

NEWS

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ASSAP

WINTER

ABOUT ASSAP

The Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena was formed in 1981 to study a wide range of paranormal phenomena. These fall into the broad categories of psychic phenomena, earth mysteries, Ufology and Fortean phenomena. ASSAP holds no corporate views and the views expressed by individual authors are their own.

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Website Members' Area

The members area of the website is a fantastic resource, with forms and information for investigators as well as past copies of ASSAP News and Anomaly. Visit the website at www.assap.org and log into the members site:

Username: [assapmember](#)

Password: [haunted](#)

Are you on Email?

We like to keep in touch with members from time to time by email. If you haven't received an email from us please email your name and email address to chairman@assap.org so you can keep up to date!

Got a Case?

Do you know someone who has had an anomalous experience of any kind that they would like to see investigated by ASSAP? ASSAP has a network of investigators all over the UK who are ready to help.

Contact Bill Eyre on investigations@assap.org for more information.

Group

Are you a member of an investigation group? Does your group have one or more AAIs in a Investigation Leader position? If so, why not become an ASSAP Affiliate Group. Contact Lee Norton on groups@assap.org for more information.

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Contributions:

As well as our regular contributors columns ASSAP News accepts one-off or occasional contributions from any member to feature in our 'Focus On' Pages.

If you have an idea you'd like to discuss please email us on assapnews@assap.org

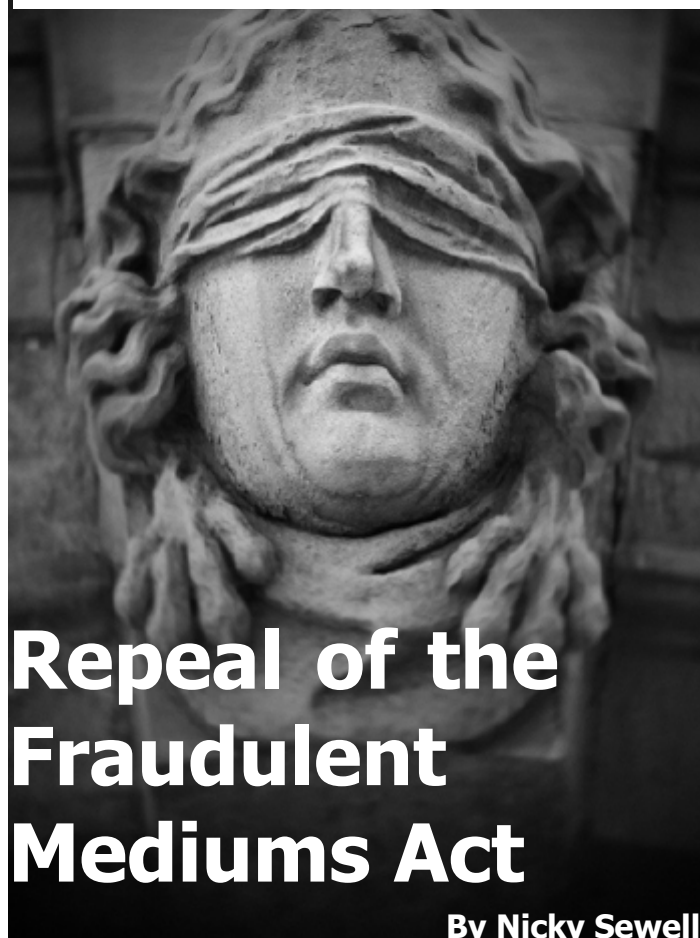
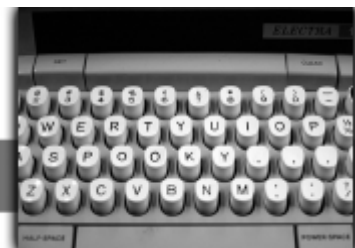
Submission Guidelines: Please email, or use our postal address, 400-600 words and at least one photograph on a relevant subject. If you would like to write a longer article please email us on to assapnews@assap.org to discuss.

Submission Deadlines: Submission deadlines are the end of April, July, October and January of each year.

Longer articles and reviews: These are recommended to be submitted to Anomaly - ASSAP's Journal. Anomaly deadlines are the middle of August and February of each year. Contact Anomaly by emailing anomaly@assap.org

THE NEWS

from the paranormal world



Repeal of the Fraudulent Mediums Act

By Nicky Sewell

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The Prime Minister's office has recently announced the repeal of the Fraudulent Mediums Act 1951. The act will be repealed by the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2007 (CPRs).

Those declaring themselves as mediums will, from April 2008, be prohibited from using practices which can mislead the public and influence their decision making. As those seeking the services of mediums are often deemed to be vulnerable, usually as a result of bereavement, any medium claiming to be in contact with the dead will be in breach of the CPRs.

There is no longer the need to prove an "intent to deceive" so this may make it easier to take action against fraudulent mediums. This could have a huge impact on the spiritual meetings and stage performances that are held the length and breadth of the country. Watch this

Have you heard any news from the paranormal world you'd like to share with other members? Email us on assapnews@assap.org

NEWS IN BRIEF

Microsoft founder funds alien search

Paul Allen, co-founder of Microsoft, has confirmed his funding of the Allen Telescope Array (ATA). The project will see the telescope have 350 six-metre antenna which will reach out into the skies for signs of alien life. The project is being co-ordinated through the Seti Institute and the Radio Astronomy Laboratory and aims to have confirmed definite alien life by 2025.

Stronsay Beast related to Nessie?

The Stronsay Beast was found off of the coast of Stronsay in 1808 and, some say, bears a striking resemblance to the Loch Ness Monster. The Highlands Science Festival are being address by Dr Yvonne Simpson about her research into the similarities between the two creatures.

Spectral soldier caught on camera

The semi-transparent figure of a supposed Roman soldier has been captured on camera by an amateur videographer. The figure appeared on a footpath near Wakefield in West Yorkshire and faded as two joggers ran through it. The Outwood Community Video Club are now undertaking research to identify any Roman settlements in the area.

New London attraction home to skeletons

Builders working on the new London Bridge Experience made the grim discovery of several skeletons when excavating a sealed basement. Following their find, builders have refused to work on the site alone and there have been reports of tools going missing and over a dozen lightbulbs have blown since the skeletons were unearthed.

Bald coyote blows chupacabra hopes

The mystery of mythical American chupacabra remains unsolved, despite recent claims of a finding. The discovery of a coyote carcass lead locals to believe they had identified the mythical creature, only for a DNA test to reveal that the body belonged to a bald coyote. The chupacabra myth purports that the creature attacks by night, sucking out its victims' blood, leaving creatures dead with their throats torn out.

THE ASSAP INSIDER



What's going on in your Association?



Oak House, Birmingham will be the setting for the Training Investigation

Come to the ASSAP Training Investigation

Join ASSAP in Birmingham for the chance to plan and execute an investigation of the allegedly haunted Oak House. The event includes refresher training in the use of equipment, science and ethics followed by the chance to work in groups to mock-interview witnesses and plan an investigation. The best investigation method will then be used to investigate Oak House itself. This is the perfect opportunity to complete your investigation report for AAI status or simply refresh your knowledge and investigate with a friendly group of peers.

The Training Investigation takes place at Oak House, West Bromwich, Birmingham on Saturday 29th March 2008 between approximately 4pm and 12 midnight. The cost of the event is £20 per person. Email chairman@assap.org or telephone us on 0845 652 1648 for a booking form. The event is strictly limited to 20 trainees, so book early!

Groups: ASSAP Invades the South West

ASSAP has long been represented in the Midlands, North and South East by its wide network of Affiliate Groups. Meanwhile Plymouth ASSAP has been our sole beacon in the South West. Following the new procedure for affiliating Groups by ensuring scientific and ethical awareness, two Groups from the South West have joined ASSAP. Supernatural Investigations (SI) is a new Group covering Devon, Somerset and beyond. Paranormal Site Investigators (PSI) is an established Group run by executive members Dave Wood and Nicky Sewell and covers Wiltshire and surrounding areas.

If you are part of a non-affiliated Group that has at least one AAI in an investigation leader position please contact Groups Officer Lee Norton on groups@assap.org if you want to join the network.

Almost Live from the Training Weekend

The Training Weekend at Beaumanor Park, Leicestershire, was held on 24-25 November. ASSAP's first residential Training Weekend was a great success and a good time was had by all, including a riotous birthday celebration.

ASSAP's expanded training is designed to train existing and future investigators in the methodological and ethical basics needed to investigate ASSAP cases. It was more interesting than it sounded, of course, and we look forward to seeing more members when we venture 'up North' in November 2008.

The Training Weekend also enveloped the roller-coaster ride that is the Annual General Meeting. The usual blend of bureaucracy and accountability was, on this occasion, further dehydrated by a mountain of constitutional amendments.

The AGM also saw the re-election of veteran Dr Hugh Pincott, the election of co-opted Treasurer Wendy Milner and co-opted Membership Secretary Kevin Griffiths-Boden. New members Stefan Lobuczek and Colin Dennison were also elected.



Beaumanor Hall. © Copyright Christine Matthews and licensed for reuse under the Creative Commons License

ASSAP starts Blogging

Maurice Townsend has, following a comfortable pause after the blogging revolution, started a weblog on the ASSAP website.

The blog is updated several times a week and chronicles the ongoing trials and tribulations of rational research, in the face of the pseudo-scientists at the gates.

Recent posts include the ongoing debate on 'orbs' and ASSAP's recent appearance in The Times.

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The world according to Lionel Fanthorpe



The Easter Island mysteries

Moais and Rongo-rongo

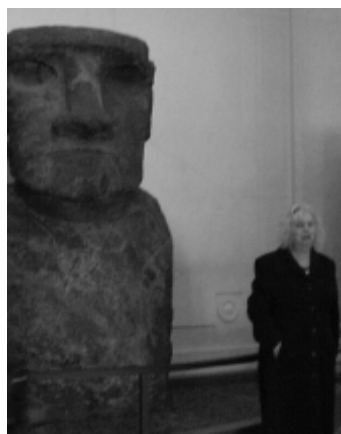
The two fascinating mysteries on Easter Island are the statues and the enigma of the Rongo-rongo inscriptions. Who carved, transported and erected the strange moai statues on Easter Island – and why? Nearly 900 of them are catalogued on the island itself, and in various museums, including the Smithsonian in Washington D.C., where we had the opportunity to examine one at close range.



The age of the statues is undecided and controversial. Some experts put them as far back as 1000 AD: others think that they could date from as recently as 1700. They are carved from a distinctive type of compressed volcanic ash, technically referred to by geologists and vulcanologist as tuff, which seems to have come exclusively from the quarry at Rano Raraku on Easter Island.

Investigators who have examined the site in depth have suggested that the Rapanui peoples, who are prime favourites for having carved the moais, had nothing more than stone hand tools to work with. The sheer physical effort must have been prolonged and prodigious. That kind of drawn out exertion had to be motivated by something really powerful: but what was it? Deep religious convictions - or an input from elsewhere? These two great Easter Island mysteries tempt dauntless and wide-thinking investigators to venture into von Daniken land and consider Atlantean or extra-terrestrial involvement. And why not?

The dangerously sharp edge of Ockham's 14th century Razor (Pluralitas non est ponenda sine necessitate – don't include unnecessary things) attempts to cut away all the imaginative and romantic theories involving mer-people from Atlantis or ETs from Sirius – but Charles Hoy Fort's approach to mystery data appeals to us more than



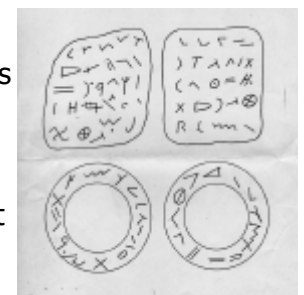
Ockham's does. Our Fanthorpean 21st century translation of Fort's hundred year old philosophy is: "Nothing is so obviously proven and well established that it cannot be questioned again. Nothing is so risibly strange and bizarre that it can be laughed away without being examined at all." The statues were difficult to carve, even harder to move, and not easy to erect on the little stone platforms called ahu - on which many of them now stand. The most intriguing of the stone figures is a character referred to as Tukuturi. Unlike the others, Tukuturi has a beard, and unlike the others he is in a kneeling posture. He has been carved from the red scoria that is found at Puna Pau – but his creators have parked him by the tuff quarry in Rano Raraku. Again, the question is why? And who the Dickens is he?

Who created the bizarre Rongo-rongo script – if it is an actual script? Why did they do it and what does it say?

Back in the seventies, we visited Glozel near Vichy, in central France, and met Emile Fradin who had actually discovered the clay tablets inscribed with the weird Glozelian alphabet when he was a boy. It was interesting to see if there were any similarities between what was left at Glozel and what was left at Easter Island. A detailed comparison of the two scripts might make an interesting future project for ASSAP.



Symbols from the Rongo-rongo tablets and staffs of Easter Island, copied by Lionel and Patricia Fanthorpe



Glozel script, copied by Lionel and Patricia Fanthorpe.

All photos © Lionel & Patricia Fanthorpe November 2007



The city of Bath

In this edition, ASSAP's travel correspondent, Nicky Sewell, takes us on a tour of the historic city of Bath. With Christmas quickly approaching, Bath is a beautiful city steeped in history and with it's famous Christmas markets, vast array of cultural indulgences and a wide selection of food and drink it makes the perfect Yuletide shopping venue. While your other half is off spending last month's (and next month's!) pay cheque on festive frivolities, allow yourself to be immersed in the darker side of the city of Bath...

Before you indulge yourself in any mulled wine, watch out for the naked Roman soldier that has been seen running around the **Abbey Church** and throughout the **town centre**! He has been seen many a time, and tempted a police-man into hot pursuit – only to disappear without a trace ...

After an encounter with the naked soldier, a mulled wine or two may well be in order and many of Bath's public houses will be more than happy to serve up spirits of the less palatable kind!



The Royal Crescent, Bath. © Mark Doyle and Licensed for use

Bunty, a Victorian barmaid, has been seen many a time dressed in bluey grey in the **Beehive** pub. But if something more monastical is to your taste, pay a visit to the **Crystal Palace** public house where the fading figure of a monk has been reported on many occasions.

And if you're after one for the road, try popping into the **Devonshire Arms** where the spirit of a girl killed on nearby railway lines has been reported to haunt the basement.

If you want to catch a show whilst in the city, the **Theatre Royal** has many a delight on offer. None less than the appearance of an actress, who committed suicide, and appears still wearing a grey feathered dress.

After the show, why not pop next door to the **Garrick's Head** pub where the tormented actress has also been seen?

Bath's beautiful **Royal Crescent** is also no stranger to ghostly goings-on. A horse drawn coach has been seen to pull up along the crescent to re-enact the

elopement of Elizabeth Linley and Richard Sheridan.

And if you fancy a bite to eat after you're all shopped out, a visit to **Popjoy's Restaurant** could be on the menu. Juliana Popjoy, the 18th century mistress of Beau Nash, has been seen many a time and more recently a lady dressed in 1960s attire has been seen to dine alone, before suddenly disappearing ...

Would you like to see your town, city or county mentioned in this section? If so, get in touch! Email us at assapnews@assap.org



No. 3: The importance of witnesses

Q: Why are witnesses so important in paranormal research?

A: There are two sorts of witnesses in paranormal research and they are both important. There are the witnesses who volunteer to spend cold nights on vigils hoping to see a ghost ('vigil witnesses'). Then there are the people who happen to witness an anomalous event, such as seeing a ghost, UFO or a strange animal, by pure chance ('chance witnesses').

Q: Which is more important?

A: They are both important in different ways. However, in recent years the role of chance witnesses has been downplayed. As they are unprepared and usually untrained observers, some people regard them as less useful to research than vigil witnesses. This ignores problems with vigil witnesses.

Q: What is wrong with vigil witnesses?

A: There are major problems with vigil witnesses, compared to chance witnesses. For instance, it is almost impossible to go on a vigil nowadays without having prior access (via the internet, TV programmes, etc) to information about what can be expected. This means that suggestion cannot be ruled out as an explanation for their observations. This is exacerbated by the fact that many vigil witnesses are hoping, or even expecting, to see a ghost!

Q: Are chance witnesses any better, then?

A: If they experience a phenomenon without knowing what to expect then they are very useful. If they have no particular beliefs or expectations regarding anomalous phenomena, it increases their usefulness. If different independent chance witnesses report very similar phenomena at the same location, it points strongly to something well worth investigating. However, there are still many problems with all kinds of witnesses, even chance ones.

Q: What are the problems with witnesses?

A: ASSAP once did a study on witness testimony where groups of people were asked to say what they remembered of a staged incident which happened in

front of them. Despite answering questions straight after the event, the answers were astonishingly diverse. In many cases people 'saw' or 'heard' things that never happened while also missing obvious things that did!

Q: Are there other problems with witnesses?

A: Many people who report paranormal phenomena are actually encountering the 'unfamiliar but natural' (or xenonormal). In our increasingly urbanised existence, many of us have a quite narrow experience of natural phenomena. For example, you may have a concealed fox sleeping during the day in your garden and never even be aware of it. If the fox starts making a blood-curdling noise at night and moving small portable items around in your garden, you might reasonably think there was something paranormal going on. There are also many factors related to the way our brains work (such as sleep paralysis) which mean that some apparent experiences are not all that they seem.



Q: Why would people report something simply unfamiliar as paranormal?

A: From birth we are continually subjected to uncritical coverage of the paranormal in the media. It is not that surprising that when faced with something unfamiliar in a spooky building, a few people are more likely to think of ghosts rather than bats.

Q: If witnesses are so unreliable, why bother with them at all?

A: Some people have argued just that, saying that vigils should be run purely with instruments. However, instruments just record readings, they don't experience paranormal phenomena. If there is a strange reading, you won't know if it corresponds with a paranormal experience if no one is there. Also, it is usually through chance witnesses that we discover new cases.

Further information:

<http://www.assap.org/newsite/articles/Eyewitness.html>
<http://www.assap.org/newsite/PDF%20pages/Paranormal%20witnesses.html>

<http://www.assap.org/newsite/articles/Xenonormal.html>
<http://www.assap.org/newsite/articles/Mind.html>

F O C U S O N

Haunted Swindon...The DVD



Trystan Swale casts an eye over the latest offering from ASSAP's Project Albion: the *Haunted Swindon* DVD. Trystan heads up Severnside Centre for Fortean Research who can be found online at www.scfr.co.uk. SCFR is conducting it's own Albion-style investigation entitled *Strange Stroud*.



DVD Cover – *Haunted Swindon* is produced by ASSAP Group Paranormal Site Investigators

Self-produced by the in-house talents of Wiltshire's Paranormal Site Investigators (P-S-I) the *Haunted Swindon* DVD accompanies the on-line research and book project of the same name.

Although widely regarded as a modern commercial centre, Swindon is surprisingly rich in its ghostly heritage. This hour long film, introduced by psychologist Dr Simon Sherwood, chronicles some of the most interesting hauntings, with particular focus upon Highworth, Old Town,

Wyvern Theatre and Central Fire Station. Witness interviews enhance Nicky Sewell's thoughtful commentary, together with investigation footage captured by P-S-I at some of the sites in question.

The final third of *Haunted Swindon* takes the viewer further into the world of paranormal investigations, accompanying P-S-I on an overnight stay at Stanton Park Farmhouse.

By contrast to the juvenile antics and media circus attached to certain televised investigators, P-S-I's approach is methodical, systematic and analytical. Commonly misattributed phenomena such as photographic orbs, unusual sounds and mysterious lights are all encountered by various members of the team, but considered in a rational, unsensational manner that draws upon an extensive psychological and equipment related knowledge. Such insight presents a valuable look at the professionalism, ethical and reasoned methodologies of one of Britain's leading rationalist groups. Regardless of whether you're an investigator keen to learn more about another group, or a member of the public curious about Swindon's dark side and investigations, *Haunted Swindon* makes an entertaining and educational addition to any paranormal enthusiast's DVD collection.



The DVD is introduced by Dr Simon Sherwood



One of the sites investigated, Central Fire Station, lies on Swindon's infamous Magic Roundabout

How to order:

You can order online, through paypal or ebay, at www.HauntedSwindon.com or you can send a cheque for £9.95 (+£1 p+p) made payable to "PSI Charity" to Brooklyn Lodge, Broad Bush, Blunsdon, SN26 7DH.

***Haunted Swindon* DVDs can be purchased online from the *Haunted Swindon* Project, representing excellent value at just £9.95 per copy plus £1 postage.**

Interested in Project Albion?

Project Albion is a long-running programme to document the geographic distribution of anomalous phenomena. It has been likened to a Domesday Book of the paranormal. To find out about more projects and to learn how to start your own go to assap.org/newsite/htmlfiles/Albion.html

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to the editor



Not a regular feature (please write to us?!), but communication can be a Good Thing. Here are some correspondences we've had recently...

The David Lowe Archive

A couple of thoughts on the apparent prior existences of Joan Smith (pseudonym) listed in Hugh Pincott's *Focus On The David Lowe Archive* (AN 119 Summer 2007):

- a) Did 'Lileth Brynfrwyn' speak Welsh?
- b) Birth and death years tend to end in 0 or 5, and are therefore presumably approximate, but the time from death to rebirth varies from 5 to 44 years. Time for some unrecalled lives of children who died young?

Dilwyn Chambers

Middlesex.

Could it be that David Lowe's good results are down to the power of belief and those that didn't get such good results simply were neutral at best and disbelievers at worst i.e. no draw towards them of positive results or active repulsion of anything paranormal in the way of subjects or evidence because that is the result they wanted.

Second point - could the discrepancy between what was reported and known historically be down to parallel universe theory? In other words not quite the same everywhere, even if generally similar worlds?

Tony Sandy

By email.

Congratulations!

I'm sure many would like to join me in congratulating Dave Wood and Nicky Sewell on running an excellent training course for investigators at Beaumanor Hall on 24th/25th November 2007.

The weekend seemed to be very much enjoyed by all and there was much to learn, even for old hands like me!

The hard work was very much appreciated, as was the friendliness and enthusiasm of other members. Congratulations also due to Caroline Pick of LPRA, whose excellent investigation report won her the coveted Michael Bentine Shield.

Editor, Wendy Milner.

Somerset claims Arthur

I got the new ASSAP news on my return from Cornwall. I was quite fond of the old format but the new one looks really good.

Congratulations to you and the team.

Interesting bit about King Arthur, of course us Zummerset people know that he was really a local lad...!

There seem to be no groups in my part of the world. Is Plymouth ASSAP the nearest to mid-Somerset?

I Stevenson

Somerset

Were wolves on the chase?

I have lived within a mile of Cannock Chase for the first 35 years of my life and for the last 15 of them I have lived right on the Chase itself. We have had reports of Bigfoot, Mothman and Big Cats as well as numerous UFO's and other paranormal sightings, but I have never seen it reported that a werewolf has been seen! (AN 119, *Gazetteer*) You learn something new everyday! Oh, and for the record, our group have been studying various known and not-so known sites all over the Chase for the last two years and have found absolutely no evidence of any paranormal wildlife - yet! Never mind though, we will keep investigating!

CP

Cannock

The editors would like to thank all those who have also commented on the new style, design and content of ASSAP News... too many to be included here but your comments were very much appreciated.

If you'd like to see your letter in print on this page, please send it to the address on page 2 or email assapnews@assap.org.

INTERVIEW



Dr Alan Gauld

Dr. Gauld, MA, PhD, and D Litt, has written or co-authored five books: *The Founders of Psychical Research; Human Action and its Psychological Investigation; Poltergeists; Mediumship and Survival and A History of Hypnotism*. He is a past president of the Society for Psychical Research, received the Award for Outstanding Contribution to Parapsychological Research from the Parapsychological Association, and was awarded the Myers Memorial Medal by the Society for Psychical Research.

Could you tell the readers a little about your current or most recent areas of research?

The practical questions that have principally interested me of late have been the interlinked and somewhat worrying ones of the apparent steady decline over the last decade or more in the frequency of certain of the phenomena that have always interested me, and the problem of why, if as I am inclined to suspect, they have indeed become markedly less common, this has happened? When (a long time ago!) I first became seriously interested in psychical research one would regularly, if not exactly frequently, learn of, hear at first hand about, and indeed get to investigate 'spontaneous' cases of the classical kinds (poltergeists, 'veridical' apparitions, etc.). Cases of these kinds have grown steadily more rare, at least in the English-speaking world, since roughly the late 1980s or early 1990s.

What about cases of 'haunted houses' which appear to crop up all the time?

Cases of 'haunted' houses do indeed continue to crop up, but are of course particularly susceptible to explanations in terms of normal causes. This diminution in phenomena, be it real or apparent, is clearly very important both theoretically and practically. But so many factors could potentially be involved that it is hardly possible to fix on any particular explanation or explanations.

What do you think might explain the decline of such classic 'haunted' cases?

Among explanations that I have heard proposed are the following: (1) The decline is not real; cases occur but, for a variety of reasons, no longer reach the major relevant societies and institutions. This is the solution with which I personally should be happiest! (2) Following on from the above, perhaps cases are being widely hijacked by the small local ghost-hunting groups that have become so common in Britain and the United States. My own acquaintance with such groups and with their websites suggests that this is unlikely to be so. (3) The current time- and excitement-driven way of life in our society is not conducive to psychic experiences. (4) The decline may somehow be related to the steady rise through each passing decade in world-wide consumption of electricity. (5) It may be related to the prevalence of 'electronic smog' in our surroundings.

Do you have any views on the apparently diminishing prominence of parapsychology in some universities, such as the recent contention over the Koestler Chair?

There was a period of a decade or two when I began to think there was a real hope that parapsychology would before too long become a recognised academic subject. The advance culminated, perhaps, in the 1970s, with the publication of Wolman's massive Handbook of Parapsychology (1977). The subject seemed to be gaining respect, hostility, where it existed, was generally muted, and around that time it was even possible for research students to obtain funding from the usual government Research Councils. But before long it became apparent (for instance in the difficulties had by Arthur Koestler's trustees in placing the Koestler Chair) that the gains were slipping away, and I am full of admiration for those who are still managing to keep the subject going at a university level. The problem is not a shortage of interest among students or even among staff. It is funding and the fear of losing it.

Why do you think there is a problem with government funding of parapsychology?

Universities are heavily dependent on government and other external funding, which is largely awarded for projects that seem likely to be of direct or indirect economic benefit to the country, and members of the academic staff are judged and promoted very much on the sums of money they can bring in for such research. Psychical research has little money and brings few practical benefits, and is afflicted with a smallish but vocal number of prominent enemies, many of them scientific opponents of religion in all its forms who seem to think, quite erroneously, that psychical research is a cover for, or a covert path into, religious beliefs which we would all be better off without. University administrators and heads of departments are regrettably but understandably wary of attacks from these noisy persons, which they fear might endanger their funding and even their careers. So they are extremely cautious about letting parapsychology into the fold.

Do you think that the scientific investigation of the paranormal is represented fairly by the mass Media?

I'm afraid I don't have the experience that would qualify me to answer this question properly. I have occasionally watched or looked in on TV programmes about the paranormal, but, with a very few exceptions, they have been so bad that I tend nowadays not to look at them at all. They may, for all I know, represent the subject fairly in that believers and sceptics are balanced against each other, either within programmes or between them, but what the sceptics say tends to be boringly trite and in its way sometimes as credulous as the views of the uncritical believers.

Dr Gauld was interviewed by Matthew Hicks

© November 2007

SPOTLIGHT ON GROUPS

In the trenches with paranormal research



Group profile: Chesterfield Psychic Study Group

Chesterfield Psychic Study Group (CPSG) was formed 25 years ago, i.e. just one year later than ASSAP itself, which must be something of a record for a locally based paranormal group. The founder members were Harry Hunt (a Hypnotherapist with a practice in Chesterfield) and Ian Fraser-Martin. These days the group is chaired by Oriel Blissett.

The main activity of the Group has always been a monthly programme of lectures, demonstrations, discussions and videos, with most meetings featuring an invited speaker or demonstrator. The scope of the Group's syllabus increased, as time went by, to include all aspects of Parapsychology, Spiritualism, UFOlogy, New Age and Alternative Medicine.

As the group expanded, sub-groups sprang up in order to pursue specific aspects of the subject at a practical level. A number of these were designed to undertake experimental research along scientific lines into specific phenomena, including dowsing, psi under hypnosis and the ouija (see photo below).



One of the early sub-groups carried out investigations into spontaneous psychic phenomena but, with the death of the sub-group leader, all the case histories were lost. In 1989, William Eyre (ASSAP's current NIC) joined CPSG and by 1992 had arranged for the group to be affiliated to ASSAP. At this time, the group once again became involved in the area of investigating spontaneous phenomena, covering Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire. However, this time around, not only has the group had the advantage of learning from ASSAP the scientific approach to pursuing such investigations but also it means that never again will case histories be lost, as they are all ultimately filed within ASSAP archives. Apart from Bill, the group now has several other AAIs.

More information about our organisation can be found at www.cpsg.co.uk.

ASSAP AFFILIATES

ANGLIA PARANORMAL INVESTIGATION SOCIETY (APIS)
Operates in the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire area. Contact Paul Keech at apismail@ntlworld.com or phone 01234 771 351 or visit www.apisteamspirit.co.uk

CHESTERFIELD PSYCHIC STUDY GROUP (CPSG)
Offers a programme of talks by invited speakers on the second Friday of each month at 7.15pm at the Community Centre, South Place, Chesterfield. Visit www.cpsg.co.uk or phone 01246 413217.

GHANON is a group covering Wirral, Cheshire and North Wales. Membership by invitation. Contact emailus@ghanon.org or visit www.ghanon.org or phone 0700 341 8495

LEICESTERSHIRE PARANORMAL ASSOCIATION (LPA)
Contact Ian and Vanessa Walker on info@leicsparanormal.tk or visit www.leicsparanormal.tk

LEICESTERSHIRE PARANORMAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (LPRA) Contact Caroline and Margaret Pick on lpramail@aol.co.uk or phone 07904 785 174

MELTON PARANORMAL RESEARCH SOCIETY (MPRS)
Based in Leicestershire. Contact Christine Hankey on 07745 398 569 or email meltonparacub@aol.com

MIDLAND PARANORMAL INVESTIGATIONS operates throughout the Midlands. Check out www.midlandparanormal.co.uk or email mark@midlandparanormal.co.uk or phone 0121 603 7356

MERSEYSIDE ANOMALIES RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (MARA) Monthly meetings in Liverpool city centre. Contact tonyccles@yahoo.com or write to 18a Parkfield Road, Aigburth, Liverpool L17 8UJ or phone 0151 727 4057

THE MIDLANDS GHOST RESEARCH SOCIETY (TMGRS) Operates in the Coventry area. Visit www.tmgrs.co.uk or email Amanda and Martin at info@tmgrs.co.uk

OPEN MIND INVESTIGATIONS (OMI)
Operates in the Kent and Hampshire areas. Contact Cara via the website on www.omi-uk.org

PARA.SCIENCE Meet on the first working Monday of each month at Bebington Civic Centre on the Wirral. (8pm) Visit www.parascience.org.uk

PARANORMAL AWAKENING SCIENTIFIC STUDY ASSOCIATION (PASSA) Operates in the Midlands area. Contact Stefan on 0121 353 7622 (admin@navigatortm.com) or Cherill on 01543 685 913 (susan.penton1@btinternet.com) or visit www.paranormalawakening.com

PARANORMAL SITE INVESTIGATORS (PSI) operates in Wiltshire and surrounding area and produces e-newsletters and research journals. Contact Dave or Nicky through www.p-s-i.org.uk HauntedSwindon.com TheOrbZone.com or 0845 6521529.

PARASEARCH operates in Worcestershire, Shropshire, Warwickshire and the West Midlands. Visit www.parasearch.org.uk or phone 07761 184 837 or send an SAE to Parasearch, 15 Brier Mill Road, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 3HA.

PLYMOUTH ASSAP Operates in Plymouth, South Devon and South East Cornwall. Contact Lee at eustacetuttle@yahoo.co.uk

SPIRIT TEAM UK Operates in the Midlands, with meetings at Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Coventry. Contact Alan at enquiries@spiritteamuk.com or visit www.spiritteamuk.com

STAFFORDSHIRE PARANORMAL STUDY GROUP (SPSG)
Monthly meetings in Stoke on Trent. Contact Terri at thespsg@yahoo.co.uk or visit www.spsg.org.uk

SUPERNATURAL INVESTIGATIONS (UK) are based in Devon and Somerset but aim to investigate nationally. Currently their main interests lie in ghosts. Contact Stuart at stuart@supernaturalinvestigations.org.uk

TEMS Operates in the South East. Visit www.temsgroup.org.uk or email infoenquiry@temsgroup.org.uk or write to TEMS, 10 Effra Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 8PP

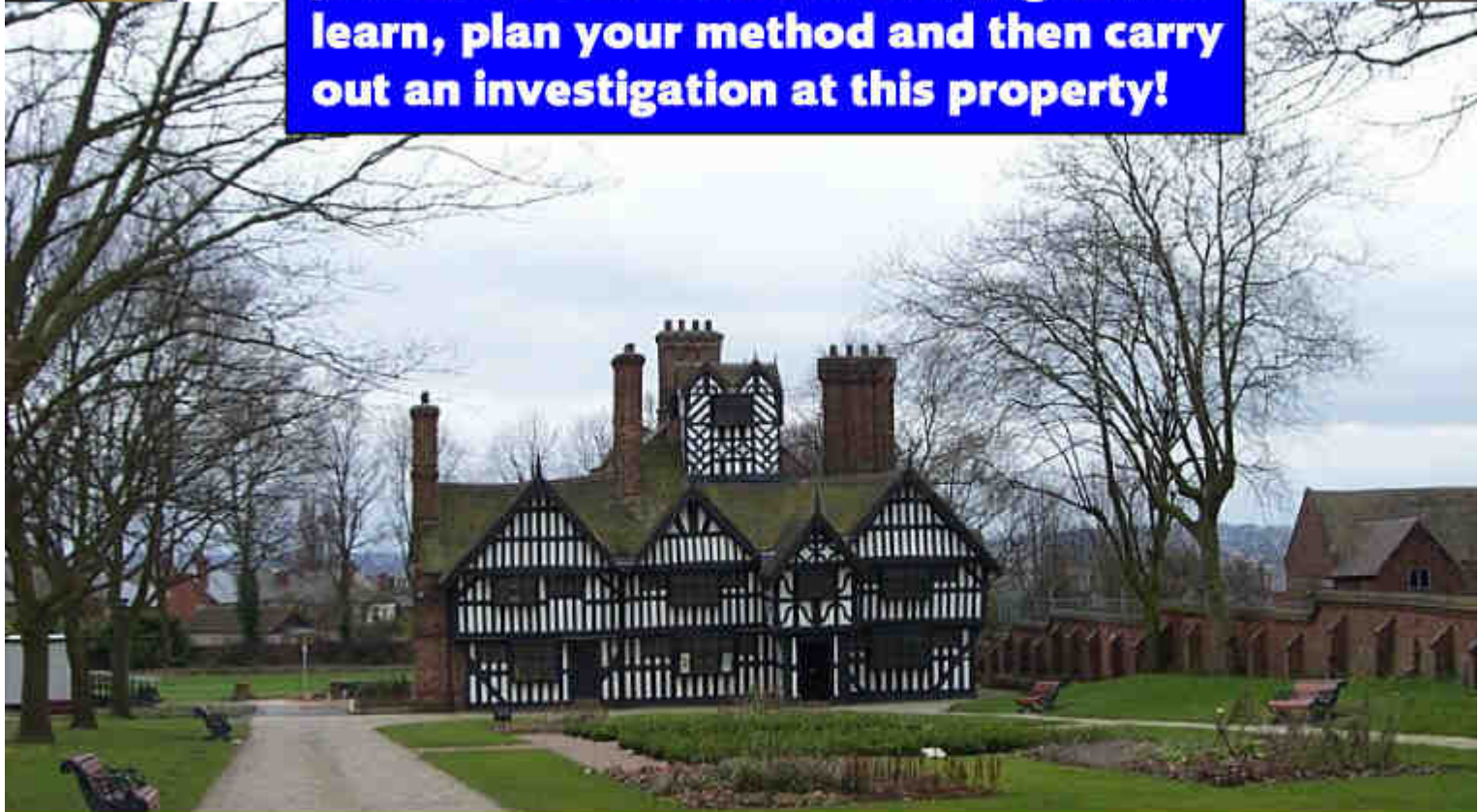
LIMITED SPACES

MARCH 29

ASSAP Training Investigation



Join us at Oak House in Birmingham to learn, plan your method and then carry out an investigation at this property!



Reserve your place now to avoid disappointment: see page 4