



PSYCHIC NEWS

THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF SPIRITUALISM

Issue No 4067

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ITC: spirit communication for a digital age

Challenging the Daily Mail

Living the Spiritualist life

***Still in the dark about
physical mediumship?***



Plus: Join our debate on Spiritualism and the media

From the editor

Our huge debt of gratitude

IT'S tempting to start this first editorial by stealing a line from the journalist Bernard Levin, a columnist on *The Times* when it was closed down in 1978 due to an industrial dispute. When the paper reappeared almost a year later, he began his famously acerbic column with "As I was saying before I was so rudely interrupted..." You can see why I was tempted!

Like *The Times*, we've been in enforced hibernation, but now we're well and truly awake, raring to go and so happy to be back! To our long-time readers – it's fantastic to be with you again. To our brand new readers – we're delighted to have you on board and hope you'll stay with us for many years to come.

We think you're going to love the new-format *Psychic News*! It's packed with exciting news and features, including the story of one Spiritualist's single-handed challenge to the *Daily Mail*. In other news we profile the gifted medium Paul Brereton, and take a look at workshops for young Spiritualists in Wales. We also cast an eye over the SNU's impressive new venue in Edinburgh.



Maurice Barbanell...smiling!



J.V. Trust chairman Eric Hatton and I at Maurice Barbanell's desk in the new *Psychic News* office at Thremhall Park, Hertfordshire.

You'll find some great new contributors in this and future issues, including former BBC Radio 4 producer Chris Eldon Lee. Chris explains why he believes it's so important for mainstream media to give an accurate picture of Spiritualism.

David Hopkins is widely respected for his work as co-author of the books *Philosophy of Spiritualism* and *The Religion of Spiritualism*. As a new contributor to PN, he'll be tackling some of the tough moral and ethical issues faced by today's society, from a Spiritualist perspective.

Our cover story digs deep into spirit communication 21st century style. Leading researcher Dr Anabela Cardoso reveals all, and offers a step-by-step guide to experimenting with electronic voice phenomena at home.

Roy Stemman takes a look at another 21st century phenomenon – the rise of TV mediumship. It's a subject that arouses strong passions, so join the debate and let us know what *you* think. And while we're on the subject of strong passions, who says today's physical mediums can't provide survival evidence? Lew Sutton dispels some preconceptions.

Many of you will know that the J.V. Trust is the new owner of *Psychic News*, but some of you have asked about the day-to-day work of the Trust. Its chairman Eric Hatton explains all in an interview with me.

Looking for an absorbing read to curl up with over the festive season?

We can offer you a heart-warming true story of love between two worlds. Check out our book feature on page 24.

Our letters page contains just a small selection of the wonderful messages you've sent in response to the news that we're back. Huge thanks to those of you who've kept in touch. In future, the letters pages will be an open forum for your views and opinions. Tell us what you love and even what you loathe. Don't keep your opinions to yourself. Remember – Spiritualists can communicate with the living, too!

And finally, before you start exploring this very first issue of the brand new *Psychic News*, let me take a moment to acknowledge the achievement of a very special person.

Without Eric Hatton, and his incredible determination in the face of so many obstacles, you would not be reading this copy of *Psychic News*. PN fans around the world owe him and his fellow trustees Hugh and Margaret Davis a huge debt of gratitude for their unwavering commitment to restoring its iconic voice to publication. And so, with my own profound gratitude for his mighty efforts, and for his steadfast friendship through tough times, I dedicate this first issue to Eric. Happy reading!

Susan Farrow
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He challenged the Daily Mail

AS the result of action by the vice-president of a Spiritualist church, the *Daily Mail* has admitted its published error in the matter of the law relating to mediums.

In what can only be described as an extraordinary coincidence, Alan Seymour, vice-president of Croydon Spiritualist Church, successfully challenged the *Daily Mail* just weeks before publication of the first issue of the new *Psychic News*.

Why a coincidence? The first ever PN headline, written in 1932 by the famous Fleet Street journalist Hannen Swaffer, read "I challenge the *Daily Mail*!"

The *Daily Mail* ran a series of articles about medium Sally Morgan, in which doubts were cast on her mediumship. She was said to have been "cheating" during her theatre performances by using information relayed to her through an earpiece.

It was not this aspect which spurred Mr Seymour to action, but an ill-informed and inaccurate statement in an article by Jan Moir on 22nd September which read: "The law in this country already forbids Sally Morgan to advertise herself as a medium. Is it time for the law to forbid her, full stop?"

Another comment by magician and comedian Paul Zenon appeared, posing the query: "So was Ms Morgan getting a little help from the real world rather than the spirit world? While she insists absolutely not – although *it is still illegal in this country to claim to be a medium* – having studied stage psychics for years and been one myself in my 20s, I am sceptical."

Knowing that both writers were wrong in their interpretation of the law, and that mediumship in this country is perfectly legal, Alan Seymour submitted the matter to the Press Complaints Commission (PCC), an independent body which administers the system of self-regulation for the press.

His complaint was that the newspaper was in breach of Clause 1 of the Editorial Code of Practice (Accuracy).

After what Mr Seymour described to *Psychic News* as "a long battle with the *Daily Mail* through the PCC", his persistence paid off, and he succeeded in obtaining a published correction and clarification, both from the *Daily Mail* and on the PCC website.

This was agreed by the Mail's executive managing editor, Robin Esser, and Charlotte Dewar, complaints



ALAN SEYMOUR: "I felt it was important to go further than the letters page of the paper."

officer for the PCC.

In a letter to Alan Seymour, Charlotte Dewar wrote: "In response to your concerns and your clarification of the grounds of your complaint, Mr Esser has now offered to publish the following clarification, based on your wording:

Two commentary articles about psychic Sally Morgan in the *Daily Mail* in September stated that it is "illegal in this country to claim to be a medium."

It has been pointed out to us that mediums are in fact legal in this country, although like other businesses they are subject to consumer protection legislation.

If you are content with it, Mr Esser is happy to proceed with publication (in the newspaper and online) as soon as possible."

Upon hearing of Alan Seymour's success, David Bruton, president of the Spiritualists' National Union, sent an email saying, "Congratulations Alan – a battle won for Spiritualism."

Alan told *Psychic News*: "I felt it was important to challenge the *Daily Mail*'s

inaccuracies because it is clear that when the press print articles about psychics, more often than not they link them to mediums and Spiritualism. This happened when the *Daily Mail* reported on alleged cheating by 'Psychic Sally Morgan'.

"To try to put a stop to this ignorance I felt it was important to go further than the letters page of the paper, which only publishes what it wants to, and take my case to the Press Complaints Commission, who were impartial but very supportive of my complaint, particularly when the *Daily Mail* didn't address the issues I raised.

"I was quite happy with the outcome because the *Daily Mail* was made to correct its false statement about mediums being illegal in this country. I am also happy that there is a permanent record of my complaint on the PCC website, meaning that if there are similar complaints in the future, mine will serve as a reference point."

We congratulate Alan on his achievement, and for having the courage to take on the *Daily Mail* single-handed.

Dates for your diary...

THE WAY OF LIFE FOUNDATION presents a monthly mind, body and spirit festival in the new indoor market at Charter Place, Watford, Hertfordshire.

The festival opens at 9.00am on Saturday 25th February. Entrance is free and readings no more than £15. For details call 0771 871 9081. (www.thewayoflifefoundation.org.)

A MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT WEEKEND will be held at The Grimsby Auditorium, Cromwell Road, Grimsby DN31 2BH on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th January.

The event opens daily from 10am to 5pm and there will be approximately 85 stands. For further details call 01724 849886 or visit www.bssk.co.uk

Spiritualist's passing sheds new light on an old mystery

SNU ALMONER Lynette Coulston has notified us of the passing of the dedicated Spiritualist Olga Mayes.

In an email to *Psychic News* which began with the unlikely words "O happy day!" Lynette wrote:

"You may wonder at my greeting, but this is how the daughter and family of 96-year-old Mrs Olga Mayes, an honorary member of Bourne Spiritualist Church in Lincolnshire, feel at present.

"Olga passed on Tuesday

22nd November. She was the widow of Mr Harold Mayes, a former General Secretary of the SNU."

Lynette had been told by those who knew Olga well that Olga was "a gentlewoman of many talents who never stopped working for spirit and the SNU.

"She continued to attend church activities until about three years ago, when she could no longer manage," says Lynette. "She was admitted to a care home where

her quality of life deteriorated and, as her daughter told me, it became increasingly distressing for the family to visit."

Lynette also gleaned another piece of information that seems to shed light on a long-term mystery concerning the origins of the SNU logo.

"I learned that it was Olga who painted the original SNU logo depicting Light, Nature, Truth.

"In fact, it has been

reported that many years ago, while visiting the Arthur Findlay College during Open Week, she caught sight of the wooden logo which is now housed at Redwoods (on the Stansted Hall estate) and declared: 'I designed that!'

"Olga's daughter chuckled as she told me how her mother had requested a party, so that she could dance after the service of celebration for her life. That service was held at Peterborough Crematorium on Thursday 8th December."

THE CHRISTMAS TREE

A festive story for children by Robin Winbow

Johnny is a little boy who lives deep in the country close to a magnificent and mysterious forest. Johnny likes nothing better than a walk in the forest.

One winter's day he found a new path which led to a special glade – a grassy area surrounded by tall trees that seemed to protect this special place.

Right in the middle of the grassy area was a small and lonely Christmas tree.

Johnny felt so sorry for this lonely little tree that he fetched his father's spade to dig it up and take it home.

When he got home his father said, "It won't survive if the roots are not in soil." As Johnny wanted to bring it indoors he set about, found some wood and nails, and made a wooden box for the roots to sit in comfy soil.

Then he brought the little tree indoors, creating lanterns with candles within to hang upon the tree. It looked splendiferous and filled the room with light, joy and happiness for everyone to enjoy, creating a magic and merry festive season.

However, day by day the tiny leaves – its

needles – began to fall one by one, until the tree was completely bereft of leaves. It stood like a skeleton of branches and tree trunk. Johnny's father said it was dead and would have to go outside.

Johnny was so upset that he took it outside, cut off the branches, feeling as he did that he was losing some part of himself.

When the tree was in little pieces, he took them and the wooden box back to the glade in the forest and buried them where the tree had been growing

Winter passed into Spring, and Johnny grew tall and strong. Returning to the glade to pay his respects once again to the tree, he was surprised to see a beautiful plant growing in the very spot where he had buried the pieces of the tree and its box.

The plant was luxuriant in its growth, with leaves of rich green and purple colours. In the centre, on a strong stem, was a flower. The flower was a radiant gold colour which seemed to fill the glade with its light and presence.

Johnny looked at the flower. In the centre there seemed to be a face – a face that looked at him and smiled.

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All about the J.V. Trust

Spiritualist philanthropy at work

by Susan Farrow

By now, many people are aware that the J.V. Trust is the new owner of Psychic News. The history of the trust and its day-to-day work are less familiar, and a number of readers have asked about the activities of Spiritualism's wealthiest charity. Who better to provide the answers than J.V.'s long-standing chairman, Eric Hatton. I began by asking him how the trust came into being.

"The trust was created in 1976," Eric explains. "Its benefactors, Roy and Christine Wandless, had lost two children, John and Valerie, from cystic fibrosis, and wanted to set up a charity in their memory. So the name derives from 'J' for John and 'V' for Valerie."

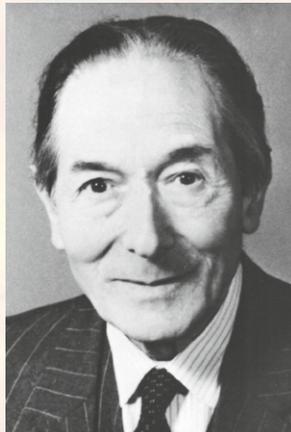
Roy Wandless was an accountant and had a great interest in the stock market. "I think he used to dabble in stocks and shares," says Eric, "and by virtue of that he had made a tidy sum of money.

"He and Christine had a very nice house but they lived quite modestly and were never inclined to splash out. Their only luxury seemed to be the cruises they went on in their latter years.

"Their trips to Stansted Hall were also part of their holiday routine, so they were familiar with Gordon Higginson and others involved in the courses and seminars there. They knew Arthur Findlay and had formed a great liking for the place even before he handed it over to the Spiritualists' National Union in 1964."

The trust started life with the very modest sum of £600 – a far cry from the more than £7million it has today. Its first trustees were Roy, Christine and their son Alan, who sadly passed to spirit a short time later, also from cystic fibrosis.

The J.V. Trust is a charity for Spiritualists of every hue and not, as



Roy and Christine Wandless

has sometimes been suggested, for any one particular organisation. Its charitable objects are:

(A) *The promotion, establishment, spread and advancement of the religion and religious philosophy known as Spiritualism with particular regard for the training of Ministers.*

(B) *The promotion and advancement of spiritual healing.*

(C) *The relief of aged and infirm Spiritualists who are in need of financial assistance.*

"I had no direct involvement with the trust in its early days" says Eric. "But Gordon had become a trustee and he indicated to me that he hoped it might be able to help people who were unable to afford to come to Stansted Hall, or to pursue their interest in Spiritualism in other ways.

"I found out from my association with Roy and Christine, and from

comments made by Gordon, that although they were very fond of the Hall, they were not altogether enamoured of the Union. Something in their early involvement with the SNU had displeased them, and in consequence sums which they had made available from their own personal funds were usually loans rather than gifts.

"During the six or seven years before Gordon's passing, he asked me several times if I would become a trustee of

J.V. but I declined on each occasion because my commitments as vice-president of the Union, managing director of my own business, chairman of a large consortium, and various other involvements, made me reluctant to take on anything else.

"In December 1992, the final occasion on which Gordon stayed with my wife Heather and me over the Christmas holidays, he again almost begged me to become a trustee. With some reluctance I agreed, and he immediately telephoned Christine Wandless to communicate my decision. Hugh Davis was also appointed a trustee around that time."

Less than a week after Gordon's phone call to Christine, Eric received a letter from Margaret Neville, the Wandlesses' lawyer, informing him that she would make the necessary

arrangements for him and Hugh to be appointed as trustees.

"I knew that Roy's and Christine's health was failing," Eric recalls, "and Miss Neville dealt with the legal procedures speedily, since it seemed they wanted everything cut and dried before they moved on."

It was only after Gordon Higginson's sudden passing on 18th January 1993 that Eric discovered the full extent of Roy's and Christine's health problems. Within six weeks Christine had passed to spirit and Roy had been admitted to a nursing home.

"Heather and I went down to Christine's funeral. It was a strange service, because there were no hymns and no one gave a eulogy, but it seems that was her wish. It was at this service that I first met Margaret Neville."

After the funeral, Eric travelled to Dorset to visit Roy in the nursing home. He was clearly a sick man and within little more than three months after his wife's passing, he too departed for the spirit world.

With Gordon, Christine and Roy gone, it quickly became apparent to Eric and Hugh that there would be many decisions for them to take.

"We still had no idea of the large sums of money that would eventually be transferred to the trust," Eric recalls. "Margaret Neville indicated that she had an awful lot of work to do to conclude the complex financial affairs of Roy and Christine, because she had only been engaged a short while before Gordon Higginson's passing.

"As time went by, and the Wandlesses' affairs were unravelled, it became clear that the estate was worth a significant amount of money. As a consequence, about £2 million was paid into the J.V. Trust account. On Miss Neville's advice we appointed stockbrokers Farley and Thompson of Bournemouth, who gave us wise guidance, as a result of which the trust's capital has grown steadily."

As the trust became more widely known, the volume of work carried out by its trustees increased. Eric and Hugh came to the conclusion that such a busy and wealthy trust would benefit from the appointment

of further trustees.

"We therefore agreed upon the appointment of our wives, Heather and Margaret. Both were sympathetic towards the aims of the trust. Their appointments also meant that if anything happened to Hugh or myself, the work of the trust would be able to continue uninterrupted. Though the four trustees were two married couples, things were structured so that cheques could only ever be signed by one Davis and one Hatton, never by one couple.

"To her everlasting credit, Margaret Neville was scrupulously efficient and honest in dealing with the affairs of the J.V. Trust and continued to be so right up until her retirement last year. Even today, she retains an interest in its affairs. We are greatly indebted to her for her dedicated work and wise guidance over the years."

Following Miss Neville's retirement, the legal affairs of the



Margaret and Hugh Davis

trust were placed in the hands of the Birmingham-based law firm, Shakespeares, and stockbrokers EFG Harris Allday were appointed to handle the investment portfolio. Sadly, the trust now has just three trustees, owing to the passing of Heather Hatton in June 2007.

Today the trust has funds in excess of £7million. The share portfolio has increased so that the future of the trust is secure. There are also sums of money more immediately accessible, so that the trustees can make disbursements as and when necessary.

"We receive a large number of applications from both churches and individuals," says Eric. "To date they have received well in excess of



Eric and Heather Hatton

half a million pounds. But obviously, because of the Wandlesses' affection for the place, first preference and the greatest sums of money have gone to the Arthur Findlay College, which has received more than £2million over the years.

"In its early days the college was in a dreadful structural state and so much needed to be done, all of it crying out for money. The roof was in a perilous state, the chimneys were in danger of collapsing. There was also a need for a new water supply, new heating, and a gas supply which had to be brought in from the main road. Then there was the building of new kitchens, a new dining room, new bedrooms and so on."

The trust was also saviour to the SNU when it fell on hard times.

"We purchased Redwoods (the SNU's headquarters on the Stansted estate) when the Union itself was in dire financial straits," Eric explains. "The Union owned it, but it was put into hock when they badly needed cash, so we stepped in to secure its future."

Eric believes that the trust is fulfilling the original wishes and intentions of its generous benefactors.

"We have had indications from time to time that Roy and Christine approved of what we were doing," he says. "In fact, I think I have had three such indications from Christine, who was apparently happy with the way we have steered the trust.

"What Christine and Roy Wandless have done for Spiritualism, and particularly for the Arthur Findlay College, by virtue of their generosity, is unique. Even now, when they are in their spiritual home, I feel we should express our indebtedness to them."

Television and Spiritualism: medium without a message?

Are television and radio coverage of mediumship damaging Spiritualism's image? Or are they doing Spiritualism a favour by raising its public profile? Veteran journalist Roy Stemman, and former BBC radio producer Chris Eldon Lee are both Spiritualists, but do they agree? Read on...

The treatment of spirit communication has just descended to a new low on television. In November, Australia's Channel Seven turned the death of murdered housewife Kerry Whelan into a game on its psychic talent show *The One*.

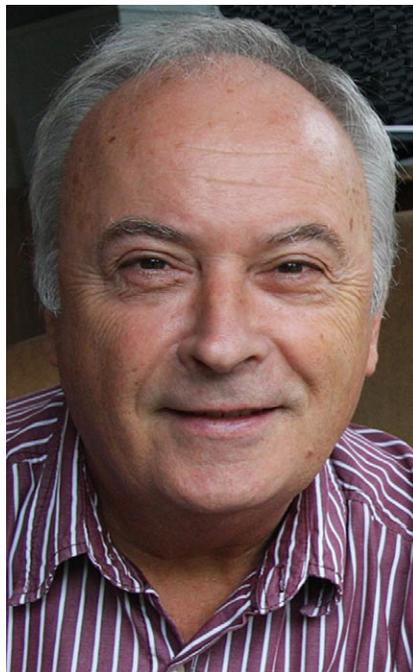
Mrs Whelan disappeared in 1997 and Bruce Burrell is now serving a life sentence for her murder and that of another woman, Dorothy Davis.

Their bodies have never been found, so the makers of *The One: the Search for Australia's Most Gifted Psychic* decided to make the search for Mrs Whelan's remains a challenge in a series of tests for the ten contestants. Incredibly, the producers did so without consulting the victim's family, which has caused understandable outrage.

So, what is a psychic? Spiritualists usually make a distinction between mediums and psychics, defining the former as individuals who can communicate with the dead whereas psychics are people with other abilities, such as fortune telling.

Having said that, there's a growing tendency to use "psychic medium" as a job description, which just adds to the confusion – as does the fact that *The One's* contestants are described as "psychics, mediums, ghost whisperers and a life strategist".

Adding to the confusion is the fact that some of television's best-known mediums are not Spiritualists. America's John Edward, for example, is a Roman Catholic who prays with a rosary before each demonstration



by Roy Stemman

and has even written a book called *Practical Praying: Using the Rosary to Enhance Your Life*. And England's Sally Morgan, whose theatre performances are always sold out, is also a Christian who has never demonstrated in a Spiritualist church – though her glossy theatre programme does make reference to Spiritualism and its origins.

Allison Dubois, another American medium and the inspiration for the successful TV series *Medium*, has impressed many people with her abilities to speak with the departed. She describes herself as a medium and profiler, preferring the latter

term to "psychic" which she says has negative connotations.

Unfortunately, an appearance on *Real Housewives of Beverley Hills* has also had negative connotations for her reputation. She took part to help defend her friend Camille Grammer, wife of *Cheers* and *Frasier* star Kelsey Grammer, from the comments of other participants. But Dubois quickly became intoxicated, exchanging insults with the other guests while smoking an electric cigarette.

This, of course, was highly entertaining for the viewing audience but will have left many questioning the ethical and mediumistic standards of this famous medium, particularly as she intimated that one of the housewives' husbands was being unfaithful. Yet she failed to pick up on the fact that Kelsey was having an affair that has since led to the break-up of their marriage after fourteen years.

As far as I know, Allison Dubois does not call herself a Spiritualist. But the "medium" label – and even sometimes the "psychic" label – are synonymous with Spiritualism to most people.

Anyone who becomes involved with television programmes has to accept that it is all about entertainment and achieving good ratings. And there's no denying that paranormal topics of all kinds – from psychic detectives to ghost hunting – can make for good viewing.

An insight into the thinking that goes into such programmes comes from Thom Beer who is described

as "the king of unscripted reality television". He indicates that a catchy title, which he trademarks, and a bizarre concept are all that are needed for TV success.

That's why he's currently looking for "a little person with psychic powers" who travels around helping people with their problems. When he finds a suitable, tiny psychic he will be able to launch *Small Medium At Large*.

Not surprisingly, with concepts like that Spiritualism's message is getting increasingly lost in the medium of television.

Broadcasting regulations in some countries require programmes depicting demonstrations of spirit communication to show a disclaimer that makes it clear that their purpose is solely for entertainment. They are screened not to convince anyone of life after death, they argue, but to amuse. And some of the best mediums can certainly achieve that if they have the right presentational skills. But the humour and drama should not disguise the impressive evidence they provide.

That brings me to another worrying aspect of mediumistic television programmes. We hear the messages mediums deliver and often the testimony of the recipients of those messages. But can we be sure that what we see and hear is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

The answer, without a shadow of doubt, is No! I am seldom convinced by what I see and I suspect I speak for the majority of viewers. We have to take so much on trust and are left asking various questions. Are we being shown only the best bits of the messages conveyed? Did the production team research the subjects before the medium met them? Was any information fed to the medium in advance?

These are all legitimate questions that are never adequately addressed in such programmes. Why aren't independent observers used to control all aspects of these demonstrations and confirm there was no contact or feeding of information between medium and recipient? The answer, of course, is that there's no need to do so because this is all done in the name of entertainment.

The truth is that this heady mixture of ghouls and crystal balls, and all the garbage that accompanies many of these programmes, may succeed in titillating viewers but it fails to even hint at the spiritual teachings and philosophy that are the bedrock of Spiritualism.

Is that television's fault? No. In fact, despite my criticism of most TV shows featuring psychics and



Medium Allison Dubois

mediums, I have to accept that they have opened the minds of millions of TV viewers to the possibility of spirit communication. The last thing I would recommend is for mediums to reject the opportunity of appearing on TV even though there's little evidence that it benefits Spiritualism.

Attendance at Spiritualist churches and centres is on the decline (as it is with many other religions) while well-known mediums working in theatres manage to attract audiences as large as those attending the performances of pop stars or comedians.

When *Psychic News* was launched in the 1930s it filled a huge void. Mainstream media at that time gave very little coverage to Spiritualism and when it did it was usually hostile.

Today, we are almost swamped by stories, claims, counter claims and "exposures" in newspapers, magazines, TV and the internet.

That may lead some to question the need for *Psychic News* in such an information-rich environment. But I would argue that there has never been a greater need for a publication that is not only an independent voice of Spiritualism, but will also combine sensible comment and debate with investigative reporting to demonstrate why so many have embraced Spiritualism's truth over the years.

It is not, however, something *Psychic News* can achieve in isolation. If the public perception of Spiritualism is being tainted by television shows or newspaper reports written in ignorance of the facts, then it is the responsibility of Spiritualist organisations and even individuals to set the record straight and point people in the right direction.

Alan Seymour's victory in getting the Daily Mail to correct a blatantly untrue statement about mediums (reported on page 4) is an excellent example of what can be achieved, and we need to encourage more Spiritualists to actively engage with the media.

We are not going to be able to change television. In fact, it will probably get worse. But surely it is time for all major Spiritualist organisations around the world, regardless of their allegiances, to join forces to promote their beliefs and help Spiritualism become a force for good at a local, national and international level.

If we could do that, perhaps television companies would see Spiritualism in a new light, rather than just as a useful source of entertainment. And Spiritualism's message would reach a much wider audience.

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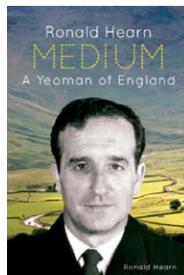
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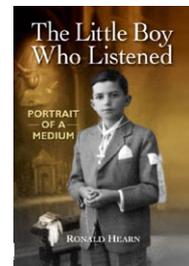
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Dealing with the Media

by Chris Eldon Lee

The one thing most Spiritualists conclude, usually after several attempts, is that it's high impossible to convince someone else of one's personal convictions.

We've all suffered shaking heads and glazed expressions in the process of learning not to push the point. One horror etched on my own memory – from many years ago – is of talking to my girlfriend of the time about "sitting in circle".

I'd almost encouraged her to come along one evening when she suddenly said, "Do you have any photos?" Naturally, I had to say "No". Then, in a flash of blinding inspiration, I produced some famous black and white photographs from the 1950s of a medium producing ectoplasm. "Why's that woman got net curtains stuffed up her nose?" my beloved asked. My defeat was complete.

So why should Spiritualists bother to deal with the media?

I'm in the unusual position of having a foot in both camps. As a radio producer I've managed to place what I still feel are two ground-breaking documentaries on BBC Radio 4. The first concerned the work of Noah Zerdin in the 1930s and drew heavily upon archive recordings, which had been sitting in a south London garage for decades. The programme followed the quest of his granddaughters to learn more about him. This led to a present day sitting with medium Colin Fry in which Noah's voice was purportedly heard, and broadcast.

This was followed by another programme in which Tom Harrison described the Middlesbrough home circle for which his mother Mini Harrison was medium. Again the core of the feature was long-lost tape recordings.

Actually getting Radio 4 to commission both programmes was an open, even-handed experience, though it struck me later that their historical

nature made them relatively "safe". Both programmes were substantially reviewed in the press and extracts appeared on Radio 4's *Pick of the Week*. Most of the response was open-minded, though there were one or two journalists who denounced everything in sight. A follow-up programme idea about modern day Spiritualism was not commissioned, partly because it was proving very difficult to get present day



Chris Eldon Lee

circles to contribute. Keeping 'mum' behind closed doors appeared to be the chosen response.

But, in more recent years, I tuned into my local BBC radio station at prime time one morning to hear an hour of recordings made at a Spiritualist church in Telford. Members of the church spoke openly about their beliefs and work, and were given a perfectly fair hearing from the BBC presenter. *Psychic News* reported the event, with a slight sense of relief and surprise.

The lesson to be learnt from all this is that every human being contemplates the big eventuality at some point – and all journalists are human beings. As in all walks of life, there are some humans you would not want to trust with your reputation. But the old adage that "all publicity is good publicity" does ring

true and I fancy that spirit will help you smell a bad apple.

Convincing anyone about Spiritualism can only begin if they walk through the door of their own free will. For that to happen, they have to know the church (or circle) exists.

Celebrity mediums pack theatres on a regular basis. It's "show biz", I know, but it's a start. By going commercial, they are blazing a trail and any audience member needing more Spiritualism in their lives needs to know where to go next. Which is where we come in.

It might feel a bit lame to just ring up the local paper or radio station at random. Most journalists like to have a topical 'peg' to hang a story on. So here's a thought. Next time one of the big names is due to appear in your locality, why not invite the local press to meet the Spiritualists who are available to their readers all the time. We don't have anything to hide and we do have a lot to offer.

And if your group is approached by a journalist wanting to do an interview or feature on Spiritualism, why not just say "Yes" and embark upon the adventure. We all recognise that Spiritualism has slipped from the public consciousness in recent years.

Personally I feel we have a duty to pioneers like Zerdin and Harrison who stuck their heads above the parapet.

The revitalisation of *Psychic News* is an important step in the promotion of Spiritualism. It could just be a turning point. And, once again, we have a national vehicle through which we can talk to each other.

So I for one would be fascinated to hear stories from groups who have courted the media. If, as I suspect, the consequences proved to be largely positive, other groups might gain the confidence to follow suit, allowing Spiritualism to flourish again.

I look forward to your letters.

Chris Eldon Lee is a broadcaster, radio producer and playwright.

The healing benefits of great mediumship

Great mediumship is always great news. The better the evidence, the better the prospect of healing and new beginnings for the grieving.

Paul Brereton has never looked for fame or fortune. He's a modest man, and until quite recently his outstanding evidential mediumship was not widely known. In fact, he's worked for years at development, but both he and his teacher were determined that he would know his job properly before stepping out solo.

Born into a Roman Catholic family in Ireland, he attended the local Catholic church. "It didn't fit with me," he says. "I couldn't understand it and I couldn't believe there was a man sitting on his throne and you would go in front of him and he would decide if you were going to heaven or hell. Even at that young age I had my own beliefs. I always knew there was spirit with me."

In fact, Paul had first seen spirit when he was just six years old. "I was in the bedroom," he remembers, "and I could hear this voice and see the black shadow of a gentleman standing in the doorway. I couldn't see his features, but I knew there was nobody else in the house, so I was quite frightened and legged it into my mother's bedroom!"

A year later the family moved to England and Paul continued to be aware of spirit visitors. "Our house was haunted and I could often see things and hear voices. My mum was also mediumistic, so she could hear the voices too."

Paul was sometimes unsettled by his shadowy visitors but, unlike many mediumistic children who have no one to talk to about their

experiences, he was able to confide in his mother.

"Because she could see and hear spirit herself I could talk to her about it," he explains. "Sometimes, when I was nervous, she would go upstairs and after a few minutes she would come back down and tell me, 'Everything's going to be all right in a minute – they're going to go'. And sure enough, within a minute they would be gone."

As with many mediumistic kids, Paul's ability took a back seat as he grappled with school work and the general ups and downs of childhood and adolescence. It only came to the fore again when he was 34, and his much-loved mum was admitted to hospital with what seemed like a routine health problem.

"She had a swollen leg but I knew she wasn't going to come home. I had such a strong feeling.

"She was put on a dialysis machine and as soon as they connected her to it she was taken into intensive care. I started having strange feelings as I sat by her bed. I felt a loving vibration which was so strong that I went to the nurse at the end of the bed to ask if she could feel it too. She couldn't. So I went outside and had a cup of tea, and when I came back the feeling was just as strong. Of course I understand now that the spirit people were there. My grandma and granddad were waiting for my mother, and they were also there to



Paul Brereton at Stourbridge Spiritualist Church

bring healing around the family.

"As she was about to pass, I knew she was going, and I said to her: 'It'll be OK. I love you Mum.' She told me, 'I love you too Paul,' and as she said those words I saw her leaving. I could actually see her coming out of her body. I was looking at her face and then, all of a sudden, I saw her hovering above her body, like a mist. My brothers and sisters were gathered around the bed, and I could hear them crying. I turned towards them to see if anybody else had seen the mist, and when I looked back it was gone. I knew my mum was going into spirit and that she was okay. That was what brought me into the Spiritualist movement."

After that extraordinary experience things moved quickly for Paul. His mother-in-law took him to a Spiritualist church, where for the first time he heard a philosophical address. "As soon as I heard the philosophy I knew I was at home," he recalls. "Everything I believe in came into that talk. I kept going

back for the philosophy, even though I knew I wasn't going to receive a message from my mother."

Before long, Paul was receiving messages of a different kind. "All of a sudden the mediums were telling me I was going to be working up there on the platform. I told them I was really sorry but I couldn't stand up and talk and read in front of people because I'm seriously dyslexic."

Nevertheless, from that point on Paul was a man on a mission to learn. "There was a local shop doing awareness classes," he remembers, "but only for six weeks. At the end of the six weeks, I came out of the shop wondering what I was supposed to do next."

"As I walked down the street I suddenly felt as if somebody had got hold of me and was spinning me around until I was facing a white building on the other side of the road. I crossed over and saw a sign saying 'Awareness Classes' and thought – Wow! People were coming out of the building and I thought I'd better not go in, so I decided to go back the following week."

When Paul returned, he met a lady who would play a central role in his future development. He remembers the moment vividly. "She looked at me as if to say, 'I've been waiting for you.' Her name was Doreen Elston."

Paul sat in Doreen's awareness class for eighteen months and was eventually invited into her circle. "I had to sit in the quiet for six weeks. It was very disciplined and I wasn't allowed to give a message, because the point was to learn to feel the spirit around you, and also to come into contact with your own spirit."

"After a while Doreen would let me give just one message in the circle, then I had to sit back down. She was wonderful — a wise, experienced lady, and didn't let me onto a platform for a good few years. When she eventually brought me to the platform as a novice, I was still only allowed to give one message. Then I had to sit down and Doreen would carry on with the mediumship and the philosophy."

Doreen is now in her mid-eighties and in poor health but Paul

sits in her circle to this day. "I feel honoured and privileged to have her help and teaching," he says. "I also had wonderful tutors around me at Stansted, a place I hold deeply to my heart. Eric Hatton, Gerard Smith, Hugh and Margaret Davis and Eileen Davis have helped me so, so much and they still do. As soon as I went to Stansted on a J.V. Trust week I knew I was at home and just burst into tears. That was the first time I met Margaret Davis and she put her arms around me and said, 'You're home, aren't you?'"

Recently, I had the pleasure of watching Paul work at Stourbridge Spiritualist Church, and I was struck not only by the strength



Paul with his mentor Doreen Elston

of his connection to spirit and the consequent precision of his evidence, but by the humility and honesty with which he delivered messages. Working clairvoyantly and clairaudiently he conveys the kind of detail that is rare on today's platforms.

"I always say to the spirit world that I want to work with truth and honesty. That's so important to me. When Gerard Smith gave me the

first message from my mother – about how she was in the intensive care unit, and about the music we played where I lived – I knew it was so important to be able to bring those details over. My tutor always encouraged me to go that little bit further."

Watching Paul work with a congregation of over a hundred people, I noticed that with every message he went directly and unhesitatingly to the intended recipient, with a one hundred per cent success rate. It's not a sight I see very often. I asked him how he was so sure about where to go.

"I always say to my friend who works with me, please, please let me go to the person that I need to go to, because that's not only evidence for them but evidence for me as well. When I'm working, as soon as I start to relax I'll just get a feeling and I'll go with that feeling. I look around and feel completely drawn to one person."

"I'm always nervous and I say to my tutor Doreen, 'When are these nerves going to go?' And she says to me, 'Paul, when your nerves go I'll tell you not to work again!' I love working with spirit and all I want is to bring over the love of the spirit world and touch people's spirits so they know without a shadow of doubt that their loved ones are very much around them and watching over them. We will all go through the grieving process, but in the spirit world there is no time. So I know that when I meet my mum again, she'll say to me, 'Good God, Paul, it only seems like a week since I've been here!'"

If you'd like to watch Paul work, you can find him at the following venues:

22nd January 2012 Bingham Spiritualist Church

25th & 26th February Kings Heath Spiritualist Church

8th April Leicester, Vaughan Way Spiritualist Church

12th - 14th May Bournemouth Spiritualist Church

23rd - 25th June Stourbridge Spiritualist Church

5th August Longton Spiritualist Church

Spirit communication for a digital age

Dr Anabela Cardoso is a leading researcher in the cutting-edge field of Instrumental Transcommunication (ITC) – an umbrella term for apparent spirit communication through electronic instruments such as recording devices, radios, televisions, computers and mobile phones. The more familiar term Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP) refers specifically to spoken communication.

Humankind's desire to make contact with lost loved ones has probably existed as long as the human race itself, and the idea of using mechanical instruments to attempt communication is not new. Such devices have been around for centuries.

Anabela's interest in ITC began in 1997 when she formed an experimental group with two other people, following a visit to an acknowledged expert on the paranormal in Madrid. José María Pilón is a Jesuit, a Catholic priest, not a profession commonly associated with a passion for paranormal investigation.

"I'd been through a period of intense grief a few years earlier," Anabela explains, "and then I met Lola who had lost her eighteen-year-old son and was in a desperate psychological and physical state."

Wanting to explore the possibility of communicating personally with their loved ones, the two women decided to consult Father Pilón.

"He is very knowledgeable and above suspicion," says Anabela. "We had lunch with him and didn't mention ITC at all, just discussed our own situations and asked his advice. At the end of this conversation I asked what he thought we could attempt. He suggested that the best thing would be to try ITC communication. So that was what we did."

The two met in Anabela's home, along with another friend, Carlos Fernandes. "Carlos was already into the technical aspect of things," says

Anabela, "but to be truthful he never took it very seriously until he saw the results we were getting!"

Those initial EVP results achieved using a reel-to-reel tape recorder came quickly – just two-and-a-half months after the first attempt. I felt elated," said Anabela.

Direct radio voice communication (anomalous communications directly through radio loudspeakers) was also rapidly achieved, a mere two months after the initial experiment.

Since those early days, Anabela has earned a world-wide reputation for her research, giving presentations



Dr Anabela Cardoso

to many research groups, including the Society for Psychical Research in London, where her most recent lecture offered a compelling example of survival.

Henry Sainte Claire Deville, a French research chemist who died in 1881, communicated – in English, with a strong French accent – to experimenters Maggy and Jules Harsch-Fischbach in Luxembourg in 1987. He spoke clearly via the loudspeaker of a USW receiver within the 90 MHz range, giving details of his earthly life and scientific work which were later verified. Seven



people were present to hear him trying to explain the difference between the strict flow of time in our material Universe, and the unrestricted sense of time in his world.

Anabela also showed her audience an outstanding example of the communication of a visual image. The prolific German researcher Adolf Homes received both direct radio voice communications and many (often long) text messages via his computer screen. But particularly striking was a television screen image of the face of EVP pioneer Friedrich Jurgenson, which compared well with a photograph of him taken in life (above).

Anabela is currently working on an important paper which catalogues a two-year research project on recordings made in acoustically shielded environments, including the acoustics laboratory at a major university School of Engineering.

"The purpose of using a 100 per cent acoustically shielded room is to block out all interference from external sound so there is far less possibility of misinterpretation. Before the two-year project began, researchers were recruited from Germany (two physicists), Portugal and Spain.

"This will be a difficult report to publish to a satisfactory standard, so it's been a lot of work. When it's finished I want to start another book making use of the research. From my side there is really not much else I can do because my communicators say they don't want any changes in my equipment. There was a time when they used to say they needed this or that, and I would add one piece of equipment or another. Now

they don't want any changes, so I must respect their wishes.

"In this research, which is more the communicators' than mine, I notice that a number of times recently they have changed the sounds the radios emit, although the radios have all been tuned to the same state-used frequencies, only for government use. That makes the comprehension more difficult.

"For instance, there is now an additional very sharp whistle. As I said, these being state-used frequencies, there is no interference from "Radio Hams" but when you tune the radio to a frequency that is not broadcasting, of course it emits a sound. Right now the whistle is very sharp and very disturbing. I suppose it's unavoidable with very high frequencies. The explanation they give me is simply that they are working. There was a time when the radios emitted practically no noise at all."

It's often said that motive and intention are important in conventional mediumship, and Anabela believes the same is true of ITC

communication.

"Communicators have mentioned that 'purity of heart' and motivation play a very important role. I also believe that open-mindedness is a factor.

"The communicators have told me repeatedly, 'We are working and we will be able to speak to everybody in your world who is interested'."

As Spiritualists we are all too familiar with the often inaccurate way mediumship is portrayed in film and TV dramas. Anabela has found the same applies where ITC EVP is concerned.

"I was asked to take part in a documentary about the Hollywood film *White Noise*, for Israeli television," she says. "But I refused because I didn't think the film treated the subject seriously.

"Part of the reason for misrepresentation of ITC in popular media is that so-called EVP experimenters don't have enough experience and critical judgement, yet they post poor examples on the internet followed by their own interpretations, which in the majority

of cases are erroneous. This has a very negative effect on credibility."

Aside from her research, to which she devotes huge amounts of time, Anabela has a demanding career as a Portuguese diplomat. I asked what drives her to press on with her experiments.

"It's so much work, so tiring, and sometimes I have to be in that studio whether I want to or not, because the communicators ask me to. The studio is inside my house, a little room dedicated to the communication, where I have all my equipment.

"I do it because I have a strong feeling that I am co-operating from my side of life, as much as I can. I am part of a team. Of course, the team members on the other side are friends, even if I do not recall having met them in this life; some of their names I can't remember. There have to be others whom I haven't even met. My father, mother, brother, grandmother and uncles are all involved, too.

It's such an important thing and I do it with great joy."

HOW TO GET STARTED by Anabela Cardoso

Choose a quiet corner of your home, where you are unlikely to be disturbed. Decide upon the most convenient time for you, preferably at the end of the day, around 8.00 or 9.00pm. Relax and be calm. Make a regular schedule for the contacts, ideally two or three times a week.

Keeping a log is very important. Write down everything that happens when you are experimenting – dogs barking, car horns sounding, etc. That way, you will be aware of everyday sounds that could be misinterpreted.

Produce some background noise, for example by tuning in one or more radios (preferably short wave) to the static noise between stations, commonly called "white noise". That static noise should be neither too loud nor too quiet. It's important that there will be no voices of radio emissions otherwise they would create great confusion when you are listening to the recorded material later on. However, you can also use any other source of noise, but it should flow regularly and steadily. Even the buzz of not-too-intense traffic noise would do.

Put a blank tape in the tape recorder – any tape recorder will do – or turn on a digital recorder or computer. You can use either a built-in or a detachable microphone. Start the recording; if you wish, send out a thought to somebody dear to your heart who is no longer with us, and put a question to communicators from the invisible dimension. Wait one to two minutes in silence and ask another

question; the recording apparatus should be kept running throughout the whole session. Form five or six questions at each session.

Perhaps you live in a noisy area, but that should not deter you from attempting the contact. Sometimes our friends in the next world use traffic noise, or any other occasional noise, to modulate their words. It seems that an occasional sharp noise is also convenient for them – that has been my experience.

Rewind the recorded material when you have enough time to listen to it in silence, very attentively, devoting a lot of concentration to the listening process. The first EVP replies to our questions, or comments, are usually short, faint and sometimes whispered. Above all, remember that our ears are not trained to listen, with great concentration for a long period of time, to recorded material which may contain some extra faint sounds or words. It seems that the process of communication between our dimension and the next one is two-way; we need to learn and so do our friends on the other side. It's a process of true partnership. Affinity – or emotional empathy, as I prefer to call it – plays an important role.

Do not give up. Keep trying. Maybe one day, when you least expect it, the voice of someone you love or have known, or just a voice that should not be there, will answer your question. It will be the beginning of a wonderful journey.

BACK TO SCOLE?

The sittings of the Norfolk-based Scole Experimental Group took place over a five-year period. They came to an abrupt end when an entity apparently communicated that a portal to another dimension had inadvertently been opened, necessitating the immediate closure of the sittings. Over the years, investigators from the prestigious Society for Psychical Research (SPR) observed and tested many of the manifestations that occurred at Scole. Their findings were later published in the Society's Proceedings, to some controversy. The Scole Report has now been republished as a paperback book. Former SPR council member Leslie Price, and council member Alan Murdie disagree about whether the report should have been reissued. To find out why, read on...



Leslie Price

The Society for Psychical Research (SPR), founded in 1882, has normally published its weightiest research in its *Proceedings*. Although the individual papers therein are the responsibility of their authors, the prestige of the Society naturally attaches to whatever passes its stringent refereeing process.

The Scole Report in the SPR's *Proceedings* of 1999 caused more internal controversy than usual. Now the Society has funded a reprint in the form of a paperback book. Surely it is a good thing that the leading research body should again make available in one volume the original reports by researchers who sat in the circle at Scole, Norfolk, and the discussions, sometimes critical, that resulted from their experiences? As Alan Murdie explains in his new introduction:

"The decision to re-publish the report is a response to the continuing interest in the events described."

He highlights phenomena such as "the appearance of strange lights, the movement and materialisation of objects, anomalous images appearing on film and the transmission of messages claimed as emanating from deceased individuals."

Yet I must confess to misgivings.

Psychical research, not confined to the SPR, is a strenuous attempt to understand the phenomena. Before 1882, the scientist William Crookes, for example, used the 'galvanometer' to keep track of physical medium Florence Cook in the séance room. Harry Edwards, working with Welsh medium Jack Webber in 1939, made what the researcher Paul Miller called "the finest collection of infra-red photographs of physical phenomena in existence".

At its best, psychical research uses available methods to record what is happening. Ropes and hand-holding were formerly relied on to keep track of the medium's and sitters' whereabouts. By the 1990s that was no longer necessary.

Some mediums had worked perfectly well with dim red lights. Others had co-operated with infra-red photography. Gordon Higginson, for example, recalled in his autobiography:

"In 1974 I held another séance at Stansted Hall, which was very successful. It had been arranged for a German film company and was one in a series of four held over two days. We had some very good photos taken by John Hughes and M. H. Tester, using infra-red equipment."

But SPR editor Tom Ruffles recently noted on his blog "the lack of rigorous controls at Scole, and the refusal to allow infra-red viewing equipment inside the séance room." And if infra-red was felt to be dangerous, there were unobtrusive electronic means of recording who was

where in a séance.

At Scole, the researchers sat in the dark. The mediums wore luminous wristbands, but these are not much of a safeguard. Mentalists are known to use them, and also laser pointers which create small lights against a suitable surface.

My point is not that such methods were used at Scole, but that there was no adequate control of what was happening. The results may be interesting to the individual, but were surely below the evidential standards set by the SPR in former times.

When one reads of a medium like Rudi Schneider working with a researcher like Eugene Osty over dozens of sittings to perfect a scientific record with the best of 1930s technology, there is no comparison.

If psychical researchers need to qualify their enthusiasm for Scole, what about Spiritualists? At the time of Scole, the other focus of physical mediumship in the UK was the Noah's Ark Society (NAS), of which Scole leader Robin Foy had been a pioneer. The NAS was notably cool about the Scole case. Its editor George Cranley rated its survival evidence as limited. More seriously, George expressed in characteristically forthright style his reservations about Robin as a witness to physical mediumship. This disagreement between two of the leading students of UK physical mediumship is unfortunate.

Naturally, the study of the Scole case should continue. Tom Ruffles, for example, has recently thrown new light on the Conan Doyle photo which was produced in the circle (see his blog at tomruffles.blogspot.com). But both the SPR and the Spiritualist community ought to aspire again to the evidential standards of yesteryear.



Alan Murdie

Regarding the decision to reprint The Scole Report, and the issues raised by Leslie Price, I would like to make the following points.

The SPR holds no corporate opinions, and neither rejects nor endorses the conclusions in the report. The conclusions were those of its three authors, Montague Keen, Arthur Ellison and David Fontana, who, with other researchers, actively investigated the Scole group. Many present at the time believed they had witnessed phenomena for which they had no explanation.

Equally, there were those who expressed strong reservations, some represented in the report, about the paranormality of the phenomena reported. I admit to sharing those doubts in respect of some of the more extraordinary incidents, as with claims of the materialisation of objects, such as a 1944 newspaper. Nonetheless, I believe the report deserves to be republished.

Firstly, it is one of the most detailed studies of a sitters' group for many years, undertaken by scientifically qualified observers. Mediumship is a subject of study and interest on a number of levels. Many in psychical research had believed that physical mediumship – if it existed at all – had largely disappeared after World War II, with the advent of infra-red photography. The Scole sittings showed that this was not the case. Whether one considers the phenomena to be genuine or not, this is of interest to researchers from a range of scientific disciplines, not only psychical research.

Secondly, the events that took place at Scole are well within living memory. What was significant about the Scole phenomena is that, unlike on many occasions in the past, a

number of observers believed they had witnessed events which were genuinely inexplicable and which must have been paranormal in nature.

Furthermore, for those seeking an explanation for these experiences, opportunities exist to conduct further research and gather further evidence in ways that are simply not available with regard to classic accounts of mediumship from the historic past.

Neither at the time of the original investigation or since has fraud been established on the part of the participants in the Scole experiments. On the question of controls, David Fontana wrote as follows: "There is no doubt that controls present the major headache for those researching physical phenomena (a headache compounded by armchair critics who believe they have dreamt up clever safeguards obtusely overlooked by experienced investigators). Even limited acquaintance with research in this difficult area demonstrates that, however much they may wish to do so, investigators cannot lay down all the laws.

"A similar inability to control all the research variables is accepted as a matter of course in other areas of human behaviour. No outsider can insist, for example, on the conditions under which

writers, artists, musicians, athletes, craftsmen, healers, even lovers produce their best work."

Significantly, it appears the Scole phenomena did not prove to be merely a one-off example for investigators into séance manifestations; rather it seems to have marked a revival in physical phenomena which continues to this day. Since The Scole Report was published, other experimental circles have been established in Britain and abroad which claim to produce genuine paranormal phenomena, also ascribed to the intervention of discarnate and spiritual agencies.

The Scole Report provides an extensive account of how researchers rose to that challenge in a particular case, as well as being a source of data for comparison and analysis in respect of any new observations and theories which may emerge.

Ultimately, The Scole Report details an attempt to examine scientifically phenomena that may be relevant to one of the biggest questions of all – whether human consciousness survives after bodily death. Either we are merely mortal beings, or we are not. Whatever the case, it is not the job of science to ignore the issue or to try and cover it up.

AQUARIAN FOUNDATION OF SEATTLE

**Rev. Jann Werner and friends in the spirit world
extend the happiest of holiday greetings to
Psychic News and its readers.**

We wish you success in all your endeavours for 2012!

**Sir Arthur Conan Doyle once said,
"Spiritualism is the greatest revelation known to man"**

If you agree and would like to make new friends of like mind, we invite Spiritualist friends from all over the world to visit our many branches and study groups.

Before your next holiday, you can write to the Board of Directors of the Mother Church to check if we have a branch or study group where you plan to visit.

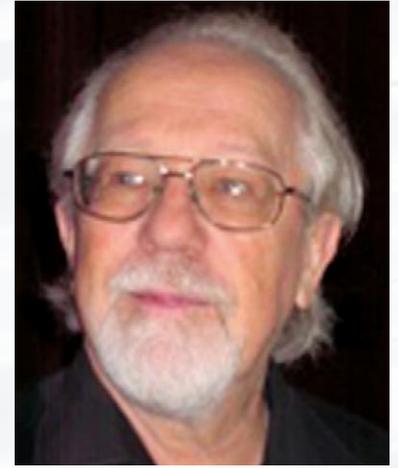
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Acknowledging our Spiritual Founder in spirit
Rev. Keith Milton Rhinehart

Will we take up the challenge?

by David Hopkins



At the time of writing, we are in turmoil unlikely to be resolved before publication of this article. Several years of hard times have been experienced and more will follow. The seemingly endless stories of corruption and greed, lack of compassion and care, fill our eyes and ears, with court hearings and investigations seeking to uncover at least some of the truth.

The ordinary person in the street seeks to truly comprehend the jargon and the intrigue, and understand why a small number see themselves as being entitled to many thousands, even millions, of pounds in salaries and bonuses whilst so many are in fuel poverty, struggle to pay their bills, lose jobs, see payments to the less fortunate disproportionately slashed, services decimated, and much more. It seems that the rich get richer and the poor get... little or nothing.

The Arab Spring of discontent has seen major changes but in some states the struggle for basic rights is certainly far from over. Governments of so-called developed states are often seen to concern themselves with supporting causes where there is, or may be, something in it for them, in political, trade or financial considerations.

Millions struggle to get enough food and water and decent sanitation just to stay alive, let alone have a life. Women across the globe fight for the right to be accepted as equal, to be treated with fundamental human dignity and not be treated as second (at best)-class citizens rather than chattels and appendages towards whom any treatment is allowable and justifiable.

The world seems to be controlled by cartels and those with vested interests in fuel, chemicals, financial institutions and armaments, the perceived growth areas in modern society. Politicians seem sidelined, with crucial decisions made behind closed doors, away from scrutiny and certainly far removed from any sort of morality.

Years ago we sang that *the times, they are a-changing* and believed those words that we shared with such hope and enthusiasm. It seems, however, that the more things change, the more they stay the same! A small elite holds sway, as has been the case for hundreds of years. Privilege, power and money seem to speak far louder than any voice of reason. Do we have democracy in anything other than name?

Who controls whether governments stay or fall? Seemingly the money markets – not you and me, the voters. Abraham Lincoln's famous phrase "Government of the people, by the people, for the people" sounds so hollow when we look at the candidates preparing for presidential elections in the self-styled superpower across the Atlantic. Do they represent the best in policy and personality that a nation of such potential can produce?

At present there are groups protesting in towns and cities against this unacceptable face of capitalism. Tents are pitched in streets and squares as these (dare I say) rainbow warriors" try to wake the slumbering giant of people-power. "Yes, sir, no sir, three bags full, sir" has been accepted for too long.

Do I seem political in what is a spiritual context? If my Spiritualism does not influence my politics, my views on justice and morality, my attitude towards personal, state and corporate ethics, my vision of what the future needs to become, then of what use is Spiritualism to me? I cannot separate my 'religion' from my everyday life, the decisions I take and views I hold in that life. Spiritualism is not going to church once a week, sitting in a circle to develop as a medium, saying prayers or singing hymns, getting a message from the Great Beyond!

Acceptance of the philosophy of Spiritualism means acceptance of the challenges of modern living, personal development as a complete human being, an integration of body, mind and spirit to aspire to become true sons and daughters of The Great Spirit. We have been given the tools, the opportunity, the ability and the potential to make this planet a heaven on earth, a paradise, a land fit for heroes, where everyone has the right to live in freedom with enough material wealth to be comfortable and happy, and the opportunity to grow in spiritual stature.

Until that state is achieved, the struggle must go on. It must go on whenever and wherever we have the opportunity to speak out and act against injustice, intolerance and the degradation of any of God's creatures. If we see these things in organisations, in governments, in businesses, in politics, in education or in religion we have not just a responsibility but a duty to challenge them. Equality of opportunity is more than a pipe-dream; it is fundamental to our philosophy.

Perhaps the time has come when we spend less time in Spiritualism concerning ourselves with what comes after this life and more making this life a better one for all those who cry out for justice and respect. Should our churches, our centres, our colleges be preparing us to give messages or to find the true message of Spiritualism and spread that across the globe? Let's stop tinkering with the minutiae of organisation and get down to the nitty-gritty of understanding and responding to our Spiritualist philosophy.

How often do you hear or read of Spiritualist leaders speaking out on globalisation, environmental pollution, global warming, capitalist greed, world poverty and other important issues of today? What were the topics of the last half-dozen addresses you heard in your church? Can you even remember, such may have been its lack of impact or relevance? Our churches too often seek to bring comfort, see healing as being the relief of physical and emotional pain, and present a message bought for a few pounds or a few pennies rather than realising that Spiritualism shows the power and potential we each have to become closer to our true natures as co-workers with the Divine Energy.

The world is the place for your Spiritualism, with the church, the circle, the organisation being where you return from time to time to be re-energised before you again take up the challenge. You may have heard Gordon Higginson and others quote the expression that the great work has begun. Dare I suggest that the really great work has yet to begin – and will not until every one of us causes it to begin?

David Hopkins is a SNU minister, author and broadcaster.

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even more successful New Year*

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"Leaning on the Invisible is a treasure chest of enigmas. Mary Bowmaker has made an important contribution to the growing library of literature in this genre, and should be commended. Although Mary does not use this book as a vehicle for pushing her own beliefs on anyone, I will be surprised if even the most dyed-in-the-

wool cynic can reach the last page without being moved to question their disbelief in the unseen. *Leaning on the Invisible*, you see, offers a gift of immeasurable importance; hope. Superbly written, I commend it to the reader as one of the finest books of its kind, and even that compliment does not really do it justice." *Michael J. Hallowell*

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PSYCHIC NEWS

THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF SPIRITUALISM

Welcome back

CONGRATULATIONS! It's wonderful news. I can't wait to see the first issue. Thanks for everything and good luck for you and the new PN!

Loes Modderman

HAVING such a long association with *Psychic News*, I am delighted to hear of its relaunch, and that it will be truly independent at last. I am sure that Maurice Barbanell in the spirit world is absolutely delighted with the latest developments.

Colin Fry

TRULY – this has to be a victory for common sense. We congratulate all those involved who laboured long and hard to return *Psychic News* to its rightful place as the mouth-piece of Spiritualism. Well done.

Stewart & Sue Alexander

THIS is fantastic news – a paper much missed.

Congratulations to all of you and long may you continue with love and support from all of us.

Val Hood

FANTASTIC NEWS. Eagerly awaited!

Michael Courtney-Hunt

THE best news I've heard for ages. Congratulations to you all for your dedication.

Barbara Miller

GOOD to see you're back. Just goes to prove that rebirth is a fact!

Craig Hamilton-Parker

CONGRATULATIONS Eric Hatton, Margaret and Hugh Davis for all the excellent work you have done to bring back the *Psychic News*.

Kath Bailey

WELL DONE Sue and all those who never gave up over here and over there! Good health to all, and may this new creation forever continue.

Helen Gandoff

GREAT! Long may it continue. Looking forward to reading the new issues.

Declan Flynn

CONGRATULATIONS especially to Sue and to Eric Hatton for keeping on. Now let us get right behind Sue in

getting *Psychic News* back up as a major success story.

Jim Warwood

WELL DONE and congratulations to all concerned! It will be wonderful to be able to read an independent *Psychic News* again.

Robert and Linda Pallett

CONGRATULATIONS to everyone and well done for your tenacity. Now you can be truly seen to be independent – a voice for all.

Ann Harrison

MANY thanks to Sue, Paul and the team for rescuing this wonderful historical newspaper that was, and will be again, the standard-bearer for the spiritual movement.

Now that it is free from the shackles of the past I have no doubt it will go forward. Being independent it will once again become the newspaper that Maurice Barbanell and Arthur Findlay envisaged when they first started this great publication.

Billy Cook CSNU

JUST brilliant news. Anyone suddenly believe in reincarnation?

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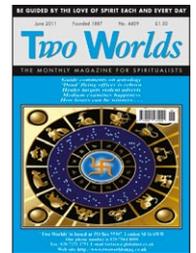
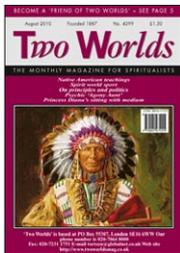
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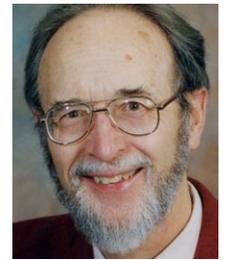
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Physical mediumship, evidence and green wine!

by Lew Sutton



Much has been said in recent years about the lack of survival evidence in physical séance rooms. Lew Sutton has just attended Stewart Alexander's annual seminar at Cober Hill in Yorkshire, where one sitter's message set him thinking...

The message "There is no death" forms the central core of Spiritualism. Without convincing evidence to back up that claim, Spiritualism loses its uniqueness amongst mainstream religions. Spiritualistic philosophy has been built on the foundation of survival evidence. The fact that it really does matter how we live this life loses its impact without the knowledge that this physical life is just one part of our soul's progress. But the full significance of survival evidence can be seriously underestimated or misinterpreted by the onlooker, be it in the séance room or at public demonstrations of mental mediumship.

At physical séances it may often seem that little survival evidence is presented to confirm that the manipulation of energy and physical form is under the control of intelligence from beyond the grave rather than, say, by human mind-controlled psychokinesis, or some other paranormal mechanism. One major problem seems anecdotally to be that when our loved ones communicate with us they are so overcome with emotion that providing positive proof of identity may be the last thing on their minds.

Likewise, recipients in the séance room can be so overwhelmed or taken by surprise that they, too, fail to ask for positive confirmation of who is communicating. We cannot dictate which spirit individuals will manifest in the séance room. It could be someone entirely unexpected, as was the case when a gentleman who spoke to me very formally and with great authority announced that he was Sir William Crookes.

There were so many questions I could have asked that great Victorian scientist but I was completely taken off-guard and could not ask one serious question in the short time he was speaking to me! Mind you, I was in a bit of a state of shock as he struck the wall behind me with such a bang that I nearly fell off the chair! Perhaps some reader could tell me if he was renowned for his sense of humour?

APPARENT TRIVIALITY

There is the additional problem that messages may appear trivial or superficial to the uninvolved observer. I have been amazed at how often I have discovered from the recipient of a message just how relevant, meaningful and unique to them the evidence was. To me, the message may have appeared quite banal. When you find yourself wondering if a message was really evidential, why not go and ask (tactfully!) about its significance, before going away grumbling about the mediumship.

I'm not of course talking about vague, generalised messages that could apply to most of the people in the room and make one think twice about seeing that "medium" again. As for chairing such demonstrations, it can be quite embarrassing when you know that an entertainer using cold-reading techniques could do far better.

With mental mediumship, it's not only the casual observer who fails to appreciate the true significance of messages. Sometimes the medium also is totally unaware of the full meaning or implication of the message he or she is giving and can be amazed at its significance to the recipient.

STEWART'S SEMINAR

Reporting on Stewart Alexander's latest seminar has given me the opportunity to look at survival evidence in general by using evidence at his recent séance as a starting point. Friday evening, 28th October, saw the start of the Stewart Alexander and Friends seminar at the Cober Hill Conference Centre. These joyous events are held in a lovely venue set in the North Yorkshire countryside, overlooking the North Sea. About 90 delegates attended and newcomers were quickly made to feel at home in the congenial ambience that is the hallmark of these well established events.

The physical séance on Saturday

evening began with all the amazing phenomena that have come to be associated with Stewart's séances and have been described many times before in the psychic press and in the Society for Psychical Research's *Paranormal Review* [Sutton 2009]. There is always verbal evidence from loved ones as well as the paranormal manipulation of matter. Voices are via direct voice (sometimes using the trumpet), or through trance using the medium's vocal cords.

At this séance, sitter Freddie Giddings and his sister received perhaps the most notable survival evidence. Freddie said afterwards: "I had some astounding evidence. My grandmother came through and I asked if she had some memory she could share. She asked if I remembered 'the green wine'. When I was a small boy I used to visit her and she always gave me a small glass of Crabbies green ginger wine – not just occasionally, but every time I went to see her. To me this was mind-blowing evidence of survival, as although I had not thought about it for many years, it was clearly etched in my mind. My sister who was with me [at the séance] also remembers it very clearly."

ASSESSING EVIDENCE

The significance of green wine was probably lost on everyone else present, including myself. Likewise, ardent sceptics dismiss evidence as superficial without having any idea just how relevant the message is to the person receiving it. Even a father sobbing and profusely apologising while communicating can constitute outstanding survival evidence. This happened at the 2006 Cober Hill seminar, when a sitter named Maureen Abrol attended a séance the day after her father's funeral (Halliwell 2011). At the time, none of us had any inkling of just how significant this poignant incident was to her.

It is not until evidence is analytically examined that messages can be properly assessed. But even then, many pieces of evidence must be examined to satisfy the demands of the laws of probability in order to give statistically meaningful results.

The Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Centre

The SNU Trust's new multi-purpose property in Edinburgh

Earlier this year the SNU Trust purchased an impressive building in Edinburgh. Now known as the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Centre, it's headed up by John Blackwood, chairman of the SNU Trust. It was John, himself an Edinburgh resident, who first suggested that the trust should purchase the building. I asked what had inspired him to propose the idea.

"Given the difficulties experienced in the current financial markets, the SNU Trust has been keen to expand its property portfolio in order to give investors a better rate of return on their investments and help support some of the Union's most needy churches," he explained. "For some time the trust has been keen to develop a Spiritualist centre that would provide a home to a Spiritualist church and be a place of learning for all Spiritualists to enjoy.

"I very much believe that as Spiritualists we need to be working together in supporting each other, and any investment in property should be to the ultimate benefit of our movement. I'm proud to say that the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Centre does all of this and more. It is operated by The Palmerston Trust, an independent Spiritualist charity.

"As well as becoming a new centre of learning for the Spiritualist community, the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Centre also provided the opportunity for a nearby Spiritualist church to move from unsuitable premises situated up two flights of stairs to much better accommodation that is easily accessible



for all and presents a much better image of Spiritualism in Scotland's capital city. I'm enthused to report that members and friends of the church are delighted with their new home and already the move has brought about renewed interest from the neighbouring community in what Spiritualism is all about and what the church has to offer."

The centre already offers a range of educational courses, and we asked John how the course topics were decided and the teachers selected.

"It was very important to The Palmerston Trust to set the very highest of standards by inviting some of the best tutors and mediums to run courses which are of interest to the greatest number of students. We have been delighted with the numbers of students booking on courses, some of which are already almost full. The centre has attracted a lot of interest from students living in the north of the UK, who found the cost of travelling to the Arthur Findlay College prohibitive."

Aside from its Spiritualist purposes, the centre has a historical connection with the great violinist, Yehudi Menuhin, and John hopes to revitalise the building's musical links.

"This grand six-storey Victorian building was previously the home of St Mary's Cathedral Music School and was sponsored by Yehudi Menuhin. The first-floor rooms, now known as the Helen Duncan and Mary Duffy Rooms, played

host to many concerts and we hope to reintroduce music into the building in 2012. Promoting the creative arts is an important part of the centre's work and has already attracted interest from the local community.

"It is important that our centre is very much part of the local community. We already have a number of community groups using the building and we encourage them to understand more about the religion of Spiritualism. People are very interested in Spiritualism and we often see newcomers to our services wanting to enquire further. The Sanctuary is open Monday - Friday, 12 noon - 2pm for reflection and prayer. We also have a tea room open to the public, welcoming everyone into the centre to find out more about who we are and what we do."

Of his vision for the centre's future, John explains:

"Our long-term aim for this investment property of the SNU Trust is to provide a revenue income to the trust to help us continue to support SNU churches and centres. We want to provide a community resource as well as a centre of excellence in the north of the UK for people to study the religion, science and philosophy of Spiritualism. The SNU Trust very much believes that the future of our movement lies in building community churches that we can be proud of, promoting the very best of what modern Spiritualism has to offer in the 21st century."



A GOOD READ with GRAHAM JENNINGS

Of Love Between Two Worlds

by Georgina & Robert Brake ~ Paperback ~ 190 pages

Saturday Night Press Publications ~ £7.99

This is a love story of two couples, Georgina and Ronald, Robert and Sister Hope, soul mates whom destiny placed on different sides of life.

Those in the spirit world had to choose a partner for the soul mates on Earth until both couples could be reunited.

Georgina Gladys Bügg (Ena), the central figure in our story, was born in 1916 in Gosport, Hampshire.

In spiritual matters, life-changing events can seem trivial until their full impact is felt. Ena's life changer came when she was about twelve years old. Grandpa suddenly asked her father: "George, what do you think about this Spiritualism lark? Our Ivy [Ena's aunt] is dabbling in it and I'm afraid for her."

Father, an orthodox Christian, didn't like the sound of it.

"Well George, I'm nearly seventy-two and must be nearing the end of this life, and will soon know The Great Secret. When I die will you go to one of those churches, called Spiritualist, and if it's at all possible, I will come back to you."

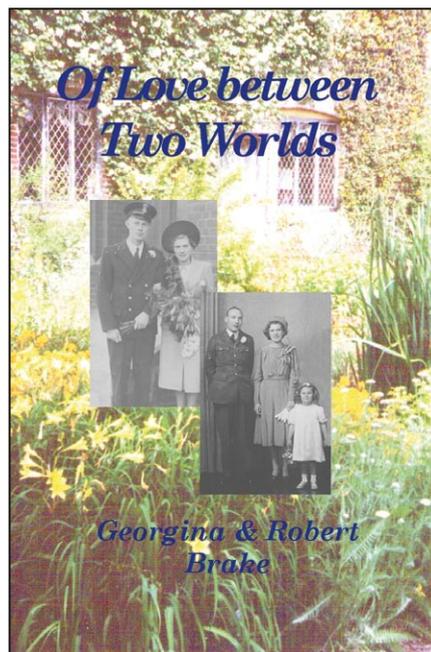
A fortnight later he passed after a cerebral haemorrhage. At the local Spiritualist church, the medium gave both his name and nickname and a message: "It's true George, it's true. I still live."

The family began their spiritual quest together and Ena joined the church's Lyceum. As a dental nurse in her late teens, she met and became friends with Robert Brake, a young dental technician.

Meanwhile, Ronald Hill, a young supply assistant in the Royal Navy, started coming to their church in Gosport. He was invited to join a circle with Ena where the medium was a Mrs MacHattie.

Among the circle's regular spirit guides were Chiefy, a North American Indian, and Presina, a Hungarian gypsy.

Ronald and Ena, both keen Spiritualists, were attracted to each other. "My eyes were beginning to open," she writes, "and I had a great thirst for knowledge. Ron had such a great understanding and he became my teacher."



One evening, as they sat in circle, Presina, through an entranced Mrs MacHattie, "came and put my hand into Ronald's, saying: 'I join two soul mates together in pure spiritual love.' And from that time, shyly at first, there grew between us a beautiful love.

"I found in Ronald all the attributes I had been looking for: gentleness, purity of thought, and a depth of love that I never thought I would find in another human being."

They became engaged, but in January 1938 Ronald had to sail for China and would be away for two years.

That summer Robert joined the RAF as a wireless operator. They corresponded and during his leave he stayed with Ena and her parents. They shared a love of music and spiritual interests and she called him "brother".

One Sunday Robert, a Roman Catholic convert, accompanied her to his first Spiritualist service. He was impressed, and as he was stationed at Stanmore began attending London Spiritualist churches.

Meanwhile, in the circle, Chiefy had a solemn message for Ena. "Very soon

you are going to have a terrible tragedy in your life, a heavy cross which is going to take all your strength to carry, but it's your karma my child, and there is nothing we can do to prevent it.

"We will be with you, loving, guiding and helping you while you are passing through this darkness." By this she understood she was going to lose Ronald.

A few weeks later another guide, Sister Hope, came to her. "We know you realise what Chiefy was talking about, but you will not be left to walk through life alone."

Sister Hope explained that she and Robert were soul mates, but in two previous lives, despite their mutual love, had decided to become a monk and a nun.

"This time Robert has returned alone, to learn how to live in the world, but he will become a monk again unless you stop him. Will you make him your life partner and help him to learn to live in the world? Please do this for me. It will give you a reason for living."

War came, Ronald returned and married Ena, but after only one blissfully happy month he passed through enemy action. Some while later, with more encouragement from Sister Hope, Ena contemplated marriage to Bob, but wanted Ron's approval first.

He materialised at a Helen Duncan séance and stepped out of the cabinet. "Hello, darling," he said, coming towards them. "I've come to give you my blessing. I want you to know that your happiness is my happiness always. Take care of her, Bob, until she can join me . . ."

The story of Ena's and Bob's life together, their very different personalities, their children and their lifelong service to Spiritualism, told in their own words, is the substance of this heart-warming book. Even after their passing in old age, their spiritual work continued. They returned through Stewart Alexander's physical circle, and spoke directly to friends in May 2011.

Starting young in Wales

THE Ray of Light Spiritual Centre in Cardigan, West Wales, has hosted an innovative workshop designed especially for children up to the age of 14.

The event was the brain-child of Ray of Light's secretary Mary Curtis, and marked the fulfilment of her long-held dream to provide support and education for children with psychic ability.

The workshop was run by two experienced mediums and teachers.

"There is a real need to educate children who are worried that friends will make fun of them if they say they can see and hear people that others cannot," Jan, one of the teachers, told *Psychic News*.

Jan, who has been a working medium for over 20 years, realised as a child that she could talk to spirit people. "I was never frightened," she

says, "because I knew that these people came with so much love. They wanted to reassure me that they could still communicate and I was able to pass on messages from beyond the grave to many who were grieving."

Jan believes that modern media regularly expose children to scary images and much misinformation about psychic and mediumistic ability.

"We wanted to teach them the correct way to use their gifts," she says.

A source at Ray of Light told *Psychic News* that the children had thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and were particularly happy to have the opportunity to share their ideas and experiences with like-minded young people.

All were keen to take part in another workshop, and organisers are already making plans for another event on 13th April 2012.

For further information, phone 01239 842024 or email: info@rayoflightcardigan.co.uk

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SPIRITUALIST CHURCHES AND CENTRES

CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

Myers Hall,
662 Newmarket Road,
Cambridge CB5 8RS
Enquiries: 07980 580121
Sunday Service 6.30pm
Followed by Healing
Monday 7.30pm Awareness Circle
Wednesday Healing 2pm - 9pm
Last Thursday of the month
7.30pm Evening of Clairvoyance
Saturday Workshops as arranged
Tuesday 24th January at 7.30pm
An Evening with
TONY STOCKWELL
£15 - Book in advance

CHESHIRE

STOCKPORT CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

46 Old Road, Stockport SK4 1TD
President: Mr A PARKER
Tel: 0161 427 6279
[www.stockportchristian
spiritualistchurch.com](http://www.stockportchristianspiritualistchurch.com)
Sunday 3.00pm Divine Service
Monday 7.00pm Healing
Tuesday 7.30pm Clairvoyance
Wednesday 7.30pm Music &
Meditation
Friday 11am - 3pm Private Readings
Saturday 11am - 3pm Private Readings
Saturday 7.00pm Clairvoyance &
Open Circle

CUMBRIA

SOLWAY CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

St Michael's Resource Centre,
Station Road, Workington,
Cumbria
Tel: 01228 547599
Sunday Services 6.30pm - 9.00pm
Healing after Service

DORSET

BOURNEMOUTH SPIRITUALIST SNU CHURCH

16 Bath Road,
Bournemouth BH1 2PE
Tel: 01202 551751
www.bsnucc.co.uk
Sunday 18th December Services
10.45am ANDREW MANSHIP
6.30pm Carol Service with
ANDREW MANSHIP
with SUSAN MOTSON
Monday 19th December 7.30pm
LAWRENCE COHEN
Wednesday 21st December 7.30pm
Seekers' Group
Thursday 22nd December 3.00pm
AL AND GEOFF POTTS
Wednesday 4th January 7.30pm
Seekers' Group
Thursday 5th January 3.00pm
ROY AND BARBARA BREEZE
Spiritual Healing:
Monday 2.00pm - 4.00pm
Tuesday 2.00pm - 4.00pm
Wednesday 10.30am - 12.30pm
Thursday 7.00pm - 8.00pm
*Church closed from 24th December
2011 until 2nd January 2012*

KENT

WEST WICKHAM SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

Surrey Road, West Wickham,
Kent BR4 0JU
Mediums' Secretary: 020 8655 3109
Enquiries: 020 8778 9422
Sunday 18th December 6.30pm
Carol Service with Karen Wood's
Development Class
Sunday 8th January 6.30pm
JOAN DEMPSEY
Tuesday Classes at 8.00pm:
2nd Tuesday Open Platform
3rd Tuesday Development Class with
KAREN WOOD
4th Tuesday Discussion Group

LONDON

ACTON SPIRITUAL CENTRE

Woodhurst Road, Acton W3 6SL
Enquiries: 020 8896 0184
First Sunday of the month
Service 6.30pm
Tuesday 7.30pm £3 Open Circle
Wednesday 7.30pm Clairvoyance
Thursday 7.30pm Healing

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Monday 1.00pm - 4.30pm
Study Group
Wednesday (Members only)

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Venner Road Community Centre,
1 Venner Road, Sydenham SE26
Enquiries: 020 8857 8328
Website:
www.davidnason.org.uk
Healing every week from 7.30pm
Admission £4
Wednesday 11th January 8.00pm
DAVID NASON
Wednesday 18th January 8.00pm
PAULINE WOODHATCH
Wednesday 25th January 8.00pm
DAVID HARRIS
See our website for other events

**FULHAM
NS CHURCH**
Kelvedon Road SW6
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Enquiries: 020 7736 7248
Sunday 6.30pm Service
Thursday 7.30pm Demonstration

**LITTLE ILFORD
SPIRITUALIST CHURCH**
Third Avenue, Manor Park,
London E12 6DS
Tel:- 01277 356787
Sunday 6.30pm Service
Wednesday 7.30pm Service
Healing after Services

THE LONDON SPIRITUAL MISSION

Spiritualist Church,
13 Pembridge Place W2
Tel: 020 7229 2024
Sunday 18th December 11.00am
Carol Service with
PETER GEEKIE
6.30pm Carol Service with
PETER GEEKIE
Wednesday 21st December 7.30pm
Hour of Clairvoyance with
SARA LESLIE
Wednesday 4th January 7.30pm
Hour of Clairvoyance with
LOU MARKS
Spiritual Healing:
Monday 11.00am - 1.00pm,
2.00pm - 3.00pm & 5.15pm - 7.30pm
Thursday 5.00pm - 7.30pm
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425 Hornsey Road N19 4DX
(Buses 91 & 210 to Hanley Rd)
Tel: 020 7272 0438
Services:
1st Sunday of Month 11.00am
Wednesday 7.30pm
Saturday 7.30pm
Healing:
Tuesday 6.00pm - 8.00pm
Friday 6.00pm - 8.00pm

WALTHAMSTOW N.S. CHURCH

Vestry Road E17 9NH
Tel: 020 8503 6942
Visit our website:
[www.vestryrdspiritualist
church.org](http://www.vestryrdspiritualistchurch.org)
DECEMBER
Thursday 15th 7.30pm
Awareness Circle
Sunday 18th 6.30pm Service with
TERRY & PAULINE THIRKS
Monday 19th 7pm - 9pm Healing
Wednesday 21st 7.30pm Service with
VAL BICKERSTAFF
Friday 23rd 11am - 2pm OPEN DAY
Drop in and say hello - free soup
All welcome

MIDDLESEX

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35 Churchill Avenue,
Kenton, Nr. Harrow,
Middlesex HA3 0AX
Enquiries: 020 8621 3103
Sunday 6.30pm Service
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Thursday 7.45pm Service

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EASTBOURNE CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALIST CHURCH
1A Cavendish Avenue
Tel: 01323 761653
Services:
Sunday 3.00pm
Wednesday 3.00pm
Healing:
Monday 2.00pm
Friday 2.00pm

SCOTLAND

ABERDEEN SPIRITUALIST CENTRE
Stephen House,
71 Dee Street, Aberdeen
Telephone:- 01224 574 916
www.deestreet.com
Sunday Services 11.15am & 6.15pm
Tuesday Awareness Classes
Thursday Church Circles 7.30pm
Saturday & Monday: Evenings of
Mediumship as advertised
Healing:
Sunday 7.45pm
Tues 10-11am ~ Appointments only
Wednesday 2-3pm & 6.30-7.30pm
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U. S. A.

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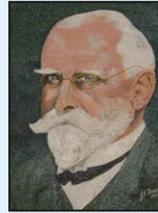
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136 Hartfield Road, London SW19 3TJ
President: **Rev Ray Robinson**
Enquiries: **020 8542 2394**
www.wimbledonspiritualistchurch.co.uk

Sunday 18th December 11.00am JACKIE ROBINSON
Sunday 15th January 11.00am RICHARD NEVILLE
Tuesday 17th January 7.30pm ASHLEY MILLS
Wednesday 18th January 7.30pm KAREN PYLE



Church founder,
Richard Arthur Bush

Our Wednesdays are changing for 2012. We will have clairvoyance, philosophy, question and answer sessions, and some FREE readings.

*A very Happy and Healthy
New Year to you all*

from President Ray Robinson

ELTHAM SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

64 Well Hall Road,
London SE9 6SH

President: **020 8854 7800**

www.elthamspiritualistchurch.org.uk

**Sunday 18th December at 6.30pm
Christmas Carol Service**

Church closed until Sunday 8th January
at 6.30pm Service with MAUREEN RIDGEWELL
Monday 9th January 8.00pm Meditation
Tuesday 10th Healing 12noon - 2.00pm & 7.30pm
Wednesday 11th 2.30pm JACKY COURTNEY
Thursday 12th 8.00pm Closed Circle

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