated with strange experiences.'

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Editorial

Following the upheavals of the last couple of months ASSAP is now confidently moving forward with renewed...er...confidence. Adam Bailey was kind enough to host a full Executive meeting a few weeks ago, attended by the Great and the Good (and that was just Hugh Pincott), so expect to see all sorts of new ideas publicised in these pages in the coming months. One immediate objective is to revamp the ASSAP website, which has done sterling service over the years but is now in need of a spring clean. If anyone out there in membership-land has web design skills that they can offer please get in touch.

One rather unlikely oddity emerged from our committee get-together: I found myself as Deputy Chairman and, quite frankly, I'm not sure how it happened. Following the meeting and eager to wash the dust of debate from our tired throats we decided to sample the cultural delights on offer in northern Kent. Things initially looked promising when Adam took us to a Lapp Dancing club but (as the more observant of you may have noticed) the devil is in the detail. Still, on the plus side I now have a much better appreciation of Finnish folk culture! I can honestly say that I haven't been so disappointed since I went to an evening of Pole dancing in Oxford only to be confronted by the Gdansk Women Steelworkers Ballet.

But I digress. One major change the Executive is introducing, and one that I subsequently fell victim to, is a system of deputies for each of the main positions. The reasoning behind this idea is that should a committee member become ill, resign or simply be declared clinically insane (well, it *could* happen again) then there is someone who understands the role and who is in a position to step up and take over immediately. Of course that means we will shortly be looking for 15 keen individuals who would like to be more involved in running ASSAP to fill these vacancies... So, if you are interested in seeing what goes on in the background but don't feel ready to take on an Executive position immediately this is an ideal opportunity to get in touch. No experience necessary - hey, if I can be Deputy Chairman then anyone can!

Mike White

Help fill the next issue — please!

Are you conducting research that will be of interest to other members? Do you want to submit an article, review the latest Derren Brown show, comment on a topic of interest or just rant unashamedly about editorial bias? Issue No. 99 will be out in January 2004. Original articles, letters and dates of events should be sent by 1st December either to: Mike White, ASSAP News Editor, PO Box 230, PLYMOUTH, PL1 2ZR (please note the new PO Box!) or by email to assap-news@assap.org (you can pick your format as I am very accommodating). Photos and other illustrations are especially welcome. We can't guarantee to publish - space availability and the balance of articles will determine what we include. And please check out your facts to save yourself from embarrassment if you get it wrong! Articles may be edited for length but only with the consent of the author. If you have made it this far - congratulations!

About ASSAP

ASSAP is an educational charity involved in the investigation of anomalous phenomena. We publish ASSAP News bi-monthly and our journal *Anomaly* twice a year. ASSAP was formed in 1981 to bring together disparate strands of research and encourage a cross-disciplinary approach. We organize experiments and occasional study days through our publications and website. Our President is the well-known cleric and Fortean researcher the Rev. Lionel Fanthorpe.

For general enquiries, contact us at our PO box:

ASSAP, PO Box 230, PLYMOUTH, PL1 2ZR

Just prefix the address with the name of the office you want to contact. We will forward all mail to the individual officers. This way your letters won't go astray when one of us moves house or moves on.

The Executive

CHAIRMAN: Hugh Pincott

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mike White

GENERAL SECRETARY: Maurice Townsend

TREASURER: Maurice Townsend

ARCHIVES & LIBRARY OFFICER: Adam Bailey

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS CO-ORDINATOR (NIC): George Gregg

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EQUIPMENT OFFICER: Position Vacant

GROUPS OFFICER: Wendy Milner

HUMAN RESOURCES: Position Vacant

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SPECIAL PROJECTS OFFICER: Position Vacant

TECHNICAL OFFICER: Paul Lee

OTHER MEMBERS: Mel Warren, Greg Hill

SPECIALIST SUBJECTS -

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ALTERED STATES: George Gregg

CROP CIRCLES: Position Vacant

CRYPTOZOLOGY: John Gledson

DOWSING: Martyn Taylor

ESP: Terry Hewitt

FORTEAN PHENOMENA: Gareth Goodwin

HAUNTINGS & POLTERGEISTS: Michael Lewis

HEALING, RELIGION: Michael J Rush

LEGENDS, ANCIENT SITES, EARTH MYSTERIES: Steve Parsons

PHOTOGRAPHIC ANOMALIES: Simon Earwicker

PK & PHYSICAL MEDIUMSHIP: William Eyre

UFOs: Ian Percy

NOTE: ASSAP has no corporate views. Views expressed are those of the authors and individual members concerned.

Thanks to Jim Clark for proofreading this issue.

Haunted

The Fanthorpe Column

The Mind-bending Spoon-bending Controversy

Radio and TV work takes you into interesting places and connects you with even more interesting people. Working on a fascinating haunted site in Stonegate in York recently, I had the great pleasure of filming with Uri Geller. We were lunching together in a pleasant but perfectly normal café halfway through the day's investigating when Uri asked me - as President of ASSAP, and a professional investigator with forty years' experience - if I'd like to test his spoon-bending powers. Do sharks eat meat? Of what happened next I am absolutely certain: and forty years of investigating the anomalous and the paranormal leaves a lot of cynical and sceptical scars on your mind! I was not distracted for even a split second and I watched Uri like a hawk the whole time as he picked up a spoon at random from the restaurant table. No more than a metre from my unwavering gaze, he stroked it as gently as an appreciative gardener strokes the petals of a rose. Within 10 seconds, with absolutely no undue pressure, and definitely with no substitution by sleight of hand, that spoon bent suddenly and silently as I watched it. It was the closest I've yet come to observing genuine magic. Uri smiled, signed it and gave it to me - one of us owes the restaurant the price of a



spoon! The spoon's in my china cabinet in the lounge as I write.

Later, during another break in filming in the haunted house that we were investigating together, Uri asked if we could do a telepathy experiment. Being an old hand at that game, I took care to hold the pad I was drawing on in such a way that my hand movements couldn't be watched and used as clues to the symbol I was drawing. When I'd sketched something, Uri asked me to concentrate on it mentally as though it was an image on a TV screen, while looking into his eyes. I did. He drew the identical image - approximately the same size - and showed it to me.

Naturally, as open-minded, objective investigators, we've looked into the techniques that expert professional conjurers use to replicate what looks like

spoon-bending. Uri didn't do any of that.

I also teach a lot of science and lecture at science festivals: close observation tells me that something inexplicable happened to the molecules in the handle of that spoon. Spoon-bending and the phenomena associated with it would make a great long-term, in-depth ASSAP investigation - and so would Uri's telepathy.

Warmest wishes to all our friends and colleagues in ASSAP.

President and Lady One
(Lionel & Patricia)



Technical Group

Has reading about MADS sparked an interest in the idea of electronic monitoring? Paul Lee, ASSAP Technical Officer, is interested in forming a group of members with relevant skills, or at least an interest in, various aspects of environmental monitoring and other technologies. He is particularly hoping that someone out there has experience of computer controlled electronics (data acquisition systems), TCP/IP and serial/parallel/USB port programming.

If you fancy helping design, build or operate electromagnetic, infrasound or other types of detector please get in touch with Paul at paul@paullee.com or via the ASSAP PO Box.

Ghost Writing

A no-win Competition

Something a little different this time. One of the most important aspects of any investigation or vigil is the power of observation, a skill we all need to hone to perfection. So... what is wrong with this issue of ASSAP News (and, for that matter, the last issue)?

Answer next time. The quotation from last issue was, of course, from The Devil's Dictionary by Ambrose Bierce and may come in handy on Training Day.

Specialist Subject Slot

A Night in the Enchanted Forest

Michael Lewis

Rendlesham Forest is near Woodbridge in Suffolk, and well known to ufologists as the scene of the first major landing and contact case in Britain. It was first brought to the public's attention by the "News of the World" in 1981 with an eye-catching headline, "UFO Lands in Suffolk". Originally investigated by Jenny Randles, Brenda Butler (BB) and Dot Street, it has been the subject of several books and much controversy ever since.

Briefly, for those unfamiliar with the case, in late December 1980, military personnel from Woodbridge airbase investigated a strange light seen in the forest near the base. Allegedly they found a landed UFO and communicated with the crew. Physical traces including abnormal radiation were found. A few nights later they returned to the forest and witnessed another brilliantly-lit UFO.

The case was long regarded as a landmark in British ufology, but recent research suggests that the first landing was in fact the recovery of an errant satellite by a satellite recovery squadron stationed at the base. The second landing, which involved the subsequent removal of a large quantity of topsoil from the landing site and the relocation to Devon of a farmer whose farmhouse overlooked the site, has all the hallmarks of a military accident, possibly involving radiation or other contaminant. The military attempted to conceal the truth by encouraging the rumour that a UFO had landed in the forest. The principal witness, Larry Warren of the USAF, is now known not to have been stationed on the base during the period in question, and a tape describing the encounter featuring Col. Charles Halt, the base commander, is thought to have been produced to bolster the UFO cover story.

Be that as it may, strange events continue to be recorded in the forest and it has become a mecca for UFO enthusiasts. In the Summer of 2003, SPI (Strange Phenomena Investigations) led by Malcolm Robinson, organized a sky-watch in the forest which afforded the opportunity to meet local researchers and hear first-hand accounts of recent happenings. Of particular interest were the controversial orbs and rods which regularly appear on pictures taken with digital cameras at certain locations in the forest. We were met in the forest by BB, who briefed us on the strange happenings there. These included mystery animals, several instances being cited. Of particular interest was a black yeti-like creature which was accompanied by a foul stench: when the stench disappeared after a few months, so did the yeti. Another creature was a bear which had been seen on several occasions foraging for food; BB had photographs of this creature, although I did not see them. BB herself had had several sightings of small alien-like creatures. There were also several ghosts who appeared in the forest, among them a procession of hooded monks about three feet tall!

The guided tour took us first to the celebrated East Gate of the now deserted Woodbridge airbase. It was here that I twice felt something touch the hair on top of my head,

which I was unable to explain. Continuing to the site of the first landing, we were greeted with a display of canine distress by Mason, BB's white German Shepherd dog. Hitherto this dog had frolicked among the large group, clearly enjoying his nighttime walk. But at the landing site, he twice exhibited signs of unrest, growling and running round in circles. The first time was followed by the sound of some animate object approaching through the undergrowth, and we wondered whether we were about to bag our first alien! However, out stepped our erstwhile member, Tony Pritchett, who had been late in arriving!! I attempted to take some photographs, but soon the battery low indicator came on and the camera shut down. This was strange, as I had tested the batteries beforehand and they should not have failed. I also became aware of an unpleasant feeling which is rather difficult to describe. It caused some disorientation and a feeling of oppression which lasted for some time afterwards.

The group then proceeded to the site of the second landing, where I felt much better. (The guide commented that psychics preferred this location to the first site. I certainly did!) This site was the location of a most extraordinary event a few years ago, when BB noticed that a six foot sapling, which had not been there previously, was growing close to the actual landing spot. The Forestry Commission denied that they had planted it, and it had disappeared the next time BB visited the site! There was no sign of disturbed earth on either occasion and the episode remains a mystery. BB has photographs of the sapling. We then proceeded to the field where Larry Warren claimed to have witnessed the landed craft and its occupants. It occurred to me that this field was a much more feasible location for a landing than in the dense forest. Again, I felt a negative atmosphere and was glad to leave. On to the alien tree, allegedly showing an alien's head on the trunk, or rabbit scratchings, according to which version you prefer! Close to this tree a researcher told of how he had been meditating with a companion when the ground shook, the trees trembled, and a large dark triangular object passed low overhead, accompanied by a loud hum. Afterwards, they discovered a period of missing time amounting to 45 minutes.

The group then proceeded to a clearing, where we laid down to gaze at the stars until, as Malcolm put it, we either froze or got abducted! Fortunately, neither happened, nor did we see anything unusual in the skies. It was then that we realized how uncannily quiet the forest was. We had heard no sounds of nocturnal wildlife until we disturbed a bird. The stillness was all enveloping. (Others have commented on this aspect.)

Our final port of call was a nearby track which is said to be haunted by the ghost of an airman killed in the forest in a wartime crash. BB claimed to have seen him on several occasions. He was thought to be responsible for orbs and rods which regularly featured in photographs taken on this track. BB and Mason obligingly posed for photographs, and thanks to the screens with which digital cameras are now equipped, it was possible to make out orbs on some of the photographs. Again, local researchers were on hand to show what they had managed to record in the forest. There were some impressive examples of orbs and rods in profusion. Whereas orbs could not be seen with the human eye, rods and spirals could sometimes be seen by the photographer. Given the nature of the rods and spirals, it was difficult to believe that insects could account for all of them.

It was now that I encountered the most incredible film of an anomalous creature that I have ever come across. Being accustomed to dismissing 99% of allegedly anomalous photographs, I was taken aback by what one researcher had filmed on his digital camcorder a few weeks previously. The sequence showed a creature coming out of the forest, taking a close look at the camera, then retreating and disappearing into a blob! The best description I can give is that it looked like a bug-eyed monster from a cartoon! Can anyone suggest a nocturnal insect which would produce this effect if it flew close to the lens of a camera on auto focus? And would it completely fill the screen (the insects on cameras which I have seen have all been actual size)? When I politely enquired whether the photographer had happened to notice the creature himself, he replied that he had been watching the sky, having left the camera running to monitor the track. I had been warned by Malcolm that some of the phenomena claimed were so unbelievable that one did not know what to think, and this sequence certainly fell into that category. Whilst this sequence could have been produced on a computer, I have no reason to believe that the locals spend a great deal of time faking photographic anomalies in such profusion, particularly when one could take one's own photographic anomalies practically to order!

So ended one of the most interesting and eventful nights in my parapsychological career.

What are we to make of it all? Perhaps I am wrong to dismiss any UFO involvement in the events of 1981, but I must always look for the most likely normal explanation, and the military accident scenario certainly fits the bill. Has the intense interest in this case generated its own phenomena, or is that, as some claim, the area has always been a focus for unusual goings-on? My own tentative conclusions are that Rendlesham is a window area, or portal between the dimensions. The evidence, particularly of strange animals which appear for a short while only, would strongly suggest this. There are similarities here with many other mystery animal cases documented by Keel and other authors. I see the advent of digital photography with instant playback as a powerful tool in the parapsychologist's armoury. What was in the past relegated to the realms of folklore can now be photographed and demands serious attention.

I realize that much of the foregoing will be unpalatable to some of our more sceptical members. The solution is for them to get out into the forest and see the evidence for themselves. Rendlesham Forest provides a challenge to parapsychology which can only be met by detailed, on-site research. From what I have seen, those bold enough to venture into this fertile field will be richly rewarded!

Michael Lewis has been interested in the paranormal all his life. He was ASSAP's NIC for ten years, and is also a member of BUFORA, SPI and CCCS.



Research Update

An Addition to the Investigators Report Form

Accredited Investigators (AIs) will be familiar with ASSAP's Investigators Report Form. This has been in use for many years now and has proved very effective in helping AIs collect the information they need to write up their reports.

What will change?

Following a recent review of the association's archived reports, an additional section is being added to the form. This new section deals specifically with information relating to vigils and is intended to provide investigators with a useful checklist of all the details that should be included when documenting the events of a vigil.

To keep this change as simple as possible, the existing form remains essentially unaltered – all that will happen is that a new page (titled "Section 8a") will be inserted between Sections 8 and 9.

How do I get the new page?

AIs should obtain a copy of the new page, photocopy it, and insert it into their Investigators Report Forms. There are various ways they can do this:

1. Over the Internet: I have posted a copy of the new page at <http://www.clarkweb.co.uk/shadowtime/ASSAPform.htm> and AIs are welcome to print this off for their own use.
2. By email: the MS Word document can be obtained by emailing me at james-clark@clarkweb.co.uk or research@assap.org
3. By post: AIs may ask for a copy to be sent to them by post. Simply write to me at: James Clark, c/o Shadowtime Publishing, 102 St James Road, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 2DB. (Please include an A4 SAE.)

Vigils are an important source of data for ASSAP because they offer a method for investigating anomalous phenomena under relatively controlled conditions. It is hoped that this addition to the Investigators Report Form will help us all to maximise the amount of information collected whenever vigils are conducted.

James Clark
(Research Officer)

Editor's Note:

The text for the new page can also be found on page 7 by the Reference Spot.

Special Feature

Spooks on CCTV

Andy Owens

Phantoms have apparently been caught on film many times over the last century, from the highly questionable images of 'ectoplasm' from early spiritualist seances to the famous modern photos such as the Wem Town Hall ghost, the Newby Church Monk and the Brown Lady of Raynham Hall.

But now we have a relatively new gadget to record supernatural activity: the closed-circuit-TV camera. We have all heard of the Belgrave Hall footage, which was shown on national news broadcasts, and in which ASSAP played a major part in the subsequent investigations, but there are other examples which did not receive such widespread publicity.

A still image taken from an office CCTV in Bern, Germany, available to view with other ghost pics at www.urbanchillers.com seems to show a man with hands in pockets facing away from the camera. Look closely at the figure - an odd oblong of darker light surrounds the entire figure which looks to me as if it has been superimposed onto the screen. Also, there is a note with the submission that the owners of the website are legally not allowed to name the source or location of the footage. Smells like a hoax to me, but the jury is still out.

An American car dealer caught an odd image on CCTV on 8th July 2002. The figure is vaguely human and appears in mid-air for around two minutes and then disappears. In that time, an assistant at the Oklahoma car impound lot went down to the location and could see nothing, but the image was still there on screen. It has been suggested that the figure is one Tracy Martin, a thirty-three year old mother who died in a car accident on 30th June. Her wrecked truck was one of the vehicles stored in the lot at that time, though why it should be her rather than anyone else is not mentioned.

A supermarket in the village of Somerfield, near Great Missenden (Bucks) has long been known to be haunted. Staff have heard shouts from the basement warehouse when it is otherwise empty, heavy doors have swung open by themselves, stock has been thrown from shelves and staff have had their hair pulled.

The Station Approach store has been haunted for at least the last seventeen years, but it wasn't until the ghostly image was caught on CCTV during the night that it was finally seen rather than just heard or sensed.

In August 2002, the Free Press newspaper (see the archive section on www.thisislocallondon.co.uk) said that the manager would not hand over a copy of the tape - for security reasons, but says it shows what they think is a man walking up and down an aisle on the shop floor.

Duty Manager, Jacqui Howes, said all the staff are well aware that the store is haunted. She said, 'a lot of things have happened. We have been having it for years and it is quite frightening. It is just active in early mornings and

when the staff are on their own. At one point, we were so scared we shut ourselves in here (the office), and locked the door. When we went to get out, the door was unlocked.'

Caroline Groom, who works at the store, said, 'We don't often hear or see it, just now and again. A woman who works here saw it on camera about six months ago, but that is the only proof we have really got. It just looks like he was walking slowly in the aisle. It is just a shape, it is not really clear. He appeared last Monday and we saw it throughout the night.'

In September 1993, Bill Hodgson, treasurer for East Ardsley Conservative Club in Leeds, was alone in the club one afternoon waiting for a friend. When he glanced at the CCTV screen he saw the figure of a man standing by the main doorway of the club. He did not recognise him: but assumed it was his friend and so he went to meet him but was puzzled to find no-one there. On returning to the screen however, the image of the mystery man was still there.

The same thing happened again a few days later at about the same time in the afternoon and both images were recorded on video. Although many people have examined the footage, none are able to come up with an explanation.

Mr Hodgson told a local newspaper that several members had previously felt an unseen presence, but that nothing like this had ever happened before. He said that he did not believe in ghosts, but he could not explain it. He said, 'Some club members think it is a ghost whereas others think it is a load of hogwash. But I'd like to see those who don't believe to come in here at midnight on their own and watch the video.' (Yorkshire Evening Post, September 1993/Modey Observer, October 1993).

In the book 'The Afterlife' by Jenny Randles and Peter Hough, the authors discuss a case from the Butterflies Nightclub, in Oldham (Lancashire). One night the burglar alarms of the club were set off and police called the manager and they all entered the building and searched for intruders. No-one was found, there were no signs of a break-in and nothing was missing. However, as they watched the taped CCTV footage, the image of a man came into view, walking away from the camera, and he was seen to pass through a visibly closed (and locked) door. The burglar alarms sounded at the precise point that the man passed through the door. As with the above case, this happened again some time later and both images were caught on tape.

And yet all of these examples beg a question. Following the theory that apparitions are like tape-recordings which do the same things at the same times in the same locations, like clockwork - then how come these images were caught on film once or twice - and then never again? This surely implies a certain degree of choice and intelligence on the part of the apparent ghosts. What do other ASSAP members think?

Andy Owens is a freelance writer who has published a number of books about the paranormal. He lives in Yorkshire.

The text from the new section of the form is reproduced below:

Section 8 (a)

If a vigil was conducted, remember to include the following details in your report:

Map(s) of vigil location

Details of teams (how many in each team, names of team members, etc.)

Details of team deployments (which teams were stationed in which locations, start/finish times at those locations, etc.)

List of any and all instrumentation used during the vigil (make, model, etc.)

Details of instrumentation deployment (where instruments were set up [ideally indicated on map], the reasons why instrumentation was set up in this way, etc.)

If instrumentation was used, regular readings should have been taken, about once every 15 minutes. These readings should ideally be presented in the form of a table/tables and enclosed with your report. All readings should be given, regardless of whether or not anything was detected; remember that apparently uninteresting results may provide useful information for future researchers.

Historyonics

Keith Weim

So, back from oblivion and onwards with a notable anniversary, this time Britain's oldest man. Well, maybe.

Shropshire lad, 'Old Thomas Parr', died on November 14th 1635 at the ripe old age of 152 years 9 months. He was a man of the land and it was said that he still worked his farm up until the age of 145, after which he presumably decided to take life a little easier. He attributed his longevity to a strict diet of hard bread and rancid cheese washed down with a delightful glass of whey. Despite what this diet must have done to his breath he married for the first time at the age of 80, outlived his first wife, and married again at 120! Because of his fame he had the distinction of being summoned to the court of Charles I and was eventually buried at Westminster Abbey. Could a man from before the Civil War really have lived so long? I have no idea but if I had to live on rancid cheese for over a century, personally, I would really rather not bother!

The Reference Spot

Sky Watch

Lunar Phases

November 2003:

First Quarter 1st
Full Moon 9th
Last Quarter 17th
New Moon 23rd
First Quarter 30th

December 2003:

Full Moon 8th
Last Quarter 16th
New Moon 23rd
First Quarter 30th

Other Events

November 14th - 21st. The Leonid meteor shower is one of the best of the year and will reach its peak on the 18th.

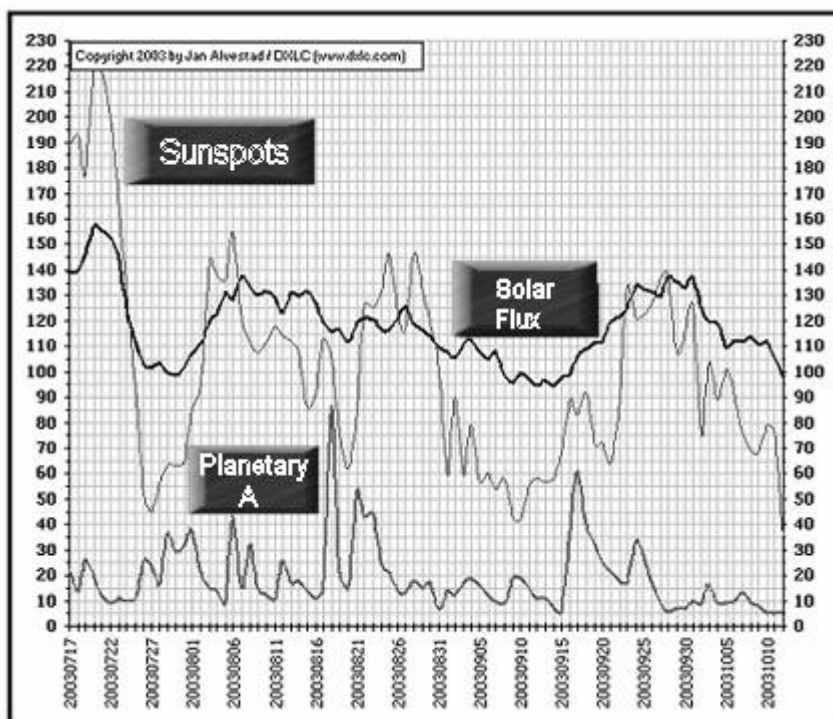
November 23rd. Total Solar Eclipse! Sadly, this will only be visible from Antarctica but if you are passing it would certainly be worth a look.

December 23rd 07:00 Winter Solstice. Keep those home fires burning.

Solar Terrestrial Activity Index

Paranormal activity? Check whether the Earth's magnetic field may have been exerting an influence. I notice a couple of spikes in the planetary magnetic field in mid-August and mid-September - anyone notice anything significant on those dates?

Copyright Jan Alvestad/DXLC as usual.



Copyright Jan Alvestad/DXLC

What's On and Groups

If you would like your group or event listed here please contact us via the PO Box or send an email to assapnews@assap.org. Please send details in as early as possible as many notices are received too late to be included.

NB. It will help event organizers if you enclose an SAE when sending for extra details. ASSAP accepts no responsibility for late changes to venues, speakers, etc.

Alister Hardy Society (Chesterfield/Northern Group)

The group meets roughly once a month in Chesterfield, Derbyshire for informal discussions on all and any aspects of 'religious' experience. These aspects are often not explicitly religious, sometimes being labelled as 'spiritual', 'transcendental', 'psychic', etc. Past topics have included spirit communication via automatic writing and Near-Death Experiences.

If interested please contact Mike Rush on 07790 757955 or at mike@oddcity.fsnet.co.uk for further info and details of the next meeting.

BUFORA

All lectures are held in the 1st floor function suite of the Sols Arms public house, 65-68 Hampstead Road, Euston, London NW1 2PN - 3:00pm till 6:30pm. Tickets, which can be purchased at the door and include a mid-lecture buffet, are £5 for members, and £7 for all others.

Contact address: B.M. BUFORA, London WC1N 3XX.

www.bufora.org.uk

15th November

NORMAN OLIVER, 'Montauk and the Philadelphia Experiment'

CPSG (Chesterfield Psychic Study Group)

Meetings take place on the second Friday of the month, in the Walton Room of Chesterfield Community Centre at 7.15 pm.

14th November

'The Role of Mediums in Hauntings' Talk by Sue Odam.

Subscription £1.25.

12th December

Materialisation Mediumship. Video and Buffet evening.

Subscription £0.50.

9th January

Speaker evening - tba.

Subscription £1.25.

Dorset Earth Mysteries Group

All talks are in the Friends Meeting House, Wharncliffe Road, Boscombe at 7:15pm. Entrance £3.00

November 6th

Monuments of the Neolithic - Miles Russell

December 4th

Christmas social night

London Earth Mysteries Circle (LEMC) meets in the Meeting Room at the Diorama Centre, 34 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1, beginning at 7.00 pm. Wheelchair access. Fees: £2 for members, £3 for non-members, concessions £2.50. Tubes: Great Portland Street, Regent's Park or Warren Street. LEMC address for all communications: Rob Stephenson, PO Box 1035, London, W2 6ZX. Or email at lemc@ic24.net, and visit the website at www.lemc.ic24.net/

SPR (Society for Psychical Research)

November 6th

Secular humanism: A Redefinition in the Light of Psychical Research - Robert McLuhan

December 11th

The Ghost of Christmas Yet To Be: Dickens and Spirit Photography - Prof. John Harvey

Details from SPR at: 49 Marloes Road, Kensington, London W8 6LA. Telephone & Fax: 020 7937 8984

ParaScience

Meetings are held on the first working Monday of each month at Bebington Civic Centre on the Wirral, North-West England. Meeting commences 8:00pm.

Next meeting dates:

3rd November

1st December

OTHER GROUPS

Ghost Club: All lectures take place at the Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF. This is at the southern end of Edgware Road and the nearest tube is Marble Arch - just 5-10 minutes' walk. Talks are free to Ghost Club members and £2.50 for non-members. The talks start at 7.00pm. Visit their website at www.ghostclub.org.uk for details of future events.

Parasearch are a West Midlands ASSAP regional group and are interested in hearing from anyone in the West Midlands, Warwickshire or Shropshire area. For more details visit www.parasearch.org or send SAE to Parasearch, 15 Brier Mill Rd, Halesowen, W. Midlands B63 3HA or call 0776 118 4837.

TEMS is an ASSAP branch for those living in south-west London, south Middlesex and Surrey, generally meeting in Hampton. For details of the current programme and venues call Lionel on 020-8979 3148.

And finally, the inevitable clichéd spooky font announces last call for:

Training Day 2003

Yes, don't forget Training Day at the Hatton Court Hotel near Milton Keynes on November 15th. For those who haven't attended before the day will cover talks on a full range of skills and techniques to help you with your investigations as well as opportunities to put some of these into practice. No need to worry, all the exercises are group-based... Lunch and evening breaks are a great way to make new friends and the evening ends with the AGM before we all decamp for the night's training vigil. Be there or get some sleep!

There are still a few places available for this unmissable event so if you would like to join us please send your cheque for £17.50 to the new PO Box address. If you are planning to eat at the hotel the cost will be an additional £3.95 for lunch and £7.50 for an evening buffet.

In a variation on previous Training Days, this year the vigil will be organised by the Merseyside group, ParaScience. ParaScience have done extensive investigation of the venue over the last couple of years so we can expect a well-rehearsed and professional night.

I will ensure that there is a full debrief in the next ASSAP News - all I need now is someone to write it...