

40 Years of SMN – Henryk Skolimowski

40 YEARS is a long time for any institution or any human being. Thus SMN is proudly celebrating its venerable and vulnerable anniversary. Venerable – for obvious reasons; vulnerable because it had to withstand the slings and arrows of outrageous times. We salute the institution and the people who have guided it as a unique abode for the search of truth, sanity and larger visions. We can be proud to be members of this wonderful abode. May it survive well during the next 40 years.

Appointment of Directors, 2013

The Board of Directors consists of up to 10 directors, up to 8 of whom are appointed by the members at the AGM. Up to 2 more may be co-opted by the Board itself. **Dr. Amit Biswas** resigned as a Director on the 6th July, 2013. Each year the one third of the member appointed directors, who have served the longest, retire by rotation and all the co-opted members. They are, if they wish, eligible for re-election or co-option. There are five directors of equal seniority available for retirement by rotation, so three were drawn by lot. The directors retiring by rotation are thus **Professor Bernard Carr (Chair)**, **Mr. Martin Redfern** and **Dr. Ioannis Syrigos**. All are eligible for re-election or co-option and all have indicated their wish to continue. There were no Directors co-opted during the year. The remaining Directors are **Dr. Edi Bilimoria** (elected 2011), **Dr. Christopher Lyons (Treasurer)** (2011), **Professor Marilyn Monk** (2012), **Mrs. Claudia Nielsen (Vice-Chair)** (2012) and **Ms. Jacqueline Nielsen** (2012).

There are thus three vacancies for Directors to be elected at the Annual General Meeting and three applications. There are two further vacancies available by co-option by the Board.

Members who wish to be considered for these vacancies are requested to apply by the end of May, 2012 by sending their C.V. and a short note on how they see themselves contributing to the aims of the Network. This will enable the Board to consider how they would match the tasks to be performed and, where appropriate, make recommendations to the members. If there are more applicants than vacancies, a vote will be taken at the Network AGM in July. The members of the company will follow the recommendations of the Network AGM, unless there is good reason not to do so. Applications should be sent to The Secretary, Scientific and Medical Network, P.O. Box 11, Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos: GL 56 0ZF.

Blaker Fund to Support Research – Invitation to Apply

Edi Bilimoria reports: The Trustees of the GB Blaker Charitable Trust have requested that the grant, and the interest arising from it, shall be used to fund educational programmes in line with the charitable objects of the SMN Trust and SMN, particularly for young people aged approximately 15-30. Note especially that the intention is that the funds shall be used purely to support such educational programmes and to this end will be evaluated by the education sub-committee of the Board of Directors.

All those who wish to be considered for a grant in the range of £500 to £5,000 are requested to apply by 1st June 2013 to the Education Domain Holder, Edi Bilimoria, email: edibil@btinternet.com for guidance on application.

The three projects supported by Blaker funds in 2012 were –

Dr. David Owen: Experiential Introduction to Mindfulness Meditation Student Selected Unit

A mindfulness course for a group of fifteen third-year medical students at the University of Southampton. It is hoped this will help to embed the opportunity for experiential learning of mindfulness in medical student courses. Students are provided with practice CDs and a course handbook to support their learning.

The aims of the course are: to support students in developing their own mindfulness meditation practice in line with empirical evidence about the health benefits of such courses; and to educate participants about the theoretical underpinnings of the approach and the empirical support for it, with reference to both mental and physical health applications.

Keith Beasley: SMN, BUTT and Student Engagement in North Wales

BUTT, Bangor University Transcending Thought, is a student-centred research forum, whose remit and activities, parallel the aims and ethos of the SMN. The Blaker grant supports a programme of public lectures in 2012-13 which aim to engage and inspire students in non-rational 'ways of knowing' (see report in local groups section and www.facebook.com/groups/50823600913/).

BUTT already represents the Alister Hardy Society for the Study of Spiritual Experience and the Wrekin Trust in Wales, and is actively developing links with a range of student groups and other local organisations involved in holistic, spiritual or similar educational initiatives.

Blaker Funding went towards a series of medical anthropology seminars to organizations such as North East NHS Foundation Trusts, University Psychology Departments and Medical Schools. These seminars explore cultural and spiritual approaches to medicine, health, and consciousness, acting as a bridge between academic awareness of spirituality and its direct practical application to frontline practitioners. A 'Train the Trainers Pack' is being developed with structured course notes, to enable others to teach and disseminate the material. During training, participants are invited to explore both cultural existential beliefs, and their own beliefs about reality, death and beyond. Included in the project is the *Aethos Consultancy* web site where a range of taught programmes are illustrated: www.aethos.org.uk/programmes

News of Honorary Members

Dr. Mary Midgley has accepted an invitation to become an honorary member. Mary's work will be well known to members through her many books, mostly published since her retirement from Newcastle in 1980. Now in her 94th year, she continues to write, and has concentrated a good deal of her recent efforts on promoting the Gaia hypothesis.

Lord Rees-Mogg had been an honorary member since the early 1990s when he gave a lecture entitled *Science and the Paranormal*. Peter Fenwick and I had lunch with him on a couple of occasions, and articles subsequently appeared in his *Times* column. He also came to have tea with Bede Griffiths at Rupert Sheldrake's in April 1992, as a result of which a further article appeared. At the time, Rupert was having building work done in his house, and Fr. Bede was accosted by an evangelical builder who asked him if he was saved!

Below is a list of current honorary members:

- Dr. Rodrigo Carazo, former President of Costa Rica
- Paul Devereux
- Prof. Freeman Dyson, FRS
- Rt. Revd. and Rt. Hon. Lord John Habgood, PC
- Sir John Houghton, FRS
- Dr. Ervin Laszlo
- Dr. Lawrence Le Shan
- Dr. Federico Mayor Zaragoza (UNESCO)
- Dr. Mary Midgley
- Dr. Edgar Mitchell
- Prof. Seyyed Hossein Nasr
- Sir Roger Penrose, OM, FRS
- Dr. David Peat
- Sir John Polkinghorne, KBE, FRS
- Prof. Karl Pribram – now aged 95
- Prof. Ravi Ravindra
- Prof. Henryk Skolimowski
- Sir Crispin Tickell, GCMG, KCVO

MSc in Professional Development: Consciousness, Spirituality and Transpersonal Psychology

A collaborative project between the International Transpersonal Association, the Professional Development Foundation and the Scientific and Medical Network, validated by Middlesex University, UK.

Understanding the nature of consciousness has been described as the primary challenge facing us today. By combining the study of consciousness with recent developments in the psychology of spirituality, this MSc course is distinctive in encouraging students to explore the further reaches of human experience. The course will appeal to those who share our vision that three core features are central to the study of consciousness and the human mind:

1. **Connectedness to a larger scale of being**
2. **Recognition of the sacred**
3. **Sense of quest ... that some form of spiritual journey lies at the core of human experience.**

The paradigm shift underpinning this course has had significant impact in professional arenas, with increasing recognition of spiritual values in the workplace, the role of transformational leadership, and the importance of transpersonal experience in working towards realization of our potential.

Central course topics:

- The nature of consciousness and its relation to the brain
- The psychology of self and higher states of being
- Creativity and transformation
- Psychological aspects of spiritual and mystical practices
- Transpersonal approaches to therapy
- The dialogue between science and mysticism

In addition to a rigorous curriculum, the course is distinctive in valuing experiential approaches to learning and encouraging students to integrate insights from the course into their own life journeys.

For more information and to request an application form please contact the course director Professor **Les Lancaster**: les.lancaster@ita-professional.org

New Members since August

Surname	First Name	LocalGroup
Balen	David	UK
Coue	Murielle	Namibia
Croft	Janet	UK
David	Jonas	UK
Diez	Lise	Belgium
Ekstrom	Seth-Reino	Sweden
Elustondo	Diego	Canada
Galyer	Paul	UK
Hurley	Diana	UK
Laheen	Patrick	France
MacArthur-Kline	Angelica	UK
Muller	Oliver	UK
Newell	Nicholas	UK
Onyeama	G Mbadiwe	Nigeria
Pullen	Geoffrey	UK
Reed	John	USA
Reensch	John	USA
Ruh-Schaetzle	Birgitt	Germany
Simeoni	Ricardo	Australia
Simmons	Anna	UK
Solomon	Jane	UK
Van Kirk	Nancy	Canada
Walters	Patrick	UK
Walters	Marie	UK
Watson	Caroline	UK
Wattering	Manfred	Switzerland

2012 Network Book Prize

The 2012 prize has been shared between Rupert Sheldrake's *The Science Delusion* and Larry LeShan's *Landscapes of the Mind*. The prize has been awarded annually since 1992 for the most important book or books written by members in the year. For a complete list of previous winners, see the Network News Section from August 2012.



MEMBERS' NEWS

Rupert Sheldrake and TED

Rupert writes: The TED controversy continues. My TEDx talk on "The Science Delusion" was removed from the regular TEDx platform and relegated to a Naughty Corner of the internet, along with Graham Hancock's talk on consciousness and psychedelics, after objections from militant atheist bloggers in the US. This caused a storm of protest on the internet, and TED tried to justify their actions and their defamatory remarks about me and Hancock by posting a statement from their anonymous Science Board. All their points the Board raised were easy to refute. Chris Anderson, the head of TED, rang me up and we had a long conversation, as a result of which they deleted the Science Board's statement and updated their response, here: <http://blog.ted.com/2013/03/18/graham-hancock-and-rupert-sheldrake-a-fresh-take/> TED then opened a series of discussion forums, including one called "The debate about Rupert Sheldrake's talk". Altogether there have now been more than 5,000 comments, far more than for any other TED talk.

The controversy is now being reported in the press, and was in the *Independent on Sunday*, where a new online discussion is now taking place: <http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/ted-conference-censorship-row-8563105.html> Online Discussion. Meanwhile, under continuing pressure from the militant atheist lobby, TED officials have extended the purge and have revoked the licence for an upcoming TEDx event in West Hollywood on April 14, on the grounds that their Science Board thought it might involve "pseudoscience". The speakers they objected to were Russell Targ, one of the doyens of ESP research, Marilyn Schlitz, who was until recently President of the Institute of Noetic Sciences, and Larry Dossey, a pioneer in the exploration of the role of spirituality in healthcare. Fortunately the event is going ahead anyway, called exTEDx, and will be streamed live. You may find it easier to follow the links from my website www.sheldrake.org

Henri Bortoft 1938-2012



Schumacher College: Henri was an important philosopher of science, and, in his earlier days, an outstanding practising physicist who worked closely with David Bohm on the implications of quantum mechanics for our understanding of wholeness. Henri was invited to teach on the College's MSc in Holistic Science by his friend and colleague Professor Brian Goodwin, the principal instigator of our groundbreaking postgraduate degree. His work is the foundation not only of the MSc itself, but also of the expanded science that is so sorely needed in this time of crisis – a science that values intuitive knowledge of nature's qualities as much as conventional quantitative approaches.

Henri's intellectual and intuitive grasp of science, and of its history and philosophy were extraordinary. His presence, his powerful dynamism and his eloquence brought his considerable insights to life within the minds and souls of the many students who were privileged to learn with him over the years here at the college.

During his sessions we knew that we were in the presence of a truly great philosopher whose understanding of the nature of wholeness, the history and philosophy of science, of phenomenology and of Goethe's way of science were deeply original and transformative. Several students have gone on to explore Henri's work in their essays and dissertations, and as a college we are proud to provide a space where his insights can continue to thrive and gain the traction they so richly deserved in the world at large.

Henri is now one of the illustrious ancestors of the college. His life and work will continue to inspire all who come here.

Christopher Moore writes:

I first met Henri Bortoft at a Goethean gathering in Oxford in the 1990s and was bowled over by the lucidity and enthusiasm of his teaching. As we know, these two qualities do not always go together. Henri was also supportive of the science and philosophy list that I was trying to build up at Floris Books. We published his Wholeness of Nature in collaboration with Lindisfarne Press in the US. Then we were not in touch for a long while, though the grapevine told me that a new book was in preparation. In November 2011, I contacted him to ask how that was going. He said he would reply in a few days.

To my surprise and delight, within days a major part of the text of his new book arrived. Destiny was playing a part here, as we worked on the final draft of the book and had it ready for publication a year or so after that exchange of messages.

It was a joy to work with Henri. I had such admiration for his intellect, and he showed such patience and concern during our discussions to bring the book to its final form. It was important for him that it was not taken as another Goethean study, as the scope of his vision was much broader this time, going right back to Plato and exploring the thought of the twentieth century continental philosopher Hans-Georg Gadamer. After much debate about the title, the work appeared in October 2012 as *Taking Appearance Seriously*.

Henri was more than happy, on his side, to have the book finished and published before his health began to deteriorate badly. He wasn't well enough to set up a book launch in London, but fulfilled his last teaching session at Schumacher College, only to be weakened then by further illness. After three weeks in hospital, he was able to return home for Christmas with his family, where he passed away in the afternoon of December 29.

Great teachers live their teaching, and Henri was one of the greats, whose very presence and words transmitted the depth and humanity of his insight. He will be missed and mourned, but I rejoice that his book is out there in the world, continuing to bring to us the illuminating spirit of his life and work.

James D'Angelo at the Three Choirs Festival 2013, Gloucester

The world premiere of James D'Angelo's Festival Fanfare for Brass, Organ, and Percussion, a Three Choirs Festival commission, will take place at the opening service of the Festival on 27 July 2013 at 11am. Also at the Festival on Wednesday, 31 July 2013 at 2:30pm, DerShin Hwang (soprano) and he will be performing Hindemith's monumental song cycle on the Life of the Virgin Mary (poems by Rainer Maria Rilke), described by the pianist Glenn Gould as "the greatest song cycle of the 20th century." It will be the first time it is sung in English. On the previous afternoon, 30 July at 1:30pm, he will present a lecture about Hindemith's vision for this song cycle. See www.3choirs.org Preview performances of the song cycle will be given at the Stanton Guildhouse, Stanton, Glos. (25 June at 7:30pm, www.stantonguildhouse.org), The Christian Community, Stroud, Glos. (6 July at 7:30pm, www.thechristiancommunity.co.uk), Park House, Cheltenham (7 July at 3pm, www.musicatparkhouse.webs.com) and Colet House, London W14 (21 July at 3pm, www.studysociety.org)

John Karter - The Love Delusion – Say 'No' to the Hollywood Lie and Find Real and Lasting Love (on Kindle)

'Every day we are being sold a lie. And every day we happily buy into it without a murmur'. These opening sentences of *The Love Delusion* set the tone for a ground-breaking analysis of what is really going on when we say we have 'fallen in love'. Author and psychotherapist John Karter exposes the Hollywood myth of eternal bliss with 'the one and only' as delusional and dangerous, revealing the commercial forces that fuel this great lie, and the damage it inflicts in terms of broken relationships and unfulfilled human potential. The delusional form of love, as portrayed in movies, romantic novels and pop songs, is contrasted with genuine, mature love and how it can be achieved, and is encapsulated in the sub-title *Say 'No' to the Hollywood Lie and*

Find Real and Lasting Love. John Karter is a UKCP registered psychotherapist and the author of six books, including *Psychology of Relationships* (Icon Books) and *The Profit* (Roast Books)

David Peat – Pari Centre for New Learning Historic Interviews

For David Peat's historic interviews with Dirac, Heisenberg, Bohm, Prigogine, Wheeler and others go to <http://www.paricenter.com/library/audio/>

Henryk Skolimowski – Conference on Light and Lumenarchy, India, 7-10 November 2014

The First International Congress on Light and Lumenarchy will be the first meeting of cosmic thinkers, cosmologists and lumenologists. It aims at synthesising luminous ideas, deliberating upon Lumenology and evolving Lumenarchal designs for a more luminous, ecologically affluent, socio-culturally vibrant, happier and sustainable world.

For more details email Prof. Vir Singh: lightandlumenarchy2014@gmail.com

Cornelius Slenters website

My website www.slenters.ch has been upgraded. I have added an open challenge to Richard Dawkins on the issue of Atheism. Including an offer to pay into his favorite charity if he can prove me wrong. I have also added interactive PowerPoint shows on the LOTA theory, which people can download for free.

LOCAL GROUP NEWS

London

CLAUDIA NIELSEN – 0207 431 1177, claudia@cnielsen.eu

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.

January 2013 started with a presentation from **Dr. Mike King**, who following retirement from his academic career is now a freelance writer with many books to his name, most with distinct spiritual angle. The talk was entitled **Neoplatonism and the Dolphin Paradigm** and Mike started by setting out the place of Neoplatonism in Western philosophy explaining that Neoplatonism is the 'Via Positiva' or life-affirming branch of spiritual thought as opposed to the 'Via Negativa' which is based on asceticism and negation of concepts regarding the nature of the divine. To explain the fortunes of Neoplatonism, Mike chose the evolution of the dolphin from sea to land then to sea animal again as a metaphor to explain his view of how the principles of Neoplatonism flourished then went underground under the power of the Christian Church and resurfaced when that power waned. The dolphin we learned, evolved from a land animal, which itself evolved like the rest of creation, from a sea animal. This land animal then returned to the sea again taking with him evolutionary advantages such as a social structure and the sonar ability to detect sources of food. In parallel to this metaphor, Neoplatonic thinking went through a similar process by recapitulating the forms or concepts that informed Western thought in the distant past, now equipped with the developments achieved over the years, influencing Christianity as well as science. Recapitulation was a word he used a lot this evening referring to the capacity to unfold the rest of the universe.

Two basic concepts that defined the Renaissance in which Neoplatonism re-flourishes, were both first voiced by Pythagoras (570-495BC). One is the idea of Man being the microcosm of the macrocosm. This idea is reflected in ancient Hermetic knowledge, 'so above, so below' is a concept which defines man as the peak of creation and understands the human being as recapitulating the cosmos, both physically, mentally and spiritually. The other idea is the concept of the monad, Leibniz's legacy *par excellence*, which Koestler renamed holon and which

went on to define Wilber's thinking. Both those concepts are specifically Western and have influenced current spirituality especially the New Age movement.

In **February** we welcomed **Jill Purce** who entitled her talk **The Healing Voice and Healing the Family Ancestors**. Jill uses ancient vocal techniques, the power of group chant and the spiritual potential of the voice as a magical instrument for healing and meditation. She also works on healing and ancestors combining Family Constellations with chant and ceremony to bring healing to her clients.

This evening Jill told us about her earliest experience of the power of chanting when as a small child she was in a boat with her parents during a fierce storm. Three Irish women started to chant and what was intense fear of dying in the storm became transformed into bliss. She became aware of the transformative power of sound and has pursued work with this power in her professional career. Jill studied chanting with Tibetan Lamas and also worked with the German composer Stockhausen and her work has been informed by what she learned from both these sources. Having identified that the world is "disenchanted" Jill developed a way of "en-chanting" it by developing a particular chant based on the technique of Mongolian overtone chanting, which involves one sole note which encapsulates overtones and which she demonstrated.

Chanting is an effective way of encouraging the mind to be present in meditation, which is why chanting is often used as a means to quieten the mind. By getting the group to chant Jill demonstrated that as well as bringing the mind into the present, sound is the quickest way of dissolving separation between people and creating community.

Jill went on to tell us about her work with families and ancestors in which she explores ways in which the familial field has been breached by deaths, abandonment, and other traumas in the recent and distant past and how these affect current generations. She uses the principles of Family Constellation work, whereby acknowledging those events and incorporating them into the family narrative something is healed, almost magically.

In **March** we welcomed **Dr. Chris Hewer**, who has a background in Christian theology and has since 1986 been working in the field of Christian-Muslim relationships. He now lectures on both Christianity and Islam and this evening he expanded on **Key Themes in Understanding Islam**. Following some basic pointers, we entered into a dialogue exploring topics of interest to the small group we had this evening. Chris started by saying that Islam, just as any other religion, cannot be understood in a merely intellectual way, and he wanted to take us on a journey of empathetic, intuitive understanding. He wanted us to feel into what it is like to live and experience life in a Muslim way of seeing things. This was an interesting and exciting new approach, I thought! Chris started by explaining that Arabic is a language forged around letter roots, and words are made by adding vowels to these letters. For instance the root SLM conveys harmony and balance, right order, proportion, everything in its right place therefore a sense of safety and security, a sense of peace and justice which can only come about because it is according to a great design plan. So the words Islam, Muslim etc., words made up by this root, communicate fundamentally the concepts mentioned above.

Islam means everything working according to the great plan. Muslim is the personal archetypal form of the word, something in the state of Islam is Muslim. God creates a Creation in the state of Islam, God creates a Muslim creation. The word Muslim does not apply to humans only, but to the whole of Creation – everything has its natural state. We learned that this understanding existed in the Arab world before the birth of Mohammed, and his mission was to return society, which had lost this vision, to those principles. The Koran is not a book of law but a book of ethical guidance. We heard how Mohammed validates the Koran and the Koran validates Mohammed. There were a number of questions asking for clarification on the

concepts of Jihad, Infidels, Love etc. within the tradition and were given very clear and helpful explanations. Two hours were not nearly enough to explore all the questions that came up, but they were enough to stimulate a fascinating discussion.

Oxford Group

The meeting was held at the Mitre pub, High St., Oxford, on 16th April. **Nick Greaves** presented his 'Duplication Theory', a mechanism for memory and other phenomena. Nick, an independent investigator, presented some aspects of his theory, which, inspired by Koestler's writings on the workings of the mind, takes into account work by numerous other modern scientists, combined with insights and observations of his own. He might have given up, his theory being somewhat innovative from the point of view of conventional science, were it not for Sheldrake's first book, *A New Science of Life* (1981), the conclusions of which were so similar that he and Sheldrake have liaised regularly since.

Duplication Theory offers a possible explanation for the workings of Sheldrake's Morphic Resonance. It condenses into two complementary epigrams: (i) equal intervals in space, similar structures, tend to duplicate themselves through all time in the same location; (ii) equal intervals in time, similar actions, tend to duplicate themselves through all space at one moment in time. The latter is exemplified as EM radiation, the former as memory – most clearly when a thought is exactly duplicated at a later time with the aid of trance blocking out other mental activity. Total recall. The matter of time brings in light and attendant questions of limiting velocity, light related to time, and so on. Nick found that his theory has much in common with Wheeler & Feynman's Absorber Theory.

Can the theory be tested? Dr Pizzi of Milan University carried out some apparently successful experiments, and currently the University of Salzburg is attempting to confirm those results. Several physicists are known to be investigating the possibility of variable light speeds, and a paper on the origin of gravity by Dutch physicist Verlinde encouraged Nick to write on the same topic from the point of view of Duplication Theory.

Nick's website (www.mindandmemory.net) contains a narrative account which places the story of his investigations into his personal history.

Clement Jewitt

Sydney – JO de GROOT

Report on the Sydney Local Group of the Scientific & Medical Network – 25th November 2012

A small group of eight enjoyed the talk given at Jean and David Ingman's house in Killarney Heights, Sydney, by **Vivienne Honeybun** on the topic 'Let There Be Light – From Instinct to Intuition'. Vivienne took us through a type of evolutionary journey in the understanding of 'reality' drawing on Eastern and other traditional teachings.

Vivienne described what she saw as a unity of reality within all cultures in different parts of the world. A trinitarian structure, for example, was described by Westerners as Father, Son and Holy Spirit; by Indians as Shiva, Vishnu and Brahma; and in the Daoist tradition as Ying, Yang and the dividing line between them - 'The Three Treasures'.

Building on the insights from our last meeting (15.9.12) led by **Pat Witts** when we discussed what is meant by 'soul', Vivienne reminded us how we emerged from the animal kingdom and remained for eons in the instinctual state of existence moving into the development of intellect. This era she named the First Solar System. We are now well into the Second Solar System, in which we primarily function in the intellect. The intellect stands as the mechanism for conscious use of energy primarily being used for one's own ends. It is the mechanism that leads to and onto the path of conscious knowledge. Through the use of the intellect becoming fully developed and powerful personalities, we learn through selfishness a new type of awareness where we realize our oneness with the whole. This is the stage of intuition where everything that we are is used for the good of the whole. Here we become aware of our intuitive consciousness, which can be defined perhaps as direct apprehension of knowledge/truth

apart from the reasoning faculty or any process of intellectualisation. Once this is complete we can safely enter into the Third Solar System where the Power and the Will of God and its fulfilling purpose will be made known. We use the term 'safely' as the Second System is the development of pure unselfish love. It is only through the becoming of Love itself that we can safely be instruments for the Power and the Will of God.

The First Solar System was masculine in nature, developing the physical body. The Second Solar System, in which we currently find ourselves, is more feminine in nature. The Third Solar System will have a divine hermaphrodite nature, the union of masculine and feminine energies/positive and negative, relating to direction and reception.

Our grateful thanks go to Vivienne for her wide-ranging talk and to our ever-gracious hosts. Jo promoted that people become financial members of the Network. Next meeting will take place 24th February 2013 at the Academy of the Word, Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney. The main discussion will be on Laurence Freeman's article 'Ways of Knowing and Unknowing' from the latest Network Review (Summer 2012). This will be preceded by a half-hour's discussion on the question 'Is Nature Mechanical?' from Sheldrake's 'The Science Delusion'.

Report of Meeting of the Sydney Local Group Scientific and Medical Network Sunday 17th March 2013

A small number of members and guests met at our new location on Level 10 of the Polding Centre in Sydney's CBD. An outline was offered by Jo de Groot for both of the set topics for discussion, after which robust discussion took place. Afternoon tea was enjoyed between the two discussions.

Firstly the topic 'Is Nature Mechanical?' was dealt with from Rupert Sheldrake's 'The Science Delusion'. There was general agreement with Rupert's historical outline and the 'split' in behaviour and thinking of the modern educated person due to the 'mechanical clockwork' mentality and the human need for artistic expression fostered by the Romantic Movement. The point was raised that Erasmus Darwin's ideas are being used in some current science about how habits are inherited from generation to generation.

Our second topic of discussion, based on Laurence Freeman's 'Ways of Knowing and Unknowing' from the Network Review article of Summer 2012, was considered rich but challenging. Freeman's explanations of the two ways to approach the human spiritual journey were discussed at some length: the kataphatic approach was thought to be limited in limiting God, however we might understand that term, including the notion of simply 'reality', and, of course, keeping in mind that language itself is limited in describing reality; the apophatic approach was seen to have merit in that it is possible to be silent in meditation and thus experience the oneness amongst human beings. This latter approach towards union with God or the seeking of reality was seen to recognize that all language and symbolism falls short and must therefore be by-passed or put into our 'unknowing'. Nevertheless, it was opined that there was still a need to have language and symbols to transmit a message from one generation to another or even from friend to friend.

Future directions in spirituality were discussed with the growing realization that all human beings are spiritual and that any and all types of spirituality can be enhanced by mindfulness training, by meditation and by reading the scriptures, not only one's own but those of other traditions.

Our next meeting is to be held in the same venue, i.e. Boardroom, Level 10, Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney, on Sunday 26th May, 2pm – 5pm.

Our friend, **Lindsay Mell**, sociologist, has kindly offered to lead a discussion on the work of Russian thinker, A. N. Leontyev, with the topic: 'The East – West socio-historical context and development of consciousness and perception.' Lindsay will also lead discussion on Sheldrake's chapter 'Is Nature Purposeless' from 'The Science Delusion'.

A promise of an exciting and enjoyable afternoon for all comers.

MEMBERS' ARTICLES AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Available for download from the site

SCIENCE/PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

Dark Matter: Experiment to shed light on Dark Particles

Rebecca Morelle Science reporter, BBC World Service (6 pp.)

Let's Make a Mammoth

Henry Nicholls (4 pp. from Darwin 200)

Evolution assumes that extinction is forever. Maybe not. What would it take to bring the woolly mammoth back from the dead?

Royal Society People and Planet Summary (8 pp. from RS Site)

Rapid and widespread changes in the world's human population, coupled with unprecedented levels of consumption present profound challenges to human health and wellbeing, and the natural environment.

New Insights into Gödel's Universe without Time

Amrit Sorli, Davide Fiscaletti, Tadej Gregl (6 pp.)

Online: <http://dx.doi.org/10.4006/0836-1398-26.1.113>

(Published March 2013 issue, Volume 26, Num 1., pp. 113-115, Physics Essays)

By 1949, Gödel had produced a remarkable proof: "In any universe described by the Theory of Relativity, time cannot exist". Recent research on time suggests that the universe does not take place in time as a physical dimension; on the contrary, time that is measured with clocks takes place in the universe as a numerical order of universal change. In the universe, time is exclusively a mathematical quantity.

Six System Problems in Scientific Thinking (as applied to healthcare)

Andrew Tresidder (5 pp.)

1. Not Invented Here (Give Up Your Thinking)
2. Insecure Ego (Give Up Your Power)
3. Mind-Body Split
4. Intuition Squashed
5. All Things are Connected (or not?)
6. The Paradox of Life - From where do we Look at Life?

MEDICINE-HEALTH

Sensorimotor therapy: physical and psychological regressions contribute to an improved kinesthetic and vestibular capacity in children and adolescents with motor difficulties and concentration problems (20pp. from SOCIAL BEHAVIOR AND PERSONALITY, 2010, 38(3), 327-346)

Mats Niklasson, Karlstad University, Karlstad, Sweden and The Vestibularis Institute, Mönsterås, Sweden, Irene Niklasson The Vestibularis Institute, Mönsterås, Sweden, Torsten Norlander Karlstad University.

Our aim was to gain increased understanding of the effects of sensorimotor therapy on the physical and psychological development of children and young people when using the method Retraining for Balance.

Could Motor Development be an Emergent Property of Vestibular Stimulation and Primary Reflex Inhibition? A Tentative Approach to Sensorimotor Therapy

Mats Niklasson, Department of Psychology, Karlstad University, Karlstad Sweden (35 pp.)

It was through the concern to meet the needs of the intelligent but under achieving child that the 'modern' field of learning disabilities was born. That said, we must keep in mind that it also started with a deep concern for the mentally retarded and a

hopeful vision and conviction that fulfillment of the human potential was possible. The aim of this chapter is to provide tentative arguments in favor of a complementary view of the learning disabled child's ability to mature and to learn.

Sensorimotor Therapy: do stereotypic movements and vestibular stimulation produce increased sensorimotor proficiency in children with attentional and motor difficulties?

Mats Niklasson, M.Sc, Dep. of Psychology, Karlstad University, Sweden and Vestibularis Clinic, Mönsterås, Sweden

Irene Niklasson, Auth. Supervisor and Trainer, Vestibularis Clinic, Mönsterås, Sweden

Torsten Norlander, PhD., Prof., Dep. of Psychology, Karlstad University, Sweden (46 pp. from Perceptual and Motor Skills, 108, 643-669.)

Sensorimotor therapy: Do stereotypic movements and vestibular stimulation produce increased sensorimotor proficiency in children with attention and motor difficulties? The current naturalistic study examined whether sensorimotor therapy utilizing the training program "Retraining for Balance" might be an appropriate technique for sensorimotor proficiency.

Conceptualising Spirituality for Medical Research and Health Service Provision

Michael B King and Harold G Koenig (7 pp., from BMC Health Services Research, 2009)

The need to take account of spirituality in research and health services provision is assuming ever-greater importance. However the field has long been hampered by a lack of conceptual clarity about the nature of spirituality itself. We do not agree with the sceptical claim that it is impossible to conceptualise spirituality within a scientific paradigm. Our aims are to 1) provide a brief overview of critical thinking that might form the basis for a useful definition of spirituality for research and clinical work and 2) demystify the language of spirituality for clinical practice and research.

The Vaccination Policy and the Code of Practice of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI): are they at odds?

Lucija Tomljenovic, PhD (45 pp.). Neural Dynamics Research Group, Dept. of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, University of British Columbia, 828 W. 10th Ave, Vancouver, BC, V5Z 1L8, lucijat77@gmail.com

Wi-Fi in Schools FAQ (2 pp.)

Letter from AAEM (2 pp.)

In October 2012, the American Academy of Environmental Medicine issued a public warning about Wi-Fi in schools that stated:

"Adverse health effects from wireless radio frequency fields, such as learning disabilities, altered immune responses, and headaches, clearly exist and are well documented in the scientific literature. Safer technology, such as use of hardwiring, is strongly recommended in schools."

Celebrating Age- India Expo 2012

Dr. Ragunandan Lal (2 pp.)

Today the world is facing many challenges due to the changing dynamics of 21st century and a most prominent being that of increased life expectancy all over the world and so the ageing population is increasing every year due to advancements in medicine. This ultimate retirement lifestyle showcase on ageing with dignity was held in October in Chennai.

Also: 9th International Conference on Geriatric Care (GSICON – 2012, 3 pp.)

Frank Moraes Memorial Lecture, Chennai (3 pp.)

The distinguished 33rd Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr. Subir Gokuran, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai on 'Driving the Economy in an Era of Global Recovery: Unleashing Growth Strategies for Sustainable Development'.

PHILOSOPHY-RELIGION

How do you define religion? *Hannah Edwards, UCLU Debating Society President 2012–2013 (3 pp.)*

On Monday 21 January, UCLU Debating Society held the debate: 'This house believes that religion does more harm than good'. A summary.

This Incredible Genius of Light

Henryk Skolimowski (2 pp.)

Altruism will prevail because it is rooted in light. Light is altruistic through and through. Altruism is the very heart of light. Light cannot be outwitted; it can only be followed.

Four Articles by Peter Lyth. Does the Self Exist? (5 pp.)

Taking the Self to be something unchanging and not part of the changing flux of experience, this Article (about 1700 words) lists and evaluates nine arguments against the existence of a Self, and five for the existence of a Self. Some are epistemological, some metaphysical, some psychological, some Cartesian and at least one relies on Occam's Razor.

Panpsychism can be Respectable (3 pp.)

Argues that science emphasises quantities, and can mask the fact that there also must be qualities, since reality is not solely a Platonic realm of numbers.

Secondly, the article argues that events can be represented by the term 'direct-sensation-of-change', and that this is incompatible with any actual or possible concept of time as such.

On the Importance of Qualities (2 pp.)

Argues that science emphasises quantities, and can mask the fact that there also must be qualities, since reality is not solely a Platonic realm of numbers. Thus, being surrounded by qualities, we may feel more at home in the world.

Why an Investigation into Self can Lighten Selfishness (1 p)

This very short piece points out that the absence of an individual timeless Self removes any metaphysical basis for selfishness (as also indeed does the presence of such a Self!).

PSYCHOLOGY-CONSCIOUSNESS STUDIES

Setting the Agenda for a Science of Information (ppt)

A.K. Mukhopadhyay (85 slides)

Accepting the subtlety of information and its distinctness from energy, the research agenda can be built up on an assumption that information has an existence independent of matter/energy and space time, which is in nature beyond Planck's scale!

Most come from Heaven - an investigation into Transpersonal Sessions

Rolf-Ulrich Kramer, Diploma-Psychologist (4 pp.)

The theory of reincarnation is currently widely accepted. Yet a statistical analysis of transpersonal sessions reveals that most people mention their descent from 'higher Worlds' from outside Earth as a cause of their life problems. Incidents from past lives are only second in rank. Many clients consider their current incarnation as the first. As a result, the concept of an endless chain of earthbound reincarnations could be debatable.

GENERAL

Letter to the PM on Nuclear Power Strategy

Jonathon Porritt, Tom Burke, Tony Juniper, Charles Secrett (3 pp)

A hard-hitting analysis of Government policy shortcomings.

A Biolocation Survey of the Rendlesham Forest UFO Landing Site (Conducted Saturday, 12th May 2012)

Marcus Bishop, Joe Cooper, Geoffrey Crockford, Gordon Crowe, Nigel Hughes. To contact the report's authors, please e-mail Geoffrey Crockford at: gcbiolocation@btopenworld.com www.biolocation.com

A forensic study of the Rendlesham Forest UFO landing site concludes that an alien craft landed at the site with engine trouble in late December 1980. The landing site of a rescue ship has been identified along with some of the detail of the rescue mission. This scenario appears to fit the pattern of events in December 1980 as reported by eyewitness accounts. It is proposed that an observer corps is set up to investigate and assess UFO sightings, reports of hovering craft and landings.

Are 'Matters of Taste' Matters of Taste?

Michael Langford (4 pp.)

Argues for the objectivity of aesthetics with special reference to wine-tasting.

ONLINE ARTICLES BY ANTHONY JUDGE

www.laetusinpraesens.org

Strategic Implications of 12 Unasked Questions in Response to Disaster

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

Eliciting a Universe of Meaning

within a global information society of fragmenting knowledge and relationships

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

Being Neither a-Waving Nor a-Parting

Considering both science and spirituality

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

Wholth as Sustaining Dynamic of Health and Wealth

Cognitive dynamics sustaining the meta-pattern that connects

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

Marrying an Other whatever the Form

Reframing and Extending the Understanding of Marriage

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

University of Ignorance

Engaging with nothing, the unknown, the incomprehensible, and the unsaid:

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

Imaginative Reconfiguration of a post-Apocalyptic Global Civilization

Engaging cognitively with the illusion of the "End of the World"

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

NEWS AND NOTICES**Sand Gathering 2013**

28th May – 2Nd June 2013, Doorn, The Netherlands

Celebrating Wonder! The Science and Mystery of Perception

The second European Science and Nonduality Gathering in Landgoed Zonheuvel in Doorn, is a 5-day international event where more than 80 leading scientists, philosophers and spiritual teachers gather to explore a new understanding of who we truly are, both as individuals and as a society. This exploration is grounded in cutting-edge science and consistent with the ancient wisdom of nonduality - the deep understanding of the interconnectedness of life. The conference is a journey, an exploration of the nature of awareness.

For more information, please visit the website: <http://www.scienceandnonduality.com/europe/>

New Book about Ian Stevenson

Here is a summary and comments about Emily Kelly's: *Science, the Self, and Survival After Death: Selected Writings of Ian Stevenson* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2013).

http://www.parapsych.org/blogs/carlos/entry/47/2013/2/science_the_self_and_survival.aspx

Online Videos sent in by Edi Bilimoria

1. **Dr Rupert Sheldrake** speaking about research in telepathy, occult phenomena, after-life existence, OBEs, NDEs and reincarnation. (30 minute video) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=frJpThlims8>
2. The late **Prof. Montague Keen** speaking about the investigations undertaken into reports of the psychic phenomena occurring in the village of Scole in Norfolk, by the Society for Psychical Research. The team included the late **Prof. Arthur Ellison** Emeritus Professor of Electrical Engineering, **Prof. David Fontana** (Psychology), **Prof. Graton Guinness** (Mathematics), **Prof. Archie Roy** (Astronomy), **Dr. Rupert Sheldrake** (Biology) and Professional Conjuror **James Webster** (Magic Circle). The Hodgson Report is mentioned. (60 minute Video). <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mti3oWINGyO>
3. **Prof. David Fontana** speaking about the research undertaken by the Society for Psychical Research. (13 minutes video) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TGV8aQxCsCI>
4. **Life After Life - Dr. Raymond Moody** (57 minutes video) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z56u4wMxNlg>

Vibrant Heart Oracle

The 'Vibrant Heart Oracle' provides a blend of cutting edge, inspiring, enlightening, yet sometimes controversial and challenging topics, delivered to you electronically every month as traditional articles, discussions and interviews, e-books, guided visualisations, videos and audios. The Vibrant Heart Oracle is filled with wisdom from the group of Universal Energies, known as 'Altheris', channelled through Simon Rowe. The online format means that readers can click on audio and video clips as they go through. The first issue focuses on relationships - £1.44/month subscription See www.vibrantsouls.com

Seeds of Inspiration 7 – 12 August

A gathering for people of all cultures, faiths, backgrounds and ages to share what inspires them to work for a better world and to learn from others. It could be an experience of faith, of art, of science, of another person, of a world event...

At the international Initiatives of Change Centre, Caux, near Montreux, Switzerland. For further info contact Tim Firth on 01403 790 038 or e-mail toomsfirth@btinternet.com or www.caux.ch

Wakefield: ahead of his time?

Industrial and political forces can then re-label mysteries or unproven relationships as fraudulent. That's of course what they did to Andrew Wakefield, the subject of one of our stories this week - see www.anh-europe.org/news. And now we see the emergence of independent scientific evidence that suggests Wakefield's and his co-workers findings that were published, and then retracted, in the *Lancet* back in 1998, were not fraudulent. It appears that Wakefield et al may simply have stumbled upon a mystery before others understood it. And that was something the pharmaceutical industry and the medical establishment was not prepared to accept.

Sacred Music Radio

A wonderful new Internet Radio station, www.sacredmusicradio.org, has been launched by friends **Vakil Kenton** and **Aziz Dikeulias**. It plays non-stop sacred music from all the major religions.

Monetary Reform

Peter Anthony Davis writes:

I have enjoyed your reviews of books along the subjects of economics, politics and finance. These are areas presenting perhaps the biggest challenges now, in my view, and cannot be ignored by anyone simply entertaining a safe definition of spirituality in its own unrelated sphere. It's not just those of us outside looking in who are concerned about the current dangers of the financial system, but some on the inside too. See <http://www.the300club.org/>. Also, you may be interested in the organisation PositiveMoney.org

They are working tirelessly to highlight the problem of money creation by banks, literally out of thin air, and seeking to encourage reform. They are receiving increasing interest from

significant parties in banking who have had enough and want to encourage their efforts. They have published the book (through the New Economics Foundation) *Where Does Money Come From?*

The All-Win Principle and the Commons

We live in a world in which all people and nature are part of an integrated whole. Therefore, the more we empower one another and nature to flourish - without causing harm - the more we create an all-win universe.

Many hundreds of millions of people are already putting the all-win principle into action in their communities, professional groups and even worldwide networks. Wherever groups of people share and produce the resources they need in an open democratic manner so that all stakeholders benefit, we can speak of a commons. When commons apply the all-win principle to their work, they multiply the power of one manifold. Commons provide powerful tools for the future we want and need.

For more information, please visit <http://www.commonactionfortheunitednations.org/>

Avaaz Monsanto Campaign

Avaaz writes: One mega-company is gradually taking over our global food supply, poisoning our politics and putting the planet's food future in serious danger. To stop it we need to expose and break up Monsanto's worldwide grip.

Monsanto, the chemical giant that gave us poisons like Agent Orange and DDT, has a super-profitable racket. Step 1: Develop pesticides and genetically modified (GM) seeds designed to resist them, patent the seeds, prohibit farmers from replanting their seeds year to year, then send undercover agents out to investigate and sue farmers who don't comply. Step 2: Spend millions lobbying government officials and contributing to political campaigns, get former Monsanto bigwigs into top government jobs, and then work with them to weaken regulations and push Monsanto goods into markets across the world.

As long as US law allows corporations to spend unlimited sums to influence policy, they can often buy the laws they want. Last year, Monsanto and biotech giants spent a whopping \$45m to kill a ballot initiative that would have labelled GMO products just in California, despite 82 percent of Americans wanting to know if they are buying GM. And just this month, the company helped ram through the "Monsanto Protection Act," that blocks courts from stopping the sale of a product even if they've been wrongly approved by the government. https://secure.avaaz.org/en/stop_monsanto_nd7/?bWnyhab&v=24254

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.