

Network News

Results of Network Survey

Members may remember that we sent out a survey during 1996, to which we received about 200 replies. These have now been analysed by SARAJANE ARIS and ADAM HALL. Here are a few of the significant results.

On the question of what people liked most about the Network expressed as percentages of those replying:

Breadth of topics covered, 26%

Contact and correspondence with other members, 22%,

Keeping up with cutting edge topics, 17%

Sharing ideas, 16%,

The Review, 15%,

The SMN approach 14%

We also had a wide range of suggestions about how the Network might be improved. These ranged from the location of new local groups, suggestions for new special interest groups (some of which we have now acted upon), the co-ordination of a vacation rendezvous (Jamaica is a start!), changing our name, index of back issues of the Review, policy think-tanks, reprints of lectures. We welcome your ideas and contributions and will be considering a number of the suggestions made in the survey as pointers for our future direction.

News from the Office

We are delighted that JANINE EDGE has agreed to become a Trustee of the Network. She was until recently a partner with the City law firm Slaughter and May and is now striking out in a new direction. In Scotland, JOYCE LANGLANDS is joining the Network as the new Senior Secretary, in succession to MARLENE URE. Joyce has had experience at the universities of Dundee, in the biochemistry and teaching hospital departments, and St. Andrews, where she was departmental secretary in the French Department. JOHN LAUDER will be leaving us this month to move north, and therefore out of range of the office. The Council and Trustees have decided to appoint a full time book-keeper and conference secretary, effectively combining what are at present two part-time posts. FIONA THOMSON will be joining us in this new capacity in the middle of April and brings with her a broad range of administrative and accounts experience.

Web Site - Members' Directory now On-Line

Members on e-mail will by now have recovered from the inadvertent deluge of e-mail created by the Plymouth list-server when we sent out a letter to the 650 or so Members and everyone's response was posted to everyone else, resulting in the propagation of some 60,000 messages - many of them desperate attempts to unsubscribe from the list! The main news from the site is that the Members' Directory is now on-line and is updated monthly. There is a facility for updating your entry on-line and e-mailing it to the office so that the new entry will appear as an update in the next month's version. DR KEVIN ASHBRIDGE is to be congratulated on his efforts to bring this advance about. The Directory is a unique networking source and obviously goes badly out of date between printings every other year, even with the supplement that is enclosed with this issue. The current list-servers on the web-site are the following:

Education (smn_education)
Consciousness (consciousness.smn)
Network Ethos (ethos.smn)
Healthy Planet (healthy_planet)
Bohm dialogue (bohm_dialogue)
Psychology & Spirituality (psychospir)
Energy medicine (energy_medicine)
Discussions on the aura: (smn_aura)
Discussions on forthcoming review article on dowsing: (smn_dowsing)
May Dialogue (may_dialogue)
Network AGM (smn_agm)

You can join these lists by sending a one-line e-mail message (containing the command ADD) to -request@cis.plym.ac.uk, where is the name of the mailing list you wish to subscribe to. This name is listed above in brackets. For example, ADD rwl@compuserve.com to smn_education-request @cis.plym.ac.uk The list server will send you a message containing all server commands that you can use. Submissions to any of the mailing lists that you subscribed to can be made by sending messages to @cis.plym.ac.uk Alternatively, you can join these lists at the mailing lists page in the Members' Circle on the web site.

Appeal

In response to our second letter, a number of generous members gave an extra donation to the Appeal - we are most grateful to all those who have responded. The most munificent donation has come from GRAINGER WESTON, who is also making a generous offer in connection with his property at Frenchman's Cove, Jamaica - see below. His donation triggers a further anonymous donation of £5,000, which brings the total to around £57,000. We are still a little short of our target of over £60,000, but there will be more money coming in from gift aid and covenant payments. The Trust Fund will shortly benefit from an injection of about £115,000, which will earn extra interest in the period before the main loans are repayable at the beginning of 2002. Could any member who knows Trustees of charitable trusts to whom we could apply for funds please let us know at the office. We have now started to apply to trusts for general and project support.

Sponsorship of Events Arranged by the Network

Two of the events reported in the last issue were generously supported by sponsors. My apologies to them for not mentioning this fact. MARKS AND SPENCER kindly donated £1,000 towards the Bohm Dialogue held near Windsor in June. We are now arranging a series of autumn lectures on the Gaia hypothesis for their internal Arts and Science Forum at their headquarters in Baker Street. The *Drynachan Symposium on Neuroscience, Responsibility and the Law* was generously supported to the tune of £2,000 by the AIM foundation and through the hospitality of COUNTESS ANGELIKA CAWDOR. SANDY MCCALL SMITH and I have formulated the outline for the book arising out of the meeting, and this has now been agreed by the contributors. We are now looking for a publisher and will keep readers posted in forthcoming issues.

Meetings at Frenchman's Cove in Jamaica

As part of his very generous donation to the Network, over and above his gift to the Appeal Fund, GRAINGER WESTON has given us funding to help hold a series of meetings at his

property Frenchman's Cove near Port Antonio in Jamaica. Readers of last April's issue may recall the report by Janine Edge describing a small seminar that we held there last year. We are planning a fortnight's meeting in mid-February next year and will be sending a separate mailing about this in June so that Members have plenty of time to plan. Frenchman's Cove is an extraordinary location on the north coast of Jamaica. A stream runs through the middle of it and out onto the beach, dividing the property in two. There is a main building sleeping 24 and houses dotted around the estate which sleep a further 48. Grainger would like to see the place thrive as a growth and retreat centre and has turned down numerous commercial offers to develop it. He is offering Network Members an extraordinary bed and breakfast rate of \$30, which is one third of the normal charge. This rate applies not only during our meetings but at any time of year and to seminars or workshops arranged by Network members. We are thinking of designating two other periods during the year when we can send out a speaker and encourage members to attend. We now have enough experience of the venue to be able to advise those going for the first time.

Network Silver Jubilee Book

We are making good progress on the Network Silver Jubilee Book and now have chapter editors in place. They are MAX PAYNE on Philosophy and Values for Living, CHRIS CLARKE on Science in Transformation, JOHN COSH on Health and Healing, ALAN MAYNE on Education and Visions for the Third Millennium and myself on A New Science of Consciousness. JULIAN CANDY is editing the resource section listing what the editors regard as the fifty most significant books in our field of interest to be published in the last 25 years.

With this mailing you will receive a leaflet about the book from the Mystics and Scientists conferences published by Floris Books and entitled *The Spirit of Science - From Experiment to Experience*. We are lucky to have secured the contributions of a number of distinguished members and lecturers. We are hoping that a good sale of the book will be made through local groups - see the review by Max Payne under the Science section

Alexander Imich Essay Prize, \$1,000 - Science and the Paranormal

Member DR ALEXANDER IMICH is kindly sponsoring an Essay Prize, which will be open to all members of the Network. The prize will be worth \$1,000 and the subject is Science and the Paranormal. Would those interested in competing please write into the office for details. Closing date will be 31st October, 1998. The winning essay will be published in the *Review*.

Consciousness Group

The group met on March 14th to discuss the theme 'Time and Memories of Previous Lives'. We had five presentations during the day, beginning with an anthropological perspective from NATALIE TOBERT. She ran over a number of cultures where the belief in rebirth or reincarnation is traditional and asked if it was a pattern intrinsic to human nature. In her concluding remarks she stated that some kind of theory of interlocking worlds or dualism seemed to be a precondition for understanding the mechanism involved. MAX PAYNE then gave us a philosophical overview of Eastern and Western approaches. He raised a number of questions that open up if materialism is rejected: does consciousness pre- and post-exist? How is this related to meaning? What is a person and what is time? What might survive death and for how long? How is population growth consistent with reincarnation?

HERTHA LARIVE drew on her own experience, saying that remembering was both fortunate and unfortunate. We don't know ourselves as souls, we don't know who we are. When we do, we move towards greater understanding. This involves the evolution and expansion of consciousness. She felt that the emerging sense of responsibility was a reflection of soul awareness. She asked: what is the challenge of an individual experience and what quality do we need to develop in order to deal with it? If we deal with lessons constructively, we can move on. In this sense, karma can be seen as the principle of continuity that keeps themes recurring until they are no longer necessary. VICTOR OUBRIDGE presented a new theory of space in relation to consciousness, using the concept of holons to describe the degrees of existence. The present is a cross-section within the whole, while consciousness is primary and cosmic consciousness is regarded as non-local. DAVID LORIMER summarized Ian Stevenson's recent work reviewed in the last issue of Network. ALAN SANDERSON gave a fascinating account of a clinical case involving a flying phobia which turned out to be that of an attached entity rather than the patient; in any event, the patient recovered. This gave rise to questions around multiple personality and dissociative identity disorder. In our final discussion we agreed that the day had opened up a large number of fascinating issues that might be the subject of a review article in Network. We also noted that the topic of the Cambridge Beyond the Brain conference for 1999 was to be 'Is there consciousness before birth and after death?'

Energy Medicine Group

Please see the report by Jazz Rasool on p.22.

Future meetings: 21st April, London: Evening meeting on 'Aims and Objectives'. 8-10th May, Dorset, UK: Group Weekend (with emphasis on the experiential). 6th June, Regents College, London: One day meeting, 'Energy- What is it?' Late July, London, A presentation by Dr Brian O'Leary, Astronaut.

Psychotherapy and Spirituality Group

The last meeting of the group was held at ANN RODEN'S house in Harrow on February 15th. Ann presented an overview of the philosophy of Ayurveda based on the samkya school. It begins by acknowledging the divinity in everyone. All the 'energy medicines' are described in Eastern medicine.

Ann writes: All the 'energy medicines' are described in Eastern medicine. Polarity, reflexology, massage, crystals, acupuncture, homeopathy, herbal medicine are all described in Ayurveda. Ayurveda describes the Divine source of Consciousness, the Male and Female energies in their essence, the Universal Intelligence, the three forces of Nature, the Mind, the senses and the Five Great Elements - ether, air, fire, water and earth. The union of *purusa*, universal soul, male energy, unmanifest, formless, passive, beyond attributes, beyond cause and effect, space and time with *prakrti* the Cosmic Substance, female, the creative force of action, source of form and manifestation, awareness with choice, brings creation into manifestation. From this arises the *mahat* or Cosmic Intelligence, with the power of *buddhi*, the discrimination and pure intellect. From this the sense of 'I am' arises - the ego. The one gives rise to the three *gunas* or forces of nature - *sattva*, *rajas* and *tamas* . From *sattva* arises the ordinary mind (much loved by the scientists), the five senses and the five organs of action. From *tamas* arises the five subtle elements of sound, touch, colour,

taste and smell and the five gross elements of ether, air, fire, water and earth. *rajas* provides the energy linking the two.

To get a better understanding of the elements, we did an internal exercise so that we could see how earth, water, fire, air and ether relate to the body. Most of the time we have no idea what is going on in the body. This was followed by an exercise appreciating the five elements surrounding us, taken from *The Power of the Mind* by Tulku Thondup. These exercises connected us to our higher being. We looked at the conditions which have to be into consideration when dealing with the individual who are all quite different depending on their inheritance. We also looked at the laws relating to eating and how through the manifestation of the elements in the six tastes we could help to keep ourselves in harmony with the external environment - very much as the physicians of old practised. The opportunity was given to look at life and ourselves in a rather different way. Ayurveda says that lifestyle is the cause of all disease. All 'energy medicine' needs to remember its roots and relate its practice to these factors. 'May all be happy. May all be without disease. May all see the good. May none be in misery of any sort.'

Forthcoming: Next meeting of the group on 17th May. Apply to the office for details.

Science and Esoteric Traditions Group

The group has held two meetings so far this year, both of which have largely been devoted to discussion of GEOFFREY FARTHING'S extensive paper *An Esoteric View of the Relation between Consciousness and Brain Function* (23 pp., can be ordered as a Members' Article and soon, hopefully, available on the web). The paper is a summary of a lifetime's thinking and reading. It presents a succinct account of theosophical wisdom in a way consistent with the ideas of modern science. From the beginning, the aim of the group has been to widen the framework of science beyond the limiting assumptions of materialism but in a way consistent with current scientific findings. You will see from the enclosed leaflet that the group will be holding a public meeting in June at Regent's College.