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EDITOR
Roy Stemman

ASSISTANT EDITOR, ADVERTISING,
CIRCULATION & MARKETING

Paul Brett
pnadverts@gmail.com

CHIEF REPORTER
Kay Hunter

EDITORIAL SECRETARY
& CIRCULATION
Amber Wallbank

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT
Magnus Smith

DESIGN AND LAYOUT
Louise Lynch

ACCOUNTS
Bryan Golland

CONTACT DETAILS:

Psychic Press Ltd,
Suite 6, Thremhall Park, Start Hill,
Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire
CM22 7WE, UK

Tel: 01279 874339

EDITORIAL EMAIL
pneditorials@gmail.com

WEBSITE &
ONLINE SUBSCRIPTIONS
www.psychicnews.org.uk

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FROM THE EDITOR



I HAVE been delighted in recent weeks to see unprecedented media coverage of evidential mediumship.

It began with a major feature in the October issue

of *Elle* magazine, which has a 1.1 million circulation in the USA and produces 46 other editions globally.

In a moving, detailed account of her husband's terminal illness and the spirit messages she received from him after his passing, Lisa Chase gave the magazine's readers an impressive insight into the emotional journey that inevitably accompanies such a quest.

"Losing my husband – and finding him again through a medium" tells the story of Peter Kaplan, the *New York Observer's* respected editor, who died in 2013, and his communications with his wife, an *Elle* editor, through medium Lisa Kay.

It's a story that will have reached millions more by being shared through Facebook, Twitter and other social media networks.

Ross Douthat, an Op-Ed columnist on the *New York Times*, also felt moved to recommend it to his followers, referring to it as a personal essay in which Lisa Chase "describes her experiences

communicating with what she thinks (not unreasonably, on the evidence presented) is Peter's 'discarnate' spirit".

Then the UK's *Mail Online* hit us with the first instalment (17 October) of an account of her own impressive mediumship by English teacher Laura Lynne Jackson.

And, of course, *Psychic News* has its own exclusive story in this issue about a spirit communication through medium Debra Martin from a woman whose revelation that she had been murdered has put the killer in prison.

Both Debra Martin and Laura Lynne Jackson are among 19 evidential mediums accredited by the Windbridge Institute for Applied Research in Human Potential. They each give their time freely to the institute in its quest to verify the accuracy of mediumship and explore ways in which it can be used, particularly in helping the bereaved cope with their grief.

By a happy coincidence – or divine timing! – this issue also describes Windbridge's scientific work and profiles its co-director, Julie Beischel, who was also featured in the *Elle* article.

The Windbridge Institute's aim, simply, is to change the world's perceptions of after-death communications. I'm glad they are now enjoying recognition from mainstream media.

ROY STEMMAN

Psychic News: the voice of Spiritualism

Two of Spiritualism's leading exponents helped create and launch *Psychic News* in 1932. Hannen Swaffer, one of the UK's most famous journalists, and Maurice Barbanell, a businessman who was also a trance medium, recognised the need for a publication that would satisfy the public's desire for up-to-date and independent information about Spiritualism and mediumship.

They regularly addressed audiences of thousands in theatres around the country as families came to terms with the loss of loved ones who had died in World War I and the devastating Spanish flu pandemic of 1918. Barbanell was its first editor and Swaffer became a regular contributor.

Today, eight decades later, *Psychic News* continues to be the independent voice of Spiritualism in a very different world. What has not changed is the desire to have an answer to The Big Question: What happens after death? *Psychic News* makes a unique contribution to that debate every month with news, features and opinion pieces that explore the evidence for an afterlife and spirit communication.

Above all, Spiritualism and *Psychic News* are life-affirming, so our features also explore ways in which readers can enrich their lives spiritually and make the right choices. Why not let us be your travelling companion, offering words of wisdom and support, as you continue on your soul's journey through this lifetime?

Famous New York editor's spirit return

His wife – also an editor – paints a vivid picture of her grief and the comfort she received from his messages through medium Lisa Kay

PETER KAPLAN was a force to be reckoned with in American journalism. Best known for his 15-year role as editor-in-chief of weekly newspaper *The New York Observer*, he is also recognised for modernising journalism for the digital age.

He died in November 2013 after a stem cell transplant failed to prevent the return of lymphoma.

His wife, Lisa Chase, who is an editor on *Elle* magazine, has now shared with the global magazine's readership the experiences and emotions that followed his death and that led to her calling medium Lisa Kay (pictured below) in the hope of making contact with his spirit.

Her account is about much more than the impressive mediumistic communications she received. She also weaves into the story a string of remarkable coincidences and other incidents that seemed to have special meaning.

"My dreams were invaded regularly by Peter in the first months after his death, with an insistence that woke me at four in the morning almost daily. Frankly, that's how he was in life. If he called me and I didn't pick up the phone, he'd call again. And again. And again. And again.

"He didn't really care what I was doing that might be keeping me from calling him back; when he wanted to talk, he wanted to talk."

It was therefore totally in character, when she phoned Lisa Kay to arrange a phone reading, that her husband started communicating immediately. This wasn't how the medium liked to work. Payment in advance was a condition of giving a reading and she was peeved by Peter Kaplan's insistence. "He's here," she said. "He wants to talk now." And he did, giving two names immediately: David, his son, and James, his

brother.

Kaplan also found other ways to make his presence felt.

"Davey, then nine, was dreaming of him, too. One morning, he said, 'Last night Daddy and I had fun'."

Then, on New Year's Eve, as mother and son walked home from a friend's, Davey said, "This is the gateway to next year, Mommy. Next year at this time, we'll still be sad, but maybe we won't have the crazy thoughts in our heads."

Then he added, "Daddy is with us now. He says he wants you to hold his hand."

Lisa Chase writes: "I was holding Davey's hand in my right, with my keys in my left.... Again, Davey asked me to do it, and so I put the keys in my coat pocket and held out my left hand in the cold air."

Lisa Chase's very full and touching account of the evidence she received from the New York medium will have brought comfort and hope to many readers in a



similar

situation. She doesn't draw conclusions or state categorically that she was in touch with her dead husband, leaving readers to draw their own conclusions.

In her attempt to understand mediumistic processes and complexities, Kaplan's widow talked with Julie Beischel about the scientific work carried out at the Windbridge Institute for Applied Research in Human Potential (see feature, pages 17-19).

Beischel explained that sitters could seldom expect 100 per cent accuracy in mediumistic communications. "As a medium, you have to have this sort of right-brained ability to hear from the dead, but also have one foot grounded to be able to differentiate the noise from the signal." ■



Photo: Facebook

New psychic phenomenon: Spiritual Pioneer Centres are big success



David Bruton, SNU President, Simone Key, Annie Seymour-Callow and Gary Callow

THE LATEST Spiritualists' National Union (SNU) Spiritual Pioneer Centre has opened its doors.

The inaugural service of Manea Spiritual Pioneer Centre, Cambridgeshire, was conducted by SNU president Minister David Bruton.

Medium and healer Annie Seymour-Callow, its chairman and one of the founding members, said, "We are delighted to have the SNU's support. We started offering spiritual healing in and around the village, and found there were lots of people interested in trying it, and wanting to find out more about Spiritualism."

"Although there are SNU churches in Ely and King's Lynn (other areas of East Anglia), there was nothing local for this community. Our centre's patron pioneer in spirit is the famous healer, Harry Edwards. We will have a strong focus on healing, mediumship and raising money for local charities."

She is joined at Manea by fellow founders Gary Callow (treasurer), Pat Canfield (secretary) and SNU Minister Simone Key.

Diss and District Pioneer Centre also opened in April this year, in Scole, Norfolk, five years after the SNU opened its first Pioneer Centre in Balderton, Newark, in April 2010. The second was launched in the village of Waddington, Lincolnshire, in January 2011.

With eight Spiritual Pioneer Centres now up and running, it's time to take a

closer look at this phenomenon.

Spiritualist churches sometimes operate from rented premises which close, or have new owners whose plans do not cater for Spiritualists. Travel problems can also create difficulties. In many cases the ultimate solution has been re-location or closure.

Referring to the new Pioneer Centres at the SNU's 2011 Annual General Meeting, David Bruton explained:

"For too long I have sat at National Executive Council (NEC) meetings and watched as we report the closures of our churches. Now we are growing again, taking Union Spiritualism out into new areas that have had no Union presence before, or are re-establishing a presence that was lost. We have been too slow in the past to address the need."

Asked at that AGM, "Why open Pioneer Centres to grow the Spiritualist movement when the NEC cannot control its existing churches?" Minister Steven Upton, then chairman of the SNU Publicity and Public Relations Committee, replied:

"The NEC does not control its churches, because it does not have any. Churches are controlled by an elected committee, by and from its members, and are affiliated to the SNU."

"We are looking for areas where there is no Seven Principles Spiritualism, and we

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With eight Spiritual Pioneer Centres now up and running, it's time to take a closer look at this phenomenon

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Steven Upton, SNU Vice President (Administrative)



Pat Canfield (Secretary), Gary Callow (Treasurer)
and Annie Seymour-Callow (Chairman)

are enabling Individual (Class B) members to open a church. We are providing the financial means and equipment to do so. These new churches are not affiliated to the SNU in the same way as the other churches. We effectively own them and therefore needed a new name to differentiate them. They are called Pioneer Centres."

In an interview with *Psychic News* soon after the Manea centre opening, David Bruton gave this response to our questions about the impact of Spiritual Pioneer Centres on attendance at existing churches.

"The original concept was to establish them in areas where there is no SNU church," he explained. "This policy still stands."

"However, occasionally we have requests from people wishing to establish centres where we already have coverage in the locality. We then contact the churches in the area and look closely at the population and coverage. It would be pointless to establish a centre which would draw attendance from an established SNU church."

Asked if he was satisfied and encouraged by the result, he replied: "The simple answer is 'Yes'. The initiative has been a great success. The SNU, like many other organisations in our modern world, has to recognise when planning for the future, some aspects need to change. Many of our churches were established over

100 years ago. All too often the location, which was just right then, has changed – sometimes beyond recognition."

"Some churches now find themselves in the middle of industrial estates or retail parks, far away from the congregation they seek to serve. Without the restriction of a fixed location, Pioneer Centres can react quickly to changes, taking Spiritualism to areas where, historically, there has been no provision."

When asked what advantages Pioneer Centres gave the SNU, Bruton was very positive.

"As president, I am very clear that our churches are the backbone of the movement, and long may that continue. However effective the Union is in propagating our teachings nationally, what counts for thousands of people, week in, week out, is the ability to visit a church, to share a service with like-minded people, and be part of a physical community."

"We are often told that the future is online, and I accept we need a strong online presence, but the ability to attend a church is still important to a significant percentage of the population. The touch and presence of the spirit is not, in my mind an experience that can become digital."

Footnote: Six years ago the BBC Religious Department, in *Spiritualism at a Glance*, pronounced Spiritualism to be the eighth largest religion in the UK. ■

“The SNU, like many other organisations in our modern world, has to recognise when planning for the future, some aspects need to change”

Medium reveals double life ... as an English teacher

FOR 16 years, Laura Lynne Jackson lived a double life. By day the Long Island, New York, mother of three taught teenagers about *Macbeth* and *The Grapes of Wrath*, and by night she gave mediumistic readings over the phone.

"I'd be having private phone conversations with everyone from celebrities and athletes to astronauts and politicians, giving them a glimpse of something beyond the accepted bounds of human experience," she wrote in the first instalment of a biographical feature in the *Mail Online* (17 October).

It was a closely guarded secret because she felt sure that if the headmistress knew she would lose her job. But when some fellow teachers saw her name associated with a spiritual event, Laura decided to confess.

With trepidation, she approached the headmistress, Jane, and explained that outside of school hours she used her gift to comfort others. To Laura's surprise, the headmistress asked her if she could see anyone around her.

"Immediately, the gates in my mind flew open," she writes, "and the Other Side started flooding me with information. I didn't want to 'read' Jane – but I was suddenly communicating with her mother, who'd died decades earlier.

"When I told Jane that her mother's name was Margaret, her mouth dropped open. She got up, walked around her desk and closed her office door."

The headmistress then had a 40-minute reading at the end of which she got up and hugged the English teacher. "Your gift is beautiful," she said simply.

Laura was free to continue her work as

a medium and they agreed on how Laura should respond if others got to hear about it. That happened when a well-known pop star, for whom Laura read regularly, invited her to one of her concerts. Afterwards, the singer posted a picture of them together on Instagram.

When she arrived for work next morning, the whole school knew about her special powers. It was time to make the statement she had agreed with her headmistress:

"'Yes, I am a psychic medium,' I said. 'I've been tested by scientific researchers who have verified my abilities. But this part of my life is separate from my job as a teacher. So I won't discuss it further – and I won't read for anyone in any of my classes, so don't even ask.'"

Laura Lynne Jackson is one of 19 accredited mediums who assist the Windbridge Institute for Applied Research in Human Potential (see pages 17-19). What that means, in terms of the readings she gives, is made very clear in her *Mail Online* story:

"I don't read tea leaves or tarot cards; I'm not a fortune teller and I don't use a crystal ball. I'm simply someone who possesses a gift that is more focused in me than others."

The *Mail Online* extracts are from *Light Between Us: Lessons From Heaven* by Laura Lynne Jackson (Century) £14.99 . ■



Laura Lynne Jackson

“To my surprise, the headmistress asked if I could see anyone around her... Suddenly, I was communicating with her mother, who'd died decades earlier

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Paul Brereton and bride Tina Elven



Hugh and Margaret Davis arrive with the bride

Leading medium marries

IRISH medium Paul Brereton and fellow Spiritualist Tina Elven met when they participated in a JV Trust Week at the Arthur Findlay College. That meeting led to romance and they decided to marry.

It was therefore an added pleasure for the couple that two of the JV trustees played a large part in their wedding day.

Margaret Davis conducted the service at Sutton Coldfield Spiritualist Church on 19 September, while her husband Hugh volunteered to be chauffeur for the day.

Paul's mediumship was featured in a profile in the first issue of *Psychic News* when it relaunched (December 2011), which marked our return as a major Spiritualist magazine.

Psychic from childhood, Paul was raised in the Roman Catholic faith, but came into Spiritualism after having a visionary experience at his mother's passing when he was 34. He took part in awareness

classes for 18 months, and studied with medium Doreen Elston:

"A wise, experienced lady. She didn't let me on to a platform for a good few years," said Paul, who also praised his tutors at the Arthur Findlay College.

"As soon as I went to Stansted on a JV Trust Week I knew I was home, and just burst into tears. That was the first time I met Margaret Davis. She put her arms around me and said, "You're home, aren't you?"

Members of Sutton Coldfield Spiritualist Church gave their very best wishes to Paul and his bride Tina, describing their marriage as "a truly spiritual union." ■

“

Psychic from childhood, Paul was raised in the Roman Catholic faith but came into Spiritualism after having a visionary experience at his mother's passing when he was 34

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Gruesome end for ghost-hunting couple

Mark and Debby Constantino, stars of *'Ghost Adventures'*, found dead in murder-suicide tragedy

MARRIED couple Mark and Debby Constantino, who appeared on various episodes of the Travel Channel's *Ghost Adventures* between 2008 and 2011, as experts in electronic voice phenomena (EVP) and ghostly voices, were found dead in a Sparks, Nevada, apartment in September.

The couple were estranged and there had been a history of physical abuse. Debby had obtained a restraining order on Mark a week before the tragedy.

The ghost-hunting couple's bodies were discovered after a woman called police to say that on returning home in Reno she had discovered a male roommate dead and her other roommate, Debby Constantino, missing.

Police confirmed James Anderson had died from a gunshot wound to the head.

Cell phone records led police to the Constantinos' daughter's Sparks apartment where they were greeted with gunfire. There was a standoff and Mark Constantino is reported to have said, "Give

me 15 minutes to gather my thoughts or I'll kill her."

Eventually, officers used explosives to gain entry and found the couple dead. It appears that he had killed his wife and then committed suicide.

A month earlier, Mark had been charged with kidnapping and domestic battery by strangulation after allegedly pulling Debby from a car, taking her inside a house and attempting to strangle her.

The couple's adult daughter, Raquel, was also charged with kidnapping, domestic battery and vehicle burglary following the incident. Both were subsequently freed from jail on bail. ■

“

The couple were estranged and there had been a history of physical abuse. Debby had obtained a restraining order on Mark a week before the tragedy

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NEW LOOK FOR historic Sussex church



THERE WAS a buzz of excitement in September when the scaffolding was finally removed from the front of Worthing Spiritualist Church, West Sussex.

It revealed the newly-renovated frontage of this “beautiful, compact little church”: the description used by famous Spiritualist Sir Arthur Conan Doyle when he opened it on 24 March 1926.

Graham Baker, a Lancing stonemason and Sherlock Holmes fan, provided the new foundation plaques and refurbished the Conan Doyle plaque. When the church secretary thanked him for his work, he replied in true Holmes idiom: “It’s elementary”.

Completion of the renovation was celebrated with a harvest tea, in aid of Worthing Churches’ Homeless Projects.

This was followed by a demonstration of mediumship by Brighton medium, Louise Eaton.



Church president Val Upton said: “Those who serve the church are ever mindful of the good work that takes place within these four walls. The restoration work that has taken place is a token of our respect for the founders of this beautiful building, who worked so hard all those years ago to realise their dream. It is our duty to make sure that dream lives on.”

All are welcome, regardless of their religion. As Sir Arthur Conan Doyle said in his opening address, 89 years ago: “Spiritualism is as broad as the human race”. ■

“

Described by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as ‘beautiful’ and ‘compact’ when he opened it in 1926, the Worthing Spiritualist Church has now been refurbished

”

Uri's mansion on market for £15m

WHEN spoon-bender Uri Geller spoke to *Psychic News* in September about his decision to relocate to Israel (PN October 2015) he said he had not then made a decision about selling the 12,000 sq ft mansion at Sonning, Berkshire, in which he and his wife, Hannah, had lived for 35 years.

But he seems to have changed his mind. According to the *Mail Online* (15 October) the riverside Palladian-style property is now on the market for £15 million.

The announcement is accompanied by 15 stunning images of the mansion's interior and exterior, including a brown velvet sofa that was a favourite of his friend Michael Jackson when he visited and a black leather chair once owned by Yves St Laurent.

There has been talk of Geller donating a bent spoon sculpture to the village but it seems to have disappeared. Vandalism rather than dematerialisation seems to be the likely explanation. ■



Photo: Thom Bleasdale

Mediumistic theme wins BBC Short Story Award

A TROUBLING encounter between a medium visiting a family whose teenage daughter has disappeared is the theme of novelist Jonathan Buckley's *Briar Road* which won the 10th BBC National Short Story Award 2015, announced in September.

Described as "a quiet, intriguing mystery" in which the visiting clairvoyant is the narrator, it beat works by Hilary Mantel and Mark Haddon to win the £15,000 prize. ■

Lack of Proof?

AMERICAN satellite and cable company TNT Drama has cancelled *Proof* after one 10-episode season. The TV series featured Jennifer Beals as a doctor researching reincarnation and near-death experiences. Poor viewing figures and critics' lack of enthusiasm are said to be the main factors in the decision. ■



Photo: Turner Broadcasting System Inc

DENNIS JONES

leaves this world on a high note

AS A Minister of the Spiritualists' National Union (SNU), Reading-based Dennis Jones, who passed on 18 September, often officiated at funerals. It was just one of his areas of expertise and he readily shared his advice and experiences with others, not only on a personal level but also through his regular contributions to *Psychic News*.

As well as writing as an individual Spiritualist on a variety of topics – the declining standard of mediumship, the death of Saddam Hussein, the need to recognise the next plane of existence as a state of consciousness rather than a physical location were among the topics he tackled – he also served as spokesman for the SNU in his role as its public relations officer, to which he was appointed in 2006.

A working medium, Dennis also served many churches in Berkshire and surrounding areas.

His love of jazz and big band music occasionally crept into his writings and he clearly had a soft spot for Ronnie Scott's in London's Soho. A phone call to the famous jazz club, he revealed, would often be answered by Ronnie Scott himself, and when asked what time a show would start, his response was likely to be, "When can you get here?"

Dennis was also understandably amused by the title of Ronnie Scott's biography, published in 1986: *Let's Join Hands and Contact the Living!*

Unsurprisingly, Dennis offered wise words on the need to plan funerals and to choose the music that would accompany the proceedings. Writing on the subject in

Psychic News (20 May, 2006) he advised:

"Reverence with humour can often be usefully combined. The inclusion of popular music adds to the dimension of the eternal character of the deceased person and perhaps negates a moment of sadness for mourners.

"So far as my funeral service is concerned the choice of entry and exit music will be in the very capable hands – or should I say lungs? – of Francis Albert Sinatra, with the full version of *My Way* on the way in and *Come Fly With Me* on the way out."

The latter, he suggested, would be from the *Sinatra at The Sands* album with the Count Basie Orchestra, "played as loud as the local crematorium managers will permit."

As a man of many words, and also true to his word, that's precisely what took place at Dennis's funeral on 2 October at Reading Crematorium, with the addition of a Sammy Davis Jr song, *Once In a Lifetime* and the hymn *There Is No Death*, for good measure. He also suggested the wording on his memorial (if any) should be, "The best is yet to come".

Joan Bygrave, president of Brighton Church and a good friend, officiated. ■



Dennis and his wife, Ruth, had been married 49 years.

“Unsurprisingly, Dennis offered wise words on the need to plan funerals and to chose the music that would accompany the proceedings, observing that the inclusion of popular music adds to the dimension of the deceased's eternal character”

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Alicia Becerra (above) revealed to her family through a medium that she had been murdered
Photo: Spectrum Video and Film

SPIRIT COMMUNICATION

VICTIM DESCRIBES HER KILLER

BEFORE CRIME IS DISCOVERED

He's caught, confesses and is jailed for 20 years

Evidential medium DEBRA MARTIN talks to *Psychic News* editor ROY STEMMAN about a sensational case that challenges sceptics

NEWS that Aunt Alicia had died in Peru came as a shock to her niece and nephew, who live in the United States. She had appeared to be in good health when they last saw her and should have had many more years to look forward to.

But stomach cancer and a heart attack had brought her life to a premature end, they were told, and Alicia Becerra had been laid to rest in a beautiful grave in the local cemetery.

The dead woman's niece, Marita Wilson – daughter of Alicia's sister – who lives in Phoenix, Arizona, USA, wanted reassurance that the spirit of her aunt was at peace. A friend's connection led her to a TV news producer who arranged a reading with a medium, Debra Martin.

Marita agreed, even though she had never had any contacts with psychics and mediums in the past. And the reading was recorded.

All that the medium was told, because it was all that the TV producer knew, was that the sitter hoped to hear from the spirit of her aunt.

"To my surprise," Debra recalls, "not just one sitter but three arrived on 27 July, 2007: Marita Wilson, her mother and her son, Dennis."

It made no difference, and Debra was soon explaining to them how she worked.

"I began by telling Marita that prior to her arrival I had sat down and asked the highest Divine (God) to give me permission to speak with her aunt.

"I explained how spirits will come

through me and use me as their vessel. I also told Marita that I had received messages from her aunt prior to them arriving.

"Marita soon knew that these messages were coming from Aunt Alicia. Her aunt's personality was coming through and the beginning of the reading was full of love and laughter."

Debra mentioned a heart attack which, on reflection, she believes was the aunt's way of drawing attention to how she was *supposed* to have died. Then, suddenly, Debra corrected herself.

"I received a vision that was like a flash that ran through my mind, as if I saw a glimpse of a movie. I didn't like the vision I was given. What I was seeing was that someone strangled her aunt. She died of suffocation.

"I was going to have to share with Marita that her aunt was murdered. I didn't expect this, and I wasn't sure if the family was going to be able to handle this information. I told them that whatever comes through, your aunt wants you to be at peace. This was very important to her. Everyone agreed, which made the aunt at peace and ready to voice more through me."

Despite their readiness to receive Aunt Alicia's message, Marita admitted it was very difficult for her to be told that her aunt had been murdered. She couldn't understand why. Who would want to do that?

Astonishingly, Debra Martin was able to answer those questions. She described

a tall man with dark skin and thick Afro-style black hair and she indicated he was known to the aunt. The murder victim drew special attention to a blue shirt he was wearing. And then she gave a name: Marcos.

There had been a dispute and Aunt Alicia had refused to sign papers relating to her property. So she was strangled.

None of this detail meant anything to Marita Wilson but she and her family were satisfied by the other information they had received that the spirit of Alicia Becerra had been communicating through Debra Martin.

Soon, Marita Wilson flew to Peru and consulted lawyers. If there was any truth in the spirit message from her aunt, there was only one way to find out. She sought an exhumation of Alicia Becerra's body and an autopsy.

Just three months after her funeral, the aunt's body was taken from the grave. Those conducting the autopsy were astonished at its state of preservation. Fluid blood was removed and her vital organs were undamaged. What's more, there was no sign of stomach cancer or of a heart attack. The causes of her demise, as stated on the death certificate, were clearly false.

Instead, the autopsy discovered that her lungs were totally collapsed. There was only one explanation for this: Alicia Becerra had been asphyxiated. She had been strangled to death, just as she had stated in the Debra Martin séance.

“Marita admitted it was very difficult for her to be told that her aunt had been murdered. She couldn’t understand why. Who would want to do that? Astonishingly, Debra Martin was able to answer those questions”

Right: Debra Martin



It took another year before the investigation into what was now recognised as a murder case brought the desired result.

“On 21 November, 2008, I received an email from Marita Wilson telling me they had caught the murderer! He not only fitted the description I had given but the name I gave – Marcos – was also involved.”

The killer, Jesus Romero, admitted his part in the crime and is now serving 20 years in a Peruvian jail.

Alicia Becerra owned an impressive property in a lush part of Peru and it seems likely that she fell victim to a scam that would enable others to take over the land. But she realised what was being planned and refused. It is possible she was forced to sign but the shakiness of her signature indicated it was done under duress. Investigators found other evidence of fraud involved in the signing away of the aunt’s property.

Even so, Marita Wilson has been involved in a long legal battle to win back the land and property. By 19 September, 2012, a Peruvian judge gave positive approval of Marita Wilson’s case, paving the way for more judicial action that would enable the return of the property to the family.

It was not until December last year that a judge finally ordered the return of the property to the Wilson family, and Marita wrote the following to Debra Martin, whose evidential mediumship had first revealed an undetected murder and put



Debra Martin (right) with Marita Wilson in a videoed reconstruction of the original reading (Photo: Spectrum Video and Film)



Marita Wilson, niece of the murdered woman, discusses the impact of her aunt’s unexpected revelation (Photo: Spectrum Video and Film)



Debra Martin describes the murderer's hairstyle (Photo: Spectrum Video and Film)

the murderer behind bars:

"After more than seven years in court, it was finally declared that the property be returned to my Aunt Alicia because it was proven that the transfer the murderer did was 100 per cent illegal.

"Now we need to work on transferring the property to my Mom as the universal heir. This process will take at least one year but the most important part was to prove that what the murderer did was false and unjust and that he got caught and is paying the price for it.

"In the end, justice prevailed for Aunt Alicia and the family, and her soul can finally rest in peace."

Debra Martin believes there's still more to be told about this story. She is certain that the killer, Jesus Romero, was acting under instructions from someone else – a Mr Big – and that he will not reveal this person's identity or his life will come to a premature end in prison. Perhaps, when his life draws to a close naturally, he will reveal who was behind the attempt to defraud Alicia Becerra and her family.

The most powerful element of this astonishing story, of course, is that the deceased Aunt Alicia solved her own murder, giving justice to an entire family. Without her voice, speaking from the spirit world through Debra Martin, there would have been no case.

Although the original TV recording of the mediumistic reading was never broadcast, an audio recording exists and Debra Martin is including a transcript of



The murderer (Photo: Spectrum Video and Film)

the sitting with Marita, her mother and son, in a forthcoming book, *Soul To Soul*. It consists largely of evidential readings, including others involving murder.

Debra is also an accomplished healer. Check out her websites: www.goldenmiracles.com and www.debraandsheri.com.

Debra is one of 20 evidential mediums who give their time freely to the Windbridge Institute for Applied Research in Human Potential in its exciting study of mediumship. Turn the page to read an in-depth interview with Julie Beischel, its co-director, about the important work it is doing. ■

“

Aunt Alicia solved her own murder, giving justice to an entire family. Without her voice there would have been no case

”

FURTHER READING

As well as her soon-to-be-published book, *Soul To Soul*, which will tell the full story of the Alicia Becerra case and others, Debra Martin is the author of three other books: *Believe Beyond Seeing*, *Direct Connect to God* and a children's book, *Me and My Angels* (all available on Amazon).

Julie Beischel's mediumistic discoveries

American scientist's exciting research at the Windbridge Institute is changing our perceptions of mediumship and after-death communications



“ They have repeatedly produced the evidence in readings that are conducted under strict test conditions that ensure no ‘leakage’ of data to the mediums and experimenters before and during the readings ”

YOU HAVE lost someone near and dear to you. You are open to the possibility of life after death and communication between the next world and this. So you decide to seek out a reputable medium and book your very first sitting.

If you seek advice about what to expect from that reading, chances are you will be told *not* to go hoping to hear from one particular person in the next world.

So, with great difficulty, you try to put aside your high hopes and the aching sense of loss that you have felt ever since they died.

Informal mediumistic rules that have been adhered to within Spiritualism for over a century and a half advise you to empty your mind and heart of expectations so as not to create barriers between yourself and the deceased person you would dearly love to hear from, as you embark on your first mediumistic encounter.

“You can’t expect the medium to have any control over what happens,” insists Julie Beischel, who trained in pharmacology and toxicology before a career switch that saw her setting up the Windbridge Institute for Applied Research in Human Potential in Tucson, Arizona, and becoming its director of research.

“The medium doesn’t have any control over who contacts her, any more than you

have control over who’s going to be on the end of the line when you answer the phone,” she explains.

It’s good advice, of course, because mediums are simply channels or conduits for the information they receive. It’s the dead who call us up, not the other way around. It’s *they* who decide whether or not they wish to communicate. Without their cooperation, nothing would happen.

And yet, having said all that, the truth is that Julie Beischel and her Windbridge Institute researchers, including husband Mark Boccuzzi, have shown that it is possible to hear from a loved one you have specifically requested.

What’s more, they have repeatedly produced the evidence in readings that are conducted under strict test conditions that ensure no “leakage” of data to the mediums or experimenters before and during the readings. In other words, all those concerned – mediums, sitters and researchers – are blinded to the various elements.

Despite that, the results are stunningly significant, raising important questions about how mediumship works and what further experiments should be conducted in order to achieve even greater understanding of the powers certain gifted individuals possess that enable them to relay messages from the dead.

Before reviewing those issues with Julie Beischel, *Psychic News* asked what had led to her career decision, a little over a decade ago, to change direction and embark on mediumship research.

"I have a very traditional, mid-Western Catholic family background of German origin, and I'd never heard of mediums. My mother, with whom I had a difficult relationship, had died a year or so earlier and I talked about her a lot with two aunts – her sisters – who came from Ohio to visit me and my sister in Arizona.

"The television was on in the background and it was showing John Edward's *Crossing Over*. 'What's the deal with that?' I asked. It intrigued me but, being a TV programme, I had no way of knowing how much I could accept at face value. As a scientist I was keen to answer that question for myself, and since I knew someone who was 'freshly dead' – my mother, who committed suicide – I decided to conduct my own investigation."

Beischel obtained the details of a medium – named only as Angela in her book *Among Mediums: a scientist's quest for answers* (see "Further Reading") – and drove for two hours from Tucson to Phoenix to keep an appointment with her.

It was, she tells us, her first and only reading from a medium. But it totally changed her life. At first sceptical, since some of the medium's statements made no sense to her at that time, Beischel slowly began recognising statements as being relevant to her grandmother and then her mother.

She leaves the reader to make his or her own assessment before observing: "Walking down Angela's driveway back to the car, I felt strangely normal for having just spoken with my dead mother. I decided that the only thing weird about the experience was that somehow it wasn't weird at all."

What was weird, however, was the reaction of some professors and fellow students, at the graduate school and hospital where she was studying and working, when she discussed the reading with them. She writes:

"As good scientists, most thought it was interesting and believed that the facts I conveyed reflected what had really happened. A couple, however, were too mired in their cultural, religious, and/or materialist worldviews and literally told me that what I was describing couldn't have happened.

"As someone with a tremendously strong sense of justice, I thought it was entirely unfair for trained scientists to conclude that a whole phenomenon was impossible even in light of testimony provided by one of their colleagues. I think that it was then and there that my future



Mark Boccuzzi, Windbridge co-director

as a mediumship researcher began."

Beischel began by analysing her own reading, discovering that 93 per cent of statements that related to her mother were correct. When she asked her aunts to score the reading they recognised statements as accurate that had meant nothing to Beischel. They gave the reading a similarly high mark.

The person who had recommended Angela through a mutual acquaintance was psychologist Prof Gary E. Schwartz who had conducted research with TV medium John Edward and others. She reported back to him on the successful reading with Angela and after a few meetings with him he offered her a post-doctoral fellowship in his laboratory at the University of Arizona.

Her study of mediums began in earnest as soon as she had finished her PhD. By 2007 her name was appearing on academic papers seeking a greater understanding of mediumship, first with Schwartz as co-author and later, following the establishment of the Windbridge Institute, with various other researchers, including Mark Boccuzzi, Adam J. Rock, Michael Bioso, Chad Mosher, Arnaud Delorme, Leena Michel, Dean Radin and Paul J. Mills.

The collaborators' expertise reflects the many different aspects of mediumship that Beischel and her team are already looking into and hope to explore in the future. What began as proof-oriented research looking for evidence of discarnate communication has now broadened into studies that explore the process and

“Beischel began by analysing her own reading, discovering that 93 per cent of statements that related to her mother were correct”

nature of mediumistic experiences.

It helps enormously having a husband who not only shares her passion for parapsychology (see "Love in a box") but also plays an active role in the research.

Quality control was introduced into the Windbridge Institute experiments by seeking out, testing and accrediting mediums whose readings are focused on providing evidence.

As a result, Beischel and her co-researchers now have a team of 20 first-class mediums who give their services free in the interests of science. Their readings, conducted under blind conditions, are designed to answer and destroy the many criticisms which sceptics have levelled at previous mediumship research,

claiming to provide proof that consciousness survives death.

Her first paper with Schwartz in 2007, published in *Explore, the Journal of Science and Healing* and titled "Anomalous information reception by research mediums demonstrated using a novel triple-blind protocol", caused quite a stir.

It involved eight mediums whose blind readings for sitters were scored highly, and "supported the conclusion that certain mediums are capable of anomalous information reception (AIR), the reporting of accurate and specific information about discarnates without prior knowledge about the discarnates or sitters, in the absence of any sensory feedback, and without using deceptive means".

Now, eight years later and working with other researchers, Beischel has



successfully replicated and extended those findings. The results, published in *Explore* at the beginning of this year (see: "Consistent and Significant Results"), demonstrate once again that when asked to provide information about deceased individuals for whom only a first name is provided, gifted mediums can do so with an impressive degree of accuracy and specificity.

This experimental protocol was deliberately designed to eliminate conventional explanations for the results achieved and provide evidence for non-local information transfer.

While it remains to be seen how sceptics will react to this impressive body of evidence, it must be recognised that the data collected does not prove life after death, though it adds considerably to the body of evidence in favour of that explanation for mediumship.

Beischel's mediumship research is about much more than pulling the rug from beneath the feet of dedicated sceptics with closed minds. As a scientist, she is particularly intrigued by the mechanics of mediumship and its implications and believes many benefits could emerge from a better understanding.

She recalls her one and only sitting with a medium. At the outset, Angela asked whether she wanted a psychic reading or communication with someone deceased. Beischel points out that certain gifted individuals are psychic and can "read" the past and future of the person consulting them, while others are mediums who can also communicate with deceased persons.

In both cases, a successful outcome involves obtaining "anomalous information" from somewhere. Early research suggests that psychics go in search of information about their client, psychically or telepathically, whereas mediums are receptive to information that comes to them from the deceased.

The Windbridge team have been exploring the differences between the two types of reading, both in turns of evidence received and in the perceptions of the mediums involved.

"That's the paper we're working on with Adam Rock right now," Beischel explains, "and we're finding those readings for deceased and living people share a lot of the same experiences: that whatever a medium is doing is they're using some kind of psychic ability, which was no surprise.

"What's really interesting with this small pilot study involving 10 mediums, is that they are asked to do a reading for a living person and a reading for a dead person, but they don't know which is which. In fact, it could be two living people, two dead people or one of each. They just get a first name.

"I don't know either: everybody's

blinded. Afterwards, they answer a questionnaire about their experience, and what we found was the experience for a living and a deceased person was very similar. But when we compare the two head-to-head, there is one statistically significant difference in this very small sample, and it related to love.

"When a reading was given for a named dead person, the medium experienced more love than she did when she was given a living person's name – though, of course, she was not informed about whether the names were of a living or dead person."

At some future date, if finding can be found, Beischel and her team hope to be able to use a functional MRI scanner to record the brain activity of their mediums whilst participating in such an experiment. The hope is that this will corroborate that the brain behaves differently depending on whether it is receiving information about living or dead people.

"We're the Windbridge Institute for Applied Research, so at the end of the day *applied research* is really our main interest," Beischel adds.

"We'd like to find practical ways of using the mediumship we are studying – to help people use it in their daily lives.

"Bereavement is an area of particular interest and I'd like to run a clinical trial that assesses the value of consultations with mediums."

In the 80s, grief counsellors developed a new model to help the bereaved, called Continuing Bonds. This taught people that they didn't have to accept the person had gone, instead they should accept that their relationship with that individual had changed; it has gone from being a physical to a spiritual relationship.

In addition, studies have shown that *spontaneous* after-death communications – feelings of a presence or other visual, auditory or sensory experiences – are very comforting to the bereaved.

"So it makes sense," Beischel observes, "that what we call *assisted* after-death communications, in other words a reading with a medium, would serve the same purpose. A sort of pilot study we did certainly indicated that is the case, but we need to do it on a larger scale to see if it really is beneficial."

And what could be more beneficial than using psychic abilities to help find missing persons?

"But that would require a lot of training and take a great deal of time to figure out exactly how to do it and build relationships with law enforcement... but it's definitely something in which we're interested.

"A number of mediums on our team have worked with law enforcement in their own practices," she confides, "and one of them – Debra Martin – was remarkably



Dean Radin, IONS senior scientist

Love in a box

NOT LONG after her sitting with a medium, Julie Beischel headed for California in the summer of 2005 to participate in a two-week parapsychology study programme run by the Institute of Noetic Sciences (IONS) in conjunction with the Rhine Research Centre.

Most of the students went off on a sightseeing tour one day but Julie decided not to, since she was familiar with the area. Mark Boccuzzi, who was from the San Francisco Bay area, had also seen the sights many times so he stayed behind, too.

They were virtually strangers, but both were intrigued by an experiment which Dean Radin, IONS senior scientist, had described and he agreed to let them try it.

"I was put in a Faraday box – a little room that was electromagnetically shielded – with a video camera. Mark was in another building with a TV screen linked to my video camera. His TV turned on and off randomly.

"Mark's job was to try to get my attention telepathically or psychically whenever he saw me on the screen and my job was to try to be aware of that. We were both wired up and our physiology was monitored by Radin."

The experiment demonstrated a remarkable connection between them "and we spent the next two weeks discussing this information that our bodies were talking to each other through time and space".

Mark later moved to Tucson to be with Julie, they married and co-founded the Windbridge Institute.

Beischel and Boccuzzi will reveal more in a book they are currently working on, titled *Psychic Intimacy: a Handbook for Couples*.

successful in a murder case" (see "Medium names murderer before crime detected", pages 14-16).

It is not only the bereaved who could benefit from Windbridge Institute's pioneering work. There could be health-related spin-offs for the mediums involved. By chance, Beischel reveals in *Among Mediums*, she discovered that "chronic medical problems may be a serious concern" for those who work in this field.

Informal enquiries among the institute's accredited mediums showed they have seven times the incidence of autoimmune disorders compared to the general US population and they are nearly twice as likely to suffer from diabetes.

"Examining mediums' physiology may uncover the underlying biological causes of these health issues and, in turn, lead to their management in the larger population." And for Julie Beischel and her Windbridge Institute colleagues that could be a discovery they never set out to make. ■

FURTHER READING

As well as being co-founder and director of research at the Windbridge Institute for Applied Research in Human Potential (www.windbridge.org), Julie Beischel is director of both the Spirits and Spirit Communication and the Survival and Life After Death research departments at the World Institute for Scientific Exploration (www.instituteforscientificexploration.org).

She is also Adjunct Faculty in the School of Psychology and Interdisciplinary Inquiry at Saybrook University, the world's premier institution for humanistic studies.

Her primary interests include empirical investigations of the information reported by mediums; studies of their unique experiences and physiological, psychological, and neurophysiological characteristics; and researching the socially beneficial applications of mediumship readings.

She has made her academic studies available to a wider public in the following very readable and often entertaining ebooks that are available from Windbridge's website: *Among Mediums: a Scientist's Quest for Answers* *From the Mouths of Mediums. Vol 1: Experiencing Communication* *Meaningful Messages: Making the Most of Your Mediumship Reading* All three are also available as a single print edition: *Investigating Mediums: a Windbridge Institute collection*.



CONSISTENT AND SIGNIFICANT RESULTS

YOU HAVE a sitting with a medium and receive evidence from loved ones who have passed over. But when you discuss that information with sceptics, they will argue that the medium was simply "reading" your verbal or physical responses to her cleverly-worded statements. It's known as "cold reading".

One scientific approach to eliminate this problem is for the medium and sitter to be beyond sight and sound. Or a proxy sitter has the reading on behalf of the person the communication is meant for.

If impressive results are still produced, sceptics will still argue that the medium was acquiring information telepathically from the proxy who was aware of the identity of the intended sitter and may have known personal details about him or her.

Sceptical criticisms of this kind led Dr Julie Beischel and her fellow researchers at Windbridge Institute to devise a system that tests mediums in a way that rules out all normal objections.

A total of 20 Windbridge Institute certified mediums were involved in 86 readings under strict conditions in a project and repeats and extends an earlier trial reported in 2007. The majority of the mediums, incidentally, are female and so, for simplicity of reporting, they are referred to as "she" or "her" in their report, regardless of their actual gender.

Both trials have achieved positive results as demonstrated in a paper titled "Anomalous Information Reception by Research Mediums Under Blind Conditions II: Replication and Extension" by Beischel, Boccuzzi, Bioso and Rock, published in *Explore, the Journal of Science and Healing* (Vol 11, Issue 2, published online 6 January, 2015).

In many ways, the experiment breaks all the rules. But the results are so impressive that sceptics will find it impossible to come up with plausible, normal theories to dismiss them. Here's why:

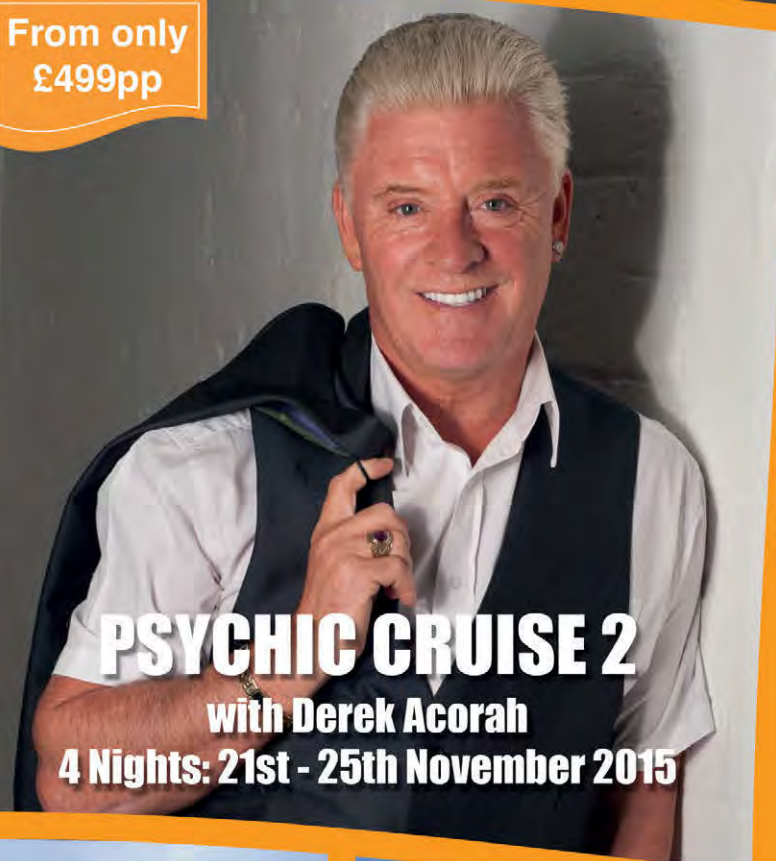
- The sitter is asked in advance to send a mental request to a deceased person they wish to hear from on a specific day and time.
- The medium is given only a first name of the deceased.
- The sitter does not know the medium who will give the reading.
- The medium does not know who the sitter is.
- A researcher (usually Beischel) calls the medium at a pre-arranged time and records the information provided by the medium about the named deceased person. The researcher is blinded as to the identity of the sitter.
- The medium is asked to give information only about the requested deceased person.
- The sitter receives transcripts of two readings: one relates to his or her deceased person and the other is a decoy reading meant for another individual.
- The sitter assesses the accuracy of statements in both readings as they relate to the deceased person nominated.

Time and again, the volunteer sitters have been able to identify which of the two readings they receive refers to the deceased person they wished to hear from.

The researchers conclude: "Because the experimental conditions of this study eliminated normal, sensory sources for the information mediums report, a non-local source (however controversial) remains the most likely explanation for the accuracy and specificity of their statements." ■

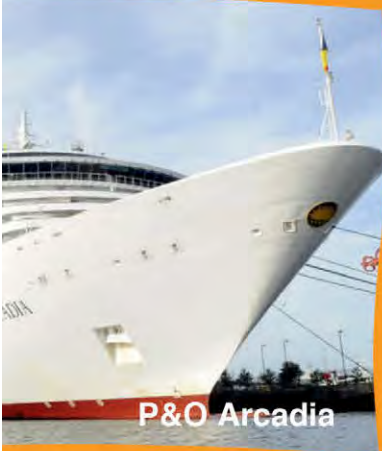
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ARE WE ALL PSYCHIC?

The evidence suggests we are – but will evolution rob us of this valuable gift?

BY EWAN IRVINE

AT THE very end of 2004 and ten days before the huge Indian Ocean earthquake caused giant tsunami waves to wreak havoc along the coastlines of 14 countries, wild and domestic animals seemed to know what was about to happen – and fled to safety.

According to reliable eyewitness accounts, the following events happened:

- Elephants screamed and ran for higher ground.
- Dogs refused to go outdoors.
- Flamingos abandoned their low-lying breeding areas.
- Zoo animals rushed into their shelters and could not be enticed to come back out.

It has also been noted that whereas the tsunami took over 220,000 human lives, relatively few animals were reported dead. This adds to growing speculation that animals somehow sense impending disaster: a belief that has been around for centuries.

There was a time when humans' own instincts were more animal-based but our sixth sense has largely been replaced by language skills. It could be that our psychic ability, through time, has been largely eroded by our evolutionary development and the need to adapt to a modern environment.

In childhood, we are taught right from wrong, we are conditioned in many ways to conform to society and its own rights and wrongs. How many times is a child told not to speak about an imaginary friend? And then, naturally, parents try to protect children from the harsh realities of life.

Such things as death become taboo.

Before we know it, we are conditioned for the big outside world and yet the animal kingdom largely stays as it was.

If we had kept our psychic ability throughout our human evolution and life conditioning, perhaps we, too, would be able to sense danger and fear *en masse*. Would we then be better prepared for nature's harsh events? But there are many non-dangerous situations where psychic ability can also play a useful role.

One example of this latent psychic talent is something that countless of us will have experienced when we look at a house for the first time. Whether buying or renting, most people will know if a

property feels right or wrong for them as soon as they walk through the door. At the end of the day, it is just bricks and mortar, but we have a feeling that it is either "right" or "wrong".

If it feels good then fine, but if it feels wrong: why? What are we picking up? We feel the very atmosphere of the house and let our senses take things from there. Many people will identify with that and I think it's a good example of the psychic at play.

It could be we are picking up on those who may be said to still have a presence in the vicinity, or maybe we are picking up on events from the past.

So what should we do if we fall in love with a property but our psychic senses warn us of "an atmosphere"?

Often a medium will be able to shed light on the reasons for this unease. As a medium who has been consulted in such cases, I will endeavour to seek the names of those whose presence is felt, describe events and the property's past history, and even pick up on how an area may have looked. A medium may even sense the smells of the past.

I recall a study on TV in which a number of individuals were sat behind a one-way glass window watching people arriving and queuing for an event. Those sat behind the glass would look down for a minute or two, then look out the window and stare at those in the queue.

Analysis of the behaviour of the people in the queue showed that most of them studied the one-way window more often when the unseen observers were staring at them.

There are, of course, other classic examples of psychic intuition in everyday life. How many times have you thought

“

So what should we do if we fall in love with a property but our psychic senses warn us of 'an atmosphere'?

”

the phone was going to ring and it does? You think of someone you have not seen or perhaps thought of in months or years and suddenly run into them or hear from them. Or you have a feeling of some sort of impending doom and an event happens.

A common comment made by heart attack patients is that they had a feeling of "impending doom" days or sometimes weeks before the attack itself.

There are also numerous stories of impressive psychic premonitions. This one dates back to World War Two and shows how latent psychic ability may have warned of impending danger.

Like many mothers who feared for their family's safety during the war, Mona Miller was evacuated from London to the peaceful seaside town of Babbacombe in Devon. It seemed like a wise precaution but, shortly after her arrival there with her young children, Mrs Miller became increasingly uneasy.

"I had a feeling that I must leave Devon and return home," she told me. "At first, I dismissed the idea; why leave when I was so happy and contented despite the war going on around me?"

"But the feeling increased. The walls of my room seemed to speak to me: 'Go home to London'. I resisted the call for about four months then, one day, like a flash of light, I knew we must leave.

"On a Saturday in late 1942, we travelled back to London and a few days later I received a letter from a friend in Devon. 'Thank God you took the children on Saturday,' she wrote. 'Early Sunday morning, Jerry dropped three bombs and one fell on the house where you were living, demolishing it, and killing all the neighbours on either side.'"

Mrs Miller was far from the only person to experience such forebodings during the war.

Just like the animal kingdom, do humans have a latent psychic talent that we could use to protect ourselves, to warn us of danger and to keep us safe?

The big question we still have to answer is: will this psychic ability eventually be lost by the human race or, as some people argue, will we regain this previous faculty, this sixth sense, as we evolve as a species and embrace a more spiritual way of life. ■

“
‘Thank God you took the children on Saturday,’ she wrote. ‘Early Sunday morning, Jerry dropped three bombs and one fell on the house where you were living, demolishing it and killing all the neighbours on either side’

”

Will you be the one to unlock the secrets of the pendulum?

*Successful dowser DEAN FRASER
reveals the methods and challenges
you to find out how it works*

I COME from a long line of dowsers although, strangely, I was never literally taught from one generation to the next. Until recently, my Uncle Brian was still the trusted person in his drought-ridden Essex village for finding water for the local farmers.

Word of mouth brought people knocking on his front door and he would always help if he were able. Out would come his hazel twig and he almost always managed to find water for the grateful farmer or landowner.

Personally, I find pendulums rather more portable and practical. A pendulum can be used in places rods could never go, with the added benefit of being far more easily stowed upon my person. Pendulums are also a little more discreet; rods or twigs do tend to attract an interested bunch of expectant spectators watching with bated breath to see the “wizard” perform!

The power and potential of dowsing is vast and perhaps only limited by our imagination. There are quite a number of individuals throughout the world who make an extremely good living working as professional dowsers offering their services to oil and mineral prospecting companies.

These people tend not to shout about their discoveries or seek publicity; mainstream science has traditionally frowned upon dowsing as not being scientifically provable (although, paradoxically, there are some open-minded scientists who dowse).

When I teach dowsing, I love to surprise my students by the amazing scope of uses for a pendulum. A few of the mind-boggling, infinite number of ways a pendulum can be applied include: choosing vitamins and minerals, testing food and drink, finding lost articles, psychic development, archaeology, discovering where to go on holiday or the perfect location to live, gold or oil prospecting, to answer virtually any question or unravel the truth and – of course – also to find water!

In teaching people to dowse I always feel I am giving them the

keys to a better understanding about themselves and the sometimes hidden world around them. I still get excited with them the first time it works and share a renewed awe for this unexplainable phenomenon.

Back in 1998, I wrote a little book entitled *Unlock Your Life With Pendulum Dowsing*: my first tentative foray into writing. Staying in print for a couple of years, this book went on to sell over 10,000 copies in my native United Kingdom and was advertised for sale in this very publication.

Other books followed and for a little while, more by word of mouth in a small scale way, I became one of the “names” of new thought and personal growth. As invitations arrived I travelled and talked to people about a possible different way of living. Recently, I decided it was time to update my long out of print book, keeping the essence of the original intact, and opting to just layer it with the added experience gained since my youthful first venture into writing.

Dowsing is easy

The art of dowsing with a pendulum is remarkably simple and easy. It's only the interpreting of the results that can become a little more challenging sometimes! You will, however, always get some sort of answer if asking a question.

The way a pendulum works is by responding to specific questions you ask of it by moving in one of three ways. The answer can be Yes, No or Maybe. It faithfully shows one of these answers every single time you ask a question and it does this by moving in a particular direction in response to the question, giving you the answer.

The movement a pendulum makes to answer a question can vary from person to person and can include clockwise or counter-clockwise rotation, forward and backward rocking, side-to-side rocking, diagonal rocking or even shaking. Don't concern yourself with all these variations, the important movements are the ones that you yourself get.

Take the pendulum in the hand you write with and ask the question, “What is my YES response?”

Your pendulum will start moving in a

specific direction. Next ask the question, “What is my NO response?” and your pendulum will again start moving, this time in a different direction. Finally ask, “What is my MAYBE response?”

You have now established three different movements to answer any questions you may have: Yes, No or Maybe. If you get a Maybe response it means you either need to rephrase the question or at that particular moment there literally isn't a Yes or No response possible and you might like to have a go again at some other time.

So what is dowsing then?

If dowsing has taught me anything it is that it can be amazing, enlightening and sometimes frustrating, because it does not always give you the answer you hoped for. Occasionally it can be even downright spooky when the insight gained suddenly manifests in life in a very unexpected way.

Inevitably, we come to that great unanswered question: “How does dowsing actually work?”

Oh, do you want me to tell you the answer? Sorry...I haven't got an idea! Well, okay, I do have a few, yet like anyone else my guess is as good as yours.

Many theories exist as to where the answers in dowsing come from:

- Is it coming from the etheric field of the Earth?
- Perhaps ley lines are involved?
- Is it entities from the spirit world helping us in this?
- Do the answers come from our own auras and then transmit through our fingers?
- Aliens perhaps?

My own theory is that to dowse is to be partially attuned to our own higher aspect of ourselves – call it spirit, soul or higher self: that part of us that exists on a higher level than our physical bodies.

We could be said to be literally helping ourselves when we dowse.

Give it a try. Perhaps you will be the one who will finally solve the riddle and prove beyond any doubt where the answers in dowsing are coming from. ■



“ The way a pendulum works is by responding to specific questions you ask of it by moving in one of three ways. The answer can be Yes, No or Maybe. It faithfully shows one of these answers every single time you ask a question... ”

Dean Fraser sees his mission in life as spreading some much needed laughter and love in this world. A veteran of many years seeking truths, Dean has introduced more people than he cares to remember to the dowsing pendulum. A writer and nationally-acclaimed performance poet, he is known as The Quantum Folk Poet for some reason that has become a little lost in the mists of time

This feature is an extract from *Unlock Your Life With Pendulum Dowsing*, available from Amazon at £2.99 UK and worldwide, and also from the American Society of Dowsters. Dean dedicates this book to all of you, with love.

www.facebook.com/unlockyourlife

ALL WORLDS ARE ONE

ROY STEMMAN

Speaking in tongues

MEMORIES of people, places and events feature prominently in reported cases of reincarnation. Typically, a child gives names of his previous parents or the village in which he lived – and research usually provides corroboration.

Since the reborn child usually incarnates in the same country as his or her previous existence, there's no need to learn a new language. Indeed, there are only a handful of cases, as far as I am aware, where a person claiming past-life memories seems to have memories of a foreign tongue.

It's a rare phenomenon known as glossolalia.

So imagine my surprise to learn of a woman who can speak 18 languages and attributes the skill to the fact that these languages were her mother-tongue in 18 past lives.

Maria Johnsen currently speaks Norwegian but she is also fluent in both spoken and written English, French, Russian, Chinese, Danish, Swedish and German. She also understands Bulgarian, Serbian, Persian, Afghan, Dari, Arabic, Hindi, Polish, Turkish, Italian and Japanese.

"The languages were so familiar to me when I learned them," she told the *Mirror* reporter Steve Myall, that reincarnation was the most likely explanation. "I can't think it can be anything else."

It's a view that several psychics have confirmed, she adds.

Maria is CEO and founder of a multilingual digital marketing company based in Trondheim, which may lead cynics to suggest that it's just a clever story to promote the business.

But her memories extend beyond language, it seems, because she claims to have been a member of the Russian Royal family, an American Indian and also to have lived in China during the Qin Dynasty in 221 BC.

If her memory for names and dates proves to be as good as her linguistic

recollections, and she cooperates with a seasoned researcher, it could provide superb evidence for rebirth.

Although I can't speak 18 languages, I think my raised eyebrows will easily convey my scepticism about the likelihood of that happening.

Short life, long memory

THERE is now an impressive literature on the evidence for reincarnation, and the features in this issue about Wayne Dyer and his new book (pages 28-31) indicate how open most cultures are to rebirth's possibility.

Interestingly, though the belief in past lives dates back a couple of millennia or more, the investigation and detailed examination of reported cases is a comparatively new phenomenon.

An early case, reported from Japan,

concerned a boy named Katsugoro, aged eight, who said he could remember living a past life as a boy named Tozo who had died from smallpox at the age of six.

Katsugoro named the village in which he had lived – Hodokubo – and gave an elaborately-detailed description of the family home. All of this was confirmed when he was taken to the village by his grandmother.

The case was thoroughly investigated by others, including leading scholars, and the Japanese authorities even compiled a report on his claims and the subsequent investigation which corroborated his statements. Despite it being a celebrated account of rebirth, Katsugoro became a farmer and lived a simple life until his death at the age of 55.

Why do I mention it? Because, remarkably, this year is the 200th anniversary of Katsugoro's birth and a commemorative exhibition featuring the famous reincarnation is now showing at the Shinsengumi Furusato History Museum in Hino, Tokyo, and will run through to 15 November.

"We want to pass down reports of this case to future generations as a rare example of documenting a rebirth while the person was still alive," says Sumie Kitamura, who works for the museum.

She is a member of a group of local residents who have put together exhibits relating to Katsugoro's life, as well as to similar Japanese rebirth cases.

Fear of paranormal surveys?

I CONFESS I take with a large pinch of salt the findings of most opinion polls, and the latest Chapman University Survey of American Fears, Wave 2 (2015) is no exception.

It sought responses on 88 different fears, such as crime, disasters, cyber attacks, technology and the government. But it also included questions on a range of paranormal beliefs, from Bigfoot to the



Maria Johnsen (Photo: Facebook)

power of dreams.

As a result, this survey tells us that 41.4% believe places can be haunted by spirits, 26.5% believe the living and dead can communicate with each other; 20.9% are sure dreams can foretell the future; and 18.1% accept that aliens have come to Earth in modern times.

All very fascinating, but what has this to do with fear? Some of these beliefs are positive, others are neutral.

The validity of the survey was further undermined when I discovered that it is based on responses from "more than 1,500 adults from across the nation and all walks of life".

The chances that this handful of respondents is truly representative of a population of 319 million people must surely be zero. The final nail in its coffin came from its claim to shed light "on certain characteristics of people who believe in the paranormal".

According to the Chapman University results, these believers have the following

traits: they exhibit low levels of church attendance, are non-white, Catholic, female, unmarried, have no college degree and live in the Northeast.

I've no idea who funds these surveys, but I could suggest a thousand better uses for the money spent.

Taken for a ride

FOR the 18.1% of Americans who believe Earth has been visited by aliens in modern times (see the Chapman University Survey findings) I have some good news.

The welcome news, if they fear aliens may abduct them, is that they can take out insurance against extraterrestrial kidnapping. According to *Insurance Business America*, the UFO Abduction Insurance Company, a Florida company that has been operating since 1987, is selling \$10m (£6.5m) coverage should the occupants of a flying saucer take you away against your will.

Apparently 5,000 worried Americans have bought policies for a one-time

payment of \$9.99.

Before all our readers get carried away – by the offer, not by aliens – I feel it my duty to point out a couple of flaws.

First, of course, is that you'll only get the payout if your ET abductors decide to return you. And secondly, assuming they only took you for a ride to show you other parts of the universe, you'll not receive a lump sum award on your safe return.

Mike St Lawrence, who runs the business, explains that if a policyholder satisfies him that he or she really has had a close encounter with aliens, they will be paid just \$1 a year for a period of 10 million years.

Conan Doyle's early beliefs

THERE is no doubt that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was a committed Spiritualist (see his link with Worthing Spiritualist Church, page 11), but were there other religious influences earlier in his life, after he gave up Catholicism?

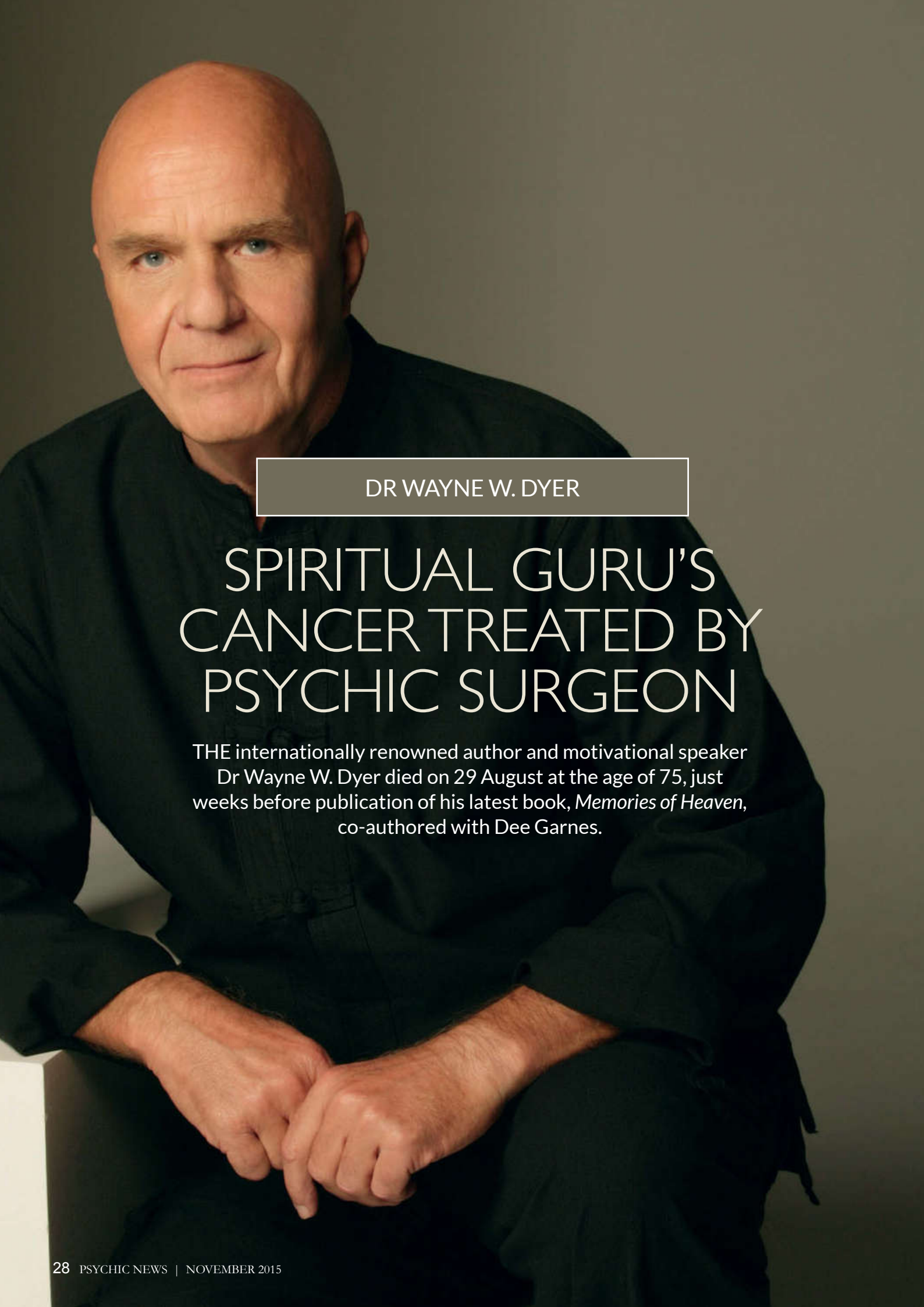
Roger Straughan, a Doyle enthusiast and author of *A Study In Survival: Conan Doyle solves the Final Problem*, has been probing the famous writer's religious outlook prior to World War One.

He shares his discoveries with the readers of the Unitarian Society for Psychical Studies' *Journal* (Issue 87), which is hardly surprising since Doyle was clearly drawn to Unitarianism as well as to a Theistic Church, run by Charles Voysey, which he attended in central London.

In his autobiography, Doyle explains that in his early years, "In a broad sense I was a Unitarian, save that I regarded the Bible with more criticism than Unitarians usually show". And in a letter to the Press, he later wrote: "I only know four cults – the original Buddhists, the Quakers, the Unitarians, and the agnostics – who can, I think, say that they have no blood on their hands".

Presumably, he added Spiritualism to that list after he fully embraced it. ■



A portrait of Dr. Wayne W. Dyer, a bald man with blue eyes, wearing a dark, long-sleeved shirt. He is sitting with his hands clasped in front of him, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

DR WAYNE W. DYER

SPIRITUAL GURU'S CANCER TREATED BY PSYCHIC SURGEON

THE internationally renowned author and motivational speaker Dr Wayne W. Dyer died on 29 August at the age of 75, just weeks before publication of his latest book, *Memories of Heaven*, co-authored with Dee Garnes.

The book is a fitting memorial to his career (see review, page 30) since it encapsulates a worldview that is spiritual and compassionate – in contrast to the outlook of some other self-help authors whose focus is more materialistic. It was not until the 1990s, however, that he acknowledged a spiritual dimension to his work.

It was confirmed in the announcement on his Facebook page: “Wayne has left his body, passing away through the night. He always said he couldn’t wait for this next adventure to begin and had no fear of dying.”

Ellen DeGeneres, comedian and TV host, was among the first to pay tribute to Dyer who had officiated at her wedding to actress Portia De Rossi.

Wayne Dyer authored almost 40 books, including inspirational, non-fiction and children’s stories, as well as creating many audio programmes and videos and being involved in two films. He also appeared on thousands of television and radio shows.

His very first book, *Your Erroneous Zones* (1976), became one of the best-selling books of all time, with estimated sales of 36 million copies. It was followed by titles such as *Manifest Your Destiny*, *Wisdom of the Ages*, *There’s a Spiritual Solution to Every Problem*, *10 Secrets for Success and Inner Peace*, *Change Your Thoughts – Change Your Life* and *The Power of Intention*.

Dyer held a doctorate in educational counseling from Wayne State University and was an associate professor at St John’s University in New York. But it was his love of public speaking and communicating his philosophy to large audiences that brought him international fame and led to numerous stage and TV appearances as “the father of motivation”.



Dr Wayne Dyer and Oprah Winfrey
Photo: Oprah Winfrey Network



John of God treats a patient (Photo: *Healing: Miracles, Mysteries and John of God*)

What resonated with so many people in his teachings was that they gave permission to throw off shackles and view life from a different perspective and with a new freedom.

“My purpose is to help people look at themselves and begin to shift their concepts,” he said. “Remember, we are not our country, our race, or religion. We are eternal spirits. Seeing ourselves as spiritual beings without label is a way to transform the world and reach a sacred place for all of humanity.”

On another occasion he said: “My beliefs are that the truth is a truth until you organise it, and then it becomes a lie. I don’t think that Jesus was teaching Christianity, Jesus was teaching kindness, love, concern and peace. What I tell people is don’t be Christian, be Christ-like. Don’t be Buddhist, be Buddha-like.”

Dwyer’s life, however, was not without its problems. He spoke openly about his early struggles with ego and alcoholism. He was married three times, separating from his third wife, Marcelene, with whom he had five children, in 2001, after 20 years of marriage.

A feature writer observed in September 2011: “If thoughts can perform miracles, then after suffering a heart attack, painful divorce and, more recently, leukemia, it might be said that Wayne Dyer’s theories aren’t working for him.”

Dyer admits the discovery in 2009 that he had chronic lymphocytic leukemia, which eventually leads to immune failure, was a shock. But then he learned to accept it, seeing illness and health as part of the same continuum.

He regarded the cancer as part of the body’s efforts to heal itself, regarding it as the body’s way of responding to deep

psychological traumas and unresolved conflicts, usually from the failure of relationships. One reason for his own cancer, he surmised, may have been the fact that his father abandoned the family and his mother placed him in an orphanage.

As well as his own positive attitude to the disease, Dyer also accepted an invitation from a medical colleague, an eye surgeon, to seek help from the Brazilian psychic surgeon known as John of God. Instead of accompanying her to Brazil, Dyer decided to have “spiritual surgery” remotely in his hotel room in Carlsbad, San Diego, from which he linked spiritually with John of God.

Dyer gave a full account of the procedures involved in a blog (www.drwaynedyer.com) and also spoke about it in depth on two Oprah Winfrey *Super Soul Sunday* programmes.

Five months later he was invited to the Omega Institute in Rhinebeck, New York, to attend a four-day gathering where John of God was appearing in person. He joined the 1,500 people dressed in white who filed past the healer each day so that the spirit entities who work with him could perform various surgeries.

When it was Dyer’s turn to stand in front of John of God, the psychic surgeon said to him, simply, in Portuguese, “You are well”.

Inevitably, on the announcement of his death at the end of August, some observers wondered whether it was cancer, after all, that brought his life to an end. That question has now been answered in a Facebook posting from his family.

It reveals that the coroner’s report shows the cause of death to have been a heart attack and that no trace of leukemia was found in his body. ■



BOOK REVIEW

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES...

These surprising recollections of pre-existence give us new insights into life and death



Wayne Dyer

MOST parents view their role in life as teachers, particularly when their children are young, as they endeavour to bring out the best in their offspring and prepare them for adulthood.

But a new book, *Memories of Heaven*, by spiritual self-help guru Dr Wayne W. Dyer (see page 28) and co-author Dee Garnes, suggests that it is we who have as much to learn from our children and grandchildren as they have from us.

Dyer, the father of eight children, was always fascinated by each new addition to his family. In fact, he says he has enjoyed a lifetime love affair with children, particularly newborns, infants and toddlers.

"I have spent countless hours simply gazing into the eyes of a brand-new arrival into our family," he writes. "In these private moments, I often send silent inquisitive messages asking them to tell me about God and what the formless spiritual world is like."

That may seem like a tall order for an

infant that has not yet learned to talk, but Dyer believes our children have much to share with us about their life before birth and will do so when they are ready.

In support of his argument, he quotes the following line from William Wordsworth's *Ode: Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood*: "Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting".

Dyer believes that many children bring with them memories of their previous existence and are eager to share it if we will listen, until those memories fade.

It was a theme he had often discussed with Dee Garnes, a long-time friend, colleague and assistant. "We talked about how the ones who know the most about God are those who have just recently been wrapped in the arms of the Divine," he explains.

So, soon after Dee's first child, Marcus, was born Dyer urged her to ask him questions about God or what heaven was like. In fact, there were occasions when he



didn't need questions, making unprompted observations of his own, such as when he placed his tiny hands on Dee's tummy, patted it gently, and declared "Baby! Baby!"

She had no idea she was pregnant at that time, "Yet Marcus, in his infinite wisdom, sensed this beginning miracle growing within me and announced it with absolute certainty."

Curious about this phenomenon, Dyer and Garnes decided to issue an invitation on Facebook to parents all over the world to share their experiences. The response, which ran into many thousands, was overwhelming and led to the creation of *Memories of Heaven*.

"So many of the stories that my own children relayed to me when they were just learning to talk, which I thought were unique to me and our family, have actually turned out to be quite universal in nature," Dyer tells us.

"Countless people gave us almost identical stories about children reporting how they remembered choosing their parents for this journey, how they had invisible friends that only they could see, memories of past lives in the same family, visitations with God, and on and on."

Some even spoke about long-deceased family members they knew while in a spiritual dimension.

Inevitably, the book's content, consisting of parental testimonies, is largely anecdotal but what it lacks in hard facts – how can your child prove his or her memories of heaven are real? – it makes up for by highlighting remarkable similarities in many of the experiences.

Helpfully, the authors have grouped

these memories into themed collections covering eight chapters. They range from *Memories of Heaven* and *Memories of Past Lives* to recollections of *Mystical and Precognitive Wisdom* and *Angel Stories*.

Interestingly, some of these themes mirror those that emerge in the detailed accounts of children with past life memories whose claims have been thoroughly investigated by parapsychologists.

In such cases, children discuss family names, locations, skills and customs that can be verified. Prof Ian Stevenson's work in this field is well known. Though the evidence in *Memories From Heaven* is not of the same quality, its testimonies are powerful and emotional.

Els Van Poppel, a Queensland, Australia, mother whose son Cairo was born in 1993, recalls an incident when he was about 22 months old and they were walking towards a road. She grabbed his hand and told him of the dangers of traffic.

"Yeah," he said, very matter-of-factly, "otherwise I'll die again."

"Die again?" I was stunned as I looked at him.

"Yeah, 'member? When I was little and I fell and my head was on the road and the truck drove over it?"

His mother stood speechless, surprised at his sudden use of speech and trying to figure out where the bizarre and quite detailed remark came from. She asked if he had had a scary dream.

"No," he insisted loudly. "When I was little and fell on the road and the truck drove over me, 'member?!"

He stared at her insistently, frustrated that she had apparently forgotten such a



Dee Garnes

big event in his young life.

One of Dwyer's own children, Serena, "would literally converse in a language that was foreign to everyone in our family" while she was sleeping. She also told his wife: "You are not my real mother. I have a real mother that I remember, but it's not you."

He summarises his openness to such recollections with these words:

"I myself have had a very powerful journey to a previous life, and I have had my mind expanded by my close association with many highly respected scholars who have provided convincing testimony for the reality of the infinite spiritual realm.

"But it is out of the mouths of these babes, who have recently shown up here and still have some remnants of heaven clinging to them – which they talk about unequivocally – that we are all provided with clues to the world beyond."

***Memories of Heaven* by Wayne W Dyer and Dee Garnes (Hay House UK), £9.99. ■**



SPIRITUALIST VIEWPOINT

THE WORLD IN UNION

BY DAVID HOPKINS

WE LIVE in a divided world. It is divided in a variety of areas: religious belief, political philosophy, social class, wealth, fame and much more.

Time and time again we see, hear of and read about how these differences affect individual lives, communities and even nations. It would not be unreasonable for an independent observer to assume that division, disagreement and conflict are humankind's major drivers.

Indeed, to an extent this is true. Even the briefest glance at any form of news media reinforces such contentions.

Claims and counter-claims over territory abound. "My bombs are less bad than your bombs" is the implication of many of these claims. When one side sends its planes to attack (or defend – depending on your viewpoint!), that side

asserts its right to do so in defence of its country, citizens and commercial interests whilst, at the same time, proclaiming that "the other side" (which is also making exactly the same claims) is in violation of "something" (international law, United Nations mandates, treaties, moral justice, and so on).

As with beauty, "truth" is in the eye or mind of the one who perceives.

If a member of *your* family had been killed by a bullet, bomb, "improvised explosive device", grenade, land mine, artillery shell, chemical spray, cluster bomb or any other implement of death and destruction, would you be particularly



“

A solution may lie
in looking at those
things that bring us
together rather than
wrench us apart

”



concerned about whether its origin was from east or west?

The posturing we hear from all sides disguises the reality – your mother, father, child, sibling, friend is gone.

A solution may lie in looking at those things that bring us together rather than wrench us apart: music, for example. Opinions on and attitude towards music vary immensely. Just think of some of the different genres of music that can be heard across the airwaves.

Here, in the UK, you can tune in to the wonderful BBC and turn the dial to access a range of music but within a particular spectrum from Radios One, Two and Three. Then there are all the other radio stations, offering a mix across their areas of interest.

There's something for the opera buff, the lover of 16th-century choral music, the country fan, devotees of jazz (in its many forms), the person who revels in orchestral sounds or 1970s rock'n'roll or 'garage' or hip-hop or 'big band' or

Well, yes, I could go on (and on!) but you will have got the message by now. A huge array of types and styles, and armies of varying sizes of followers of each of those different manifestations of 'sound' exists. Among themselves, there will be discussion on whose version of Tchaikovsky's 1812 overture is preferable, whose interpretation is nearest to a composer's goal, whose playing best brings out the subtle nuances of the piece, whose rendition of the words best conveys the meaning, and so on.

In other words, we have huge numbers of people with many different viewpoints sharing their enjoyment of one or more (perhaps many) varieties of music, each responding differently to this vast range of sound produced by dozens of instruments of many shapes and sizes, plus the immense variety in what can be produced by the human instrument.

Intense discussion, disagreement, even argument – but with an understanding that one man's "chord" is another man's "discord". It is because we accept that there is such a wide variation in the appreciation of "noise", in its many guises, that we seek to accommodate as wide a range as we can, knowing that some will gain large audiences but realising that small audiences and specialist views have the right to be catered for.

Music brings together people of many nationalities, backgrounds, languages and

tastes. You don't have to be able to speak French, Italian, German, Spanish or English to listen to an operatic aria sung in one of those languages to enjoy the quality of the music and the singing.

The ear and mind resonate to the beauty of the "package" even if the mind does not understand the meaning of the words or the ear cannot pick out an "A flat" from a "C sharp". The sound that is produced and the response it achieves transcend the minutiae. Put another way, the whole becomes so much more than the sum of its parts.

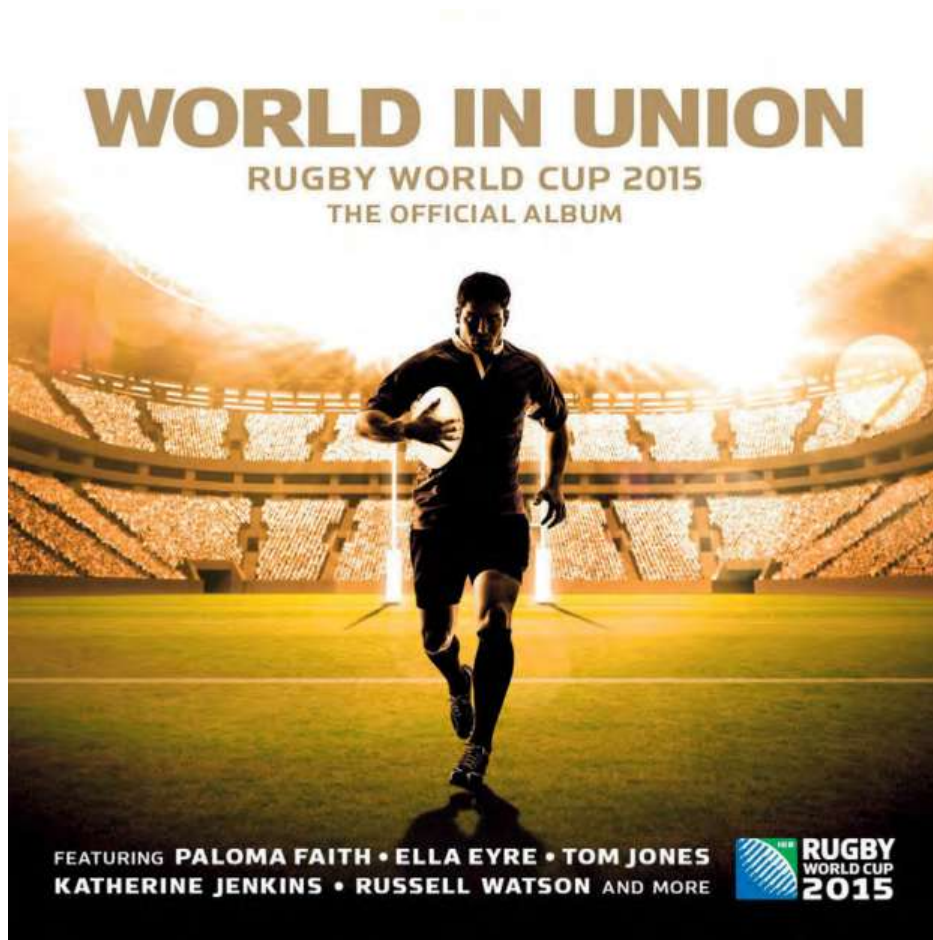
One can extend this argument to art and literature where a similar acceptance can be found of stylistic differences – from "the Old Masters" to the Impressionists, from Shakespeare to J K Rowling.

We reach a simple conclusion: we are individuals, with an enormous variety of tastes, likes and dislikes, with no-one having the right to claim to be wiser or more knowledgeable – and certainly not better or more right – than any other.

Sport is an excellent example of an activity that is seen to divide but also link us in a shared interest. Sportsmen and women from every country in the world are currently gearing-up for what will be a once-in-a-lifetime challenge and opportunity: to compete alongside the greatest athletes in their area of competition in the world at this time.

Most know that their chances of standing on the podium and having a medal (gold, silver or bronze) placed around their neck is well-nigh impossible; yet however slight or great their chance, they will train until they almost crack under the strain, happy to get the opportunity to





“ Behind all this sporting conflict have been the themes of friendship and togetherness embodied in rugby’s anthem ”

be amongst those who run fastest, throw furthest or jump highest.

They will compete and use every morsel of effort, courage, skill and determination, come what may. If they succeed, they will share their honour with their teammates and their country and if they lose they will cheer the victor, thus showing the highest of human qualities and values.

The Olympics are seen as the greatest sporting event in the world. As I write, what has been called the third greatest sporting event is taking place – the Rugby World Cup. Over a period of years, countries have been playing matches to move to the stage where they join the major rugby nations in these finals.

By the time you read this, the results will be known, but already there has been jubilation and heartbreak among the 20 countries competing. The host nation, England, the country in which I live, knows it cannot reach the later stages of the tournament, whilst the country of my birth, Wales, has qualified. In eight days, the pride of England has been severely dented; the recriminations have started; the call for heads to roll made.

However, what is certain is that by next spring old rivalries in another rugby contest – the “Six Nations” of European countries – will be a call to action and

endeavour; pride will again swell under English banners.

What has been noticeable about the matches so far is the sense of camaraderie that has existed, with fans applauding good moves by opponents, cheers and support being given to “underdogs” and supporters coming together before, during and after matches to share the occasional cup of tea – or possibly something stronger!

New friendships have been formed and respect given to nations whose rugby pedigree is limited. We have seen Canada and the USA make these finals (can it be that our American friends have finally realised how the game with the oval ball *should* be played?) and small island nations, represented by players with enormous pride, have done well.

The Japanese team’s victory over South Africa was certainly a shock-horror moment! Every player has stretched muscle and sinew to give their all, physically and mentally. Exhausted men have left the field of play, elated or depressed. And the sport has been enhanced by their efforts.

Behind all this sporting conflict have been the themes of friendship and togetherness embodied in rugby’s anthem. Originally part of Holst’s *Planets Suite*, the music was adapted to become the patriotic

I Vow to Thee My Country and then Charlie Skarbek added words for the Rugby World Cup song, *A World In Union*. This took it from being national to something truly global.

*It’s the World in Union
The World As One
As We Climb to Reach Our Destiny
A New Age Has Begun*

What better expression of brotherhood could there be? What finer example of Unity of Purpose for the future? What greater inspiration for humankind through the values of Spiritualist truths and Principles?

The teams and fans have now dispersed to their homes all over this world but the message remains: to stand a guiding beacon to all, a dream for every individual and every nation. Let each of us commit to ensure that truly this is *a World in Union* and that *a New Age Has Indeed Begun*. ■



David Hopkins is a Spiritualists’ National Union minister, author and broadcaster.

GOOD VIBRATIONS AND POWERFUL MANTRAS

BY BILLY ROBERTS

“

Whatever your view, let us explore some extremely effective methods to encourage the potential you do possess

”

MEDIUMS are born and not made, and no amount of workshops, courses or seminars will successfully encourage the development of mediumistic skills if the potential is not already present. That has always been my view.

Although the general consensus of opinion is that everyone is psychically inclined, I am not certain that this is the case; and I am sure that intuitive skills are frequently mistaken for psychic abilities.

Some people's work seems to make them more intuitive than others and also makes it much easier for them to assess situations and people more accurately than others. This tends to occur more with those such as doctors, policemen and others who serve the general public.

Regardless of what I believe, I have no doubt at all that a person's full potential, whatever that is, may be released and cultivated with certain exercises. This process involves various methods to encourage heightened states of sensory perception, thus encouraging the development of a person's real skills.

Instead of focusing on one aspect of your alleged "paranormal" skill, you

should really turn your consideration to all your capabilities, with the sole intention of cultivating the strongest inclination, whether that be a creative, psychic or mediumistic tendency.

My approach to development involves a holistic process, designed primarily to encourage the full development of the person you really are. Desperately wanting to be a medium does not necessarily mean that you are mediumistically inclined, any more than wanting to be a healer means that you have the power to heal.

This may well contradict the beliefs of many diehard Spiritualists who nearly always affirm that everyone is mediumistically inclined: a belief with which I totally disagree. Whatever your view, let us explore some extremely effective methods to encourage the potential you do possess.



PSYCHOMETRY

An ideal way of enhancing one's sensitivity and also of encouraging the gift of clairvoyance is "vibroturgy", a Rosicrucian term more commonly known in Spiritualist parlance as "psychometry". Working on the premise that all objects are impregnated with the vibrations of all those who have come in contact with them, the process involves handling a particular item, such as a piece of jewellery, perhaps a ring or watch, to see what impressions you get from it.

Ideally, it should be an item belonging to someone you do not know, but something about which the information you glean can be confirmed. During the process of psychometry, impressions quickly pass through the consciousness, so it helps to have a notepad and pen at your side to write down the images that impress you. Here's what to do:

- Sit quietly on a comfortable chair, holding the object gently in your hands with your eyes closed.
- Make sure that you hold it in both hands, using as many fingers as possible during the process.
- Now, examine all its qualities, and feel the weight of the object, its shape, texture and even its temperature.
- Within moments, images should begin to pass quickly through your mind.
- Try not to allow your mind to wander even for a moment, as this will interfere with the way your mind processes the images.
- Be mindful of unusual sensations and other impressions, however ambiguous.
- In the initial stages you will need to take a moment to make a note of everything that passes through your mind. When you become more proficient this will not be necessary.

When the exercise is over, read the things you have written down to the person who gave you the artefact. You should hopefully be amazed just how accurate you have been. Remember

though, as with everything you undertake, it will improve with practice.

Psychometry can also be practised with an item of clothing or even by placing your hands on the wall of an old building. This method of divination can only really be used to ascertain the historical facts about an item and not to communicate with a disembodied entity, as many mistakenly believe.

Occasionally spirit communication does occur, particularly if it is relevant to the artefact you are holding.

TELEPATHY

Telepathy is the metaphysical process of mind-to-mind communication and is the fundamental principle underlying the process of mediumship. Although telepathy can be successfully practised between two "living" individuals, during the process of mediumistic communication, telepathy involves the transmission of thoughts from a discarnate to an incarnate mind.

During the mediumistic process of telepathic communication, extraneous thoughts (over which you have no conscious control) pass quickly through your mind. The more you experiment with telepathy, the stronger and more efficient your telepathic awareness will become. The following little exercise, for which you will need to enlist the help of four or five friends, will help:

- You should all sit quietly with your eyes closed. Breathe rhythmically until the rhythm is fully established, making certain that the inhalations and exhalations are evenly spaced.
- Mentally focus your attention on a selected member of the group, still with your eyes closed. Keep the person you have chosen in your mind for a minute or two.
- Now, send him or her a mental command, such as "scratch your face or head".
- Mentally see that person actually doing what you have instructed.
- Finally, on the conclusion of the experiment, each member

“

The spiralling mantra is also an extremely effective way of dissipating negative energy that is perhaps the cause of paranormal disturbance of some kind

”

of the group should reveal who they focused on during the experiment and what instruction he or she transmitted. See how many of the group were actually aware of the telepathic transmission, and if they did what was asked of them. You can also modify the experiment by adding an idea of your own to it, just to make it even more interesting.

ENERGY AND HEALING

Some years ago, I created an exercise for dissipating negative energy and creating a powerful healing force. I call it the “spiralling mantra”, for reasons that will become apparent.

If possible (but not entirely essential), there should ideally be even numbers of men and women to make it more effective. The number of those involved is not that important, although the more people involved, the more powerful the results. In fact, the group can consist of as few as eight people and have as many as 50, or even more. Before beginning, it must be decided who is to take control of the circle, and this person will say when it will begin and conclude. Here's what to do:

- A perfect circle should be formed, alternating between male, female and so on.
- An individual who is feeling out of sorts, or perhaps is just in need of healing, should sit in the centre of the circle with his or her eyes closed, hands resting lightly on top of one another, palms facing upward.
- Each person in the circle should have the left hand palm facing upward, with the right hand of the person seated on his or her left placed palm down on theirs; and the right hand palm down, placed on the left hand of the person on his or her right, thus forming a perfect circuit round the circle.
- The chanting is an integral part of the spiralling mantra as this, along with the closed circuit of the group, creates the power.
- Although any word with mystical significance may be chanted, I have always used the word “Ksham” (silent K and sounded as “sham”). This is the Bija-Mantra that represents

Ajna, the brow chakra. It is an extremely powerful mantra that really does have a holistic effect.

- The chanting is not performed simultaneously, but with half a second between each intonation. The first person, preferably a man, inhales a complete breath before chanting ‘KSHAM’. The person on his left begins chanting the same as soon as she hears the sound leave his lips. Then the next person follows, so each person's chant is slightly staggered.
- It is important to sustain the sound, if you can, until the chanting comes round to you again. Once you feel it has nearly reached you, quickly inhale a complete breath ready to release your sound.
- The chanting needs to be carried out as loudly as you possibly can, and should persist for at least five minutes.
- Remember, the hands must remain connected to the person either side of you all through the chanting process, even when the chanting has stopped, thus maintaining the circuitry.
- On the conclusion of the chanting, the group must remain silent with eyes closed for a few minutes, before rising to gently touch the person seated in the centre of the circle, thus discharging the powerful healing force into them.

Whoever is seated in the centre nearly always likens the experience to being inside a belfry, giving them an invigorating and calming sensation all over. The chanting also creates a lot of heat which is felt by anyone outside the circle.

As explained earlier, the spiralling mantra is also an extremely effective way of dissipating negative energy that is perhaps the cause of paranormal disturbance of some kind. Everyone in the circle benefits in some way from the chanting experience which always leaves the entire surrounding atmosphere peaceful and serene.

The spiralling mantra is an excellent way of cleansing and streamlining the atmosphere of a Spiritualist church or centre.

Billy Roberts is available for workshops, talk and demonstrations of Clairvoyance. Email him: billyroberts01@talktalk.net ■

Your Spiritual Art

This month we showcase the contemporary work of energy worker Wendy Hughes from Somerset, UK. "I don't always know what I am painting, I just paint whatever Spirit gives me," she told *Psychic News*. "I was originally given various paintings for myself but then Spirit started giving me work for other people." Below, Wendy discusses her art and how it all began.



As a child I saw Spirit, but didn't understand what I was seeing. Then about eight years ago, I had a strong feeling I was holding a very fine paintbrush in my hand. This feeling would not go away.

Around this time I went on holiday and visited Glastonbury where I had a reading from a medium who saw a Native American man standing by my side saying I should sit with some paints and a canvas. It took me six months to build up the courage before I actually sat down to paint.

After the first painting, I took one look and burst into tears. It just looked like something a child could do. Before I started to paint, I was doodling on a paint pad to try to get used to the medium as I had never used acrylics before. A couple of weeks later, I was looking at the doodling when I saw to my surprise that I had painted two candles and a Native American Indian with one feather in his headdress.

I then had another look at the first painting on canvas I had done and realised there was form and beauty in its colours (see 'The Beginning' on page 40). That encouraged me to start painting again, and it just started to flow.

Over the years I have done many



New Life (above)

paintings for people who sit with me. The energies come through for them on to the canvas. I have sometimes had messages that come through for the person, but usually the message is in the painting for them.

This led me on to other spiritual work; I went on to learn Usui Reiki and I am now a Reiki Master. I have always had an affinity with colour, and now I also work with crystals in a healing capacity.

The medium I work with is acrylic and I was guided to put Swarovski crystals on the paintings wherever I see dots appearing.

I never know at the time what I am painting. It is only afterwards that I stand back to look at the paintings as a whole and the following is my interpretation of them.

'Light of the Spirit' (left) depicts my three spirit guides revealing

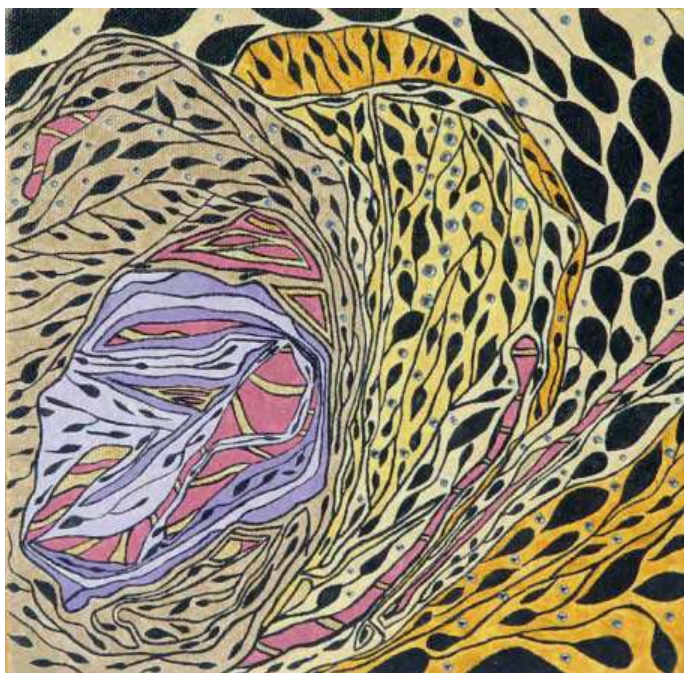


Light of the Spirit (above)

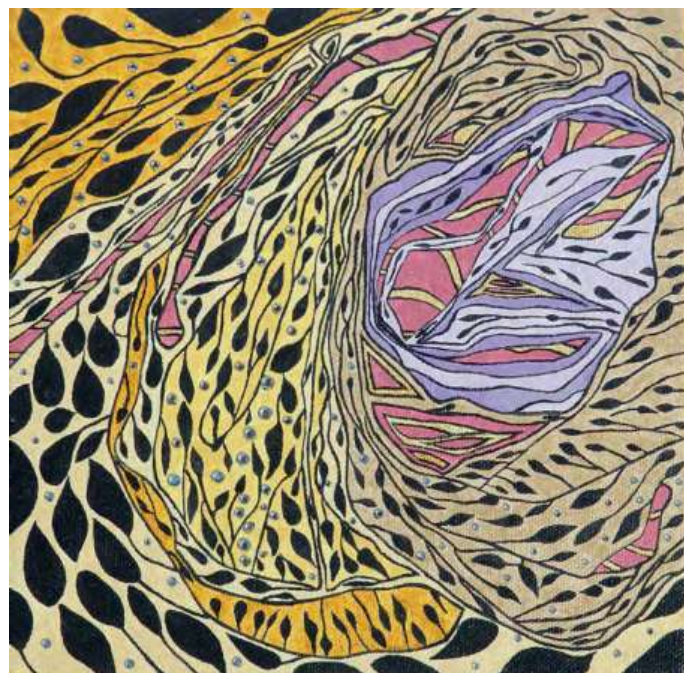
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FREE
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As One (above)



As One - reversed (above)

themselves to me the time I first started to paint.

'New Life' (page 38, top right) tells the story of a human hand wanting to remove an egg from the snake at the entrance of the cave. Inside the cave you can see the remainder of the body of the snake. As you move around the painting, you can see some sort of amphibian attacking the snake's babies. You can then see the bones of this amphibian after the snakes have killed it, along with the remains of other dead creatures. In the middle of the painting you start to see colour again which represents birth and new blood. Standing back from the painting and looking at it overall, you can see the profile of a small child looking up to the light.

'As One' (above) represents balance and the male/female energies. When you look at the painting you can see the profile of a male Native American wearing a headdress with the feathers rising upwards and above his head. If you turn the painting upside down, it depicts the profile of a female Native American with her hair in braids, falling downwards.

'A Mother's Love' (bottom right) is what I was given just before my mum passed to the spirit world.



A Mother's Love (above)

Continued on page 40



'The Beginning' (top left). This is my first painting. It is the colour of creativity or the sacral chakra. At the time I was eating so many satsumas – I just couldn't get enough of them!

'Mother Mary' (above). I am very often given images within the brush strokes and if you look carefully at the white in the painting, there is a vision of Mother Mary with her hands in a prayer position.

'Unity' (bottom left) depicts parts of people's faces from around the world.

• For more work by Wendy Hughes please see her Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/crystalstairwayart



Sandy Ingham

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Psychic Artist*






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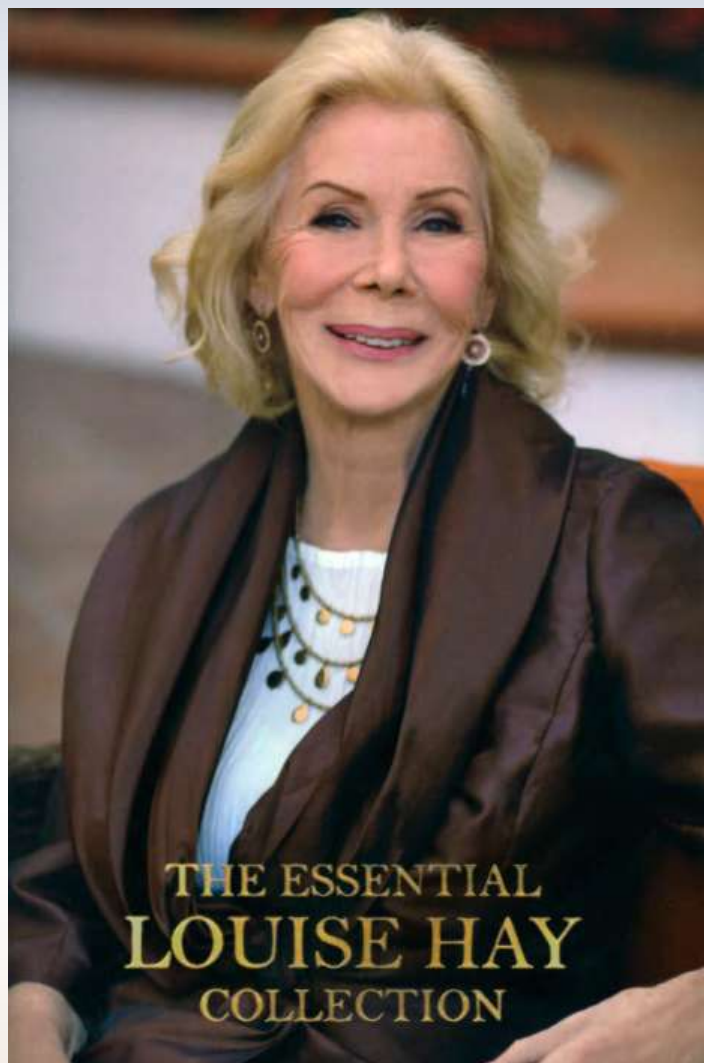
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We have three copies of Hay House's *The Essential Louise Hay Collection* to give away as prizes in this month's sudoku competition.



For decades, Louise Hay has helped people throughout the world discover and implement the full potential of their own creative powers for personal growth and self-healing. In this single volume, you will find three of her most beloved books:

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Louise Hay is a metaphysical lecturer, teacher and New York Times best-selling author with more than 50 million books sold worldwide. Louise is the founder and chairman of Hay House, Inc., which disseminates books, audios, DVDs and other products that contribute to the healing of the planet.

For your chance to win one of the copies, complete the sudoku puzzle and send the numbers which appear in the shaded centre row, from left to right, along with your name and address to:

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You can also enter by email to: pneditorials@gmail.com
The closing date for entries is 4th January 2016.

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How to solve sudoku: Place a number from 1-9 in each empty cell so that each row, each column and each 3x3 block contains all the numbers from 1-9.

CONGRATULATIONS

The winners of the August sudoku competition to win a copy of Doris Collins' *A Woman of Spirit* and *Positive Voices* in one volume are:

Mrs Hitchens, Helston, Cornwall;
John Mason, Vale of Glamorgan;
Elaine Dale, Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire;
Gwen Chapman, Derbyshire;
Vicki Bradburn, Wolverhampton.

The solution to the puzzle is: centre line numbers **736 491 258**.



The winner of the James Van Praagh competition to win a Skype Reading with James is **Helen Moore from Middlesex**.
Answer: The best-selling book and two-part TV movie starring Ted Danson based on James' life is **Talking To Heaven**.

HELEN DUNCAN

One of Britain's best materialisation mediums?



“

Brigadier Firebrace was present at a Helen Duncan séance when her spirit guide Albert Stewart announced that a British battleship had just been sunk and 1,400 spirits had newly arrived in the afterlife

”

THERE IS really only one word that sums up Victoria Helen Duncan's physical mediumship to the satisfaction of sceptics and believers alike: *controversial*. At her best she was surely one of the United Kingdom's best materialisation mediums. At her worst – through illness perhaps, or over-sitting – the phenomena she produced were questionable.

Sceptics dismiss her as a blatant fraud. Believers insist she possessed amazing mediumistic gifts. And the rest of us are left wondering, nearly 60 years after her passing, how various individuals could have reached such diametrically opposed views about the true nature of the phenomena they witnessed.

Critics, including some psychic researchers and groups of Spiritualists who tested her, concluded that this short, overweight Scottish woman, who was usually strip-searched before each séance, somehow managed to hide items on or within her body that she then used to simulate the appearance of spirits forming in dimly-lit séance rooms.

Even her most ardent supporters are prepared to accept that she may have faked some of the paranormal effects which were observed, or that the quality of her mediumship simply deteriorated dramatically under certain circumstances. There were police raids that reinforced that view and, of course, a widely-publicised Old Bailey war-time trial which ended in her imprisonment. This, it now seems, had more to do with the country's security than it had to do with her mediumship.

Sceptics have had a field day ever since. But times are changing and maybe it's now time to reassess the importance of Helen Duncan's mediumship. The College of Psychic Studies has set the ball rolling by putting her portrait on display, alongside those of Eileen Garrett and Leonore Piper, at its Queensberry Place headquarters (see PN October 2015).

It was in this building in 1931, when it was known as the London Spiritualist Alliance (LSA), that Duncan failed to satisfy a test committee, leading to a highly critical

report, suggesting that the “ectoplasm” she produced was cheesecloth which she swallowed in advance and regurgitated during a series of séances – a theory also proposed by psychical researcher Harry Price.

So why the change of mind?

After that failed series of test séances, we learn, senior members of the association sat with Helen Duncan elsewhere and put on record the remarkable phenomena they witnessed. They included Brigadier Roy Firebrace, one of its presidents, and Harold Vigurs, a vice-president.

As well as being a researcher and astrologer, Firebrace also served as Head of the British Military Mission in Moscow during the Second World War and held other senior security posts overseas and in the UK. He later testified that he was present at a Helen Duncan séance on 27 May, 1941, when her spirit guide, Albert Stewart, announced that a British battleship had just been sunk and 1,400 spirits had newly arrived in the afterlife.

Immediately after the séance he went to his office and made enquiries of the Admiralty. Some hours later he received a phone call confirming that *HMS Hood*, an Admiralty-class battle cruiser, had been destroyed by two German warships. The loss was a huge blow and the Government decided that national security required the sinking to remain a secret.

Later that same year, a sailor who had drowned in the sinking of *HMS Barham* materialised at a séance in Portsmouth and spoke with his mother. This loss was also not an event the government wished to confirm and so, once again, Helen Duncan's séance revelations were increasingly seen as a threat to national security.

Firebrace admitted that he was even consulted on how Helen Duncan could be prevented from revealing state secrets. "It is a fact," he stated, "that the police from Scotland Yard did come to the International Institute [for Psychical Investigation – which was founded in London in 1934 – Ed] while these stories were current, and consulted Mrs Duncan there, and myself, as to how Mrs Duncan could be prevented from giving this information."

He never revealed what advice he gave them but the implication is that they *knew* Helen Duncan was a genuine medium. The ensuing police raids and high-profile trial designed to ridicule her mediumistic abilities seem to have been MI5's solution to their dilemma.

Regardless of the controversy surrounding her mediumship, it must be noted that she had numerous supporters, 300 of whom were prepared to testify on her behalf at her Old Bailey trial. Of these, 40 were called and described in detail the remarkable evidence of survival of death they had received at her séances.

A wealth of testimony can also be found in books and parapsychology journals from eyewitnesses who were satisfied that they had come face-to-face with their materialised loved ones and had meaningful conversations with them.

The following brief examples capture the essence and impact of these remarkable encounters and bear witness to the fact that no amount of cheesecloth or other artefacts could produce such results.

Personal testimonies

CHILDREN: There was at least one very successful public sitting with Mrs Duncan at the London Spiritualist Alliance rooms – the first [a reference to the series of test séances]. I was seated in the best position for seeing and hearing, not four feet from the centre opening of the cabinet curtain.

The supposed "cheese cloth" on that occasion took the form of a long kimono-like dress that looked as though it had just come from the laundry, and the supposed "rubber glove" had a daintily tucked sleevelet between it and the medium's mouth. This had all the appearance of having been ironed and dressed for the occasion.

Should it ever be proved that these things were swallowed and regurgitated I am prepared to believe that when the whale regurgitated Jonah, the prophet found himself ready to go on to Ninevah dressed in spotless linen.

“ 300 of her supporters were prepared to testify on her behalf at her Old Bailey trial ”

One wonders if the investigators ever saw and conversed with clever little "Peggy" [Mrs Duncan's child guide]...? This materialised child had a spirited and amusing conversation with my daughter, and she finished her diverting performance by asking for and taking a drink of water from the hand of Miss Phillimore.

If dancing, singing, reciting and talking little "Peggy" was a regurgitation, then Mrs Duncan should be on the halls swallowing rubbish and disgorging it as apparently live children for the amusement of the public.

There were two other materialisations at the sitting, both of young girls of about 10 and 13 respectively. Both shook hands with the sitters they had come for, and these hands were reported to be warm and life-like. I saw the bare arm and delicate little fingers of the younger girl, and can vouch for the fact that they looked just like those of a young girl. Mrs Duncan is about sixteen stone weight, so that personation is out of the question....

It is obvious from the published official report that at this sitting, open to members of the LSA and their friends, phenomena were obtained which were denied to the committee of investigators. Why? I wonder! If we can find the answer to that query we shall know how best to obtain and foster physical mediumship in the future. – Scottish actor and playwright Graham Moffat, writing in *Two Worlds*, 18 September, 1931.

ALBERT: My most extraordinary experience with Helen Duncan was (I think this is unique, I don't know anybody else who has had it) being invited into the cabinet with her and to watch the whole process of materialisation taking place from scratch. I saw the ectoplasm extruding from her ears, her mouth, her nostrils and gradually billowing and forming the shape, six feet high, of the



guide who called himself Albert, and then watched him slowly sink and disappear into the ground. – Maurice Barbanell, Editor, *Psychic News*.

HUNGARIAN: "At this same séance I was particularly intrigued by the presence of several Hungarian people ... two of them started to cry when a lady mother figure, purporting to be their deceased mother, appeared in front of me and started to speak to them in what was obviously their native language. As you will know, Helen Duncan was not a great linguist – even in English!" – Harvey Lingwood, quoted in an assessment of Helen Duncan's mediumship by Lew Sutton, *SPR Paranormal Review*, April 2010.

SALUTE: During the period 1950 to March 1955 Shirley Chubb, who became a Minister of the Spiritualists' National Union (SNU), sat with Helen on six occasions. The results were variable but one séance, in particular, was "absolutely fantastic".

The first outstanding materialisation was the son of church organist Melvyn Brookes who was killed during the Battle of Britain. "I saw him come out of the cabinet, stand in front of his father and salute". There was no mistaking him for Helen Duncan, she added, "as he was a very good-looking young man".

The second evidential materialisation involved church healer Bert Raynes, who lost one of his daughters, Winnie, at the age of ten. "I saw Winnie come out of the cabinet and try to sit on her father's knee and then gradually it [the ectoplasm] went down to the floor and back to the cabinet." – Quoted by Lew Sutton, *SPR Paranormal Review*, April 2010.

MOTHER: The curtain was drawn by something and a figure stepped out. The

[illegible]

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ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE, the co-discoverer of evolution with Charles Darwin, was also a noted psychic investigator and supporter of mediums, as we discover when we delve into our archives

PERSONAL TESTIMONY: when doctors can do no more, a healer comes to the rescue

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THEOSOPHY

THE MOVEMENT THAT SPLIT SPIRITUALISM – PART 2

LESLIE PRICE INTERVIEWS KURT LELAND,
A LEADING AMERICAN STUDENT OF THEOSOPHICAL MATERIAL,
IN HIS EXPLORATION OF A GREAT SPIRITUAL RIVALRY



Annie Besant: tolerant and respectful of Spiritualism

KURT LELAND edited the first scholarly edition of C.W. Leadbeater's *The Chakras* and has recently published *Invisible Worlds; Annie Besant on Psychic and Spiritual Development*. I began by asking him about her attitude to Spiritualism.

Annie Besant left Christianity for Rationalism, but her early investigations in the 1880s did not convince her of Spiritualism. Yet, later, we find her conveying news of Theosophist pioneers, by then in the next world, to fellow followers. How could this be?

I think it is clear from her autobiographical writings that Besant was a spiritual seeker, even when she left the Church of England for atheism. From there, she went on to support the Freethought movement, advocating for the right of non-believers to express themselves without censorship and to have a voice in government despite the existence of a state religion.

She studied science at university level (though she was denied a degree because of her beliefs), and threw her weight behind socialism – all this in addition to the Spiritualist explorations you mention.

I have seen evidence that she read the autobiographical writings of the great American medium Andrew Jackson Davis, so her interest was not that of a séance dabbler. I think she was seriously seeking some way to integrate her desire to be of service to humanity, her spiritual urges, her political rights work, and her scientific studies into a personal and universal philosophy of life.

She found that philosophy in the writings of H. P. Blavatsky. I think it probable that she was finally convinced of the reality of non-fraudulent séance



Kurt Leland of the Theosophical Society

phenomena when she encountered explanations that made sense to her in Blavatsky's work, which attempted to offer a comprehensive theory for many spiritual phenomena, from table-turning to astral projection.

Though Blavatsky warned against what could be called an unintelligent or uninformed use of mediumship in contacting the dead – and her warnings have been misread as condemnation by both Theosophists and Spiritualists –



Spiritualist historian Lis Warwood

Blavatsky had nothing against raising our consciousness to the point of contact with the dead in their own realm or noticing and engaging in conversation with them if they should appear to us of their own accord. I think it likely that Besant's communications were of these types.

Both you and Lis Warwood in Australia are familiar with press reports of Annie Besant attending a materialisation séance there in 1894 (see sidebar). And there's a later visit by her to a Spiritualist camp in the United States. She also lectured several times to the London Spiritualist Alliance. What was her attitude to organised Spiritualism?

What I have read of Besant's remarks to and about Spiritualism seems tolerant and respectful, without necessarily being open-minded. In her belief, explanations by Spiritualists of mediumship and séance phenomena were a subset of a more comprehensive set of explanations developed by Madame Blavatsky.

I see Besant trying to develop rapport with members of the Spiritualist movement by mending fences over Blavatsky's oppositional and confrontational rhetoric about Spiritualist teachings and practices in the 1870s and 1880s. At the same time, Besant sought to expand their perspective as a missionary for the Theosophical viewpoint.

I am unfamiliar with how these mixed intentions were received by her audience. She came, she saw, she talked brilliantly – as she always did – but I think it is safe to say she did not conquer. Nor should she have.

An unbiased comparative study of Spiritualism and Theosophy would indicate far more reciprocal influence between them than present-day Spiritualists and

Theosophists may be aware of, and than the latter would likely admit.

You have recently edited an anthology "Invisible Worlds; Annie Besant on Psychic and Spiritual Development". Would not some Theosophists see no place for psychic development?

This is an old Theosophical Society (TS) issue that goes back as far as Besant's time. Of the Society's three objects, the only binding one is the advocacy of universal brotherhood. Some Theosophists feel that service to humanity is sufficient cause for the existence of the Society and that the investigation of spiritual phenomena – another of the three objects – is a waste of time and a distraction.

In the writings I chose for the book, Besant makes some nice distinctions. One is between psychic development and spiritual unfolding. The former involves impatiently and forcefully developing our subtle bodies and inner senses for the sake of acquiring spiritual power, often for selfish ends; the latter involves patiently and organically unfolding who we are by developing a sense of oneness with others at each level of being (physical, astral/emotional, mental, and spiritual), on a journey back to oneness with the Source of all being.

Powers develop naturally in the course of our service to others as we extend our ability to serve on to ever higher planes. In this sense, I believe a case can be made for the value of exploring and developing (or unfolding) our spiritual potential – as long as our motivation is unselfish service.

Annie cooperated for many years with the clairvoyant C.W. Leadbeater. His book "The Chakras" has had immense influence, not least among Spiritualist mediums. But given that he was not always accurate (about people living on Mars, for example, or even his own date of birth) should we take him seriously?

Over the years, I have developed a theory of spiritual teachers: they all come with flaws in their personality and teachings. Our task is not to give away our power to decide for ourselves what is or is not of value in emulating their lives and adopting the ideas and practices they advocate. We are not being fair to them when we want them to be perfect in all ways – they, too, are ascending the ladder back to oneness with the Source. It is up to us to discern where they are on that ladder, what they have mastered, and what they still have to learn.

We develop our own inner senses when we apply them to such a project, comparing their teachings with those of

other past and present teachers, and only then deciding what to accept or reject.

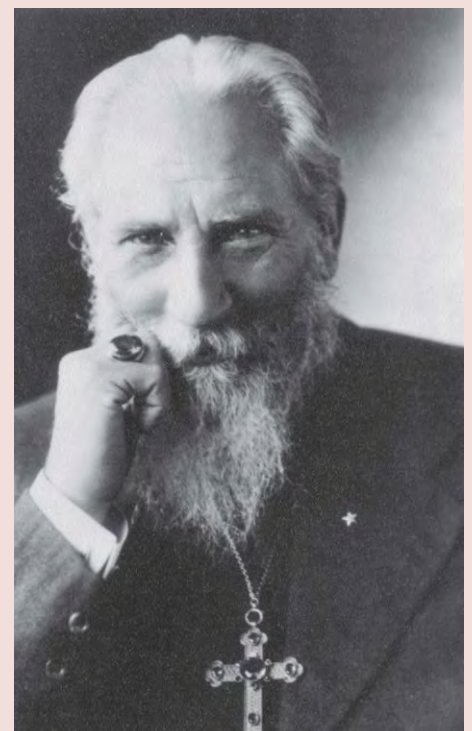
I believe this is one reason why the second of the Society's three objects is to study comparative religion, science, and philosophy. Such study acts as a check on getting carried away with any inner or outer teachings and teachers we may come into contact with.

When Leadbeater is demonstrating the ways our inner senses interact with our daily lives, whether we are awake, asleep, or astral projecting, I find much of value to reflect on, and perhaps to experiment with.

When he is reporting on what humans were doing in one million BC or on Mars, he seems to me no more talented as a writer or a clairvoyant than an Edwardian author of boys' adventure stories – less interesting, even, than later pulp fiction and comic books.

You have written some groundbreaking books about lucid dreams, out of the body and near death phenomena, using your own experiences in relation to current research. How does Theosophy help in understanding those phenomena?

As Besant was, I have been attracted to the apparent comprehensiveness of Theosophical teachings for describing spiritual phenomena. As an astral projector for over 40 years and a conscious channel for more than 30 years, I have collected many personal accounts of such phenomena from my own experience and from that of associates, clients and students.



Charles Webster Leadbeater

When I began a deep immersion in Theosophical teachings ten years ago, I was astonished to find how mutually corroborating these teachings were with my own experience. I found categories developed more than a century ago that were still relevant for identifying hundreds of personal experiences. I also found suggestions and hints of new possibilities of consciousness to explore that had never occurred to me, and that eventuated in further personal discoveries.

The experiential aspect of Theosophy (the word itself means “direct knowledge of God”) seems largely to have been lost in current practice. I have found in my work as a national lecturer for the Theosophical Society in America that people value the possibility of seeing how the theories they read about, play out in actual practice and daily-lived experience. The teachings come alive again.

This problem does not seem to exist in contemporary Spiritualism, which never lost the experiential component.

You can read more about Kurt Leland’s work on his website www.kurtleland.com ■



Annie Besant and Charles Webster Leadbeater

WHAT DID MRS BESANT SAY TO THE MATERIALISATION?

The following incident is little known to either Spiritualists or Theosophists. Spiritualist historian Lis Warwood in Australia has made a special study of the medium concerned, and kindly opened her files to assist Kurt Leland and Leslie Price.

Kurt Leland reports:

In late 1894, while touring Australia as a lecturer for the Theosophical Society, Annie Besant became embroiled in a controversy concerning Spiritualist medium Annie Fairlamb Mellon (1856-1939).

Mellon was a well-known materialisation medium, originally from Newcastle upon Tyne. W.T. Stead had pronounced her the only trustworthy materialisation medium in England. At the time of Besant’s visit, Mellon was creating a sensation in Sydney. Besant was invited to attend a séance held by Mellon on 30 September 1894, at which she witnessed several apparitions, including one of a young black girl named Cissie, who shyly approached her.

Besant said, “Come along, dear,” and the form brought her a flower and received one from Besant. On October 12, while Besant was touring in New Zealand, Mellon was “exposed” at a similar séance in Sydney – though witnesses agree only that a scuffle occurred in which an audience member attempted to grab Cissie to prove she was Mrs Mellon herself.

On three occasions in November, Mellon was tested under strictly controlled conditions by a select group including Justice Sir William Windeyer and several members of Parliament, resulting in a signed affidavit that several apparitions were seen during each séance.

In Melbourne at the time, Besant expressed sympathy for Mrs Mellon in interviews and lectures, since “materialisations could not always be produced,” and if none should appear, the medium would have to submit “to abuse” or “resort to fraud” to satisfy the fee-paying audience.

“Every allowance should be made” for mediums, who often had “a delicate organisation” and were “inclined to hysteria.” (Besant was among the first to rush in to Mellon’s cabinet to ensure she was well after the 30 September séance – and even held her hands.)

“Furthermore,” she told her audiences, people “should disregard newspaper scoffing at spiritualism, much of which was written by men more accustomed to report race meetings.” She stated that though she had attended the séance as an observer rather than an investigator, she “found no cause to doubt the bona fides of that medium.”

Lis Warwood explained to us:

Interestingly, Annie Mellon was not charging people to attend her séances. Apart from the initial series of séances set up by the Sydney Psychological Society shortly after she arrived in Australia in February 1892, and once her husband had obtained employment, she held her séances as private affairs for Spiritualists.

Certainly, there was no fee involved for the séance at which Thomas Henry claimed he had exposed her. Because there was no fee he could not, and nor could the authorities, take any legal action against her over the alleged fraud.

The séance Besant attended, strictly speaking, was held by Charles MacCarthy, with Annie Mellon as the medium. It is unclear whether any fee was involved for attendees; certainly Besant was not required to pay a fee, nor was the *Sunday Times* representative who attended the séance.

Letters

In each issue we will give £10 to the author of the letter we find the most interesting.

Brave decision

I WELCOME the news that the College of Psychic Studies (CPS) has welcomed Helen Duncan back into the fold by including her portrait in one of the rooms at its Queensberry Place headquarters (PN October 2015).

I'm sure she was difficult to deal with at times – some mediums are. I am also certain that her desire to earn as much as possible from her mediumship to provide for her large family during the war years may have clouded her judgment as far as the frequency of her séances were concerned and that would have affected the quality of the results.

But it is right that she should be judged on the very best of her mediumistic results, rather than on those that were less than convincing.

Sometimes, we only see a person's true worth in retrospect and that certainly seems to be the case with the CPS's brave decision to give her a place of honour on its walls.

How pleasing, too, to see that the third generation of the Duncans' family, in the form of her granddaughter, Maggie Hain, continues to campaign on Helen's behalf in the hope that one day she will be pardoned for her imprisonment under the old Witchcraft Act 1735.

Seraldine McAllister
(via email)

[For the very best of Helen Duncan see pages 42-44 – Editor]

Were they blessings, not exorcisms?

ALTHOUGH Wendy Stokes' article *Helping Lost Souls* (PN October 2015) was interesting, I would like to take issue with her about a few of the cases she cites, where she seems to have assumed that possession of a living person by an invading discarnate entity took place. In these cases, I doubt it.

First, Salvador Dali. From a Wikipedia entry about the flamboyant artist, I gather that a friend who was a priest, and a former member of a religious order, may have carried out an "exorcism" at Dali's request.

No priest may undertake exorcism without the agreement of his diocesan bishop, and there is conventionally only one exorcist in a diocese. There is no reference in what I have read to episcopal permission having been sought or given, so I wonder if what was done was a blessing, which any priest may perform at his discretion.

Next, Mother Teresa. From reading material on the Internet, I gather that an "exorcism prayer" was said by a hospital chaplain at the request of the local archbishop, a fellow patient in the same hospital where Mother Teresa was being treated for a heart condition.

At the time, she was also suffering very badly from insomnia. The nature of the "exorcism prayer" is not specified. I do wonder, again, if the chaplain performed not an exorcism but a blessing, much more discreet and perhaps less disruptive in a hospital setting. Whatever was done, Mother Teresa was able thereafter to sleep.

Lastly, Anneliese Michel. From more Internet reading, I understand that this unfortunate young woman was very, very devout, taking her

pious practices to irrational extremes. She managed to convince herself that she had to fast in order to atone for the sinfulness of the world.

She was experiencing some of the symptoms of schizophrenia, which treatment in hospital did not seem to be helping, so she returned to her parents. They must have found themselves in an impossible situation, trying to care for someone determined on a fast amounting to a hunger strike.

During the trial after Anneliese's death, the prosecuting lawyers did not ask for custodial sentences for either the parents, who they seemed to feel had suffered enough, or for the two priests involved. Although the court conviction was for homicide, only fines were imposed.

This looks to me like a tacit acknowledgment that neither the parents nor the priests had been able by any means to persuade Anneliese to break her self-imposed fast. In the aftermath of the court case, the opinion of another priest who was also a psychiatrist was that there had never been an invading entity to exorcise, but that Anneliese's problems were wholly medical in origin.

Mary Temple-Sunnan
(via email)

This issue's
£10 letter
winner

Letters

Let's not restrict mediums' potential

I NORMALLY find reading extracts of Craig Hamilton-Parker's publications factually benign and would agree with much of what is said.

However, reading through the recent extract on *Working With Trance States* (PN October 2015) I felt compelled to write and offer a balance to much of the skewed, though I'm sure well meaning, ideas published.

Like Craig, I too am frustrated as to what gets portrayed as genuine trance within our churches and circles. However, I feel there is always a danger that we inadvertently allow these concerns of public perception to distort and bias how we consider the development of trance should naturally progress.

Craig in his extract seemed to imply that any genuine trance doesn't involve the medium adopting mannerisms from the spirit control. This is obviously nonsense as even the slightest of blending between the spirit communicator and the medium can cause the medium to display mannerisms and gestures both physical and vocal from the spirit communicator.

I would agree there is always the aspect of the medium's own psyche involved in the trance that may affect the mannerisms or even produce them, but this is simply the natural process of development. We must always remember that the development of trance, as with all forms of Spiritualist phenomena, will necessitate to some degree the emotional and psychological development of the medium.

As FWH Myers once remarked, on why he found it difficult to communicate from the spirit world, it would be easier if "I had a simple sensitive" to work through. As such, we have to allow the developing medium to be free to explore their development without the confines or restrictions of public perception.

I'm also concerned about Craig's remark that trance mediumship should only be developed once the medium is fully developed as a mental medium. Apart from the obvious comment that trance is also a form of mental mediumship, I question this rationale when we consider the many great Spiritualist pioneers who were never public demonstrating mediums.

They were, nevertheless, sometimes found quite accidentally to be marvellous trance mediums and contributed to our current understanding of the spirit world through their trance communications and addresses.

To say one must develop one aspect of their mediumship before development of the other, simply imposes unnecessary and man-made restrictions upon the medium's development, which at best may delay and at worst destroy any potential the developing medium may have.

Chris Connelly, MSc,
DSNU (via email)

I agree – the Bible contradicts itself

UNDER the heading, "My Question for Sidney and William" (PN October 2015), Mr Desmond Long asks, "Why do they insist on presenting scripture as literally true?"

Well, I cannot speak for William, but I was addressing those who do believe that all scripture is true. For me, the Bible contains a plethora of myths from Egypt, Persia and Babylon. And Jesus is a heady mixture of Osiris, Mithras, Attis, Adonis, Dionysus and Apollonius of Tyana.

You are right, Mr Long; words *have* been put into Jesus's mouth. His words about foxes having holes and wolves having lairs but the Son of Man having nowhere to lay his head, is in fact the lament of Tiberius Gracchus (200BC) as recorded by Plutarch.

And at Math 23:35, Jesus is made to refer to an event which, according to Josephus, took place 37 years later.

"Let he who is without sin cast the first stone" is also spurious.

Mr Long informs me that the Bible contradicts itself. True, Mr Long. Compare Math 1:16 with Luke 3:23. One insists that Jesus's grandfather was Jacob and another, Heli. I could give enough examples to fill another three pages.

Mr Long quotes "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live." Indeed, compare that to "Thou shalt not kill"!

We are in total agreement, Mr Long. I feel that you have misunderstood my letter.

Sidney Clark,
Norfolk



ORACLE CARDS

THE SHAMAN'S ORACLE



“Foresight enables us to find a way toward our own destiny. It takes us safely past obstacles or traps, beyond stormy seas into calmer waters

”

BEFORE the time of written language, art was used to communicate. The oldest images are found in caves and are believed to have been created by shamans (visionaries and tribal leaders) who travelled into the spirit realms to gain information.

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Foresight enables us to find a way toward our own destiny. It takes us safely past obstacles or traps, beyond stormy

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The Shaman of Foresight helps us to work on our expectations so that we are ready for whatever life throws at us. The image on this card shows the handprint enclosed in a cage; foresight shows us how we may avoid such captivity in the first place.

Keywords: Preparedness, Being watchful, Transcending the moment, Looking ahead, Interpreting signs, Taking advice, Acting intentionally, Listening to instincts, dreams and visions.

John Matthews is a practising shaman and spiritual teacher and the author of dozens of influential spiritual books, screenplays, songs and other works. He lives in Oxford with his wife, Caitlin, also a spiritual teacher.

Wil Kinghan has provided the artwork to many popular card decks and worked on the illustrations on this deck to make it accessible to the reader.

**The Shaman's Oracle by John Matthews with illustrations by Wil Kinghan – Oracle Cards for Ancient Wisdom and Guidance (Watkins Publishing Ltd, £14.99). Strong box with drawer containing hardback full colour explanatory booklet and 52 cards with a foldout plan to aid readings.* ■

Wendy Stokes (www.wendystokes.co.uk)

Reading ideas for

OUT OF A MEDIUM'S MOUTH:

Spiritualism in Ireland

By Michael R Flood

[Kindle Edition only]

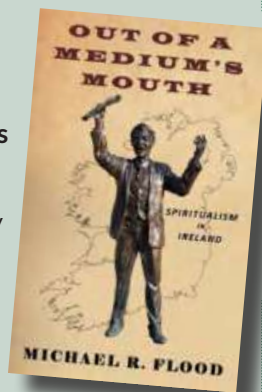
available from Amazon

RRP UK £5.99 US \$9.24 187 pages

The people of Ireland are known throughout the world for being especially loyal to their own kin, yet sociological factors contribute greatly to a reduced freedom of religious expression. However, this is changing in modern Ireland. With more and more people looking elsewhere for answers to life's burning questions – answers that orthodox religion is failing to provide – numbers attending Spiritualist services are on the increase. We need only look to social media to discover the growing number of Spiritualist groups and individual mediums who live and work in Ireland. Although attendance at a Spiritualist service or demonstration of mediumship does not necessarily denote a change of religious belief, the growing number of attendees does indicate an open-mindedness in favour of Spiritualism.

Mediumship demonstrates the philosophy that life continues after physical death – and this brings hope to a great many people. It is the Spiritualist movement which promotes mediumship around the world. Michael R. Flood's book, *Out of a Medium's Mouth*, recalls important moments in the history of Spiritualism in Ireland, from before the time of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's visit in 1925 to today's Spiritualist pioneers, who are working hard to uphold their philosophy all over Ireland.

Michael gives us an in-depth view of the origins of Spiritualism in Ireland and examines its philosophy and understanding through the appearance of its many groups and individuals over the last 150 years. Interest in Spiritualism is clearly growing, as the people of Ireland search for a deeper understanding of life, death and the afterlife.



THOUGHTS OF THE GREATS:

commented on in the light of the teaching of the Masters –

General discourse on wisdom

By Vitaliano Bilotta

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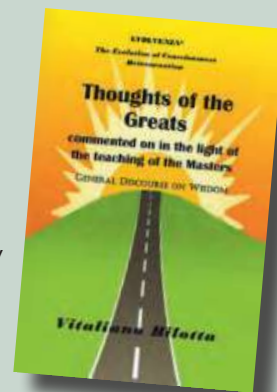
142 pages

Vitaliano Bilotta has studied the philosophy of reincarnation for over forty years. He became interested in the idea of reincarnation through his contact with great mediums who handed down impressive teaching embracing reality in all its aspects.

These teachings he makes known to others by applying them to everyday life. In these pages the author has woven together scenes from the lives of two sales representatives who, as they travel together, pass the hours sharing their passion for knowledge. In open, good-humoured dialogue, together they trace the paths of knowledge.

The thought of the great masters, from Buddha to Confucius to Jesus, is applied here in a clear, simple way to the large and small matters of life, giving rise to a philosophy which is an aid to life in the modern age, as the mind expands and discovers new horizons. The true aim of this book is to transmit the teachings which come via the guides to those who need it, for we believe that the teachings are not given to us to keep hidden. They are for guidance and support.

Vitaliano Bilotta has published more than twenty books, many also in eBook form. This is the second title to have been translated into English.



A GIFT OF HOPE:

Daily words from the silence

Compiled by Heather Marlow

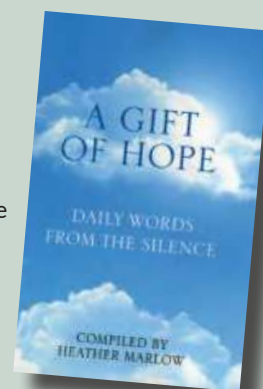
RRP UK £11.99 US \$17.99

378 pages

Noise has become part of our daily life, and for the most part we do not hear it. We have become so used to a continual drone that we have forgotten the sound of silence. Yet it is from there that we have connection with our true self. All emanates from the stillness of silence. It is when we return – and move into the stillness – that we find we are completely refreshed and renewed.

These daily words have come from the space of stillness and silence. Each one was given and written down with love and the hope that they will help you remember that love is the true essence and most important part of life. It is the giving and receiving of love that allows happiness to develop, thus giving the ability to spread happiness to all.

Heather Marlow has been teaching yoga and meditation for over 35 years. During this time she sat with the late great Ursula Roberts, the renowned medium and spiritual teacher. When in her circle Heather started working as a trance medium. The words in *A Gift of Hope* have been given during her own daily meditations.



THE INNER HEART OF REIKI:

Rediscovering your true self

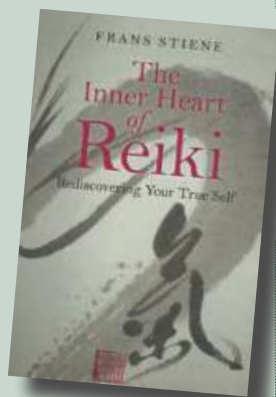
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Frans has been a major influence on global research into the system of Reiki since the early 2000s. His practical understanding of the Japanese influences on the system have allowed students around the world to connect deeply with this practice. Frans is a co-founder of the International House of Reiki and Shubumi International Reiki Association with his wife, Bronwen Stiene.



Autumn

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By Adam Selzer

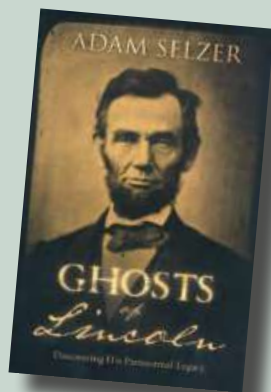
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Adam Selzer is an author, tour guide, and historian who specialises in places that are said to be haunted. He appears regularly on TV and the radio speaking about the stranger side of history and is the author of such books as *Ghosts of Chicago*, *The Smart Aleck's Guide to American History*, and *Flickering Empire: How Chicago Invented the US Film Industry* as well as nearly a dozen published novels.



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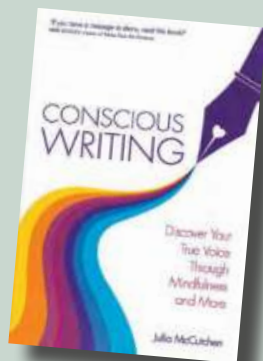
256 pages

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Julia McCutchen is an author, intuitive mentor and the founder and creative director of the International Association of Conscious & Creative Writers (IACCW).

Following a successful career as a publisher of spiritual and personal development books (Element and Random House) she experienced a life-changing accident in 1999 that triggered a series of major quantum leaps in her spiritual awakening.

Today, Julia guides people to discover their true selves and express their true voices – on the page and in the world.

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Steve Lucas is the owner and director of the Gallery of Surrealism, a gallery, bookstore and publishing house specialising in Surrealist and Neo-Romantic art. Born in the United States in 1959 and well-travelled as a child, Steve became an art dealer at an early age and opened the first of several art businesses when he was twenty-two years old. He lives and works in New York and Paris and has a son, Lyle.



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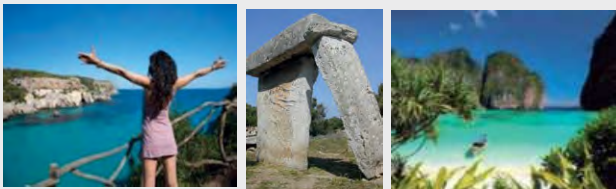


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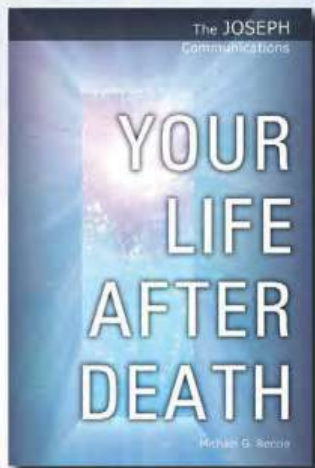
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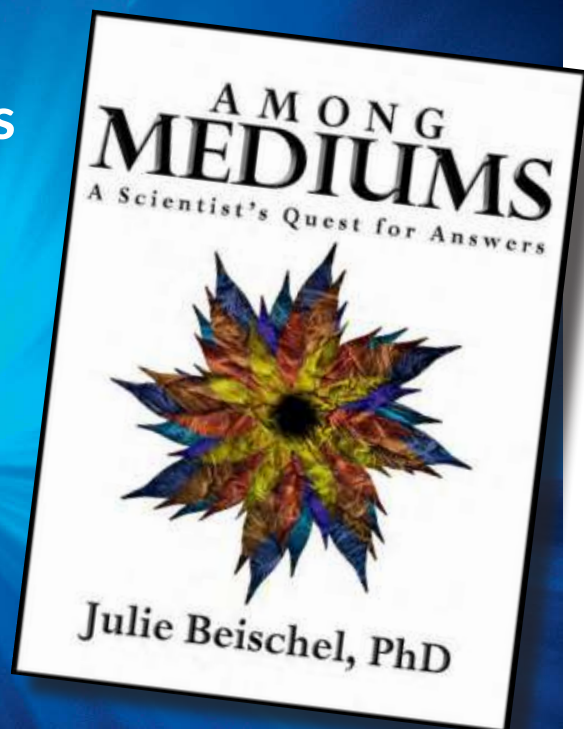
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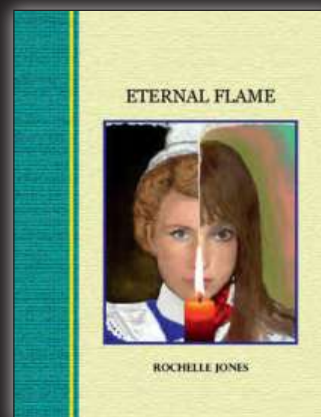
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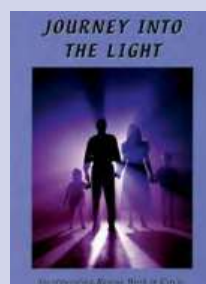
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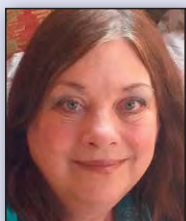
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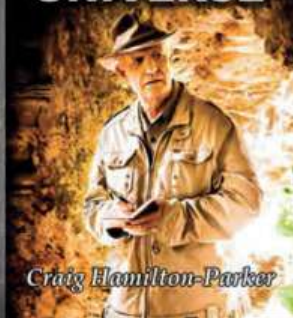
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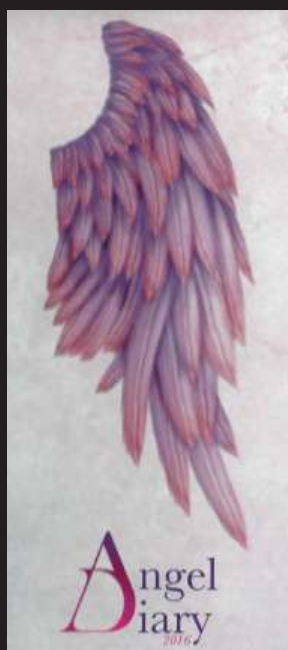
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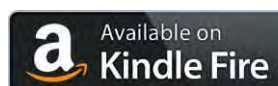
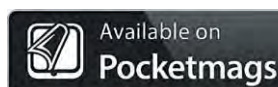
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Dawlish, Devon EX7 9AJ

7.30pm Mediumship

(alternate Tuesdays)

We are affiliated to

United Spiritualists

Find us:

lower main car park near the

rear of the hospital at

The Hedley Way Centre

We welcome visiting Mediums

Contact us: 01626 866192

Website: [http://](http://guidinglightdawlish.webs.com)

guidinglightdawlish.webs.com

DORSET

KINSON SPIRITUALIST GROUP

Kinson Community Centre,

Pelhams Park, Kinson,

Bournemouth BH10 7LH

Tel: 01202 715754

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/KinsonSpiritualistGroup)

KinsonSpiritualistGroup

Every Sunday 6.30pm

Divine Service

2nd Monday in month at 8.00pm

Clairvoyance Demonstration

Soul-Kiss.com - the NEW Dating Site...

for people who care about their World

& who they share it with

Take a look.. it's free to look..



Soul-Kiss.com

BOURNEMOUTH SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

16 Bath Road, Bournemouth,
Dorset BH1 2PE
Tel: 01202 551751
www.bsnuc.co.uk
NOVEMBER

Sunday 1st 10.45am and 6.30pm

GEOFFREY HAYWARD

Monday 2nd 7.30pm

GEOFFREY HAYWARD

Tuesday 3rd 7pm Open Circle

Wednesday 4th 7.30pm

Meditation

Thursday 5th 3pm

AL & GEOFF POTTS

Sunday 8th 10.45am and 6.30pm

MARK STONE

Monday 9th 7.30pm

MARK STONE

Tuesday 10th 7pm Open Circle

Wednesday 11th 7.30pm

Philosophy

Thursday 12th 3pm

JEAN TANNER

Sunday 15th 10.45am & 6.30pm

ELAINE ASTIN BRAMHILL

Monday 16th 7.30pm

ELAINE ASTIN BRAMHILL

Tuesday 17th 7pm Open Circle

Wednesday 18th 7.30pm

Spirit Art

Thursday 19th 3pm

DAVID POWELL

Sunday 22nd 10.45am & 6.30pm

JOAN DUNBAR

Monday 23rd 7.30pm

JOAN DUNBAR

Tuesday 24th 7pm Open Circle

Wednesday 25th 7.30pm

Open Platform

Thursday 26th 3pm

SARAH BURCH

Saturday 28th 3pm - 5pm

Open Forum with NEC/SDC for

District & Churches

Sunday 29th 10.45am & 6.30pm

CARLY CARMICHAEL

Monday 30th 7.30pm

CARLY CARMICHAEL

Open Circle every Tuesday at 7pm

Spiritual Healing:

Monday 2pm - 4pm

Tuesday 10.30am - 12.30pm

Wednesday 10.30am - 12.30pm

Thursday 7pm - 8pm

Friday 10.30am - 12.30pm

& 2pm - 4pm

CHARMINSTER SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

207 Charminster Road,
Bournemouth,
Dorset BH8 9QQ

Tel: 01202 516108

www.charminsterspiritualist

church.org.uk

Services:

Tuesday 3pm

Saturday 7pm

Sunday (monthly)

See website for specials/workshops

and healing times

All welcome

ESSEX

BRIGHT ANGEL LODGE CANVEY SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

57 Point Road,

Canvey, Essex SS8 7TD

We meet EVERY MONDAY
at 7.45pm (doors open at 7pm)

for an Evening of Clairvoyance

with all profits going to

local charities

Admission £3 on the door

Healing at 9pm (donation)

For more info telephone Philip

on 0792 200 1433 / 01268 691922

We are also on facebook:

Bright Angel Lodge

HAMPSHIRE

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All welcome

Contact Kate on: 07800 734911

www.trulyspiritual

promotions.co.uk

www.trulytarot.com

HERTFORDSHIRE

CARPENDERS PARK CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALISTS

Bushford Scout Hall,

St Georges Drive,

Carpenders Park,

Watford,

Hertfordshire WD19 5HD

(Hall cannot be seen from road –

go up drive between numbers

37 and 39 St Georges Drive)

Contact Chris Palmer:

01923 221918

Sundays 10.30am Divine Service

Healing available

All are welcome ~ An activity table

is provided for children

HITCHIN SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

Whinbush Road,

Hitchin,

Hertfordshire SG5 1PZ

Tel: 07581 492507

www.hitchinspiritualist

church.co.uk

Sunday Service 6.30pm

Healing Tuesdays 2pm & 7.30pm

Demonstrations and workshops as

advertised on website

All welcome

ISLE OF WIGHT

VENTNOR SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

8 Victoria Street,

Ventnor, Isle of Wight

PO38 1ET

Email: groving69@live.co.uk

Website: www.ventnor

spiritualistchurch.webs.com

Contact: 07800 986288

Sunday 6.30pm Divine Service

Thursday 12 noon - 2pm Healing

Tuesday/Thursday 7pm

Various Groups and Circles

(Ring for details)

Special Events:

See website and local press

KENT

KENT SPIRITUAL TEACHING GROUP

Five Wents Hall,

Swanley Lane,

Swanley, Kent BR8 7LD

www.kstg.org

Tel 07982 653158

Email: info@kstg.org

Meetings

1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month

3rd November 8pm £6

Evening of Clairvoyance with

KIRSTY STEAD

17th November 8pm £5

Fledglings' Evening with

NEW & EMERGING MEDIUMS

MAIDSTONE SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (M.S.D.C.)

meets at

Madginford Hall, Egremont Rd,

Maidstone, Kent ME15 8LH

&

Lower Hall,

Tovil Works Mens Club,

Tovil Hill, Maidstone,

Kent ME15 6QS

Tel: 01622 746249

or 07711 811066

Email: msdc@msdc.org.uk

We run Psychic & Spiritual

Development Mornings, Open

Circles, Healing and Meditation

Mornings with free student

readings, monthly evenings of

Mediumship, Workshops, Psychic

Suppers, Psychic Fairs, Courses,

Coach Trips etc.

Download the programme from

our website or ring us!

www.msdc.org.uk

The advertising
deadline for the
December issue is
8th November 2015

THE SANCTUARY OF HEALING CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

Mills Terrace, Chatham,

Kent ME4 5NZ

Tel: 01634-880039

Email:

george.mcqueen@yahoo.co.uk

Website:

www.sanctuaryofhealing.co.uk

Sunday Service: 6.30pm

Wednesday 10am - 1pm Healing

Friday 4pm - 6pm Healing

Friday 8pm Clairvoyance

We also offer various workshops

and special evenings of clairvoyance

See website for

further information

LANCASHIRE

WHITE FEATHER SPIRITUALIST CENTRE

Claremont Community Centre,

Claremont Road,

Blackpool,

Lancashire

FY1 2QJ

Tel: 01253 355595

Every Friday

6.30pm Healing

7.30pm Clairvoyant Evening

followed by Open Circle

LEICESTERSHIRE

LEICESTER PROGRESSIVE SPIRITUALIST CENTRE

4 St. James Street,

Lee Circle,

Leicester LE1 3RE

President: Marian Sawczuk

Services with Mediumship

Sundays 6pm Divine Service

Mondays 7.30pm

Wednesdays 2.30pm

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays:

Special Demonstrations as advertised

Development Groups and Circles

held every day of the week

Healing

Saturdays 10.30am - 12.30pm

Mondays 6pm - 7pm

Wednesdays 1pm - 2pm

For details of workshops and

special events, visit our website:

www.progressivespiritualist

church.co.uk

Email: [@talktalk.net">info.leicesterprogressive](mailto:info.leicesterprogressive)

@talktalk.net

Tel: 0116 2536098

For a full list of churches,
centres and spiritual
shops that stock
Psychic News, visit:
www.psychicnews.org.uk

LINCOLNSHIRE

STARLIGHT AWARENESS GROUP

The Pavilion,
Wainfleet Road, Skegness,
Lincs. PE25 2EL
Contact Pat and Elsie:
01754 810680

www.starlightgroup.info

Sunday Services 1st and 3rd Sunday
of every month at 6.30pm - 8pm
Also: Developing
self-empowerment through
meditation for elimination of past
hurts creating a balance within self.
Working with spirit and universal
energies. Spirit healing training and
qualification (Lincolnshire
Association of Healers).
Spiritual mediumship within its
many forms.
Spiritual philosophy.
Trance communication.

LONDON

LEWISHAM SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

65 Boone Street,
Lewisham,
London SE13 5SA

Website:

Lewishamspiritualistchurch.com

Tel: 020 8852 7823

Mediums' Secretary:
078 2672 3575

Sunday 6.30pm - 8pm Service

Tuesday 12.30pm - 2.30pm

Private Readings

(Bookable with Mediums' Secretary)

Tuesday 1pm - 2.30pm Healing

Thursday:

7.15pm - 8.30pm Healing

7.15pm - 9pm Group Readings

All welcome

HENDON INDEPENDENT SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

Cheshir Hall,
Foster Street

(off Brent Street),

Hendon, London NW4 2AA

Enquiries:

Lorraine on 020 8346 0289

www.hendonspiritualistchurch.co.uk

Every Monday at 7.30pm
(except Bank Holidays)

Address and Clairvoyance

Entrance: £3

inc refreshments & raffle

2nd November

LES & DENISE PILGRIM

9th November

PAULINE & TERRY FIRKS

16th November

LESLEY TURTON

23rd November

KARIM

30th November

LILY DOLAN

WOODFORD SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

9 Grove Crescent,
South Woodford,
London E18 2JR

Enquiries: 020 8989 6149

www.woodfordchurch.com

Sunday 1st 11am - 4pm ~ £15

Workshop: 'Inspired Living' with

HEATHER ANDREWS-DOBBS

& musicians LAURA & JASON

Call 020 8529 8097

or 07773 127178

Sunday 1st 6.30pm Divine Service

DAVE CABLE

Monday 2nd 2pm

REG BALDWIN

Saturday 7th 7.30pm £3

Evening of Mediumship with

STEPHANIE BARROWS

Sunday 8th 4.30pm - 5.30pm £2

Workshop: 'Developing Confidence

in Inspirational Speaking' with

CAROL WOOD

(All proceeds to church charity)

Sunday 8th 6.30pm

Divine Service with

ALAN ALBISTON

Monday 9th 2pm

MARGERY GEARY

Tuesday 10th 7.30pm - 9pm

Tarot Course with

MIKE MATTHEWS

The course lasts for 6 weeks at a

cost of £5 per session payable in

advance.

Email:

woodfordchurch@hotmail.co.uk

to book.

Thursday 12th 7.30 - 9pm

Open Circle for Platform Mediums

led by ALAN ALBISTON

No booking required

Saturday 14th 1pm - 3.30pm

Private Sitzings for church charity

£10 for 20 minutes

Booking advised

Sunday 15th 11.30am - 4pm

£17 (members £15)

includes materials

'Make Your Own Oracle Cards'

with PAT MACNALLY &

DANIEL NAUGHNANE

Sunday 15th 6.30pm

Divine Service with

LEO & FLEDGLINGS

Monday 16th 2pm JOHN REILLEY

Saturday 21st 12noon - 3pm

£6 (Members £5) Workshop:

'Dream Connections - Part 2'

with STEPHANIE BARROWS

Sunday 22nd 11am - 4pm ~ £10

Shamanic Workshop

Sunday 22nd 6.30pm

Divine Service with

CAROL WOOD

Monday 23rd 2pm

SANDY WILKINSON

Sun 29th SUSAN GRIFFITHS

(See website or contact

church for details)

Sunday 29th 6.30pm

Divine Service with

LEZ AND JACCI FULLER

Continued top of next column

WOODFORD SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

Continued

Monday 30th 2pm

BEVERLY SWIFT

Weekly:

Tues 7.30 - 9pm £3 Open Circle

Wed 2 - 4pm & 7.30 - 9pm Healing

Friday 7.30 - 9pm £3 Open Circle

First Friday of the month

at 7.30pm

Open Circle for

Platform Mediums

All welcome

WOOD GREEN SPIRITUALIST CHURCH (Cnr of Maryland Road)

High Road,

Wood Green,

London N22 5AR

Minister in Spirit:

Mrs Ida Stenning

Enquiries:

020 8888 1992

Website: www.woodgreen

spiritualistchurch.co.uk

Sunday 6.30pm Service

Wednesday 7.30pm Service

Tuesday 7.30pm - 9.00pm Healing

Thursday No Healing

All welcome

MIDDLESEX

KENTON SPIRITUALIST CHURCH AND HEALING CENTRE

35 Churchill Avenue,

Kenton,

Nr. Harrow,

Middlesex

HA3 0AX

Enquiries: 020 8621 3103

Sunday 6.30pm Service

Wednesday 7.30pm - 9pm Healing

Thursday 7.45pm Service

All welcome

HAMPTON HILL SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

Angel Close,

Windmill Road,

Hampton Hill

TW12 1RG

Enquiries: 020 8941 5177

www.hamptonhillspiritualists.

webden.co.uk

Sunday 6.30pm Divine Service

Wednesday 7.30pm Healing

Thursday 7.30pm Midweek Service

Monthly classes at 7.30pm:

1st Monday Open Platform

2nd and last Monday

Open Awareness Circle

3rd Monday Mediumship

Practice Circle

3rd Tuesday Open Healing Circle

4th Tuesday Speakers and

Philosophy Class

All welcome

THE LIGHT ON THE HILL HARROW SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

1 Vaughan Road,

Harrow,

Middlesex,

London HA1 1DP

Website: www.

lightonthehill.moonfruit.com

Email: lightonthehill@live.co.uk

Tel: 07528 348 432

Service Times:

Sunday 7.30pm - 9pm

Wednesday 7.45pm - 9pm

Healing Services:

Monday 10am - 12pm

Wednesday 9.15pm - 9.45pm

Sunday 7.30pm at start of Service

All welcome

THE SANCTUARY OF THE SILVER CROSS

Friends' Meeting House,

York Road (opp. Sainsbury's),

Uxbridge,

Middlesex UB8 1QW

Founder: FRANK MECHELLE

President: LINDA CHANT

Telephone: 07792 900194

www.

sanctuarysilvercross.co.uk

Sunday at 6.30pm

Divine Service

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OXFORDSHIRE

THE KARENZA SPIRITUAL NETWORK

Cholsey Pavilion,
Station Road, Cholsey,
Wallingford OX10 9PT
Tel: 01491 523822

Email: info@karenzaspirit.net

Monday 9th November 7.30pm

An Evening of Mediumship with

DARREN TURNER and his

FLEDGLING MEDIUMS

Entry £5

Monday 7th December 7.30pm

An Evening of Mediumship with

IAN SMITH

Entry £5

A warm welcome

extended to everyone

Please find more information

at: www.karenzaspirit.net

SOMERSET

ALCOMBE AND MINEHEAD CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

Grove Place, Manor Road,
Alcombe, Minehead,
Somerset TA24 6EH
Tel: 0783 110 4896

Winter Sunday Service 3.00pm

(November to end of February)

Summer Sunday Service 6.30pm

(March to end of October)

Healing groups, a monthly healing day, healing evenings, open circles, evenings of clairvoyance all available on various days during each month.

See our website for the full day-by-day itinerary of what our church can offer you.

www.mineheadspiritualistchurch.co.uk

STAFFORDSHIRE

BURSLEM SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

87 Haywood Road,
Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent,
Staffordshire ST6 7AH
www.

burslemspiritualistchurch.com

President: Yvonne Sargeant

Tel: 01782 825717

Sunday 3.00pm Divine Service

Monday 7.30pm

Evening of Mediumship

Thursday 7.30pm

Awareness Classes

Healing Available

Special Events as advertised in the church

Naming Services, Weddings,

Wedding Blessings, Funerals

All welcome

SURREY

CROYDON SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

Chatsworth Road, Croydon,
Surrey CR0 1HE

President: Mrs Mollie McManus
OSNU, LSSNU

Contact telephone numbers:
020 8688 1827 & 07990 535942

E: alanpseymour@btinternet.com

For special events see our website: www.croydonspiritualistchurch.org.uk

[croydonspiritualistchurch.org.uk](http://www.croydonspiritualistchurch.org.uk)

Sunday 11am Service

Sunday 6.30pm Service

Wednesday 7.45pm Service

Thursday Healing 1.30pm - 3.30pm

& 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Open Platform third Monday of

each month at 7.30pm

KINGSTON NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

Villiers Road,
Kingston upon Thames,
Surrey KT1 3AR

Website: www.kingstonnc.org

General Secretary:

Mrs Gerrie Chaney

Tel: 020 8401 6967

Sunday Services: 11am and 6.30pm

Monday Evening of Mediumship:

7.30pm £3 (£2 Members)

Monday Healing 8.45pm - 9.45pm

(Donation).

Wednesday Healing 2pm - 4pm

Enter through side gate (Donation)

Saturday 14th November 1.30pm - 4pm

Christmas Fayre with

Private Readings and Stalls

Friday 27th November 7.30pm £5

Trance Demonstration with

JACQUIE MCCAUGHERTY

Friday 11th December 7.30pm

Evening with Mediumship and

Carols by Candlelight

N.B. There will be no Christmas

Day Service this year

Please visit our website to see

all our events!

SUSSEX - EAST

SEAFORDSPIRIT

Seaford Independent
Spiritualist Church,

3 Warwick Road, Seaford,

East Sussex BN25 1RS

Tel 01323 737407

Email:

enquiries@seafordspirit.co.uk

Website:

www.seafordspirit.co.uk

Thursday 7.30pm Divine Service

Friday 10.30pm - 12 noon Healing

Clairvoyant Evenings

Alternate Saturdays 7.30pm

Demonstrations and workshops as

advertised on website

All welcome

BEXHILL CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

6 Victoria Road,
Bexhill on Sea,
East Sussex
TN39 3PD

Website:

www.bexhillchristianspiritualistchurch.com

Services:

Sundays during November - March

inclusive at 3.00pm

Sundays during April - October

inclusive at 6.00pm

Clairvoyance:-

Every Wednesday at 3.00pm

Clairvoyance on Saturdays

as advertised

Healing:

Every Tuesday 9.30am - 11.00am

followed by

Healing and Meditation Circle

from 11.30am - 12.30pm

Workshops:

Full details on the website

WARWICKSHIRE

FRIENDS OF THE SPIRITUAL LIGHT RUGBY SPIRITUALIST CENTRE

Suite 2, The Robin Building,
25 Albert Street,
Rugby,

Warwickshire

CV21 2SD

www.friendsofthespiritualight.co.uk

Tel: 01788 536899

or 01858 881394

E: melsprason@gmail.com

Sunday 6.30pm Divine Service

Wednesday 7.30pm

Clairvoyant Evening

Thursday 4.00pm Healing

Friday 7.30pm Open Circle

Saturday 7.00pm Special Events

(see website for details)

RUGBY INDEPENDENT SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

Pennington Mews
(Off Lawford Road),

Rugby,

Warwickshire

CV21 2RG

Tel: 07854 833119

Email: rugbyspiritualistchurch@gmail.com

Websites:

www.rugbyspiritualistchurch.com

and

www.facebook.com/Rugby.Spiritualist.Church

Sunday Services 6.30pm

Clairvoyant Evenings

twice monthly £4

Open Circle (Mondays 8pm)

twice monthly £2

Private Readings (Saturday mornings)

WEST MIDLANDS

DUDLEY SPIRITUALIST CENTRE

Buffery Paradise Centre,
Buffery Park, Dudley,
West Midlands

DY2 8SH

Associated to the

Spiritualists' National Union

Charity Registration 261898

Sunday

Divine Service: Last Sunday in month

Doors open 2.45pm

Healing, Philosophy, Demonstration

Tuesday

Healing 6.30pm - 7.15pm

Members' Circles & Development

Group 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Thursday

1st, 3rd & 5th weeks in the month

Demonstration starting at 7.30pm

Thursday

Divine Service:

2nd & 4th week in month

Starting at 7.30pm (Doors 7pm)

Home Visits

Private Sitzings arranged by request

Special events/services

as advertised

Visit us on Facebook

A warm welcome to all

STOURBRIDGE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

Union Street, Stourbridge,
West Midlands DY8 1PJ

Website:

www.stourbridge

spiritualistchurch.co.uk

Tel: 01384 825060

or 01384 352082

Sunday 6.30pm Service

Monday 2.30pm Service

Occasional Saturdays 7.30pm

Monday 1 - 2pm Healing

Thursday 7.30 - 9pm Healing

All welcome

SUTTON COLDFIELD SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

Kenelm Road, Off Manor Hill,
Sutton Coldfield B73 6HD

Website: www.scsconline.co.uk

Tel: 0121 354 3266

Sunday 6.30pm Service

Monday 1.30pm Service

Occasional Wednesdays 7.30pm

Thursday 8.00pm Healing

Saturday 11.00am Healing

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STH YORKS

WOMBWELL NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

Kelvin Grove,
Wombwell,
Barnsley,
South Yorkshire S73 0DL
Enquires 01226 792831
Email:
wombwell-spiritualistchurch
@hotmail.co.uk
Website:
wombwellsnuchurch.
zohosites.com

Follow us on Facebook

Sunday
Divine Service 6.30pm
Wednesday
Healing 6.00pm
Open Circle 7.15pm
Special Events as advertised

WALES

SACRED HANDS SPIRITUAL CENTRE

Lincoln Street, Llandysul,
Ceredigion,
Wales
SA44 4BS
www.sacred-hands.co.uk
Tel: Sonia – 01559 362128
or Carol – 01559 384989
Monday 7.30 - 9.00pm Healing:
Spiritual Healing & Reiki
(Free of charge –
donations welcome)
Thursday 7.30pm Divine Service
Saturday 7.30pm £2
Open Meditation Circle
For special events and workshops
see our website

HAFAN Y COED SPIRITUAL CENTRE / RETREAT

Heol Tawe,
Abercrave,
Swansea
Tel: 01639 730985
www.hafanycoed.com
See our main advert in this issue

WREXHAM SPIRITUAL CHURCH

Quakers Meeting House,
Holt Road,
Wrexham
Phone: 01978 354 568
Divine Service
Mondays 7.30pm - 9.00pm
Development Circle
Thursdays 7.30pm
All welcome

SCOTLAND

THE LITTLE ROSE CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

Barmulloch Community Centre,
46 Wallacewell Quadrant,
Barmulloch,
Glasgow
G21 3PX

President: Gary B. Gray
Tel: 0141 347 0455
Mob: 07812 40 40 43
Email: gagr215@aol.com
www.facebook.com/
thelittlerosechurch
Service every Thursday at 7pm
All welcome

For details of our advertising
offers for churches and centres
call: 01279 874339
Email: poadverts@gmail.com

EDINBURGH COLLEGE OF PARAPSYCHOLOGY

2 Melville Street,
Edinburgh,
Scotland,
EH3 7NS
Tel: 0131 220 1433
email: secretary@
edinburghpsychiccollege.com
CLAIRVOYANCE
Wednesdays 2.30-3.30pm
Fridays 7.30-8.30pm
SPIRITUAL HEALING
Mondays 7.30-8.30pm
Wednesdays 4-5pm
PRIVATE READINGS
by appointment

Forthcoming Special Events SHAMANIC WORKSHOP

Saturday 31st October
10.30am-5pm
Drum Healing Ceremony and
Blessing, Meditation, Power Animal
Journeying, Smudging

BRIAN LYNCH, Belfast
(www.brianlynchmedium.co.uk)
Wednesday 25th November -
Saturday 28th November
Private Readings, Clairvoyance
and Workshop

TRIO OF MEDIUMS
Friday 27th November 7.30pm-9pm
Clairvoyance with
BRIAN LYNCH, Belfast,
with MARY BATTEN, Edinburgh
& BARRY HOGG, Edinburgh
Ticketed Event
College members £7
Non-members £10
For further information on all
events please see our website
www.edinburgh
psychiccollege.com
A warm welcome to all

GUERNSEY

THE GREETING PLACE FOUNDATION SPIRITUALIST CENTRE

Douzaine Room, St Peters,
Guernsey,
Channel Islands
Enquiries to:
Margaret Phillips
Tel: 01481 256629
E-mail:
greetingplace@cwgsy.net
Website:
www.healingand
spiritualcentre.com

Our regular services are:
Sunday 11.00am
Address and Communication
Monday 7.30pm
Healing Group
Saturday 10.30am Healing Clinic
Other services as announced
Everyone welcome

GREECE



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Athens, Greece, 11252

PSYCHIC WORLD



THE VOICE OF SPIRITUALISM

Psychic World is the monthly newspaper that covers a
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Melanie Western, Stephen O'Brien, Wendy Stokes, David
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