



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

Issue 99 March 2004

Visit ASSAP on the web at www.assap.org

Ghosts and Angels?

Following the furore over the Hampton Court CCTV footage of a possible ghost opening a pair of fire doors at the Palace the subject of anomalous photography is suddenly headline news. ASSAP is regularly sent photographs of this sort and the National Investigation Co-ordination team of George Gregg and Andrew Homer were recently sent the example to the right.

This particular photograph appears to show the apparition of a lady sitting in the front seat of a newly purchased car. The figure can be clearly seen in the passenger window (reproduction in ASSAP News permitting!) Close examination of the original also reveals what appears to be the figure of a child sitting on the back seat. Closer inspection under magnification was no real help so a high resolution scan was employed to examine the image further on a computer. The apparent faces remained quite clear until a high level of zoom was applied to the area of the window itself, at which point the cause of the effect became clear. The branches of the trees in the background, which can be clearly seen through the windows, had combined with internal details of the car such as the parcel shelf to create the illusion.

This is a well-known psychological phenomenon known as perceptual organisation and the same effect is responsible for us seeing faces in wallpaper, etc. There are many optical illusions which operate on the



The 'haunted' car. Photo: Joan Talbot

same principle. Our brains are hard-wired to try to make meaningful sense of random patterns and in this case produce a very creditable face indeed. It is no wonder the witness turned to ASSAP for help - hopefully the photographer is reassured that her car is not haunted!



Close-up of window

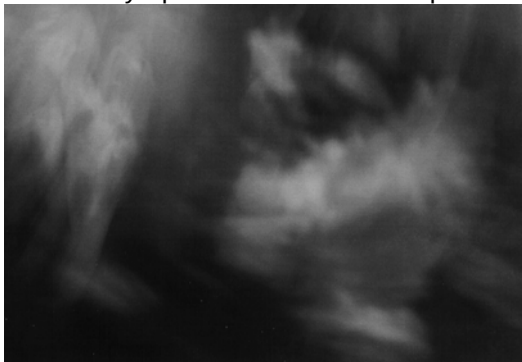


Photo: Keith Barnes @ Photographers Workshop 01865 246027

In a further example of this phenomenon the Oxford Mail (Jan 21 2004) published the picture to the left which had been taken by local photographer Keith Barnes. A figure closely resembling a classical Angel complete with a beautiful set of feathered wings can be seen to the left of the image. It should be stressed that no-one ever saw this particular picture as anything other than a pleasing optical illusion but, because of its imagery, copies of the 'Angel' are now on sale locally to raise funds for Douglas House Hospice in Oxford*.

(Continued on page 3)

Editorial

With the cover article this issue touching on illusion and mis-identification I was reminded of a relevant event from my own experience which, like it or not, I am going to share with you.

Walking through fields near my then home in Gloucestershire one morning a few years ago I noticed a path in the grass snaking its way from the direction of Gloucester towards Churchdown Hill. If it had not been for the sunlight glittering on the dew I suspect that the track would have remained undiscovered but, since the serendipity had presented itself, I decided to follow the path. The village nearest the beginning of the trail would have been neighbouring Hucclecote and, knowing that Hucclecote and Churchdown villages had once been forced to share the church, I wondered if I had accidentally stumbled across a relic of an ancient track or funeral path. Returning home later that same morning I resolved to undertake some research and solve the mystery.

Churchdown Hill itself has an interesting etymological history. The name originally derives from the Celtic *Crug* meaning hill. Later inhabitants, of presumably Anglo-Saxon lineage, took the name and appended the descriptive *Dun* (again meaning hill) and after still more linguistic changes the main feature of the village that had become known as Churchdown had the same unsurprising suffix added to it for a third time. The consequence of all this appellatory juggling is that the path I had found led straight to Hillhill Hill! Interesting but ultimately unhelpful; I had to work harder than that to come up with anything useful.

Churchdown is mentioned in John Michell's 'View Over Atlantis' and it can only be significant that a small village that is in no way particularly exceptional should merit a mention in such a ground-breaking work. There is a tradition that St Bartholomew's, which sits atop the hill, is a Fairy Church with the stones to be used in its construction mysteriously transported from the base to the top of the hill every night. This is of course a common tale used to explain the unlikely location of a number of edifices and a more rational explanation is that with the church serving two villages the summit was a convenient compromise location but, since folk tales of this kind can often serve as a guide to the real story, I decided to carry on with my inquiries.

Geologically Churchdown Hill is an outlier from the main body of the Cotswolds. It is largely composed of limestone although a cross-section through the outcrop reveals a fairly complex layered structure consisting of assorted Jurassic rocks. More relevant is the fact that a fault line descends from the Cotswold edge and just skirts the hill and village, passing through the main road and railway to terminate somewhere in one of the estates outlying the village proper. This combination of folklore and geology made me certain that I was on to something and led me back one evening to take some sightings to check for possible geographical or astronomical alignments.

On my return, without the benefit of a sunny morning to heighten detail, the outline of my trail seemed less clear-cut. Indeed, as twilight fell and the stars began to appear, I became rather less sure about the origin of my putative funeral path and noises in the darkness soon revealed the true genesis of the tracks in the grass. And the moral of this tale is clear; be careful not to jump as I did to unwarranted conclusions - the trail may well have seen the passage of many feet but, if the scurrying of rabbits I heard is any indication, they were more likely to be furry than priestly. Revisiting the site to watch another sunrise turn the dew into rainbows I pondered a valuable lesson which I am happy to share with you: *all that glitters is not old*.

About ASSAP

ASSAP is an educational charity involved in the investigation of anomalous phenomena. We publish *ASSAP News* bimonthly and our journal *Anomaly* twice a year. ASSAP was formed in 1981 to bring together disparate strands of research and encourage a cross-disciplinary approach. We organize experiments and occasional study days through our publications and website. Our President is the well-known cleric and Fortean researcher the Rev. Lionel Fanthorpe.

For general enquiries, contact us at our PO box:

ASSAP, PO Box 230, PLYMOUTH, PL1 2ZR

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

The Executive

CHAIRMAN: Hugh Pincott
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mike White
GENERAL SECRETARY: Maurice Townsend
TREASURER: Maurice Townsend
ARCHIVES & LIBRARY OFFICER: Adam Bailey
NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS CO-ORDINATOR (NIC): George Gregg
DEPUTY NIC/ EDUCATION OFFICER: Andrew Homer
EQUIPMENT OFFICER: Position Vacant
GROUPS OFFICER: Wendy Milner
HUMAN RESOURCES: Position Vacant
MEDIA SUPPORT OFFICERS: Geoff and Helen Wilkins
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, William Eyre

SPECIALIST SUBJECTS - CURRENT OFFICERS

ALTERED STATES: George Gregg
CROP CIRCLES: Gareth Goodwin
CRYPTOZOOLOGY: John Gledson
DOWSING: Martyn Taylor
ESP: Terry Hewitt
FORTEAN PHENOMENA: Justin Cowell
HAUNTINGS & POLTERGEISTS: Michael Lewis
HEALING, RELIGION: Michael J Rush
LEGENDS, ANCIENT SITES, EARTH MYSTERIES: Steve Parsons
PHOTOGRAPHIC ANOMALIES: TBA
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

The Girl With X-Ray Eyes

I was recently invited to contribute to the discussion on the apparently remarkable diagnostic and healing powers of Natalia, the sixteen-year-old Russian lady interviewed on "This Morning". Over forty years' investigating can provide a researcher with something of an instinct for charlatanry and chicanery. I would be prepared to bet real money on Natalia's total honesty and integrity. She sincerely believes in what she thinks is happening when she applies her misnamed 'X-ray vision' to a patient.

As an eminent consultant ophthalmic surgeon pointed out on the programme, an X-ray requires a source of radiation, and it shows up bones or metal fragments from a war wound rather than soft tissues. Natalia seems able to diagnose by 'looking' at soft tissue rather like a scanning device - not an X-ray. What is it that she may be able to 'see' when she examines a patient? Statistically, her results seem to have been too good and too accurate to be mere lucky chances, or random hits.

If we assume (for the sake of putting a hypothesis forward for ASSAP colleagues to investigate and analyse) that telepathy is more or less generally accepted - albeit in a rather rudimentary form - then what about the mysterious silent areas of the brain? Even the best research neurologists cannot say with certainty what the majority of the brain mass is actually doing. It's widely accepted, however, that most of it is concerned with the automatic, unconscious functions of staying alive: it regulates body temperature, blood pressure, digestion, breathing and homeostasis in general while we get on with other things at the conscious level - such as discussing intriguing mysteries with ASSAP friends! Now, what if these silent, unconscious, automatic areas are continually transmitting telepathic signals which a highly sensitive and gifted girl like Natalia can pick up?

The next stage of the Fanthorpe Hypothesis involves the way that cetaceans and bats apparently navigate with the aid of mental images generated by the sonar-type signals they receive. If sonar on a boat can do it - can change sound into images - so can a biological brain. Let's assume that when she picks up the telepathic signals from her patients' unconscious transmitters, Natalia's finely tuned mind 'sees' them as pictures of what's going on inside the body that she's examining.

Warmest wishes to all ASSAP friends and colleagues.

Lionel and Patricia
(President and Lady One)

(Continued from page 1)

These two examples serve to highlight how important it is to be able to bring a range of investigative techniques to bear on any anomalous images (genuine or otherwise) we may be asked to examine. Since ASSAP no longer has the services of a professional photographer as Anomalous Photography subject coordinator we are hoping to gather together a team of interested parties with some experience of digital or traditional photographic techniques to investigate any future images we may receive. Thanks to those who have expressed an interest already; if anyone else would like to be involved in assessing and evaluating material of this kind please contact us via the PO box or via the photographicanomalies@assap.org email address.

*Douglas House is a Respite for young people and donations are gratefully received. Tel. 01865 794479

Paul Lee has asked me to remind AN readers that he is hoping to start an ASSAP Equipment group. If you are interested in the technical aspects of ASSAP's work or have any relevant experience in this area Paul can be contacted via the PO box or by email to paul@paullee.com (how flash is that?) He is also hoping to organise an inaugural meeting of the group at a 'geographically neutral location' at some time during the summer.

Send me something - or the kitten gets it...

Due to personal commitments the deadline for the next ASSAP News will probably be around *March 1st 2004*, give or take a little. If you would like to see your name in print you can use snail mail 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).

Ghost Writing

Another trivia question

Well I just missed Valentine's Day but in the ...ahem... spirit of the occasion who stated that:

'True love is like a ghost, which everyone talks about but few have seen.'

Answer next time.

The answer to last issue's mystery poem was The Song of Hiawatha by Henry Longfellow (but of course you knew that).

Project Albion Update **– we need your help**

By James Clark, ASSAP Research Officer

Project Albion is ASSAP's longest-running and most successful research endeavour. Its aim is to record anomalies and folklore from all across the British Isles; indeed, it has been described as a "Domesday book of the paranormal".

Since the mid-1980s, Albion has seen the publication of numerous books, and more recently Internet sites, each title dealing with a particular locality. New titles continue to be researched and inspire a great deal of local public interest when they are published. At the moment though, there is no complete and fully up-to-date central listing of all the titles that have appeared over the years.

This is why I am putting together a definitive list of all the Albion publications so far. It will give web addresses for Albion Internet sites and let interested readers know how they can obtain copies of those books that are still available. For books that are now out-of-print, the information provided should help readers track down copies through inter-library lending schemes, second-hand book dealers, etc.

The listing as it currently stands has been placed on the ASSAP website. It can be found at <http://www.assap.org/departments/research/albion.php> but there are still some details missing.

This is where I need your help. I am appealing for ASSAP members to send me as much up-to-date information about Albion publications as possible. If you know of a title that is missing from the list, please let me know so that it may be added. Likewise, if you can add any further information about the titles listed (perhaps, for example, you know where a few copies of an older booklet are still available), please advise me so that I can keep this listing as up-to-date as possible.

When the list is complete, the following details should be recorded for each title:

Title

Author(s)

Year of publication

Publisher

Whether or not this title is still available

If available, how readers might go about ordering copies

And, for Internet sites, the current web address

If you have any information, please send it to me at: Research Officer, ASSAP, PO Box 230, Plymouth, PL1 2ZR, or email me on research@assap.org. Any details you could add would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks!

ASSAP Members Invited to Participate in the Psychic Lottery Project

By James Clark

Twice a week, BBC television broadcasts the latest instalment of an ongoing ESP experiment to a nationwide audience, although few people realise it, not even the presenters.

That programme is the National Lottery and, since 2000, a project has been running to investigate whether it is possible to psychically predict the randomly drawn numbers. The "Psychic Lottery Project" is the brainchild of Mick O'Neill, a computer programmer who has been investigating anomalous phenomena for 20 years. Since the start of October 2003, the project has been supported by a £1,500 grant from the Society for Psychical Research (SPR).

It is hard to imagine better controls for such an experiment. Camelot PLC, which runs the lottery (but has no involvement with the Psychic Lottery Project), goes to great lengths to publicly ensure that the draws are not biased in any way. Each draw is conducted completely independently from the investigator, and the statistical probabilities for success are well understood (at least by statisticians!), which means that any successes can be measured mathematically.

Background

In 1995, Mark S Zilberman published a paper in the SPR's Journal, in which he compared performance in public lotteries in France and the USSR from 1980-1989 with day-by-day planetary indices of geomagnetic activity. He found a significant correlation between the two factors, a result that strongly suggested some sort of widespread ability to "know" lottery results in advance of the draw. The effect was very small however, too small to be of any help to individual players. Mick was inspired to design an experiment that used a computer program to combine the predictions of a large number of people. This experiment is the Psychic Lottery Project.

What is involved for participants?

The first thing to note is that it is absolutely free to take part in the project. Full instructions as to what participants have to do are supplied when they sign up, but taking part is extremely easy and the basic information is summarised below.

Participants have to visualise a set of numbers between 1 and 49, and to contact Mick by email, telephone or text to tell him what the numbers are and at what time they were visualised.

Participants are free to use whichever visualisation method they prefer. Many simply find a quiet place to sit, close their eyes and relax with a pen and paper by their side. Others might prefer to use methods such as meditation or auto-

matic writing. Later, some participants also try to psychokinetically influence the draw as they watch it.

To date, the most successful methods have proved to be:

1. Visualising during/after a state of deep relaxation, such as meditation
2. Visualising an image of the draw and watching to see which balls appear
3. Visualising on the verge of sleep or while dreaming

Participants do not have to take part in every draw; they may contribute as often or rarely as they wish. They are also free to contribute as many numbers as they like. It is best, however, to visualise “many numbers” (i.e. 12 or more) and let the computer program select which 6 to use. (To encourage participants to visualise “many numbers”, participants who do so qualify for extra tickets – see below – which increases their likelihood of winning part of any prize.)

Before each draw, a complex computer program amalgamates all contributions into the optimal combinations for tickets, which Mick then buys. Mick currently buys about 80 £1 tickets each week.

Extra tickets

As mentioned above, participants who submit “many numbers” qualify for one extra set of tickets. Currently, another set is bought for people who visualise their numbers during “Libra times”. This is based on research (Spottiswoode, 1997) suggesting that those times when the constellation Libra is overhead (approximately 13h 30m Local Sidereal Time) are the most conducive to psychic abilities, and one of the project's aims is to explore this idea. “Libra times” vary according to date and location but are available from Mick and are emailed to each participant prior to each draw.

Prize money division

Before each draw, an email is distributed to participants detailing the tickets that have been bought and who will qualify for any money won on those various tickets. After the draw, a results email allows participants to follow their own and the project's progress, both psychic and financial. (When they first join the project, each person is given a contributor number and this is how participants are referred to in such emails, ensuring that everyone's anonymity is preserved.)

The first time someone contributes numbers, a “personal ticket” is bought for them, on which that person will receive 90% of any winnings. On subsequent draws, what happens is that 90% of any money won is divided between participants in a way designed to reward successful predictions. The remaining 10% of the prize money remains with Mick to help cover his costs, although half of that (i.e. 5% of the total) will go to the SPR in the event of a large win. Mick has calculated that the average participant's share in a Rollover Jackpot win would be about £120,000.

Full details of prize money division are available from Mick, who has written a detailed, eight-page explanation of how

the project works.

An invitation to ASSAP members

At the moment, approximately 60 people take part in each draw. Mick would like to double this number and has invited interested ASSAP members to join the project.

Personally, I have been taking part in the project since July 2002, contributing numbers to many but not all draws. Up to the time of writing this article, I have won a grand total of £7.87, although I have fed most of that back into the kitty for more chances at a jackpot win. Hardly enough to start planning my retirement yet, but who knows what may happen? In any case, it costs nothing to take part so any winnings are a bonus. And, of course, that is in addition to the opportunity to take part in a major parapsychological experiment.

If you would like to sign up to the project, or receive a copy of his detailed project description, Mick can be contacted either by email at m.on@virgin.net or by telephone at (020) 7419 2303.

References:

Spottiswoode, S.J.P. (1997) Apparent Association Between Effect Size in Free Response Anomalous Cognition Experiments and Local Sidereal Time, *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, Vol.11 #2

Zilberman, M.S. (1995) Public Numerical Lotteries: An International Parapsychological Experiment Covering A Decade, *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research*, Vol. 60 #838, 149-60

Ghostly Bedfordshire

Anglia Paranormal Investigation Society chairman and ASSAP AI Damien O'Dell has recently completed a book called *Ghostly Bedfordshire*, detailing some local sightings and encounters with the supernatural in that part of the country. Copies can be purchased by mail order from: Damien O'Dell, 29 Rye Gardens, Baldock, Herts SG7 6TB and cost £9.99 plus £2.70 p&p (UK). Please make out cheques to D O'Dell.

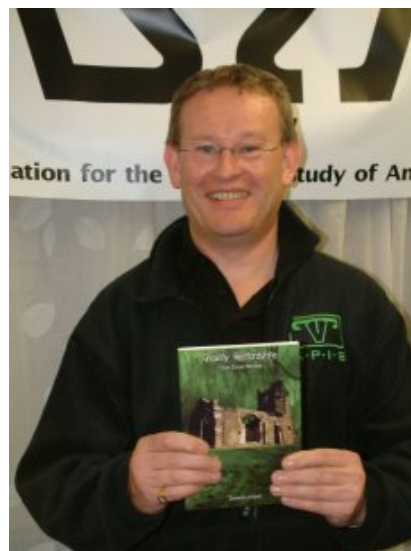


Photo:
Val Hope

Just a Thought

Photographs with anomalous aspects have been staple diet for ASSAP for over two decades. For more than half this time we enjoyed the expert services of the late Dr Vernon Harrison. And "expert" truly was the word. When ASSAP was established Vernon had just retired as Chief Scientist of De la Rue, the security and banknote printers. An arch-specialist on forgery, he was Past President of the Royal Photographic Society and President of the Stereoscopic Society. Understandably, he was in considerable demand as a consultant to many organisations, but still managed to keep ASSAP at the top of his list, both in examining photographs, and undertaking some interesting original research. But let's go back a step.

As my business office doubled as ASSAP's administrative HQ for years, photographs purporting to be anomalous were usually sent there, and before even reading the correspondence, my manager Vicky Knowles and I would scrutinise the prints carefully for any sign of ghosts, faces or whatever. Occasionally we could see them, but most often we had to rely on guidance from the sender to pinpoint the alleged anomaly.

Expert opinion usually explained these by technical artifacts like lens reflections or emulsion irregularities; and of course the well-known propensity of the human brain to seek meaning from random shapes and patterns, some more earnest than others. Psychologists' "inkblot" tests demonstrate just that.

I received such a photograph recently (it is currently with George Gregg/Andy Homer), and even from a casual glance could see an image of a blonde-haired lady sitting in a car - just what the sender then pointed out. However, it did not take even a magnifying glass to realise the image was the result of tree and sky reflections from the side window. [See front page of course - Ed]

But wait a minute ... is this not the answer to the question "How?" rather than "What?" and "Why?" Why should the brain "see" images of faces, which percipients sometimes recognise, rather than abstract areas or geometric shapes; footballs or railway engines?

Vernon Harrison would never have considered himself psychic in a millennium, but as a very down-to-earth open-minded scientist, he recognised the value of controlled experiments and carried out one of exceeding interest. Taking his camera to a field where the wind rippled through long grass, and stroked hedgerow bushes, he took two types of photograph. One set consisted of just casual snaps, but for the others Vernon "concentrated mentally" on trying to "produce" anomalous images. And did he succeed!

In the latter set you can see faces by the dozen, and with absolutely no doubt whatever. Of course the images were composed from grass and tree-twigs, but who might explain (Vernon couldn't) the assembly of

crystal-clear humans, animals and goblins? Sceptics might claim that as a world-class expert on forgery and photography Dr Harrison could have engaged in a lot of dark-room trickery. But Vernon's report (with photographs) is in the ASSAP archives, and to my recollection his findings have not yet been published.

In view of current burgeoning interest in the subject, time perhaps for an overdue evaluation.

Hugh Pincott

Editor's note: If anyone else would like to contribute a short piece for 'Just a Thought' please drop me a line - address details on page 2.

Cross Correspondences?

Rendlesham Revisited...

With regards to Justin Cowell's reply to Michael Lewis' piece on Rendlesham, I would like to point out that in a Fortean Times article of sometime back, there was another full-grown tree that appeared out of nowhere and was photographed before and after. (This was well before digital fraud I might add but cannot supply details of which particular issue it was in, however their archives might be able to supply this).

Weird animals may not mean portals to other dimensions but if not computer generated how did they get there as, unless they were of the winged variety, the question arises - did they hitch a lift? If not physical entities (see Ghost Hound of Colin Glen, same issue) what are they and how did they form there?

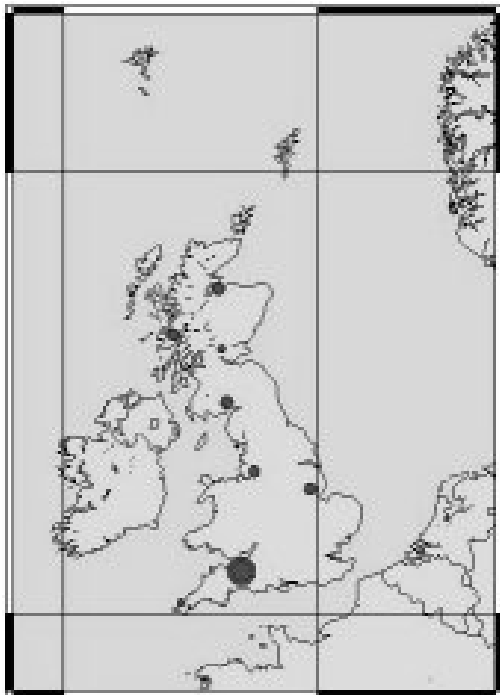
Also, the attacks of those not on site to experience the events, have to be discounted in my opinion, as they lack the sensory evidence from being there to judge the experience (gossip and rumour mongering, if you ask me, even if of a supposed scientific nature). If you weren't there, it's just a story - if you were, it was a multi-sensory experience and that's the difference between anecdotal evidence and armchair philosophizing about it (ie reality and subjective criticism). If you haven't been through it yourself, you can only theorize, not know (guess it's something similar to what you've been through).

With regards to 'The Ghost Hound of Colin Glen' here you have a perfect example of The Recognition/Perception Point phenomenon. This is where something comes into view but is too distant to be recognized as anything in particular (hazy or misty form, in the case of psychic phenomena) until you reach that point at which it clarifies into either something you recognize or takes on a clear form even if you have no previous words to describe what you are seeing or experiencing (ghost/Martian/monster).

Tony Sandy

The Reference Spot

Recent UK Seismic Activity



Date	Time	Lat	Long	Depth	Mag	Location
9/2/2004	05:50	51.082	-2.971	8.1	1.5	Bridgwater, Somerset
7/7/2004	22:50	55.103	-3.642	8.9	1.5	Dumfries, D&G
7/2/2004	00:37	53.107	-0.303	7.5	1.8	Coningsby, Lincs
3/2/2004	22:11	53.489	-2.503	0.5	1.6	Leigh, Gtr Manchester
29/1/2004	20:23	51.089	-2.98	6.5	3	Bridgwater, Somerset
29/1/2004	20:23	51.089	-2.98	6.5	3.1	Bridgwater, Somerset
29/1/2004	10:56	51.089	-2.98	6.5	3.1	Bridgwater, Somerset
29/1/2004	10:56	51.089	-2.98	6.5	2.7	Bridgwater, Somerset
25/1/2004	03:26	57.625	-3.918	4.8	1.2	Moray Firth, Highland
25/1/2004	02:10	56.262	-3.782	7.7	0.2	Blackford, Central
23/1/2004	03:54	50.271	-5.45	1.8	0.9	Off St Ives, Cornwall

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

Sky Watch

February 2004:

Full Moon 6th
Last Quarter 13th
New Moon 20th
First Quarter 28th

March 2004:

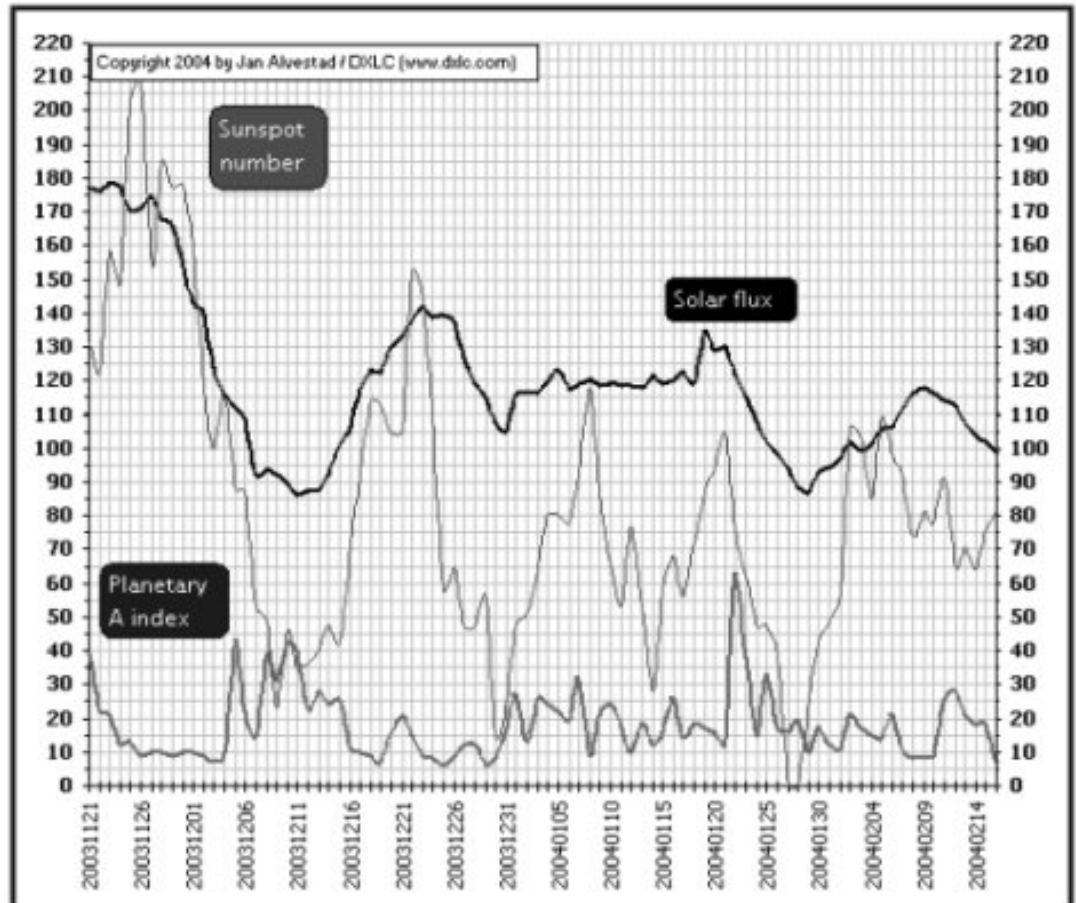
Full Moon 6th
Last Quarter 13th
New Moon 20th
First Quarter 28th

Two other notable events to watch out for:

March 4th - Jupiter at opposition.
Magnitude -2.5

March 29th - Venus at opposition.
Magnitude -4.4

Solar Terrestrial Activity Index



Copyright Jan Alvestad/DXLC

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.

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/

SPR (Society for Psychical Research)

February 12th

The Actor, the Medium and the Message - John Samson
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.

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

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 website at www.ghostclub.org.uk for details of future events.

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.

SPI

Meetings are held at The Sols Arms, 65-68 Hampstead Road, London, NW1 2PN at 3:30pm. Admission £6.50 for non-members.

Future talks:

Saturday March 27th:

Nigel Wright & Robert Snow - 'UFOs, Black Cats & All That Jazz'

For further details contact: Malcolm Robinson, 8 Hale Gardens,

Ealing Common, London, England, W3 9SQ. Tel: 07949 178 835 or email spi_spi@hotmail.com

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

Email: tonyeccles@yahoo.com.

Or ring: Anthony Eccles on 0151 727 4057

TEMS is an ASSAP-affiliated social and research group for those living in the south-east, generally meeting in Hampton. For details of membership or the current programme call Ann Hopkins on 020 8542 3110 or Lionel Beer on 020 8979 3148 or write to TEMS, 115 Hollybush Lane, Hampton, Middlesex, TW12 2QY.

Next Meeting Sunday April 25th - subject TBA.

Mercia Forteana is a new group conducting investigations into Ghosts, Fortean Phenomena, Big Cats, Folklore, etc, in the Shropshire, Herefordshire & Mid Wales areas. Meetings to take place on the first Monday of the month. Details from Gareth Goodwin 07753 473028 or by email to gareth@goodwin5918.freemove.co.uk

Don't Forget:

Muncaster Castle Paranormal Conference - 26-28th March 2004.

Details of the castle and conference can be found at www.muncaster.co.uk and on the ASSAP website.

Group in Focus:

CPSG (Chesterfield Psychic Study Group)

Towards the end of 2003, Chesterfield Psychic Study Group (CPSG) celebrated its 21st anniversary with a Psychic Supper. 20 members, together with 4 invited mediums, tucked in to a pie and peas supper and the members on each table were then given mediumistic readings by the medium on that table (photo below). Since 1982 CPSG has been running a monthly programme of lectures and demonstrations covering all aspects of the paranormal and more recently became affiliated to ASSAP. For much of its history it has also spawned sub-groups to enable members to become involved in experimental research into specific phenomena (e.g. dowsing, Christos, Psi under Hypnosis).

Forthcoming meetings are as follows:

Friday, 12th Mar, 7.15 pm: 'Landscape and Landscape Mysteries': talk by Dominic Beglin. Subscription £1.25.

Friday, 2nd Apr, 7.15 pm: CPSG. 'Clairvoyance'. Demonstration by Pat Campbell. Subscription £1.25.

Friday, 14th May, 7.15 pm: CPSG. 'Working with Everyday Angels'. Talk by Alison Knox. Subscription £1.25.

Chesterfield Psychic Study Group (CPSG) meets at the Community Centre, Tontine Road, Chesterfield. For further details, tel (01246) 221971 or visit www.cpsg.co.uk.



Photo: Bill: Eyre/CPSG