

Issue

January 2005

104



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

Ice Cold in Woodchester

As you can see from the photograph attendees at Training Day this year were surprised at their somewhat chilly reception. Choosing a Victorian gothic, stone-built mansion seemed like such a good idea at the time but the combination of glassless windows, freezing temperatures and snow made Training Day this year a weekend to remember!



The survivors... plus orbs!

Despite the inclement conditions 50 keen trainees spent the day learning the ins and outs of investigations and then those both brave and foolhardy enough stayed on for the overnight vigil.

Despite snow actually blowing in through the windows of the mansion at one point the night was both interesting and productive. One witness re-

ported seeing a dog whilst another, from a totally independent group, reported hearing barking from the same location (the caretaker does have a dog but both remained out of sight all night).

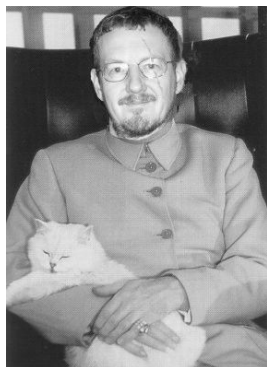
There were reports of strange objects seen in the roof

area and one witness also reported the feeling of being touched by someone or something unseen. All in all, a fascinating building as I'm sure all those who were present will agree.

Editorial

A Day in the Life of a Chairman

Mike White



Having assumed my Chairman's duties I have reluctantly relinquished the sun-drenched shores of the Mediterranean and moved to my Chairman's official residence. Following the untimely demise of Dr Hugh (drowned in the cooling tank of his own nuclear reactor after a particularly argumentative Executive meeting) I have taken control of the underground base hidden deep within the Japanese volcano and adopted the role of *Number One*. Framing an evil sneer in the direction of anyone foolish enough to suggest that I have used this idea before, I have decided to document another day.

There is something of an amusing start to the morning. Jim Clark is admitted and ushered into my august presence. He looks anxious as he crosses over the shark pool which means that he has managed to find a couple of errors in the next issue of ASSAP News. After scanning his list I pass it to my karate-trained female bodyguard and Deputy for correction and summarily dismiss him. He looks even more nervous as he crosses back over the narrow metal bridge and immediately scurries away. I have let him live, for now (but little does he know that he will return home to a gold-plated cat).

The business of the day is quickly and efficiently transacted. A purported SLIDER who did not manage to extinguish a single street lamp in a controlled experiment is tossed to the piranhas ('this organisation does not tolerate failure') but, more profitably, our star PK exponent has managed to adequately mutilate a selection of tableware and I give the go-ahead for further experiments under the project title of Spoonbreaker. As an example to my associates a spy from the Ghost Club caught attempting to infiltrate the organisation is ejected from the ASSAP Airship and becomes our resident SPEC-TRE. Finally, a representative from a Welsh paranormal cabal arrives with an offer of cooperation in the subjugation of the Principality. Rather than have him executed on the spot, in a moment of rare good humour I agree to an alliance - after all my motto has always been live and let Dai.

Throughout the day reports arrive and, sadly, many of the projects managed by the Executive are experiencing problems. There may be positions vacant shortly; as soon as Maurice has sharpened his bowler hat in fact. For example, ASSAP's efforts to confound the cryptozoological community by genetically enhancing blue whales has run into serious difficulty: it seems all our experimental specimens are too easily distracted by a view to a krill. Similarly an attempt to infiltrate double-agent Hugh Pincott as a saboteur into the SPR has ended in ill-feeling towards me from the group, quite unlike the reaction from Malcolm Robinson and the SPI who loved me. Still my revenge is already in hand: I intend to summon a supernatural entity to haunt their HQ. I had originally planned to use a poltergeist but I think a creature from hell would be better; after all a poltergeist is likely to fade after a couple of months but demons are forever.

I hold an Executive meeting towards the end of the afternoon. One by one the Executive make their reports: ASSAP business is proceeding according to my master plan. Our relentless assault on the media is assured when the twenty-third series of Most Haunted enters production thus reducing the brains of the population of Britain to the consistency of gruel. The disinformation campaign orchestrated by Paul Lee (or Number Six as he is referred to at all times since he is not a free man but a number) has already started to cause rifts in the paranormal research community. Soon ASSAP will step into the chaos and Bill Eyre's ecto-troopers will impose a rule of iron in haunted locations across the land. Ah, I can hardly wait...

My final speech to the meeting is a great success, so much so that instead of going straight to my personal monorail I return to the table to say a few further words as an encore before departing. I do not return again: after all, you only leave twice.

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

CHAIRMAN: Mike White

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Wendy Milner

GENERAL SECRETARY: Maurice Townsend

TREASURER: Maurice Townsend

ARCHIVES & LIBRARY OFFICER: James Clark

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS CO-ORDINATOR (NIC): William Eyre

DEPUTY NIC: Dylan Jones

NATIONAL RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR (NRC): Hugh Pincott

EQUIPMENT OFFICER: Position Vacant

GROUPS OFFICER: Wendy Milner

HUMAN RESOURCES: Hugh Pincott

MEDIA SUPPORT OFFICERS: Geoff and Helen Wilkins

OMBUDSMAN: Anne Spencer

PUBLICATIONS OFFICER: Val Hope

SPECIAL PROJECTS OFFICER: Position Vacant

TECHNICAL OFFICER: Paul Lee

OTHER MEMBERS: Mel Warren, Greg Hill

SPECIALIST PANEL

Gareth Goodwin

John Gledson

Martyn Taylor

Terry Hewitt

Justin Cowell

Michael Lewis

Steve Parsons

Ian Percy

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

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You can log in to the ASSAP website members area with the username ASSAP and the password 'haunted'

The Fanthorpe Column

Lionel and friendly orb at UnConvention
- see Page 4...



For those who weren't at Training Day this column comprises the President's address to the AGM on November 20th 2004.

First, our profound apologies for not being able to attend, as Patricia and I would have greatly enjoyed being with you at this AGM. We can only plead immense work pressure. It's wonderful to be wanted, and it's a thousand times more pleasant to be inundated with work into the foreseeable future rather than to worry where the next job's coming from! So we never complain, and we enjoy the many and varied jobs we undertake.

Second, we want to wish all our ASSAP friends and colleagues every success in the future development of this first-rate association, and in all forthcoming investigations and researches.

Third, not that ASSAP needs any justification, we want to re-emphasise the very real, intellectual, and philosophical importance of what ASSAP does and what ASSAP stands for. The old Greek philosophers said: "The unexamined life is not worth living". They were absolutely right. This stupendous and mysterious universe contains more than enough anomalous phenomena to keep us all fully occupied for the next million years. Life is too complex and too esoteric to be fully understood even by the Einsteins and Hawkings among us, but that's no reason why we shouldn't try to understand it as much as we can. It is just as true intellectually as it is physically that a march of 10 000 miles begins with the first step. ASSAP has already taken a great many steps: let's resolve to keep on going!

Our warmest wishes to you all.

Lionel and Patricia
(Pres and Lady One)

Changes, Changes...

The more eagle-eyed of you may have noticed a few changes to the Executive listing this issue. I would like to welcome long-time ASSAP member Bill Eyre as the new NIC and Dylan Jones as his Deputy. Both Bill and Dylan have extensive experience in running local groups and so are ideally placed to lead ASSAP's investigations team.

You may also have noticed that the old Specialist Subject listing has now been replaced by a Specialist Panel to handle incoming research enquiries. This is an idea that has been under consideration for some time and we hope it will allow a more 'holistic' (sorry) approach to our research activities. Heading up the new panel as National Research Co-ordinator will be our outgoing Chairman Hugh Pincott. Hugh took over the Chairmanship of the Association at a critical time and I would just like to take the opportunity to thank him publicly for his dedication and inspiring leadership. ASSAP's present state of health is entirely due to his efforts over the past year (they'll say that about me next year too: I hope it's a good thing then...) and I hope we can all continue to maintain the momentum he has built up.

Just two more - as an Executive member ex-Research Officer Jim Clark will remain as part of the Specialist Panel but has agreed to take over as the new Librarian (see p6 for more on that...) and -ta-daa- Group Liaison supremo Wendy Milner has kindly offered to become the new Deputy Chairman (cue for kicking off shoes and relaxing!).

Space prevents me outlining a couple of forthcoming events here so watch this space next time.

Oh, yes, the bad news. I'm staying on as ASSAP News Editor for the duration...

Mike White

ASSAP Supporter Leaves Belgrave

Stuart Warburton, Curator of Belgrave Hall near Leicester, has, sadly for ASSAP, moved on to another position. Since the initial investigation in Feb 1999 Stuart has put both ASSAP and myself in the front line for the majority of TV, radio and other work which involved the investigations at Belgrave. We have also both given talks on the work at the Melton Mowbray 'Mind Body and Spirit' group. The 'Tag Team' worked very well with Stuart as the Curator and me as the investigator.

We have conducted many vigils and two Training Days at the Hall, & apart from the Training Days, the vigils did not cost us a penny, a considerably generous gesture considering that many places now charge per investigator just to get in!

Stuart took it upon himself to offset any charges - security, etc - by being with us personally. This was extra-curricular, between being the Managing Curator not only of Belgrave Hall but also the Abbey Pumping Station. Over the years Stuart and I have become good friends and I know personally that he has worked under a lot of pressure, and has been in considerable pain due to a back problem. Despite all this he has always been there for ASSAP and I would like to express our gratitude and wish him all the best for the future.

Terry Hewitt

See your name in print

Apologies for the slightly late arrival of this ASSAP News. Lack of space meant some letters have been held over until next time - if you would like to contribute please get something to me via the usual channels by...oh, as soon as you can.

Unconvention Report



It has become something of an ASSAP tradition to attend the Fortean Times annual UnConvention in London and this year was no exception. Rather than attempt to repeat last year's Paranormal Olympics in the restricted space available at the new venue of the Friends Meeting House we decided to do something a little different, hence our posters proclaiming: *Have Your Picture Taken With a Ghost!*

If only we could guarantee such a thing of course. In fact we were offering the next best thing which was to take photographs of attendees with their own personal orbs, or a close approximation anyway. While terminology in this area is woefully imprecise our aim was to produce simple still digital images showing 'classic orbs' in an attempt to demonstrate how easily such pictures can be produced. While, of course, it is not possible to say that all orb photographs are produced by natural causes we were hoping to demonstrate that anyone taking such a picture should look to a natural explanation first before leaping to the conclusion that something paranormal was happening.



The photographs were taken using two methods: the wet and the dry. Maurice Townsend and Val Hope were simulating the effect of a dusty atmosphere by sprinkling flour in front of the camera lens whereas



Mike White was using a simple plant mister to recreate the damp conditions often found within old properties. Surprisingly both methods produced similar orbs although the dry method tended to produce a crisper image whereas the water droplets seemed more ethereal and to show more internal structure.

Over the weekend more than a hundred UnConvention attendees volunteered to risk a dusting and/or soaking; some of the resulting photographs are shown here. Ian Simmons, one of the Fortean Times editorial team and director of an interactive science centre in the Midlands, was so taken with the idea that he faxed details of the demonstration forward to his team for inclusion in their Halloween programme!

There has been much discussion on the subject of orbs recently: perhaps ASSAP News readers might like to perform some similar experiments in this area themselves?



How it's done... Photos M White & Val Hope

Keith Weim

Can I just add my thanks to Marjorie Allworth (pictured left with orbs) and Lionel Beer for their help at UnConvention. See the next ASSAP News for details of a new ASSAP research project which aims to look more seriously into this subject. Mike W.

Specialist Subject Slot

Forteana—an Introduction

By Justin Cowell

The Devil's hoofprints in the snow. Sailing ships spotted on icebergs. Whole villages vanishing. The miracle at Lourdes. The Turin Shroud. The Mary Celeste. The list goes on. When I was nine or ten years old, stories such as these captured and aroused my imagination and interest. Today, phenomena such as these can not be easily pigeon-holed. They may take aspects from hauntings, mythology, religious belief and alien sightings to name but a few. The *really* interesting articles contain a combination of all of these. They find themselves in that mysterious bracket which is forteana.



Photos: German Pereira - www.ovniaventura.cl

When I was asked to look at forteana within ASSAP, my initial reaction was, to be blunt, “bloody hell I’ve got to look at potatoes in the shape of Elvis Presley”, or some such other nonsense. And yet, as I have looked more deeply into the world of fortean phenomena I have re-discovered my youth. There are stories, photographs, eye-witness accounts and testimonies on a global scale which continue to have me scratching my head for plausible, rational and scientific answers. Take for example the photograph of a possible ‘alien’ by one German Pereira, taken in Santiago, Chile. Almost immediately, one rushes to the conclusion that this is merely a digital image cleverly doctored or a trick of the light, or an animal of some kind. But what really captures my interest is quite how good this photograph is. For me, it still has that ‘wow factor’ which makes you think, for a very small amount of time, that this might, just might be photographic evidence of alien life. Of course, fortean phenomena have been doing this to generations of people who truly believe that what

they are seeing is an alien, or the image of Jesus Christ, or Elvis, or the image of long-dead Aunt Judy in a pot of paint. Only recently, you may recall that on that tragic day on September 11th, thousands of people reported seeing the image of Osama Bin Laden in the burning smoke which rose from the Twin Towers.



Ever since Charles Fort argued against the scientific practice of disregarding evidence that did not fit the norm or which could not be replicated under laboratory conditions, organisations such as the Charles Fort Institute have fought to conduct further research into these strange yet thoroughly absorbing phenomena, which elude scientific explanation.

It is human nature to question the world around us and to seek answers from it. Until that time when every aspect of magic or mystery, superstition and folklore has been replaced with scientific rationalism, there will always be a place for fortean phenomena. Such phenomena continue to sit proudly just left of the middle, without label, but mystifying and perplexing us at every turn.

Justin Cowell works as a primary school teacher and spends any spare time taking photographs of the local area and changing his daughter's nappies.

Ghost Writing

From last time: Madame Rue made her money “Sellin’ little bottles of Love Potion Number Nine” - at least according to the Searchers. The song was also covered by the Beatles and, to my mind at least, in its definitive form by the Tygers of Pan Tang.

And, staying with ‘popular’ music (get the answer to understand the quotes), where do these lines come from?

The table is rumbling...
the table is rumbling
the glass is moving
“No, I was NOT pushing that time”

Answer... well, you can guess.

The Librarian's Tale

A slightly tongue-in-cheek report from departing Librarian **Adam Bailey**

ASSAP Library and Archives Annual Report 2004

ASSAP's collection of books, held at The University of London's Central Library in Senate House, London, continues to be a small, dark and hard-to-find recess, hidden deep in the dimly-lit corridors of a building which rather strangely seems to resemble the main location featured in Ghostbusters.

The Librarian, sadly retiring, sorry, a sad, retiring member of the Executive for the last seven years is now reaching the final stint of his guardianship of the dusty bookshelves known as the ASSAP Library.

Nearing the end of many years travelling up to London to spend hours squatting in the narrow confines between the heaving bookshelves, Adam reflects on what must be the golden years of a librarian's career.

"My journey would normally start about 8.30am on a Saturday, as I had to negotiate the London traffic early enough to avoid the long queues along the north side of the Thames. Having reached the library I would then struggle to find a parking place. Some wise spark had instigated the strategically mind-bending, illogical move of removing half the parking places to replace them with spaces for motorbikes – maybe the wheel clamps were easier to fit on motorcycles than my 4x4 pickup?"

Adam smiles as he remembers the enjoyable hours chatting with the University students. "Bloody nightmare! Every time I'd go up, it was a different face, never the same student twice. I would take an introductory letter to prove who I was but since it was signed by Dr John Lord, long since retired and dated 1897 none of the students believed it was genuine anyway. So, after a long hair-pulling ritual of trying to convince them that the key was indeed held in the Circulation Desk Drawer (not that some of them even knew where that was!), they would produce the key and try to cut me a deal by exchanging the intro letter for the key as if the letter was some kind of legal University currency. I did make the mistake once, only to find their physics department had teleported it down two floors before I could collect it again. Don't ask me why. I was too speechless to even ask them."

Of course, it's not all fun and laughter being an ASSAP librarian as Adam explains. "You have to take the lift to the 7th floor. That sounds easy, but try backing a loaded sack trolley with ten boxes on through a lift door that seems to have been last serviced in 1934. If

you manage to get in before getting the wheels jammed in the closing door, you'll find the buttons quaintly held together with Sellotape (or whatever they used when Kennedy was shot).

Having meandered for some hours through the maze of Pentagon-like corridors, Adam would eventually reach the door labelled 'ASSAP Library'. Once through this door, a whole world of paranormal literature can be found, like an Aladdin's cave of ghost hunting manuals. "Just try to remember where the light switch is, just behind the Latin studies version of 'Ancient Wheel Clamping Sites of Greece.'" Of course, ASSAP's library is privileged to be able to call Senate House 'home'. "No, it doesn't have any windows," explains Adam. "In fact, it's located directly behind the lift shaft so apart from the occasional sounds of whirring mechanics and distant calls for help from the fourth floor, it's rather peaceful, if rather dark."

Yes, ASSAP can boast one of the world's darkest paranormal libraries. "It's even darker than that sometimes. If the caretaker doesn't remember to replace the light bulb (but to be fair to the chap, he hasn't ventured into that room for over twenty years), then the only way of retrieving books is by torchlight. Last time I went up there, my torch batteries were running down, the single light bulb had gone (some student obviously decided it was better shining in his dingy accommodation than in the library) and I had less than two minutes to get the books I was after and get out before the torch died and left me stranded."

But now the library will be bidding farewell to the tireless work of another ASSAP librarian, one of ASSAP's fearless foot soldiers in the battle to preserve over one hundred years of paranormal literature for future generations (well, at least for the two members who have used the postal service this year).

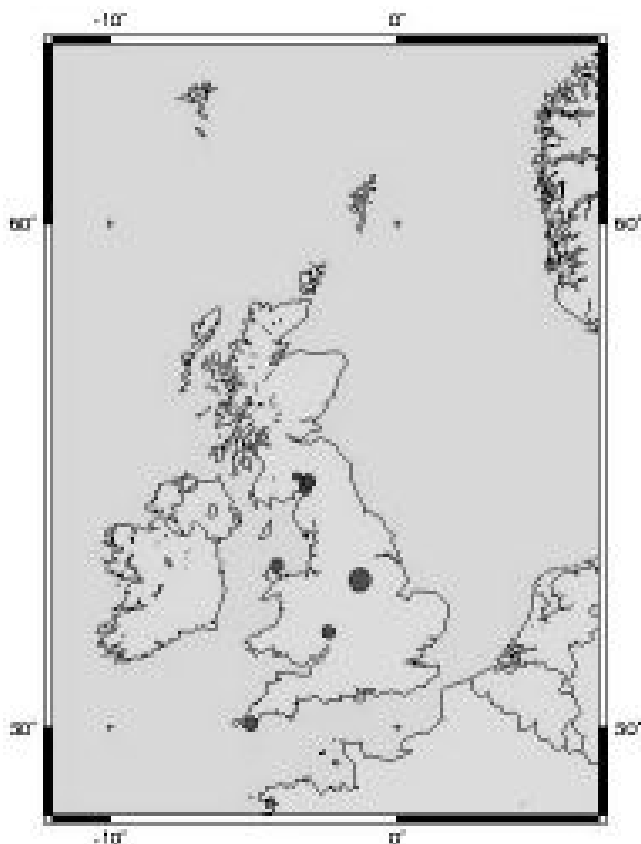
"I'll miss the old place," said Adam. "It had a certain air of...dust. I do hope the next librarian carries on the hard work I've put in over the years." The previous librarian to Adam is alleged to be still wandering through the Geological Curiosities section on the third floor, muttering something about ley-line guidebooks and looking for the exit but as the last sighting was 1998, ASSAP's team of rescue workers has since had to call off the search.

We asked what Adam would like to leave as a lasting statement to the never-ending work of an ASSAP librarian. He replied, "Would the last person please turn off the lights..."

Adam Bailey has been ASSAP Librarian *forever* and we would like to publicly offer our thanks for all his years of hard work both with the library and the ASSAP bookshop. When not running his own garden design business he likes to relax apparently.

New Librarian, Jim Clark, was not allowed to read this piece before accepting the position...

Recent UK Seismic Activity



Date	Time	Lat	Long	Depth (Miles)	Mag	Location
2004/12/30		55.222	-3.119	6.4	-0.3	ESKDALEMUIR, D+G
2004/12/29		55.127	-3.205	4.3	1.1	LOCKERBIE, D+G
2004/12/27		55.201	-3.139	4.3	1	ESKDALEMUIR, D+G
2004/12/26		55.218	-3.119	6.2	0.3	ESKDALEMUIR, D+G
2004/12/25		55.219	-3.112	6.5	0.2	ESKDALEMUIR, D+G
2004/12/24		55.254	-3.464	12	0.4	JOHNSTONEBRIDGE
2004/12/21		55.22	-3.116	6.4	-0.2	ESKDALEMUIR, D+G
2004/12/20		53.24	-1.263	1	2.3	BOLSOVER, DERBY
2004/12/20		50.095	-5.137	6.2	1	FALMOUTH, CORNWALL
2004/12/16		53.469	-4.211	14.8	1.1	OFF ANGLESEY

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

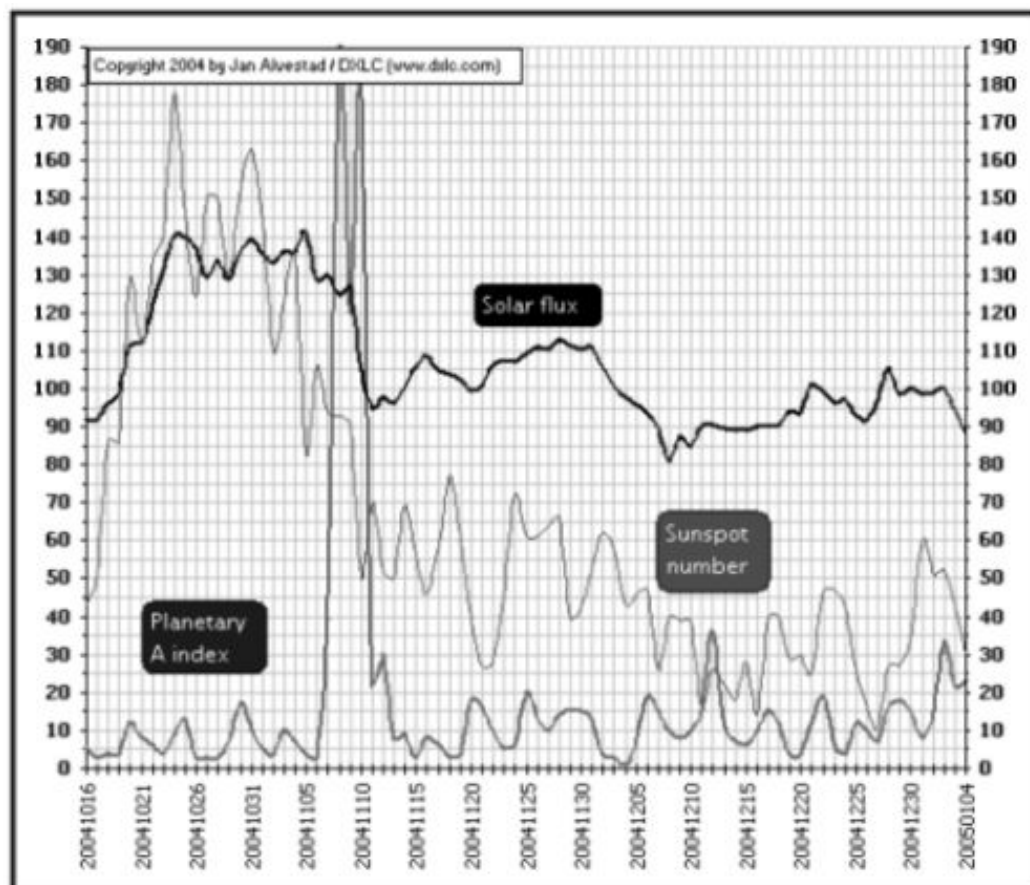
Lunar Phases

January 2005:

Last Quarter	3rd
New Moon	10th
First Quarter	17th
Full Moon	25th

February 2005:

Last Quarter	2nd
New Moon	8th
First Quarter	16th
Full Moon	24th



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.

London Earth Mysteries Circle (LEMC)

LEMC meets in the Meeting Room at the Diorama Centre, 34 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1, beginning at 7.00pm. 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/

CPSG (Chesterfield Psychic Study Group)

February 11th AGM and Yorkshire Ghosts - Video and discussion

March 11th Trance Mediumship—Demonstration by Sandy Sinclair.

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.

February 26th Marcus Allen - Ancient Egyptian Technology

March 26th Lynn Debenham - The Miracle Men of Brazil and Carol Cochrane - Crop Circles: An ET Agenda.

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, 7.30pm onwards. The pub is in Liverpool city centre, at 133 Dale Street, near the Old Tunnel entrance. Parking opposite the venue. There's an admission charge of £2.50 to cover the cost. Contact MARA at 18a Parkfield Road, Aigburth, Liverpool, L17 8UJ.

Email: tonyeccles@yahoo.com.

Or ring: Anthony Eccles on 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 Fortean is a new group conducting investigations into Ghosts, Fortean Phenomena, Big Cats, Folklore, etc, in the Shropshire, Herefordshire & Mid Wales areas. Meetings to take place on the first Monday of the month. Details from Gareth Goodwin 07753 473028 or by email to gareth@goodwin5918.freemove.co.uk

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

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, Wharnccliffe Road, Boscombe at 7.15pm. Entrance £3.00

Ghanon

Paranormal group covering The Wirral, Cheshire and North Wales.

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

Parapsychology Course.

Dr Jason Braithwaite is running a new course for Lancaster University's Department of Continuing Education in February 2005 called Parapsychology & Haunted Houses. It is spread out over the weekends of 19-20th and 26-27th February at 'The Rum Story' and Muncaster Castle, both in Cumbria. The course takes a scientific approach to the topic and covers a variety of aspects of the study of ghosts and hauntings. The cost for the four days is £98. Full details can be found at:

http://www.lancs.ac.uk/depts/conted/openstudies/courses/psycho/parapsychology_and_haunted_house.htm

Thanks

A big thankyou to Sonya Brown for donating a considerable number of books to the ASSAP library.

A Plea

Darren O'Connell, a Media student at the University of Lincoln, is making a radio documentary on the legend of *Robin Hood* and is looking for contributors and general 'experts' in the field to help with the programme. If you can help please let me know through the usual channels and I will put you in touch.