



102

September 2004



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

Don't Mansion Training Day

(I mentioned it once but I think I got away with it...)

And with that ridiculously contrived pun I am pleased to announce that this year's Training Day will be held at the wonderful Woodchester Mansion in Gloucestershire on November 20th. You can find more information and details on how to book a place inside this mailing.

Woodchester is set deep within a hidden valley near Stroud and has a number of ghost stories associated with both house and grounds. The Gothic architecture is particularly



stunning and the building will offer a fantastic setting for the evening training vigil.

Both ASSAP and the Ghost Club have held vigils at Woodchester and it has also featured on 'Most Haunted' so this is a definite 'don't miss' occasion.



The ASSAP AGM will, as usual, be held between Training Day and the evening vigil and there are sure to be plenty of other activities as

well as opportunities to meet other ASSAP members throughout the day, evening and night. We look forward to seeing you there...

Photos: M White

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Editorial

I am often told that there are very few practical applications to many of the things that ASSAP is involved in investigating but, following a personal project involving an extensive series of arduous past-life regressions, I am happy to dispel this illusion. Thanks to my newly-acquired and intimate knowledge of a wide range of historical eras I have been able to submit a number of ideas to TV companies which I am hoping will be able to form the basis of a whole series of historically accurate sitcoms. While details are, of course, commercially sensitive I have provided some brief summaries below in the hope that others might be encouraged to take up this new field of investigation.

1. An anarchic comedy featuring 4 zany but brilliant trainee psychiatrists who share a flat in 1900s Vienna. Working title: *The Jung Ones*.
2. Set in Eastern Europe in the fifteenth century this pilot features a minor official who assumes command of the defences of a small region when it is threatened by an invading Ottoman army but, hilariously, becomes carried away by his position and takes it *all too far*. I thought I would call this one *Vlad's Army*.
3. During a major construction project in the city of York in the Middle Ages the hapless architect in charge of the scheme is obstructed at every turn by his wily Clerk of Works. Almost certainly this one will be called *Yes Minster*.
4. Comedy set aboard a Viking vessel containing a motley assortment of settlers crossing the Atlantic bound for a life of self-sufficiency in Vineland. Once Richard Briers is signed up this will be titled *The Good Leif*.
5. Chronicling the misadventures of Dellus Puerus Suspedis, a small-time back street soothsayer in ancient Rome and his ongoing quest to make millions from the chicken entrails business. Currently this one is being trailed as a Saturnalia special with the title *Only Fowls and Haruspices*.
6. Three retired papyrus salesmen, Urnungal, Lugalbanda and Ziggurat, wander the shores of the Euphrates reminiscing about their youth and attempting to devise new and unusually comical methods of sliding down the sides of pyramids in a wicker basket. Naturally I am calling this one *Last of the Sumerian Wine*.

Who said regression was a waste of time?

Mike White

Submit!

Sorry, got a little dictatorial for a moment but you know what I mean...The deadline for the next ASSAP News will probably be around early October. If you would like to see your name in print you can send letters or articles to: Mike White, ASSAP News Editor, PO Box 230, PLYMOUTH, PL1 2ZR or by email to assap-news@assap.org (you can pick your format as I am very accommodating).

About ASSAP

ASSAP is an educational charity involved in the investigation of anomalous phenomena. We publish ASSAP News bimonthly 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

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PHOTOGRAPHIC ANOMALIES: TBA

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

With all the recent attention on Bible Codes, Templar Codes, da Vinci Codes, the Atbash Cipher and many similar challenging puzzles, I thought that we as ASSAP investigators might look at something hitherto out of the spotlight. The medieval troubadours, jongleurs, minnesingers and minstrels were highly talented individuals who travelled farther than most and mixed in the richest, most powerful and most politically active circles. By and large the troubadours were the ideal secret agents for medieval conspirators to work with. Furthermore, these travelling musicians and artistes wrote their own ballads. To those who understood the formal rhyme schemes and metres which made the minstrels' compositions so effective, any deviation from the accepted patterns would stand out immediately: but would not be obvious to anyone outside the minstrel fraternity.

Let's take the famous "Song of Roland" as an example. Historically, Charlemagne had invaded Spain towards the end of the eighth century. He had been reasonably successful in his battles there, but not totally so, and was returning to France via Basque territory. His whole rearguard was trapped by the Basques and wiped out to a man -- although the great hero, Roland -- alias Hroldand -- fought as valiantly there as Jim Bowie fought at the Alamo. Legend recalls that Roland -- like Bowie -- was found more or less buried under a mountain of the enemies he had slain.

By the time the legend was written down and sung as the "Song of Roland" historical fact had come in a poor second to the drama and romance of the story. The important point for ASSAP cryptographers to enjoy is that full details of the Roland Legend and versions in English -- as well as the original minstrel versions -- can be found with any good search engine and duly downloaded. If we then apply standard decryption techniques, some interesting stuff begins to emerge.

Another medieval minstrel whose works are well worth examining in depth is Raimbaut of Vaqueiras. He was much in evidence in the twelfth century and many of his original lyrics are also available over the Internet. He travelled widely and knew a great many interesting and powerful people.

We've incorporated some of our own attempts at decoding some of the minstrel songs in the book on Templar Mysteries which we're currently writing for Dundurns of Toronto -- there's definitely something mysterious in those Minstrel Codes -- best of luck to any ASSAP colleagues who feel like having a go at them!

Warmest wishes,
Pres and Lady One

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Every year, the longest-serving third of the elected members of ASSAP's Executive retire. They are then eligible for re-election. In addition, any Executive members co-opted during the year are also eligible for election. Any Executive member who falls into one of these categories and who does NOT wish to stand for election should tender their resignation to the Chairman.

Any fully paid-up ASSAP members not currently serving on the Executive are also welcome to stand. They should send in a nomination as described below.

You should send in the following details, preferably typewritten, to arrive no later than 31st September 2004. Send to: ASSAP Nominations, ASSAP, PO Box 230, PLYMOUTH, PL1 2ZR.

- 1) your name and address;
- 2) a short account of your interests in the field of anomaly studies (about 75 words), stating why you are a suitable candidate for election to the Executive, including any relevant experience and any previous posts on which you have served on the ASSAP Executive and the ruling bodies of other similar organisations;
- 3) the name, address and signature of your first proposer;
- 4) the name, address and signature of your second proposer;
- 5) a declaration that you are willing to take part in the elections to ASSAP's Executive, signed and dated.

Editor's Note:

Please do consider putting yourself forward and joining the Executive. Any organisation relies on volunteers willing to help with the various aspects of its management and ASSAP is no exception. The various members of the Executive are a friendly bunch (with the possible exception of *** this line cut for legal reasons ***) and it really can be both enjoyable and worthwhile. Oh, and one day you might find yourself as ASSAP Chairman - but don't let that put you off!

Can You Help?

Merseyside-based group ParaScience are conducting a large sample survey into the type of ghost / apparition experiences that people are having - the survey can be accessed via their website www.parascience.org.uk. The more people that take the survey, the better the data the survey will be able to collect.

Ghost Writing

Good and easy this time so even less of a prize. Which 'celebrity scientist' said:

'An open mind is a virtue ...But not so open that your brains fall out.'

The lonely ghost from issue 101 was, of course, the 1984 character Winston Smith.

Name check: Thanks to Charles Snell for his response to my question about the height of the Sun last issue. The competition remains open and the prize unclaimed...

Some Musings on Things Paranormal

- Steve Parsons

For many years paranormal investigators have spoken about the 'Stone Tape' theory as a possible explanation for certain classes of ghostly activity.

The hypothesis being that rather like a TV programme can be recorded onto iron particles coated onto a plastic tape, events can be recorded into the very fabric of buildings or indeed the surrounding earth. The events can be played back at a later time thus causing the viewer to interpret the playback as a ghost.

The main problem with the Stone Tape theory has always been that nobody can find a satisfactory explanation as to how or why the recording actually takes place or how the solid structure and fabric of a location is able to retain the events that took place.

There is another possible hypothesis that is emerging that may well explain how such a mechanism might work and it is supported by some scientists although their research has been in an unrelated area of study and they do not seem to have made the link to it being a potential explanation for some classes of ghost.

The answer might lie in a substance that is a part of just about every location where ghosts might be found - common water!

For well over 200 years people have been using homeopathic medicines and remedies and they are used by millions of people worldwide with much reported success. A natural therapeutic agent was given to the sufferer but this agent was often an antagonist and toxic so that in order to prevent the person from being further harmed they diluted the therapeutic agent in water. In fact they diluted the original substance down so much that effectively all trace of the original agent was removed and the patient was given nothing more than ordinary water.

Of course, science could never accept this as a real world treatment - you can't give someone nothing but water and expect them to get better - but they got better regardless. Science simply ignored it and people continued to use the treatments without really caring how or why they worked.

This all changed in the 1980s when an eminent French scientist Jacques Benveniste, an expert in the field of allergy, made a rather strange discovery.

In particular he was studying a type of blood cell involved in allergic reactions - the basophile. When basophiles come into contact with something you're sensitive to they become activated causing the telltale symptoms. Benveniste had developed a test that could tell if a person was allergic to something or not. He added a kind of dye that only turns inactive basophiles blue, so by counting the blue cells he could work out whether there had been a reaction, but then something utterly unexpected started to happen.

A technician reported that something appeared to have gone wrong with an experiment. A solution had been

wrongly diluted - to levels similar to those used by homeopaths and yet a reaction had been observed in the basophiles: they reacted just as if they had been placed in the presence of the allergen. Suspecting an error had been made the experiment was repeated but again the basophiles reacted - this did not seem to be possible.

Baffled, the team carried out hundreds of experiments in which the results remained consistent. The water, diluted until all trace of the original substance was removed, continued to react as if the substance was still present - the water appeared to have a memory!

The experiment was repeatable and since that time has been repeated by many researchers in labs around the world and, although there remains some controversy about this repeatability, many scientists now accept that the water molecules do seem to be able to retain a memory for the substances in which they have been in contact.

Now for the purposes of this musing it serves little purpose to continue with a discussion as to pros and cons of homeopathy but let us consider the possibility that water might indeed be able to develop a memory. Instead of a Stone Tape how about a 'Water Tape' theory?

Water exists as a component of most things - an average brick wall for instance is between 7 and 15% water, the ground also has high water content, as indeed do we! Let us imagine that by some mechanism the water in everyday objects could have a memory of events placed into it's molecules - how could that happen?

Homeopaths may again be able to help us out here - they have realised that in order to make a remedy it is an important step to strongly agitate the water at every dilution stage - they stress that this is important in order for the water to pick up the therapeutic properties of the agent being diluted. When they agitate the water in this vigorous fashion they are releasing large amounts of kinetic energy into the water. The water also develops a small and slight electro-magnetic charge by this rapid motion and this may well be the energy that is then used to allow the memory to be implanted into the water.

Now let's substitute an event or person who by their actions or mental processes emits sufficient energy to allow the water molecules in nearby structures to become 'fixed' with a memory or record of an event that was taking place. The method may even be easier than that; imagine that our person instead simply exhales and that simple act releases a large quantity of water vapour in the exhaled air and that water vapour has an imprinted memory of the person. The water vapour droplets float free eventually bonding with water droplets in the fabric of the building or location. As they bond, the memory becomes shared and so becomes fixed into the building or landscape.

It is possible to reinforce our case for the existence of a 'Water Tape' still further by examining some aspects of ghostly activity that are often associated with the former Stone Tape theory.

Ghosts seem to have a limited lifespan and almost a 'half-life', fading with time until they are no longer observable. Water in time evaporates and as the original molecules evaporate and disperse the copy of the memory they hold becomes weaker and fainter. The original molecules would continue to pass their imprinted memory to neighbouring molecules but with each successive copy the memory becomes less clear and distinct - this would be similar to mak-

ing many successive copies of a video tape, each copy generation being less clear and more fuzzy than the ones that went before it. The water may evaporate completely for example when the location is subject to high levels of heat or other desiccating factors; this would cause the imprinted memory to disappear completely.

Sometimes ghosts are seen to become 'active' following a disturbance such as when renovation or demolition is carried out. Again, the Water Tape may offer an explanation for this particular phenomenon: deep inside some structures the water may be 'locked' and prevented from evaporation – deep inside the ground or inside a wall or in the foundations of a structure for example. Disturbing that security may cause the water that has been stored perhaps for decades to be released and thus permit its stored memories to be replayed. This stored water would retain a higher quality copy of the original event memory and thus the ghost may be witnessed as a strongly perceived event. Once the water has evaporated then the ghost will fade in a short time – a feature seen in certain reported ghost cases.

Ghosts are also frequently reported in places where there is a close association with water in the environment, such as a stream for example. This constant supply of water may help to retain the imprinted memory or the high levels of saturation may reduce the amount of the original memory molecules evaporating and thus retain the 'freshness' of the event memory recording.

Of course all this is simply nothing more than a series of speculations and musings and full of problems and pitfalls. There remains no hard evidence for the ability of water to be able to develop a memory in the first place but it is interesting how many times in the various labs and experiments the results seem to show this ability.

How then can these imprinted memories be replayed? This could be by a reverse of the recording mechanism for example – the witness has the correct brain physiology and is able to read these recordings as they are played back. Perhaps more simply, the witness may inhale a droplet of water vapour from the air that contains a memory imprinted within it – as this molecule reaches the brain it triggers a wave of copies across the Cerebral Spinal Fluid and thus the brain sees the event as a playback of the encoded events.

How can we devise experiments to test these ideas? Simply put, currently we can't – not yet. Scientists are still struggling with the idea that water even has the ability to develop a memory. The Stone Tape idea has only been tested in a very limited way and no evidence other than anecdotal has been put forward to support the notion of solid matter being able to record events. With a little time to develop the Water Tape theory further and a few more minds working on the idea then perhaps a few experiments will start to be developed and tested in labs and in the field.

The whole concept is currently nothing more than the ramblings of an over-active imagination but the more one thinks about it, the better the hypothesis that instead of a Stone Tape we should thinking of a 'Water Tape'.

Steven Parsons is an ASSAP Accredited Investigator. He co-founded Para.Science 10 years ago with Ann Winsper and is now their Investigation Coordinator. He co-hosts a weekly paranormal radio slot on BBC local radio.

Book Review

The Folklore of Shropshire by Roy Palmer.

Published by Logaston Press. 2004. 340pp. £12.95. ISBN 1 904396 16 X

I'm not quite sure what it is, but there is something about Shropshire that has always held a certain fascination for me. For several years now I have been researching the prehistoric sites, holy wells and churches of the county as well as cases in Shropshire and the Welsh borders. In his latest collection of regional folklore, Roy Palmer goes some way to not only justifying, but also explaining the pull this county has over me.

Many readers will be familiar with Roy's books on the folklore of our region. His books on the folklore of Warwickshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Leicestershire and Gloucestershire mark Roy out as one of the leading folklore researchers in the country.

The book follows a tried and tested format by examining landscape features, well and water, witchcraft, music, song, dance and calendar customs. And why not? If it's not broke, don't fix it I always say. Roy has done an excellent job of delving into the folkloric associations of the county, and as you would expect all the usual Shropshire favourites are here – the Wrekin, Mitchells Fold, the Stipperstones, St.Milborough holy well to name but a few. All of this is mixed with herb lore, weather customs, church lore, rural and industrial folklore and Shropshire characters. Roy should be congratulated for attempting to break the mould usually followed by other folklore books. It is always the easy option to see folklore as a 'dead' subject, full of 'ancient' customs from a non-existent past. These elements are here of course, but we also get a modern twist. So for example in the section dealing with ghosts, instead of simply recounting vernacular stories from the Victorian period, we get mention of the Wem 'ghost photograph' from the late 1990s. It would be easy for someone of Roy's calibre as a recognized authority on folklore to easily dismiss elements such as Wem, but I, and fellow Parasearch members, investigated the case and I can say that this is a fair overview of the whole Wem saga. What I was disappointed not to see was mention of the Green Man Festival at Clun. You could argue that it is not true 'folklore' (whatever that may be!), but it has all the elements of becoming a true piece of living folklore. Historians and researchers in the future will be in the enviable position of being able to have access to a vast amount of photographic, video and Internet material about the festival, something that must be unique.

The book is lavishly illustrated with photographs and illustrations that make it a joy to read. Those nice people at Logaston Press should be congratulated for their extremely high quality of publications and for a nice piece of front cover design. This is what local publishing should be like.

Not only is this book full to every page of fascinating information about the customs, beliefs and legends of the Shropshire landscape, but it is also beautifully produced at a very reasonable price. I am proud to have this book on my shelves – you should be too.

David Taylor

Cross Correspondences?

Dear Editor,

My name is Wojciech Bobilewicz, I live in Warsaw, Poland, and I am a member of your organisation.

I am referring here to the article by Dr Paul Lee called "Orbs - The Sceptical Approach" in the May issue of ASSAP News.

I would like to strongly advocate the opposing view, i.e. that so-called "Orbs" CAN BE of unknown/unearthly/mysterious/spiritual origin. Naturally not all of them, and we can probably with a high level of certainty assume that a vast majority are either hoaxes achieved by manipulating the digital image with widely-accessible computer programs, or else they can be explained in "mundane", technical or scientific terms (e.g. as water or dust particles).

However, some "orbs" that I have seen do not fall into these two categories. While images from photographic cameras (be they traditional or digital) show objects but do not register their BEHAVIOUR, it is not so with video cameras.

I am a member of a Polish research group, called the Nautilus Foundation. While our scope of interests in the inexplicable, paranormal or downright "strange" is very vast - from ancient civilisations and monuments, paleoastronomy and paleontology to UFOs to ghosts and "unorthodox" healing - at the moment the core of our activities is centred on a small village in west-central Poland, called Wylatowo.

This place has, by now, gained the reputation of being the Polish "crop-circles triangle" (whose other peaks are two other not-too-distant places). For four consecutive years now pictograms have been forming on the same fields each year between May and July, with peaks of activity usually in June. We co-operate closely with an American researcher, Ms Nancy Talbott. She, and a British researcher Dan Lobbe, has visited Wylatowo to perform some tests and it is most likely that - except one pictogram which turned out to be human-made - with all probability these pictograms have not been made by human beings.

How does it relate to the issue of "orbs"? Well, since we have by now gained experience in researching the crop circle phenomenon and we do STRONGLY believe that MOST of them have been made by some unknown energy, we decided last year to monitor those fields where we believed pictograms might appear. The monitoring was done 24 hours a day using three industrial B&W cameras with an extended spectrum of vision.

To our surprise, almost every day (or night, rather) we could see orbs of energy (?) floating in the air. These were certainly not birds or insects as their trajectory and characteristics of flight were entirely different and moreover the cameras were sensitive enough to show (even if blurred at times) the wings of insects, not to mention birds. These objects were simply round and were speeding up suddenly from the ground or hovering in the air. One spectacular example shows something suddenly forming on or around the hands of a person standing in the field (the person admitted he hadn't felt or seen anything) and then suddenly "springing up" in the air in a straight line - this "something" also had the familiar "orbital" looks.

Another issue is single "orbs" shot by photo cameras. Some of the shots we have show orbs quite large in size WITH A CLEAR INTERNAL STRUCTURE. These sometimes take a quarter of a frame and do not appear on pictures taken immediately before or after.

Other strange energy (?) forms we have seen took the shape of threads with "hooks" on ends. These "threads" were hanging from the sky, from something up.

To read more about crop circles and their making and other phenomena in Wylatowo and surrounding villages in Poland, please

see:

<http://www.blresearch.com/eyewitness2.html>

<http://www.rense.com/general49/blt.htm>

I hope this adds a bit to our knowledge of and research on the "orbs".

Kindest regards

Wojciech Bobilewicz
Warsaw, Poland

PS - Talking about "strange" things captured by cameras: what do you make out of THIS (of course we can simply assume it's just a hoax and get away with it, but since the intention is to SCIENTIFICALLY study anomalous phenomena, we must first assume there is at least some hint of truth in this before we dismiss it entirely):

<http://www.ufoplaza.nl/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=1715>

[Sorry, but see the competition on P3 for my response to that - Ed]

Dear Sir,

I write regarding the special feature on "orbs" in issue 100 page 4.

The author enters into a great deal of useful speculation with some technical details to back up the hypotheses. The information from Sony regarding the depth of field in digital cameras is correct and would lead to the kind of orb phenomena described. I doubt very much if this accounts for all of the orb phenomena, however, as they have been around well before the advent of digital photography. There are also eyewitness accounts of orbs in parallel with those picked up by the camera. The Internet too, is rife with speculation, theory and counter theory, many theorists falling into the trap of assuming that one theory is sufficient to explain all instances of the phenomenon. The theories, of course, need testing for robustness with some experimentation. In this case the solution would seem to be very simple; set up two video cameras in night-shot mode in a room where the night vigil is to take place, both widely spaced in the room and at right-angles to each other. This way, if the second camera picks up orbs which appear some distance from the first camera which also picks them up, reference to the known sizes of the objects in the room, e.g. a door, the camera, tripod, etc., will enable fairly precise measurement of the orb, both in terms of its dimensions and its distance from the camera. This would, in one fell swoop, prove or eliminate the dust in front of the lens theory and the estimated size, speed and nature of its movements could give strong clues as to whether an insect is the origin of these anomalies or indicate that other theories need to be put forward to explain them.

On the insect theory, using two cameras the precise position of the orb in the room can be mapped. If other objects in that position are in clear focus on the camera, then so should an insect. If, on the other hand, the object still has the fuzzy out-of-focus appearance of a typical orb, then a more sophisticated theory is required to explain it.

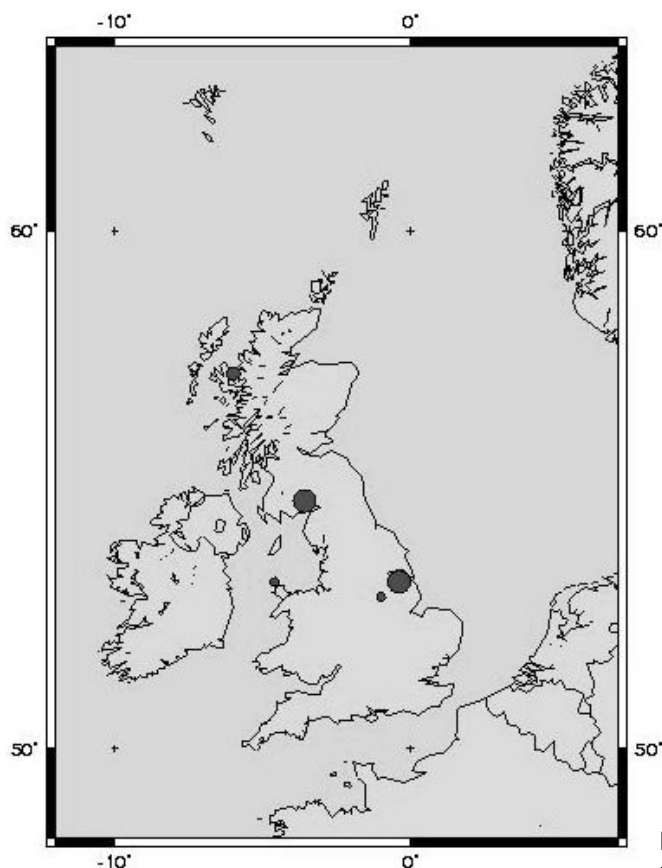
As an interesting aside, the experiment may already have been done inadvertently. The television programme "Most Haunted" (on the "Living TV" channel) seems to film several orbs on every night-time vigil. Some of these occasions must involve two television cameras; all that is required is that someone has the time to check the footage and match up the shots.

Yours sincerely,
Charles A. Snell

[This is an excellent suggestion although a more cynical person than myself might suggest that it might not be in MH's interest to actually perform this test... - Ed]

The Reference Spot

Recent UK Seismic Activity



Date	Time	Lat	Long	Depth (Miles)	Mag	Location
04/08/08	05:06	53.459	-4.604	12.9	0.5	Irish Sea, (just off Anglesey)
04/08/07	04:54	5.107	-3.620	8.0	2.3	Dumfries, (D & G)
04/08/05	15:11	57.478	-5.963	7.5	1.7	Island of Ramsay, offshore
04/07/20	21:10	53.52	-0.367	31.2	2.4	Scunthorpe
04/07/20	16:54	53.231	-0.993	1.7	0.7	Walesby, Notts

This data courtesy of the British Geological Survey
 - more recent information is available from
<http://www.quakes.bgs.ac.uk/recbrit.html>

Solar Terrestrial Activity Index

Note the peak towards the end of July - did anyone notice a sudden increase in the incidence of reports around that time?

Skywatch

September 2004:

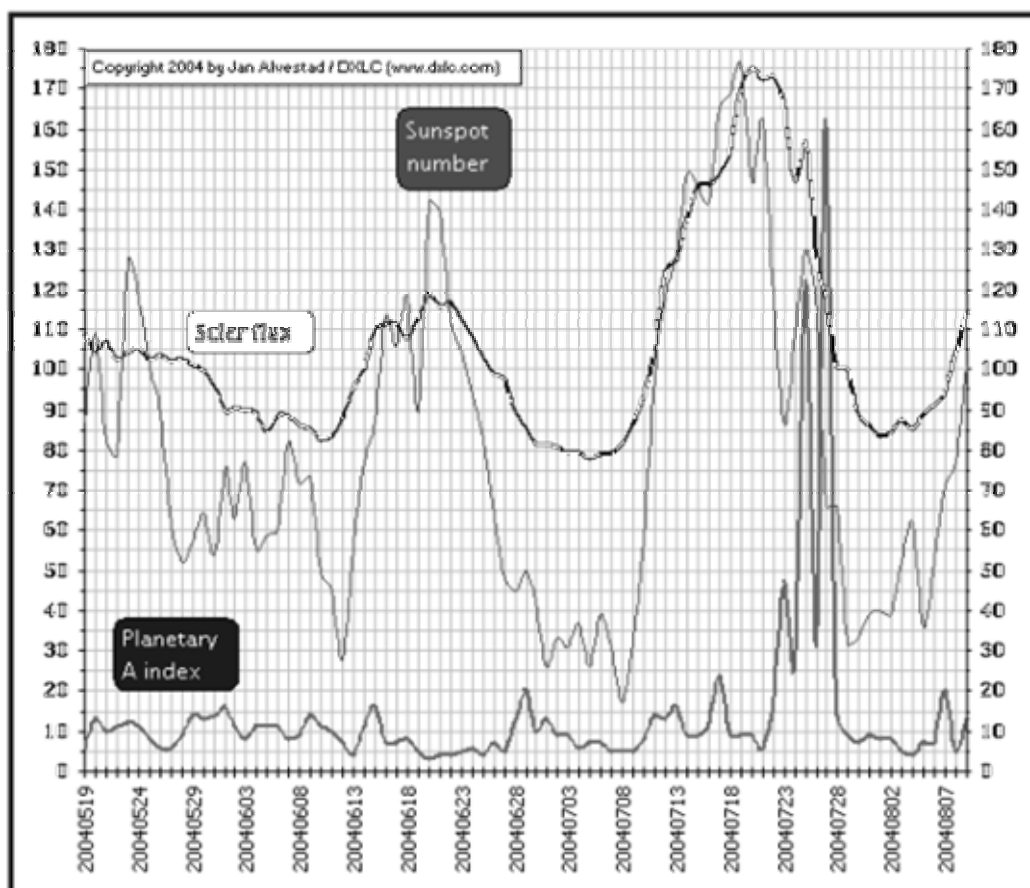
Last Quarter	6th
New Moon	14th
First Quarter	21st
Full Moon	28th

October 2004:

Last Quarter	6th
New Moon	14th
First Quarter	20th
Full Moon	28th

The Autumnal Equinox this year is at 16:00 on September 22nd. Mars and Jupiter will be within 0.18 of a degree of each other on Sept 27th so watch out for those UFO calls...

There will be a lunar eclipse on October 28th.



Groups and Events

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.

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. 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.

London Earth Mysteries Circle (LEMC)

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. 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/

CPSG (Chesterfield Psychic Study Group)

Chesterfield Psychic Study Group (CPSG) meets at the Community Centre, Tontine Road, Chesterfield. For further details, tel (01246) 221971 or visit www.cpsg.co.uk.

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. Further details from www.parascience.org.

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

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 is a Midlands ASSAP regional group covering Worcestershire, Shropshire, Warwickshire and the West Midlands. For more details visit: www.parasearch.org.uk, telephone 0121 550 8874 / 0776 1184837 or send an SAE to Parasearch, 15 Brier Mill Road, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63 3HA.

SPI (Strange Phenomena Investigations)

Meetings are held at The Sols Arms, 65-68 Hampstead Road, London, NW1 2PN at 3:30pm. Admission £6.50 for non-members.

For further details contact: Malcolm Robinson, 8 Hale Gardens, Ealing Common, London, England, W3 9SQ. Tel: 07949 178 835 or email spi_spi@hotmail.com or visit www.spiuk.net.

MARA (Merseyside Anomalies Research Association) meets monthly (usually last Friday of month) in the Ship & Mitre Function Room, 7.30 p.m. onwards. Contact MARA at 18a Parkfield Road, Aigburth, Liverpool, L17 8UJ.

Email: tonyeccles@yahoo.com or call 0151 727 4057

TEMS is an ASSAP-affiliated social and research group for

those living in the south-east, generally meeting in Hampton. For details of membership or the current programme call Ann Hopkins on 020 8542 3110 or Lionel Beer on 020 8979 3148 or write to TEMS, 115 Hollybush Lane, Hampton, Middlesex, TW12 2QY.

Mercia Paranormal Research is a group conducting investigations into Ghosts, Fortean Phenomena, Big Cats, Folklore, etc, in the Shropshire, Herefordshire & Mid Wales areas. Details from 07947 12605 or by email to dek.parton@virgin.net

SPR (Society for Psychical Research)

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

Essex UFO and Paranormal Research Group

For details contact Keith on 01255 426274

www.esse-x-files.org.uk

Mysteries of the World Monthly Meetings

Held on the last Friday of the month at Coronation Hall, Alton Barnes, Wilts. For details email k.blower@btinternet.com or telephone 07761 241276.

Dorset Earth Mysteries Group

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

Ghanon

Paranormal group covering The Whirral, Cheshire and North Wales.

Membership is by invitation - contact Kevin Griffiths-Boden (info@ghanon.co.uk) or see www.ghanon.co.uk

The Shropshire Paranormal Group (T.S.P.G.)

Shropshire-based group dedicated to the scientific approach to verifiable research into paranormal phenomena. TSPG hold social meetings on the second Tuesday of the month throughout the year at "The Haygate Inn", Haygate Road, Wellington, Shrops from about 7:30pm.

Contact 01952 279110 or email info@tspig.org.uk or visit www.tspig.org.uk

SPOOKS - The Chilterns Paranormal Research Group - is organising an all-night vigil at Tutbury Castle on Saturday 27th November 2004. Tickets are priced at £38 per person. For details email sharon@spooks.org.uk or phone: 07795 273324 www.spooks.org.uk

TRAINING DAY

What, forgotten the front page already? Don't forget Training Day this year will be on November 20th at Woodchester Mansion in Gloucestershire. Make sure you reserve the date in your diary. Remember, you need to attend a Training Day to become an Accredited Investigator but, over and above that, it is an excellent chance to take part in an organised vigil, meet up with other ASSAP members, grill the Committee at the AGM, complain about ASSAP News, volunteer to help, buy a few books, scrounge a drink off Hugh, take me to task about ASSAP News...

Unconvention

The Fortean Times Unconvention will be held at the Friends Meeting House, near Euston Station in London over the weekend of 30/31st October. As usual ASSAP will have a presence and this year we hope to be demonstrating some technical equipment and presenting some demonstrations of investigative techniques. However, *we will need volunteers to help us at this event* so if you think you might like to come along and help (it costs nothing and it's fun!) please contact me for further details.

AGM - Official Notification

The ASSAP AGM will be held at 20.00 on 20 November 2004 at Woodchester Mansion, Nympsfield, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 3TS.