

Network News and Notices

Electronic Networking

We are enclosing with this mailing a document written by Dr. Kevin Ashbridge which we hope will demystify electronic communication and help you get on line. We are finding that the discussion part of the Compuserve Forum is underused, but the library is consulted on a regular basis. There have been meetings and exchanges between various members active on the Internet and email. As a result, we are planning to develop our activities on the Internet and create forums which can be used by Members for exchange and discussion on a number of topics. There will also be library and diary sections as well as places where Members will be able to post their own notices. We intend to develop this service over the early part of next year and will notify all those whose email addresses we currently have. **Please let us have your email address as soon as you have one. The best way of doing this is to send a trial message to 100114.1637@compuserve.com.** Meanwhile you can visit our embryonic home page on home.html

Possible Network Corporate Membership

The Council is exploring the possibility of establishing a new category of corporate membership. Companies or institutions might choose to support the Network through an annual donation. In return they would receive several copies of the Review for distribution and perhaps a number of tickets to evening events. In addition, we are considering ways in which Network members might provide briefings on new developments in their fields on a twice-yearly basis. **Any ideas are welcome, as are suggestions of companies who might be interested in such a scheme.**

Network Speaker Service

In the spring of this year we published our Speaker Service Directory, which contains the names of about sixty members who are prepared to give talks in schools on their specialist subjects. Topics are arranged under the general headings of Science. Medicine/Health, Spirituality and General. At present we have about fifty independent schools on our regular mailing list and Member Doug Flower has put in a great deal of work in contacting schools and compiling the document. Schools receive the Review, copies of our cassette catalogue and details of forthcoming events. *If you have a local school which you would like to be part of the service, please let us know.* I myself have given three talks recently - at Kingston College, Westminster School and Sevenoaks School, and know that Rupert Sheldrake, Edward Goldsmith and Diana Clift have similar engagements.

New Honorary Members

We are delighted to be able to welcome three distinguished new Honorary Members: Sir John Eccles, AC, FRS, a Nobel Laureate well known for his research on the mind-brain relationship. Now in his 90s, Sir John is busily engaged on writing his autobiography. Prof. Vicomte Ilya Prigogine gave the keynote address at this year's May Dialogue. His new book comes out in French in January 1996, and an English edition is in preparation. Sir Frederick Warner FRS, FEng, is a chemical engineer and former pro chancellor of the Open University.

New Network Videos

You will have received the new video and cassette catalogue with the last mailing. You will have noticed that all the tapes and videos from the Cambridge conference were available. We finally made four videos: Stan Grof/Charley Tart, Peter Fenwick/Stuart Hameroff, Willis Harman/Ervin Laszlo and, not mentioned in the catalogue, Anne Baring and Marilyn Schlitz. Anne's talk was beautifully illustrated with slides, while Marilyn's contained many diagrams which also come out well in video. At [sterling]16.50 for two lectures, these tapes are good value. We shall also be producing videos of the Science and Religion dialogues.

Michel Schiff - The Memory of Water

Michel came over from Paris on the Eurostar for the publication of the English edition of his book *The Memory of Water* and gave a lecture to over 90 people at the Linnean Society on October 17th. A review of the book appears elsewhere in this issue and a tape of the talk is available in the normal way from Wrekin Trading Company.

Science and Religion Dialogues

The first of this series of dialogues took place on November 14th at Church House in London and was attended by over 200 people. The theme was *Humanity, Nature and the Sacred* with Teddy Goldsmith in the chair. Professor Brian Goodwin and Dr. Rupert Sheldrake were the speakers. Teddy opened with a plea for the restoration of the family and the recognition of natural law as a means of reversing the atomisation of modern Western societies. He related the notion of 'vital force' to a perception of the sacred in nature, and repeatedly stressed to Brian his scepticism about the notion of chaos. Brian argued for a science of qualities open to mystery and meaning and proposed participatory action research as a practical means of taking some of these issues further. He criticised the functional and utilitarian philosophy of biotechnology with its manipulative tendency, although he positioned himself as a 'holistic materialist'. Rupert commented that Brian was not a materialist in the usual sense of the term, although Brian confessed a distaste for any form of otherworldly dualism which divided the world up into distinct elements. Rupert himself proposed a trinitarian understanding whereby the obvious dualities in nature were resolved as aspects of a common third origin, a concept similar to David Bohm's implicate order. There was a particularly lively discussion on the notion of progress as related to process and evolution; the exchanged clarified both distinctions and confusions between these terms in a useful way. Further details of other dialogue dates can be found inside the front cover.

Network Book Prize

The following books have been written by Members during the year and are therefore eligible for entry in the Network Book Prize, 1995. The panel of judges consists of Max Payne, John Kerr and the editor.

Un Voyage a Travers la Transe - David Akstein

Biophotons (in German) - Marco Bischof

The Radiance of Being - Allan Combs

Zoence - Peter Dawkins

The Truth in the Light - Peter and Elizabeth Fenwick

The Lotus in the City - David Fontana

Nutrition & Cancer - State of the Art - Sandra Goodman

The Millennium Myth - Michael Grosso

The Universe Within - Anjam Khursheed

The Chemistry and Bioactivity of Essential Oils- Maria Lis-Balchin

Parting Visions - Melvin Morse

The Interconnected Universe - Ervin Laszlo

Take off your Glasses and See - Jacob Liberman

Miracle in the Void - Brian O'Leary

Sacred Ground, Sacred Space - Rowena Pattee Kryder

Blackfoot Physics - David Peat

Shadows of the Mind - Sir Roger Penrose

Participation in Human Enquiry - Peter Reason (ed)

The Memory of Water - Michel Schiff

Blindness of Modern Science - U.Uus

The Hinge of History - Charlotte Waterlow

Local Groups

DR. STELLA HUMPHRIES writes from Canberra:

We have had a number of meetings this year. We began in January with member and economist Dr. Clive Hamilton speaking about his book *The Mystic Economist* (Willow Park Press 1994). Several years ago Clive had a profound numinous experience which led him to re-examine his basic belief systems and eventually inspired the book. He found he could no longer continue a career built on the economic rationalist model whose premises he now found deeply disturbing. In the first half of the book he presents an analysis of the fallacies of that paradigm. The spiritual awareness that arose from the experience has led Clive to seek ways to bring a less mechanistic and more humane system of thought and decision making into Australian public life - particularly in the area of the environment and resource management. He recently founded an economic think tank, the Australia Institute, which is dedicated to creating a "just, sustainable, peaceful future".

In March our speaker was member Dr. Andris Tebecis who is the Director of Sukyo Mahikari in the Australia-Pacific Region. Andris outlined his personal journey from being a research neurophysiologist working on brain transmitters to his disillusionment with aspects of the scientific model and the discovery of his spiritual vocation with Sukyo Mahikari. He outlined some of the basic teachings of Sukyo Mahikari in response to many questions posed by the group and finished by giving True Light to any individuals who wanted it.

In May, Richard Eckersley, a strategic analyst and science writer, spoke about his concern and research into the "deepening crisis in modern Western culture". He sees several

dimensions to this crisis: "the weakening of spiritual beliefs, the lack of coherent and convincing vision of the future, the promotion of inappropriate and often anti-social values and too much change." He went on to say that science helps to expose the practical errors and philosophical fallacies of modern western culture, for example through insights by people like physicist Paul Davies, Professor of Natural Philosophy at Adelaide University. The many ideas Richard presented led on to a wide-ranging and animated discussion.

Following Richard's talk, the group decided to meet in August to view and discuss two televised episodes of a six-part series of interviews with Paul Davies. These were made by the SBS after Davies received the Templeton Prize for progress in religion earlier this year. Much of the discussion centred around the different experiences people had of God and of what we inferred Paul Davies' experience to be!

Our last meeting, held in September was led by Dr. Onko Kingma, a senior economist with the Federal Government's Department of Primary Industry and Energy. Onko followed the lead of other speakers and related his personal journey from neo-classical economics, through an academic research and teaching career to now working in the rural policy area. He speaks of his work as dedicated to service - working within the system but alert to opportunities for influencing attitudes. Onko also links the economic, social and environmental crises experienced today to humanity's "wrong relationship with God and indeed, of humanity's wrong relationship with its true self." He speaks of money as a neutral package of energy which we now use to fulfil selfish desire. Paraphrasing him further: money can become an expression of man's will to do good. For this we must not only focus on alternative arrangements on the material sphere (which although needed, will simply address the current outcomes of the economic process) but we must also meditate on the higher goals: sharing, co-operation, will-to-good, spiritual growth and love in its purest form.

Our little group varies from 6 to 10 or so and we are developing a comfortable rhythm to our discussions which to me is a sign of a potential for genuine newness to emerge. We continue to meet at my house over dessert and coffee and the format works well for us. I notice as we share our personal journeys and the different paths we took, that there are themes. We have arrived at a place in ourselves where we can meet with genuine respect for difference. But there is also a commonality of understanding that we need better ways for living in the west and that these new ways have an intrinsically spiritual core. A recurring topic for us is exploring practical ways for bringing universal values into the world of work.

The following poem from Rumi seems appropriate to end with.

Out beyond right and wrong, there is a field.

I'll meet you there.

Sending greetings of sharing, co-operation, will-to-good, spiritual growth and love in its purest form from the Canberra group.

MIKE BROWN writes from Yorkshire, Shelley, Nr. Huddersfield, 16th September

Ruth Kaye informed the meeting of the death of the healer Helen Yaffe-Smith who had been suffering from cancer. Helen had attended and addressed Yorkshire Branch meetings and was much respected. She will be sadly missed, and a minute's silence was held in her memory.

Max Payne spoke with eloquence and enthusiasm about the "Beyond the Brain" conference at Cambridge, which he attended last month. He praised the harmonious atmosphere and quality of the events. He went on to outline a number of important points that had arisen in the lectures and discussions which he had attended.

Max said that whilst many of the difficult fundamental questions confronting students of consciousness had been formulated very clearly at the conference, final answers to these questions were proving to be very elusive. He pointed out that consciousness was required in order to begin a study of consciousness, and that before embarking on such a study it was important to understand the limitations of one's own instrument of understanding. This led to discussions by Yorkshire members on introspection and on the different paths to higher states of consciousness.

There were parallel sessions at the Cambridge conference and Mike Brown had attended a different selection of meetings to Max. He circulated a condensation of his lecture notes. There was a large number of important issues raised at the conference. In order to keep to the agenda of the Yorkshire Branch meeting, only a brief time was allocated to each issue for discussion. This resulted in curtailments of discussions, but it was thought preferable to introduce all the main issues, so that discussions of them could be continued outside the meeting.

A welcome was given to Dr. Vernon Pickles, visiting us from the Oxford Branch. He raised the issue of the Egely wheel which was demonstrated at the last meeting. Mike reported that since the last report, Prof. Brian Josephson had suggested using smoke tests to reveal the flow patterns round the wheel, and Prof. Chris Clarke had proposed a thermal-hydrodynamic theory for air flow in the vicinity of a finger. The conclusion now was that heat from the hand did make a major contribution to rotation of the wheel. The mechanism of energy transfer was very subtle, and surprisingly the main source of the heat energy was the back of the hand, i.e. the part facing away from the wheel. It caused a vortex of air to circulate round the hand. The wheel nevertheless acted as a biofeedback device, due, it as thought, to vascular expansion and contraction in the back of the hand.

In the afternoon, Dr Carol Brierly gave a talk on healing. Since her retirement as a medical consultant she had devoted much time to the study and practice of healing. She said that her model of reality was a form of panpsychism where cells have consciousness. She followed her talk with practical demonstrations. Lively discussions took place with other healers present as well as sceptics.

Numerous questions were raised by members from vantage points ranging from reductionist to esoteric. All the questions were answered by Carol in detail and with openness and conviction. The discussions concerned healing methods, esoteric concepts, practical details and ethical values.

It was suggested by some of those present that the NHS was currently too much influenced by a biomedical Cartesian mind set and that too little use was being made of the benefits which holistic methods of healing provided.

Max thanked Carol very much for her talk, for her practical demonstrations and for hosting the meeting. Members showed warm appreciation by their applause.

The next Yorkshire Branch meeting is on 27th January 1996 at Max Payne's home, 16 Burnt Stones Grove, Sheffield. (Tel. 01142 304194)

ALAN JEWSBURY writes from the SOUTH WEST:

The fifth meeting of the Devon and Cornwall group took place on Saturday 7th October at Bogan House, Totnes and was attended by 29 members and guests.

As usual our meeting started at noon with a buffet lunch, giving everyone plenty of time to meet and talk before the more formal meeting at 2 p.m. The two speakers were Network members Dinah Cowper-Johnson and Peter White. Our usual practice is to allow each speaker one hour, followed by discussion after a tea break. But we do not have a rigid procedure as was well illustrated by the way the meeting developed.

Dinah had originally intended to talk about reincarnation and carry out a group exercise. But she felt that concentration on the past was not so valuable as looking forward. Knowledge of past lives, she believes, can help solve present problems but the emphasis must be on the future. She mentioned several books which are useful sources of information on the subject of reincarnation and spoke of her own experience. In order that we might possibly gain some insight into a past life she suggested we should do a guided imagery meditation. This gave rise to a considerable discussion and several members pointed out personal difficulties if they were to do this in ways which was contrary to their usual practice; and one member had been specifically made aware that such practices were not for him.

During this discussion Peter White pointed out that such a meditation at this stage would not be helpful to him and that he may risk losing the ideas he had in mind for his following talk! We therefore agreed that we should forthwith let Peter give his talk, which would then be followed by Dinah's guided meditation.

Peter wished to change the title of his talk to "The Sentient Society" - this would still consider the questions of good and evil but he wished to incorporate thoughts he had developed after reading David Peat's *Blackfoot Physics* and from other sources. He told us how certain evil events had entered his life which had led to him having paranormal experiences. This in turn had opened his mind to an awareness and need for a language that transcends the rational world of today which unfortunately excludes deep feelings about life. The Blackfoot culture was a key to an opening of the doors of perception, which in turn will give a feeling of transcendent warmth. Peter's talk gave rise to a first rate discussion on aspects of good and evil.

We then returned to the guided imagery meditation with Dinah, which was followed by further discussion on both topics both before and after the tea break. It is impossible to summarise such a wide ranging discussion but clearly the meeting had found it most stimulating. We concluded at 5.15 pm.

It was agreed that the meetings in 1996 will be held on Saturday 30th March and Saturday 5th October once again at Bogan House, Totnes. Speakers will be David Lorimer and Paul Folca.

DAVID LORIMER writes from North London:

There have been two meetings of the Group over the autumn. At the first we had a talk on *Candida Albicans: the Silent Epidemic of the 90s*, by Jane Lorimer and Gill Jacobs. Jane had

just finished a new book on the subject, while Gill has expertise in both ME and Candida. It seems that this kind of yeast overgrowth is much more widespread, especially among women, than is generally realised. A few small items in the *Daily Mail* have brought in hundreds of enquiries from sufferers. The symptoms are multifarious and complex, which makes the condition hard to recognise within a normal linear diagnostic procedure. However, diet based treatments have had a dramatic effect on sufferers, the key being a rebalancing of the gut flora which in turn reinforces the resilience of the immune system. Jane's book, *The Practical Guide to Candida*, will be reviewed in the next issue.

The second meeting, held at the home of Michel Odent, was addressed by American Member Dr. Greg Hitter, who spoke about knowing and being. He has just completed a Ph.D in which he brings together ancient wisdom with modern science and psychology. One of the central themes of his talk concerned different levels of knowing. At one end of the spectrum is the knowledge of 'hard' experimental facts and at the other the kind of unitive knowing experienced by the mystic. The sense of meaning and fulfilment increases as one moves to deeper understanding, as knowing is more integrally linked with being. Both the presentation and the discussion was wide-ranging, and a transcript can be ordered from the office - see Members' Articles.

CLIVE HICKS writes from West London:

The West London Group of the Network continued its programme of regular monthly meetings, held on the second Wednesday each month, with meetings in October and November. For the December meeting we will substitute a Christmas party (on Saturday 9th), and regular meetings will start again in January.

In October, Nicholas Spicer stimulated a more than usually active discussion with his talk on symbolism and dream experience, while in November David Lorimer spoke to the group about the background to the Network, including some fascinating records from the earliest days of the Network. Guests at this meeting were Jane and Charlotte Lorimer, and the group was joined by a new member, Sarah Nieboer. One of the subjects discussed was a suggestion to make contact with neighbouring Network groups.

We start our 1996 programme on January 10th with Moyra Bremner speaking on 'The Media's Influence on Society', and on February 14th we will hear Dr. Margaret Arden on 'Working with Dreams'. After that we still have a talk promised from Dr. Jean Hardy, on 'Creation'. Otherwise, offers or ideas are welcome from Network members.

The group meets in members' homes, starting at 7.30 for supper (and discussion), with the meeting itself beginning at 8.30. Network members, local or visiting, are welcome to join us for any of our meetings, but please let us know in advance. Each person attending contributes towards the cost of refreshments. Naturally, if there are local Network members who have ideas about West London activities, we hope that they will contact us. Contacts are Anushka Jordan (0181-578 4431) or Clive Hicks (0181-997 7974).

JULIAN CANDY writes from Wessex:

Our meeting on the 6th October was attended by over 20 people, amongst whom we welcomed four new members. Once again we enjoyed the warm hospitality of Anne and Robin Baring in their beautiful house. After a few evocative words from Eileen Lwin about the successful Continental Meeting in Hydra, Anne herself introduced the topic of Myth, on

which of course she has written and thought so much. Beginning with the story of Demeter and Persephone, she led us into an enlarging but often penetrating discussion that spiralled from the issue of women's grief and anger and what may be done with it, through the problems of suffering and compassion, and finally to the necessity of the emergence of consciousness, both for the race and in the individual child. This discussion will be happily complemented at our next meeting on 8 December, when Hans Swegen will talk about his book and 'What is behind human cultural development?' We intend at a subsequent meeting to take further questions concerning childhood experience and upbringing.

JOHN TOMLINSON writes from Oxford:

As the group was small the meeting was informal. Discussions which began before the meeting was scheduled to begin were allowed to continue and grew naturally from the nature of Religious Experiences, the work of Alister Hardy - whose Research Centre John Tomlinson was instrumental in launching - the nature of nature and the role of 'consciousness' within it, to the unfortunate effects on human consciousness of the continuing use of money as a unit of measurement. There was a surprising amount of agreement and Derek Bryce-Smith and John Tomlinson have agreed to continue the discussions further to develop a clearer understanding of a more complete world-view than that offered by current scientific materialism.

Needless to say, there was little time left for discussion about the current state of the debt-based monetary system. Tomlinson therefore gave each participant a copy of his book "Honest Money" and agreed to forward to each a copy of his recent address to the Christian Council for Monetary Justice at the House of Commons.

DIANA CLIFT writes from Guildford:

Our theme this year has been "Our changing relationship with the natural world" and we have had several fascinating speakers from outside the Network. At our September meeting we had an inspiring talk with slides by Ben Law. Ben has been involved in numerous Permaculture projects in Britain and around the world. For instance he met a tribe of Amazonian Indians who were about to sell their traditional lands to a logging company for \$5,000. Ben managed to persuade them against this action and helped them instead to use a small mobile saw which enabled them to harvest some trees and turn them into planks in situ. This did no damage to the forest (on the contrary it let in the light and hence increased the number of species in those areas) and provided the Indians with a sustainable income (\$20,000 in their first year). Ben also worked on a similar project in Papua New Guinea where the timber harvested was used locally for building, thus reducing dependence of the community on money and outside materials. Most of

Ben's work is done at home in Southern England where he manages woodland and lives in a 'bender', a home made from hazel saplings and canvas in the midst of a forest. He emphasises that Permaculture is not a set of techniques but an approach and a philosophy concerned with respect for the Earth, respect for others and the sharing of all surplus.

Our November meeting was equally inspiring. Our speaker was Slobodan Perdan, a Bosnian philosopher formerly at the University of Tuzla and, currently at the Centre for Environmental Strategy at the University of Surrey. His topic was Deep Ecology. The normal ethical basis for environmental concerns, particularly in the political arena is Shallow Ecology, the anthropocentric view that we should protect the environment because it is in

the interests of humankind to do so. e.g. We must not destroy other species because they could be useful to us, or pollute the atmosphere because it could be damaging to us. Deep Ecology asserts that other species have intrinsic worth and that environmental ethics should be biocentric, based on a respect for the rights of all living things. The meeting was extremely well attended with about 30 members and guests including David Lorimer whose contribution was, as ever, invaluable. Slobodan's talk was particularly remarkable given that he spoke no English when he arrived here 15 months ago!

Dates agreed so far for our meetings next year are: 24th January; 13th March and 15th May and Bronwen Astor has kindly agreed to continue hosting them. We shall be inviting speakers from within the Network, and also hope to have some sessions devoted to discussion and experimentation.

Science and Spirituality Group

At the time of writing, the next meeting of the Group will be on December 2nd at Regent's College. The theme is Creativity and nine Members will be giving presentations. The following meeting in the spring will look at Science, Spirituality and Purpose.

Science and Esoteric Knowledge Group

The group continues to meet on a monthly basis and has made good progress on the compilation of bibliography thanks to the hard secretarial graft of Julian Candy. We are hoping to finalise this at our meeting in December and make it available to interested Members as well as publishing it on the forum. During the autumn we have been joined by US Member Dr. Greg Hitter, while Prof. Arthur Ellison made helpful contribution too our last meeting. Recent active members have been: Julian Candy, Geoffrey Farthing, George Frydberg, Greg Hitter, Hertha Larive and Alan Mayne.

Consciousness Research Group

The group held a meeting in October to consider the content of position papers written by a number of members. These have been posted on the Compuserve forum and by Brian Josephson on the internet (bdj10@cam.ac.uk) and details are available from the office, which can provide photocopies at the normal rate. It is striking that Chris Clarke's paper on quantum non-locality has been downloaded over 90 times but has not yet elicited a response. Other current papers are by Prof. Arthur Ellison, Dr. Dean Radin, Jazz Rasool, Mike Brown, Dr. Peter Marcer, Max Payne and Don DeGracia. The next meeting will be held on January 20th at Regent's College.

Complementary Medicine Group

The group has held two meetings over the autumn. The first took place at Sima Kafi's flat where Daniel Benor and others offered experiential exercises which they used in various workshop presentations. These were followed by the kind of discussion which tended to become abstract and lose touch with the feelings engendered by the exercises themselves! In November we held a very interesting meeting with Simon Best and Alf Riggs on the whole question of EM pollution. Simon is editor of EM News and introduced us to the field with some startling evidence of measurements well in excess of legally permitted levels. He also demonstrated that emissions from power lines peaked during the night rather than during daytime measurements by the authorities. Alf Riggs is a dowser with a background in engineering who dowses homes - and especially bedrooms - for the harmful effects of EM

radiation which often emanate from, for instance, underground streams. His cases varied from headaches to ME, and his files are full of people whose conditions have cleared up following the neutralisation of such harmful effects. This is a sadly under-researched field in this country, but much more extensive work has been carried out in Germany and Austria since the 30s. The next meeting of the group is on 8th January and will look at various breathing therapies.