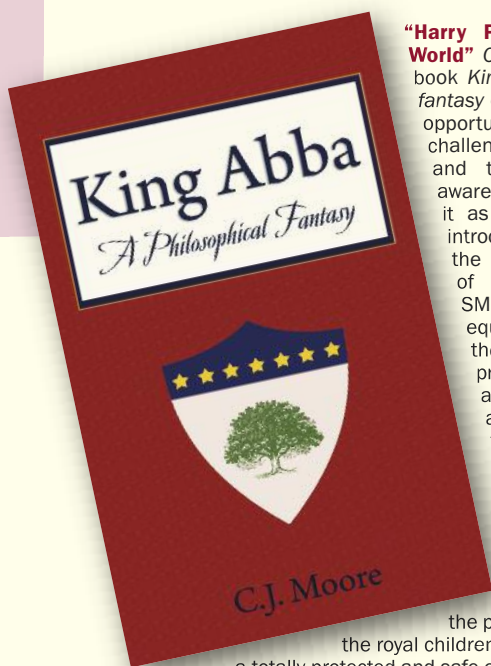


MEMBERS' NEWS

Richard Nissen – Animal Navigation

The exciting thing about animal navigation is that no one has yet articulated how it works. Much scientific effort has gone into this and the most popular ideas of magnetic orientation and long distance smell have both been shown to have very serious flaws and do not fit the facts. As a dowser I have been struggling to discover how dowsing can possibly work especially when we can dowse at a distance. All competent dowsers can dowse animal tracks and indeed the tracks of the faithful in churches are easily dowsable. We think that there is a "Universal Information Field" which all of us animals access in an instinctive way. It is a bit like a cosmic Google where all of creation is represented. This "database" is described in the Christian church as "the book of life" and the Akashic fields of the Hindus describe this too. Recently, people like Vladko Vedral, a quantum physicist, describes the same database. Slowly the spiritual world begins to find its place in the realm of reductionist Modern Science. We at www.animalnav.org are striving to understand animal navigation and believe that this understanding will only come through understanding the underlying quantum effects.



"Harry Potter meets Sophie's World" C J Moore writes: My new book *King Abba: A philosophical fantasy* explores the dangers and opportunities of our complex, challenging twenty-first century, and the arising of a new awareness in the world. I wrote it as an adventure story to introduce young people to the values and renaissance of thinking that the SMN represents, but it is equally addressed to all those concerned about present society, government and economics. Satire, adventure, philosophy, fairy tale, science fiction and fantasy, all in the covers of one book.

The book:

Strange happenings are afoot in Federal Europe, and even in the palace of King Abba where the royal children have been brought up in a totally protected and safe environment.

The unshakable order established since 2022 by the ruling Rational and Scientific Party is under threat from a dissident group known only as 'The Heretics'. A mysterious enemy within the court is also plotting the overthrow of the European royal family and all that it stands for.

King Abba realises that revolutions are at times inevitable and the world his children know is coming to an end. He must use all his powers to prepare them for the collapse of the present order and the dangers that lie ahead.

Now available and downloadable from the Amazon Kindle store. **£3.92**

"Beautifully written, and a joy to read. When can I have the next volume, please?" Henri Bortoft

C J Moore is editor and writer of many children's and adult books, including the best selling *In Other Words*, the prize-winning *Ishtar and Tammuz*, as well as *Captureland*, a novel for young adults, and a verse translation of Jean de la Fontaine's Fables.

Dr. Jennifer Barraclough - Healing Stories Wanted

This is a call for contributions to my next book, which is to be an outline of holistic healing and the mind-body-spirit approach written for professionals in orthodox medicine. It follows on from *Focus on Healing* which was intended for patients themselves, and will cover similar topics but from a more academic perspective. I hope it may play some small part in resolving all the prejudices and misunderstandings in this area and promoting more integrated healthcare.

Real case histories add enormously to the interest and credibility of books like this, so I'd like to include a good number of brief personal accounts illustrating for example:

- self-help practices, ranging from special diets to meditation
- changes in lifestyle and attitude following an illness
- receiving complementary or alternative therapies
- the importance of therapeutic relationships

If you or someone in your circle would like to write something then please send me a note on jennifer.barraclough@hotmail.com and I will provide more details. And please forward this to anyone else who may be interested in contributing. Thank you.

Dr. Max Mackay-James and Alan Heeks – Men Beyond 50

Men Beyond 50 aims to provide 50+ men with resources for our needs, and to create a rich, supportive and inspiring community – an energy hub for maturing men looking for answers, and seeking opportunities for collaboration, writing or getting involved with events, giving back, or speaking out together on the issues that really matter.

The network has various Partners who share the same visions or enrich some of our core values – be it to improve men's physical and psychological wellbeing, or to offer advice and information for those experiencing challenging times in their work or personal lives. There are many who promote and encourage mentoring of younger men – something we are committed to.. after all, we have years of knowledge and experience that we can share with younger men! See www.menbeyond50.net

LOCAL GROUP NEWS

Claudia Nielsen – 0207 431 1177, claudia@cnielsen.eu

The talks below have been recorded and members can hear or download them from '**Summaries of Previous Events**' of the London Group page of the Network's website by going through the Members Area portal.

Our August meeting slipped quietly into the beginning of September as **Ravi Ravindra** kindly fitted us into his whistle stop tour of the UK. Ravi's presentation was entitled **Different Sights or Different Eyes: Perception in Physics and in Yoga**, a subject on which he is eminently qualified to talk having been for many years a professor in three departments: Comparative Religion, Philosophy and Physics. Ravi is Professor Emeritus at the Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Ravi started by quoting Christ – "you have eyes but you do not see, you have ears but you do not hear" (Mark 8:18) a contention echoed by all spiritual traditions. The message is to assist those who undertake spiritual practice to change their perception. This is specifically the programme of yoga. To quieten the mind from a mind mill to a mill pond. When the mind is quiet the seer sees through the mind, not with the mind.

The programme of science on the other hand is different. All science, Ravi pointed out, can be said to want to imitate physics, which has at its fundamental aim to study matter (dead matter) in motion. Here, the mind is used as the instrument of knowledge, the mind is the knower. The aim is to establish theories and functionality. So what Ravi is pointing out is the difference in the 'eyes' with which science and spirituality view the world that determines the person's engagement with the world. Ravi covered only a few of the differences and he pointed also to some of the implications of this difference. He mentioned for instance that whereas the quality of consciousness of the person who seeks knowledge through science is not directly relevant to the task, it is fundamental in spiritual development. The Buddha, Christ and other enlightened beings are respected not only for their knowledge but also for their being. Science is a public enterprise, the spiritual path is a personal journey towards the mystery which can never be known, but which can be embodied. We know that our senses are not reliable, so science seeks to eliminate them and their influence, whereas spiritual development is an attempt to enhance them so they can become more reliable. It was a most interesting evening, provocative at times followed by a lively and interesting discussion.

In September we hosted a talk by **Dr. David Bell** entitled **Insights from the Battle of Archetypes in the Genesis Creation Stories**. David is Principal of Trinity Methodist Theological College in Auckland, New Zealand. He has written, preached and taught on the faith-science interface for many years. This evening we explored the two creation stories in Genesis, Gen 1 and Gen 2. In both versions we find the creation of Man, but they differ. Gen 1 describes the creation of the world in categories that include Man and Woman. Here they were created at the same time and were told they have 'dominion' over creation. Adam 1 therefore has the ability to name and to order. Dominion in this context is probably meant to denote stewardship rather than control. In Gen 2 we heard that Man was made alone and needs a companion. Eve was created as 'helper' to Adam. Exploring the archetypes of these stories, David suggests that Adam 1 is the archetype of the scientist, or humanity as understanding and exploring the environment for their benefit. Adam 2 is a different character. He knows he is alone and experiences the existential angst, familiar to everyone. These stories help us find meaning. These myths tell us that the ancient world looked for meaning as a means of finding a way to truth and in this context St Paul sees the risen Christ as Adam 3, the man who became divine. Jung endorsed this view in the idea that Christ is the archetype of the deepest expression of our psyche as it reaches towards an understanding of who we are. It is the ultimate search for meaning. We had a small group this evening, which allowed us to have an interesting discussion exploring these ideas.

Rupert Sheldrake was our October speaker and he talked about his latest book, *The Science Delusion: Freeing the Spirit of Enquiry*. Rupert is a biologist and a committed scientist who has developed innovative perspectives within the rigour of scientific enquiry. *Freeing the Spirit of Enquiry*, the qualifying statement of the title seeks to encourage a posture aligned to the true spirit of science i.e. openness to ideas and possibilities rather than unquestioned adherence to conventional belief. Science is powerful and impressive and technology is the evidence. The Science Delusion is the belief that science already knows the answers to the big questions and is dedicated to filling in the details. This is a delusion under which many scientists work, that much of what scientists consider as true beyond question are actually assumptions. This pervading mindset of science has the effect of closing the door to exploration beyond mainstream thinking giving science the dogmatic tinge of preconceived ideas. Rupert listed the 10 assumptions in his book:

1. Nature is mechanical
2. Matter is unconscious
3. The laws of Nature are fixed
4. Total amount of matter and energy is always the same
5. Nature is purposeless
6. Inheritance is material
7. Memories are material (in the brain or nervous system)
8. Mind is inside the head
9. Psychical phenomena are illusory
10. Mechanistic medicine is the only kind that really works.

These assumptions Rupert investigates as questions and concludes that they are in fact unquestioned habitual beliefs. Rupert led us through the history of ideas that led to the current state of play and mentioned those ideas and philosophers who held on to a different perspective such as Leibniz, Spinoza and Whitehead etc. He then expanded on an interesting idea developed from Whitehead's proposal that every system has a mental and a body pole - could big self organizing systems such as the Sun be conscious? Could the Sun be conscious in some way we don't particularly understand? An assumption of course, but not less valid than the assumption that matter is unconscious!

In November we heard **Gary Lachman**, who has spoken to the group before. Gary is a prolific author who writes on the meeting ground between consciousness, culture and the Western Esoteric traditions. This evening he spoke about his new book *Madame Blavatsky: The Mother of Modern Spirituality*. We heard that this powerful character, who so influenced the Western spiritual landscape, was born in the Ukraine in 1831 and that from early on she had psychic experiences which had a strong impact in the way she experienced the world. As an adult she travelled extensively going to places where men feared to go, in search of people who might teach her something about the big questions. She was a controversial figure, well but not accurately known. She is associated with alternatives to mainstream religions, was responsible for the spread of Mahayana Buddhism in the West and is ultimately the figure behind the New Age movement. Her reputation was ambivalent in her days, but she nevertheless influenced many people through her writings amongst others T.S. Eliot, Kandinsky, Yeats, Gandhi, Gurdjieff and Ouspensky (who became a leading Theosophist) etc. Blavatsky travelled the world in search of an understanding of the spiritual teachings of the various traditions and found there was a need for a centralised place where all religions and spiritual teachings could come together.

This motivated her to found the Theosophical Society in 1875 as a Centre for Universal Brotherhood where people would be seen as equal irrespective of gender, race or any other differentiating trait, and would study Spiritual Laws. She was a great synthesiser and aimed to develop an all-encompassing worldview in an easily understandable way. Her interest and knowledge of the occult was wide and deep and she incorporated those teaching in Theosophy. Helena Blavatsky never looked after her physical self though and she died early, aged 60, in 1891 in the UK. The presentation was an interesting insight into the life of this complex, influential and controversial figure. For further information on Gary's writings, to his website www.garylachman.co.uk.

Kent Group **YVONNE LOUIS 7th September**

"Are we ready for the Challenge? - the Transition Network",
by **Eleanor Stoneham**
Dick Vane-Wright reports:

As someone that thinks 'green' but so often falls short in practice, it was with some trepidation that I attended this Eleanor Stoneham presentation. But Eleanor is not only a person of faith and commitment, she is also optimistic, ecumenical in mind, and generous of spirit.

Following a sobering reminder of the parlous state of the Earth, as seven billion of us seek an ever more demanding material life style, Eleanor offered a 'smorgasbord' of practical changes that we could all make to reduce our physical impact on the world. These ranged from generating renewable energy and numerous ways to reduce energy use, to buying second-hand rather than new goods, buying things that last and engaging in Freecycle schemes, to supporting Fairtrade, recognising the importance of individual and social healing, and engaging with and encouraging local economies - in particular, the goals and aspirations of the Transition Movement.

The message was clear but positive: we are destroying our life support system *but it is not too late* - individually we can do so many things to stop and even reverse the current rush to collective oblivion. I left the meeting thinking not only "I must do better" but also that it would be instructive to read Eleanor's two recent books - *Healing This Wounded Earth* (O-Books 2011) and *Why Religions Work* (Circle Books 2012) - alongside the Earth Bible volume edited by Norman Habel (*Readings from the Perspective of Earth*, Sheffield Academic Press 2000), and the wholly secular essay of Peter Corning, *The Fair Society* (University of Chicago Press 2011). Social justice are seen as fundamental in the first and last of these works - in addition to which we only need embrace the intrinsic value of our living world (*ecojustice* from the Perspective of Earth), and accept our place as part of organic evolution, not separate from or superior to it. Eleanor Stoneham's message of Hope is equally vital if we are to succeed.

Practical Spirituality - Different Ways to Approach It

28th September

Shailla Joshi reports:

The meeting was held at Yvonne's home in Rochester and thanks for her warm hospitality again. Continuing the theme of the practical applications of Consciousness and Spirituality, our speakers were **Cora and Richard Kemball-Cook** who shed light on their inspiring practical spirituality through Yoga (Cora) and humanitarian work with the Rotary Club (Richard). We were indeed fortunate to know more about this husband and wife's excellent teamwork.

Yoga

Cora gave us a light-hearted yet 'deep' insight into the meaning of Yoga. Yoga means a 'State of Equilibrium' whereby we harness all the resources we are endowed with - at physical, mental, intellectual, emotional and spiritual levels. Yoga was often understood as only exercises to keep fit but this physical aspect is only one of the 8 steps to reach the state of equilibrium in harmony.

The 8 steps known as Astanga Yoga are best understood through the author of Yoga - the Indian sage Patanjali and Cora introduced us to his aphorisms translated into easy reading in the book written by Alistair Shearer. These 8 steps begin with the first two of adherence to certain rules and regulations that are prerequisites to the correct practice of methodology. The 8 steps lead one through an inner journey of the self - through each level, physical, mental, sense awareness, intellectual and finally into the higher realms of our Spirit - the very Inner Self or Soul called Atman.

The final level of Spiritual Oneness with the vast conscious energy around can only then be reached through deeper meditation and breathing techniques are crucial to reaching that state. Physical steady postures stabilise these breathing techniques. Cora introduced us to one important breathing technique that is also beneficial to health improvements. She explained the different types of Yoga, e.g. Karma Yoga and Jnana Yoga. Cora also took us briefly through her own journey of inspiration and discovery of Yoga prior to her gaining her Masters in Human Communication and how it helped to yoke her understanding of Yoga with her work thereon.

Cora had also worked as a speech and language therapist and has been a keen member of the SMN. Her gentle approach and nature so evident in her talk must make her a true teacher of Yoga. For those of us still on early learning stages of Yoga or any form of practical spirituality it may be interesting to visit her Yoga studio website - www.canterburyyoga.co.uk

Rotary/Humanitarian work and the worldwide eradication of polio

Cora had mentioned the importance of Karma Yoga or the path of selfless service and Richard, who supports his wife's spiritual work through yoga exemplified this selfless service through Rotary work. As chairman of his district's Rotary International Polio Eradication team he has been deeply involved over the years with Rotary's most well known worldwide initiatives to end polio. In 1985 Rotary International vowed to immunise all the world's children against this crippling disease through funds and voluntary work. This initiative is today in partnership with W.H.O., U.N.I.C.E.F and the US Centre for Disease Control. This programme has halted the spread in all but three countries to date; these endemic regions are Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigerian Chad.

Richard took the group through the maps and statistics of such endemic areas and showed us with the aid of pictures the work that the Rotary had carried out in the immigration centres in India.

Although the number of Wild Polio Virus (WPV) cases has reduced and India has been the last country where polio has been eradicated, the campaign continues to avoid importation of the virus into non-endemic countries. Richard himself volunteers on National Immunization days for example in a Rotary booth in Lucknow where 800,000 children were immunised in just the one day. Follow up home visits are also made by the volunteers.

With this vast information received we had time for some reflection on practical spirituality and for some questions. Local and Community work in the UK was also mentioned as Rotary provides a great deal of service opportunities too. A sumptuous supper followed thanks to Yvonne and Hazel. A very enjoyable evening indeed.

Oxford Group Report

The final meeting in 2012 for the Oxford Group took place at its usual venue of The Mitre in Oxford on 27th November. It represented something of an experiment for this group: up to now meetings have generally consisted of formal presentations by an individual speaker, followed by a shorter Q&A session, but this time it was decided (at an informal dinner meeting of members of the group on 4th September) to hold a guided discussion instead – an approach we know other SMN local groups have also adopted. The idea was to ask someone to select a topic area and to speak for up to 20 minutes on it and then throw the rest of the meeting open to discussion. As **Julian Candy** has recently moved into our area, we decided to ask him to lead such a session. Julian kindly agreed, and the topic he chose was “**Science and Society: a relationship evolving or stagnant?**” Ahead of the meeting, he wrote:

“Many SMN members consider that orthodox materialist science, its outstanding successes notwithstanding, is ultimately inadequate and constricting, sometimes even dangerously wrong. Many also know that both within and without science are ideas that challenge and experimental results that confound the orthodox paradigms. But how much of this ferment has penetrated into the perceptions of society at large? Have attitudes and awareness of these issues changed in the last twenty years, and in what way might they change, for better or worse, in the next twenty? What can we as individuals or as groups do to foster greater understanding of the need, indeed some would say the imperative, to allow, encourage and insist that science publically expand its horizons to take account of all the data and to value synthesis as an equal partner alongside reductionism? Perhaps these provocative oversimplifications and generalisations will stimulate a lively debate on 27th November.”

Well, they did. Julian ably guided the discussion that followed his “scene-setting” for the topic, and it proved exceptionally lucid and balanced, with the opportunity for everyone to have their say. Reasoned points were made on all sides. A conversation more than even a discussion, it could easily have continued for hours longer, but for all the usual mundane reasons it had to conclude around 9.30 pm.

Everyone felt enlivened by the discussion approach, and considered it to have been an excellent meeting. But what about future meetings – should we focus on presentations or on discussion sessions? As we began to disband, a brief discussion on discussions developed! The weather on 27th November had been inclement, and we were delighted that as many as 15 people braved the conditions, but this is a relatively low number of attendees compared with most Oxford group meetings – would a discussion with significantly more people in attendance be able to work as fluently as this meeting had done? For 2013, we were perhaps looking at a mixture of the two basic meeting types, unless a carefully-designed discussion format able to cope with larger numbers of people could be arrived at. Food for further thought.

Yorkshire Group

MAX PAYNE
20th October

The meeting was held at 16 Burnt Stones Grove. **Jennifer Altman** gave a talk on the psychological benefits of group coordination that work even if the subject of the group was not present, but some one else acted as their representative. A practical demonstration of the technique was given using members of the group.

Manjir Samantha Laughton then gave a fascinating explanation of the archeological background of the ossuary labelled “James the brother of Jesus”. An intensive group discussion followed on the theology of the Incarnation.

MEMBERS' ARTICLES AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST

SCIENCE

A Mathematical Solution of the Psychophysical Problem Substantiated by the Prediction of the Human Gestation Period, the Planck Time, and the Fine-Structure Constant
Ray Walder (24 pp.)

This paper outlines how a structure for experience can be obtained and reveals that the mathematical form of the structure is precisely that suggested by the physicist Wolfgang Pauli. This structure makes possible predictions of (qualitative) claims made within philosophical, religious, and esoteric texts – predictions that are often astonishingly accurate. It also allows the recovery of subject and object (the ‘I’ and the ‘real world’, as it can be said) in forms that can be handled both semantically and mathematically.

Mechanisms of White Matter Changes Induced by Meditation

Yi-Yuan Tanga, Qilin Lub, Ming Fand, Yihong Yang, and Michael I. Posner. (5 pp.)

Using diffusion tensor imaging, several recent studies have shown that training results in changes in white matter efficiency as measured by fractional anisotropy (FA). In our work, we found that a form of mindfulness meditation, integrative body–mind training (IBMT), improved FA in areas surrounding the anterior cingulate cortex after 4-wk training more than controls given relaxation training.

MEDICINE-HEALTH

Fisher, J.W. (2009) Reaching the Heart: assessing and nurturing spiritual well-being via education.

Edd dissertation, University of Ballarat, Victoria, Australia. Available from <http://archimedes.ballarat.edu.au:8080/vital/access/HandleResolver/1959.17/1348>

Fisher, J.W. (1998) Spiritual Health: Its nature and place in the school curriculum. PhD thesis, University of Melbourne.

At <http://eprints.unimelb.edu.au/archive/00002994/>

Professor Yury Grigoriev, Chairman of Russian National Committee on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection, a member of Int. Advisory Committee of WHO EMF and Health warns that “**Man conquered the Black Death, but he has created new problems - EMF pollution**”. The Russians stand by their solid research, which has consistently shown that prolonged exposure to RF/EMF radiation disturbs cognitive function. See: International EMF Alliance <http://www.iemfa.org>

Is your Smartphone Damaging your Health?

Ecologist website – www.ecologist.org

Behind the profit-fuelled rise of smartphones and tablets, microwave pollution is a serious assault on health.

Wind Turbines can be Hazardous to Human Health

Alec N. Salt, Ph.D., Cochleau Fluids Research Laboratory, Washington University in St. Louis.

Large wind turbines generate very low frequency sounds and infrasound (below 20 Hz) when the wind driving them is turbulent. The amount of infrasound depends on many factors, including the turbine manufacturer, wind speed, power output, local topography, and the presence of nearby turbines (increasing when the wake from one turbine enters the blades of another). **The infrasound cannot be heard and is unrelated to the loudness of the sound that you hear.**

Seeds of Deception – a summary

Jeffrey Smith (16 pp.)

“This pivotal exposé leaves no doubt that politics and corporate influence, not sound science, allowed these potentially dangerous GM foods onto supermarket shelves.” - **Joe Mendelson**, Legal Director, Center for Food Safety

GM Corn and Roundup – Sustainable Food Trust

A major research study recently published investigates the outcomes of the world’s first long-term feeding trial, analysing the impact of consumption of GM Corn and Roundup on health. The research calls into question the safety of the entire first generation of GM crops and the use of the world’s most popular herbicide Roundup. The research is available on a special website, research.sustainablefoodtrust.org, in which the findings will be offered in easily digestible bite-sized chunks. Extra materials will also be available for download.

Too Late for 2 Degrees – low carbon economy index

PWC report (16 pp.)

It’s time to plan for a warmer world. The annual Low Carbon Economy Index centres on one core statistic: the rate of change of global carbon intensity. This year we estimated that the required improvement in global carbon intensity to meet a 2°C warming target has risen to 5.1% a year,

from now to 2050. We have passed a critical threshold – not once since World War 2 has the world achieved that rate of decarbonisation, but the task now confronting us is to achieve it for 39 consecutive years.

PHILOSOPHY-RELIGION

How to Arrive at an Eastern Place from a Western Direction

Max Velmans (27 pp.)

Convergences and Divergences among Samkya Dualism, Advaita Nondualism, the Body-Mind-Consciousness Trident Model and Reflexive Monism.

Civilisation – What Civilisation?

Henryk Skolimowski (19 pp.)

A further elaboration of the ideas in Henryk's article in this issue.

The Hidden Power of Paradigms

Chris Thomson (30 pp.)

A new paradigm is emerging, based on a very different worldview that is still largely unknown to most people. As it emerges, it will radically transform the way we think and the way we behave. It is of the utmost importance that we equip ourselves to survive and thrive in the new paradigm.

Faith in Science

Mitchell Waldrop (3 pp.)

Discusses scientists' reaction to the policies of the John Templeton Foundation in science and religion.

Going Deeper into the Mystery

Petrica Verdes (4 pp.)

An interview with the translator of the work of the mystic Ilie Cioara, whose books I have reviewed in previous issues.

Words about Consciousness

Newton Green (6 pp.)

A response to Andrew Bell's article in the last issue.

PSYCHOLOGY-CONSCIOUSNESS STUDIES

Near-death experiences occur when the soul leaves the nervous system and enters the universe, claim two quantum physics experts.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2225190/Can-quantum-physics-explain-bizarre-experiences-patients-brought-brink-death.html>

Colin Blakemore on NDEs (4 pp.)

A response to a feature in the Daily Telegraph of Eben Alexander's book.

Sam Harris on Eben Alexander (6 pp.)

Another response, this time arguing for the parallels between NDEs and DMT experiences, assuming that the experience can in fact be produced by the brain.

Neuroimaging During Trance State: A Contribution to the Study of Dissociation. Peres, J.F., Moreira-Almeida, A., Caixeta, L., Leao, F., Newberg, A. (2012). PLoS ONE, 7(11): e49360. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0049360

The article is available here: <http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0049360>

For years there have been speculations about a variety of processes underlying mediumship. The study reported here is a pioneering effort in the study of the physiology of mediumship through the use of neuroimaging techniques. The authors of the paper investigated the performance of Brazilian automatic writing mediums.

GENERAL

Cities Cracking Down on Vegetable Gardens

(Dr Mercola, 6 pp.,)

Regulations in a number of Canadian and US cities mean that homeowners may only plant 30% of their gardens with vegetables – the rest has to be lawn with attendant herbicides. Those contravening these orders have been fined or threatened with jail!

Effect of Man-made Clouds – www.greenmedinfo.com

A new documentary video produced by an amateur climate researcher has the online world buzzing with a new debate: Do human-made clouds affect the climate more than greenhouse gases like CO₂? The 25-minute presentation explains that humans are dispersing cloud-making chemicals, silver iodide in particular, into the atmosphere globally at high altitudes for the purpose of increasing precipitation.

Chemtrails

W. Hall (7 pp.)

'Chemtrails do not serve a single purpose, of increasing albedo, cooling the planet or whatever. They also serve the purpose of increasing the conductivity of the atmosphere to facilitate the operations of Alaskan ionospheric heater HAARP, and the similar smaller installations that exist in other countries.'

New Zealand Tongariro Volcanic Eruption: Evidence of 'Geo-Engineering & Tectonic Warfare'?

Jeff Phillips (8 pp.)

A report claiming that massive evidence exists, that with the advent of a 'new generation' of high-tech weapons systems based on radio-frequency micro-waves, new forms of 'geo-engineering' and covert war-fare have been deployed which to the casual observer are indistinguishable from 'natural' events or disasters. Try googling HAARP for further details.

Ahmadinejad at the UN

A remarkable speech by the President of Iran that belies his portrayal in the Western press. (10 pp.)

'Despite all efforts made by righteous people and justice seekers, and the sufferings and pains endured by masses of people in the quest to achieve happiness and victory, the history of mankind, except in rare cases, is marked with unfulfilled dreams and failures. Does anybody believe that continuation of the current order is capable of bringing happiness for human society?'

Money, Debt, People and Planet

Jakob von Uexkull (8 pp.)

The widespread failure to understand money creation plays a key role in the current policy impasse. In a world ruled by money, this failure disempowers and prevents serious consideration of alternatives. We have now reached a tipping-point where the ruling monetary belief systems are destroying economic well-being and social peace as well as threatening the very survival of civilisation and even life on earth. We have globalised our economies – but not our responsibilities. The externalities we have dumped on our global ecosystems – and on future generations – are now returning to remind us that much recent "growth" is only debt, fuelled by natural (and social) capital destruction.

The Workplace, the Transpersonal, Spirituality and Values

John Drew (13 pp.)

It is not surprising that transpersonal concepts should be relevant also to the workplace, having successfully shaped the formation in recent decades of so many psychotherapists and psychologists. Transpersonal concepts are applied in the workplace, but only indirectly. They contribute to and help change attitudes of employers and employees.

Love, Fear and the Destiny of Nations: The Impact of the Evolution of Human Consciousness on World Affairs

Richard Barrett (33 pp.)

The continued progress of 14 billion years of evolution is now critically dependent on the evolution of human consciousness. If we want to accelerate our evolution we need to shift from unconscious evolution to conscious evolution.

Covering Wicked Problems

Jay Rosen (6 pp.)

A journalist's view on 'presstink' and how to cover complex issues. 'have these features: It is hard to say what the problem is, to define it clearly or to tell where it stops and starts. There is no "right" way to view the problem, no definitive formulation. There are many stakeholders, all with their own frames, which they tend to see as exclusively correct. Ask what the problem is and you will get a different answer from each. Someone can always say that the problem is just a symptom of another problem and that someone will not be wrong. The problem is interconnected to a lot of other problems; pulling them apart is almost impossible. In a word: it's a mess.'

Justice, Democracy and Social Agency in a Global Age

Graham Leicester (6 pp. from www.internationalfutureforum.com)

How can we become social actors in a global age, actors able to make a real change in the systems in which we live?

Online Articles from Anthony Judge – www.laetusinpraesens.org

Transforming and Interweaving the Ways of Being Stoned

Imagination, Promise, Rocks, Memorials, Petrification

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

Transforming the Art of Conversation

Conversing as the transformative science of development

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

Being a Poem in the Making

Engendering a Multiverse through Musing

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

Enactivating Multiversal Community

Hearing a pattern of voices in the global wilderness

<http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/does10s/muvcomm.php>

Beware of Legality, Accountability, Marketability, Security!

Be where the Four Hoarsemen of the Apocalypse are not?

<http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/does10s/hoarse.php>

NEWS AND NOTICES

The Cambridge Project for Existential Risk

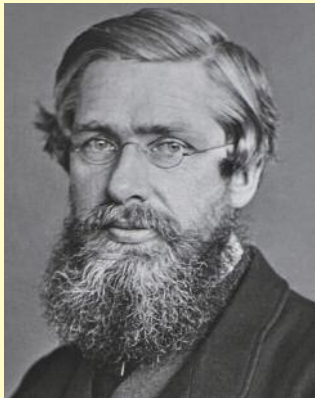
Many scientists are concerned that developments in human technology may soon pose new, extinction-level risks to our species as a whole. Such dangers have been suggested from progress in AI, from developments in biotechnology and artificial life, from nanotechnology, and from possible extreme effects of anthropogenic climate change. The seriousness of these risks is difficult to assess, but that in itself seems a cause for concern, given how much is at stake. The Cambridge Project for Existential Risk – a joint initiative between a philosopher, a scientist, and a software entrepreneur – begins with the conviction that these issues require a great deal more scientific investigation than they presently receive.

Our aim is to establish within the University of Cambridge a multidisciplinary research centre dedicated to the study and mitigation of risks of this kind. We are convinced that there is nowhere on the planet better suited to house such a centre. Our goal is to steer a small fraction of Cambridge's great intellectual resources, and of the reputation built on its past and present scientific pre-eminence, to the task of ensuring that our own species has a long-term future. We will be developing a prospectus for a Cambridge-based **Centre for the Study of Existential Risk** in coming months, and welcome enquiries and offers of support.

Co-founders Huw Price Bertrand Russell Professor of Philosophy, Cambridge **Martin Rees** Emeritus Professor of Cosmology & Astrophysics, Cambridge
Jaan Tallinn Co-founder of Skype

Launch of Jubilee Centre for Character and Values

The Jubilee Centre for Character and Values, supported by the John Templeton Foundation, has just been launched in Birmingham University by Prof James Arthur and his colleagues. It held its inaugural conference on Character and Public Policy: Educating for an Ethical Life. It was attended by scholars from around the world including Howard Gardner from Harvard, Richard Layard from the LSE and William Damon from Stanford. The Friday consisted of some keynotes along with parallel seminar sessions covering a wide range of issues. All the conference papers are available online. The Centre will open up new research questions, new areas of research and new challenges for character, virtues and human flourishing. It has a strong research team - one of their main projects is an investigation of gratitude - and it is also developing projects for schools including one for primary children on Knightly Virtues. For further details, see - you can subscribe to their newsletter on the site.



Alfred Russel Wallace Centenary (1823-1913)

After two years of hard work the Wallace Correspondence Project's digital archive of Wallace's letters - Wallace Letters Online (WLO) - is being launched on 22nd January 2013 - the same day that the Natural History Museum launches its programme of Wallace-related events for 2013. If you are interested in a unique memento of next year's Wallace anniversary then please see

<http://wallacefund.info/beautiful-book-mark-2013-wallace-anniversary>

If you want to follow in Wallace's footsteps without the effort and hardship he experienced then see
<http://wallacefund.info/places-available-wallace-cruise-half-price>

For information about Wallace events in 2013 see
<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/science-of-natural-history/wallace/events/index.html>

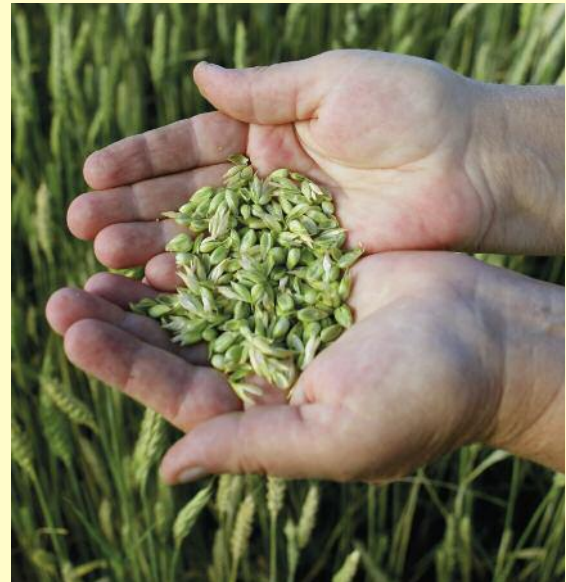
There is also an appeal for funds for a magnificent and unique life-size bronze statue to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Wallace's death next year (7th November 2013). If you wish to contribute then please see <http://wallacefund.info/statue>. Any amount, however small (or large!) will be very gratefully received. We only have four more months to raise the money, so your help (in whatever way) would be very much appreciated.

Sustainable Food Trust

Our commitment is to work at all levels, locally and internationally, to build a body of better-informed public opinion about the impact of different food and farming systems on the environment, human health and society as a whole. The capacity of our food and farming systems to undergo a rapid transformation away from the present industrial model, towards a more resilient and sustainable alternative, will only be possible if it is reinforced by citizens who are informed, and therefore able to campaign on a more personal level. To achieve this we will be working in the following areas:

- Building a global network of collaborative partnerships with individuals, organisation and those playing leadership roles within the wider food movement.
- Supporting leadership and collaboration.
- Producing communications that inspire citizen engagement, and
- Disseminating research and policy that is grounded in 'good science'.

As well as this, the website has gone live, and it will be regularly updated with new videos and articles that aim to inspire involvement, educate, and engage. We are always looking for contributors and new collaborations. Take a look: www.sustainablefoodtrust.org



Research into Extraordinary Experiences and their Effects

Dr. Janette Simmonds of Monash University is conducting a research project into the effects of exceptional and mystical, spiritual and transcendent experiences. If you are interested in taking part in the survey, please go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/exceptionalexperiences and fill in the questionnaire. This consists of open-ended questions and will take 25 to 30 minutes. There is also the possibility of doing an interview - janette.simmonds@monash.edu