



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

Issue 95 July 2003

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We Are Wasting Our Time! - It's Official...or is it?

Paranormal researcher and sometime sceptic Richard Wiseman made national headlines in May with the release of his investigations into haunted locations across the country. Prof. Wiseman, a lecturer at the University of Hertfordshire, made history by publishing his results in the *British Journal of Psychology*, the first time that genuine paranormal research has been subject to a full peer-review in a prestigious scientific periodical.

The Hertfordshire team's research was conducted in some of the most haunted places in Britain, including Hampton Court Palace and the South Bridge Vaults beneath Edinburgh. Their method was to use volunteers with no knowledge of the ghostly reputation of the vigil site to act as human barometers, recording their sensations and impressions from a series of different locations throughout the night.

Upon analysis the places identified by the volunteers as being the most 'spooky' correlated strongly with those with a history of being haunted. Physical monitoring of these sites indicated that they also tended to be the draughtiest, most enclosed and were often significantly darker than the room or corridor from which they had

been entered. Wiseman believes that a form of sensory deprivation may explain the creepy feeling of these spots and further claims that there may even be an evolutionary reason for our fear of ghosts; anything that kept early humans out of dark, confining spaces can only have improved their chances of survival. He also briefly mentions the possible effects of magnetic fields and infrasound.



Prof. Richard Wiseman

Prof. Wiseman's conclusions are that ghosts and other supernatural phenomena do not exist as physical entities but neither are they entirely all in the mind. Or, to paraphrase: hauntings exist but ghosts don't!

Of course this research, while interesting, needs to be seen in context. Wiseman's is only one of a number of possible interpretations of this work and it sheds little light on ghosts that appear outside,

poltergeist effects, multiple witness reports and a whole host of other paranormal phenomena. Plus, of course, the fact that physical explanations *could* be responsible for ghost sightings does not mean that they always are...

So, despite Prof. Wiseman's groundbreaking work the case is still open...

Source: Times 21 May 2003

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Editorial

Much to the surprise of many people the demise of the *X-Files* has done little to dampen TV executives' enthusiasm for paranormal and other related programmes. Horizon recently screened *God on the Brain*, Channel 5 ran *The Woman with no Brain* and *Are You Telepathic?* (although probably some people already knew the answer to that one...) and the satellite channels are always packed with reruns of *Most Haunted*, *Ghosthunters* and so on. And I haven't even mentioned the BBC series *Strange* yet, largely because its mix of flawed lead characters battling against hostile and malevolent other-worldly entities reminds me too much of my home life. (If you don't have kids ask someone who has...)

While I can only applaud this trend I am also nostalgic for the rather amateurish way paranormal themes used to be used in programmes in the past. For example it is a little known fact that the Tom Selleck vehicle *Magnum PI* was originally planned to be a sort of prototype *X-Files* with the eponymous hero as a Paranormal Investigator chasing ghosts around assorted scenic locations in Hawaii. Of course the problem was that Hawaii isn't too scenic in the dark and, (allegedly) Selleck's moustache tended to cast eerie shadows in torchlight so *Magnum* was eventually made as a standard detective show at great loss to us all I'm sure. They kept the PI though.

There have also been other far more subtle paranormal references over the years. Have you ever considered the method Florence uses to leave the *Magic Roundabout* to enter the Garden (teleportation surely?); why did *Generation Game* contestants always win the cuddly toy - synchronicity?; was that robot in *Lost in Space* actually prescient? ('Danger, Will Robinson!'); I vividly remember *Tomorrow's World* promising a world where we only had to work two hours a day by the year 2000 so they were clearly looking into some bizarre alternate universe even then; and who could ever forget that episode of *The Professionals* when Lewis Collins had his Out of Bodie experience?

In short, there have always been plenty of TV programmes out there that are likely to be interesting and relevant to ASSAP members and now the choice is better than ever. If you have watched one recently and felt moved to comment, why not write to AN?

Mike White

Help fill the next issue — please!

Are you conducting research that will be of interest to other members? Issue No. 96 will be out in September 2003. Original articles, letters and dates of events should be sent by 15 August either to: Mike White, ASSAP News Editor, PO Box 327, Bromley, BR1 1ZE, or by email to assap-news@assap.org (you can pick your format as I am very accommodating). Photos and other illustrations are especially welcome. We can't guarantee to publish - space availability and the balance of articles will determine what we include. And please check out your facts to save yourself from embarrassment if you get it wrong! Articles may be edited for length but only with the consent of the author.

About ASSAP

ASSAP is an educational charity involved in the investigation of anomalous phenomena. We publish ASSAP News bi-monthly 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 327, Bromley, BR1 1ZE.

Just prefix the address with the name of the office you want to contact. We will forward all mail to the individual officers. This way your letters won't go astray when one of us moves house or moves on.

The Executive

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

Thanks to Jim Clark for proofreading this issue.

Haunted

The Fanthorpe Column

Mysteries of Alternative Medicines

I've been all over Wales - and further afield when the research took us there - to make our new TV series "Talking Stones". This is the second set of investigations we've carried out for HTV Wales and our friends at Zip TV in Cardiff. Basically, we begin in a graveyard, or with an interesting epitaph or memorial, and then trace the life of the fascinating hero, or heroine, whose memorial it is. We've included such famous sporting and showbiz personalities as Jimmy Wilde and Ivor Novello - but one of the most interesting investigations concerned the Physicians of Myddfai.

The village of Myddfai has had a remarkable tradition of being a centre of healing for many centuries, and it is entwined with the equally intriguing and mysterious legend of the Lady of the Lake. The rudimentary story goes back perhaps as far as Celtic times, or even earlier. There were two distinct ethnic groups in the area then: one living well above the lake on the agricultural and pastoral plateau - the other living in the lowlands surrounding the lake.

An uplander won the heart of the mysterious Lady of the Lake (almost certainly historically a beautiful girl from the tribe of the Lake People). She taught him many skills concerning the herbs that grew near the lake, and these appear to have had great medicinal value. It is possible that the remarkable success of the later Physicians of Myddfai can be traced tenuously to the secret herbal healing data which the lake-lady brought to her uplander husband. As the legend continued - and again it seems to have realistic historical parallels - the lady charged her son Rhiwallon with the sacred and solemn duty of passing on her healing skills to his descendants for the benefit of all who came to Myddfai to seek healing and health.

In much later times, two deservedly famous eighteenth and early nineteenth century doctors from Myddfai - Dr David Jones and his son, John - were instrumental in saving many lives and greatly reducing the suffering and sickness of patients who came to Myddfai from far and wide. They almost certainly knew many of the ancient herbal remedies.

In our own twenty-first century, when alternative therapies - some of them strange and mysterious - are proving efficacious, it might be very interesting for ASSAP researchers to look deeply into the mysteries of the Welsh Physicians of Myddfai, in case some of their secret herbal remedies can still bring great benefit to contemporary medicine.

Pres and Lady One



40 hours' work— see right. Photo V Hope

Just a Philler

Unconvention Roundup

In the last issue of ASSAP News Mike White presented a roundup of the day and promised a full results section. As there were 10 different events and the experiments as a whole to consider I am writing an article on the results for Anomaly as space in ASSAP News is tight. Instead I would like to keep members abreast of developments with and since the Olympics and to invite those interested in the study of psi and PK to get involved in future events.

The first question to ask straight after the finals is, do we want to do all that again next year? The organizing and preparation took months with much to build in advance. The ping pong ball machine alone took 40 man hours! Mike White spent a day at my place with a collection of computers that he had generously collected together, loaded with software and transported for the event. Others spent time loading and unloading and Adam and I had to transport all the equipment to and from the Unconvention, a total of nearly 10 hours in transportation. Then Louise and I took the Monday after the event off to disassemble and store all the equipment in our loft. Overall, the answer is yes as we felt the event went down very well with the public and media alike. Creating a 'finals' brought a new air of competition to the event and this brought an intensity in all competing and even those watching which I have not seen in the past.

As for the data collection, this went smoothly without a hitch and as pigs flew in squadrons over the institute Atlantis surfaced once again. No I lie. After months of on and off code writing, I concentrated my efforts in the month before the event to clearing our biggest bottleneck, data collection. In the past it has involved one person furiously typing away at Woodstock (my laptop) with an ever-growing queue of people either registering to take part or entering the results after the events.

Reading the handwriting poses a big problem and offers yet another error point, so the answer was simple, write a data entry package for the contestants to use and network it so many can do it all at once.

It worked fine in testing, which went right up to the day in question. But the real test came when real scores were entered. There were negative scores, half points awarded and buttons pressed in sequences that I had not contemplated in my wildest dreams, and they are very wild! Mike was a star as we sat at a terminal with the entrants starting to type at the other terminals. Little did they know that at our terminal we had the guts of the program all over the screen and the operation was touch and go. There was a huge sigh of relief when the first person got up and walked off having completed all the events, entered it all and not realised that beside them was a nervous wreck coding away.

After that the weekend flew by and we had much interest from the TV and press.

As ASSAP News is being put together I have just moved the ASSAP website to a new server. One of the main reasons is the new site will be able to draw dynamic graphs. We will be

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(Continued from page 3)

able to allow anyone taking part in the online experiments to see their results and those of all taking part, graphically. This will make for a more interesting and enlightening way of viewing the data. It should be completed before the next ASSAP news and ready for any regional trials of 2003.

And this is where you, the reader, comes in. If you have a venue and think you could organize a regional trial of the Paranormal Olympics then do get in touch.

Venues would need to hold about 40 people in floor space and would need access to computers so we do not need to bring too many. If there is access to the internet then all the better but this is not a must have.

We have already been asked if it would be possible to hold an event at Mensa but the more events the better.

By the next finals we should be well on the way to having a robust package of hardware and software that can instantly show someone's score and compare them to the population as a whole and also show us if there are any interesting developments.

Come on, have a go.

Phil Walton

Phil Walton is ASSAP Chairman but due to excessive stress would really love to retire...

It's a snip

A major political scandal has erupted in Ghana over the circumstances surrounding the exhumation and cremation of a Ghanaian woman, Dora Dzirasah. Police arrested her brother, Mr. Adolph Dzirasah, the father of the second deputy speaker of the Ghanaian Parliament, for digging up and cremating the corpse without due process of law. According to Dzirasah, an oracle told him that the deceased was a witch and that if the body was not exhumed and cremated with seven live frogs, seven cockroaches, seven lorry tyres, special firewood and other strange animals, her ghost would kill the males in the family, starting with his son Ken. Adolph is said to have taken the police to Agbakope, a village near Tefle and showed them the spot where the deceased was burnt, but no traces of ash were found. The family of the deceased have simply asked for the dead woman's ashes to be returned so that they can be re-buried. Ghanaian Chronicle June 12th

Austrian police, who took panicked calls that a weird animal had been seen in the middle of Steyr town centre, turned up to find an escaped kangaroo. The animal, which had fled a local wildlife park, was hit by a car as police arrived and later died, despite attempts by a local vet to save it. The incident means Austrians may have to re-think their T-shirts which bear the slogan - "There are no kangaroos in Austria" - which are popular as, apparently, many non-Austrians confuse them with Australians. The Cairns Post/The Cairns Sun May 19th

Historyonics

Paranormal Pirates

Keith Weim

Not content with chopping my final line last issue [Sorry—Mike] your Editor has seen fit to restrict my space this issue. So, without further ado...

Dawn, August 7 1989. Just off the coast of Crete Captain Giamaggia of the Sicilian fishing vessel Francesco fires emergency flares into the sky and, when help arrives some time later, falls into the arms of rescuers telling an astonishing tale.

'Spectres and evil spirits have been pursuing us all night,' he reported. 'They attacked us on deck and in the hold, threw gear overboard and broke the radio and any other equipment that could be broken. Then they attacked us with stille-tos.' In fact the ship looked like a war zone and there were knives embedded into various wooden objects aboard, all clearly indicative of a struggle of some kind but no trace of the attackers could be found.

The crew refused to re-board the craft after it was towed into port, even after three priests performed an exorcism to cleanse the vessel and a replacement crew had to be flown out to take the ship home.

All in all a bit of a puzzler: perhaps the crew should have called for the Ghostguards?

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. Those mentioned above who do 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 20 July 2003. Send to: ASSAP Nominations, ASSAP, PO Box 327, Bromley, BR1 1ZE.

- 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 on 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.

Any organisation relies on those volunteers willing to help with its administration. The Executive is always on the lookout for new people to help with these tasks. Putting yourself forward for election is the most positive way of helping your Association. The more people helping with administration, the more things the Association as a whole can do.

Specialist Subject Slot

Lights on the Hillside **Gareth Goodwin**

The details of this apparently fortan phenomenon were sent to me in letter form, some years ago by John Scott, a hill farmer from south Herefordshire. He wrote:

I have lived and worked in 'the dale' all my life, my father had a small farm on the upland meadows or 'Brown Top', a 800 ft hill, until his demise in 1997. He was a quiet yet committed father to me, not the type of man to make up fanciful stories.

'Brown Top' is a large barren hill which dominates our farm land, on the summit was an early warning station operated by the MOD. On most rainy days, it was a cold, wet and often misty place, a breeding ground for the superstition and folklore.

I had a farm lower down in 'the dale', while Dad had his land nearer to the MOD station where he kept a few cattle and sheep. While Dad was in hospital, he told me of this one-time experience in the lower meadows, which he said had not happened before or since. It was a November morning about 6-6.30 am and he was doing some fence repairs in the field he called 'the water meadows'; there had been a hard frost that night. Further down the field were some of his cattle, and his attention was drawn to them when the older cows began to bellow.

He noticed that to their right there seemed to be a glow, low down near the stream. He walked down to where the glow seemed to be coming from. The cattle had already taken fright and had moved over to the far side of the field.

He said, 'When I got within 6-8 ft of the place I saw what I took to be four transparent globes, sort of orange and blue colour, about the size of tennis balls, moving just above ground, travelling away from me at a steady pace.' The last one in the line was emitting a fizzing noise, and at that point he had the impression that they were being guided somehow.

The 'orbs' were moving away down the field a bit faster than walking pace, towards the stream at the lower corner of the field.

When they came to the stream bank, the orbs all changed direction and began to traverse the bank. Dad said that he thought he might have been able to catch up with the orbs before they got to the field's hedge row.

As he got nearer to their passing point, he noticed that instead of the original four there now was only one larger orb.

As the ground underfoot was largely wet and muddy, his progress towards the moving orb was reduced, and when he had regained his footing, the orb had already passed in front of him and he could see it moving across the next field.

Dad said that he has never seen anything in the field before or since that morning, although once when he was on higher ground nearer to the hill top he thought he could see some lights moving around near to the MOD station.

John Scott asked me for any explanation I could think of about his late father's experience and, based on the information he gave me, I would put it down to earth lights (maybe).

The substrata of that area is made up of a particularly hard stone called Dhustone(black) which was quarried in great quantities in the last 60 years and exported worldwide.

This stone may be responsible for ground fissures that may release pressurised gases to ignite on contact with the atmosphere, so creating earth lights, etc. I have not experienced this type of phenomenon personally, but I know a man who knew a man who had.

Gareth Goodwin is the subject co-ordinator for Fortean Phenomena. He lives in Shropshire.

Ghost Writing

A no-prize Competition

For those of you with more of a penchant for music than poetry, which artist with a feel for contemporary conspiracy theory wrote the following lines?

Down here I feel like a citizen of nowhere
My bag's all packed in case they ever come for me
Got a hundred stories and tabloid lies
Got witnesses to what the government denies
So I'm headed down to Roswell to wait and see

Answer next time...

The source of the quotation in the previous issue was 'Haunted Houses' by Henry Longfellow.

Potter Harried

Michael J Rush

The long-awaited fifth Harry Potter book, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, was released on 21 June 2003; the summer solstice. However some concerned parents, clergy, and teachers, suggest that reading Harry Potter leads children into the occult.

In her article on the *Reachout Trust* website Marcia Montenegro sums up her opinion on the books by saying,

"Harry Potter glorifies the occult. God condemns the occult. Should we take lightly a book that endorses what God has so seriously forbidden?"

The headmistress at *St Mary's Church of England Primary School* in Kent, UK, banned JK Rowling's books from the school library because the Bible teaches that,

"wizards, devils, and demons exist," and that, "God's people are told to have nothing to do with them".

The owner of one of Britain's largest toy store chains, *The Entertainer*, decided not to stock the toys because he thought that children would be, "drawn into ouija boards and the occult". And Jack Brock, a pastor in New Mexico, gave a talk to his congregation entitled '*The Baby Jesus or Harry Potter*' before publicly burning Harry Potter books on a bonfire.

The present article is an attempt to clarify what is meant by 'occult'. It is possible to divide the specific examples of magic and occultism in the Potter books into three forms:

i) *Fantasy Occultism*

The examples which fall into this form are the most numerous; changing a beetle into a button, flying on a broomstick, or using the *Tarantellegra!* charm. These examples have no existence in the real world and are purely fictional creations.

ii) *Popular Occultism*

For example, Professor Trelawney's divination with crystal balls, astrological birth charts, and ghosts; all of which are commonly associated with occultism. Rowling's books also reflect the negative attitude towards magic and the occult by some 'muggles' or non-magical folk. It is very

much a part of the popular conception that the occult is evil or Satanic. In a simple exercise some of the most common words associated with the occult included; 'dark', 'black magic', and 'Devil'.

iii) *Traditional Occultism*

There are very few examples under this form which would include New Religious Movements with a magical basis and the *Western Esoteric Tradition* as characterised by Antoine Faivre. The idea of magical correspondences within the world is hinted at but not explicitly taught as part of the Hogwarts' curriculum. Examples of living nature, an ensouling principle within nature, are absent. Whilst the magical use of imagination is encouraged there is no hierarchy of angels or demons to perform mediation between Harry and God. And Harry's only experience of transmutation results from his naturally developing adolescence rather than a magical initiation. Only passing references are made to key figures from the *Western Esoteric Tradition* such as Paracelsus, Flamel, Agrippa, and Hermes. Although the concept of the Philosophers' Stone is central to the study of alchemy it is not elucidated in any great detail.

That references to real world occultism, as well as fantasy occultism, are present within the books should not surprise us. After all, the stories are set in *Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry*, and Rowling has simply provided a wealth of miscellaneous detail taken from folklore and myth to form the background to Harry's adventures. Just as any other fiction writer would provide pertinent historical facts to make their story seem more believable.

The majority of objections to Harry Potter seem to relate to the second, *Popular*, form of occultism which does not necessarily reflect authentic occultism; the third or *Traditional* form. This latter form may potentially be seen as the most threatening to some Christians as it represents a systematic, coherent alternative to Christianity rather than the oft reported 'dabbling', a point recognised by Marcia Montenegro.

Other Christians, however, have taken a more liberal view. The Reverend Tony Whatmough of *St Mary Redcliffe Church* in Bristol, UK, pointed out that children, "know what is fantasy and what is for real", and that the books have much positive to say about morality. Reverend Dr Francis Bridger, principal of *Trinity College*, Bristol, UK, even sees the books as reflecting Christian morals.

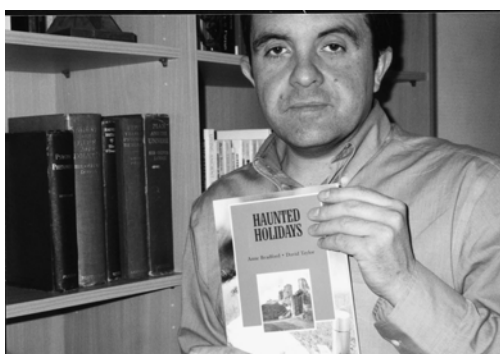
The question of whether the Harry Potter books lead children into either the *Popular* or *Traditional* forms of occultism is still open, although it would be surprising if there wasn't a certain increase of interest in things magical. Nevertheless a would-be seeker applying to a modern school of occult science is going to be sorely disappointed if they expect to find themselves

at Hogwarts, as the real esoteric tradition is very different; hedgehogs are not transformed into pincushions, witches do not ride on broomsticks, and spells do not shoot from the ends of wands like Hollywood special effects.

Michael J Rush

Michael Rush holds an Honours Degree in Biomedical Science from Keele University and is currently pursuing an MA in Religious Experience at the University of Wales, Lampeter. His primary interests are magic, occultism, and the Western Esoteric Tradition. Apart from ASSAP he is also a member of the Alister Hardy Society and the SPR.

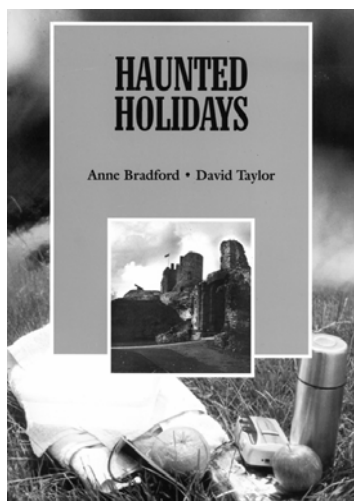
Special Offer for ASSAP Members!



Author David Taylor. Photo David Taylor.

ASSAP and Parasearch member David Taylor has teamed up with Worcestershire author Anne Bradford to produce 'Haunted Holidays', a series of tales of ghostly

encounters with Roman soldiers, mysterious footsteps and phantom hitch-hikers among others along with commentary and analysis by David. 'Haunted Holidays' is available in the shops at £5.99 but as a special offer ASSAP members can purchase direct from David for just £5.00 inc P+P. If you would like a copy simply send a cheque payable to 'D. Taylor' to 15, Brier Mill Road, Halesowen, W Midlands, B63 3HA.



The Reference Spot

Sky Watch

Lunar Phases

July 2003:

First Quarter 7th
Full Moon 13th
Last Quarter 21st
New Moon 29th

August 2003:

First Quarter 5th
Full Moon 12th
Last Quarter 20th
New Moon 27th

Other Events

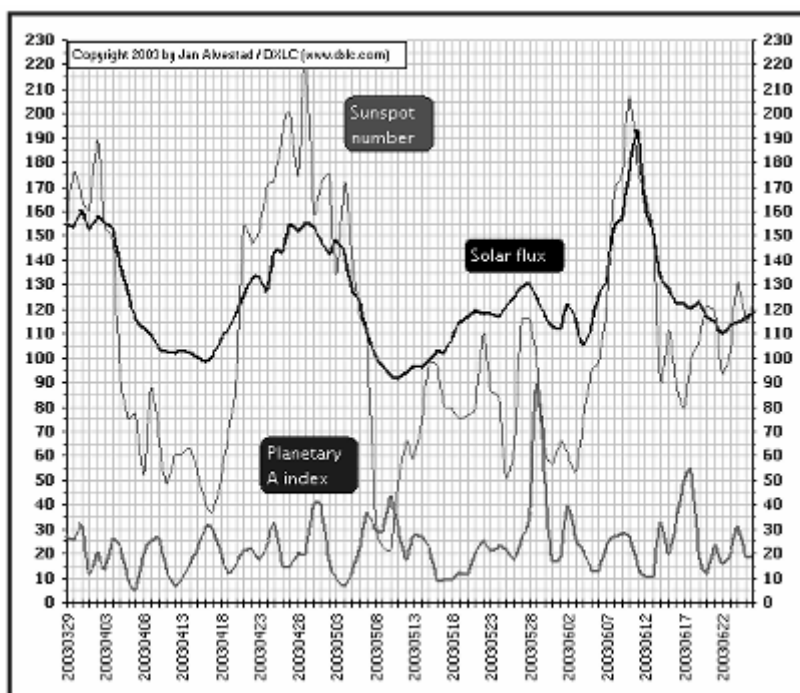
July 8th Early AM. Venus and Saturn will be within 2° of each other in the sky. UFO spotters beware.

August 12th Midnight. Perseid meteor shower reaches its maximum although the shower will be visible for a week each side of this date.

August 28th 18:00. Mars reaches opposition and greatest brilliance in the sky. It will be visible as a (relatively) bright reddish light in the sky.

Solar Terrestrial Activity Index

Paranormal activity? Check whether the Earth's magnetic field may have been exerting an influence... I hope that the visibility of the graph is a little better this issue. Note the sharp increase in the Planetary A index (the overall level of the Earth's magnetic field) at the end of May: did anyone observe a corresponding increase in paranormal activity?



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What's On and Groups

If you would like your group or event listed here please contact us via the PO Box or send an email to assapnews@assap.org. Please send details in as early as possible as many notices are received too late to be included.

NB. It will help event organizers if you enclose an SAE when sending for extra details. ASSAP accepts no responsibility for late changes to venues, speakers etc.

BUFORA

All lectures are held in the 1st floor function suite of the Sols Arms public house, 65-68 Hampstead Road, Euston, London NW1 2PN - 3:00pm till 6:30pm. Tickets, which can be purchased at the door and include a mid-lecture buffet, are £5 for members, and £7 for all others.

Contact address: B.M. BUFORA, London WC1N 3XX.

www.bufora.org.uk

13th September

ALAN MURDIE, "UFOs over El Dorado - the UFO Phenomenon in Colombia".

CPSG (Chesterfield Psychic Study Group)

Meetings take place on the second Friday of the month, in the Walton Room of Chesterfield Community Centre at 7.15 p.m.

August 8th

'Runes': talk and demonstration.

Speaker tba. Subscription £1.25.

September 12th

'Fung Shui'. Talk by Clive Ellis. Subscription £1.25.

Dorset Earth Mysteries Group

All talks are in the Friends Meeting House, Wharncliffe Road, Boscombe at 7:15pm. Entrance £3.00

August 7th

The Cerne Abbas Giant.

Sidney Wood / Peter Knight / Rodney Carr-Smith

September 4th

Churches, Crop Circles and Sacred Sites - The Energy Connection

Freddy Silva

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

July 22nd

Open Forum and Social Evening

SPI Scotland

Contact: Brian Allan, 41 Keith Street, Kincardine on Forth, Alloa, Scotland, FK10 4NB. Tel: 01259 730 403.

SPI England

Contact: Malcolm Robinson, 8 Hale Gardens, Ealing Common, London, England, W3 9SQ.

Email Malcolm Robinson at spi_spi@hotmail.com

Tel 020 8993 6532.

www.angelfire.com/space/spi

SPR (Society for Psychical Research)

Friday 5th to Sunday 7th September 2003

The 27th International Conference of the Society for Psychical Research

Details from SPR at: 49 Marloes Road, Kensington, London W8 6LA

Telephone & Fax: 020 7937 8984

Parascience

Meetings are held on the first working Monday of each month at Bebington Civic Centre on the Wirral, North-West England. Meeting commences 8:00pm.

Dates for the next meetings are:

Monday 4th August

Monday 7th September

Wiltshire Crop Circle Week-End Conference.

2-3 August

at Devizes, Wiltshire, UK. Full programme of lectures and workshops, with healing, stands, helicopter flights and a closing ceremony. Email sky.picture@virgin.net for details.

OTHER GROUPS

Ghost Club: All lectures take place at the Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF. This is at the southern end of Edgware Road and the nearest tube is Marble Arch - just 5-10 minutes' walk. Talks are free to Ghost Club members and £2.50 for non-members. The talks start at 7.00pm. Visit their web site at www.ghostclub.org.uk for details of future events.

MARA (Merseyside Anomalies Research Association)

meets monthly (usually last Friday of month) in the Ship & Mitre Function Room, 7.30 p.m. onwards. The pub is in Liverpool city centre, at 133 Dale Street, near the Old Tunnel entrance. Parking opposite the venue. There's an admission charge of £2.50 to cover the cost. They also produce a magazine 'The Researcher' at £2.00.

Contact MARA at 18a Parkfield Road, Aigburth, Liverpool, L17 8UJ.

Email: tonyeccles@yahoo.com.

Or ring: Anthony Eccles on 0151 727 4057

Parasearch are a West Midlands ASSAP regional group and are interested in hearing from anyone in the West Midlands, Warwickshire or Shropshire area. For more details visit www.parasearch.org or send SAE to Parasearch, 15 Brier Mill Rd, Halesowen, W. Midlands B63 3HA or call 0776 118 4837.

TEMS is an ASSAP branch for those living in south-west London, south Middlesex and Surrey, generally meeting in Hampton. For details of the current programme and venues call Lionel on 020-8979 3148.

TRAINING DAY

Training day this year will be on November 15th at the Hatton Court Hotel near Milton Keynes. Hopefully, there should be a flyer inside ASSAP News— make sure you reserve the date in your diary. Remember, you need to attend a Training Day to become an Accredited Investigator but, over and above that, it is an excellent chance to take part in an organised vigil, meet up with other ASSAP members, grill the Committee at the AGM, complain about ASSAP News, volunteer to become a subject co-ordinator, buy a few books, scrounge a drink off Maurice, laugh at my comedy exploding car...