

NEW MEMBERS SINCE APRIL

SURNAME	FIRST NAME	LOCAL GROUP
Buchanan	Katherine	UK
Castro	Helano	Brazil
Dixon	Patrick	UK
Duvnjak	Alex	UK
Firth	Timothy	UK
Foss	Stephen	USA
Franklin	Eric	UK
Gilbert	Rosie	UK
Griffiths	Martin	UK
Griffiths	Elizabeth	UK
Hanvey	Liz	Ireland
Hitchens	Julia	UK
Hitchens	Paul	UK
Leicester	Graham	UK
Lesino	Carlos	Uruguay
Nason	Sara	UK
Nicholls	Nick	UK
Owen	Fiona	UK
Rankin	Aidan	UK
Razzaque	Russell	UK
Razzaque	Maria	UK
Roberts	Len	UK
Roberts	Maria	UK
Rose-Neil	Philip	UK
Ross	Suzanne	UK
Torry	Robert	UK
Vigoda	RJ	USA

Mike King: The Angel Project

The Angel Project is a campaign to seek justice for the Palestinians through the US Supreme Court. You can visit the project website at www.jnani.org/angel, which has links to the Facebook campaign page. Mike King set up the campaign, named after his novel *The Angel of Har Megiddo*, which is available as a Kindle e-book from Amazon. The idea behind the project and the novel is that the sufferings of the Palestinians are down to Christian Zionism, a huge but overlooked cultural force in US politics that forced President Truman to back the creation of Israel against his better judgement in 1947, and which has forced Congress in recent years to back Israel at the expense of international justice for the Palestinians. The influence of Christian Zionism on US foreign policy is in direct contradiction of the principle of the separation of church and state, and is hence a violation of the US Constitution. Mike believes that a US Supreme Court case could declare US support for Israel illegal and force it to become an honest broker in Israel-Palestine negotiations. Mike also believes that this is the only hope for the Palestinians. At present Israel can force US Presidents to its will because 30 million US Christian Zionists are quickly mobilised to vote against any US politician that dares speak out. This scandal must not continue.

Blaker Funding Goes Towards Cutting Edge Seminars

Medical anthropology seminars which explore cultural and spiritual approaches to medicine and consciousness were developed by SMN member Natalie Tobert. These innovative seminars act as a bridge between academic awareness of spirituality and its direct practical application to frontline medical and healthcare practitioners.

Training is experiential and participatory: members of the group are invited to explore cultural existential beliefs, and discuss their own beliefs about reality, life, death and beyond. Training has already been done for NHS Foundation Trusts, hospitals, university departments of both Psychology and Mental Health, and for Medical School undergraduates.

Seminars explore the fundamental importance of acknowledging personal beliefs about spirituality and human existence, both for patients accessing health services and for front line providers delivering services.

These cutting edge seminars aspire towards reducing social inequalities, and can be offered at your place of work. Aethos Consultancy web site displays an overview of topics offered: www.aethos.org.uk/programmes. Topics include death and dying, women and conception, survival beliefs, religious experiences and mental health. If you would like to discuss a staff training programme on site, then do contact the Education Director at: natalietobert@aol.com

LOCAL GROUP NEWS

**Report of Sydney Local SMN Group Meeting – 26 May 2013
Jo de Groot**

A lively meeting with plenty of in-depth sharing was held at Level 10, Polding Centre, Sydney, under the umbrella of 'The Academy of the Word' at Jo's invitation. Eleven people enjoyed the two papers read by our friend, sociologist, **Lindsay Mell**. The first dealt with Sheldrake's chapter 'Is Nature Purposeful?' from 'The Science Delusion' and the second delved into the thought of Russian author, A.N. Lyontiev, on various aspects of consciousness. Lindsay pointed out some connections between Sheldrake's thought and Lyontiev's as well as his own.

Lyontiev considers human activity to be a 'conscious, purposive process', infused and imbued with motive which the person concerned derives through their 'personal sense', this 'being always the sense of something'. The idea of perception was discussed and described as 'only able to proceed personally and collectively through means of prior perceptual form through which we are able to engender distinctive perception.' Lindsay differed from Lyontiev in his interpretation of the concept of 'meaning' in that 'reflection of reality irrespective of man's individual personal relation to it' cannot be feasibly sustained and presented us with his own view that links perceptual conditions 'integral to the broad interpretative perceptual dimension of meaning – significance – relevance – resonance.

While the conversation ranged over a vast array of topics Lindsay affirmed that 'it would seem the perceptual dimension of our conscious awareness remains the source of our experience of such morphic resonance. Consequently, 'the associated purposeful dimension of affinity – affection – affiliation – to appreciation could comprise the vital dimension through which such resonant perception and purpose could be affirmed and validated.'

We are meeting on Sunday 18th August at Polding Centre in Sydney and will have Lindsay Mell give the second half of his talk about the work of the Russian writer, A.N. Lyontiev, on the socio-historical context and development, both East and West, of consciousness and perception. Lindsay will also deal with Rupert Sheldrake's chapter on memory in *The Science Delusion*.

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To read reports from other meetings, go to the 'Summaries of Previous Events' page of the London Group page of the Network's website. If you don't live in London but wish to be advised of London events please drop me an email and I shall add your e-address to the circulation list.

In April we welcomed **Marianne Rankin** who gave a lecture entitled *Spiritual Experience Today*. Marianne is former chair of the Alister Hardy Society (now renamed the AH Society for the Study of Spiritual Experience) and is also the author of *Introduction to Religious and Spiritual Experience*, a book in which she sets out the field of Religious/Spiritual experience from various perspectives. This evening she expanded on some of them starting with William James who in the Gifford lectures set out his own parameters for spiritual/religious experience. She then went on to talk about Alister Hardy, whose research centre - now based **University of Wales Trinity Saint David in Lampeter** – is home to a repository of accounts of spiritual experiences from people from all over the world. Hardy was a man of science, a zoologist and oceanographer who had a deep interest in human nature and the nature of spiritual experience from early on. Having shown this interest at a time when such subjects were frowned upon, he was advised by his professor to build his reputation as a serious scientist first and to explore this field once his credibility as a scientist had been established.

This Hardy did, and he became a well respected academic (one of his students was a Richard Dawkins!) and then went on to explore the field of spiritual experiences.

Marianne speculated that Hardy's interest in spiritual experience was probably sparked by some he may have had himself, but it was not until well into his eighties that he wrote about them. Hardy's definition of spiritual experience is – 'a deep awareness of a benevolent non-physical power which appears to be partly or wholly beyond, and far greater than, the individual self', which also defines the range of experiences held in the archive. Marianne read a few examples of the range of different experiences held in the archive and told us about the ongoing research in various countries. She also spent some time talking about accounts of near-death experiences and mentioned that the archive holds the information from Elisabeth and Peter Fenwick (The SMN's President's) research.

In May **Maggie la Tourelle** shared with us her experience of accompanying her mother's Alzheimer's journey, which she recorded in her book – *The Gift of Alzheimer's: Heart and Soul Journey*. The book is an in-depth study of her mother's experience over the last 3.5 years of her life, during which time Maggie wrote a journal of her observations and conversations she had with her mother. Maggie has worked in the field of Holistic Healthcare for 30 years and she used her skills as psychotherapist to listen carefully, and through a mutual opening of heart something special happened between them, which allowed Maggie to participate in the process. She was specifically requested by her mother to write this book to ensure that the information, which she knew was important, was made available to others. What transpired in this journey is that although the brain deteriorates and the sufferer becomes less able to communicate, this does not mean that thinking ceases.

On the contrary, thoughts seem to become clearer and perception more acute but as Maggie's mother said – 'when I am confused, I can't remember!' Maggie records what can only be described as a mystical process in which her mother experiences another world, which she sometimes can describe with great clarity. Metaphorical language is rich with meaning. The process over these last 3.5 years of her mother's life included 7 stages during which the soul learned about and experienced other realities gradually disconnecting from the material body in preparation for the final disconnection. There was a gradual loss of ego and personality and eventually she was living completely in the now. There was full awareness of impending death, but no fear. What Maggie learned on this journey with her mother - which she documents in her book - are fascinating examples of transcendental states that parallel those of NDEs and OBEs. They point to a continuation of conscious awareness after death. The book (which can be bought on Amazon) contains many interesting facts, both scientific and general and is well worth reading for an insight into a disease that is so little understood.

In June we hosted a meeting for **Ravi Ravindra**, honorary member of the SMN and Professor Emeritus of Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia where he was for many years professor of Physics, Philosophy and Comparative Religion. Ravi was on his UK lecture tour and we were fortunate to have him during his stop in London. The topic of this evening's lecture was *Questioning Einstein on Science and Religion*, a topic he is eminently placed to explore. Ravi explored in particular Einstein's statement that '*Science without religion is lame; religion without science is blind*' and examined how it stands up against the background of the wisdom traditions.

He started by explaining the perspectives of the scientific researcher and the spiritual searcher, who although in different ways have the same attitude towards their quest, understanding existence and reality. Both approach this quest from different perspectives but engage in similar states of mind and faith plays just important a role in the exploration both in science and spirituality. Spirituality explores the inner landscape, whereas science explores the external world. One uses experience, whereas for the other the tool is experiment. Both look for objective rather than subjective (personal) perception, but their vision is different: Max Planck

for instance remarked that whatever cannot be measured cannot be real whereas Shankara (9th century CE) remarked that whatever can be measured cannot be real! Thus are the perspectives different! For the Western tradition Ravi quoted the words of St Paul who says that *the eyes of the flesh see the things of the flesh and eyes of the Spirit see the things of the Spirit*, Spirit here meaning something subtler (more intelligent, more conscious) than the Mind. Many of Einstein's statements show that he had a profoundly spiritual view of the world and saw science as a spiritual path but by claiming that religion without science is lame, Einstein betrays a lack of understanding of the 'eye' of Spirit. Science involves activity whereas for the perception of Spirit, action is irrelevant. '*Be attentive and do nothing*' – said the Buddha.

July brought us **Chris Todhunter**, an architect by profession with interests in music and consciousness. He entitled his talk *The Western Musical Tradition and the Enlightenment: an Experiment in Consciousness*. Chris told us the current thinking about the origins of music and mentioned that 2000 year-old Egyptian pictures exist depicting the lyre with 5 and 7 strings, which gives some indication of the type of music that might have been played then. Music was used for dancing and bonding as in circle dancing but also engage the emotions and determination in war efforts. Music became formalised with the development of notation by monks around the late 15th C and the structure of music was then able to evolve into melodies. By the time of Bach in the 18th century a revolution was taking place as the rules of harmony were being re-written. The introduction of rules meant that music could be written in a semi-mechanical way, side-lining the need for feelings or even devotion. The courts were demanding ever more music and these rules made it relatively easy for composers to deliver requirements. This is the start of objectification of music. This was however not a universal attitude, around the same time saw the birth of opera as an art form and Monteverdi developed music for the human voice engaging emotion to its fullest degree. We watched a Ted talk given by Michael Tilson Thomas the music director of the San Francisco **Symphony, and artistic director of the New World Symphony Orchestra** (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FD5ZKi-moMU>) *Music and Emotion through Time* after which we considered the listening relationship we have ourselves with music. Good music, Chris argues, is the music which brings one to stillness which we experienced as we listened to Schubert's Quintet in C, a most magnificent and moving piece!

REPORTS OF THE RECENT KENT BRANCH MEETINGS

Yvonne Louis

2nd November 2012

The Protein Crunch - Civilisation on the Brink

We were delighted to have **David Lorimer** to lead our meeting for which there was an excellent turnout. David based his talk on his recent book *The Protein Crunch* written with Jason Drew. David painted with harsh clarity a picture of a world motivated and manipulated through commercial exploitation, driven by greed, political ambition and self interest - the consequences are disastrous. The use of the Earth's natural resources has dramatically escalated during the past thirty years and beyond the rate at which these natural stores can be replenished so that we are now in drawdown.

The disproportionate distribution of the Earth's resources has led to such an imbalance that one may construe that the poor are being exploited to support the rich, not just in terms of food resource (One billion people are starving and more than that are overweight!) but also for example the practice of the wealthy countries dumping their toxic waste onto the Third World countries where there is limited technology and ability to deal with this effectively.

David drew on many real examples to illustrate his points and we began to see an imbalanced unjust world facing ecological and spiritual destitution, where moral integrity seems to have but a faint voice and where the “fat cats” sitting on their thrones of power grow richer and sleeker. What hope is there for future generations unless we face the wake up call and do something to change direction?

This talk had a powerful message and a sobering effect. Needless to say there was much discussion and whilst some people felt that it was impossible for the individual to bring about change the point was made that we can - through our circle of influence. Indeed we could well reflect on a talk given on 2nd September Are we Ready for the Challenge? where Eleanor Stoneham proposed a number of practical initiatives.

4th December

Marine Machine - Art Forms in Nature.

Despite the threat of snow we had a good turnout and it was a pleasure to have local artist **Jane Furst** who gave us a fascinating and very detailed power point presentation which focused mainly on the various art forms that exist within nature; look closely at a flower, its leaves, petals and its seed head to see the most exquisite patterns and shapes in perfect symmetry. The main subject of Jane's talk was based on Marine Life looking specifically at microscopic sea forms. From the many detailed pictures and prints which were shown we began to appreciate the underlying geometry which pervades all forms of nature including such inorganic forms as crystals.

Jane's work in this area was inspired by the 19th century biologist Ernst Haeckel and his studies of marine life and particularly his famous book, *Art Forms in Nature*, which was a great influence.

Much of Jane's work in this area was produced as Mezzotint and in her introduction she explained the techniques that she had used for this print process, clearly requiring so much patience, hard work and many hours to produce. Jane passed around a number of the copper plates on which she had etched her designs, which were fine and beautiful in their own right.

Jane had graduated from the Royal College of Art in 1970 with an MA degree and since then she has been a visiting lecturer, art teacher at numerous London Art schools, a freelance designer illustrating book covers for Virago and the Women's Press and done historical costume construction for museums. She is primarily a fine artist and has, over a 20 year period exhibited her work at such places as the Barbican and the Royal Botanical Garden, Kew.

Jane spoke passionately about her art and how the various emotional events throughout her life were reflected in her work. An added dimension to the evening was the art work which was exhibited - prints, collages and jewellery.

Throughout this presentation reference was made to the harmony which is reflected through all planes of nature - this was well known to the ancient wise men and has been referred to by the likes of Plato, Kepler and Leonardo da Vinci to name but a few. Jane has agreed to talk again this summer when the relationship of harmony, geometry and sacred number will be explored in more depth.

This pleasant evening marked the beginning of the festive period and a great way for our group to conclude 2012.

5th February 2013

Out of Body Experience and Lucid Dreaming

Our Kent group's focus this year is on Consciousness - and what it means to each of us. Again we met in Rochester to hear a recording given by the late **Professor Arthur Ellison** - who was Emeritus Professor of Electrical Engineering - He was also a renowned parapsychologist, had been a prominent member of the Research Centre of the Theosophical Society UK, the SMN and the Society for Psychical Research.

OBE and Lucid dreaming are not often linked, yet they have much in common. The talk outlined the features of altered

states of consciousness and how they can be experienced, as well as considering their importance to science and philosophy.

I regret that I had not had the opportunity to meet Arthur Ellison who came over as deeply sincere and extremely rational in his approach which was to question, challenge, experiment in order to seek out the truth.

The talk was fascinating and included many amusing moments leading us onto a discussion where we were able to share our individual viewpoints and concepts before concluding with supper

The Conscious Paradigm - Multidimensionality and the OBE

We were delighted to welcome **Sandie Gustus** to Rochester - Sandie had previously given a most memorable talk at the SMN Body and Beyond Conference 2012.

The conventional scientific paradigm based on matter and energy fails to answer many questions about the nature of consciousness. Sandie's talk introduced the consensual paradigm, a new scientific paradigm proposed by the Brazilian physician Dr. Waldo Vieira which recognizes our reality as multidimensional. Within this framework the OBE is a tool that allows individual consciousness to be both the researcher and the object of study.

Sandie has been researching OBEs for over ten years, and had worked closely with Dr. Vieira and also with the International Academy of Consciousness (IAC) which promotes Dr. Vieira's work. Sandie spoke about her own personal experiences and how she believes that psychism can help enhance one's ordinary, every day life, through greater perception, self awareness and understanding which comes from the «altered state». Her recently published book «Less Incomplete» makes accessible much of this research.

This was a fascinating and challenging talk which needless to say prompted many questions particularly how to achieve an OBE - Sandie explained that the ICA in London has an open evening for anyone wishing to pursue this further.

Dropping Subject-Object Consciousness and Seeing “Reality” - what is the world and who are we?

The non-dual tradition of Advaita suggests that the world is an illusion and is created by the act of perception. The question then is, who is the perceiver and what is perceived?

Approximately 25 of us gathered in Rochester to hear **Dr. Peter Fenwick** give us an illustrated talk on aspects of consciousness, spirituality and transcendental experiences. Starting with the Pathless Path meditation technique, and a reflection on what we mean by spirituality, he then gave us the benefit of an interview he held with the artist Thetis Blacker before she died, in which she described her own transcendental experiences. Blacker believed that creative art has a life and soul of its own, with inspiration coming from a source other than the human experience, from a divine presence, which is there in all things.

We went on to consider the “persistent non-symbolic consciousness” (enlightenment, non-duality, mystical experience, union with God/nature, etc.) as described by Jeffrey Martin, who made the first systematic study of enlightenment experiences - which are more common than we thought - and Peter linked this with the non-dual tradition of Advaita, with its 5 sheaths, suggesting that the world is an illusion and is created by the act of perception. Peter then spoke of the Kensho experience of Zen Buddhism, a mental state of bare awareness that we can all achieve, which can be life changing.

Many will agree that we may be at crisis point, on the brink of civilisation collapse, but the good news is that we can change our neurophysiology according to Zen by developing our allocentric or receptive attention, whereby we center our attention on others, with increased compassion and love, through movement and meditation techniques. It is difficult to do full justice to the scope of the talk in this limited space, and we came away with many book references for further reading.

The meeting concluded with more discussion over supper.

Eleanor Stoneham

Remote Viewing: verified results from the CIA and Besant and Leadbeater's viewing of atoms. Easy methods for remote viewing.

We were pleased to welcome **Professor Gwyn Hocking** - Gwyn was Professor of Materials Chemistry, Imperial College, University of London until 2001 and he has published more than 150 scientific papers and a major reference book.

Gwyn's power point presentation explained the concept of remote viewing, which he describes as "a controlled vivid dreaming state which cannot be dismissed as hallucination." It can be induced by some narcotic drugs or through a meditation process and enables the viewer to project their consciousness beyond their physical body to another place or time.

It has given useful information in chemistry and physics as illustrated by the experiences of Leadbeater and Besant (early prominent member of the Theosophical Society). Whilst one could doubt the validity of such experiences, the CIA and other organisations have used remote viewing successfully in order to obtain covert intelligence information.

Gwyn explained two easy but unconventional methods which he had used in order to obtain a seamless transition from waking to a self-conscious dream state - interestingly several people in the group identified with this and gave accounts of their own experiences.

Gwyn made it clear at the beginning that the physics aspects of the talk did not require any specialist scientific knowledge and that it was built on the convergence of modern physics (elementary particles and quarks) with religion including Buddhism, Hinduism and Judeo Christian - many details illustrations and references were given, some which could have been explored in much more depth but for the time constraint.

Gwyn's gentle manner, his insight and experience into the paranormal invited many questions and much animated discussion which concluded over supper

The Secret Life of Statues

This meeting was generously hosted by Richard and Cora Kemball-Cook who welcomed some 25 of us to their lovely home near Canterbury. We were delighted that **Dr. Angela Voss** had agreed to talk to us.

Angela is an academic and an astrologer. She worked at the University of Kent from 2000-2010 where she directed an MA programme in the Cultural Study of Cosmology and Divination. She is currently preparing a new MA programme with Wilma Fraser and Geoffrey Cornelius at Canterbury Christ Church University in Myth, Cosmology and the Sacred, to commence January 2014. A former early music specialist, she has published extensively on the astrological music therapy of the Renaissance magus Marsilio Ficino. More broadly she is interested in music and spirituality, the symbolic imagination in esoteric and Neoplatonic traditions and contemporary approaches to mediumship and the paranormal.

Telestike, or the art of statue animation was a central rite in theurgic rituals of Hermeticism. The aim was to effect a change in the consciousness of the observers in such a way that the material icon was seen to move, speak, give oracles or display other miraculous effects.

In her power point presentation Angela looked at the phenomenon of living statues and how we might understand the nature of the miraculous vision in terms of Neoplatonic epistemology, Corbin's 'imaginal world' and Jungian active imagination; how this phenomenon raises the question of the power of a particular mode of consciousness to perceive the material world in a different way, bridging the divide between concrete and symbolic realities..

This was a deeply thought provoking talk which presented yet another aspect of our group's current theme of Consciousness. The evening continued over a delicious

Indian style supper prepared by Cora and her friends which was much enjoyed by all.

Towards the Unknown Region

On Friday 12th July 2013 Kent Sci. Med. Net Meeting met on a summer evening in the idyllic setting of Martin Redfern's Kentish Garden.

Paul Robertson kindly and graciously shared with us his near death journey into the as yet little known twilight region between life as we experience it on earth and life as it is experienced on the journey towards death.

In 2008 Paul suffered a serious illness, so he was in a coma for 6 weeks and hospitalised for 4 months. The journey relates his experiences whilst in a coma. It is interesting that today he can remember these experiences, unlike the majority of dreams that evaporate on waking rarely to be recalled.

Paul had annotated his experiences numerically 1-17 as per a Chinese Restaurant menu! We decided to abandon the scientific process of beginning, middle, and end, and to take an intuitive leap of faith into the unknown - choose numbers at random - and see where it took us. We chose 7, 3, 12 and 17.

It was a journey of metamorphosis, of deconstruction of the personality and a reconstruction of the personality that was to be a wiser, more peaceful, less stressful, less fearful, more empathic, lighter and younger looking Paul.

The image of de-construction and re-construction succinctly describes the journey.

Paul reported that:

- He was now more able to empathise with others.
- That the feeling of being close to death was a pleasing feeling.
- There was a realisation how at one level ambition is futile.
- He experienced lovely constellations of detachment, a sense of floating.
- Having faced death it has now (for him) lost its fear.
- Letting go of fear is a great gift
- He now feels that he lives for meaning - when nearly dead one has a sense of who you really are.
- Our only taste of truth is our own experience.
- He is involved in a reflective process - a sensation of the awareness of the aura of others.

We were indebted and honoured that Paul shared his experiences with our group. The talk stimulated an interesting discussion and a series of thought provoking questions. Interested readers can download his talk from this year's Mystics and Scientists on the SMN site.

Mary Jenkins

MEMBERS' ARTICLES AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Available for download from the site

SCIENCE/PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

Alfred Russel Wallace and "Evolution in Four Minutes" - Setting the Record Straight

Elliot Benjamin

<http://www.integralworld.net/benjamin53.html>

The Darwin-Wallace Debate: Natural Selection and its Implications - A Reply to Elliot Benjamin

David Lane

<http://www.integralworld.net/lane58.html>

The Darwin-Wallace Debate Continues - "Metaphysical" Intelligence not Just for Humans: My Response To David Lane - Elliot Benjamin

<http://www.integralworld.net/benjamin54.html>

Natural Selection and Metaphysics - The Continuing Darwin-Wallace Debates, Part I

David Lane

<http://www.integralworld.net/lane59.html>

Arctic Dynamics

David Wasdell, 23 pp., <http://www.apollo-gaia.org/ArcticDynamics.html>

Strong and interactive feedback processes are driving change in the Arctic climate faster than anywhere else on the planet. David has spent the last seven years researching this. Essential reading.

Electromagnetic fields act via activation of voltage-gated calcium channels to produce beneficial or adverse effects

Martin L. Pall, 20 pp. from *Journal of Cellular and Molecular Medicine*, <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jcmm.12088/pdf>

Steven Pinker on Scientism

<http://www.newrepublic.com/article/114127/science-not-enemy-humanities>

A stimulating article with a riposte submitted by *Iain McGilchrist* in defence of the humanities. (9 pp.)

UK Government's GM Propaganda Counteracted by Alliance for Natural Health

See 26 June blog of www.anh-europe.org - 12 reasons not to research, cultivate or consume GMOs with references.

MEDICINE-HEALTH**Cancer Treatments and Healing Techniques**

Dr. Richard Fox, 27 pp. see <http://levelsoflove.com/Health.html>

Looks at four circles of approach – diet, energetic medicine, negative emotions and allying with God.

W.H.O. Perspective of Hypertension in the World

Dr. Raghunandan Lal, 10 pp., conference report.

Breastcon 2013 in New Delhi

Dr. Raghunandan Lal, 10 pp., conference report.

Open letter by UK medical doctors:**Health and safety of Wi-Fi and mobile phones**

Dr. Elizabeth Evans, Dr. Andrew Tresidder, Dr. Erica Mallory Blythe, 2 pp., www.ssita.org.uk

We wish to highlight our concern over the safety of exposure to microwave radiation from wireless technology, particularly for vulnerable groups like children, pregnant women, the elderly and those with compromised health. There is growing concern that chronic (long-term) exposure to radiofrequency/microwave radiation from wireless technologies causes damage, particularly genetic damage, cognitive damage, cancer and decreased fertility.

PHILOSOPHY-RELIGION**Towards an Ontology of the Present Moment**

Anthony Hodgson

<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/fwd.htm?id=aob&ini=aob&doi=10.1108/10748121311297049>

A Transdisciplinary World Model

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/sres.2154/full>

A Spiritual Way of Seeing

Peter Gabel, 10 pp.

**Beyond Mechanism**

Erland Lagerroth, 7 pp.

Our Swedish member Erland Lagerroth, now 88½, last year produced his 19th and 20th books and this year his 21st. Book nr 19 "To Live as Human Being on Earth" contains his homepage, bibliography and CV and nr 20 "World and Science – an Unhappy Marriage?" 38 pages on SMN. Nr 21 "Is the World a mechanism?" is inspired by Beyond Mechanism, edited by Brian G Henning and Adam C Scarfe. His answer to this question is of course no. Erland is rather proud that skeptics awarded him the prize for 'Misleader of the Year' a few years back – it shows that his work must be having some effect!

The New Atheists

Jonathan Darbyshire, 9 pp.

Introduces a number of reflections on the topic, including from Alain de Botton, Richard Holloway and Karen Armstrong.

PSYCHOLOGY-CONSCIOUSNESS STUDIES**Near-death experiences are 'an electrical surge in the brain'**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-23672150>

Report on a paper *Surge of neurophysiological coherence and connectivity in the dying brain* from the National Academy of Sciences with comments from skeptical and under-informed sources.

Recent Articles on NDEs

Carlos Alvarado Blog at <http://carloossalvarado.wordpress.com/2013/06/19/recent-articles-about-near-death-experiences/>

Science and the Paranormal

Chas Griffin, 3 pp.

See also his book *Darwin+* on <http://www.thirdleafbooks.co.uk/darwinplus/>

GENERAL**Finding and Resolving the Root Causes of the Sustainability Problem**

www.thwink.org

A remarkable analysis of these long-standing issues.

Peak Water: What Happens When the Wells Go Dry?

Lester R. Brown

http://www.earth-policy.org/plan_b_updates/2013/update115

Chancellor's Address, Regent's University

John Drew, 3 pp.

Pertinent reflections on values in education. "As for the future" wrote a famous early traveller and air pilot, St Exupery "your task is not to foresee, but to enable it."

Future Warfare 2025 Powerpoint 114 slides

Dennis M. Bushnell, Chief Scientist, NASA Langley Research Centre

An eye-opening glimpse into future plans. I enjoyed the slide about Spaceship Earth, commenting that the crew was plundering the ship's supplies, tinkering with the temperature and life-support controls, still looking for the instruction manual, skirmishing on every part of the vessel, and increasing crew members by 1.5 million per week.

ONLINE ARTICLES BY ANTHONY JUDGE**Potential of Feynman Diagrams for Challenging Psychosocial Relationships?**

Comprehending the neglect of an unexplored possibility
<http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/docs10s/feynman.php>

Vigorous Application of Derivative Thinking to Derivative Problems

Transcending bewailing, hand-wringing and emotional blackmail

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

World Introversion through Paracycling

Global potential for living sustainably "outside-inside"
<http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/musings/outinsi.php>

World Futures Conference as Catastrophic Question

From performance to morphogenesis and transformation
<http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/musings/quesfut.php>

Would Jesus Now be Prosecuted by US?

As a law-breaker – like Manning, Assange and Snowden
 – Yes we can!
<http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/musings/prosjesu.php>

Reimagining Principles Enabling an Existential Ecostery

Engendering out-of-the-box awareness and its transformation
<http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/musings/looping.php>

Is There Never Enough?

Religious doublespeak on population and poverty
<http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/docs10s/enough.php>

NEWS AND NOTICES**John Templeton Foundation Reports**

The John Templeton Foundation issues regular updates on its activities as electronic reports. Recent issues cover philanthropy, the world festival of science, global religious futures, the neuroscience of creativity and links between virtue and character. You can sign up for these reports on the website – www.templeton.org

Shift Network – The Next Scientific Revolution

This is an online course that began on August 1, featuring Ervin Laszlo, Stan Grof, Elisabet Sahtouris, Larry Dossey, Peter Russell, Ed Mitchell and others. It provides a comprehensive overview of many significant developments across a variety of disciplines – see <http://nextscientificrevolution.com/course/NextScientificRevolution>

College of Medicine and the Future of Holism (from BHMA newsletter)

The College of Medicine emerged from the ashes of the Prince's Foundation for Integrated Health in 2010. It is a courageous attempt to create a new institution that can challenge the establishment on its own turf – the annual conferences have been held in the Cabinet War Rooms,

The Mansion House and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists – and garner grass roots support from patients and practitioners. The founding principles of the College of Medicine (COM) are *Innovation, Prevention and Patient collaboration*. If the College is going to stand fully behind its founding principles, it must achieve sufficient financial independence through highly diversified income especially from the grass roots. We holists need to do all we can to support it. www.collegeofmedicine.org.uk

Is Science able to Explain the Scientist?

On December 8, 2013 an International Conference 'Science and Scientist – 2013' will be held at Bhubaneswar, India. The conference will be organised by Bhakti Vedanta Institute of Spiritual Culture and Science, Princeton, NJ, USA and Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Institute, Siliguri, West Bengal, India in collaboration with Synergy Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India.

For more information please go to – www.bvishcs.org

Tucson Science of Consciousness 20th Anniversary Conference, April 21-26 2014

Speakers will reflect on progress over the last 20 years and on challenges for the next 20 years, as well as presenting research from the leading edge of the science of consciousness. An estimated 700 participants from 60 countries are expected to take part. Further information: the Center for Consciousness Studies, The University of Arizona www.consciousness.arizona.edu

The Energy Crunch

An informative fortnightly update on energy questions available from the New Economics Foundation. The briefing covers all aspects of energy supply and demand, with hyperlinks to key articles. See www.neweconomics.org

Smart Meters

Some readers may be aware of plans by energy companies to install smart meters in every household, although you will be able to opt out. These meters have already been shown to have adverse health effects on sensitive people and to have killed plants in their vicinity. You can sign up for regular updates from www.stopsmartmeters.org.uk. In India, Prof. Gireesh Kumar has inaugurated a newsletter covering developments in mobile phone technology in India. You can find out more by emailing celltower.newsletter@gmail.com

ATTENTION MEMBERS!*Personal Numbers and Office Procedures*

Please help your administration office to run smoothly and so help you efficiently:

- when your details change (address, telephone number, email address etc.) please make sure we know
- use your membership number whenever you contact us, and write it onto all correspondence, conference booking slips, subscription forms and orders for books, services etc.
- book early for conferences - it helps you get a place
- ensure cheques are made out correctly to Scientific & Medical Network; for conferences and orders: always add (legibly!) details of what it's for and membership number on back, even when accompanied by a booking form
- remember we're a network, and it often takes time for all relevant people to be contacted so when making requests give us time to respond helpfully (and always remember to tell us who you are - we sometimes get forms back with no name at all!)
- help us save money; whenever possible pay in £ sterling, use autobill and gift aid for your subscriptions - it maximises funds available for more important things

Office hours are 9am – 5pm Monday – Friday and there is normally someone to answer the telephone between those hours, with an ansaphone otherwise.