



Issue 114

September 2006

www.assap.org

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

The Claws of Chance

Not a paranormal story as such but how could anyone resist this?

Plymouth man Paul Westlake had clearly had a good evening with his brother in his local pub because he was more than happy to take up the challenge of swimming home two miles across the bay one night in early August. Sadly, imbibing significant quantities of beer tends to affect the ability to swim and, despite his best intentions, he was forced to turn back to shore after just a couple of hundred yards.

It wasn't until Mr Westlake returned to the beach that he realised that at some point his wallet had slipped from his pocket and was now resting serenely at the bottom of the bay... The brothers returned home and set about forgetting the unfortunate incident.

And then, a few days later, Mr Westlake's barber phoned him up to say that she had been handed the wallet. It turned out that a diver who had been exploring the sea bed had spotted a lobster holding something in its claws and, on investigation, had discovered it to be the missing item.

Despite the time it had spent on the seabed the wallet was in good condition and one of the business cards it contained, for the Associates Hairdressing Salon, was still legible which is how the diver (who remains anonymous) was able to return it.



Photo: Truly Free Stock

Mr Westlake reported that his bank cards were still functioning perfectly and although all his paper money had been destroyed by their soaking his St Christopher medallion was still tucked safely inside.

I like the sheer coincidence level of this story which almost reads like an urban myth, but it does demonstrate that sometimes the

most unlikely events can both be genuine and have perfectly ordinary explanations (if that is any way to describe a wallet-wielding lobster).

Commented Mr Westlake: '...St Christopher must have brought me luck because he got my wallet back'. And he made it snappy...

Incidentally, just in case you wondered, while Mr Westlake claimed he would never eat lobster again the diver had no such scruples and took it home to have for supper!

Editorial

Mike White

What with the imminent approach of the ASSAP 25th Anniversary Conference (with all due deference to the Parasearch 20th of course) I, like many others I suspect, started to reflect recently on what I had been doing 25 years ago when ASSAP was formed.

Speaking personally I remember the time well since it was around that period that I decided that my life would be best spent in self-employment: in fact I actually started up a small business. How simple everything seemed back then...

My original intention had been to team up with a suitable chef and open an Indian restaurant in my local town which was, at that time anyway, completely devoid of anything more exotic than fish and chips. Unfortunately, following a slight misunderstanding with the telesales girl at the local paper (spell-checkers being unknown in those long-ago times), I somehow managed to recruit a Sioux chef which is how I became manager of the only Native American Indian establishment in the country. In fact it wasn't a total disaster in financial terms but we did have the occasional problem when customers phoned up asking about reservations...

Fortunately my partner, Cooks With Lard, was fairly flexible in the kitchen and we did eventually manage to branch out into more traditional Indian cuisine. In those days our particular specialties included such delicacies as Korma Chameleon (something I only ever saw in the 1980s) and Tarka Massala (if I remember correctly this was a bit like Chicken Massala, but hotter). Remember this was in the days when serving lentils in a small-town eatery was a sign that you really had your finger on the pulse... Things were going fine until we branched out into the lunchtime samosas market and it was at that point that the whole thing folded. If we had been cooking Russian cuisine I would probably have said that the bubble had burst at this point but at any rate I rapidly left the restaurant business and never looked back...

Ah, happy days. If you have your own stories from 25 years ago I look forward to hearing them at the Worcester Conference!

Would you be interested in receiving ASSAP News in soft copy only by email?

This is just speculation at present but I have had a couple of members comment that they would be happy to see ASSAP News in softcopy (possibly in exchange for a pound reduction in the annual membership fee). While having some members who only receive ASSAP News by email would complicate our mailing procedures if there is sufficient interest it is certainly something we would be willing to consider. So, if you think that this is a particularly appealing idea please let me know at assapnews@assap.org.

Incidentally, don't forget that back issues of ASSAP News and Anomaly are available to download from the Members Area of the website.

The Executive

CHAIRMAN: Mike White (chairman@assap.org)
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OTHER MEMBERS: Mark Cave, Greg Hill, Wendy Milner, Jim Clark

SPECIALIST PANEL

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.

Copyright for articles in ASSAP News rests with the author or ASSAP as appropriate.

New Project Albion Book Published!

Jim Clark, author of *Strange Mitcham*, has done it again with the publication of his latest book. *Haunted Wandsworth* is a survey of all things strange in that area of South London.

Published by Tempus Publishing and priced at £8.99 you can pick up this latest Albion volume for the special price of £7.64 direct from the publisher at:

<http://www.tempus-publishing.com/bookdetails.php?isbn=0752440705>

Many congratulations to Jim!

Don't forget that you can access the Members' Area of the website using:-

Username: *assapmember*
Password: *haunted*.

Training Day

Those of you old enough to remember the Training Day held in Oxford in 2000 may be pleased to learn that we will be returning to the scene of the crime this year. Well almost...

Training Day 2006 will be held on **Saturday November 25th** at the **EPA Science Centre in Oxford**, Lincoln College's dedicated lecture and conference centre just a few minutes walk from the town centre.

For new members Training Day is a must-do event; an opportunity to not only learn about how ASSAP conducts investigations but also a chance to meet other members, swap ideas and generally have a great day out. Not forgetting that attending Training Day is the first step to attaining Accredited Investigator status. For more established members, AI or not, it offers a great chance to catch up with old friends and maybe pick up a few new ideas at the same time. And, hopefully anyway, the case scenario will be one you haven't seen before!

Seasoned observers may notice a few changes this year, not to the basic format of the training itself but to the way the day is structured. Since we have been having increasing problems identifying suitable locations with lecture/conference facilities as well as a suitable venue for the overnight vigil (well, at a price that isn't totally uneconomic anyway) we are experimenting with having just the day's training in Oxford this year. With the advent of our regular members' investigations spearheaded by Caroline Pick the need to tack on an overnight training vigil has become less important - not to mention the fact that it relieves the strain on the various organisers who no longer have to struggle through a continuous 24 hours of activity!

This change has a number of consequences. In terms of accreditation it means that potential AIs will need to either come along to one of our regular investigations or attend another 'approved' ASSAP training investigation as part of the accreditation process. With respect to Training Day itself it means that the evening is free for attendees to decamp to the pub for an evening of networking, chat and general socialising and making friends: certainly the perfect way to end the day. And, for those interested, the Lamb and Flag serves an excellent range of beers and is literally two minutes walk away...

Of course we have traditionally held the ASSAP AGM in the evening after Training Day, both for convenience and as a way of filling time before the night's vigil. Since we will only be in Oxford for the day the AGM will be held during the lunchtime break to the TD schedule. As an encouragement to come along we will be providing a free finger buffet lunch to anyone who attends. See, you don't even need to worry about food if you come along!

So, please get those booking forms back as soon as possible to make sure of your place. Given the interest in the Anniversary Conference (see p. 6) from members of the public I am hoping for a healthy turnout of keen new members this year!

As usual, if you do lose the booking form from this mailing then you can download another from the Members Area of the website. And remember: Training Day is exclusively for ASSAP members so if you think a friend may be interested encourage them to join!

AGM - Official Notification

The ASSAP AGM will be held at 1.00pm 25th November 2006 at the Lincoln College EPA Centre, Museum Rd, Oxford.

And, talking of the AGM...

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 30th September 2006. 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 in 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.

Chairman'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 Exec are a friendly bunch and it really can be both enjoyable and worthwhile. And, let's face it, we need all the help we can get!

Sorry but due to Lionel's hectic work schedule there is no President's Piece this issue.

Ghost Writing

From last time:

The Provost of Eton wrote ghost stories was M R James and, yes, I suppose you could say he was successful.

And your next challenge is to identify who, as part of a spell,

'.. went out to the hazel wood,
Because a fire was in my head,
And cut and peeled a hazel wand.'

Answer next time. Still no prizes. And Googling = cheating!

Reviews

- By David Taylor

Explore Dragons

by Richard Freeman. Published by Explore Books (Heart of Albion Press). 2006. 187pp. £12.99. ISBN 1 872883 93 1.

Here be dragons. Whatever they may be.

The book starts off by examining the various types of dragon – from the wyrm and basilisk to the more obscure gwiber. We then get a gazetteer of dragon lore from the British Isles. There are few surprises here – with the usual suspects such as the Lambton Worm (Durham), Deerhurst (Glos) and Brinsop (Hereford).

There is a nice overview of every dragons greatest adversary – the dragon slayer – from the well known St. George and St. Michael to the perhaps less well known Celtic St. Carantoc. The origins of each slayer is given, shedding some interesting light on the origins of old favourites.

Dragons from around the world give the book a great deal of context and introduce us nicely into the author's speculations on what dragons may be.

For me, one of the most interesting chapters was the last – dealing with modern reports of dragons. Make no doubt about it – dragons are still with us. As you would expect we get the usual Loch Ness monster, but it was also nice to see the serpent that has been reported in Lake Bala in North Wales raise its head. The more unusual pterodactyl of the West Yorkshire Aire valley was an interesting addition, although I was disappointed not to see mention of the Brentford Griffin.

The author is a former zookeeper with a degree in zoology. He is also zoological director of the Centre for Fortean Zoology. He has travelled the world looking for lost and presumed long dead creatures. This should give you an idea as to the main crux of the book – dragons are no aspect of folklore or psychology, they may, just may, be real creatures.

An excellent book.

Mystery Big Cats

by Merrily Harpur. Published by Heart of Albion Press. 2006. 242pp. £16.95. ISBN: 1 87288392 3.

If you go down to the woods today you're sure for a big surprise...

It is estimated that there are now 1,200 sightings a year of big cats in Britain. There can hardly be a county that has not had a reported sighting of these mysterious big cats.

In this book, the first on the subject for some years, there is good examination of eyewitness reports and traces of evidence. If it were not for the physical evidence, sceptics could have dismissed these reports a long time ago. But the evidence is pretty impressive. As you would expect there is a mass of fuzzy, out of focus photographs and videos. There are paw prints and hair fibres. Most sinister of all are the attacks – and we're not just talking about on livestock; there are a growing number of reports of people being attacked by these creatures. Some years ago now, Nick & Sally Dyke encountered a big cat at Inkberrow churchyard in Worcestershire and the encounter left Sally with claw marks on her body.

So what are they? Big cats like these are not native to these shores. So they must have escaped from a local zoo. This is possible, but the sheer number of reports makes this unlikely. The most popular, and often reported explanation, is that these cats were pets released into the countryside by their owners in 1976 when the Dangerous Wild Animals Act made it too expensive to keep big cats as pets. I've never found this explanation convincing. Again, it may explain some of the reports, but not all. I don't know about you, but I don't remember anyone taking their pet panther for a walk down the

local park in the 1970's!

If not escaped zoo creatures or released pets then what are they? This is where Merrily takes a refreshing and original approach to the subject.

The physical evidence is good but not conclusive – shaky, blurred photos. The eyewitness reports are contradictory. And none of the theories match the evidence either. Even the more 'exotic' theories – occult entities, Taoist landscapes, paranormal phenomena etc aren't 100% convincing.

It was then that several witnesses and big cat researchers suggested that they had a feeling that the phenomena was 'playing' with them – almost deliberately being sneaky and contradictory.

This lead Merrily to consider that big cats may be daimons. The idea of daimons (not to be confused with demons) is an essential part of the philosophy of the ancient Greeks. According to these philosophers the world seethed with invisible – or occasionally glimpsed – beings. Every stream, wood, hill, cave and tree had its inhabitants. The Greeks called them, collectively, daimones. They were an essential link between mortals and the grander deities of Greek cosmology. The greatest authorities on these beings were the Neoplatonists who flourished from about the middle of the third century AD. Following Plato's mystical dialogue, the *Timaeus*, they recognised the daimons as the inhabitants and expression of the *Anima Mundi* – the soul of the world.

This is an appealing thought. Some years ago I encountered 'something' snarling in the bushes late at night at an ancient holy well. Weeks later I found out that big cats had previously been seen in the area. Nick and Sally Dyke, mentioned earlier in this review, encountered their big cat at Inkberrow church – a well known fairy site. They also became 'repeater witnesses' with paranormal activity reported in their home afterwards.

Merrily Harpur is to be congratulated for producing this first rate and extremely thought provoking book. It deserves a place on the bookshelf of everyone who is genuinely interested in the strange, shadowy creatures that roam our countryside.

The Enchanted Land: Myths and Legends of Britain's Landscape

by Janet & Colin Bord. Published by Heart of Albion Press. 2006. 187pp. ISBN: 1 872883 91 5.

This could (and should) be the shortest book review in ever in AS-SAP News. All you need to know about this book is that it is a gazetteer of ancient British sites by veteran researchers Janet & Colin Bord. Excellent high standards and detailed knowledge are therefore guaranteed.

Unlike previous books by the Bords (most notable being the classics *Mysterious Britain and The Secret Country*), this book deals with the folklore of natural places – caves, streams, rivers, hills, wells etc. In this respect, you get a feeling that you are encountering stories from these sites in the 'raw', partly unaffected by the interference of human hand. The numinous experience at these places is more natural than at say a stone circle.

So here you will find stories of dragons in caves and pools, sunken villages, fairy sites, spectral creatures, sleeping Arthurian knights giants and witchcraft. All of these sections are fully illustrated with photographs of the sites concerned.

The book is nicely finished off by a gazetteer of sites you may wish to visit. Gazetteers such as this are interesting in light of current concerns about 'eco-tourism', but I suppose it is assumed that anyone buying this book also shares these concerns and will be accordingly careful.

I whole-heartedly recommend this book as I know it will do what the authors set out to do – open up the rich vein of folklore available at our natural sites. As Proust said, "The real magic lies not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes". This book gives you new eyes.

Water Memory & Ghosts (Part II)

- Steve Parsons

In ASSAP News 102 (September 2004) I mused on the possibilities that water may have an ability to retain information – in effect a memory. I also suggested that the same possibility might provide a better hypothesis for the recording ghost than does the frequently quoted 'Stone Tape' idea. I ended by saying the whole thing is currently nothing more than the ramblings of an over-active imagination and that it is currently attestable. Boy, was I ever wrong! It seems that it is not even my own imagining either!

Following his retirement, paranormal researcher and archaeologist T. C. Lethbridge visited a beach close to his home in Devon with his wife. After they had both experienced unusually powerful emotions close to a small stream at the site of an earlier suicide. The unexpected emotions led him to develop a theory that the water could tape record strong emotions. He developed this idea over a number of years suggesting that what does the recording is some kind of magnetic field associated with the water.

Science has now brought this idea right up to date with many eminent scientists subscribing to and testing the notion that water can retain some form of memory. Almost echoing Lethbridge's pioneering suggestion is the work of the Heartmath Research Centre which has developed technology that can detect and measure the capacity of water to amplify weak electromagnetic fields. They have found that the electromagnetic field produced by the human heart can be detected in a glass of water placed several feet away. They have also demonstrated that water exposed to weak electromagnetic fields has the property of amplifying the signal many times.

In another line of research Dr. David Schweitzer, the grandson of Albert Schweitzer, is the first scientist to photograph the effects of thoughts captured within water. Following from the pioneering research of French scientist Jacques Benveniste, Schweitzer has developed a fluorescent microscope that enabled him to see how minute particles within the water were changed in response to thoughts and other influences.

Prior to his recent death, Benveniste continued with his original studies with water in relation to its homeopathic abilities and discovered that electronic circuits can impress lasting information into the water and that low frequency electromagnetic radiation also affects the ability of the water to retain the 'memory information'.

Professor Emeritus William Tiller working with co-researcher Walter Dibble Jr. in the USA have had a great deal of success in significantly altering the pH of water by getting test subjects to 'impress' their thoughts and intentions into the water. They describe the water as being "...a special material, well suited for information / energy transfer from the intention domain into our conventional

domain of cognition".

Dr. Glen Rein has gone on the record stating that physicists are aware of the existence of energy fields with properties which are not explained by classical equations. He refers to these non-classical fields as quantum fields. Work by Rein and his team has shown that this non-electromagnetic information from the primordial vacuum of space can be stored in water and can later be communicated with living cells.

The above represent but a fraction of the ongoing work at more than a dozen Universities and Research Institutes around the World who are looking closely at the ability of water to retain information. Even NASA is exploring the uses of water as a memory medium for future space exploration probes!

It is also clear that water on it's own is not the simple solution to the creation of recording ghosts (if they actually exist!). If it were then we must surely be inundated with spooky recordings being played back all over the place. There are many more factors that must be considered.

Some of the research suggests that electromagnetism also plays a key part in the process of water memory and it would seem that the individual too as recipient or donor of the original 'event memory recording' is part of the process.

So, it would appear that the stone tape, that 'cornerstone' of paranormal explanations, is dead. The 'water memory' should now be given serious consideration by us all. There is even scope for some relatively simple research to be commenced by the field investigator. Let's start the ball rolling by making serious observations and measurements of the amounts of water present within the 'haunted' locations themselves. A simple hygrometer can keep an eye on the humidity levels and there are also meters available that can be used non-invasively to measure the amounts of water within the structure and fabric of a building. Over time we will start to build a database of the water and humidity levels at 'haunted' sites and also the important control sites with no 'haunted' reputation.

With sufficient data we may see sufficient evidence emerge which will mean that we can finally cease to explain one mystery by invoking another (the stone tape) and instead be able to refer to the demonstrable and repeatable water memory to explain some classifications of ghostly phenomena.

Steve Parsons co-founded Para.Science over 10 years ago with Ann Winsper and is now their Investigation Coordinator. He co-hosts a weekly paranormal radio slot on BBC local radio but you may have seen him most recently as resident expert on Most Haunted...

Just as a final filler for anyone with web access, take a look at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sF7mh1dgJ2k>
and see what you think...

25 Years!

ASSAP Anniversary Conference

Plans are now finalised for the joint **ASSAP and Parasearch Anniversary Conference** at the University of Worcester on **September 30th** (see the ad below!)

Hosted by ASSAP President, TV personality and author **Lionel Fanthorpe** the event features a wonderful line-up of other speakers including:

Paul Devereux - landscape archaeologist, Earth Mysteries researcher and the man behind the Dragon Project.

Hilary Evans - a founding member of ASSAP and who, amongst his other achievements, richly deserves the title Mr Street Lamp Interference.

John Spencer - haunting and UFO researcher and author of many of the best-known books in the field.

Lionel Beer - one of the original founders of BU-FORA and a leading light in the field of Earth Mysteries.



Photo: University of Worcester

The day won't just be a series of talks but has been structured to allow plenty of time for relaxing and chatting as well as browsing the bookstalls and taking part on one of our ongoing experiments (for those of you who missed Unconvention there will also be another opportunity to take the Human Computer Interaction test - see ASSAP News 112 for details).

There has already been considerable interest in tickets from some other paranormal groups as well as members of the public so with only half now remaining don't forget to get that booking form back by return of post!



PARASEARCH

Founded in 1986 to investigate alleged paranormal phenomena in the Midlands



University
of Worcester

Anniversary Conference

Saturday 30th September 2006 10.30am - 5pm • University of Worcester

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of ASSAP and the 20th anniversary of Parasearch, a joint one day conference is being held with some of the finest researchers in the field of paranormal research.

Speakers include:

Rev. Lionel Fanthorpe • Paul Devereux • Hilary Evans • John Spencer • Lionel Beer

The conference will be held in the spacious University of Worcester conference facility, just 2 miles from the centre of Worcester. There is plenty of car parking in the University pay and display car park. Stalls selling books and merchandise will be available on the day.

Tickets:

Ticket prices are £15 per person, and include a light lunch and refreshments.

To guarantee your place at this historic anniversary conference, send a cheque made payable to 'ASSAP' to:

ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE, ASSAP, PO BOX 230, PLYMOUTH PL2 2ZR

Details of accommodation in the area can be obtained from Worcester Tourist Information Service: www.visitworcestershire.org or 01905 25121

Date	Lat	Long	Depth(Mi)	Mag	Location
2006/08/15	53.614	-4.128	9.5	1.0	Irish Sea
2006/08/04	55.516	-3.849	4.3	1.1	Abington, Strathclyde
2006/07/20	56.380	-5.412	4.6	1.1	Oban, Strathclyde

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

Lunar Phases

September 2006:

Full Moon 7th
Last Quarter 14th
New Moon 22nd
First Quarter 30th

October 2006:

Full Moon 7th
Last Quarter 14th
New Moon 22nd
First Quarter 29th

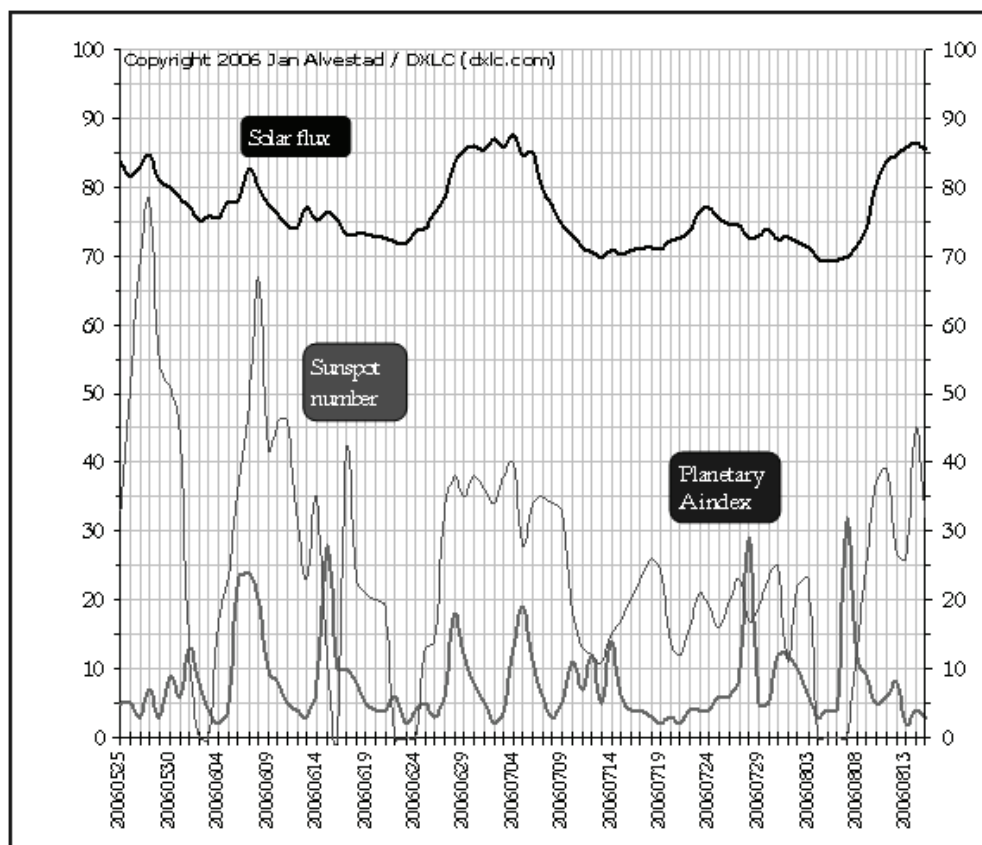
Astronomical Events

Schedules being tight this issue *may* be out in time to warn you of the partial lunar eclipse on September 7th. As a partial eclipse this will be rather unspectacular, especially as it starts at just before 7pm and the sky will still be light! The annular solar eclipse of the 22nd will only be visible to observers in Central America and Africa.

On September 21st the moon will be less than one degree south of the planet Venus. Worth watching out for just before the autumnal equinox on the 23rd.

Main meteor activity for the period is the Orionid shower which will be active for around a week either side of October 21st.

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 today...

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.

Anglia Paranormal Investigation Society (APIS)

APIS meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month at The Tempsford Room, The Anchor pub, Tempsford, 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 or telephone: 01462 490833

BUFORA (British UFO Research Organisation)

See www.bufora.org.uk for full details.

CPSG (Chesterfield Psychic Study Group)

holds lecture meetings on the paranormal on the second Friday of each month, given by invited speakers. 7.15 p.m. Community Centre, South Place, Chesterfield. Subscription £1.50. For further details, tel. (01246) 413217 or visit www.cpsg.co.uk.

Essex UFO and Paranormal Research Group

For details contact Keith on 01255 426274

Ghanon

Paranormal group covering Wirral, Cheshire and North Wales. Membership by invitation. For further info contact emailus@ghanon.org, visit www.ghanon.org or call 0700 341 8406.

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 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 We would be pleased to hear from you.

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/

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 tonyeccl@yaho.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

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 garethgdn@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 or see 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

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) or Cherill Penton 01543 685913 (susan.penton1@btinternet.com) or see 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, telephone 0121 550 8874 / 0776 1184837 or send an SAE to Parasearch, 15 Brier Mill Road, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63 3HA.

Plymouth ASSAP

Plymouth ASSAP is an investigation group covering South East Cornwall, South and West Devon and Plymouth. It was formed earlier this year to study, investigate and research Psychic phenomena, Earth Mysteries, Ufology and Fortean Phenomena. We hold meetings at the Fisherman's Arms in the Barbican area of Plymouth on the second tuesday of each month. For details of how you can get involved, please contact Lee at eustacetuttle@yahoo.co.uk

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 or visit www.spiuk.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

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.

<http://www.temsgroup.org.uk>

And just a final reminder for:

25th Anniversary Conference - September 30th
and
Training Day - November 25th