

ASSAP NEWS

ASSOCIATION FOR THE
SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF
ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA

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Merlin reawakes to discover Britain's secrets

DETAILS can now be unveiled of an exciting new national research scheme being launched by ASSAP which will enlist the aid of researchers and investigators throughout the country to tackle the paranormal.

Codenamed "The Merlin Matrix", it is a framework designed on a scale never seen before in the history of British research, setting its sights at nothing short of a comprehensive study of all phenomena throughout the country.

It intends to co-ordinate all current research and investigations, so these "pull in the same direction", and instigate new schemes that individuals can carry out.

Activity will be concentrated in two main branches, one studying person-related phenomena such as poltergeists, telepathy and healing; the other centering on anomalous events where place is a dominant factor.

Examples of the latter include Warminster, Dyfed, and other possible window areas.

Maurice Townsend, instigator of

the Merlin Matrix, explained the first stage will be to "discover the relationship between time, space and paranormal events with particular reference to physical phenomena."

This is deliberately wide to allow a flexible theory but Maurice continued: "It seems likely that there are a number of factors involved in the paranormal which have been sadly neglected in the past and might seem unobvious to those who have not looked at them.

"Indeed there may be so many that the paranormal may be more akin to climatology than physics; where general trends can be seen but details are almost impossible to predict.

"I think paranormal events are perfectly repeatable in the same way that an eclipse is repeatable. Astronomers can predict where and when an eclipse will be seen

by a knowledge of the movements of the sun, earth and moon.

They cannot cause an eclipse...but does this mean it is not repeatable and therefore invalid as science?

I think we have slightly more control over paranormal effects than the astronomer has over planets but it is still often a question of prediction.

"If we could say that on a particular night, at a particular place that such and such a group could achieve levitation whereas on the following night they could not (all other things being equal) we would once and for all kill off the bugbear of repeatability.

"That quite vast target is the enormous objective of stage one of Merlin.

"We cannot hope to get any more than the first crude answers after many years of work and it is likely to continue ad infinitum, alongside other stages.

"But we have got to make a start

somewhere so here it is."

A corner stone in the Merlin Matrix is the cataloguing of as many paranormal phenomena as possible throughout Britain, throughout all time, region by region, in a Doomsday Book of the paranormal."

ASSAP hopes to publish individual "chapters" once a region has been researched thoroughly. These could be sold locally.

Unlike our 11th century ancestors however, we hope to employ the latest computer technology to file the information and check for correlations and patterns.

This work will come under the plan tagged, "Project Albion."

The work of collating the data can be shared between local groups, specialist groups and individuals.

It is a mammoth task and could never really be "completed" but it is a plan which could produce exciting results.

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Investigation into physical phenomena begins



ABOVE is seen the proto-type sealed glass box (minilab) used in the investigations of the Leicester circle. The pencil, originally in the box has dematerialised out of it. Nobody knows where the rubber rings, seen in the right hand corner of the box, came from or how they materialised in it.

MATERIALIZED objects, independent voice, levitation and other phenomena associated with medium Rita Goold and her circle in Leicester are currently under investigation by the ASSAP physical mediumship research group.

Development of the medium is fast but in the two years since they first started sitting a plethora of phenomena has occurred and continues to occur.

Pilot experiments with a minilab — a sealed glass box — have been successful with the materialisation of objects in the box and dematerialisation of articles out of it.

In another experiment the "spirit communicators" correctly identified, by automatic writing, the contents of a sealed opaque box.

The communicators consistently maintain they are no longer using ectoplasm but are actually materialising themselves, in their spirit body, in the room.

Researcher Alan Cleaver has shaken hands with the communicators (all seances are conducted in the dark, save the luminous glow from a seance trumpet) and felt the face, hair and dress of the spirit visitors.

He is quite convinced of the circle's authenticity and has so far found no evidence of fraud — either conscious or unconscious.

Among the communicators is Helen Duncan, the physical medium who died in the 1950s. Her daughter Gena Brealey of Luton, Beds., has visited the circle, spoken to her mother for more than an hour and is completely satisfied it is her mother communicating.

Several other visitors to the circle have spoken to their "dead" relatives and are equally satisfied.

Both the circle and the communicators have been more than willing to co-operate with investigations which, it is hoped, will continue.

The Merlin Matrix: a plan for the future

From Page One

Already the recently formed ASSAP SE London Group in Blackheath has begun cataloguing the phenomena in its own area, reported over many years. They are logging ghosts, UFOs, alien animals and other anomalies.

They are also detailing factors such as geological faults and magnetic anomalies. They have noted, for instance, the area has a preponderance of caves.

Linking all this information together and adding to it the national pool of data it is hoped new correlations will be noted.

It is important to emphasise however the work often goes beyond the mere listing of phenomena.

It has been noted by other groups that once they start investigating the locality, and this usually includes much field work, the phenomena in the area seems to 'come alive'. The researchers find themselves chasing a local mystery or solving a historical riddle.

A guide for local groups, and individuals, on Project Albion is now available from Alan Cleaver and he is willing to visit groups wishing to become involved in the scheme.

Mr Cleaver strongly recommends the use of psychics or sensitives in this work for gleaning information from buildings or sites of

importance in the area.

The other major branch of the Merlin Matrix will be involved in trying to discover what conditions are necessary, or conducive for the production of person-related psi phenomena.

Interest in this area of research has recently been reawakened with the revival in sitter groups — a group of people meeting together regularly attempting to produce physical phenomena.

Table tilting is one of the easiest effects to produce and acts as an ideal stepping stone to other physical phenomena.

Already many groups in the country are successfully obtaining results and Julian Isaacs of the Society for Psychical Research recently held a study day for sitter groups to discuss techniques.

Much work is currently being directed towards establishing the conditions necessary for mental phenomena such as telepathy, clairvoyance and precognition and it is hoped results from this will add to our presently meagre knowledge.

Tools such as hypnosis, the Christos and the Ganzfeld could prove valuable in this search.

Under this plan also comes the study of poltergeists and hauntings. Why is it certain houses, at particular times, with a certain

family will experiences paranormal phenomena?

Would it be possible to replicate these conditions in a laboratory setting? Gaining acceptance again is the idea of ghosts being a re-run of a recording trapped in the fabric of a building or atmosphere of a site. It is hoped research in this sector will bear fruit.

In the area of UFOlogy is the study of why particular people seem more prevalent to UFOs than others. It has been noted that a number of UFO abductees become psychic afterwards. Could this be another clue to the production of psychic powers?

This is coupled with the sadly neglected area of psigenics: the genetic make-up of psychics with a comparison of shared characteristics.

Also within the framework of the Merlin Matrix will be the linking together of this knowledge and the innovation of experiments to check out suggested patterns.

For example it may be noticed in Project Albion that a particular site is a hot spot for UFOs. And at the same time a group studying close encounters suggests certain conditions conducive to the sighting of UFOs.

By linking these two findings together it may be possible to witness, on command, aerial phenomena, by repeating the

right conditions at the right place.

The above is only an example of the way in which the Merlin Matrix may work but the planners have deliberately left the framework very flexible to change as other researchers add their views.

In this way it is hoped at the end of five, or more, years a theory will start to take shape which will go a little way towards understanding anomalous phenomena. A detailed timetable is now being prepared.

Those requiring details on how to carry out research along the lines suggested by Project Albion

Those wishing to experiment with techniques such as sitter groups, the Ganzfeld, the Christos and others, should contact Maurice

He may also be contacted for further details on the Merlin Matrix and would welcome your views on the theory.

The Gaia programme

"ADOPT a stone circle or megalithic chamber" is the message of editor of The Ley Hunter, Paul Devereux, to researchers into anomalous phenomena.

By doing so they can take part in some exciting research which has already caused a stir within the pages of that stalwart of hard science, "The New Scientist."

Mr Devereux explains, "Since 1978 there has been a part-time research programme, The Dragon Project, studying certain megalithic sites from a variety of angles. Certain geophysical anomalies have been recorded.

"Current research within the project is concentrating on monitoring stone circle and megalithic chambers with geiger counters (see New Scientist 21 October 1982) as extraordinary results are being produced.

"These intimate that the megalith builders may have been able to sense spots on the Earth's surface where unusual geophysical conditions prevailed, and marked them (if not augmented them) with their stone structures.

We don't know yet for sure, but current results are exciting at least."

The Gaia Programme has been divided into three sections:

- The selection of a set number of regions in Britain where detailed UFO reports and local geology can be closely studied for correlation.

- Geiger profiles taken of as large a number of megalithic sites as possible. And sky observations carried out at requested times at these same locations concurrent with sky observations at a non-megalithic 'control' site to test the incidence of UAPS (Unidentified Aerial Phenomena).

- A complex experiment to try to test whether laboratory-produced earth lights are responsive to human observers.

It is in the second part that volunteer researchers will be needed to adopt a stone circle or megalithic chamber which they would be prepared to travel to.

Geiger work at the site will need about half a day of constant work, involving the taking of readings.

In the second part of this operation researchers will need to undertake a night observation exercise (skywatch) at the site they geiger monitored.

Sheldrake competition

A PRIZE of \$10,000 is being awarded to anyone who can devise the best scientific test of a controversial new theory of biological organisation.

The hypothesis of formative causation was proposed by Cambridge biochemist Rupert Sheldrake in 1981. The magazine "Nature" only narrowly conceded his book, A New Science of Life, should not be burnt but said it should be "put firmly among the literature of intellectual aberrations."

Other magazines were more favourable and New Scientist pointed out it at least has the merit of being testable.

So now the Tarrytown Group, a New York organisation committed to promoting new ideas in science, medicine and technology, is awarding a prize for the best test.

According to the theory an organism's innate form and behaviour, whether it be a spider, a sparrow or a human being, are not shaped by genetic mechanisms alone but also by 'form fields' associated with the organisms.

These 'morphogenetic fields' derive their structure by a process called morphic resonance from previous similar organisms.

This means that organisms are

linked up directly with past members of their species and draw upon a kind of collective memory.

This hypothesis leads to a number of striking predictions. For example, if rats learn a new trick in London, then other rats of the same breed all over the world should learn the same trick more quickly, without any normal kind of connection or communication.

Indeed there is already evidence from experiments with rats carried out at Harvard, Edinburgh, and Melbourne that this actually occurs.

The prize will be awarded for the best test that tends either to confirm or refute Sheldrake's hypothesis. Participating researchers may use experimental procedures suggested by Dr Sheldrake or methods of their own.

Dr Sheldrake is an ASSAP member.

A New Science of Life is being published as a paperback in February by Granada/Paladin at £1.95.

ASSAP tunes in with radio publicity

by Jenny Randles

ALL researchers into strange phenomena know that the media will be a constant source of frustration, aggravation and sometimes pleasure. It is a fact of life that anomalies are 'interesting' — and if you are involved with them — then so are you interesting!

It is something that you have to learn to cope with because creating the right public attitude is vital. The media are good at destroying reputations and not exactly enhancing the credibility of any subject they care to choose, by the addition of choice phrases such as the infamous 'little-green men' or the more recent 'sexy ghosts'.

I have naturally found myself in the thick of newspaper, radio and TV shows for many years, especially being an author and so needing to promote my books. One case in point was the broadcast I did for the BBC radio's WOMANS HOUR on Christmas Eve, during which I was able to give ASSAP some good plugs. But even I was surprised by the aftermath to this which resulted in a valuable breakthrough.

The commercial radio station serving Merseyside, the north-west and north Wales (RADIO CITY), having discovered through the BBC show that I lived locally approached me with the concept for a series of programmes with them. Each week I would cover a different aspect of the paranormal. Of course I said 'Yes', and hastily prepared myself some programme outlines.

We kicked off on Tuesday, January 4 1983 with a one-hour special on UFOs; which featured me chatting for half an hour and then opening up the phonelines for the second half of the programme. It went out between 11am and 12 and generated a good deal of interest.

I was especially pleased to get a call from pop singer Gerry Marsden (of Gerry & the Pacemakers) who told me about his UFO encounter in September 1980, when he saw a strangely-moving object above his car.

As I write, the series (which it is planned to run until mid or late February) is just settling down into its normal 10.30 to 11 am slot. On January 11 I covered premonitions, and the programme for January 18 was agreed as ghosts and poltergeists.

Other topics due for examination are coincidences; astrology; abductions; disappearances and timeslips. The plan is to present them in a rational framework and show that ASSAP exists to study them seriously. ASSAP is naturally getting good promotions; and the show is being previewed with a 'trailer' each day.

Of course I am having great fun doing these shows, although they are very time consuming as I have

to research a different topic in my spare time each week, and make sure I am up to date with current thinking and research.

Letters are already flowing in (so much so that I am having difficulty keeping pace). Doubtless they will bring some new blood into ASSAP, which is one advantage for us. But equally important is the stream of cases that are being received after each topic; practically all of which are otherwise unrecorded accounts of anomalous phenomena.

The potential of such a series is clearly present in many other areas. How about those of you well versed in a broad range of paranormal fields approaching your local station and suggesting it? It cannot do ASSAP any harm...but please do *not* do this unless you are sure you can cope with the pressure of work and are confident of handling different areas in a cool and rational way. ASSAP does not need publicity at any cost.

In closing here is one of the stories which brought a smile to my face and that of Brian Ford (whose show I temporarily abduct)... I know it shouldn't really be seen as funny, but well, we do need a giggle now and then!

The case of the deceased goldfish...

A lady from Liverpool reported that she often had precognitive dreams. This is one in particular that stood out. She recalled being at a friend's house and seeing her goldfish bowl very dirty.

Fearing that the fish would die in the circumstances, she ventured to get them out and put fresh water into the bowl. One fish was no problem, but the other was awkward. So much so that in removing it she felt sure that it died.

Next morning, early, she rushed to her friend to warn her that catastrophe might be imminent from her precognition. 'I'm afraid one of your goldfish may die' she said. Her friend looked sadly and said, 'You're a bit late — go in the kitchen and look'.

The lady did so. There was the scene as in her dream; the bowl with mucky water and one fish clearly still alive. But the other was in a rather sorry state — unquestionably deceased.

The woman *had* tried to remove the fish so she could clean the water (just as her friend had seen herself doing in the dream).

The fish owner, realising that goldfish are slippery, did not wish to get the tricky one out with her hands. This was again a motif in the apparently precognitive dream. However, she had taken the curious decision to remove the poor fish with a pair of scissors and unfortunately had pressed just a little too hard during transfer.

The result was that the goldfish got chopped in half! In other words poor Mr Goldfish had had



Jenny Randles

his chips.

The wealth of material coming from listeners should keep ASSAP NEWS busy for a few issues; and I even had a classic precognitive

dream myself connected with the series — plus a weird series of coincidences linking the show with folk singer Barbara Dickson. But that's another story!

The key to the past and the future

by Karola Kautz

THE Society for the Interpretation of Ancient Texts was founded by a group of researchers, who have worked together for years, in October 1981.

In January 1974 the lost key to the ancient system of symbolism, which is the key to past history and wisdom, was recovered, and this discovery initiated a retranslation and interpretation of the Books of Moses and other biblical books, Plato's Dialogues on Atlantis, and major events in Egyptian, Near Eastern, Eastern, European, and Meso-American traditions.

For about seven years our researchers hardly looked up from their desks, while the mysteries of the past faded into oblivion and insights into past history and advanced natural sciences, along with vitally needed evidence, accumulated.

Ever more people were attracted to this work because the wisdom of the Great Teachers of the ages, who were the Bearers of civilizations, extends into all areas of modern sciences.

It was evident why, during the Age of Reason, people from all walks of life gathered in Rome, Athens, Alexandria, Jerusalem, and Babylon to contribute to a mutual evaluation of ancient records.

Because of the success which we experienced in our own interdisciplinary co-operation, the creation of a research centre similar to those that existed during the Age of Reason, initiated the founding of our Society, and we welcome all who will join us

for a sharing of insights with a view to mutual progress.

The difference between ancient and modern sciences: man of the materialistic age focusses totally on the development of physical skills, instruments, and machinery to serve his many purposes and conveniences.

He chose a completely materialistic way of life and, in the course of many centuries, it became the only reality known to him.

From this point of view, every phenomenon, that is beyond the visible, measurable dimensions of our world, is called supernatural or paranormal. In truth, the most normal and natural event may be involved, but this depends on the viewpoint of the observer.

The great teachers of the ages studied and taught the sciences of life, that is, the invisible life-forces, from their cosmic origins to their influences on the atmosphere, hydrosphere, earth, living beings, and on human life.

Their focal point of interest was the promotion of the development of man's physical, intellectual, and spiritual (psychic) faculties. This is the sole purpose of human life on the physical plane, as it is written.

The ancient priest leaders did not require technical instruments in their exploration of invisible powers. They worked with power of the soul. The word 'soul' was translated from the Greek word 'psyche'.

They were powerful sensitives who were able to visualise and analyse natural forces psychically,

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Research project No. 1: The Christos

ONE of the many cries from local groups is "What can we do?" ASSAP is fast collecting a number of projects they may carry out and the results be put to profitable use. One of these projects is The Christos. It is a sadly neglected area as far as research is concerned which is a pity because it is easy to do, success is almost guaranteed and the results could be very important to psychical research as a whole. It is basically an altered state of consciousness technique which gives the impression of astral travelling to other times and other places. Some believe it is a way of discovering past lives. The process is completely safe but we recommend it should not be used on epileptic or nervous people. Common sense should be observed at all times. The technique of The Christos is explained below:-

☐ FIRST STAGE

The experimentee, or person being 'run', is to lie flat on his back. His head may be placed on a cushion and his shoes should be removed; above all he, or she, should be comfortable.

With the subject's eyes firmly closed a fellow researcher should massage his ankles for two to three minutes. The massaging should be firm but kind, loosening the ankles and inducing relaxation.

Shortly after this has started another person should start to massage the "third eye" position on his forehead. Again this should be quite firm so the experimentee feels his head "buzzing."

To aid relaxation the experimentee may wish to take a few deep breaths.

☐ SECOND STAGE

This stage deals with making the person being run expand his mind beyond the limits of his physical body.

With his eyes still closed, the subject should be told to visualise himself growing two inches taller through the bottoms of his feet (or longer as he is horizontal). The giving of instructions or asking of questions should be done by the same person throughout.

When the subject has said he has reached the required two inches the person doing the running asks him to return to his normal length. He should be encouraged to talk as much as possible without causing distraction and should try to "see" and feel his feet returning.

Repeat this process several times until he is accustomed to it and then repeat it but stretching out through the head.

Switching back to the feet he is asked to stretch to a length of 12 inches. Then 12 inches through his head.

Back to his feet the length is increased to 24 inches. DO NOT

have him return from the stretch of 24 inches and at the same time ask him to stretch 24 inches through his head. He may experience difficulty in keeping his feet stretched out while expanding through his head but persevere.

When this is completed he is asked to expand in all directions like an enormous balloon. Finally he is returned to his normal size.

☐ THIRD STAGE

Now he is asked to visualise himself standing outside his front door and to describe the door and surroundings.

The runner should ask him as many questions as possible about what colour the door is, any cracks, is there a mat, and so on. Ask him what is to the right, left and behind him.

He is now asked to visualise himself standing on the top of his roof and is once again asked to describe his surroundings.

Finally ask him whether it is day or night and what the weather is like. They may not compare with the time and weather it actually is during the experiment.

If it is daytime ask him to change it to night, and vice versa. He is asked to compare in this way the day and night scenes. They are usually the same.

☐ FOURTH STAGE

He is now asked to rise up in the air towards the clouds. It has been found some need a "psychological

aid" at this stage and have to imagine gaining height by being in a balloon or aeroplane.

All the time he is asked to describe what he sees. Take him above cloud level and if you wish travel for a while above the clouds.

Ask him to descend again. Often they will see a gap in the clouds through which to fall

Upon landing he should be asked to describe his surroundings and give a description of where he is.

Eventually he should be asked to describe himself — the experimentee is not always the same person he is physically.

From now on you must play it by ear as no two Christos experiences are the same. By going above cloud level and back down again it is impossible to have two or three experiences in the same session.

The person is able to stop the experience any time he wishes simply by opening his eyes but normally they will continue until it "runs out."

Keep a note of the time. The subject will often drastically underestimate the length of time he has been having the experience, as though he has suffered a timeslip.

Please send records of your results in the first instance to Groups

Unlocking man's secrets

From Page Three

and they could control many.

When the mythical accomplishments of Krishna, Kun and Yue, Osiris, the Greek heroes, Moses, Elijah, Elisha and Jesus are studied from this point of view, the veil of mystery vanishes.

The scientific terminology, the system of symbolism, was established according to the image of nature: cosmic energies were named in terms of matter, living beings, and human traits, to which each relates.

Modern physicists have established that matter is but another form of energy on very low frequencies. In the process of materialisation the original energies maintain their identities.

Consequently, this system of naming the invisible in terms of the visible existences to which each relates, reflects the image of nature.

Since the laws of nature are eternal, so is the validity of the system of symbolism. And it is not obsolete because it occurs in cave art in the same way as in biblical texts, in the early readings of Edgar Cayce, and in some contemporary prophecies.

It is the terminology of the higher self, the Spirit of Truth, or the Source.

A barrier between ancient and modern knowledge was formed in the beginning of the Christian era, when the elimination of paganism was decreed, which included the total destruction of all invaluable private and public libraries in Egypt, the Near East, and in Europe.

Knowledge of ancient civilisations, their cultures and sciences, and of symbolism was literally wiped out in the Christian world.

Instead, the familiar concepts of creation, Adam and Eve, Noah's Flood, and others were adopted, and when something is taught for a thousand or more years, while nothing else is known, it becomes tradition.

Researchers, who are interested in the study of symbolism, may

Groups or individuals interested in co-operation, or exchange of information, please contact S.I.A.T., at the above address.

Further information . . .

ASSAP is an integrating body designed to encourage existing efforts and initiate new ones.

Many people, as individuals or as members of groups, are already researching anomalous phenomena; ASSAP offers them the chance to do so more effectively, by working in association with others, befitting from a nationwide investigative network, consultation facilities and information resources, and by fostering communications between those working in the same or related fields both in Britain and internationally.

However ASSAP has no intention of taking over existing groups; they will retain full autonomy, and it will remain their decision to what extent they integrate their activities with those of ASSAP as a whole.

More details about ASSAP and an application form can be obtained from the Membership Secretary

Please enclose an s.a.e.

Editor of ASSAP News is Alan

Any contributions for ASSAP News 7 should be sent to the Editor by April 5. Letters, news of activities and items for the "Help!" column should be sent to the Editorial Secretary by the same date.

The quarterly journal of ASSAP is COMMON GROUND. It contains articles on a wide variety of topics not necessarily written by ASSAP members.

This journal is always outspoken, often controversial, but committed to the search for that 'common ground' where our studies converge. We urge all ASSAP members to subscribe.

A single issue costs £1 within the UK, a four-issue subscription £4. Foreign subscription is \$4 for a single issue or \$15 for a four-issue subscription. ASSAP members can benefit from a 10% reduction, receiving a year's subscription for only £3.60, postage included.

Common Ground is available