



Issue 112

May 2006

www.assap.org

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

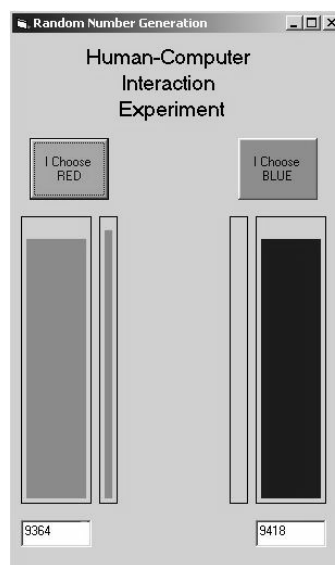
## Random Jottings...

The Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research lab ([www.princeton.edu/~pear](http://www.princeton.edu/~pear)) has been looking at the question of whether the mind can affect the operation of electronic equipment for quite some time but this year ASSAP decided to use the 2006 Fortean Times Unconvention over the late May Bank Holiday Weekend to try some live experiments along the same lines.



Concentration... Photo: V. Hope

For those of you who have never been to an Unconvention it is a one-, or this year two-, day collection of talks on topics both weird and wonderful: this year featured mermaids; Mongolian death worms; the *real* Priory of Sion; UFOs and many other topics of interest. Plus more paranormal and New Age bookstands than you could shake a witches broom at as well as four intrepid ASSAP rep-



resentatives manning an exhibitors stand opposite another from the Centre for Fortean Zoology. Attendees at Uncon. vary widely but all could be said to have an interest of some sort in our area so we were guaranteed a receptive audience.

The experiment consisted of two parts, both of which were based on PCs running random number generator (RNG) programs. In fact the output actually depended on the last fractional digit of the voltage level in the computer circuitry. This meant that, just possibly, it would be possible to mentally influence the output of the program.

The 'Group Exercise' was inspired by Hugh Pincott's



Wendy Milner takes it seriously...not!

(Continued on page 5)

# Editorial

Mike White

Well, since Lionel brought the subject up...

Da da-da da da da daaaa da-daaaa

Voiceover: 'These are the voyages of the Starship ASSAP, its 25 year mission to seek out new life-after-death, split the odd infinitive and ... well, you get the drift.'

Chairman's Log: Stardate May...ish.

Following the usual reports of unexplained activity the crew and I beam down to the mysterious planet, Vigil-8. Dave operating the equipment is wearing an anorak and carrying a notebook: I suppose that is why they call it a trainspotter beam. Apart from myself the away team comprises Science Officer Mr Townsend, Medical Officer Dr 'Orbs' Lee, Chief Engineer 'Cotty' Pincott, Communications Specialist Val Hope (looking fetching in skin-tight lycra) and various other members of the Exec in starring roles, mostly as nameless security guards. As is traditional the Romantic Leads are wearing fetching yellow sweatshirts, Science Crew are in pale blue and Security and other expendables are in red. Many of the party are shuffling uncomfortably as they compare uniforms...

Not entirely unexpectedly we find ourselves in a disused quarry and split into small, easily-ambushed groups to explore. Without warning a strange light drifts into view from behind a curiously artificial-looking rock. James Clark shouts in alarm. 'Look at that orb - is it a ghost?'

'No', I reply, 'it's life Jim, but not as we know it'.

'Cotty' gives me a withering look. 'The satire canna take the strain Captain', he comments.

'The only way this will be satire is if you lift up my Chairman's seat' I quip. There is a gurgling scream from somewhere off screen. I didn't think the joke was *that* bad.

Clearly however the locals disagree and a disembodied voice demands one member of the crew as a hostage against further dreadful puns. 'Take your Pick', I comment, rather thoughtlessly. Caroline looks at me in horror as she is promptly snatched away by a creature resembling a giant needle...

We briefly discuss tactics to distract the creature and rescue Caroline but the best suggestion, 'make it sew', is rejected as being from the next series and we swiftly move on with the plot instead. (For those of you who worry about this sort of thing, Caroline makes a reappearance in a later episode where it turns out she has been enslaved and forced to run an alien tombola: fortunately she is not bitter that we abandoned her to her fate.)

For no easily-discernable reason the aliens turn out to be obsessed with games of all sorts. We distract them by teaching them Earth card games: 'Mark, you take canasta; Cherill, you're in charge of poker; Mr Townsend - you have the Bridge.' The card play turns out to be a bad idea as the locals are adept in the art of table-tilting and cheat abominably. Mustering our psychic powers we turn the tables on *them* and a fracas develops. In the ensuing chaos we invoke the emergency fish transporter device (hence the expression 'bream me up') and return to the ship. Val is on a winning streak and remains on the surface. This is entirely her own choice: never let it be said that anyone in ASSAP abandoned Hope.

The Science Officer, however, is incredulous. 'You left Val behind? I don't believe my ears.'

'No-one believes *your* ears Mr Townsend...'

Roll closing credits. Da da-da da da da... etc., etc., etc.

## No Sooner Written...

Typical. No sooner do we publish a piece about the Executive than it's all change...

*Dylan Jones*, our erstwhile Deputy-NIC, has had to step down due to a new role at work taking him all over the country for long hours and making it impossible for him to remain meaningfully involved in the busy Deputy-NIC position. Since begging and pleading have failed to change his mind all that remains is to thank Dylan for all the hard work he has put in on ASSAP's behalf during his stint on the Exec. *Cherill Penton* has kindly offered to step into Dylan's shoes as Deputy-NIC and doubtless she has already been in touch with a number of you about AI Cards and the AI Newsletter.

The more eagle-eyed of you may have noticed one important exclusion from my Executive listing last issue: that of our Ombudsman. This is largely because *Anne Spencer*, who had the dubious pleasure of occupying the post at the time, had also asked to step down and we were in the process of identifying a replacement. Anne has been our Ombudsman (officially a point of final arbitration in disputes between members but in unofficial practice also an Agony Aunt and confidante) for many years and I hope never to see her memoirs published... The position is largely a thankless one so I would like to take the opportunity of saying thanks just this once before we finally say '*ave atque vale*'. And thanks to *Mel Warren* for offering to take her place...

## ERRATUM:

Apologies to Craig Coomber who got missed off the listing of the Specialist Panel last time...

## The Executive

CHAIRMAN: Mike White (chairman@assap.org)  
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Val Hope (deputy.chairman@assap.org)  
GENERAL SECRETARY: Maurice Townsend  
TREASURER: Maurice Townsend (treasurer@assap.org)  
ARCHIVES & LIBRARY OFFICER: James Clark (library@assap.org)  
NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS CO-ORDINATOR (NIC): William Eyre (investigations@assap.org)  
DEPUTY NIC: Cherill Penton (deputy.nic@assap.org)  
NATIONAL RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR (NRC): Hugh Pincott (research@assap.org)  
GROUPS OFFICER: David Taylor (groups@assap.org)  
HUMAN RESOURCES: Hugh Pincott  
MEDIA SUPPORT OFFICERS: Steve Hall, Dave Wood (media@assap.org)  
MEMBERS EVENTS: Caroline Pick (events@assap.org)  
OMBUDSMAN: Mel Warren  
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER: Val Hope  
TECHNICAL OFFICER: Paul Lee (technical@assap.org)  
EQUIPMENT OFFICER: Caroline Searley (equipment@assap.org)  
OTHER MEMBERS: Mark Cave, Greg Hill, Wendy Milner

## SPECIALIST PANEL

Gareth Goodwin, John Gledson, Terry Hewitt, Justin Cowell, Michael Lewis, Steve Parsons, Ian Percy, Craig Coomber.

NOTE: ASSAP has no corporate views. Opinions expressed in ASSAP News are those of the authors and individual members concerned. Especially in editorials...

# The Fanthorpe Column

Following several recent requests for lectures and broadcasts on the da Vinci Code, and with the film due out soon, we thought it might be interesting to share a few thoughts on it with our ASSAP friends and colleagues. The core of Dan Brown's best-selling tale is that the Priory of Sion guarded the secret of Christ's marriage to Mary Magdalene (who could also have been Mary of Bethany, and/or the woman with the alabaster jar of spikenard). There are also theories that when the hypocritical, self-righteous Scribes and Pharisees claimed to have caught a hapless, unnamed girl in the act of adultery and to have taken her to Jesus for judgement, she also might have been Mary Magdalene.



They thought that their trick question was unanswerable. If Jesus had told them to stone her, he would have been disobeying Roman law: only the Roman Governor could pass a death sentence. If he had told them not to stone her, they would have accused him of contradicting the Mosaic Law. Faced with what looked like a no-win situation, Jesus answered: "Let the man who is without sin among you cast the first stone at her." Unsurprisingly, no one picked up a stone. Had his cunning enemies thought that if it was his own wife whom they had accused, he would have been so angry that he would have ordered them to kill her? Then, of course, they would have trotted off to the Romans and glibly reported that he was a dangerous insurgent who had urged them to disobey the Governor.

The best way to read Dan Brown's best-seller is as 'faction' – an interesting narrative supported by frequent references to real-life unsolved mysteries of the kind that interest ASSAP. First, there are the historical mysteries of whether Jesus and Mary really were married, whether they had children, and – if so – what became of those children afterwards: always assuming that they existed in the first place. Then there are the conspiracy theory mysteries associated with the so-called Priory of Sion. Leaving aside the relatively modern group going by that name in the 1950s and linked suspiciously to Pierre Plantard, one big question is whether various secret organisations were around from earliest times – millennia before the Christian era – perhaps opposing one another, perhaps guarding, perhaps controlling, and perhaps exploiting our earliest ancestors.

An even more intriguing question is whether they are still around and what they're up to in our 21st century. Von Daniken Land and theories of palaeocontact are dangerous areas for rigorous, scientific explorers – but danger has never deterred ASSAP. Like the classical Star Trek crew, we boldly penetrate those controversial fields of research where other, more conventional, scientists hesitate to tread.

Dan Brown's story – whether in text or film – performs a worthwhile service for those of us who are interested in unsolved mysteries, and who have an unquenchable thirst for the truth – however odd it may turn out to be when we find it.

He points at many strange things including: the Saunières, painters like da Vinci, the Louvre pyramid, the codes and symbols in Rosslyn Chapel and the Templar mysteries.

Having been involved with the Rennes-le-Château mystery and the so-called Grail secret of Jesus and Mary Magdalene and their hypothetical children for well over thirty years, we can only conclude that the Jesus-married-Mary hypothesis is not yet proven. But there is considerable mileage in it, and it is too important to be ignored. The problem is exacerbated because the opposing sides refuse to recognize that there is a harmonious synthesis of their widely varying views.

Christian traditionalists and fundamentalists perceive Jesus as the unique Son of God with a vital mission of salvation to be undertaken during his incarnation. They think this mission precluded marriage to Mary.

Those who go along with the Jesus-married-Mary theory see it as precluding his divinity. They argue that if he was of the Royal House of David and had married Mary Magdalene, a Royal Benjaminite Princess, then he was merely an earthly king-in-waiting, a distinct political threat to the Herodians and the occupying Romans – who promptly killed him. Supporters of this hypothesis deny Christ's divinity and his resurrection. In one of their versions he recovered from the crucifixion and went to live in France with Mary and their children. In another version, he died on the cross. There was no resurrection, and the widowed Mary simply escaped to France with the children and lived near Rennes-le-Château.

But in our opinion, there is a third, and better, answer to the riddle: Christians believe that Jesus was perfect God and perfect man simultaneously. The greatest gift God offers us in this world is the fulfilment of human love in the arms of a totally committed and loving partner. To be a caring husband, a passionate lover and a protective father completes a man's life. The Church's incomprehensible admiration of celibacy, and its nervous misgivings about good, honest, healthy, sexual pleasure, are among its most persistent and serious errors. Being Mary's loving husband and the father of her children enhances Christ's humanity without in any way detracting from his divinity.

Best of luck to Dan Brown and his da Vinci Code!

Lionel and Patricia

(Pres and Lady One)

---

## Ghost Writing

And the answer to last issue's teaser:

Eleventy-one? Bilbo's birthday party of course.

And for next time something entirely different...

In Celtic legend, if approached by a ghost what should you do to scare it away?

Don't forget that you can access the Members' Area of the website using the username *assapmember* and the password *haunted*.

# Events News

## Investigations

## ADVANCED Training Day

### The Talbot, Leicester

Frustratingly, the first planned night at The Talbot in April had to be cancelled at literally the last minute following anguished apologies from the hotel Landlord. In the best tradition of crisis management most of those originally booked to attend this investigation have transferred to other dates later in the year.

The next (OK, probably that should now read the *first*) visit to The Talbot will take place on **June 10th**. See enclosed booking form if you would like to come along. This event is open to all ASSAP members but due to the intimate nature of the venue we will be limited to 12 attendees per session. Each night's vigil will start at 12 Midnight and finish at around 6am; further details will be sent to attendees closer to the night.

### Woodchester Mansion, Gloucestershire

The next in our series of organised investigations takes place on **July 15th** at Woodchester Mansion, near Stroud in Gloucestershire. For those of you who attended Training Day at Woodchester in 2004 I have been promised that the weather will be rather warmer in July than November! Certainly I'm not expecting snow but you can never tell... Obviously, since the...er, *Mansion*... is considerably larger than The Talbot we are not so restricted on numbers for this event. To allow plenty of time you can also use the enclosed booking form for the Woodchester night.

If you would like to attend both nights please feel free to copy the form or squeeze all the details in if you can. As usual, if you lose your booking form for any of these events you can download a replacement from the ASSAP website.

---

## 25th Birthday Bash

Will we ever come up with a formal name for our celebratory conference? If we ever do it will be held on **September 30th** at the University of Worcester. Organiser David Taylor has lined up a fantastic list of speakers including:

Paul Devereux  
Hilary Evans  
John Spencer  
And, of course, our very own Lionel Fanthorpe.

Stay tuned for more details.

There are still a few places left for anyone who wants to come along to Advanced Training Day in Oxford on May 20th. For full details see last issue or contact us at [atd@assap.org](mailto:atd@assap.org). You can download a booking form from the members' area of the website.

ATD is aimed primarily at Als, although *if numbers permit* experienced investigators who have not yet achieved their accreditation will be also be welcome.

Course topics to be covered are:

**Scientific Methodology in Paranormal Research**  
**Use of Equipment**  
**The Paranormal Brain**  
**Dealing with the Media.**

The whole day will cost a mere £8 although this does *not* include lunch, nor the almost-obligatory post-course drinks...

---

## APIS Seminar

The APIS (Anglia Paranormal Investigators' Seminar) 2006 is run by APIS (the group) and is for everyone with an interest in UFOs and the Paranormal in general. It takes place on Saturday **June 17th**. Doors open 9.30am - 4.30pm. APIS will be held at:

The Weatherley Centre  
Stratton School  
Eagle Farm Rd  
Biggleswade  
Beds  
SG18 8JM

APIS Chairman Damien O'Dell will open proceedings at 9.30 and Malcolm Robinson, a nationally recognised authority on UFOs, will lead off the lectures at 10am followed by Keith Paull, one of the country's leading dowsers, at 11am and finally Chris Robinson, the internationally-acclaimed 'Dream Detective'. After an hour for lunch there will be a series of afternoon workshops. These interactive sessions will include Dowsing, UFO Investigation, Remote Viewing, Electronic Aids to Paranormal Investigation, Organising Ghost Investigations etc.

Early bookings indicate that this will be a very popular event, so book your tickets now to avoid disappointment. Cost is just £15 per ticket which includes lunch and soft drinks. Phone 01462 490833 to book direct or for further information.

# Review

## Ghostly Hertfordshire: True Ghost Stories by Damien O'Dell

Published by Pen Press Publishers Ltd, 2005  
£9.99, ISBN 1-905203-73-X and reviewed by **Val Hope**

Damien O'Dell of the Anglia Paranormal Investigation Society is a busy bee. Not content with publishing Ghostly Bedfordshire in 2003, he has now brought together nearly 200 pages of accounts of ghosts in his adopted county of Hertfordshire. The book's blurb states that Damien founded APIS on Hallowe'en 2002. The group has grown from just four members back then to over 50 currently, and Damien is now the Chairman. APIS's members can have no better of example of how to collect ghost stories from the locals.

It is part of Damien's declared 'spiritual quest' to clear up some of the mystery surrounding hauntings. He asserts that the answer to anomalous phenomena may lie in the living rather than the return of spirits of the deceased, but recognizes the 'rather convincing evidence' that the dead can return and interact with the living. He invites readers to draw their own conclusions from the accounts he presents, limiting his role to presenting 'the facts'.

Damien is a one-man hive of activity, as he forages around the villages and small towns of Hertfordshire. He helpfully includes maps of the county for those of us who want to follow his trail. I for one would have difficulty pinpointing Tewin, Braughing, Sarratt and other strangely monikered villages. The Project Albion in me is grateful for the explanations Damien gives for the origins of some of these names. He splits his book between north, south, east and west, but there's no index to help out-of-towners check up on individual tales. Instead we are invited to join Damien on a meander through the streets, with frequent stops at convivial pubs on the way, to chat up landlords and residents and tease out stories of ghosts and hauntings. Some are historical, appearing in other books over the years, while others are personal to Damien's acquaintances.

Despite its ancient history and links with the Knights Templar, Damien's home town of Baldock isn't itself swarming with ghosts, but those that are still remembered seem to be concentrated in the pubs and shops. Sadly, some of the pubs have been converted to housing, or demolished, so the chance to investigate the accounts fully has been lost. A lot of the pub hauntings revolve around fixtures and fittings, with the ghosts reportedly turning off ice-making machines, knocking glasses off shelves and generally honing their dog-scaring skills. Many of Baldock's ghosts have traditionally been identified with deceased locals (some named), pregnant suicide victims, the headless ghost of an old pedlar who vanished in the early 1800s (and whose ghost has since vanished, too), but many are just reported as a feeling that there is something in the building.

Running out of local stories, Damien soon has to travel further afield to find a richer flow. Here's something to whet your appetite: ghostly monks are reported from Monkswood, Stevenage, where there is a legend of monks from a local (unnamed) monastery been murdered during the Reformation. The bodies are believed to be buried beneath the trees, and people report a sense of unease as they walk through the wood. Tewin is a village just outside Welwyn Garden City and home to what might be Hertfordshire's most

haunted pub. The Plume of Feathers is an Elizabethan construction that was once a hunting lodge. There are reports of creepy feelings in the ladies' toilet, swinging corkscrews, cutlery being swept to the ground, a ghostly child at the top of the cellar steps, and a story dating from the 17th century of a murder victim bricked up behind a fireplace. Various aristocrats, kings and queens pop up here and there in the county, particularly at Hatfield, but Watford's most exciting link with the paranormal is over the Channel at Versailles.

Damien includes a short bibliography of the sources he has combed through at the back of the book and a number of black-and-white photos in the centre, taken by himself, his wife Vicki and fellow APIS worker Mark Head. It would be super if Damien could put in an index when reprinting.

---

## Randomly Continued...

*(Continued from page 1)*

recent article on 'combined psi effects' in Anomaly 37, and comprised two PCs running the RNGs. These were set up in the main auditorium and the audience were encouraged to attempt to turn one screen blue and the other red. (We will be further developing this idea, in conjunction with the Research Department, over the next few months.) The screens certainly changed colour but whether the audience managed to affect this is debatable and will need further analysis.

The 'Individual Challenge' ran on laptops at our stand (see front page pictures) and allowed individual visitors to attempt to influence one of two colour bars racing up the screen, again driven by the RNG program. Volunteers 'won' by picking (or influencing) the winning colour over a run of 5000 random generation events. To invoke the 'greed' element (and to encourage people to take part) we offered a small prize from our bookshop for the best score on each day. Over the course of the two days we recorded 280 individual efforts (many people wanted more than one go since it seemed an addictive game...)

Sadly, initial analysis seems to indicate that the results were nothing spectacular. Over a long run we would expect the overall average result to be zero: mean results for the weekend were -4.7 although a *median* value of one indicated that this result was slightly skewed by some large negative values.

Not every competitor left contact details but the winners we could identify for each day were:

Saturday: Max 311 Alis Ignis and Ciara Hanna

Sunday: Max 278 Clare Cassidy and Nathalie-Jade O'Brien

While these positive scores are impressive (though, far from unlikely, statistically) star performer of the weekend has to be Richard Freeman of the CFZ who managed a magnificent -411. Now, a strong negative result is just as significant as a strong positive since it is deviation from the centre we are looking at, but whether the fact that Richard described himself as an ardent technophobe is a contributor factor in this score is open to debate!

For those interested in the experiment there will be a more detailed analysis of the results on the website in a few weeks.

Note: I would just like to say thanks to Wendy, Val and especially Maurice (he knows why!) for helping out with the event.

# From the Top of the Hill

International reports from **Greg Hill**

## Who said politics is boring?

The latest general election in Thailand has been anything but. After dissolving parliament due to fierce citizen protests, PM Thaksin declared that he could not speak to the media due to "bad planetary alignments"; the PM later declared "my enemies are using black magic against me". It was true: a group of protesters performed a public ritual designed to "trap the Prime Minister's soul and throw it in the river".

The PM responded by riding around his home town on an elephant using a cattle prod, he later explained that this was a local custom designed to ward off black magic. The protesters responded by asking a group of women to pass a picture of the PM backwards between their legs. This jinx apparently nullifying Thaksin's previous defence!!!

It was only a shame the election campaign had to end, such a circus was far more interesting than the party manifestos!

## Seen any holy cows lately?

Staying in Asia, a recent broadsheet (yes, broadsheet!) article caught my eye. A woman living near the Thai – Cambodia border recently broke down and wept on sight of a cow in a local field. The woman claimed the cow had magical healing properties and she had recognised the spirit of one her relatives in the cow's eyes. The local Thai police station was quick to restore sense to the situation. "This report is untrue" claimed the local chief "we had a holy cow last year.....they never come so close together".

## Dear cosmos, I would like a twelve inch pepperoni.....

I don't want to ruffle too many feathers here, but I have got to get this off my chest. The "cosmic ordering" phenomenon, now trumpeted by Noel Edmonds, is pathetic., The idea has so many flaws, both logically and theoretically, that I won't even begin to list them here.

The saddest thing is that once we get underneath the commercial and phony aspects of cosmic ordering, the underlying ideal is very worthwhile. Keeping a positive mind and believing you can achieve your goals is an excellent approach; the claptrap of ordering it from the stars is totally unnecessary.

In my (and I stress it is only my) humble opinion, cosmic ordering should be filed alongside a certain turquoise wearing, self proclaimed son of god author in the "paranormal comedy section".

## Feedback on previous work

Thanks to the people who sent in comments about my previous article "do we see what we want to see?". I always enjoy getting feedback, agreeing or dissenting. One item caught my mind, the number of horror films at the cinema that claim to be "based on true events". 'The Exorcist', 'The Exorcism of Emily Rose', 'The Amityville Horror', the list goes on. Only 'The Exorcism of Emily Rose' can claim to be truly based on true events, so why do film makers apply the "true story" tag so loosely? Simple, it sells tickets. We want to believe there is some truth on these movies. So once again, the need to believe plays a part, as it always does in our beliefs.

So this is Greg Hill ([greg\\_hill@hotmail.com](mailto:greg_hill@hotmail.com)) signing off again. Feel free to contact me, otherwise I'll see you all next month for some more random thoughts.....

---

## Library News!

Thankfully, our library crisis seems to have been resolved, thanks mainly to the efforts of NIC Bill Eyre and the kind support of Rupert Mole Ltd of Pleasley Vale Mills near Mansfield.

Rupert Mole are a company which runs Fright Night-style evenings and other similar paranormally-inspired events but they also like to support worthy causes and they have offered to host our library at their premises in Derbyshire. We will be shifting our entire collection over the weekend of June 3rd-4th so if anyone at the London or Derbyshire end is available and willing to lend a hand we would be deeply grateful. Please contact [library@assap.org](mailto:library@assap.org) if you fancy helping out...

If you are interested in the location or the company you can find their website at [www.rupertmole.co.uk](http://www.rupertmole.co.uk).

---

## March Press

April this year marked a milestone in the history of ASSAP News on the retirement of Frome printer Brian March and his wife Revel after 30 years of steadfast local service. Although having printed the News since 1995, association with ASSAP goes back to the start of that decade when the job was carried out by Hugh Pincott and Specialist Knowledge Services. Brian sold Hugh the industrial machine to perform this task and continued to make all the lithographic plates necessary for its function.

We shall ever be grateful for the excellent personal service, where no effort was spared to turn out superb, highly professional, cost-effective publications. We wish Brian and Revel every happiness in their retirement and look forward to working with their successors, Morgan Lavorgna Limited. - Hugh Pincott

| Date       | Lat    | Long   | Depth(Mi) | Mag | Location                   |
|------------|--------|--------|-----------|-----|----------------------------|
| 2006/04/02 | 57.896 | -5.526 | 4.3       | 1.6 | GRUINARD BAY,HIGHLAND      |
| 2006/03/23 | 51.75  | -3.075 | 14.6      | 1.8 | ABERTILLERY,GWENT          |
| 2006/03/23 | 52.357 | -2.619 | 14.0      | 1.3 | LUDLOW,SHROPSHIRE          |
| 2006/03/23 | 52.357 | -2.617 | 13.4      | 1.3 | LUDLOW,SHROPSHIRE          |
| 2006/03/22 | 56.181 | -4.234 | 2.6       | 1.1 | THORNHILL,CENTRAL SCOTLAND |
| 2006/03/22 | 56.177 | -4.236 | 4.1       | 1.0 | THORNHILL,CENTRAL SCOTLAND |

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

## Lunar Phases

### May 2006:

First Quarter 5th  
Full Moon 13th  
Last Quarter 20th  
New Moon 27th

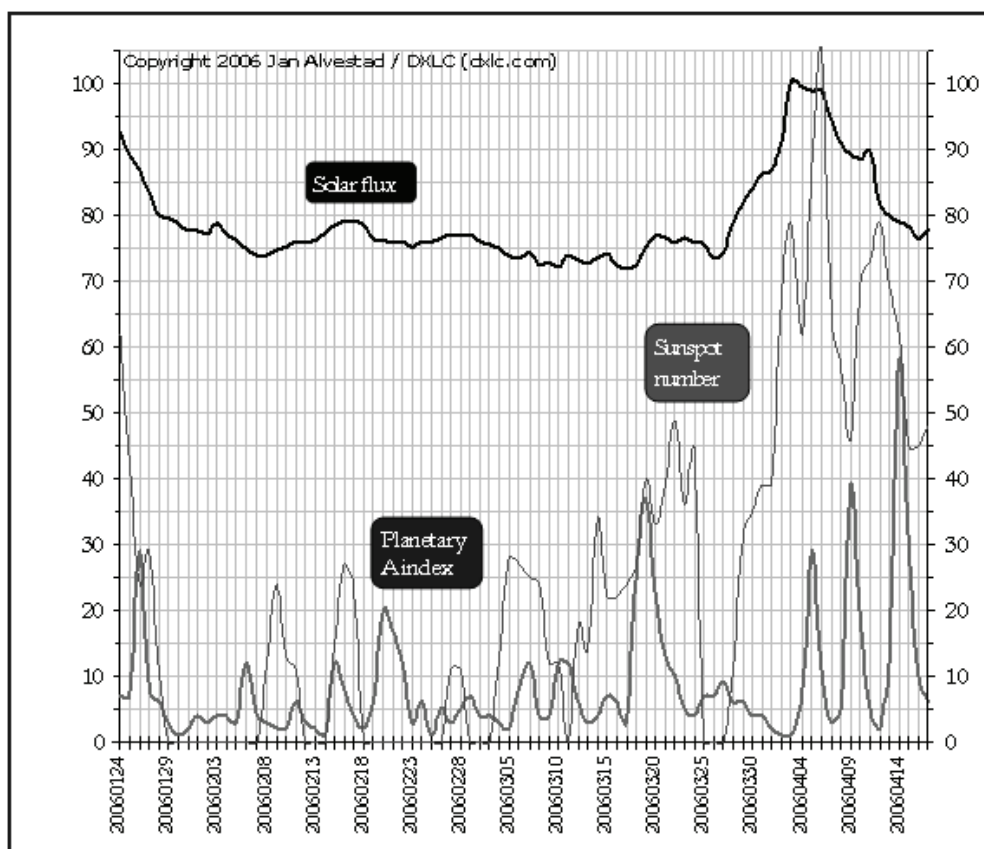
### June 2006:

First Quarter 3rd  
Full Moon 11th  
Last Quarter 18th  
New Moon 25th

## Astronomical Events

Well, apart from the obvious fact that the Summer Solstice (longest day) falls on June 21st there aren't many terribly impressive things happening over the next couple of months. Jupiter is at opposition in May and is consequently a very bright object in the sky so check those UFO reports carefully. On the meteor front the only major shower will be the Bootids (June 27-28) which are generally quiescent but which flare up periodically to give interesting shows.

## Solar Terrestrial Activity Index



## 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.

# What's On and Groups

Have we missed you out? Are your details wrong? Send your groups and events details 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](mailto:mike@oddcity.fsnet.co.uk) for further info and details of the next meeting.

## Anglia Paranormal Investigation Society (APIS)

APIS meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month at The Crown Hotel, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire at 7.30pm. APIS offers both a spiritual and a scientific approach to the investigation of the paranormal. Talk fees are £3.00 for non-members. For further details contact our Secretary: Carol Greenall email: [apismail@ntlworld.com](mailto:apismail@ntlworld.com) or telephone: 01462 490833

## BUFORA (British UFO Research Organisation)

See [www.bufora.org.uk](http://www.bufora.org.uk) for full details.

## CPSG (Chesterfield Psychic Study Group)

June 9th 'Rasputin: Villain or Holy Man?' Talk by Joe Revill. Both talks £1.50

Chesterfield Psychic Study Group (CPSG) meets at 7.15pm in the Community Centre, South Place, Chesterfield. For further details, tel (01246) 413217 or visit [www.cpsg.co.uk](http://www.cpsg.co.uk).

## Essex UFO and Paranormal Research Group

For details contact Keith on 01255 426274

## Ghanon

Paranormal group covering Cheshire and North Wales. Membership is by invitation - contact Kevin Griffiths-Boden ([info@ghanon.co.uk](mailto:info@ghanon.co.uk)) or see [www.ghanon.co.uk](http://www.ghanon.co.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. Visit their website at [www.ghostclub.org.uk](http://www.ghostclub.org.uk) for details of future events.

## Leicestershire Paranormal Association

Leicestershire Paranormal Association (LPA) is a new ASSAP Affiliated group based in Leicestershire. As a group we are interested in all the different aspects of paranormal research and hold regular meetings for group discussions. Our investigative programme aims to cover reported haunted locations throughout the UK. For more information including membership and website access please contact [leicestershirepa@aol.com](mailto:leicestershirepa@aol.com) We would be pleased to hear from you.

## London Earth Mysteries Circle (LEMC)

LEMC meets in the Meeting Room at the Diorama Centre, 34 Osnauburgh 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](mailto:lemc@ic24.net), and visit the website at [www.lemc.ic24.net/](http://www.lemc.ic24.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. Admission charge £2.50. Contact MARA at 18a Parkfield Road, Aigburth, Liverpool, L17 8UJ. Contact [tonyeccles@yahoo.com](mailto:tonyeccles@yahoo.com) or 0151 727 4057

## Melton Paranormal Research Society

MPRS is an ASSAP-affiliated group based in Leicestershire dedicated to all aspects and research of the paranormal. We are genuine people who conduct all night investigations at reported haunted locations throughout the UK, and meet once a month for group discussions. For more information including membership and website access please contact Christine Hankey on 01664 569125 or email [meltonparaclub@aol.com](mailto:meltonparaclub@aol.com)

**Mercia Forteana** is a 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 on 07947 126055 or [garthgdwn@supanet.com](mailto:garthgdwn@supanet.com).

## Midlands Ghost Research Society

The MGR is an ASSAP-affiliated group operating in the Coventry area. For details email [info@tmgrs.co.uk](mailto:info@tmgrs.co.uk) or see [www.tmgrs.co.uk](http://www.tmgrs.co.uk).

## Para.Science

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.uk](http://www.parascience.org.uk)

## Paranormal Awakening

PA is an ASSAP-affiliated group operating in the Midlands area. For details contact Stefan Lobuczek on 0121 353 7622 ([admin@navigatortm.com](mailto:admin@navigatortm.com)) or Cherill Penton 01543 685913 ([susan.penton1@btinternet.com](mailto:susan.penton1@btinternet.com)) or see [www.paranormalawakening.com](http://www.paranormalawakening.com)

**Parasearch** is a Midlands ASSAP regional group covering Worcestershire, Shropshire, Warwickshire and the West Midlands. For more details visit: [www.parasearch.org.uk](http://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 Tournament, 344-346 Old Brompton Road, London SW5 9JU at 3.00pm. Admission £7.00 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](mailto:spi_spi@hotmail.com) or visit [www.spiuk.net](http://www.spiuk.net).

## Spirit Team

Are an East Midlands based ASSAP Affiliated group investigating hauntings and apparitions as well as a wide variety of related paranormal subjects. Spirit-Team use hi-tech equipment in their investigations. For further details of investigations and membership contact: Alan Clifford, Mobile: 07966 793445 or email: [enquiries@spirit-team.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@spirit-team.co.uk) [www.spirit-team.co.uk](http://www.spirit-team.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](http://www.spr.ac.uk)

This year's SPR Annual Conference will be held at Liverpool Hope University on September 1st - 3rd.

**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 0208 5449478 or write to TEMS, 115 Hollybush Lane, Hampton, Middlesex, TW12 2QY.