



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

Issue 97 September 2003

Visit ASSAP on the web at www.assap.org

Out With the Old — In With the Hugh!

In a surprise move Phil Walton resigned as ASSAP Chairman last month. Phil had been Chairman for 3 years and had been trying, with little success, to find a replacement for quite some time.

Speaking about his decision he said, 'When I took on the Chairman's post I felt I had ideas and plans that I wanted to see through. Some worked, some did not, but it's time for someone else to have a go. I can only carry on as I have been and that will lead to stagnation. One of the last ideas I wanted to see in place was a 2 year rolling program of committee posts so each person does one year as deputy and then the following year takes on the main role. The only way I can get that idea off the ground is by going myself.'



Hugh Pincott:
Clearly pleased
with his new role.

Hugh Pincott, ASSAP General Secretary and one of our founder members, has heroically stepped up to the podium to act as interim Chairman until a permanent replacement can be elected at the next AGM. 'Phil has changed ASSAP very much for the better, and the coming months and years will demonstrate just what a debt we owe him,' commented Hugh.

In a parallel move National Investigations Co-ordinator, Steve Hall, has also stepped aside citing pressure of work as his reason for leaving, as has Equipment Officer Caroline Searley. Steve's position as NIC will be assumed by Deputy NIC George Gregg, the post of Equipment Officer is now available to anyone who wants to stand for election. Both Steve and Carrie will be sadly missed by the other members of the Committee and we would like to express our thanks to them both for all their hard work on behalf of ASSAP in recent years.

Since there are now a number of vacant positions on the Committee the deadline for nominations for elections has been extended until the end of September. See page 4 for full details on how to apply. Now is an ideal chance to get involved in helping to run ASSAP and to help us move forward with new projects and in new directions.

Get Your Coat and Hatton! Training Day Update

As you are doubtless aware this year's Training Day will be held at the Hatton Court Hotel, Hanslope, just outside Milton Keynes. Ex-NIC Steve Hall and other ASSAP members conducted investigations at the hotel some years ago so the night's vigil promises to be an interesting affair. A few places are still available—see ASSAP News 96 for details on how to book places.



Hatton Court Hotel - Picture
Courtesy of Hatton Court

Issue Highlights

The Fanthorpe - page 3
Column

Minilab - page 5
Research

From the Top - page 6
of the Hill

Reference - page 7

What's On - Page 8

Editorial

A Day in the Life of an Editor

8.00 Woken by the maid I take a light breakfast on the terrace overlooking the sea (as ASSAP News editor I have exclusive use of the editorial apartment at Sorrento except for twice a year when I am forced to share with Maurice Townsend as he works on Anomaly).

9.30 Take a call from the Hollywood agent who is currently working on casting for ASSAP: *The Movie*. We have been offered Catherine Zeta-Jones for the part of Wendy Milner but I was really hoping for Angelina Jolie. Sadly, Jennifer Aniston has declined to play Val Hope claiming the part is too difficult and, since the only other names we are fully agreed upon are Bob Hoskins (Hugh Pincott), Danny de Vito (Paul Lee) and Hulk Hogan (Maurice Townsend), I'm afraid that the project may well be delayed indefinitely.

11.00 Speak to a well-known paranormal skeptic from the US who wants to submit an article to AN. I am forced to reject his piece pointing out that I have had some excellent contributions this month and so I'm short on space. He seems keen though so I urge him not to give up trying. Despite the bouquet of flowers he produces from up his sleeve I remain resolute.

12.30 Massage. Lunch. Siesta.

14.45 Hold a video conference with Keith Weim to explain why I have had to cut his Historyonics column this month. He takes this badly and clears the line darkly hinting about the possibility of my waking up one morning next to the severed head of a prominent committee member. Again.

15.00 Take panicked calls from Phil Walton, Steve Hall and Caroline Searley...

16.00 Spend ten minutes briefly working on ASSAP News. Exhausted, I head for the pool.

19.00 Gathering together the assorted low-lives that comprise the ASSAP Press Gang I descend on the local bars to distribute the "ASSAP shilling". After a profitable evening's work the committee is soon back up to full strength.

23.00 By this point my recollection of the evening is rather hazy; it is a terrible job being an editor but someone has to do it.

Mike White

Help fill the next issue — please!

Are you conducting research that will be of interest to other members? Issue No. 98 will be out in November 2003. Original articles, letters and dates of events should be sent by 1st October either to: Mike White, ASSAP News Editor, PO Box 230, PLYMOUTH, PL1 2ZR (please note the new PO Box!) or by email to assapnews@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 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.

The Executive

CHAIRMAN: Hugh Pincott

GENERAL SECRETARY: Maurice Townsend

TREASURER: Maurice Townsend

ARCHIVES & LIBRARY OFFICER: Adam Bailey

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS CO-ORDINATOR (NIC): George Gregg

DEPUTY NIC/ EDUCATION OFFICER: Position Vacant

EQUIPMENT OFFICER: Position Vacant

GROUPS OFFICER: Wendy Milner

HUMAN RESOURCES: Position Vacant

MEDIA SUPPORT OFFICER: Steve Evans

NEW MEMBERS OFFICER: Catherine Evans

OMBUDSMAN: Anne Spencer

PUBLICATIONS OFFICER: Val Hope

RESEARCH OFFICER: James Clark

SPECIAL PROJECTS OFFICER: Position Vacant

TECHNICAL OFFICER: Paul Lee

OTHER MEMBERS: Mel Warren, Greg Hill

SPECIALIST SUBJECTS -

CURRENT OFFICERS

ALTERED STATES: George Gregg

CROP CIRCLES: Position Vacant

CRYPTOZOLOGY: John Gledson

DOWSING: Martyn Taylor

ESP: Terry Hewitt

FORTEAN PHENOMENA: Gareth Goodwin

HAUNTINGS & POLTERGEISTS: Michael Lewis

HEALING, RELIGION: Michael J Rush

LEGENDS, ANCIENT SITES, EARTH MYSTERIES: Steve Parsons

PHOTOGRAPHIC ANOMALIES: Simon Earwicker

PK & PHYSICAL MEDIUMSHIP: William Eyre

UFOs: Ian Percy

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

Thanks to Jim Clark for proofreading this issue.

Haunted

The Fanthorpe Column

We had a real ASSAP adventure a few days ago when our friend, David Jones, who's a Producer for BBC Wales, asked us to do an item for him in connection with a very reliable and well authenticated crypto-zoological case in the Estuary, by Pembroke Dock, near Milford Haven in West Wales.



Alun Lewis's Boat "Cleddau King"

We went over with Dave and interviewed four very sensible, trustworthy and reliable witnesses: David Crew, Lesley John, Tori Crawford and Peter Thomas. They had all been in the Front Street area of Pembroke Dock when the phenomenon became visible. The witnesses estimated that it had a body length of "four or five cars" – which I would translate as at least sixty feet, or twenty metres. They also estimated a girth of about a metre diameter where the monster was visible between its head and its hump. They described disturbances in the water towards the rear end of whatever they saw, which suggested that big, powerful paddles or flukes were propelling it. They estimated the speed at 7 or 8 knots. It was heading out to sea when they saw it, travelling west towards Ireland. They described a diamond shaped head, a longish neck, and a bulky hump not unlike the traditional descriptions of Nessie – possibly a plesiosaur.



Patricia in the control room with Alun

There is another fascinating possibility. There are periodic reports of Ministry of Defence activities in the area, and some investigators believe that the witnesses may have seen a miniature submarine.

Anyway, we went out for a couple of hours with Skipper Alun Lewis aboard his superb boat *Cleddau King* and scoured the Estuary with Alun's high-tech radar and sonar kit. We didn't find the monster – but it was a really exciting and enjoyable investigative experience.



Lionel with eye-witnesses Lesley and Dave

Our BBC TV presentation will be part of "I LOVE WALES" a very well-produced and informative magazine-type show due to be transmitted in September. ASSAP brothers and sisters in the BBC Wales area are asked to watch out for it.

Pres and Lady One



Lionel indicates where the creature was seen.

Ghost Writing

A no-prize Competition

Once more into the pointless breach of our competition. Who defined a ghost as:

'The outward and visible sign of an inward fear'?

Answer next time... The song from last issue was 'Maybe Angels' by Sheryl Crow.

Cross Correspondences?

I received this letter from Steve Parsons of Parascience which I think deserves consideration:

In recent years Parascience has become increasingly aware that there are many groups being formed to investigate the paranormal. These groups frequently appear in the media and appeal to members of the public for new cases to investigate. However, to many people a paranormal event can be a frightening experience leaving them bewildered and vulnerable. Often too, children are involved.

Under these circumstances folk often turn to the first person or group who might seem to offer some relief without thought or care as to what this might mean to them. There are virtually no checks or regulation of the paranormal investigators and the expertise they have to offer.

Parascience gave the problem much thought and has come up with a scheme that it hopes will go some way towards addressing this issue and calls upon other groups to follow their lead and set up similar schemes.

We have made four important changes to our membership requirements that will ensure that anybody calling upon our services will be re-assured that the investigator that arrives at their door will be honest, have good knowledge of the subject matter and be properly covered should anything go wrong.

1. Each and every member has had to undergo a Criminal Records Bureau [CRB] police check. This is exactly the same check that is carried out for anybody working with children, the elderly and the vulnerable.
2. Each and every member receives a formal training programme in-house and within the first year of membership has to complete a nationally accredited investigator training scheme such as the one offered by ASSAP.
3. Every member of the team is covered by a comprehensive third party indemnity insurance scheme.
4. Each member is provided with a photo ID card with a 24 hour telephone contact and verification number for the client to contact.

The police checks we feel are essential and this need is based upon our experience where people have given us free access to children and areas such as childrens' bedrooms without any checks or concerns whatsoever. It surely must only be a matter of time before a headline appears somewhere screaming that a paedophile masquerading as a paranormal investigator gains access to a child. Can you imagine the subsequent destruction of this hobby after a headline like that!

We already are aware of a local case where 'paranormal investigators' made free with the contents of a building's fridge and spirit optics; fortunately that venue still welcomes other more reputable groups.

We think that it is essential that the reputable groups within this hobby commence some form of self regulation. Not only will such action greatly reduce the risk of the above headline appearing in the press and media but it will also raise the status of those groups who have put such safeguards into place and may result in an increase in cases for them to investigate.

Locally, we have already contacted our local media and are being fully supported by our local BBC radio station - we have a series of regular weekly and monthly phone-ins on BBC Radio Merseyside and BBC Radio North. The local newspapers are also supporting the scheme and reminding

people to ask some searching questions when they call in a paranormal investigator and we have the local paranormal author Tom Slemen also supporting this call to members of the public and local groups.

We have contacted other paranormal and UFO groups and asked that they consider putting similar requirements upon membership. The Unknown Phenomena Investigation Assoc. and Merseyside Anomalous Research Assoc. have both indicated a strong interest in the police checks and other steps.

We now call upon other groups and individuals within ASSAP (and without) to join with us and make certain that when someone seeks the help of a paranormal investigator that they get someone who is honest, safe and has a good knowledge of the subject. We also remind members of the public to ask some searching questions when you call in a paranormal investigator - after all who are you letting into your house?

Steve Parsons

Investigations Coordinator
Parascience

So what do other members think? Is introducing police vetting using a hammer to crack a nut, is it simply too lengthy and expensive a process to be useful or is this just the thing to introduce some measure of control into paranormal investigations? Or are there alternatives? Certainly ASSAP guidelines state that investigators should never do interviews alone and that a female interviewer should be present when talking to children but do these guidelines go far enough? This is an important issue and deserves debate. Letters to the PO Box please or email to assapnews@assap.org.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS EXTENDED

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 30 September 2003. Send to: ASSAP Nominations, ASSAP, PO Box 230, PLYMOUTH, PL1 2ZR .

- 1) your name and address;
- 2) a short account of your interests in the field of anomaly studies (about 75 words), stating why you are a suitable candidate for election to the Executive, including any relevant experience and any previous posts 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.

Minilab Research

William Eyre

One of the most controlled *modi operandi* for performing research into PK (psychokinesis) is the use of a minilab. A minilab basically consists of an inverted fish tank with a sealed lid, containing assorted articles upon which the experimenter wishes to have PK effects produced. The minilab is left for a period of time in a room which is not usually occupied and the arrangement of items is subsequently examined by the experimenter in order to ascertain whether any physical changes have occurred to the arrangement of articles. The use of a sealed tank precludes the possibility of draughts moving objects and minimises the risk of anyone deliberately tampering with the contents.

Research by SORRAT

In 1961, the Society for Research on Rapport and Telekinesis (SORRAT) was formed by Prof John G Neihardt and consisted of 15 members who met at Neihardt's home, Skyrim Farm, near Columbia, Missouri. Neihardt had researched the history of séance room phenomena and found that the best physical phenomena took place when there was a light-hearted, harmonious atmosphere amongst the sitters, together with a high expectation that something unusual would happen. So those were the conditions employed by the group at their experimental séances. Neihardt believed that the single most important factor in achieving positive results was the rapport among the members of the group.

After some months in which nothing much happened, the group began to get rapping sounds – at first random sounds and subsequently coded raps in answer to questions.

The group then brought in W E Cox, an experienced psychological researcher and a gifted amateur conjuror. The breakthrough in SORRAT's research occurred as a result of Cox building a minilab, which was left in the basement of Neihardt's home. Examples of objects left in it would be a pen and notepad, rings and pipe cleaners. Each of these was wired up to a cine camera located outside the minilab. If anything moved – even slightly – inside, the camera would be switched on and any subsequent paranormal movement inside would be recorded on film. Astounding results were produced, with films showing such incidents as a balloon with its neck tied being inflated and deflated, a pack of cards sorting itself into suits and a pen writing messages from various intelligences claiming to be spirits of the deceased.

After Neihardt's death in 1973, SORRAT met at the home of Dr John Thomas and his wife Elaine and the group was still experimenting into the 1980s. It was claimed that stamped, addressed envelopes placed into the minilab would be teleported into the postal system and subsequently be delivered in the normal way. On

occasion, the envelopes would turn up at their destination with not just their original stamps on but also numerous other stamps from around the world! One piece of film shows one envelope sliding out of an outer envelope within the minilab.

The weekly séances of SORRAT would sit near the minilab, continuing to use rapping as a means of communication, but as time went by, numerous psychokinetic effects were reported not only within the minilab but elsewhere in the Thomas's home – and even in the homes, and even cars, of other members of the group. Phenomena included the stench of rotting meat or the scent of powerful incense and objects were regularly teleported from the minilab to other locations in the house, or objects in other members' homes would be apported.

At one séance, a sealed bottle was present, containing a piece of paper, a pencil stub, an open safety pin and two pipe cleaners. During the séance, the safety pin closed, the pipe cleaners turned themselves into a little stick man and the pencil wrote "Freedom, love, faith" on the piece of paper.

One spirit coming through claimed to be a Myra Cavanaugh. Although the experimenters were unable to verify that someone of that identity had actually lived, she did explain to them how to photograph her. Despite the photographer seeing nothing but grass and sky when taking the photograph, the resulting print clearly showed a girl sitting on the grass. Trees in the picture cast shadows normally but the girl did not.

Research by the University of Aston

During the early 1980s, Julian Isaacs carried out a PhD research programme at the University of Aston in Birmingham which was designed to emulate the experiments carried out by SORRAT. He enlisted various sympathetic members of the public, with each experimenter keeping a minilab in the loft of his home and carrying out periodic checks on developments. In some cases, success was achieved.

Isaacs had obtained one of SORRAT's films and showed it at more than one gathering of the SPR. Many members adopted a hostile response, assuming it to be fraudulently produced. As part of his research, he ran a meeting which I attended at Sutton Coldfield Spiritualists' Church, at which he explained the process, showed the film and requested volunteers to participate in the programme. The intelligences that produced the phenomena claimed to be spirits of the departed and Isaacs said that if anyone using a minilab treated the intelligences as if they were spirits, then cooperation with producing PK effects seemed to be more likely. Certainly I was intrigued by the filmed phenomena, which included a clock going backwards (to make the point that time is of no consequence in Spirit) and solid rings passing through each other to link and subsequently unlinking themselves. A pen was also seen to stand up and write on a notepad within the minilab.

PK or Physical Mediumship or Fraud?

In the experiments reported and filmed by SORRAT, one of the following was presumably happening:-

- psychokinetic phenomena were taking place as a result of the rapport of the group members, whose unconscious minds were producing the phenomena
- the phenomena were produced by spirits, as they claimed to be via the 'direct writing' and rapping communications, i.e. physical mediumship was responsible
- the films were put together fraudulently by Cox and the various members of the Group were getting so carried away with this business that they were inventing stories about what was happening around them.

It has to be borne in mind that Cox was a magician and so may have had some expertise in trick photography. Many psychical researchers seem to assume that it was all fraud simply because of the dramatic nature of the effects – but is that a rational way to form a conclusion?

Fortean Times wrote to James Randi for an opinion on the matter and he merely dismissed it as being so absurd that it was not worthy of serious consideration. Not exactly an analytical response! Prof Archie Roy, usually seen as being an acceptor of matters Spiritualistic or psychical, was non-committal in his response to a journalist.

As for objects being apported in the homes of SORRAT's members, there is of course nothing unique about this. Many people have reported such phenomena in their homes. Some Spiritualist friends of mine have had so many such incidents happen around them that they treat such activity as being quite normal. The envelope posting claims remind me of an occasion when I once forgot to take a greetings card in a stamped addressed envelope out with me to post (having left it on the porch shelf). When I returned home at the end of the day, I found to my surprise that it was no longer on the shelf. Not knowing what had happened to it, I bought and posted another, only to be told by the puzzled recipient that she had received two cards! Of course, this incident did not take place under controlled, or even intentional, conditions.

As might be expected of a Spiritualist audience, the reaction to the film at the Church was more of amazement, as opposed to the hostility of sceptical members of the SPR. To me, the film seemed on the face of it to be genuine. But how can we tell whether this was all PK or fraud?

Research by ASSAP?

Well, the answer is to try it for ourselves. If SORRAT can perform minilab research and the University of Aston can perform it, why not ASSAP? Interested members are invited to have a go and report their findings to me either via PK.PhysicalMediumship@assap.org or via the ASSAP PO Box address. A word of warning – it is best to avoid conducting the experiment in your house if there is a negative emotional atmosphere / disharmony in the house.

William Eyre is the subject co-ordinator for PK and Physical Mediumship. He is also Investigations Officer for (and puts the chic into) the Chesterfield Psychic Study Group.

From the Top of the Hill

An occasional column from Greg Hill

In the last issue of *Anomaly*, Dr Jason Braithwaite entered an excellent essay regarding ASSAP vigils and their possible lack of effectiveness. It seemed to be a topic that struck a chord with both ASSAP members and the ASSAP board alike. Certainly from a personal perspective, I know that many of the points addressed by Dr Braithwaite matched my own views on the ASSAP vigils, and being privileged enough to attend the monthly online meetings of the ASSAP board, I know that the committee is planning to review the subject further.

So could it be that change is in the air for ASSAP vigils? Quite possibly. But while ASSAP will doubtless continue to improve and adapt in line with its members' wishes, a little part of me will be sad if it spells the end of the traditional training day vigil.....

I've often wondered if I am mad to attend the annual ASSAP training day three years in a row. The day starts off in a very straightforward manner. The new 'trainees' gather and greet each other in the chosen venue (usually one with a few spooky stories to tell) and become acquainted while the hard-working board members get everything set up. This is a good time to make friends with any loveable eccentrics in the party. I will never forget one year when a gentleman - I never did get his name - with a midlands accent began telling me that his favourite method for encouraging ghosts to appear was to make fun of them. 'During one vigil we were so annoyed that the ghost refused to appear that we began to call him a four-eyed freak!' he told me. Strangely enough, the gentleman himself and I were wearing glasses during our conversation.

Then the day kicks off in style as Phil Walton begins with an introduction and a little bit of drama designed to show the trainees how memory recall can be fallible. I was quite excited at my first ASSAP meeting that we appeared to be staging a fist fight less than five minutes into the session, but my excitement changed to disappointment when I realised it was all planned.

Then it's on to the role play, an enjoyable exercise whereby ASSAP board members play various character roles in a mock mystery story and the trainees attempt to question them and 'solve' the incident. This is often the section of the day where the newcomers really begin to enjoy themselves, and the enthusiasm from all involved is a pleasure to watch.

Then follows the lunch break. For many this involves a trip to the pub for good food, good beer, and a debate on why Uri Geller's alleged psychic skills failed to save him on "I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!", before a return to training and a final take on the role play exercise. After that we have a question and answer session followed by a few award ceremonies and speeches. The mid to late afternoon period is normally a time when people naturally become tired and lose concentration, but the ASSAP board seem to plan for that. Last year's speech by Lionel Fanthorpe was worth the training day entry fee alone, and Phil Walton's chairman's speech at Oxford in the year 2000 was the best fighting talk I've heard since Lennox Lewis challenged Mike Tyson.

So far, so good. But the best part of the training is yet to come.....the vigil! The all night-session where twenty-plus relatively sane people - myself included - actually stand or sit in a building all night watching for ghosts. For most of us the night starts optimistically, then after about three hours reality begins to settle in. There's nothing quite like the sight of a crowd of people stuffing Pot Noodles or smoking cigarettes at three in the morning inside an old building, trying to keep their eyes open. By five o'clock I have normally told myself this will be my last training day - in the same way I always tell myself I will never drink again each time I have a hangover.

The final word on the training day is normally the debriefing led by Adam Bailey followed by the goodbye session. I shall never forget one year after another no-show by the resident spooks at Belgrave Hall in Leicester. I had just managed to stay awake all night, I was tired, hungry, and looking like a ghost myself. Adam Bailey had just concluded on the lack of sightings that night when my eccentric friend whom I had met earlier the previous day turned to me and said, 'I know how we could have got him to appear! We could have called him a boring old git!' I made my excuses and left.

So are ASSAP members - as our host at Belgrave Hall jokingly called us - a bunch of loonies? I don't think so. In fact, ASSAP rules state that investigators must attend a training day before they can be assigned to investigations, and with good reason. The ASSAP training day is a great opportunity for new members to meet new people, make new friends, and develop their investigative skills. The training day is a chance for trainees to meet the board members, but also to witness the professionalism and commitment they put into the training day and all other ASSAP events. And while the traditional training day vigil has not - to the best of my knowledge - produced a spook sighting, ASSAP member Mike Lewis was lucky enough to witness an apparition at Belgrave Hall, the venue for two training day vigils.

So will the training day change? Will the annual vigil still be the same? It's too bad I will be working in Thailand and unavailable for this year's training day. Then again, maybe the plane fare is not so expensive after all...

International Man of Mystery Greg Hill is currently working in Thailand as a teacher.

Notification of ASSAP AGM

The ASSAP Annual General Meeting will take place at 20:00 on November 15th 2003 at the Hatton Court Hotel, Bullington End Rd, Hanslope, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK19 7BQ. You do not have to attend Training Day to come to the AGM so if you are in the area please drop by!

The Reference Spot

Sky Watch

Lunar Phases

September 2003:

First Quarter 3rd
Full Moon 10th
Last Quarter 18th
New Moon 26th

October 2003:

First Quarter 2nd
Full Moon 10th
Last Quarter 18th
New Moon 25th

Other Events

September 9th. The moon and Mars (which is now at its closest approach to Earth for 60,000 years!) will be very close in the sky to the moon tonight.

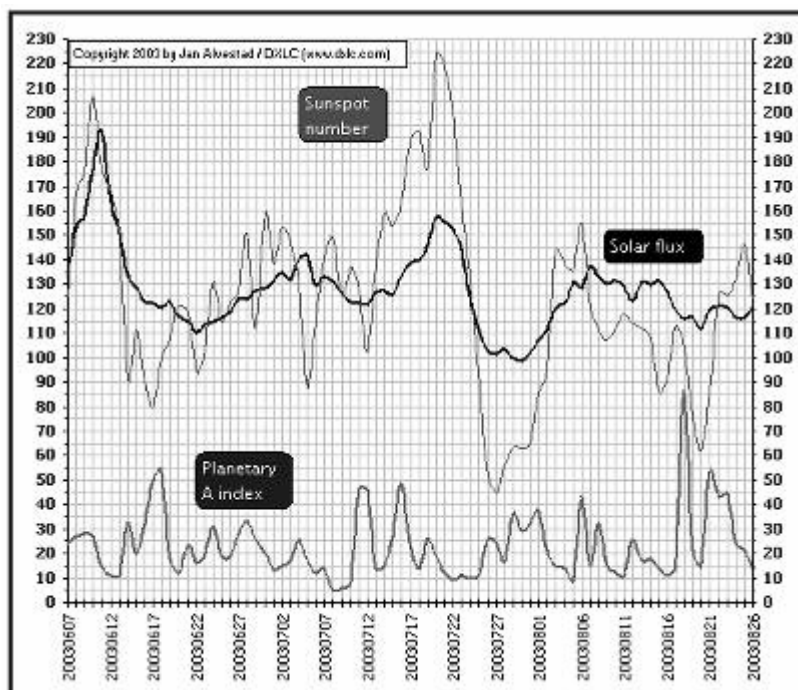
September 23rd. Autumnal Equinox.

October 21st. The Orionid meteor shower reaches its maximum.

October 26th. Venus (which will be particularly bright this month) will be within 0.1 degrees of the moon tonight.

Solar Terrestrial Activity Index

Paranormal activity? Check whether the Earth's magnetic field may have been exerting an influence. Magnetic activity overall has been fairly stable recently but I notice the sharp peak on October 17 which, interestingly, coincided with a drop in the number of sunspots. Image copyright Jan Alvestad/DXLC as usual.



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.

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. These aspects are often not explicitly religious, sometimes being labelled as 'spiritual', 'transcendental', 'psychic', etc. Past topics have included spirit communication via automatic writing and Near-Death Experiences.

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.

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".

15th November

NORMAN OLIVER, "Montauk and the Philadelphia Experiment".

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.

10th October

'Psychic Supper': 21st Anniversary celebration. Pie & peas supper. 4 mediums in attendance. Admission by advance ticket only £3

14th November

'The Role of Mediums in Hauntings'. Talk by Sue Odam. Subscription £1.25.

Dorset Earth Mysteries Group

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

October 3rd

Knowlton Night. John Gale, Peter Knight, Rodney Carr-Smith

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/.

September 23rd

Sylvia Franke - The Grail, The Triple Goddess & The Energies of The Earth

October 14 th - Ken Rees - Hedges, Crossroads & Roof Rafters: The place of The Cunning Folk

October 28th

George Wood - The Cathars & The Inquisition

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.

Next meeting dates:

6th October 2003

3rd November 2003

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.