

ASSAP NEWS

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

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www.assap.org

Sensor and Sensor Ability

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single Association in possession of a piece of neat technology must be in want of someone to develop it.*

Maurice Townsend reports...

ASSAP is buying its own magnetic sensor capable of measuring the weak, complex fields that may be responsible for causing ghostly hallucinations. Though the Association has already bought two laptop computers for the MADS (magnetic anomaly detection system) project, it did not own any sensors. The original pair of sensors are busy on long-term ongoing research so the new one is required for more general haunting investigations.

The MADS project, started by Jason Braithwaite, was designed to see if certain weak, low frequency, complex magnetic fields (called EIFs - experience inducing fields) could be responsible for some reports of hauntings. Ghostly hallucinations have been induced experimentally in certain individuals in the lab but, until now, little work has been done to see if the same effects occur in the field. Initial results from MADS, at



Digital Fluxgate 539 Sensor. Pic: Applied Physics Systems

Muncaster Castle in Cumbria, have lent support to the idea that some hauntings may, indeed, be associated with EIFs. However, there is scope for a great deal more work in this field.

Unfortunately, the widely-available types of EMF meters used extensively in paranormal research do not have the required flat frequency response, low frequency range or sensitivity to measure EIFs. The MADS sensor, which CAN detect EIFs, is significantly more expensive than a typical EMF meter. It is a Digital Fluxgate 539 magnetic sensor from Applied Physics Systems in the US. It can be connected directly



*Yes, I know that's *Pride and Prejudice*. Cut me some slack here... For those interested *Sense and Sensibility* starts: '*The family of Dashwood had been long settled in Sussex.*' which is nowhere near as memorable.

Editorial

Mike White

In another minor example of ideosynchronicity this issue I see that both Lionel and Keith Weim have mentioned statistics in their pieces just as I had intended to meander around the subject myself. Isn't coincidence wonderful?

My interest was piqued when I read that the Home Office* had issued a statement to the effect that 20% of all of their own published statistics were inaccurate. Now, when I originally heard this my first thought was exactly the same as when I first heard about clockwork radios: that it just had to be a wind-up. But no, it is a genuine story and rather important on a more general level given that so much parapsychology deals with statistics both for hardcore research as well as the more apocryphal areas of our subject. Remember that Roper poll in the US some years ago which calculated (admittedly from some fairly shaky background research) that around 3 million Americans have been abducted by aliens?†

So, to return to that rather worrying Home Office admission, we have to ask in what way are their figures 20% wrong? Are 80% of their published papers 100% correct and the rest incorrect? If this is so then find one correct fact and at least you know the rest are right. Or maybe all their published statistics are wrong 20% of the time. In this case we know that 80% of all the results given are correct but can't identify which parts are right and which are wrong. Or, do all their results come with a built-in error of +/- 20%? Knowing *how* something is wrong can be as important as knowing that it is wrong in the first place.

Of course the above options are, in a weird sort of way, ideal cases. In practice it is more likely that 90% of all statistics are only 90% correct or that 85% of everything they say is only 95% correct (or thereabouts - you can do the maths if you like) so we are always going to be totally adrift in the seas of uncertainty however definitive the figures may seem.

Rather than labour the point I'll just quote an entirely unrelated example of an everyday logical error in the use of statistics which someone sent me the other day.

1. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
 2. Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
 3. The Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
 4. Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
- CONCLUSION: Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is obviously what kills you.

Incidentally I have found surveys which claim that the percentage of the population (or, statistically speaking, any population) who have seen a ghost is 2%, 10%, 32%, 37% or 60%... Which just goes to show that at the end of the day the only statistic worth the paper it is lied onto is Sturgeon's Law which basically states: *90% of everything is rubbish.*

* For those of you reading this a few years hence the Home Office was the monolithic government department which originally handled those matters now devolved to the present-day Ministry of Truth, Office of the Lord Chief Inquisitor, the Office of Religious Tolerance (the so-called Ministry of Ministry), Department of Home Insecurity (the Department of Deportments) and the Social Cohesion Taskforce (the Politeness Police).

† No, really. See www.scifi.com/ufo/roper/02.html

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Ghost Writing

OK, so it isn't technically anything to do with the paranormal at all but where does the following line come from?

'The ghost of electricity howls in the bones of her face...'

Answer next time of course.

And, since I have a few lines to spare...

Given the recent turkey cull over in East Anglia how long do you think it will be before we get our first report of a Norfolk poultrygeist?

ASSAP Website:

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

Username: *assapmember*
Password: *haunted*.

The Fanthorpe Column

The Tutankhamen Mystery



I was student at Hammond's Grammar School, Swaffham, Norfolk until 1950, and one of our most colourful staff members was the art and craft specialist Harry Carter, cousin of the famous Howard Carter who peered into Tutankhamen's tomb on November 26th, 1922.

Despite the Wall Street Crash of 1929 and WW2, the mystery of Tutankhamen's curse was still newsworthy in the 'fifties and was something that continued to intrigue our generation. The curse, allegedly found a few days after Carter and Carnarvon entered the tomb supposedly said: "Death comes on swift wings to those who desecrate my tomb." Carnarvon was dead within six months, and before the Wall Street Crash occurred a further twenty people who had been involved with Tutankhamen's tomb were also dead.

Experienced investigators know the truth of the old adage that there are "... lies, damned lies and statistics..." but coincidence can only be stretched so far. Tutankhamen was heir to Akhenaton, the monotheistic sun worshipper who got rid of the old gods and, in so doing, antagonised their priests and worshippers. He and his priests were almost certainly murdered. Tutankhamen died of a head injury – probably the result of a powerful blow. Ay, a combination of Court Chamberlain and High Priest – and chief murder suspect among Egyptologists - promptly seized power and married Tutankhamen's teenaged widow, Enosnamon.

His cunning, however, was no match for the directness of Horemheb, a ruthless Egyptian general who removed Ay and then set about erasing all inscriptions referring to Akhenaton and Tutankhamen. Yet he did *not* do the one thing that would have seemed most obvious: he did not destroy Tutankhamen's tomb and help himself to the treasure it contained. As Colin Wilson has shrewdly pointed out in his excellent analysis of the enigma in "The Mammoth Encyclopedia of Unsolved Mysteries" it would have been easy enough for

an unscrupulous dictator like Horemheb to find out where the tomb was.

Is it possible that the ruthless Horemheb – who seemed to fear nothing, least of all his own conscience – was *afraid* of the curse on Tutankhamen's tomb because he had good reason to believe in its effectiveness?

If curses exist, and if they can produce objective effects, the likelihood would seem to be that they are associated with psi powers. The greatest unsolved mysteries still lie hidden within the human mind, and we in ASSAP do well to continue our experiments in those directions.

Best Wishes,

Lionel and Patricia
(Pres and Lady One)

Mailing Changes

For many years ASSAP has relied on the tireless (and peerless) services of Hugh Pincott for all our distribution needs; not only the regular ASSAP News and Anomaly magazines but also the fillers, flyers and other miscellaneous paperwork which you see from time to time. Hugh originally started handling our distribution through Specialist Knowledge Services in Frome and continued to do so on a personal basis when he moved further towards the south west.

However, all good things must come to an end and his other business activities have become onerous enough to make it impractical for him to continue providing this service. Naturally we would like to offer our sincerest thanks to Hugh for his years of dedicated (and largely unsung) service. Here's hoping your fingers don't seize up from lack of use now Hugh! Not that he will actually have a lot more free time since he tells me he is planning to concentrate on expanding ASSAP's research programme...

Fortunately we have been able to contract a company called Phoenix Enterprises to take over the task of handling our mailings and hopefully this issue of ASSAP News will be the first of many to be managed by them.

Because we have now effectively outsourced this function Publications Officer Greg Hill has the unenviable job of co-ordinating the printing and posting schedules of both ASSAP News and Anomaly (which should have something of a new look next time you see it) as well as phoning me up occasionally to remind me I have a newsletter to produce. Good luck Greg! If you need to contact him for any reason you can use the usual publications@assap.org address.

(Continued from page 1)



Perhaps, Sir, young Ringo will find a use for this talent in his next life.

With apologies to P. E. Brock...

to a computer to collect data continuously at a high rate and the results stored for later analysis. The 539 has a slightly lower specification than the original MADS sensors, though the differences are minor for practical purposes and will not significantly affect the operation of the system. The sensor is relatively cheap at the moment due to the favourable exchange rate between the UK pound and US dollar, hence our decision to proceed.

Obviously, after the development phase has been completed and testing has been finished we would hope to make the new system available to ASSAP investigators for use on active investigations. However, since the new sensor is an expensive piece of equipment as well as requiring a degree of training (not to mention the fact that it is fairly fragile) it will not be available for simple loan like the rest of the ASSAP equipment pool. Instead anyone wishing to make use of the device will be asked to submit a formal proposal via ASSAP's research committee. This allocation method will ensure that such a scarce resource is used most effectively.

Hopefully, by encouraging wider use of this technology in a variety of different haunted locations it should be possible to see how widespread EIFs are and to characterise and compare them. The original MADS sensors are, by contrast, being used to study a restricted number of sites in great depth. The two approaches should complement each other and enhance our overall knowledge of the role of magnetism in certain hauntings.

You can find more information on the MADS project and related topics at:
<http://www.assap.org/newsite/htmlfiles/MADS.html>

Can You Help ASSAP News?*

Have you been on an interesting investigation you would like to share? Would you like to ask for help from the membership as a whole. Are you so incensed by ASSAP News that you just have to write a letter to get it off your chest?† ASSAP News can only be a genuine newsletter if I get contributions from more than the half-a-dozen stalwarts whose names appear regularly in these pages. If you have something to say or want to comment on anything you see here, be it to offer plaudits or brickbats‡, please get in touch!

* Can anyone help ASSAP News?

+ Actually I throw loads of those away every month...

≠ See + above...

Maurice Grosse



Not so much an obituary - more a way of strife.

Rather than print just another obituary **Hugh Pincott** reflects upon a colourful researcher and his significant contribution to our subject.

Maurice Grosse was an enigma. Will he be remembered as an insistent, abrasive not-so-young-man-in-a-hurry? Or as a persistent, patient, plodder, who eventually - despite many odds stacked against him - achieved solid status in the annals of paranormal research?

In mid-1977 Maurice joined the Society for Psychical Research shortly after I was appointed Honorary Secretary. His early interest was rekindled following the tragic death of his daughter which appeared to spawn several unusual coincidences. He used every opportunity to quote the SPR's first president's words suggesting it is a scandal that such things (even in 1882) had not been fully investigated and explained. Why wasn't the SPR doing its job? Why couldn't he have some useful research to undertake?

As my work office was just a short No 9 bus-ride away from the SPR's London HQ, I used to spend a couple of lunchtimes a week with Secretary Eleanor O'Keeffe processing routine administration. One day early in September the phone rang. The Daily Mirror. A poltergeist in Enfield. Could we send someone to help? Nothing unusual there: such instances were reported weekly. Promising to phone back, we considered the matter.

Could Brian (an established expert) undertake it, Eleanor wondered. No, I felt, he is ill at the moment, but wait - what about Maurice Grosse? "It will give him something to do, and get him off our back for a bit!"

Eleanor smiled and picked up the phone. Maurice was delighted, so was the Daily Mirror; and the rest, as they say, is history! Guy Lyon Playfair records that Maurice was on the scene as fast as his E-type Jaguar could take him, in what must be the speediest reply to such an appeal in SPR history.

During questions following a lecture on this subject a week later, an ebullient Mr Grosse stated "I can tell you about poltergeists first hand!" and described some of the dramatic scenes beginning to unfold at Enfield. These centred around two young teenage girls: furni-

ture being thrown around, fires, smells, a gas stove ripped out, and soon the voices ... Immediately following that meeting Guy Playfair offered to assist, and became the other member of the solid Enfield research duo.

Solid for considerable effort, solid for competent investigation, solid for supporting a family under considerable stress, and solid in shielding the flack aimed by other researchers who were old enough to have known better.

Early in December Maurice invited me to Enfield to witness some of the remarkable ongoing phenomena for myself. Perhaps the most amazing event of all was the (now) unruffled calm of the girls' mother Mrs Harper (pseudonym). Undistracted by screams and thumps upstairs, the homely Essex lady was carefully pouring me a cup of tea in the kitchen.

"Of course", she commented, "we used to think it was them evil spirits, like. But now we realise it is more probably Janet's unconscious mind exteriorising her suppressed inhibitions and fantasies ... " Yer wha'? Beat that for witness support!

Other, more academically-inclined, SPR members were also invited, and in general they failed to acknowledge witnessing many apparent paranormal events under pretty water-tight conditions. The children faked it all, of course. Indeed some, back-of-hand, blamed Maurice and Guy for encouraging such exhibitions - to the family's detriment. A scurrilous travesty, for Maurice particularly spent a large part of his days as their social worker in rather more hum-drum circumstances.

The overt onslaught of the paranormal establishment came in March the following year (1978) at the SPR Conference in Cambridge University. While both researchers were understandably enthusiastic about their case, their presentation to the elite was extremely low-key, balanced, well-documented and even then understated. However it still unleashed a tidal wave of controversy and unbridled criticism.

Despite his sometimes bombastic manner, Maurice was a very sensitive man, who became hurt and disillusioned by this reaction, which he rationalised as resentment towards a non-academic newcomer obtaining such highly relevant observations on a significant case.

Nevertheless he persevered in his quest to make the establishment earn their laurels in the field by attempting to join them. Year after year he stood for membership of the SPR Council, but his uphill battle was summarised neatly by the nomination papers. A full list of so-called "Council" nominations was followed by an "independent" candidate (or words to that effect) - Maurice Grosse.

He was co-opted to Council for just two years in 1980, but after more than a further decade of dogged persis-

tence, reason and good sense prevailed. He was eventually elected in 1993. Maurice breathed new life into the organisation as Chair of both its Spontaneous Phenomena Committee and Survival Research Committee.

Battles with the media were commonplace - at least with those who tried to rubbish him or steal his material. But they were easy meat, and many heads adorned his walls.

I knew Maurice Grosse as a straight talker, but also as a straight and sensitive thinker. Forthright but friendly, he could take his place anywhere and with considerable effect. In all the 30 years I knew him, he never appeared to age at all. I often commented on this, to which he responded, "Ah, but you don't know how old I really am." It was a considerable surprise to learn he was 87 on passing last October.

Many personal paranormal experiences convinced Maurice Grosse of survival after bodily death. A lot of debate and some occasional experiment takes place on this topic. If anyone could communicate after death, Maurice would do his damndest. So keep watching this space!

References:

Fontana, David; Journal of the Society for Psychical Research; Jan 2007, Vol 71, No 886, p62.

Murdie, Alan; Fortean Times; 219, Feb 2007; p24.

Playfair, Guy Lyon; Journal of the Society for Psychical Research; Jan 2007, Vol 71, No 886, p61.

Can You Help Anomaly?

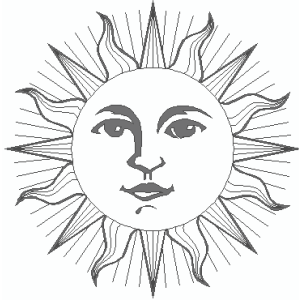
ASSAP's own bi-annual journal, *Anomaly*, is looking for volunteers to join its Editorial Board.

Firstly, we are looking for proof readers. If you have a good eye for detail and the English language and can turn round an article in a few weeks then please get in touch.

Secondly we're looking for academic editors. *Anomaly* is deliberately not so formal as an academic journal, but we place great value on all articles having a rational, scientific basis. Can you spot pseudo-science or an illogical argument? If so, get in touch. You don't need to be an academic to join the board!

We are also looking for someone good with IT skills to act as a text typesetter/art-worker for *Anomaly* - not including the front cover.

If you think you may be able to help out in any of these roles, or if you would just like some more information, please contact *Anomaly* editor Dave Wood at anomaly@assap.org.



Astrology Rising?

Keith Weim

Many readers may be aware of the work of French psychologist  and statistician Michel Gauquelin whose research caused something of a stir in the 1950s and beyond. His early work¹ developed his basic theory that, in a manner analogous to traditional astrology, a person's date of birth, and particularly the positions of the planets on that day, could be reflected in their personality. He reported particular success in discovering champion sportsmen born when Mars is in the fourth quadrant of the sky; that's rising to you and me...

 Needless to say the announcement of such heretical results caused an outcry in scientific circles even though his protocols and analysis were verified by the splendidly-named Belgian Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Reputedly Paranormal Phenomena² (and you thought that ASSAP was a mouthful...) even though they rejected his conclusions.

 Some years later, in the 1980s, Gauquelin, working with the French Committee for the Study of Paranormal Phenomena, analysed the birth dates of over 1000 French athletes and a control group of 10,000 randomly-selected individuals but was unable to demonstrate any significant correlations. Despite this his work, and that of numerous other similar researchers, is often used to offer some sort of scientific basis for astrology. 

While Gauquelin's work focussed on the importance of planetary influences a recent study by psychiatrist Emad Salib and Mario Cortina-Borja³ does point towards a possible *seasonal* effect more in line with the more simplistic 'starsign' approach to astrology seen in most daily papers. 

 There have, of course, been studies of this type before. The earliest dates back to 1929 when Moriz Tramer showed that rates of schizophrenia were between 5 and 10 percent greater than usual for those born in late winter, but this latest research is far more precise. Based on a 22-year dataset of nearly 27,000 suicide deaths in England and Wales the authors discovered that suicide rates are 17% higher amongst those born in April, May and June than those born throughout the rest of the year.

Of course this has hardly been done as an endorsement of astrology! In fact Salib and Cortina-Borja propose a physiological explanation to explain their results with the neurotransmitter melatonin heading the list of possible culprits. According to this theory anyone born in the spring-time will have been conceived during the previous summer months when it is conceivable that raised levels of melatonin caused by longer and brighter daylight hours could subtly alter the balance of chemicals in the brain. 

mer months when it is conceivable that raised levels of melatonin caused by longer and brighter daylight hours could subtly alter the balance of chemicals in the brain. 

 This story was covered by New Scientist⁴ which also mentioned studies linking a tendency towards anorexia around the same time-period contrasting with a similar propensity towards alcoholism in the autumn months. Not forgetting the Tramer schizophrenia cluster also in those born between February and April. In this latter case there may be a link with depressed levels of vitamin D caused by the darker days during gestation.

 So, is there any signs of a serious link at all with the predictions of astrology? Well, the three astrological signs concerned are (roughly) Aquarius, Pisces and Aries but my astrology primer, unsurprisingly perhaps, doesn't mention suicidal tendencies in any of them. Aquarians are described as erratic, Pisceans as impressionable and over-sensitive and Arians are said to be adventurous so nothing overly-specific there. Of course Arians are supposedly prone to disease of the head but overall I fear this is unlikely to be of any use to anyone looking to justify their daily horoscope watching. Sorry about that... 

References:

1. e.g. Men and Stars (1960) and The Scientific Basis for Astrology (1969)
2. Critical Considerations on the Research done by M. and Mme. Gauquelin in the Area of Planetary Influences. Bulletin of the Committee NOUVELLES BREVES no. 43, September 1976, pp. 327-343. Their website is at www.comitepara.be.
3. The British Journal of Psychiatry (2006) 188: 416-422 (available online from <http://bjp.rcpsych.org/>)
4. New Scientist, 27 Jan 2007

FOI reveals RV by MoD

With typically inconsiderate timing, just as ASSAP News was going to print, the Ministry of Defence released documents under the Freedom of Information Act which revealed that it had flirted briefly with Remote Viewing as a potential defence technique in 2002.

Those of you who remember the NSA projects *Grill Flame* and *Center Lane* in the '70s and '80s and were expecting a similar level of investment from the MoD are likely to be disappointed since from the initial reports it sounds to have been a fairly half-hearted programme. In fact their first step was to contact a dozen psychics who had advertised their talents on the internet! Tellingly none of these individuals were willing to submit to tests...

In the end other volunteers were recruited and the standard 'guess the picture in the envelope' test was used to check out any potential psychic super-spies. Around 28% of those tested were said to have had some success with identifying the contents although apparently the overall results were disappointingly negative. According to a spokesman: "The study concluded that remote viewing theories had little value to the MoD and was taken no further."

Date	Lat	Long	Depth (Km)	Mag	Location
2007/01/28	57.736	6.124	36.0	4.4	Eastern North Sea
2007/01/25	57.379	-5.681	7.3	2.4	Applecross, Highland
2007/01/23	51.655	2.102	15.0	3.5	Southern North Sea
2007/01/23	55.351	-4.223	0.0	1.1	Unknown
2007/01/17	56.942	-5.624	6.2	1.3	Loch Morar, Highland

Lunar Phases

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

March 2007:

Full Moon 3rd
Last Quarter 12th
New Moon 19th
First Quarter 25th

April 2007:

Full Moon 2nd
Last Quarter 10th
New Moon 17th
First Quarter 24th

Astronomical Events

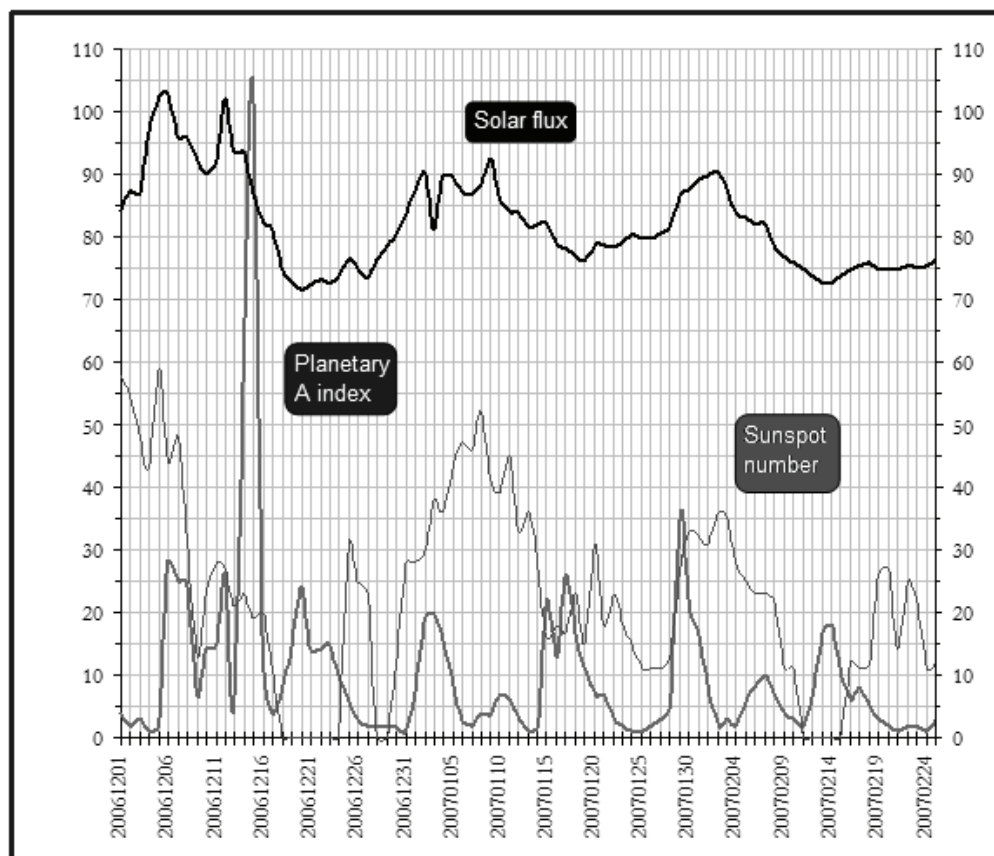
Meteors: Just two showers worth mentioning over the next couple of months, both in April. The Lyrids (maximum April 18th) are a fairly minor shower but the Eta Aquarids (which start just as the Lyrids finish but actually peak on May 6th) could well be far more noticeable though they are only observable just before dawn.

Other events:

Now here's something different. As the moon progresses across the sky it obviously passes in front of a number of stars. In technical terms this is an occultation. Usually these events are unspectacular but on March 30th, at 3.30am, it will pass in front of the first-magnitude star Regulus (Alpha Leonis) which should be rather more interesting.

Oh, and don't forget the Vernal (Spring) Equinox on March 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)

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 details contact Mark Porter at apismail@ntlworld.com or call 01462 490833. The APIS annual conference this year will be held on Oct 20th. See AN for more details nearer the time.

BUFORA (British UFO Research Organisation)

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

CPSG (Chesterfield Psychic Study Group)

Offers a programme of talks by invited speakers on the second Friday of each month at 7.15 p.m. at the Community Centre, South Place, Chesterfield. 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 8495.

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

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: £2.50 for members, £4 for non-members, concessions £2.50. Tubes: Great Portland Street, Regent's Park or Warren Street. 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 tonyecclles@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

Mercia Fortean 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 garethgdwn@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. 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.

Spirit-Team

Spirit Team is an investigation group based in the Midlands, with regular meetings in Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Coventry. Their emphasis is on studying hauntings but are interested in the whole range of the paranormal. Contact alan@spirit-team.co.uk or visit 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

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>