

## NEW MEMBERS

SURNAME	FIRST NAME	LOCAL GROUP
Bashford	Oliver	UK
Brady	Helen	South Africa
Broom	Alan	New Zealand
Calleja	Mark	Malta
Capra	Fritjof	USA
Clark	Keith	UK
Clark	Helen	UK
Claxton	Patricia	UK
Coogan	Rod	Australia
Corner	Tessa	UK
Crowley	Jim	Ireland
Drew	Barry	Ireland
Elliott	Roger	UK
Gibbs	Norman	USA
Glen	Katie	UK
Gosling	William	UK
Green	Ruth	UK
Hartelius	Glenn	USA
Hazell	Rebecca	UK
Hofmann	Hannes	Germany
Jamsheed	Ghazale	UK
Kautz	William	Czech Republic
Kenworthy	Michele	Australia
Kral	Jiri	Czech Republic
McLoughlin	Anne	Ireland
Mileva	Nona	USA
Namous	Kathleen	USA
Nehring	Eddy	USA
Nima	Mossayeri	UK
Nourizadeh	Moreno	Sweden
Otto	Frederick	USA
Randall	Harold	Denmark
Rosén	Carl-Gustaf	Sweden
Ruddock	Jacqueline	UK
Saxena	Ena	UK
Smith	Liam	UK
Stevenson	Brian	UK
Tavoulari	Kalliopi	UK
Thompson	John	UK
van Bommel	Steverine	Netherlands

## MEMBER PROMOTIONS (DEATHS) 2014

SURNAME	FIRST NAME
Appleton	John
DiPauli	Edmee
Edwards	Derrick
Furneaux	Walter
Galbraith	Jean
Horsbrugh	Patrick
Jones	Richard
Little	Betsy
McMahon	John
Noble	Ruth
Nunn	Laurie
Pilkington	Pat
Stewart-Smith	Rupert

## MEMBERS' NEWS



Basso Cannarsa.

## Fritjof Capra becomes an Honorary Member

Dr Fritjof Capra has accepted an invitation to become an honorary member of the SMN. I first heard him talking about *The Turning Point* at a meeting arranged by none other than Bernard Carr at Trinity College, Cambridge in April 1978. As some members will be aware, he presented his new book *The Systems*

*View of Life* at a launch lecture with Prof Luigi Luisi in May and the full lecture can be seen on the SMN site as well as a shorter version on YouTube.

He is the author of *The Turning Point* (1982), *The Web of Life* (1996), *The Hidden Connections* (2002), *The Science of Leonardo* (2007), and *Learning from Leonardo* (2013). He coauthored *Green Politics* (1984), *Belonging to the Universe* (1991), and *EcoManagement* (1993), and coedited *Steering Business Toward Sustainability* (1995). The main focus of Fritjof's environmental education and activism has been to help build and nurture sustainable communities. He believes that to do so, we can learn valuable lessons from the study of ecosystems, which are sustainable communities of plants, animals, and microorganisms.

He holds an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of Plymouth and is the recipient of many other awards, including the Gold Medal of the UK Systems Society, the Neil Postman Award for Career Achievement in Public Intellectual Activity from the Media Ecology Association, the Medal of the President of the Italian Republic, the Leonardo da Vinci Medallion of Honor from the University of Advancing Technology in Tempe, Arizona, the Bioneers Award, the New Dimensions Broadcaster Award, the American Book Award, and the Gold IndieFab Award from *Foreword Reviews*. His website is [www.fritjofcapra.net](http://www.fritjofcapra.net)

Dr Rupert Sheldrake - We are Skeptical about Skeptics – [www.skepticalaboutskeptics.org](http://www.skepticalaboutskeptics.org)

Skeptical About Skeptics is dedicated to countering dogmatic, ill-informed attacks leveled by self-styled skeptics on pioneering scientific research, researchers, and their subjects. Healthy skepticism is an important part of science, and indeed of common sense. But dogmatic skepticism uses skepticism as a weapon to defend an ideology or belief system, and inhibits the spirit of inquiry. Most self-proclaimed skeptics are believers in a materialist worldview, and dismiss any evidence for phenomena that do not agree with their presumption that minds are nothing but brain activities confined to the insides of heads. See also Rupert's article in this issue.

You can also see Rupert and Graham Hancock discuss their controversial TED talks on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwphJKkTYI4&list=UUQ510Ghvf5pHFo66yUCYFg&index=12>

## Prof Max Velmans Consciousness Conference

Max organised an International Workshop on East-West Approaches to the Nature of Mind, Consciousness and Self at Dartington Hall towards the end of April. To keep the numbers small enough to operate as a workshop it did unfortunately have to be invitation-only. Happily though, it can now be accessed by anyone as the entire proceedings were filmed and the bulk of it is now up on the web at [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSmlGjJrQqasDdTMPZDZF\\_CaEjvWHli8G](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSmlGjJrQqasDdTMPZDZF_CaEjvWHli8G)

## Where on Earth is Heaven? by Jonathan Stedall

Jonathan's book *Where on Earth is Heaven?* – published by Hawthorn Press in 2009 and reviewed in that year – is now available as an eBook. For Kindle users it can be purchased through Amazon, and for iPads and other

readers through Barnes and Noble, Gardners, Kobo and OverDrive. Some hardback copies of the reprinted edition are also still available through bookshops, Amazon and Hawthorn Press ([www.hawthornpress.com](http://www.hawthornpress.com)).

#### David Wasdell Apollo-Gaia Project

David has been trying to address two fundamental questions:

1. By how much does the natural planetary climate system amplify the greenhouse effect of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions? In other words, how sensitive is the climate to human disturbance?
2. Is there a critical threshold beyond which the world system moves into self-amplification, or runaway behaviour, and if so, then what boundary conditions are involved?

The answer can be found in his report *Sensitivity and the Carbon Budget: the Ultimate Challenge of Climate Science* at <http://www.apollo-gaia.org/sensitivitycarbonbudget.html>

See also the presentation 'Beyond the Summit: Sensitivity, Temperature and the Carbon Budget' as video and pdf at <http://www.apollo-gaia.org/BeyondtheSummit.html>

This reaches the stark conclusion that emissions reduction on its own cannot deliver the goods and that we must adopt a dual strategy of stopping further emissions and drawing down existing greenhouse gases if we are to avert dangerous climate change.

## LOCAL GROUP REPORTS

### LONDON

#### CLAUDIA NIELSEN – 0207 431 1177, [claudia@cnielsen.eu](mailto:claudia@cnielsen.eu)

The August talk was entitled *The New "Mental Illness" Epidemic - are psychiatric manuals to blame?* in which we explored the world of psychiatry and the root of the current situation when a diagnostic label is found for more and more mental conditions and more and more drugs are prescribed. The 'bible' used by psychiatrists in the US (and the UK) is the DSM (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual), issued by the American Psychiatric Association which is now in its fifth version. The mental disorders listed there rose from 106 in 1952 to around 370 today. Has human nature changed so much in the last 60 years, or does the problem lie elsewhere?

**Dr. James Davies** is a senior lecturer in social anthropology and psychotherapy at the University of Roehampton and a practising psychotherapist. He is also co-founder of the Council for Evidence-based Psychiatry, an organisation launched earlier this year dedicated to looking into the world of psychiatry and psychiatric drugs. Last year he published the book *Cracked: why psychiatry is doing more harm than good* in which he exposes what is going on in mental health in the UK which sees ever more people being diagnosed with one or other mental condition for which a drug is prescribed. These drugs are often ineffective, and sometimes actually harmful. We heard about the regulations that approve these drugs to come to market, which are patently not fit for purpose, often based on research that is feeble and compromised by not being independent.

The main focus of this evening's presentation was the DSM and the research James conducted with the authors in order to understand how this manual was put together and how the disorders were identified. We heard details of interviews, which revealed the unscientific nature of the process in which decisions were based on votes or consensual agreements. In other words, opinions rather than evidenced and demonstrated facts! One of the members of the team acknowledged that *'there was very little research, and much of the research that existed was really hodgepodge – scattered, inconsistent, and ambiguous'*. He went on to say that *'the majority of us recognised that the amount of good, solid science upon which we were making our decisions were pretty modest'*! And yet, it is based on this manual and others of the kind, that millions of people are medicated sometimes out of their mind! It was a very interesting (albeit depressing) presentation and for those interested in the work of uncovering what is going on in the world of psychiatry, the website is [www.cepubk.org](http://www.cepubk.org).

In September our Chairman, **Bernard Carr** gave a talk entitled *Making Time for Matter and Mind*. Bernard is Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy at Queen Mary, University of London, and has a long-standing interest in the relationship between science and spirituality and also in psychical research. Bernard started by telling us that time is and always has been a great mystery, which has occupied the minds of great thinkers through the ages from Augustine to Einstein. Bernard's own particular interest in relation to that mystery are the questions "What is Now?" and "Why am I Me?" Science, he says, cannot answer these questions because mind or consciousness is not factored in. Three new books have been recently published about the question of Time, and typically none of them included the issue of consciousness. Bernard argued that if we are to understand the mystery of time, consciousness has got to be part of the explanation.

Bernard presented a brief historical overview of various philosophers who put forward their view on time and its flow, from the Greeks to Galileo. Newton's theories, however, were more extensively explained and we heard that he introduced the ideas that time and space are fixed and the future can be predicted. More recently, a change of understanding occurred with the introduction of Einstein's General Relativity theory space and time became the space/time continuum, and time became a 4<sup>th</sup> dimension. Then came Quantum Theory in which Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle means that we can know the position or the speed of a particle, but not both at the same time. The final theory, Bernard says, has got to marry both Relativity and Quantum and resolve the real question, is space fundamental (General Relativity) or is it time (Quantum)?

Bernard then addressed the three main areas of interest in his personal quest for understanding time:

1. Flow of Time
2. Precognition
3. Specious present

To explain the flow of time which physics has been unable to do so far, Bernard quoted a theory by C. D. Broad, which invokes an additional fifth dimension – mental time. The explanation is complex, and fascinating. Precognition, an area of special interest for Bernard, was demonstrated with a few examples of his personal experience. And we then heard about the *specious present*, which is defined as the minimum time span needed for the awareness of our experience of time. Specious time is variable and we have personal experience of this variability in moments of fun when time goes fast or moments of anxiety when time seems never ending. Bernard proposed that specious time may be a property of consciousness possibly varying among the living beings on the planet, and potentially, one can imagine even for cosmic bodies, which may mean that the Universe itself may be conscious!

The ultimate explanation then has in his view, to include mind or consciousness as an additional dimension of Reality. The inclusion of this dimension will resolve a number of issues at present not understood by conventional physics. There followed an animated discussion, with very interesting questions and it felt hard to bring this session to a close at 10pm.

In October we hosted **Charles Eisenstein**, who was in the UK for only a few days! Charles is a writer and speaker focusing on themes of human culture and identity. He is the author of several books, *The Ascent of Humanity*, *Sacred Economics* and *The More Beautiful World our Hearts Know is Possible*. He entitled this evening's talk *Scientific Heresies: Heralds of a Nondualistic Mythology* and started by explaining that rather than material science, the problem of the contemporary paradigm is materialism, which is too narrow an understanding of what the material world actually is. In reality, all the qualities we see in the spiritual, things like sacredness, intelligence, consciousness etc., exist in matter as well. The exclusion of spirit from matter is an intellectual effort and mirrors the removal of sacredness of the world around us. This separation makes possible the kind of economics and society we have, in which exploitation of the other, rather than compassion, is the rule.

If we saw the other as connected, and respected this connection, we would not be able to use and exploit him/her the way we do. We would by default take into consideration people's needs and wants and society would be very different. As Charles pointed out, the truth is that we are part of a bigger reality and in it a bigger order in the universe, beyond our human intelligence, exists. Our human purpose is not the only purpose. Indigenous people understand this and they experience the world as animated. What has happened to us that this knowledge has been crushed? In our world we have become used to scientists looking for and expecting certainty. This deeper knowledge however does not come with evidential certainty, and this makes it easy prey for the challenges of the current paradigm. Information and data emerging from this deeper knowledge is interpreted in a way to fit the myth of separation and so fit the expected model. Paranormal events, near death experiences, synchronicities, water memory etc., are looked at with hostility by mainstream science, yet they are an indication of an order in the universe beyond our intelligence.

But, says Charles, things are changing. Politicians don't believe their stories any more. The ideological core is hollowing out. Personal and societal identity is breaking down. Practices being developed on the margins, such as consensual decision, constellation work, social technology, truth and reconciliation etc., suggest that we are in transition. The story is changing. We are weaving a new story as a receptacle for truth. The message is positive, we cannot escape what is happening!

Our November speaker was **Iain McGilchrist**, well known to the SMN and far beyond, for his major work *The Master and his Emissary: The Divided Brain and the Making of the Western World* (Yale 2009). Iain has an academic background both in the humanities and in medicine and is retired Consultant Psychiatrist and Clinical Director at the Bethlem Royal & Maudsley Hospital, London. He is currently a Fellow of the Institute of Advanced Studies in Stellenbosch in South Africa. He is also author of a number of books. This evening's talk was entitled ***The Porcupine is a Monkey, or, Things Are Not What They Seem***, which is also the title of a book he is working on in which he combines both the theories he developed in *The Master and his Emissary* and the current worrisome state of the world, a result of our ways of thinking. *The Porcupine is a Monkey* refers to a study undertaken by Anglo-American neuroscientist Marcel Kinsbourne who investigated how the two brain hemispheres interpret truth differently. The study involved the presentation of a syllogism to participants, in which the middle statement is false. The syllogism goes as follows:

All monkeys climb trees

The porcupine is a monkey

The porcupine climbs trees.

Participants were asked the question on three different occasions: once in a normal state, once with the right hemisphere temporarily inactivated and once with the left hemisphere temporarily inactivated. In the normal state and with the left hemisphere inactivated, the participants declared the conclusion as false. But when the right hemisphere was inactivated, the conclusion was declared as true. Even when participants in that state were asked whether porcupines are monkeys, they would confirm they knew they were not. The concluding statement was declared true because, as they said, it 'was written on the card'.

This experiment supports the theory developed in Iain's book that the left hemisphere is focused on the literal, the detail, the explicit, etc. whilst the right hemisphere looks at the wider picture, the implicit, contextual etc. The study indicates that conclusions reached without the input of right hemisphere thinking lack common sense, a characteristic of right hemisphere thinking.

Iain pointed out that the current left hemispheric thinking pervasive in all levels of society is causing major problems at personal, societal and planetary levels. Some of the examples given as evidence include for instance the fact that we pursue

happiness only to become less happy over time, that we allow machines to take the drudgery out of work, while work becomes ever less fulfilling and that for more than half a century we have been pursuing measures designed to promote equality only to find progressively greater inequality. We go into Iraq and Afghanistan to achieve global security and stability, we develop tools to predict and monitor the stock market to avoid a crash, we make medical staff fill in forms so that 'there will never be another disaster' with the result that on all the examples above, the exact opposite occurred. Further example is the over-sanitisation, leading to greater vulnerability to infection and conspicuously, being so eager that all scientific research result in 'positive findings' that it has become progressively less adventurous and more predictable.

It was an insightful and sobering talk and we were left hoping that in some not distant future, right hemisphere thinking will emerge and the Master will hopefully take charge of his Emissary.

**Dr. Lewis Mehl-Madrona**, gave the December presentation which he entitled Implications of the Social Brain Hypothesis: Integrated Indigenous Wisdom and Neuroscience. Lewis is a GP, geriatrician, psychiatrist and neuropsychologist, currently the Executive Director of Coyote Institute in Maine, USA, an organisation whose purpose is to bring the wisdom of indigenous cultures into contemporary medical practice. Lewis is himself the son of a Lakota father and a Cherokee with Scottish blood, mother. The central message of the talk was the importance of the stories we live by, especially those which are shared with our communities. Living in community is the major way in which change occurs, and it is this cultural perspective that Lewis uses in healing his patients, especially those with mental problems. Lewis focused on the importance of narrative, and defined the necessary elements as: being coherent, succinct, logical, causal (because x then y) and having a distinct time line.

We were given an exercise in which we were asked to describe a routine experience to a dyad partner in the room. We were then asked to embellish this experience by bringing in mythical and fantastical elements. The second version of the story was eminently more memorable than the first. Stories communicate important messages and important messages are better communicated by stories, especially in groups. Personal change, Lewis said, happens within a social environment. People cannot change on their own, their change needs to happen within vessel, a community. We belong in communities. Ideas take on a bigger dimension within communities and the intersubjectivity in these circumstances, creates the social approach to consciousness. Communication in community happens not only with words, but with music, dance etc. Mirror neurons facilitate the congruence within a group which shares experiences, which explains why certain experiences such as prayer and meditation are stronger in groups. Western culture stresses the powerful hero whereas the American indigenous culture stresses the powerful community. Lewis works with healing circles and his experience shows the power of the intention of a circle. In those he sees miraculous healing, or as he put it – outcomes which surprise doctors!

## SYDNEY GROUP

**JEAN INGMAN**  
**May 4th 2014**  
**Consciousness**

**David Ingman** led a discussion on consciousness in its various forms and the nature of the conscious 'self' as observed in separation in the physical and the nature of what can be called the higher consciousness existing in the non-physical, which we could term the 'observer'.

It was agreed that the observer and observed are one part of the same gestalt consciousness.

The concept advocated by David of the 'self' or 'identity' being the projection of a group of minds or units of consciousness was hotly debated. There was a marked reluctance to consider

the possibility that there may not be an individual self even though the ego projection would probably always be accessible. Likewise the no time concept and reincarnational lives actually being lives lived simultaneously in the ever present moment through multiple focuses was found difficult by some to comprehend.

Entangled minds being viewed in the nature of neural networks was accepted more readily by the majority. All in all an enjoyable mind-stretching afternoon.

#### **Survival of Consciousness**

**Jean Ingman** gave a very interesting talk on the Survival of Consciousness. She mentioned several books including "Survival" by David Lorimer, "The Art of Dying" by Peter and Elizabeth Fenwick, "Stop Worrying! There Probably is an Afterlife" by Greig Taylor and "A Lawyer Presents the Evidence for the Afterlife" by Victor and Wendy Zammit

Jean used various examples to support the hypothesis that Consciousness survives death, ranging from NDEs, death bed visions, visitations from family or friends who had recently departed and mediumship, including personal experiences.

A vibrant discussion followed during which it was heartily agreed that information of this nature is of inestimable comfort to the bereaved. The discussion continued over afternoon tea and the meeting broke up around 5.30 p.m.

#### **Community Making; experience conscious communication through creative connectedness and wholeness**

##### **Saturday 25th October 2014**

Once again a very enjoyable afternoon was experienced by a small group of the Sydney Scientific and Medical Network. Our speaker was **Ireen Allanson**. Ireen introduced us to Scott Peck's book "The Different Drum, Community Making and Peace" and explained that normally there would be a much longer workshop to cover the subject than we had time for in an afternoon. Scott's ideas are that people should have a safe place to express their feelings and emotions both positive and negative and for honesty and love. The release of feelings and thoughts and discussion of these should lead to a level of understanding and being able to relate to each other's feelings leading to true community.

Ireen asked us to read the story of the Monks and the Rabbi, "The Rabbi's Gift" taken from "The Different Drum" which showed how a few words spoken by the Rabbi, "One of you is the Messiah" meant that the monks started treating each other with greater respect. People visiting the Monastery sensed this and over the years the Monastery, which had been in decline, gained new members and flourished.

Ireen asked us all to meditate silently and then to speak when we felt guided to do so. It was made clear that anything said would not be divulged to anyone outside the meeting. Various people spoke but tended to concentrate of "The Rabbi's Gift" and its implications rather than opening up about themselves but the discussion still resulted in a meaningful dialogue between us all.

It was obvious that more time was needed to appreciate Scott Peck's ideas fully and thanks were given to Ireen for starting us on the road.

The discussion continued over afternoon tea.

We also discussed the viability of the Sydney group and how to get more people interested in attending the group and also to give talks. If anyone had any suggestions regarding the group please do not hesitate to offer suggestions. I am quite happy to stand aside if somebody else would like to run the group.

## **LAMPETER AND WEST WALES GROUP**

### **ERIC FRANKLIN**

The Lampeter and West Wales 'group' of the SMN should have heard a talk with musical illustrations by the valiant stalwart of events here, Dr. Howard Jones, on October 9. He has already undergone surgery more serious than most of us ever experience, and also finds mobility difficult, but he has often addressed us in the Founders' Library of the University of Wales at Lampeter. When the planned talk had been advertised, by email and posters, we heard that Dr. Jones was in hospital again, this time for a lesser complaint. His wife, Jenny Jones, the natural energy healer, took him home to recuperate naturally after the debilitating anaesthetic, and the intended lecture was postponed, to a date not yet decided. He will give two lectures next term.

Our next event was the two-day series of seminars by **Dr. Sarah Jane Boss** on the topic of The Female Body in the Sacred Art of Western Europe. We enjoyed a whole weekend of illustrated information on a subject new to most of us, with some 220 slides. Dr. Boss's original course at Oxford University had occupied, I believe, many weeks, and there was so much information in two days that I am able only to recall my own personal reactions to some of the images. We were shown the Willendorf Venus and similar figurines, and the amazing draughtsmanship and sophistication of the lion and crane images and the combined, or overlaid, woman-bison images drawn in caves some tens of millennia ago. As the historical period was approached I wondered what mind had sculpted the seemingly semi-conscious Phrasikleia Kore. The dream-veiled unawareness of subject and sculptor contrasted shockingly with the fully self-aware Diana of Versailles, which is a Roman copy of a Greek original. Then (as I saw it) came the beginnings of an oppressive religio-political ambience in the processional chariot bearing Cybele, which seemed to me to suggest a consciousness of paranoid mystery and real-world horror.

Naturally, most of the later subject matter concerned the Christian tradition, and within that, the Marian tradition. Certainly, human consciousness has developed in two and a half millennia, but one ponders over the seeming return of a consciousness stunned, this time, by authoritatively-imposed superstition when viewing Our Lady of Orcival and some other mediaeval images of the virgin and child. Dr. Boss's exposition revealed the realism which found a peak in the paintings of Caravaggio, and extended into the recent past with treatment of some of Epstein's work, and Eric Gill's, for example. An unconventional catholic, his interests ranged from writing the headboard, in his own type face, Gill Sans, for the Flying Scotsman, through the expected crucifixes, to the female body for erotic pleasure's own sake, which many thought scarcely sacred. Dr. Boss raised the question whether sacred art of any kind was still possible in our era. These are, as I say, mostly personal musings, so I must draw your attention to Dr. Boss's two books, published by Continuum, Mary, the Complete Resource, and Empress and Handmaid.

Finally, on December 4, we were looking forward to Richard Blacklaw-Jones's lecture on the electromagnetic view of osteopathy, and probably other manual healing modalities, but he suffered a kidney stone, so, yet again, we had a postponement. The dozen or more present held a totally free discussion on the nature of our being, and it proved a very valuable and relevant experience. Cathy Crick Stanton set the chairs in a circle, and discussion began so naturally that your convenor totally forgot to turn on the sound recorder, and the participants almost totally forgot the wines and mince pies he had on offer. I felt that the very valuable process of sharing our views has laid a strong and sympathetic foundation for when, next term, we hope to welcome Richard Blacklaw-Jones to give his talk.

I am currently compiling the programme for 2015. I have a variety of interesting events, but no dates are yet fixed, so I will not give details here, but will send them in due course to the whole email list. If you would like to have notifications of the SMN Lampeter and West Wales events please email me at <erf678@gmail.com>.

## KENT GROUP

**YVONNE LOUIS**

*The Third Way*

**Dick Vane-Wright 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014**

Ideas about evolution have been arousing passions for centuries – before and after Darwin. In our present time, we seem cursed by two extremes: the thinly veiled biblical creationism of Intelligent Design and the random pointlessness of selfish DNA as championed by Richard Dawkins. To Dick Vane-Wright (and to myself), both seem unsatisfactory. Two years ago, at the Linnean Society in London, where Darwin and Wallace first announced their theories of evolution by natural selection, Dick organised a conference on the Role of Behaviour in Evolution. Now, the proceedings of that meeting are published, and well worth a careful read. The Kent group was treated to a clear and entertaining summary.

Behaviour, says Dick, opens up a Third Way of approaching evolution. This is a teleological approach, he says, one based on a search for and recognition of purpose behind the course of evolution. Behaviour, be it of an amoeba seeking food or a sapient ape contributing to society, is seen as both expression and mediator of organismic agency – or purpose – and must therefore play a key role in evolution. The ideas involved go back to Kant, Lamarck and Samuel Butler, reflecting a line of thought that sees organic evolution as something that cannot be understood on the basis of materialistic, reductionist explanations alone while, at the same time, does not require intervention of any supernatural agency.

But it is still entering dangerous ground: that of the inheritance of acquired characteristics, championed by Lamarck in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. In the words of Prof James Baldwin in 1897, this so-called organic evolution “places individual adaptation first, and fortuitous variations second, as Lamarckians have always contended, instead of placing survival conditions by fortuitous variations first and foremost, as selectionists have contended”. But that gives an apparent but not a real transmission of acquired characters. Any shift into a new adaptive zone or niche begins with a change in behaviour. And that brings purpose.

Dick Vane-Wright gave us a tour of the history of such ideas, from Kant to Lovelock, Goodwin and Kauffman. He pointed out that ‘life’ cannot be defined in isolation from the environment, animate and inanimate, with which it interacts and went on to discuss the questions raised by different theories for the origin of life; by spontaneous generation, divine intervention or purposeful laws resulting in true emergence.

Another way of looking at purpose in organic evolution is to ask if there is a creative process at work. Neo-Darwinists would say no. Religious creationists would say that it is an external process working on life. The Third Way suggests that there is something inherent to whole organisms as a key part of the creative process; something emergent to work with natural selection. That something, Dick suggests, is behaviour. “Behaviour, in its broadest sense, needs to be seen as both the expression and mediator of organismic agency, and must therefore play a key role in the processes of evolution.”

**Martin Redfern**

***Taking Care of the Cosmos: From Original to Final Participation***  
**Gary Lachman 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2014**

The speaker was **Gary Lachman**, the author of “Keepers of the Cosmos. Living responsibly in an unfinished world.” His question was does humanity have an important role in the evolution of the universe? Some people would say humanity has been a disaster but Gary feels this is a misguided view from a spiritual perspective. He talked about the Book of Hermes Trismegistus. Much of this work is the basis of western esotericism and talks about us existing on two planes, the physical and the spiritual. According to this philosophy the creator created the world and then created man to share it with him/her. We have a unique position in the cosmos and are actively involved with the cosmos. It would seem that not only can we become like God but we can become more than God!

Ideas that come in Kabbalah are that God is everything but creates a hole in which the universe can come. The universe is a result of the “mess” which God has created but we have the divine spark and our job is to repair the creation and to release our divine spark. God made a “mistake” on purpose as he knows that we can make a better job of the creation!

Louis Claude de Saint Martin (the unknown philosopher) said that we understand the world in terms of man. Man lost sight of his responsibilities and obligations by not realising his centrality in the universe. Maslow talked about being “fully human” and said we run away from our higher self to avoid reality. His belief was that we need to embrace our potential to become fully human.

From Darwin onwards there was the concept that we are no more than “trousered apes” and that we live in a meaningless universe. Gary talked about Owen Barfield, an important writer who died in 1997. He studied and wrote about the evolution of our consciousness as demonstrated by our use of language. In older languages metaphors are more vivid than they are now. Language used to be more like poetry, which brought the world alive in a sense that our modern day language no longer does. An example of this might be that in the world of poetry a rose represents many things but in the world of prose it represents a particular flower. These ideas have also been reiterated by Rudolf Steiner and with the idea that man cooperates with bringing the world into existence.

Werner Heisenberg, an early quantum physicist, also talked about the uncertainty principle and how the observation of a particle changes its character. It’s interesting to note that this idea was accepted when a scientist said it but not when Steiner said it! So can we know what the world was like before consciousness existed, or did it exist at all? So do we create reality? It could be summed up that we make the representation (i.e. the painting) but not the reality.

**Cora Kemball-Cook**

## MEMBERS’ ARTICLES AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Available from the editor and will be downloadable from the new site

### SCIENCE/PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

**Scientists say there may be Life after Death** – report on Dr Sam Parnia’s recent research (3 pp.)

### MEDICINE-HEALTH

**Mercury in Vaccines Linked to Autism and Neurodevelopmental Issues – 5 pp. from Natural News.**

Professor Boyd Haley, Ph.D., says thimerosal, the ethylmercury-based preservative commonly used in vaccines, is lethal to all forms of life and should never be injected into a human being, especially one who is still a developing baby. Even at very low doses, thimerosal has been shown to kill neuronal cells, a fact that has been demonstrated both in vitro and in animals.

**Dreamtime Healing and Holographic Kinetics** – an esoteric briefing on relating ancient aboriginal insights with the understanding of modern science.

### PSYCHOLOGY-CONSCIOUSNESS STUDIES

**Mind-Matter Interaction at a Distance of 190 km – effects on a random number generator using a cut-off method – Patrizio Tressoldi et al.**

See [www.neuroquantology.com](http://www.neuroquantology.com) Vol. 12-3 of their journal. Needs a log-in to access but abstract is freely available.

**Anomalous Events that can Shake one’s Skepticism to the Core – Michael Shermer.**

See Scientific American Vol 311 issue 4 on [www.scientificamerican.com](http://www.scientificamerican.com) - here Shermer relates an incident involving the sudden functioning of an old transistor radio from

inside a drawer on the occasion of his wedding. The radio went defunct again the following day and has never worked since.... his wife had the strong sense that this was associated with the presence of her grandfather.

**Psyche and Cosmos: the emergence of order out of chaos – John Clarke (15 pp.)** – discusses emergentism in relation to some of Jung's ideas.

## SPIRITUALITY-RELIGION

**Hans Kung and the Global Ethic – Harri Wettstein (12 pp.)**

**An Open Letter, Enlightenment and Co-creation with God – Leon Moscona (9 pp.)**. An explanation and invitation to partake in the new 'religion' of co-creation with God, bringing different spiritual approaches together.

**Is there a Power Stronger than all Violence? From Terra Nova School (Dieter Duhm) October 2013 (13 pp.)**

**Realistic Utopia – Ecological and Technological Foundations for a New Peace Culture. From Terra Nova School July 2013 (14 pp.)**

**Revolution of Life. From Terra Nova School November 2014 (12 pp.)**

**Behold I Make All Things New – Alan Hammond on creative inventiveness (2 pp.)**

## GENERAL

**Why the Oil Price is Collapsing – D.K Matai (6 pp.)**. See my review of Jeremy Leggett's book under Ecology-Futures Studies for a comment.

**The Workplace, the Transpersonal, Spirituality and Values - John Drew (13 pp.)**

**13 Behaviours of a High Trust Leader – Stephen M. R. Covey (6 pp.)** – see [www.coveylink.com](http://www.coveylink.com)

**The Phoenix Generation: a new era of connection, compassion and consciousness - Kingsley Dennis (4 pp.)**

**ISIS and the West – Rabbi Michael Lerner (7 pp.)**

**After the Vote – International Futures Forum ([www.internationalfuturesforum.com](http://www.internationalfuturesforum.com))**

Illuminating discussion of possible feelings and responses after the referendum – the underlying debate is about

**Online articles by Anthony Judge – [www.laetusinpraesens.org](http://www.laetusinpraesens.org)**

*\*Anthony has been even more productive than usual since the last issue! His pieces on Tesla are especially interesting.*

**Imagining Order as Hypercomputing  
Operating an information engine through meta-analogy**  
<http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/musings/oracle.php>

**Systemic Reliance of World Religions on Human Sacrifice – Covert use of fatal conflict to ensure vital resource management**  
<http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/docs10s/sacrifex.php>

**Is this a Weapon I see Before Me, the Trigger Toward My Hand?**

**Barack Obama's soliloquy by Willy ShakesUS**  
<http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/musings/macbeth.php>

**Eradication as the Strategic Final Solution of the 21st Century?**

**Indicative checklist of possible domains of application**  
<http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/docs10s/eradicat.php>

**Reimagining Tesla's Creativity through Technomimicry - Psychosocial empowerment by imagining charged conditions otherwise**  
<http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/musings/tesla.php>

**Insight into Global Dynamics through Tesla's Focus on the Sphere**  
<http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/musings/tesla.php#insi>

**Imagining the Nature of Cognitive "Flight" in terms of the Enneagram**

<http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/musings/teslaglo.php#imag>

**Systemic Equivalences between Ebola, Alien Invasion and Dissidence**

**Strategic implications of seemingly disparate forms of terrorism**  
<http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/docs10s/ebola.php>

**Resource Insights from Plus or Minus 12 People on a Liferaft - Thought experiment to highlight global dilemmas in a comprehensible context**

<http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/docs10s/lifeboat.php>

**Correspondences between Traditional Constellations and Pattern Languages - Requisite simplicity for sustainable comprehension of complexity**

<http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/docs10s/ennea.php>

**Adhering to God's Plan in a Global Society - Serious problems framed by the Pope from a transfinite perspective**

<http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/musings/godsplan.php>

**Corpus Callosum of the Global Brain**

**Where is the integrative function located within the worldwide web?**

<http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/musings/callosum.php>

**Engaging with Insight of a Higher Order  
Reconciling complexity and simplicity through memorable metaphor**

<http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/musings/insight.php>

**Is the World View of a Holy Father Necessarily Full of Holes? Mysterious theological black holes engendering global crises**

<http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/musings/holiness.php>

## NEWS AND NOTICES

**Rising Women Rising World**

Rising Women Rising World is a growing circle of experienced women specialists with knowledge and expertise in the full spectrum of human development. Each woman is committed to bring into being a world that works for all. In November 2013, Jean Houston, Rama Mani and Scilla Elworthy convened a gathering of twenty women at Charney Manor, a 13th century retreat centre in the English country side. The women represented every continent and many cultures. All were united in their concern for human and planetary life and their belief that this moment is an opportunity for an alternate future to emerge, a future that has transformed competition, exploitation, and division, into cooperation, innovation and wholeness. The meeting at Charney Manor concluded with a commitment to support women across the world to act as catalysts in humanity's movement towards a world that works for all. [www.risingwomenrisingworld.com](http://www.risingwomenrisingworld.com)

**Brain Pickings Weekly**

This informative and highly stimulating compilation comes out every Sunday and covers many fundamental themes, with extracts from key books and writers on existential questions that touch us all. There was recently an item about Joanna Macy's book about Rilke and quotations from a little-known work by Dostoevsky. Below you will find a quotation from Wendell Berry, also from a recent compilation. There are further hyperlinks and there is always coverage of art as well. You can sign up at [www.brainpickings.org](http://www.brainpickings.org)

*True solitude is found in the wild places, where one is without human obligation. One's inner voices become audible. One feels the attraction of one's most intimate sources. In consequence, one responds more clearly to other lives. The more coherent one becomes within oneself as a creature, the more fully one enters into the communion of all creatures.*

### **Meditation from the Perspective of Science, Health and Spirituality**

This DVD is an extraordinary resource for anyone interested in the theory and practice of meditation. It contains a total of 10 hours of video, 97 hours of audio and 10,000 pages of e-books. There are nine folders including major items on Western scientific perspectives, clips with meditation teachers, advice on practice, a lecture by Alan Wallace on physics and Eastern philosophy and a huge folder with 71 e-books. All this material can be freely downloaded and you will find a guide on the home page at [www.meditactics.com](http://www.meditactics.com)

### **Research Project Assistance Required**

We're researchers at King's College London looking for people in or around South London with regular spiritual/mystical experiences. They must also be willing to take part in an MRI scan, be right-handed, and have no metal in their body. We are especially interested in understanding how people interpret or make sense of their experiences and which different factors may influence this. Participation in the study is voluntary- we offer £30 for taking part in an MRI scan, and an additional £10 for completing questionnaires face to face, plus travel costs. After an initial phone conversation, if we agree the study is right for you we will meet. The study should last about 2 hours (1 hour for the MRI, 1 hour face to face). If you would like to take part in the study or if you have any questions please contact us on: Raphael Underwood [raphael.underwood@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:raphael.underwood@kcl.ac.uk) 07425156301

### **Gratitude Website**

A new website and initiative from the John Templeton Foundation intends to help increase the spiral of gratitude. [ElementofGratitude.org](http://ElementofGratitude.org) aims to put the ancient insight and scientific evidence into practice by demonstrating that gratitude and thankfulness do indeed lead to giving, and vice versa. The goal of the site is to start a chain reaction across the Internet, an online manifestation of the gratitude spiral.

### **Avaaz and the Climate March**

The climate march was a game changer, cited by president after president in their UN summit speeches. 675,000 people turned out in 162 countries including the Secretary General of the UN and 18 cabinet ministers. While hundreds of organisations contributed to the march and the win in Europe, our role was crucial. The BBC said: *"The marches brought more people on to the streets than ever before, partly thanks to the organizational power of the e-campaign group Avaaz."* And Germany's environment minister said: *"I would like to thank the millions of people who have joined Avaaz...Without public support it will be impossible to stop climate change."*

### **Opensciences**

October saw the launch of a new website - [opensciences.org](http://opensciences.org) - which is a portal to the emerging sciences. It includes details of pioneering scientists, open-minded research centres and adventurous sources of funding, as well as a feast of interesting books, videos and papers. This project is organised by the Campaign for Open Science, and grew out the Post-Materialist Summit in Tucson, Arizona. earlier this year. The site also provides an overview of some of the most important open questions in the sciences. Do take a look at it, and tell your friends!

### **A Cultural History of the Senses – [www.bloomsbury.com](http://www.bloomsbury.com)**

From antiquity to the present day, this major six-volume reference work covers themes such as religion, philosophy, science, medicine, literature, art and media. Each volume assesses the same key themes, meaning you can gain a broad overview of each period, or follow a theme throughout history.

Chapter breakdown:

- The Social Life of the Senses
- Urban Sensations
- The Senses in the Marketplace
- The Senses in Religion
- The Senses in Philosophy and Science

- Medicine and the Senses
- The Senses in Literature
- Art and the Senses
- Sensory Media

### **Declaration of Rights for Cetaceans**

In 2010 I reviewed a book arguing convincingly that dolphins qualify as persons. So it was heartening to learn that India's Ministry of Environment and Forests has agreed to ban the use of dolphins and other cetaceans such as whales and porpoises for public entertainment and forbid them from being held captive anywhere in India.

The movement for dolphin and cetacean rights really took off and gained some ground in 2011 when the American Association for the Advancement of Science held a meeting that included conservationists, environmentalists, philosophers, and animal behaviorists. They began to gather support for the Declaration of Rights for Cetaceans from the scientific community. The declaration states:

- Every individual cetacean has the right to life.
- No cetacean should be held in captivity or servitude; be subject to cruel treatment; or be removed from their natural environment.
- All cetaceans have the right to freedom of movement and residence within their natural environment.
- No cetacean is the property of any State, corporation, human group or individual.
- Cetaceans have the right to the protection of their natural environment.
- Cetaceans have the right not to be subject to the disruption of their cultures.
- The rights, freedoms and norms set forth in this Declaration should be protected under international and domestic law.

### **Trustees sought for Leading Healing Charity**

The Confederation of Healing Organisations (CHO) is the leading charity advancing the practice of Healing: promoting its benefits as a recognised complementary therapy by providing education, research and information to a wider audience of Healing and healthcare practitioners and society as a whole. To fulfil our succession planning, two new Trustees are sought to join the Board of the Charity. We are specifically looking for either/all of fundraising, marketing, finance, and research experience, along with the ability to work effectively in a high-performing Board.

To apply, please send a covering letter and CV detailing your fundraising, finance, research and/or marketing background, or to find out more about the sort of people we are seeking please contact:

**Sue Knight, Chief Executive E: [cx@the-cho.org.uk](mailto:cx@the-cho.org.uk)  
T: 01458 223185 W: [www.the-cho.org.uk](http://www.the-cho.org.uk)**

### **Near Death Experience UK Support Group**

Near Death Experience UK is a support group that has been launched in association with Dr Penny Sartori to help those who have had an NDE as well as their spouses, children, parents, friends and peers. They have regular meetings where they offer people who have had a Near Death Experience an opportunity to share their experiences and find comfort in others who have been through a similar experience as well as learn from differing ones. They share informative resources, medical discoveries, invite guest speakers, refer appropriate counselling and provide a like-minded community through which people can make their own discoveries and personal journey in a safe and nurturing environment. For more information and contact visit - [www.neardeathexperienceuk.com](http://www.neardeathexperienceuk.com)