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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, bankers order forms and orders for books, services etc.
- book early for conferences - it helps you get a place, and us get the tickets to you in good time
- 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 and use bankers orders 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.

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Subscriptions

Because SMN's accounting year ends in December, it needs subscriptions to be paid in January, before it incurs the cost of providing members services for the year. Regardless when you paid your subscription in 2007, your 2008 subs were due in January, and from then until the subscription is paid it will show in the membership records as owing. This causes administrative confusion in the office as well as affecting the timely receipt of your copies of Network Review until your subscription is received. SO PLEASE HELP US TO HELP YOU BY PAYING YOUR SUBSCRIPTION AS CLOSE TO JANUARY AS POSSIBLE.

www.scimednet.org

NETWORK NEWS**Appointments – Gerri McManus**

At the AGM at Cret-Berard we said farewell to three directors: Vice-Chair **Claudia Nielsen**, who has made an enormous contribution to the Network in the last six years, especially on the programme committee, but also by hosting board meetings in her home. She will continue to run the London Group. **Dr. Stephan Krall** steps down after three years as the coordinator of continental European groups. He always reminds us that the UK is in fact part of Europe! **Dr. Mike King** is also stepping down and has helped us with the educational domain and with suggestions about how to elaborate the Network philosophy and approach. We are joined by **Gerri McManus**, who will bring her experience in marketing and communication.

Network Book Prize

The 2007 Network Book Prize has been shared by the late **Elisabeth Lloyd Mayer** – *Extraordinary Knowing* and **Edi Bilimoria** – *The Snake and the Rope*. Both books were reviewed in the last issue. The Network Book Prize is awarded annually to the book or books written by members which have made the most seminal contribution to fields of interest to the Network. A full list of winners can be seen on the site.

Network Online Recordings

We are offering a new service in the Members' Circle of downloadable mp3 recordings of recent conferences. Recordings are now online from Peter Fenwick's recent book launch lecture and this year's Mystics and Scientists. In addition, we have some classic talks including those given by E. F. Schumacher, Fritjof Capra, David Bohm and Bede Griffiths. The talks can either be listened to online or downloaded. All you need do is to visit the Members' Circle. If you have forgotten your password, you will find that you can send an e-mail to retrieve it.

MEMBER'S NEWS**Claude Curling – Convergence Today**

This is an interesting 28-page booklet by the late Claude Curling who used to teach physics at King's College, London. It is a wide ranging and interdisciplinary essay spanning science, psychology and spirituality. I will arrange for free copies to be available at our residential conferences, but members interested in obtaining one by post should send me a stamped addressed A5 envelope at the basic rate.

Mary Scott

Mary has died recently at the age of 102. Her books *The Kundalini Concept – its origin and value* (1983), and *The Incarnation of the Spirit* (1988), have recently been republished by Jain Publishing and will be reviewed in the next issue. At her centenary party, she remarked: 'My book is on display, not to show my erudition but as a symbol of how ageless the brain can be. In fact it really shows old age is a fiction we impose upon ourselves for our disabilities are no worse than those of people who have had serious accidents, or suffered from crippling diseases at any age. My secret, I think, is that I am blessed with a love of learning about the many things that interest me! I don't think I ever thought about my age until I was 90 when I discovered it was something to brag about.' The full text of this address can be downloaded as a member's articles.

Dr. Mary Swainson

Mary Swainson died on her 100th birthday. She was a member of the Network as early as 1975, having retired from Leicester University in 1972 where she was a lecturer and psychological counsellor. She collaborated with Ruth White and wrote a number of books in her retirement, including 'Seven Inner Journeys' and 'The Healing Spectrum'. An appreciation by Jean Clark can be found under members' articles.

**Paul Devereux – Time & Mind**

Paul is one of the editors of this new journal of archaeology, consciousness and culture. The first issue appeared in March and contains articles on conceptual metaphors, Biblical entheogens of and ancient architectural acoustic resonance patterns. There are also extensive book reviews on topics as diverse as wolves in the wilderness, elves in Anglo Saxon England, and Indo European sacred space. See www.bergpublishers.com

Prof. A. K Mukhopadhyay – new web site on consciousness

<http://www.akmukhopadhyayconsciousness.com>

Prof. Christian de Quincey – Q newsletter

A free electronic newsletter featuring news, views, insights, ideas, and events from the ever-growing field of consciousness studies. It takes the form of questions and answers about topics such as paradigm shift, beliefs and their relationship to experience. See

www.TheWisdomAcademy.org or email Christian TheVisionaryEdge@deepspirit.com if you want to subscribe.

Sir Charles Jessel – Max Cade article

C. Maxwell Cade was an early Network Member who also lectured for Wrekin Trust in the 1970s and was a pioneer in biofeedback research and the mind body correlates of altered states of consciousness. Sir Charles' and the following article in *Psionic Medicine* (Spring 2007) describe his Mind Mirror, developed with Member Geoffrey Blundell. Interested readers can obtain further details from the Journal editor Dr Keith Souter, 106 Manygates Lane, Sandal, Wakefield, W. Yorks WF1 7DP.

LOCAL GROUP NEWS**Friends of the SMN, Auckland
LEO HOBBS 00 64 9 441 7402**

At our April 2008 meeting **Dr Tony Fernando** spoke about "The Science of Happiness". Tony is a Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences of Auckland University. Having noticed that many of his students seemed unhappy and easily depressed he developed a workshop on the science of happiness which has proved very popular. In his talk to us he reviewed some aspects of this workshop material. It has been found that there is a sound scientific basis for the connection between happiness and physical health. We can positively influence our happiness by appropriate cultivation of the mind, such as developing attributes like compassion, gratitude and living in the moment, and engaging in some form of meditation. Those who do this are likely to have improved immunological function, cardiovascular status, longevity and mental health. Tony's own introduction to some of these ideas came from reading the Dalai Lama's book, "The Art of Happiness". We see here another example of the Mind-Body Connection. Participants at the meeting had a thoroughly enjoyable and instructive evening.

There was no meeting in May.

Member **Murray Stentiford** spoke in June on "The Heart and Consciousness". Poetry and tradition abound with expressive sayings about the role of the heart as central to our whole being. From another quarter, psychic descriptions, ancient and contemporary, describe energy vortices or chakras over the heart and other organs. Since the concept of a functional heart brain was introduced by Dr. J. Andrew Armour of the University of Montreal in 1991, there has been an explosion of research in both neurocardiology and the neuroscience of emotions. Murray described the activity of the neurons and ganglia in the heart and their two-way relationship with the brain. He recounted several views of the role of the heart to human consciousness, bringing together Western and Chinese medicine as well as Eastern non-dual understanding. He also gave a demonstration of the HeartMath Institute's heart rate and emotion-monitoring measuring device, the "Freeze Framer". The Freeze Framer is one of several techniques devised by the HeartMath Institute to help people transmute stress and negative emotions to achieve

more coherent inner states, improve performance, and enrich the quality of life. There is a wealth of information on the internet about the work of the HeartMath Institute, for example, at <http://www.heartmath.org/>

Swedish Group

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Our next meeting will be held in Järna 5-6 September 2008. Organiser is Peter Hagerrot

Erland Lagerroth writes: On May 16 and 17 2008 the Swedish group of SMN met in the beautiful home of Antoon Geels in the lovely region of Hallandsås in Skåne.

Psychotherapist **Peter Hagerrot** spoke on *Synchronicity and Psychology*, characterising synchronicity as an experience that has significance but is acausal and not repeatable. From his own experience he gave an example where twice on the same day he experienced both (the memory of) Dag Hammarskjöld and *hieros gamos*, the heavenly wedding.

Discussing literature on the subject, Hagerrot especially focused on the relation between C. G. Jung and Wolfgang Pauli, drawing on a book by his tutor Suzanne Gieser, *The Innermost Kernel. Deep Psychology and Quantum Physics. Wolfgang Pauli's Dialogue with C.G. Jung* (Springer 2005). In this connection he suggested that the concept of 'complementarity', first used by William James referring to different aspects of the ego, was taken over from James by quantum physics (Pauli and Bohr). This concept has flourished in physics, while psychology, in order to be more "scientific", has abandoned it.

Synchronicity for Hagerrot was an entry to the deep layers of the mind and so of importance for psychotherapy. As other ways to this spiritual region he mentioned animal magnetism, hypnosis, transitions between different ego states, peak experiences, talks to the inner child in man, the body itself, including the immune system. In Ego State therapy the task of the therapist is to help identify different inner parts and help establish an inner chairman that helps them to cooperate better. For some people a synchronistic event sometimes reorganizes the client's field of experience. In events like that the therapist sometimes needs to "normalize" the experience. Hagerrot used the term "heightened normality" for mental conditions covered in magic or psychotic interpretations. Attempting to disregard these experiences, labelling them non-scientific, can be dangerous as it often creates a collective desire for the unknown, especially if it is "perverted".

This was the case some years ago with the events in the village of Knutby, when millions of Swedes engaged themselves in the sad events of a Christian sect combining, sex, spirituality and sudden death, an interest showing us how thin the surface of reason really is in our seemingly rational Society.

Hagerrot also elaborated on the different roles of the two cerebral hemispheres, and as an illustration he showed a touching and very informative film by the brain researcher Jill Taylor: "My stroke of insight".

The host of the meeting, **Antoon Geels**, professor in the history and psychology of religion, had called his paper "*Glocal Spirituality*". (glocal = global and local; Geels preferred to talk of "spiritual" instead of "religious".) The general idea that Sweden is a secularized country may be right on the social level, he said, but is wrong on the individual one. Also in Sweden there is a "grass root spirituality", where people have a private image of God. And usually you think of God as *immanent* in the creation and so also in man. The attitude can resemble mysticism.

Antoon Geels edified us with his two favourite stories on religion. As a boy in The Netherlands he attended a catholic school. One day a teacher said to the boys: "You can be

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happy to be born a catholic, remember you could have been born into a protestant family!" In the department of theology in Lund, Sweden, the students once asked a professor of his deepest impression from his years in theology. The answer came immediately: "The superiority of Christianity!"

Geels' own attitude was quite the opposite. His study of the great traditions had taught him to appreciate the variety of religious ideas. "Take advantage of this variety!" was his bid. If he had any preference, it seems to be the dervishes, according to Geels characterized by total openness and tolerance. And from his other speciality, judo, he had learnt a useful rule: in yielding is power.

Moreover, Antoon Geels discussed the endeavour of spirituality to transcend consciousness and the ego in different religions. He mentioned the Proteus-ego, the daostic bush, the bodily religiosity of the Sufi, the psychology of the mystics. Another aspect of glocal spirituality is the hidden God. About Godhead you can't say anything, therefore the expression: "God, liberate us from God". But people have always attempted, by different provocative techniques, to see and hear something divine, e.g. by living alone in a cave. But what they experienced cannot be described with words; it is too complex to pass the needle-eye of language.

Spanish Group

**OLE AND SUZETTE VAN HAUEN-DRUCKER -
+34 952 493 638**

Due to the economic situation here and elsewhere, people tend to cut down on everything not absolutely necessary such as memberships. As we told Stephan our group has been somewhat reduced, as two members have moved back to England and one back to Denmark, even though they may be visiting every now and then. We are now seriously considering taking in non-members, as we have been working quite a bit with group dynamics and dialogue. And for those processes numbers make a difference. Otherwise, we have had some very interesting meetings during the first half of 2008 and will meet again in September after a pause during July and August. We have discussed extraterrestrial transmission of information via certain key persons and the validity of this information as well as the possible consequences of regarding such information as scientific truth. As you can imagine the group was rather divided regarding how to respond to this information. We decided to do the meeting in a dialogue form which resolved a lot of polarisation and left everybody opening hours I are on the line the listeners or use the listener the wiser and more tolerant.

We may start the first meeting after the summer with a brain-storming regarding the future format of our group. Most likely in a dialogue form. Like many others things these days our group seems to be in a transition phase, where we may have to put up a more strict agenda that still allows for creativity and spiritual development, which remains the overall focus of our group.

Cambridge Group

HAZEL GUEST – 01223 369148

On Monday 19th May **Gunnel Minett** guided us into a satsang. This is similar to an ordinary discussion, except that intellectualisation is kept to a minimum as people are encouraged to express ideas straight from the heart.

On Wednesday 9th July **Michael Langford** introduced a discussion on 'The Moral and Spiritual Status of the Human Embryo'. He raised a number of questions including: 'How do we define a human person?' and 'Is it logically valid to ask at what point the embryo becomes a person?'

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 10th September when **Hazel Guest** will introduce the topic 'The Mentality and Beliefs of a Cult'.

We have changed the day of the week on which we meet. It is now the second Wednesday of alternate months. The time and venue remain as before, namely 7.40 for 8 p.m. at Hazel Guest's flat, which is 44 Beaufort Place, Thompson's Lane, Cambridge CB5 8AG. Tel: 01223 369148.

Guildford Group

DIANA CLIFT 01483-417922

We have had a varied programme this year. **Roger Taylor** stepped in (when **Hardin Tibbs** was unable to come at short notice) for our January meeting to follow up his popular and mind-boggling talk last September on Ormus (or 'white gold')

Subtle Energy Fields - New Evidence from Ormus, Pyramids and Other Wonders

His talk was mainly to do with dowsing 'energy fields', a highly controversial area of research which resulted in lively discussion with suggestions for further study and replication.

On March 12th we had another welcome return from **Dr Mike King** introducing his new book **Science and Secularism: the Hidden Origins of Disbelief**, a thoroughly researched historical perspective on different manifestations of the spiritual impulse and the origins of the present gulf between religion and science.

In May we had an exciting presentation from Feng Shui practitioner, **Richard Ashworth**, entitled **Eating Soup with Chop Sticks: Feng Shui, the Tao and the Rational**. This was a popular and challenging evening, full of remarkable anecdotes about the power of Feng Shui and its historical and cultural context.

Our July meeting took quite a different form. We decided to have short presentations from members of the group. It was an intense evening. As one of the participants remarked, it was a Tapas of Topics: many tasty morsels! **Carolyn Eley**, described UFO experiences from impeccably reliable firsthand sources, reported to her when she worked as a journalist. **Mike Chambers** gave two talks, one on the series of books from Russia entitled the **Ringling Cedars of Russia**, which describe the philosophy of the Siberian mystic, Anastasia, and the other on the Mayan prophecies concerning the year 2012 and how they appear to be fulfilled by recent events (although he emphasised that 2012 was seen as the end of a cycle in human affairs, not necessarily the end of the world). **Milu Larkin** gave us practical advice on how to recognise our own gut feelings and use them as a reliable guide in life. **Sonya Porter** gave us accounts of behaviour from her cats which suggested that they have souls and can communicate after death, and several people present reported similar experiences with their pets. **Diana Clift** ended the evening with an account of a curious hypnotic phenomenon, A friend under hypnosis sometimes appears to 'channel' the personality of her late father, Brian, an intelligent and humorous communicator, apparently from a different reality.

Diana Clift is retiring as coordinator of the Guildford Group after 18 years at the end of this year. However, she remains an enthusiastic member and will serve on the new 'Core Group' coordinated by **Gerri McManus**. We are planning an exciting new format with more frequent but less formal meetings, probably in a new venue.

London Group

CLAUDIA NIELSEN – 0207 431 1177

The talks below have been recorded and can be heard or downloaded from 'Summaries of Previous Events' of the **London Group** page of the Network's website.

In April **Cherry Gilchrist** made a presentation about her new book **The Soul of Russia: Magical Traditions in an Enchanted Landscape** which was the result of more than

50 trips to Russia. Cherry is a prolific author and has written more than 20 books on a wide variety of subjects. She has always been interested in mythology, magic and folklore and this book explores ancient Russian myths and folklore ingrained in the culture and which shine through still today in many of the everyday habits and traditions of the people in the villages. The Russians, we were told, have a very different mindset from the Western world, and for them there is no sharp division between the material and the spiritual world, or between science and spirituality. It is for instance, quite common to find a spiritual healer working in a hospital. The connection with nature is very strong in Russia and is represented primarily by the Mother Earth goddess, who is the primordial divine element and is characterised everywhere in embroidery, carvings etc. Mother Earth is all understanding and all forgiving and will see that everything is put right in the end. In a perverse way, this may explain the lack of care in Russian attitude towards their landscape and nature in general. As well as Mother Earth, there are also nature spirits who demand respect and reverence and people in the villages ensure good fortune by having symbolic representations in their homes. The connection with animas is also very strong and bears play a particularly important role embodying by their hibernation, the connection with the underworld. The use and abuse of bears in entertainment is a corruption of this connection. We also heard about Cherry's interesting contact with a Siberian shaman from whom she learned about even older living traditions than those in central Russia. It was a very interesting talk full of examples of how deeply embedded the ancient folklore is, showing us a fascinating and different side to Russian culture from that we are used to seeing.

In May we had a presentation by **Jane Clark**, a researcher and student of Islam and Ibn Arabi in particular, who entitled her talk ***Reason and Heart in the Islamic Mystical Tradition***. Jane charted the development of Islamic thought which like European thought, is rooted in Greek philosophy, especially Aristotle. However, whereas the West became committed to reason as highest faculty, in Islamic mystical tradition, the faculty of the heart (which is not the physical heart but more akin to the heart chakra in Indian tradition) is higher. This faculty has the ability to see God directly. Jane went into detailed historical background to explain the transmission in the Middle Ages of the Greek thought via translation and cultural contact especially in Spain. Whilst this was taking place, home grown Arabic philosophical work was working towards the philosophical integration of Aristotelian thought with the words of the Prophet Mohammed. Jane spent quite some time on Al-Farabi who proposed that philosophy and religion are the same truths expressed in a different way. This idea permeated Sufi thought encouraging the development of a theoretical basis to their mystical experiences. Al-Ghazali in the 12th C gave the first coherent description of the faculty of the heart which, like Descartes, he developed by starting from the principle of assuming nothing. He diverged from Descartes however by declaring the heart, not the intellect as the highest faculty, for through the heart man can know God and the world as his revelation. Jane explained however that a lot of what the Sufis put in the camp of the heart, Aristotle had in the camp of reason – which shows the categories actually merge and are not completely different things. Later, Ibn Arabi demonstrates that the heart has the ability to accept and understand paradoxes which reason cannot. The heart is the place where all complementary opposites come together and become essentially one. He developed the idea of the unity of Being or the unity of Existence. Summing up the evening, we learned that whereas for philosophers the final fulfilment of human potentiality is achieved through the intellectual faculty, Sufis

maintain that it is through the development of the heart that this potentiality is achieved as the heart has the capacity to see God as he really is.

In June we welcomed **Max Payne**, who posed the question is ***Sri Aurobindo – A Prophet for the 21st Century?*** Max is a founder member of the SMN Council - a precursor of the SMN Board of Directors - and was until last year, the Chair of the SMN Trustees. He is also retired Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at Sheffield Hallam University. Max gave us an overview of Aurobindo's life, explaining that he came from a privileged high ranking Indian family who sent him to be educated in England. He was a brilliant scholar but his fierce nationalistic feelings made him turn to fight British rule in India and he saw himself in prison as a result of a terrorist act which he helped organise. In prison he had a profound spiritual experience and decided to dedicate his life to the spiritual path. When he was released from jail – a minor miracle in itself - he fled to the French enclave of Pondicherry where he founded his Ashram and developed the system of Integral Yoga in which the principles of yoga are applied to all areas of human experience. Aurobindo's cosmic model describes the eternal Divine unfolding him/her/itself in Creation or Existence down to the smallest particle and then embarking on a journey of return to Source by means of an ever increasing refinement of consciousness. All existence is therefore a manifestation of the Divine but is ignorant of the fact up to human level where self-reflection makes this knowledge possible. This is the beginning of the journey of return to Source which will progress as higher levels of awareness are developed towards Superconscious awareness. Integral Yoga is a means towards this development. We also heard about an interesting and pertinent historical detail, in which one of the SMN's founders George Blaker, a civil servant in India at the time, was given the task in 1943 of informing Aurobindo that the British were willing to grant India independence on condition that India would fight for the Allies. Whereas Aurobindo was willing to agree, the plan was thwarted by Gandhi who refused to go along with it and independence was not achieved until 1947.

Manchester Group

CHRISTINA HEATON- christinaheaton@msn.com

Professor Les Lancaster presented the morning talk 'Prophetic Consciousness in kabbalah: perspectives from transpersonal psychology'.

The talk commenced with a demonstration of the kabbalistic technique of exploring the meaning of Hebrew letters. This is considered important because it reveals the role of reflexivity. Reflexivity is key to prophetic consciousness because it describes how everything is an expression of the divine. There is no separate ego. Consequently, when prophetic consciousness is reached "the prophet is a vehicle for the essence of divine knowing, or being, reflecting to itself".

The talk progressed to outlining how the notion of death and rebirth is crucial, as is creativity. Kabbala perceives that humanity may partner the divine in the process of creation. Creativity is understood as a way of imitating the divine and is therefore considered important in achieving prophetic consciousness. Some of the characteristics of prophetic consciousness are: expansion of thought, union, synaesthesia and timelessness.

Kabbala describes the path of mysticism as one of delving into God's word. This touches the psychology of free association, which is essentially "moving things around in the mind". Kabbalists aspired to a state of consciousness in which the 'freewheeling', associative mind is paradoxically harnessed to disciplined contemplation of the Hebrew language, especially the letters comprising the sacred Name of God. This state is understood as effectively bringing the



human mind into alignment with the 'divine mind'. Further psychological understandings of Kabbalistic practices were outlined and parallels with yoga were noted.

A diagrammatic model of perception, consciousness and mystical practice was presented, followed by a model of Kabbalah and transformation. Finally, a summary of key kabbalistic concepts in relation to transpersonal psychology was shown. Professor Lancaster completed the talk by noting that whilst some key kabbalistic concepts fit relatively easily into a scientific psychological framework, others (such as the notion of ontologically distinct 'worlds') do not. The latter might be dubbed the 'hard' problems of mysticism, and present an important challenge to our contemporary worldview.

Professor Lancaster is the UK's first full Professor of Transpersonal Psychology, a position he holds at Liverpool John Moores University, where he co-directs the Consciousness and Transpersonal Psychology Research Unit. He can be contacted at b.l.lancaster@ljmu.ac.uk. Details of the MSc in Consciousness and Transpersonal Psychology can be found at www.ljmu.ac.uk/ctp

The afternoon presentation, 'Prophecy and Science in the 21st Century' was presented by **Fr Columcille Murphy OFM**. The talk explored science and evolution, the prophet's place in evolution and concluded with an exploration of whether the SMN could be considered a prophetic community.

Thinking on science and evolution was outlined by reference to Bateson, Segundo, Huxley and Machove and culminated with two questions. Firstly: did scientific reason have any connection to the recent banking crisis? Secondly: can the present model of scientific reason become a barrier to the next stage of evolution?



Bateson says that rationality can become irrational when it's not balanced by the pre-rational (art for example). Fr. Colmille said that "scientific reason does not do moral right and wrong. Fine, until the scientific mind-set is rolled out into schools, banks, the oil and commodities markets. Then we are heading for chaos."

The talk progressed to examination of the nature of prophecy and prophets by reference to Biblical figures and concluded that "the mission of the prophet has to do with defending human life, especially when it is endangered by oppressive forces". For modern times it is important to understand that in the prophet's view people are more sacred than structures. Blocking evolution is, for the prophet, a crime. The prophet looks forward to a new age, a quantum leap, "a dream open to every human being" and is prepared to take the necessary risks towards that because prophecy is deeper than reason.

Finally, the talk presented the group with a question for discussion - the SMN could be considered a prophetic community: a witness to the evolution of human and personal life. How does it defend? What is the risk?

This generated free flowing and lively discussion and many felt these were questions deserving more reflection over time. Fr Columcille Murphy is a Franciscan priest and can be contacted at colmille@btconnect.com.

Scottish Group

DAVID LORIMER – 01333 340490

At the beginning of June, the Scottish Group was hosted by Graham Martin, who introduced his new book *Living on Purpose*, and a number of new people attended the group. This book is the sequel to *Does It Matter?* and will be reviewed in the next issue. In his customary combative style, Graham sets out to demolish the arguments that neither purpose nor values exist in nature, coining a new term 'vimfortism' to denote a philosophy based on the chance and determinism. On the basis of findings of modern consciousness research, he makes the case that the human life is indeed meaningful and that the materialist understanding is inadequate.

Sussex Group

JOHN KAPP

The chairman of the Sussex branch has resigned. Volunteers for the committee please get in touch with the secretary, John Kapp at johnkapp@btinternet.com or phone 01273 417997.

Yorkshire Group**MAX PAYNE 01142 304194,
MIKE BROWN 01423 879038**

The Yorkshire group met on 7th June at 16 Burnt Stones Grove, Sheffield. As Mike King was unable to come at short notice, Max Payne gave the talk on Sri Aurobindo he had previously given to the London group. (see London 3rd June).

After buffet lunch **Di Cliff** gave a talk "Beyond the Fringe" about her explorations into psychic experience. Ruthlessly determined, and yet sceptically open-minded, she consulted a variety of mediums and psychics. She observed paranormal phenomena such as a rising table, which it would have required a technological miracle to fake. She recorded strange telepathic precognition, and an ouija board contacted "Joan of Arc", who refused to communicate in French. Di became convinced that there was a "psychic soup" beyond normal consciousness, but found no evidence whatsoever for any personal survival.

Then, in a totally different field, she gave hypnotherapy to a patient "Lorna" who had severe pain as a result of a road accident. Under hypnosis "Lorna's" face contorted, and she spoke with the voice of her dead father "Brian". In life "Brian" was a militant atheist, and his account of his present state of existence was suitably ironic. "Brian" did not claim supreme knowledge. His present existence had its limitations, though not as many as his previous earthly one. "Lorna" was all the time in a hypnotic trance, and when she came round, she had no awareness of what had happened. Di's account was objective, and factual. She simply reported what she had recorded on tape, and refused to draw any conclusions. Those present who believed there was an afterlife found Di's account confirmed what they had always thought. Those who had no such beliefs were left being very thoughtful.

The next meeting will be on Saturday 6th September. Speakers: Rev. David Bell (New Zealand), Margaret Hilderley

Note: Local Groups are autonomous groups of members and their guests, meeting together for lectures and discussions. They are not a formal part of the Network.

**MEMBERS' ARTICLES AND
ARTICLES OF INTEREST**

All the articles listed below are available electronically on the members' side of the website or online if referenced.

SCIENCE/PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

Butterflies, worldviews, biodiversity, general systems theory, and taxonomy

R.I. Vane-Wright, 20 pp.

This paper discusses ideas about the origin and maintenance of biodiversity, its crucial importance for life on earth, including human life, and the fundamental role of taxonomy in its study.

A Preliminary Study of the "Life-Energy" associated with Orgonite and Ormus by means of a Quantitative Dowsing Method

Roger Taylor PhD, 6 pp., e-mail: rogerbt@onetel.com

Electromagnetic Fields: Questions and answers about wireless technologies

Andrew Michrowski, PhD, 6 pp., The Planetary Association for Clean Energy

pacenet@canada.com <http://pacenet.homestead.com>

The Disappearing Bees: CCD and Electromagnetic Radiation - a timeline of articles and web references, 15 pp.

Vitamin Study Scare – Alliance for Natural Health Response
Dr. Robert Verkerk, 2 pp.

Usefully explains the background to this study, which created headlines in the newspapers at the time.

MEDICINE-HEALTH

The Power of the Placebo

Ron Eccles, 4 pp., from Current Allergy and Asthma Reports 2007, 7:100–104

Organ Transplants and Cellular Memories

Paul Pearsall, Gary Schwartz and Linda Russek, 15 pp., from Nexus Magazine, April-May 2005.

Public Health – A Pharmacist's Viewpoint

Prof. Mayank Jyoti, 4 pp.

A reasoned account of the pharmacist's subdued and lesser role in the current healthcare set-up of the developing economies.

PHILOSOPHY-RELIGION

The Evolution of the Western Mind and Our Planetary Future - Richard Tarnas, 4 pp.

The Origins of the New Testament

Keith Wakelam, 12 pp.

A controversial paper presented at this year's AGM outlining research on the origins of the New Testament. Much research, now largely forgotten, was done on this matter in the late 19th century, and there are some surprising statements quoted from the Catholic Encyclopaedia.

Making God: A New Materialist View of the Person, by Ann Long

3-page book review by a member who does not give their name!

The Tree of Life and the Holy Grail - Ancient and Modern Spiritual Paths and the Mystery of Rennes-le-Chateau, by Sylvia Francke

Book review, 5 pp., by **Peter Welsford.**

CONSCIOUSNESS STUDIES

Endless Consciousness: an Outline

Pim van Lommel, 8 pp.

Endless Consciousness – a comment

In 2001 Dutch cardiologist Pim van Lommel caused a sensation by getting his research on people who had had a Near-Death Experience (NDE) published in *The Lancet*. At the end of 2007 he published a massive tome (in Dutch) called *Endless Consciousness: A Scientific View on the Near-Death Experience*. Currently, it appears high on the best-seller lists, which is remarkable for a book of this level of complexity. But then again, life after death is a subject that speaks to every one of us. For a critical comment, see: <http://www.integralworld.net/vanlommel.html>

Cosmological Consciousness: Hints of its implications for evolution, philosophy and science

Emilios Bouratinos, 20 pp.

Seeking Wholeness: Writing 'Tibetan Buddhism and Modern Physics:

Toward a Union of Love and Knowledge.'

Vic Mansfield, 9 pp.

A personal account of the background of Vic's new book.

Consciousness as a Nonphysical Phenomenon

John Burnett, 3 pp.

Reflections on a 60-year interest in consciousness studies.

Exercises in shamanic voyaging, the perception of the energy body, and divination – a short course held in Southern Sweden.

John F. Caddy and Anne Ramsten, 3 pp.

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GENERAL**What in the World is Going on? A Global Intelligence Briefing for CEOs.****Herbert Meyer, 9 pp.**

A fascinating briefing presented at the world economic forum and identifying four partly interconnected megatrends: the war in Iraq, the emergence of China, shifting demographics in the west and restructuring of American business.

World Facing Huge New Challenge on Food Front - Business-as-Usual Not a Viable Option <http://www.earthpolicy.org/Updates/2008/Update72.htm>**The Honeysuckle and the Rose: the Roots of Sustainability****Professor David Cadman, 18 pp.**

A paper focussing on harmony, beauty and love, given to the New York School of Interior Design, April 2008

Is there Spiritual Music?**Jonathan Harvey, 12 pp.**

Talk given to the 'Contemporary Music and Spirituality' conference at the Southbank Centre, London on February 2nd, 2008.

From Londonistan to Bantustan

Book reviews by **Mike King**, 3 pp., of *Palestine – Peace not Apartheid* by Jimmy Carter and *Londonistan – How Britain is Creating a Terror State Within*, by Melanie Phillips

Forgiveness and a Family Clash**William Bloom, 3 pp., see also www.williambloom.com**

A personal account drawing more general conclusions.

Mary Scott Centenary address (3 pp.) and Mary Swainson appreciation by Jean Clark (1 p.)**Online papers by Anthony Judge:****Celebrating the Value of Deadly Problems Worldwide - Planetary salvation in an era of inept global governance?**

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

Reducing Global Effects of Overpopulation by Reducing the Average Size of Members of the Population

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

Imagining the Real Challenge and Realizing the Imaginal Pathway of Sustainable Transformation

<http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/docs00s/real.php>

NEWS AND NOTICES**Sir John Templeton, 1912-2008**

Readers will have read the extensive obituaries for Sir John Templeton in national and international newspapers. The Financial Times devoted a special Saturday leader to him entitled 'A real reputation' eulogising not only his astute timing and judgment but also his philanthropic munificence, which has supported so many worthwhile projects in the fields of science and religion, spirituality and

health and character development. Two of his aphorisms are quoted in the FT: 'It's different this time' and 'an investor who has all the answers doesn't even understand the questions'. Sir John was a great believer in maxims and proverbs, and many are quoted in his book *Wisdom from World Religions*, which forms the background of the Learning for Life website. His was surely one of the great lives of our time. For an extensive appreciation, see www.templeton.org

www.scimednet.org

Templeton Foundation Pamphlet - Does Science Make Belief in God Obsolete?

A series of 13 short essays taking different views on this question. Some answer the question with the unequivocal yes or no, others are more qualified. Writers include Keith Ward, Mary Midgley, Christopher Hitchens and Stuart Kauffman. A previous pamphlet asked the question, does the universe have a purpose? These are available for download from, respectively, www.templeton.org/belief and www.templeton.org/purpose

Investigating Atheism – www.investigatingatheism.info

The purpose of this site, co-ordinated by Dr. Fraser Watts at Cambridge is to set the contemporary 'God Wars' in their historical context, and to offer a range of perspectives (from all sides) on the chief issues raised by the 'new atheists'. The hope is that this will encourage more informed opinion about the issues, discourage oversimplification of the debate, and deepen the interest in the subject. The current polarised nature of the 'new atheism' debate often discourages serious discussion of the very issues that the 'new atheists' have brought so forcibly to the attention of the public. Behind some of their more vociferous assertions, there are complex debates going on, and the site will seek to understand how and why these debates have arisen, and what is at stake. The site contains a definition and historical contextualisation of contemporary atheism, an account of atheist organisations and demographics, an overview of the current controversies, and includes orientation to discussion on issues felt to be central to these.

AntiMatters

AntiMatters is an open-access e-journal addressing issues in science and the humanities from non-materialistic perspectives. It is published quarterly by the Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education in Pondicherry, India. The web-link to the current issue is <http://anti-matters.org/0/current.htm> The contents of the current issue will certainly interest readers – such as SriAurobindo's theory of evolution, Diseases of Meaning, Manifestations of Health, and Metaphor, and some interesting book reviews.

The Helene Reeder Memorial Fund for Research into Life after Death – 2008 Grants

The Helene Reeder Fund is pleased to announce the availability of grants for small and medium sized scientific research projects concerning the question of Life after Death. Grants will be awarded in the range of EUR 500 - 7000 maximum. The topic "Research into Life after Death" should constitute the main objective of the project. Applications in English, to be submitted by 30 September, preferably by email to the HRF c/o edgar.muller@comhem.se from whom further details can be obtained.

Religion and Public Life – see www.pewforum.org

A major survey by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life finds that most Americans have an non-dogmatic approach to faith. A strong majority of those who are affiliated with a religion, including majorities of nearly every religious tradition, do not believe their religion is the only way to salvation. And almost the same number believes that there is more than one true way to interpret the teachings of their religion. This openness to a range of religious viewpoints is in line with the great diversity of religious affiliation, belief and practice that exists in the United States, as documented in a survey of more than 35,000 Americans that comprehensively examines the country's religious landscape. The 20-page summary – with many interesting charts and figures - can be downloaded.