

ASSAP

INVESTIGATORS BULLETIN

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

May I take this opportunity of wishing all ASSAP Accredited Investigators a prosperous and healthy 2006! I do hope that your Christmas festivities were enjoyable and served to energize all those who had a hectic 2005. Over the next year we have a great deal to look forward to within ASSAP, as there have been some welcome additions to the Executive Committee that will breathe new life and energy into the organisation - something that is vital in keeping ASSAP at the forefront of serious case research in the UK. It has also served to bring together people who have unique skills that can be utilised in the most advantageous ways. I aim to continue in my role alongside Bill, who is a great NIC, and have set some goals to improve what I can deliver to all AI's in my capacity as Deputy NIC and Education Officer. In the meantime, can I once again wish you a Happy New Year, and I hope you enjoy the latest Bulletin.

Dylan Jones

Congratulations!

May I take this opportunity of congratulating the following ASSAP Members into the exclusive Accredited Investigators Team:

Margaret Pick
John Tulley
Jean Porter
Hywel Watkins
Terri Setterington
Nicky Sewell
Dave Wood

Please feel part of the team!

Contact Point



Email:

Deputy.Investigations@assap.org

Phone: 01443 879626

(Please do not take the above picture on vigils - guaranteed to scare away any potential phenomena!!!)

Current Cases

- The investigation into a haunted hotel in Shropshire reported in issue 2 has been continuing, with Cherill Penton, in association with Paranormal Awakenings, holding a further vigil there.
- Cherill has been examining phenomena at a windmill, has begun to look into stories concerning the Stone Steps and an underground temple and has produced reports to document her investigations into PK and shadow phenomena at a working men's club and apparitional phenomena at a nightclub. All of these have been in Staffordshire. Her current portfolio also includes two haunted pubs in the West Midlands.
- Stefan Lobuczek has taken charge of an investigation centred on Castle Ring ancient monument at Cannock Wood, with some interesting observations having been made during a night-time field study, as reported in issue 109 of 'ASSAP News'. The intention is for Stefan to submit a report on this case to gain his accreditation.
- UFO sightings in the West Country seem to have been particularly prevalent in recent times, with Ian Percy, Jane Angwin and Martin Smith picking up cases to look into.
- Dylan has picked up the apparitional case reported in Rhondda Cynon Taff and has, over an extended period of time, carried out an investigation and associated background research into phenomena at a manor house in Caerphilly, resulting in the submission of the report judged by Bill to be the best of the year, leading to the award of the Michael Bentine trophy.
- Caroline Pick is looking into a most unusual case involving a three year old boy in Staffordshire who claims to have regular OOBES during which he has picked up the sort of knowledge normally only associated with adults.
- Christine Luckcuck has brought to our attention a potential investigation into a haunted holiday home in Gwynedd. As the owner is located in Leicestershire, Neil Machin is taking responsibility for this case, with Christine's assistance.
- Norfolk is an area where we struggle to find investigators to take on cases, owing to a complete lack of AIs in that county. However, despite the distance, Terry Hewitt has been progressing a case at a house there involving what seems to be a significant number of PK and apparitional phenomena. Terry is also looking into the viability of investigating strange goings on in the Battle of Bosworth area.
- Bill and Simon Royce-Dexter have interviewed a couple in Derbyshire who reported strange lights and an image of a hooded figure crawling across the ceiling in their flat, the report for which Simon is currently preparing as part of his effort to gain AI status.
- All AIs are encouraged to involve Trainee Investigators from ASSAP in their investigations and to give them the opportunity to write up a case report to enable them to become accredited. With this in mind, as in the previous case, Bill took Philip Royce-Dexter along with him to interview a couple in Derbyshire who had obtained anomalous photographs in their house (not just orbs, but thick smoky images), along with various audible phenomena and tactile sensations experienced by the lady of the house, thus giving Philip the opportunity to write up a report to count towards his accreditation.
- Anne Winsper has just been passed a case involving a lady in Greater Manchester who claims to feel touches as a result of telepathic messages being sent to her: clearly, as in all cases, the possibility of a mental health problem needs to be taken into account but only an investigation can reveal the truth.
- ASSAP has acquired its first Scottish case in recent times. Currently we have no AIs in Scotland but Ian Hart is investigating the alleged domestic poltergeist phenomena and we are hopeful that this will result in Ian becoming the first Scottish based AI.

A Date for your Diary! The first Advanced Training Day will be held on Saturday 20th May 2006. Keep an eye on the website for further information!

Renewal of Identity Cards

Those of you who have been accredited for quite a while will know that it used to be the practice to issue AIs with a green identity card which was valid indefinitely. However, over time, this caused problems for the NICs as there was no way of knowing which members who had been issued with a card were still active investigators, resulting in a significant degree of time wastage and frustration when allocating cases to investigators. To overcome this, a new system was introduced in April 2004 involving the issue of a new style of grey identity card with an expiry date. Would all members who wish to retain their accreditation and who are in possession of either a grey card that has an expiry date at the end of March 2006 or a green card please submit an application to Dylan for renewal of their cards by the end of March? The application should be accompanied by a current passport sized head and shoulders photo and a signature sample. These may be sent either by post or by e-mail. Replacement cards containing an expiry date of March 2008 will then be sent out during April. It will be assumed that any members not applying for renewal of their identity cards no longer wish to be actively involved in anomalous investigations. Thus, when allocating cases, the NICs can be assured that members contacted are still willing to pursue investigations. Your anticipated cooperation with this renewal exercise is appreciated.

Thanks, Bill Eyre
Email: Investigations@assap.org

Have your say - it's your Bulletin!

The Investigators Bulletin is produced on a current timetable of every four months, and is a medium (excuse the pun!) for AI's to gain that something extra from their membership of ASSAP. However, the content is something that can be guided by you. This is your Bulletin and as Editor I would encourage you to take ownership of it and contact me if there is something that you would like featured in it. Please feel welcome to email me with your suggestions. I look forward to hearing from you.

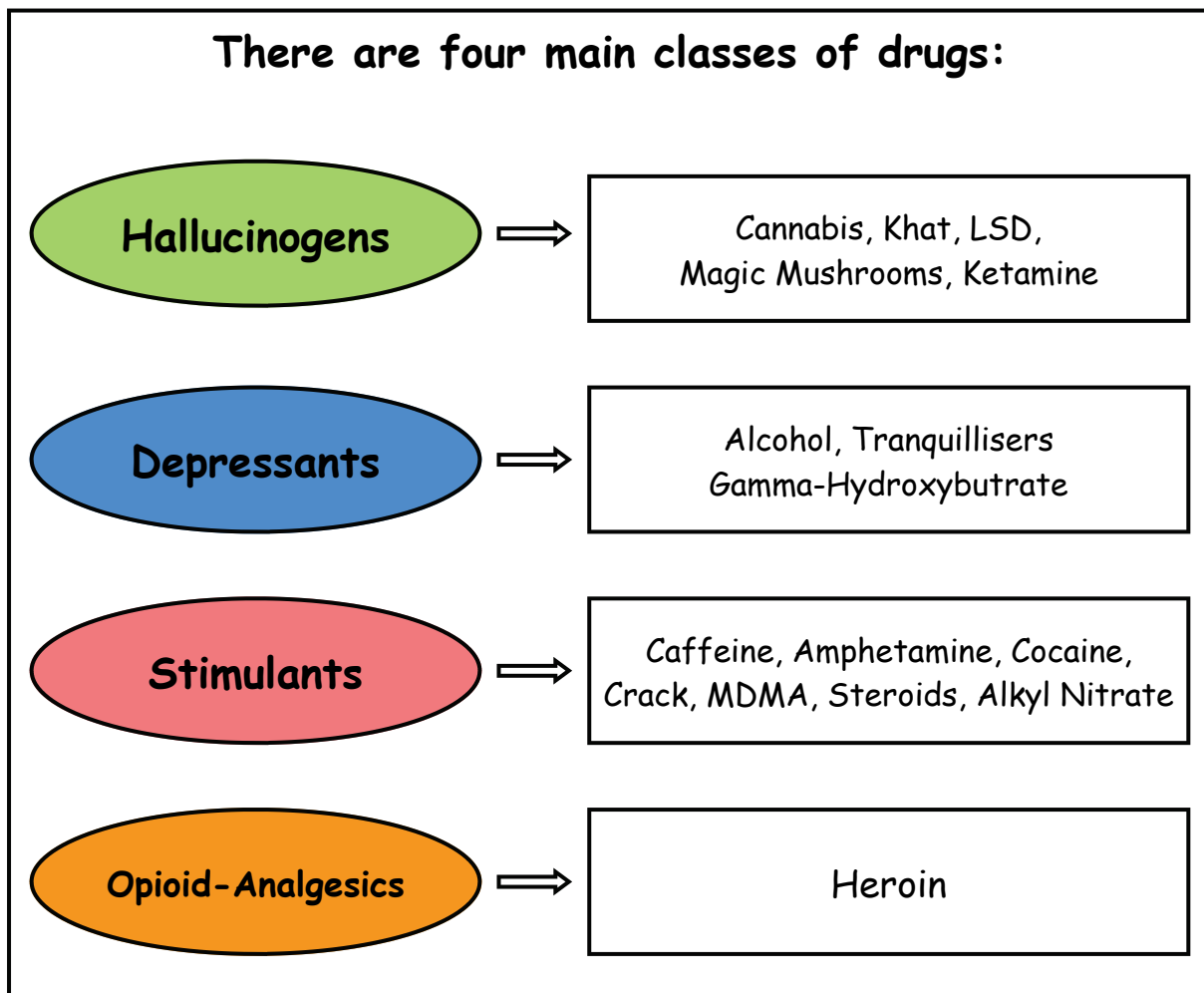
Dylan - Deputy NIC



Understanding Drugs and their Effects



During case study and research it is necessary to ask witnesses sensitive questions about their personal life and habits, and ask something that Emily Peach (1991) termed the "unaskable" questions. Some of those questions will invariably focus on the substances that the witness may have consumed prior to, or be under the influence of, at the time of the experience. As a result, I felt that a series of drug education articles would be of benefit to all Accredited Investigators. A basic knowledge of the effects of substances can often point to a possible explanation for their experience. These fact-files are not intended to cover the full range of effects. They are merely there as a guideline. For further drug information, please contact me via email. However, I wonder how long it will be before we hear of investigators who have used, or indeed use substances, and how this can affect their judgment or evidential reliability. Only time will tell...



Hallucinogens

FACTFILE ONE: CANNABIS



Cannabis is a natural substance derived from the "cannabis sativa" - a herbaceous annual bushy plant that grows in most parts of the world. It is the most commonly used drug in Britain after tobacco and alcohol, especially amongst 11-25 year olds. It is currently a Class C drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

It comes in four forms: herbal, resin, flower or oil. Its most common form is in resinous blocks or grass form, which is generally mixed with tobacco and rolled into joints. However, it can also be eaten and brewed in tea.

The psychoactive ingredient of Cannabis is Tetrahydrocannabinol or THC for short, which is found in all parts except the stalks and seed.

Different types of Cannabis can be obtained from the plant:

- **Resin** - from the dried plant, which are compressed into blocks (also called Hash/Hashish).
- **Herbal** - the dried and chopped leafy parts of the plant (also called 'grass', 'Dope', 'Ganja', and 'Marijuana').
- **Cannabis Oil** - solvent percolated through resin. This is the strongest type of Cannabis.

The Short-Term Effects?

The Short-Term Effects?

- When smoked the effects are felt very quickly.
- Users will feel relaxed, get pain-relief and perceptions will be heightened.
- They will become more talkative and appetite increases.
- Eyes will become bloodshot, and the mouth/throat will become dry.
- It will impair judgement, concentration and produce short term memory loss.
- Hallucinations can occur.

The Long-Term Effects?

The Long-Term Effects?

- High Tar content can lead to lung cancer, respiratory problems, infertility, heart disease, low Blood Pressure.
- Prolonged use can lead to users being lethargic.
- Cause paranoia, panic attacks, evidential link to causing schizophrenia.
- Psychological dependence (cannabis psychosis) can occur with heavy regular use.
- Worsen mental health problems if already a sufferer.



Packaged Cannabis
Photo by S.D., © 2002 Erowid.org

STREET NAMES

HASH
POT
WEED
DOPE
DRAW
BLOW
GRASS
GANJA
MARAJUANA
SHIT
BLACK
BUSH
And many more!



Joint of Cannabis
Photo by Misterbishi & Missbishi, © 2002 Erowid.org