

The Scientific & Medical Network

Celebrating

50



years



Top left to bottom right: Diana Clift, Dr Chris Lyons, Gerri McManus; Mystics and Scientists with Dr Larry Dossey; Mystics and Scientists bar; Dr Andrew Powell and Prof Paul Robertson; Oonagh Harpur, Dr Paul Filmore, Rupert Stewart-Smith; Dr Chris Lyons and Dr Bo Ahrenfelt; Max Payne and Claudia Nielsen; Drynachan Lodge Symposium

Contents

2 Editorial	4 Overview	6 Origins and Timeline
7 Members' Appreciation	11 Personal Reflections	15 Founders' Reflections
25 President and Vice-Presidents	26 Board Members and Trustees	27 Current Officers
28 Former Officers	29 Honorary Members, Present and Past	38 Annual Gatherings
42 The May Lectures	45 Mystics and Scientists	50 Beyond the Brain
53 The New Paradigm Navigators	55 Frenchman's Cove over the Years	59 Continental Meetings
62 Paradigm Explorer	64 Galileo Commission and Report	66 Imaginal Inspirations
69 London Group and the Consciousness Perspectives Forum	71 SMN Books and Covers	72 Network Book List, 1975
75 SMN Book Prize Winners	78 Close Partners	

Editorial

David Lorimer

Welcome to our Golden Jubilee publication, where you will find a wealth of information about who we are and what we have accomplished over the last 50 years working at the interfaces between science, consciousness, spirituality, health, mysticism and esotericism.

All of you will have your own stories about how you came to hear about the Network and become a member, probably through a friend or colleague. In my own case, I was teaching at Winchester College when in the summer of 1983 I received an unexpected letter and invitation to join the Scientific and Medical Network. I read an intriguing one-page statement about combining rational analysis with intuitive insight and typed out on George Blaker's sturdy manual typewriter. I sent off my subscription of £10 and in return I received the Members' Directory and the latest newsletter, along with an invitation to drive over to meet George for lunch. He took me to his local pub – The Crown, in Capel – and after about 10 minutes he said to me, "You are just the kind of person we're looking for and to take over the Network." I had an immediate and affirmative intuitive recognition with a feeling of alignment to my emerging future, and was asked to join the Council, then chaired by Peter Leggett, who became a close friend and mentor along with George himself. I left Winchester in July 1986, and began working for the Network in November. My new equipment was an electronic typewriter, and there was blissfully little pressure in those days still structured by the post and a few telephone calls. How times have changed!

25 years ago, we celebrated our Silver Jubilee with a boat trip on the Thames and the publication of a weighty edited book entitled *Wider Horizons – Explorations in Science and Human Experience*. We are in the process of re-editing this, and intend to publish a new edition next year. It was our president Bernard Carr's idea to celebrate our Golden Jubilee with a magazine-format publication, which you now have before

you. I have reproduced some of the Founders' reflections and asked a number of colleagues to write articles describing their own involvement in various different capacities. You will also find detailed listings of our major conferences going back to the mid-1970s where you will note a number of common themes such as consciousness in the early Mystics and Scientists Conferences, before the field started to become respectable from the mid-1990s on, especially in relation to studies of mindfulness and the rising popularity of non-duality. We also held early conferences on the Gaia Hypothesis and a major meeting on the placebo effect with Herbert Benson from Harvard. One initiative not described in detail here was our Science, Consciousness and Ultimate Reality Project supported by the John Templeton Foundation from 2001 to 2003. This involved dialogues in 12 universities, two meetings for students, invited seminars, and a major international conference, with an edited book under the same title.

More senior members will recall the many meetings held at Regent's College in the early 1990s with picnics in the park, including sessions with Prof Willis Harman, Prof Brian Goodwin and Whitehead specialist Prof Dorothy Emmet. Various overlapping groups presented and discussed their ideas on science and spirituality, science and consciousness, science and esoteric knowledge, participatory reality and subtle anatomy. All these discussions were recorded, and we still have papers in our archive. We published a Manifesto for a New Science of Consciousness in 2001. I recall one memorable moment when Guy Claxton was responding to a question on meditation practice and enlightenment – he said that there was no guaranteed outcome, and that the best we could expect was to make ourselves 'enlightenment-prone.' A number of local and country groups have flourished for several years in various parts of the world, the most successful of which was run by Claudia Nielsen, as you can read below.

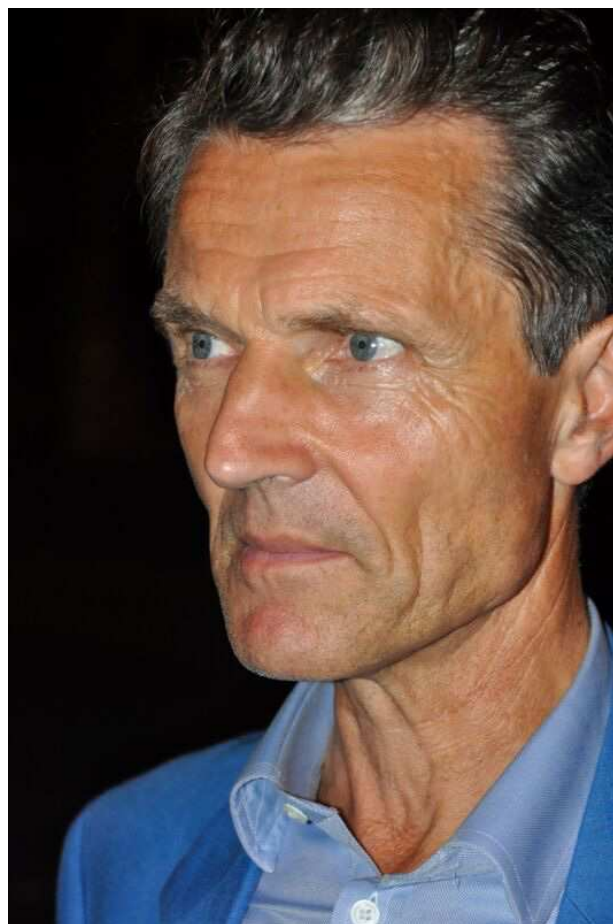
Covid-19 proved to be both a crisis and an opportunity. We could not continue to meet physically, so we developed an extensive online programme of webinars along with three informal weekly sessions for Members: Monday dialogues with Dr Paul Filmore and now Gerri McManus; a Friday evening virtual bar with Paul Kieniewicz from Poland, and a Sunday evening meditation with Emeritus President Dr Peter Fenwick assisted by Martin Redfern, Tuvi Orbach and Judith Crichton. Our virtual events have led to a huge increase in membership and income (and expenses), with a corresponding enhancement of our team and administrative capacity. We are now truly a world-wide community of like-minded seekers committed, as Max Payne put it, 'to our central guiding compass direction: the impartial, self-critical and open search for truth.' This is the Enlightenment *Sapere Aude* – dare to use your own reason, to which Network Members might add: along with your own intuition.

In my 1999 editorial, I referred to Newsletter 5 with its item on a 'Blueprint for Being' where the idea was to explore contemporary approaches to teaching about Being, Knowing and Acting. The following themes and questions were to be addressed:

- What to teach about the nature of human origins and ultimates?
- Is there an available body of knowledge that is indispensable to human self-realisation?
- Can we offer a noble vision of human beings' relationship to themselves, others and to the planet?

Our educational programmes and initiatives since that time have indeed continued to explore these perennial questions, since they need to be posed and answered by every generation. I close with what I think are two apposite quotations from Dr Albert Schweitzer: 'Technical progress, extension of knowledge, does indeed represent progress, but not in fundamentals.

The essential thing is that we become more finely and deeply human.' And 'Just as a tree bears year after year the same fruit and yet fruit which is each year new, so must all permanently valuable ideas be continually born again in thought.'



David Lorimer

Overview

WHERE EVIDENCE-BASED REASONING MEETS DEEP INNER WISDOM

For fifty years, the Scientific and Medical Network has been bringing together individuals - including professionals with a background in science, medicine, engineering, psychology, philosophy and complementary practices - who accept the existence of a fundamental, unifying and transcendent reality.

Given the current divisive and disconnected state of the world, we maintain that there is a pressing need for a worldview that goes beyond the prevailing materialist ethos and provides the rising generation with an orienting sense of meaning and purpose.

We therefore feel it more important than ever to affirm our original transformative aim of promoting humanity's spiritual essence as compatible with enlightened scientific thinking.

Through our extensive educational programme, featuring internationally renowned speakers and visionaries in their respective fields, we provide a creative forum for exploring frontier issues at the interfaces between science, spirituality, consciousness and well-being.

In a spirit of open and critical enquiry, we seek to integrate 'heart' and 'head' - connecting intuitive insights with evidence-based reason.

Our Vision

The Network is devoted to helping bring forth a new world view in which the wisdom in religious and mystical traditions complements and extends naturalist models proposed by the currently dominant paradigm in science, medicine and technology. We are a worldwide community of scientists and other professionals who seek to integrate evidence-based science with inner knowing cultivated by spiritual practice and embodied in living values. Members of the Network are dedicated to this transformative and educational task.

Cultural Significance/ Raison d'Etre

For fifty years, the Scientific and Medical Network has highlighted by its very existence a significant movement amongst professional people who wish to take full account of the existence of a fundamental spiritual reality and the implications of the spiritual capabilities that we all possess.

The Network is part of the contemporary quest for a more spiritual mode of thinking and being that is compatible with science. Hence it promotes a greater acceptance by science, medicine, psychology and philosophy of the human being's spiritual essence, as consistent with science. As such the Network challenges the adequacy of an exclusively materialistic approach to reality as a sufficient basis of knowledge, research and values. See also our Galileo Commission Report at www.galileocommission.org (page 64).

SMN Aims

To provide a safe forum for the critical and open-minded discussion of ideas that go beyond conventional paradigms in science, medicine and philosophy.

To integrate intuitive insights with rational analysis in our investigations.

To encourage a respect for Earth and community which emphasises a spiritual and holistic approach.

To challenge the adequacy of scientific materialism as an exclusive basis for knowledge and values.

SMN Guiding Values

Open-mindedness;

Rigorous and critical thinking;

Responsibility and care for others and the Earth.

Multiple Ways of Knowing

The Network is committed to advancing human perceptive abilities and acknowledges the complementary roles of scientific, artistic and mystical ways of knowing. In its work it seeks to harmonise intuition and logical analysis, heart and head, emotion and reason, subjective and objective, contemplation and action, the experiential and the intellectual.

This process of integration leads to a widening of experience and awareness resulting in a correspond-

ing widening of our framework for understanding reality. The Network believes that growing knowledge and understanding can be attained by a more profound exploration and disciplined examination of key questions. This also requires deep sharing through creative listening and communication through silence, leading to a fellowship based on mutual trust and respect.

The Network seeks to provide a forum for pursuing truth, wherever it leads, to widen the intellectual horizons of science and of society as a whole, to stimulate research at the frontiers of human knowledge and experience, and to make the results of such research more widely known through its educational programmes.

The Network is committed to no dogma or creed. It encourages intellectual discernment and is wary of the ill-founded and sensational claims. In asking searching questions about the nature of life and the role of the human being, the Network remains true to its guidelines of open-minded, rigorous thinking and care for others.



***Left to right:** Janine Edge, Olly Robinson, Oonagh Harpur, Jacqui Nielsen, Paul Filmore, Diana Clift, John Clarke, Chris Lyons, David Lorimer, Bo Ahrenfelt, Claudia Nielsen, Bart van der Lugt, Natalie Tobert, Rupert Stewart-Smith, Charla Devereux, Martin Redfern, Max Payne*

Origins and Timeline

SMN KEY CHRONOLOGY, 1973-2001

September 1973	Inaugural meeting at University of Exeter – initial invitations to become founding members sent out.
September 1974	First Wider Horizons seminar for students.
April 1975	Weekend Conference, Surrey University, <i>Ideas on the extension of individual awareness beyond the two ends of earthly life</i> , with Sir George Trevelyan, Paul Beard, Charles Davy and Dr Peter Leggett.
May 1977	Network May Lectures, <i>Science, Mind and the Spirit of Man</i> . Speakers: Dr E.F. Schumacher, James Robertson, Prof Derek Bryce-Smith and Dr Peter Leggett.
April 1978	May Lectures, <i>Mystics and Scientists</i> , jointly with Wrekin Trust, Winchester. Speakers: Dr Fritjof Capra, Prof Arthur Ellison, Dr Brian Inglis, John Davy, Prof Derek Bryce-Smith.
September 1983	<i>A New Science of Life</i> , by Dr Rupert Sheldrake, joint meeting with the Business Network, London.
November 1986	David Lorimer takes over administration from George Blaker. SMN becomes a charitable trust. Dr Peter Fenwick becomes Chair. George Blaker becomes President.
July 1989	First Annual Gathering at Dartington.
April 1992	Mystics and Scientists Conference — <i>The Nature of Light</i> , Winchester. Speakers: Dom Bede Griffiths, Prof John Barrow, Dr Jacob Liberman, Nicholas Hagger, BK Jayanti, William Anderson, Clive Hicks, Thetis Blacker, Sir George Trevelyan. This was when the Network became actively involved again.
March 1993	First Continental Meeting at Obernai, France. Theme: <i>Integrating Science and Medicine with Spirituality</i> .
July 1993	Annual Gathering, La Bussière Abbey, France. Theme: <i>Science and the Perennial Wisdom</i> . First one held abroad.
May 1995	May Dialogue — <i>Time, Chaos and Creativity</i> . Speakers: Prof Ilya Prigogine (Nobel laureate), Prof Brian Goodwin, Rev. Prof John Polkinghorne FRS.
August 1995	Inaugural <i>Beyond the Brain: New Avenues in Consciousness Research</i> . St. John's College, Cambridge. Speakers: Dr Stanislav Grof, Prof Charles Tart, Dr Peter Fenwick, Prof Stuart Hameroff, Prof Willis Harman, Dr Ervin Laszlo, Anne Baring, Prof Chris Clarke, Dr John Beloff, Prof Guy Claxton, Prof David Fontana, Prof Brian Josephson, David Lorimer, Dr Edgar Mitchell, Dr Marilyn Schlitz, Dr Max Velmans.
November 1996	<i>The Placebo Response: Biology and Belief</i> . Speakers: Prof Herbert Benson, Dr David Reilly, Prof Patrick Wall, Dr James Hawkins, Dr David Peters, Prof Edzard Ernst, Andrew Vickers, Dr Elizabeth Stroebel, Tuvi Orbach, Prof Linford Rees, Prof Cecil Helman, Dr Peter Fenwick, Dr Jos Kleijnen, Dr Michel Odent.
November 2001	Death of George Blaker. Dr Peter Fenwick becomes President. Dr Peter Leggett died in 1994 and Sir Kelvin Spencer in 1993 and Dr Patrick Shackleton in 1976.

Members' Appreciation

WHAT OUR MEMBERS SAY ABOUT THE NETWORK

The Network is a lifeline, offering me access to information that otherwise would never reach me. The magazine *Paradigm Explorer* is a goldmine, with exceptional articles and wonderfully interesting book reviews of books that I would never hear about, nor read, without this helpful guide. I have been a member for many decades and my life and interests have without question been enhanced and expanded because of the Network. I am deeply grateful to all those who help to maintain it and take us forward into a new paradigm of reality, freeing us from the iron grip of the ideology of scientific materialism. The Network's conferences are outstanding and I look forward to learning from them. Membership offers many other advantages but for me, the main one is being able to belong to and participate in an intelligent, informed, enlightened community.

Anne Baring

In a nutshell? It provides the education, and re-education I have been searching for, for a very long time. Not that I agree with everything - but isn't that what education is about - freedom of exploration and an ongoing, open-minded debate where difference of opinion is explored rather than condemned.

For me, the arrival of *Paradigm Explorer* heralds a few days of delight, promising later re-readings of articles, as further information informs understanding. The Book Reviews are my delight and an introduction to a world of fascinating texts and ideas. Thank you, David, and guests, for your masterly erudition. The archived material is also an Aladdin's cave of riches. Congratulations SMN and thank you all - may the next 50 years be as rich in exploration, discovery and delivery.

Krystyna Hilton

In this time of global danger and anxiety it is a matter of life support to have contact with others who can see/think beyond the painful and self-destructive world humanity has created for itself and work in their various ways - big or small - towards the creation of something better. While I have good friends around me who care about the planetary future, the scientific dimension that the SMN provides (even though I am not in any sense a scientist) is immensely important to me. The shift in the scientific paradigm envisaged by the SMN and Galileo Commission is crucial to the development of a more viable future.

Eve Jackson

The Network is a wonderful source of information and inspiration that gathers a wide variety of members on a quest to better understand and serve humanity, our planet and the worlds beyond. While its central focus is the interface of science and spirituality through expanding consciousness, SMN's scope has increased immeasurably over recent years with the development of a dynamic programme of talks, discussion groups, conferences and meditations on Zoom. Speakers explore ways to heal the trauma of humankind, nurture the soul, and participate in building healthier, happier, and more loving communities that respect the riches of the earth, with its flora and fauna, instead of exploiting them. The talks are an education. They introduce new perspectives, recommend informative and interesting books, broadening the mind and enriching the soul. As SMN celebrates its Golden Jubilee in 2023, this community is growing in strength and significance at a time of global turbulence and human transition.

Sue Lewis

The Network is like a lifeline to me in its exploration of consciousness and associated areas in science and spirituality. Very few sources are so concentrated on this study, so the Network is invaluable to me. I feel I have another Master's degree from attending all their webinars in the past few years, and I am so grateful for all the insights I've gained. It's like an oasis in a desert, and I'm so thankful for their work.

Kathryn Hansen

Your Network has been a lifeline for me with the sharing of diverse and rational thinking on established beliefs, as well as considering others that are yet to be known. It has allowed me to hold my own experiences as valid and possible in spite of what others may think. Thanks for all your goodness!

Carol Willis

The extraordinary breadth and richness of the SMN offerings has been provocative, grounding and illuminating to my life and journey! Gratitude and Cheers to 50 Years of dedicated and meaningful work!

Laurie Evans

It's a place to keep in touch with a wide variety of questioning thoughts and opinions from a range of people who are not afraid to think differently.

Suzanne Ross

I'm an old-time member and it's the only place where I can engage so personally with people who are on my beam.

Suzanne Taylor

An ongoing connection with slightly unorthodox ideas which awaken curiosity and are interesting to explore.

Prof Jens Alwood

It gives me the opportunity to learn and discuss issues that I would not ordinarily be able to, and for this I will be forever grateful. Membership of the SMN has given me courage and greatly enhanced my life. Thank you!

Elizabeth Cullen

I do think that in the end the most important questions are the ones that SMN addresses, with very intelligent people who have thought about them. It's a dimension that's missing from most of life,

Colin Tudge

It's my go to place for fascinating talks and sane discussions.

Jill Dunsford

A friendly and thought-provoking community where I can be heard and learn day by day.

Natalia Sanchez

The meditation led by Peter Fenwick on a Sunday evening is wonderful. I love that he is able to speak his experience from a profound state. The meditation is a highlight of my week.

Shabra Dowson

I'm in the U.S., so I haven't visited SMN events in person. But I have very little contact with like-minded people in my area, and I can't say enough how much I enjoy the online SMN events. It means a lot to know that interest in merging spirituality with science is becoming a global phenomenon!

Judy Loken

The Network to me means a window to mind-stimulating and spiritually inspiring sessions, given by highly accomplished presenters on a wide range of fascinating subjects. It feeds my brain and my heart, for which I am very grateful.

Rita Lewis

An opportunity to connect, from a far corner of the world, with an international centre of activity focussed towards explication of rational spirituality. And also to contribute to that from my own spiritual transmission received over 30+ years.

See www.wisdomschool.nz.

Peter Raymond Calvert

The Network is a critical forum for thoughtful, logical questioning of the dominant scientific paradigm of our time. It has also grown into an equally important forum where diverse spiritual streams can interact.

Edward Lemon

The Network is both an intellectual and spiritual home, and an opportunity to engage in ongoing research and education. The mainstream of my profession is invested deeply in materialist science, which defeats its own purpose and harms people. As a member of the SMN I can feel more confident working within my scientific framework without apologising for, using guesswork, or feeling as if I am in the mar-

gins, because I expect good science to acknowledge our full humaneness.

Avigail Abarbanel

For me the SMN is like an island, one of ponder, perspective, and meaning making. I delightfully “ran aground” there in the recent fog of Covid. But as I watch the attendance grow at online events, and witness the wonderful synergies with sister organisations, it feels as if that fog is lifting and I now see the SMN as part of a lovely archipelago.

Todd Bureau

Above all, the SMN is a network of amazing people, many of whom have become dear friends. I love being able to bask in their wisdom, knowledge and insights. Among scientists I enjoy pushing at frontiers and challenging dogma; among the spiritual I enjoy being the sceptic, challenging beliefs but being open to new insights. The SMN lets me walk the tightrope between the two.

Martin Redfern

The Network articles, book reviews and discussions are wonderful for guiding me more deeply into understanding consciousness and the spiritual realms.

Raymond Barlow

I don't think there has ever been a time when it has been more important to deepen and widen my perceived worldview. The SMN brings thinkers, scientists, healers and spiritual leaders into my home. This is both a huge privilege and also fundamental I feel to our development in these transformational times. I love the dialogues these sessions evoke and possibilities of new ways of being it promises. As an artist I am constantly endeavouring to straddle the line between the known and the unknown with all its uncertainty and insecurity, trying to find answers to questions I'm not even yet aware of. Being prepared to step into uncharted territory with no guarantee of outcome. It is good to know I am not alone in this inner and outer wrestling and that it is indeed essential in order to create a new sustainable worldview honouring, love, joy, peace and gratitude. Nothing is impossible or unachievable when we connect to a loving infinite intelligence.

Pauline Passmore

I was invited to join the Network over forty years ago, when it was still a semi-private group. I knew two of the early members who thought that a token theologian might supplement the medics and scientists in some respects. Now in retirement I continue to value my membership and the variety of significant nodes of our network.

Kevin Tingay

For most of my life I have had an abiding interest in the interplay of science and spirituality. As I live in a rural area and my immediate circle of friends is distant from the world of academia, for many years I have had to read and study in isolation. Covid brought me in touch with the Network and I now find myself in the midst of a great group of like-minded people who are generous with their time and insights. Of particular note is that the SMN ethos is one of respect and equality; it is in no way elitist as everyone's point of view and insights are valued. A final point; the Sunday evening meditations have become an anchor point in my week. Thanks to all.

John Lawless

Intelligence is humanity's most valued asset. The Scientific and Medical Network provides the most meaningful analysis of subject matter that enables us to know more about the nature of reality. Through diligence and discernment, you carry the ethical torch we need to shine light into our inner darkness.

Madelyn Freeman

I was introduced to the Network less than a year ago, but it has since enriched my life in three ways. The online discussions and networking are stimulating, and having contact with like-minded colleagues is good. The Galileo Commission is doing excellent and much needed work to counter the sterility of a materialist mindset that is so prevalent in much science today. *Paradigm Explorer* provides interesting and thought-provoking articles, as well as excellent reviews of recently-published books.

Terry Cooke-Davies

The most important organisation I know.

Rolf Sattler, PhD, FLS, FRSC, Emeritus Professor

The SMN is my tribe. It has been an important part of my life for the last twenty years.

Maggie La Tourelle



Top left to bottom right: Janine Edge, David Lorimer, Vasileios Basios, Emilios Bouratinos, Athens 2013; Emilios Bouratinos with David Lorimer; Janine Edge and David Lorimer, Greece September 2013; SMN Board retreat; Monika Grosch at work in Denham; 80th birthday celebration for Ravi Ravindra, Marilyn Monk and Keith Ward (Chris Clarke and Elizabeth Fenwick behind); Mystics and Scientists group; Ravi Ravindra and John Moriarty

Personal Reflections

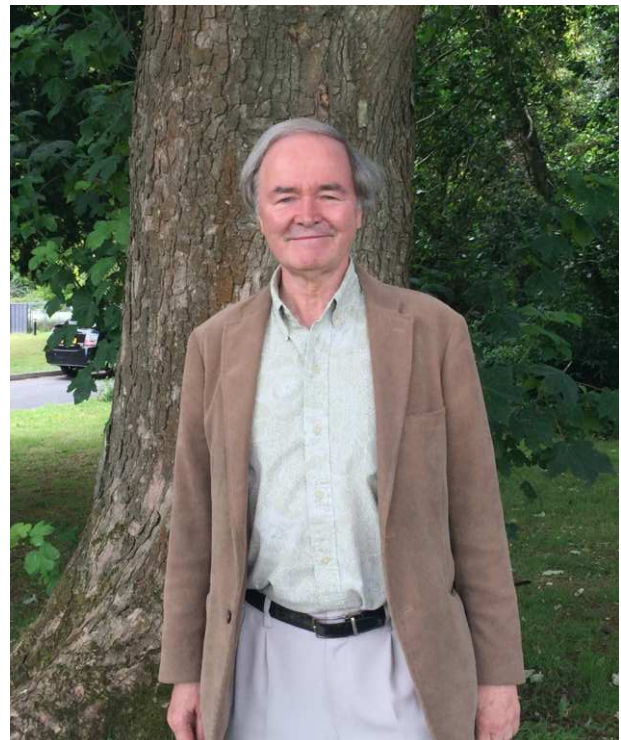
Prof Bernard Carr, President

Although the SMN was founded 50 years ago, there have only been three Presidents. George Blaker served for 15 years (1986-2001) and Peter Fenwick for nearly 20 years (2001-2020), so I feel very privileged that my own term (which is restricted to 5 years) should coincide with such an auspicious occasion as our Golden Jubilee.

Sadly, none of the original SMN members is still alive. However, it is gratifying to reflect that two of our 'oldest' members, Peter Fenwick and Paul Filmore, who both joined in the 1970s, still play a prominent role as Emeritus President and Chairman, respectively. Of course, many of us were alive in 1973, so it's interesting to recollect some other events that year which seemed to augur so well for the future: the end of the Vietnam War, the Watergate trial, Britain's joining the European Economic Community, the opening of the World Trade Center, and the passing of the Endangered Species Act. Since I'm writing this in Wimbledon week, it may also be appropriate to recall that Billy Jean King beat Bobby Riggs in a battle-of-the-sexes tennis match.

None of this promise was fulfilled: many wars followed, Presidential corruption continued (though not within the SMN!), Britain left the EEC, and the World Trade Center was destroyed. The plight of some endangered species has improved but the state of the ecosystem on which they depend remains perilous, and even the fight for sexual equality still has a long way to go. It is therefore consoling to reflect that at least one event in 1973 has fulfilled its promise: the founding of the SMN.

I will make no attempt here to review all our achievements. Suffice it to say that for half a century we have been promoting a wide range of ideas on the frontiers of science, spirituality, and consciousness studies. Of course, we're now a much larger organisation and unsurprisingly our remit has broadened somewhat. There is not so much emphasis on medicine as in the early years but that it is only because we



Prof Bernard Carr

have seeded other organisations which have taken over that role. Although our name may no longer be such an accurate reflection of our mission – and some people advocate changing it on this account – our name is our trademark and in my opinion the acronym SMN has a magic which we should preserve.

Another big change is that there are now many other organisations with related goals (for example, the Institute of Noetic Sciences, which was also founded in 1973) and we have forged alliances with some of them. When we were founded, I believe we were the first 'network' but now we're part of a much larger *global* network. Our international role has been enhanced

by the pandemic, which has opened up our events to a far larger global audience, leading to a huge boost in the number of both our events and our members. This is why the recent appointment of David Lorimer as our Global Ambassador is so appropriate.

Recently I attended a festival in Krakow to celebrate the 550th anniversary of the birth of Copernicus. His espousal of the heliocentric model might be regarded as the start of the modern scientific enterprise but he was also a canon, so he would have been an ideal SMN member. This year is also the 50th anniversary of the first talk on the Anthropic Principle by my colleague Brandon Carter and this took place in Krakow as well. I was lucky enough to attend that talk, so I was invited to speak about the occasion and subsequent developments in the field.

En route home, I contemplated that the SMN is still very young compared to Copernicus. When I was a PhD student, 50 years seemed very long because it was *twice* my lifetime but at my current age, it seems very short. Indeed, for our recently departed member Velta Snikere Wilson (who died last December just before her 102nd birthday), it was only *half* a lifetime. Even if it is regarded as a short time, this does not diminish our achievement in reaching our 50th anniversary. Indeed, it makes our accomplishments even more impressive.

Of course, this has not been achieved without a battle since for much of the 50 years our agenda has been alien to the vanguard of mainstream science. However, it's clear that the vanguard has slowly been changing direction and a new post-materialist paradigm is in the air. The term 'spirituality' may still be a taboo in scientific circles but developments in neuroscience, cognitive science and even physics mean that at least the discussion of 'consciousness' has become respectable. This is why the Galileo Commission project is so important.

Needless to say, our work is not complete and we cannot close our eyes to the resistance of the more fundamentalist section of the scientific community who refuse to 'look through the telescope.' We are still subject to the attacks of scientism but we must never forget that the original aim of our founders was not to oppose science but to extend it to accommodate spirituality. Therefore, by way of encouragement, I would like to end with a quote which is sometimes attributed to George Bernard Shaw but may date back to Confucius:

"People who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it."

Despite sometimes aggressive attempts to "interrupt" us, the SMN has been "doing it" for 50 years and may we continue to do it for another 50. What is encouraging in this context is the recent formation of the *New Paradigm Navigators* group, whose enthusiastic young members will doubtless be here to celebrate our 100th anniversary.

Dr Peter Fenwick, Emeritus President

When I first qualified as a doctor back in the 1950s, reductionist science ruled. Whenever I went to a scientific meeting, I had to watch my language! I had developed an interest in wider spiritual experiences, but it was advisable not to talk about these. Such experiences were always dismissed in reductionist terms, as mental aberrations of a disordered brain. Quite clearly, they were part of the schizophrenic spectrum and had no value beyond this. So I could not go to a scientific meeting and discuss the things which really interested me.

But my rebellion had not gone unnoticed. I was rung up one day by Peter Leggett, who asked me if I would like to chair a new group that had been formed in 1973 by George Blaker to discuss the breakdown of true science by limiting it to reductionism, and to reconcile this limited model of reality with spiritual experience. At first I refused, as I was overloaded by work at the time, but eventually I was persuaded to chair it for one year only. This led to my first meeting with David Lorimer and found someone who felt as I did about the limitations of reductionist science. We



Dr Peter Fenwick

were both free spirits who had no wish to be put into the restrictive reductionist box.

In the beginning there were very few of us. At our first AGM in the (rented) Baden Powell House, David, myself and one other were the only attendees. In the hope that we might get a better attendance out of London we held the next AGM at Dartington and our organisation started to grow. Initially, membership was by invitation only, and we only invited or included people who were actively engaged in scientific or medical work, but whose thinking was not limited to these fields. It was becoming a safe haven, where scientists could discuss and explore paranormal or mystical human experiences which science ignored because in its eyes they were 'impossible'. Gradually our membership became more inclusive and non-scientists – in fact anyone with an interest in what we were doing – could join.

These early days were epitomised by our annual gatherings – the happy Saturday evening entertainment always emceed by Max Payne with his foghorn voice and featuring Di Clift with her guitar and songs – the *Corn Circle Blues* always comes to mind – first performed at Gaunt's House in 1999.

We started the annual 'retreat' with the aim of being able to go to a remote place surrounded by nature and recharge our batteries. The first was in Wales, and succeeded in the true aim of the retreat. But slowly the retreat got nibbled away until it became just an extension of the management meeting, which is always guaranteed to exhaust rather than refresh!

Membership has now grown very considerably and the name – Scientific and Medical Network – has become recognised. We have had many discussions about whether or not we should put our heads above the parapet, but this has happened naturally in an organic way. Like so many things, we have had to adjust to change in the last few years. Many of our meetings are now by Zoom so we have to some extent lost the personal contacts which have always been such a valuable feature. But this has had positive aspects too – certainly for those of us in the top age bracket with disabilities that keep us wheelchair – or house-bound, or living in less accessible parts of the globe, where Zoom meetings have been a distinct advantage!

The Network has now grown up and taken its place amongst front rank organisations that are helping to establish a true and inclusive science. Although reductionist science is still dominant, its limitations can be more clearly seen and can be more freely discussed, and more journals are available now that will publish well researched accounts of spiritual or paranormal experiences. I can now walk into a scientific meeting and discuss spiritual experiences and wider mental states, which are accepted, if not understood, as a natural part of our beautiful world.

Although our members have played an important role in the Network's development, there is little doubt

that our success is in large part due to David Lorimer, a man of outstanding qualities, boundless energy, and also a poet and philosopher. He is not only a good friend but the only person I know who can review 50 books a month and quote correctly from them (probably even mentioning the relevant page and paragraph) several years later!

So what is our future? We have obtained funding from many different bodies for special projects and so extended the research aspects of the Network. More importantly, some of these projects, for example the Galileo Project, have expanded into the international field. We have remained a friendly, open, forward-looking organisation which can play a part on the international stage. So, as Max Payne was fond of saying about the Network "Onwards and Upwards!"

Transforming our Lives

*Janine Edge,
Chair of the Scientific and Medical
Network Charitable Trust*

The SMN serves its members in many different ways, but perhaps most important of all is how it has transformed our individual lives. This is the story of how it changed mine.

In the late nineties, I was at the peak of my career as a lawyer but seriously stumbling with burn out. During a period when I could not work, I came across a newspaper article about the proposed new Professor of Parapsychology at Edinburgh University. Professor Brian Josephson was one of those interviewed for his opinion about the controversial choice for the position. I was hooked by what he said about quantum mechanics and theory of mind. It ignited a passion I had had for this subject since my teens. I wrote a letter to Brian at the Cavendish Laboratories (yes this was still pre-email) asking if there was a discussion group I could join on this topic.

However, I never posted this letter. Why, I asked myself, would a physics Nobel Prize winner bother to reply to me, a mere lawyer, let alone invite me to join a discussion group? I gave up the idea and went back to my law firm to resume my work there.

Some six months later I was at a BBQ in Suffolk and asked one of the other guests what he did. That guest was David Lorimer and he described the Network. My first follow up question was 'Can I join?' – I knew this is what I had been searching for. The second question to David just popped out of my mouth. 'Is Brian Joseph-

son involved at all?’ Yes, came David’s response, he is one of our speakers (and later an honorary member). Had I sent my letter to Brian, he would have undoubtedly replied and referred me to the Network.

This time I followed the life prompt, gave up being a partner in my law firm and started attending SMN events. This led to me taking the MSc in Consciousness and Transpersonal Psychology (which was created by SMN members Les Lancaster and Mike Daniels and is still running today through the Alef Trust.) I would never have had the courage to make these and other dramatic changes in my life were it not for that synchronistic conversation with David Lorimer and the embrace of the Network.

No embrace could have been more encompassing than that of Max Payne, the first Chair of the SMN Charitable Trust. He was not only a charismatic leader, but

also a witty and natural MC for our social gatherings. His military metaphors were legendary (and always made us laugh) yet his approach with people was considerate and gentle. He would never be afraid to name the ‘elephant in the room’ and yet would act with great tact. Max was a person who embodied opposites with ease – as befits a man who was at heart a philosopher.

In 2006 I took over from Max as Chair of the Trust and am grateful to have been able to give back a little to the Network by performing this role. Oonagh Harpur, Adam Parkin, Edi Bilimoria and myself, as the current trustees, are constantly reminded of how visionary George Blaker was to set up the Trust in 1986. Following his death, further funds were added to the Trust from his estate to create the Blaker Education Fund. The extraordinary generosity of the Blaker Family is what has made possible our thriving and transformative Network.



Top left to bottom right: Janine Edge; Dr Mike King, Dr Claudia Nielsen, David Lorimer, Prof John Clarke, Martin Redfern, Charla Devereux, Dr Bart van der Lugt; coffee break at Launde Abbey



Founders' Reflections

THIS SECTION CONTAINS FASCINATING REFLECTIONS BY AND ABOUT THE FOUNDERS OF THE NETWORK, SOME OF WHICH IS EXCERPTED FROM THE BOOK *WIDER HORIZONS* PUBLISHED IN 1999

George Blaker and the Early Days of the SMN

Jenny Blaker

My father was born in Simla, India, in 1912. His earliest memory was of lying in a pram seeing a flock of birds fly overhead. He was always drawn to nature. When he was 8 years old, he wrote a book of remarkably detailed nature observations, lovingly typed and illustrated in water color by his mother. At 20, he conducted the first nationwide census of barn owls in England and Wales, for which he won a Gold Medal from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. He later credited this project for his successful application for entry to the Foreign Office in 1938.

My father, my mother and I lived in India from about 1957- 62. On return to England, we settled down at Lake House, Ockley, known to several SMN members. My father collaborated with the Surrey Wildlife Trust to found the Vann Lake Nature Reserve. He was ahead of his time in many ways. “No-Mow May” was being widely promoted by David Attenborough this year (2023). My father was practising “no mow” for years at Ockley, with just mowed paths through the long grass and wildflowers at Lake House. There were swathes of spotted orchids and, in the garden or woods nearby, nesting dormice, glow worms, the rare purple emperor butterfly, and even nightingales. Thanks to regular visits from a fungi expert at Kew Gardens, fungi were found that were new to Surrey, new to the UK and Europe, and even new to science altogether. My father kept records of all the birds sighted, nesting and breeding close by, and those records have made their way safely to the British Trust for Ornithology’s

reference library. Decades ago, my father installed solar panels on the roof and a heat pump to supplement other more conventional methods of heating.

He had a very adventurous life. In Simla, his pram blew over the edge of a cliff, and “baby George” was rescued unscathed from a tree below. He later studied history and languages at Cambridge, was fluent in French and German, and attempted to learn some Arabic, Hindi, Persian, and Egyptian. He first met my mother Richenda when he was at Cambridge and she was visiting her brother there. When he was 22, he spent 9 months in Persia, where he was employed as a private tutor. Later his work as a civil servant took him all over the world, especially to Asia. He was posted to India before, during, and after Independence, including with the British Trade Mission to India, and with the Treasury*. My father traveled to 68 countries over the course of his life. He survived a total of 13 air crashes. He was reported dead twice, in 1945 and in 1970, when he was still very much alive.

My father was deeply interested in Indian culture, history, philosophy, and spirituality. He had a fabulous collection of photos of classical and regional Indian dance. He was fascinated by ancient coins from India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka, for the history they tell, and would trawl through buckets of coins in markets looking for the oldest ones he could find. He was deeply moved by the plight of the Tibetan monks he met fleeing from China after the Tibetan uprising of 1959, and remained so for the rest of his life.

Deeply spiritual, he believed that we are spiritual beings temporarily inhabiting physical bodies, and was strongly convinced of the reality of life before birth and life after death.

In the early 1960s he was Assistant Secretary of State in the Dept of Education and Science, on the science side. He was dismayed by the reductionist, materialist, approach to science that he encountered, and met several scientists with spiritual interests they could not speak openly about. He wanted to introduce them to one another in a place where they could safely discuss common interests.

It was just at that time that he received a phone call, out of the blue, from Andrew Glazewski, a Polish priest, who said he had heard of what my father was doing and knew a doctor in Devon who was doing the same thing with doctors. My father subsequently contacted Dr Patrick Shackleton and the result was the first meeting of the SMN at Exeter University in 1973. Other founders of the SMN included Sir Kelvin Spencer, Dr Peter Leggett, Vice-Chancellor of Surrey University, and a little later, Dr Peter Fenwick, and Dr Geoffrey Leytham.

One of the first things the newly-formed SMN did was to organise a week-long residential course for young people, "Wider Horizons," to encourage them to explore some of the deeper questions of life with an open mind. I participated in the first course in 1975, as did Dr Paul Filmore, who has continued to stay involved ever since and is Chair of the Board. The speakers and presentations were interspersed with activities such as art and music-and-movement to help explore and embody new insights. The first two years' courses were held at Sidmouth House in Devon, home of Eileen Noakes and Dr Shackleton. Later, they were held at Emerson College, the Steiner college in Sussex. After the first two highly successful courses, the first year's students wanted to meet the second years', and so on. Thus began the Student Network, consisting of young people who had taken part in one or other of the Wider Horizons courses, and which ran parallel to the adult SMN for several years. We ran our own separate residential gatherings from then on, with topics from meditation to healing to earth energies.

In 1977, Dr Geoffrey Leytham, then Director of Communications at the University of Liverpool, taught a weeklong residential Introduction to Psychology, with an emphasis on transpersonal psychology and psychosynthesis, especially for us.

In 1977 the SMN was invited by the Wrekin Trust to run the May Lectures/Mystics & Scientists conference. George was reluctant to take on the heavy workload, but Patrick said he would be happy to do so. I went to Sidmouth House to help Patrick with the administration, when sadly he became ill, and unable to continue the work, so I returned to Lake House and helped transition the administration to my father instead. Patrick died later that year.

In 1981, thanks to Student Network members Dale and Carola Mathers, the weeklong "Even Wider Horizons" was held on the sacred isle of Iona in the Scottish Hebrides. Led by Student Network members, we playfully explored ideas about the spiritual and the scientific, using music, movement, art, drama, and "creative listening" – using an ancient idea that, in a group, only the one holding a stone may talk. The week led those attending, including some SMN members, to have a deeper sense of themselves, through informal sharing rather than learned presentations.

Many lifelong friendships were formed around this time, and at least three marriages took place between people who met through the Student Network. Eventually my father began to feel the need to find a younger, more energetic, person to take on the running of the SMN. He met David Lorimer in 1983 and in 1986 David became the Director – and as we all know, has continued to nurture and grow the SMN's organisation and activities ever since.

My mother Richenda was a stalwart supporter of my father's work from the beginning until her death in 1987. She enjoyed meeting and hosting some of the founders and early members of the SMN. My father regarded her support as indispensable.

My father died in 2001, at the age of 89. It is a tribute to him that after his death, his house was full of younger people, many 40-50 years his junior, who regarded him with respect and appreciation. Those who knew him used words like gracious, kind, and wise, to describe him. As his daughter, I always knew I could rely on his unfailing love and support, and above all, he was always ready to stop whatever he was doing, to listen. He would have been so pleased to see how the SMN is thriving after 50 years!

* A more detailed account of my father's career was published in the excellent obituary by David Lorimer in *Network*, the precursor to *Paradigm Explorer*, in December 2001.



George and Richenda Blaker

Glancing Back and Forth

George Blaker

On thinking back, after 25 years, to the first few days and weeks of the creation of the Network I find myself remembering, with the utmost affection and respect, the sterling qualities of the founders. One inevitably compares the hopes and aspirations of that time with the achievements and further hopes and ambitions of the Network now. At that time, in 1973, we sought to engage the interest of scientists and medical people at the top of their professions. This was because we felt that somehow we needed to bring home to their younger and less experienced colleagues the absolute necessity for a majority of people in general to understand that without a transition from our evolving but materialistically based culture to a broader spiritually inspired understanding of the world and its inhabitants the new, just, fair, sustainable and peaceful world order that should succeed us could not become established.

We took the view that the Churches could not bring about this change because, despite the best intentions of many individuals within them, they were immovably shackled to a fixed past in a moving world that could only leave them behind. Perhaps if we had been contemplating the same situation 20 years later we might have thought that instead of the Churches perhaps the football or tennis or film stars or pop musicians, or all of them together, might have done it through the large popular following they enjoy. But in the conditions of 1973 we thought that scientists and doctors would be a better bet! It would be to them, as we saw it, that people would turn for credible explanations of why the human and world conditions were as they were.

So it seemed to us that a large measure of responsibility for moving public opinion forward would lie with the leaders of the scientific and medical communities, whether they realised it or not. Because of their achievements in their own academic and research fields it would be to the outspoken opinions of such thinkers that their more junior colleagues would pay serious attention. It was therefore men and women of that calibre whom we sought to enrol.

That describes why we tried to find highly accomplished people to share our vision. But we also wanted to attract anyone, whether recognised in the world as accomplished or not, who felt inspired by the need for a spiritual understanding of life. We also thought that might help us to avoid becoming elitist so far as we could. Hence, too, membership at first by invitation only.

At another level there was a third group of people with whom we wanted to make contact. That group

was the young who had not yet or had only recently passed through University or early job training, so as to offer them the opportunity of hearing about more comprehensive theories relating to the nature of the world that we knew they would not normally encounter in the course of their formal education. We believed they would readily recognise that the currently acceptable view that the world and all things in it were the random, purposeless result of gigantic physical forces was based on unspoken and usually unrecognised assumptions of a restricted character for which there was no proof that was not itself based on those same limiting assumptions. We wanted them to hear and think about the argument that a wider and less restricting view of life was both reasonable and possible. We wanted them to consider this before long years of training within the narrower system had closed their minds to anything freer and more comprehensive, as seemed to us to have happened to a rather large number of our contemporaries.

Our wish to engage with the young was put into effect by means of the “Wider Horizons” project. This was a week-long residential course for 18 to 25 year-olds, limited for logistic reasons to 12 men and women each year. It was held first at Sidmouth, then often at Emerson College, with one exceptionally fruitful week on the island of Iona.

In its early days “Wider Horizons” was extremely successful. No particular philosophy or world view was taught, but participants were addressed by 6 or 7 Network members and other invited speakers, each giving, for one evening and one morning, their own views about the nature of life and the world and the place of humanity within it.

The “students” had full freedom to question the speakers as much as they liked, and to make their own contributions. Many of the participants were thrilled with this. Some of the ideas they heard expressed for the first time harmonised with their own intuitive thinking and it seemed like a wonderful release. Some are still Network members. Many lasting friendships grew up among them and most of those friendships are still intact today.

We all felt deeply the need to change the dominant intellectual attitude reigning in the world and were acutely conscious of the powerless inability of a handful of people on their own to bring about such a huge change. The fact that the motive was a spiritual one made it more difficult in the sense that few people, so far, would understand that or know what it meant — a goodness that is learned individually from experience and knowledge; but at the same time, it was made eas-

ier by the knowledge of the help and support that Spirit would draw to itself from the universal source. Its timetable might be longer than we could appreciate. It might take a hundred years or more, though we hoped that something useful could be achieved in about 15

years. In the light of the continuing advance of evolution we could not foresee any time when the efforts of the Network would no longer be needed. We recognised that our project was a long term one, but also that it required an immediate start to be made.

Early Days of the Scientific and Medical Network – A Personal View

Sir Kelvin Spencer (1988)

Those of us who were in at the birth of the Scientific and Medical Network will share with me, I hope, a glow of satisfaction at the change of thought which is now occurring. I refer to a change in the way we interpret our total awareness and build a thought model to bring it into coherence. My recollections go back to two meetings at Exeter University Staff Club in the early 1970s. Three people who were at those meetings stand out in my memory: Patrick Shackleton, George Blaker, and a Pole who was both a priest and a scientist, Andrew Glazewski. We shared a feeling that modern science had become imprisoned in a framework much more confirmed than in those pioneering days some three centuries back. It was then that freedom of thought was won from a narrow Priesthood wedded to a theology that didn't fit the then contemporary world picture.

It seemed to us at that Exeter gathering that science in the mid twentieth century had lost its way. Outstanding advance in materialistic science and the technology associated with it had deprived earthly life of meaning and purpose. Science strove to be 'value free'. Facts were confined to what could be verified by experiment and measurement, a process which excluded many aspects of human awareness. As Eddington expressed it in the 1920s, "Measurement became the measure of all that is". Mercy, Pity, Peace and Love were excluded from that scientific prison house.

The first of those Exeter meetings was chaotic, but the underlying thought was that science had restricted its field of endeavour too drastically. At that first meeting we didn't succeed in bringing our vague ideas to a focus. Yet a clear and coherent statement of aim was obviously needed if our small group was to expand and have a wider influence.

The focus needed was given at the second Exeter meeting. George Blaker was invited to summarise the outcome of the first meeting. He did it with a creative

insight that put into a few words what we had been groping towards. In my recollection that second meeting was the birth of what became the Scientific and Medical Network.

Before the meeting ended, we'd agreed that some of us present would write ambiguous letters to selected acquaintances. A few of us had recently retired from our professions after having won respectable positions in them. We each wrote to some of our professional friends. We could not guess how they might respond to a direct invitation to help forward the agreed aim, so ambiguity seemed expedient. The recipient could then interpret the letter in either of two ways: as a friendly correspondence between one still in harness and one who had shed the shackles of office, or he could read between the lines an invitation to take part in a great adventure. To our pleasant surprise many welcomed and accepted this disguised invitation.

That adventure has now been given the name – *Global Mind-Change*, by Willis Harman, whose book with that title has recently been published. Those who took part in these early days of the Network have, I think, reason to cheer their old age with the thought that they had helped, in however small a way, to trigger a change in thought. Of course, our embryo group was but a pebble on the beach along with countless other pebbles. But the Network and its fellow workers here and overseas have since picked up many more on that beach which, in Isaac Newton's words, borders the vast ocean of Truth that lies all unexplored before us.

Too many scientists give the impression that they know nearly all that's needed to blaze the way to a better world. Yet compared with what we need to know – certainly how to achieve a world in which war plays no part! – what we know now is little indeed. And alas too much of today's knowledge is but knowledge: a far cry from wisdom.

Recollections of Early Days with the Scientific and Medical Network

Dr Peter Leggett (1988)

Two factors were responsible for my association with the Scientific and Medical Network since shortly after it was founded — my lifelong interest in the spiritual implications of the paranormal, and meeting George Blaker.

Ever since the relatively early age of seven or eight I had been concerned with purpose, and in particular with “What is the purpose of human life?” In pursuing this quest I had drunk fairly deeply at several different wells, and in the early 1970s I was still searching, having found both orthodox religion and materialistic science unsatisfactory.

My first memory of George Blaker was in March 1971 when I was invited to say a few words at the annual meeting in Surrey University of the Surrey Naturalists’ Trust (now the Surrey Wildlife Trust). This was followed a month later by dinner at the University during which we discovered our mutual interest in ‘wider horizons’. This was the start of a very close friendship which has blossomed over the years, and has involved a keen interest in everything to do with the SMN.

During my time at Surrey University, I had often wondered how such interests could find a place in the University. In 1973, greatly helped by financial assistance from one of the University’s major benefactors, it proved possible to appoint a Professor of Philosophy, Shivesh C. Thakur, whose terms of reference included a major interest in the paranormal.

In January 1974, an informal seminar was held at Surrey on the subject of ‘The Paranormal’, to which 12 people came by invitation from outside the University. Among these were George Blaker, Patrick Shackleton, and Kelvin Spencer. At their suggestion this meeting was followed in April 1975 by a weekend conference under the auspices of the SMN on ‘Ideas on the extension of individual awareness beyond the two ends of earthly life’. About 50 people attended, and talks were given by Max Payne, Sir George Trevelyan, Paul Beard, Charles Davy and myself. Sessions were chaired by George Blaker, Patrick Shackleton, and Kelvin Spencer. The conference was judged a success by those who attended, and helped to bring the SMN into the open and to the notice of the scientific and medical professions.

Later that year the Youth Network came into being at Eileen Noakes’ lovely house in Sidmouth, and in 1977 the SMN held its first ‘May Lectures’ at the Royal Society of Medicine in London. The overall theme was ‘Science, Mind, and the Spirit of Man’, and Fritz Schumacher was one of the speakers. Since then a ‘Wider Horizons’ week at Emerson College for a few 18-25

year olds, and a ‘May Lectures’ day in London, have become regular annual features of the SMN Calendar.

George Blaker writes about Peter Leggett:

Peter’s deep interest in and invaluable contributions to the activities of the Scientific and Medical Network began as early as 1974, soon after its birth. I remember the early meetings in the Hog’s Back Hotel, supposedly half way between Patrick Shackleton’s house in Winchester and mine in Ockley, so close to Peter’s University that he could sometimes join us. But his principal and most essential contributions to its development and work came with the activities he stimulated within and from the University itself, where his influence was paramount.

He had always been interested in the apparent anomalies in the results of scientific research that did not fit into the expected or apparently emerging pattern. Instead of ignoring the data that seemed anomalous or erratic he wanted to focus on and identify the causes of the aberrations. He often questioned the assumptions underlying the materialistic view of the world generally taken for granted by most his colleagues. He had a deep interest in the spiritual implications of ‘the paranormal’. He has published, in *Network Newsletter* No. 40, some recollections of those early years (see above) and yet one feels that that reference does not do full justice to the beneficent effects of his life on those many people who met him or heard him give talks not only in the University but also in many other places round the country.

In the general area of his interest in the Network he experienced two disappointments. The first was that the Chair of Philosophy that he succeeded in getting established in the University did not operate, after his retirement, in the way he hoped it would. The second disappointment, shared I suppose with many other authors, was that he would have liked more people to read his three books that appeared in print between 1986 and 1990 and were reviewed in the *Newsletter*. His style of writing was not popular enough to make them best sellers; they were perhaps too concise, a price that had to be paid for being a top-class mathematician.

He was a wonderful friend, yet I cannot feel any sense of loss, only of gratitude and joy for what he did in his life. We shared the view that life does not end suddenly with the death of the physical body but continues on its way, almost uninterrupted, through the incident of death.

Dr Peter Leggett

Diana Clift

Peter Leggett was the Principal of Battersea College of Technology in the early 1960s when The Robbins Report recommended a huge expansion of universities in Britain. The story goes that Peter met the Mayor of Guildford and in conversation the mayor mentioned that Guildford was a town looking for a university, to which Peter replied 'I have a university looking for a town'. So it was that 'Battersea Tech' was reborn as the University of Surrey on the slopes of beautiful Stag Hill in Guildford, just by the brand new Cathedral—a new university focusing mainly on science and technology, with Peter Leggett as its first Vice Chancellor. At Peter's insistence there was a Philosophy Department, one clue that his world view was not that of the conventional engineer.

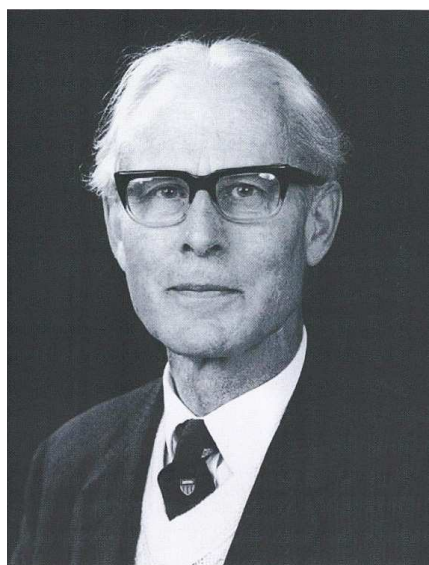
My husband, Roland, became head of the Chemical Engineering Department in 1981 and we moved from Cambridge to Godalming. For the first few years I was taken up with young children, but I met Peter, who had recently retired as VC, at university events and he immediately struck me as being a gentleman, in the old-fashioned sense of the word: He was scrupulously fair, honest, decent and kind, but tough and courageous too.

I was undergoing my own personal crisis of meaning and purpose. I adored my little children and I did some tutoring for the Open University and Higher Education, but I no longer accepted the reductionist scientific paradigm, and I had long rejected conventional

religion and I despaired at the violence and cruelty of the world. I became interested in the Baha'i Faith. I liked the general optimism, the equality of men and women, the compatibility of science and religion which were its selling points in the west. So I became a Baha'i. I gave up alcohol, observed the fasts and disciplines and read voraciously... not just Baha'i writings but the many books on the implications of the new physics.

It was at interfaith events that I got to know the historian Charlotte Waterlow, who lived in my road, and was a great friend of Peter Leggett and an early member of the Network. I started to meet both her and Peter for discussions on Network themes and it was a massive relief. Peter invited me to apply for membership of the SMN. That's how it was done in those days. You needed to have a degree and be recommended by a member. I remember writing a long letter to David Lorimer with my application, nervous that it might be rejected. But with Peter on my side, of course, I got full membership right away and Peter fast tracked me onto the Council when he retired. I had the privilege of serving on Council for 15 years from 1989 to 2004.

Meanwhile, I left the Bahai's and effortlessly took up drinking again! In the Network I had found my spiritual home and it has been a vital part of my life ever since. My friendship with Peter continued until his death in 1994. We would meet every month or so for lunch and talk long into the afternoon. I still miss him.



Left to right: Dr Peter Leggett; Diana Clift; Diana Clift and Peter Leggett, 1989

Dr Patrick Shackleton

Desna Greenhow

PATRICK SHACKLETON'S DAUGHTER REFLECTS ON HIS PART IN ESTABLISHING THE NETWORK

My father, Patrick Shackleton, was, in 1973, at the end of a long and creative career in medicine. His philosophy had always been one of treating the whole person, to which his speciality as an anaesthetist was particularly suited. He used to say that his responsibility to patients stretched well beyond the task of keeping them stable and unconscious in the operating theatre. He was concerned with their well-being and frame of mind before and after the operation, and it was this empathy with the whole person which interested him most in his profession. He had little time for the mere treating of symptoms, or for the mechanistic approach of the technician. He was a great believer in, and practitioner of, the art of medicine, and was, as so many good doctors are, a natural healer himself.

In the summer of 1973 a good friend of my father's, Andrew Glaszewski, brought him together with George Blaker, who was having similar ideas with particular reference to scientific research, and to Kelvin Spencer, whose last job before retirement had been as Chief Scientist to the Ministry of Power. Kelvin described himself, in a letter to my father in August 1973, as "interested since 1917 in the less emotional aspects of the paranormal, and puzzled at the unscientific attitude of science to the subject." From then onwards, these three corresponded on an almost daily basis for the three and a half years which saw the setting up and development of the Network. My father and George Blaker formed the secretariat (of two), and Kelvin came in as frequent commentator and participator in all the stages of the gradual unfolding of the new initiative.

I am lucky to have a folder of all of this correspondence. It is delightfully readable as a tossing round of open-minded discussion by three articulate and warm-hearted friends. However, behind that was a strong sense of purpose about the Network's *raison d'être*, and some extremely hard work was involved. The first priority was to attract a membership of people with "scientific or medical degrees and doing (or in a few cases, retired from) a scientific or medical paid job, deeply interested in the field of psychical and spiritual studies, research, and consequent action." (Draft statement of Aims, 15 August, 1973). By October, a combined effort had achieved a membership of twenty-five, which was to rise steadily from then on.

Confidentiality was promised to members, leaving them free to express opinions that might not find favour with orthodox minded colleagues. This issue of

confidentiality was a topic of discussion in these early days, and one on which Arthur Koestler, with whom my father had several fruitful meetings in the winter of 1973-4, felt strongly, that members should at least be known to each other, so that cross-fertilisation of ideas and research topics could flow. By April 1974, the idea of an open list, to include members who were happy to align themselves publicly with the Network had taken shape. (Confidentiality was still offered to those who preferred it.)

Koestler was at one with George Blaker, Kelvin and my father in feeling that regular newsletters were essential to keep the momentum of the Network going, and Newsletters 1 to 5 were produced by George and my father between Autumn 1973 and March 1977. The preparation and discussion of contents features in the correspondence, including reports of the various conferences and meetings staged by the Network in these years.

In 1976 the Network took on the organisation of the May Lectures, and it was decided that the first should be in May 1977 at the Royal Society of Medicine, with key speakers being E.F. Schumacher, James Robertson, Professor Derek Bryce-Smith and Dr Peter Leggett, Vice Chancellor of Surrey University, who had been involved in many Network events over the previous years. Sadly, my father, who had been operated on for a tumour in January 1977, died three weeks before the fruits of his careful participation in the planning of this event took place.

One quotation might serve to sum up his enthusiasm for the aims of the Network. It is from a letter he wrote to another doctor in connection with the possibility that the Network might contribute to the Royal Commission on the future of the Health Service in 1976.

"Surely the aims of the Network include the emphasis upon a holistic approach to medicine and science; and our intention is to tackle in greater detail the problem of how we shall move from our present materialistic human situation into the new ethic and new system of values that we hold are essential for the future. What we should be doing, I hope, is to present a case for bringing back into the practice of medicine the concept of man as a spiritual being in a spiritual universe with a soul as well as a body and mind; and that disease is often (usually?) an imbalance somewhere in the relationship between the three components of man, and that the restoration of balance can be achieved by various routes other than the pharmaceutical suppression of a symptom. In other words, more humanity, compassion and understanding from the heart than purely intellectual and scientific thinking and action."

Andrew Glazewski and the Founding of the Scientific and Medical Network

Paul Kieniewicz

In June 1973, George Blaker, a man with many years in the British civil service, received an unexpected phone call. The caller told him, “I am Andrew Glazewski. You don't know me, but I have heard what you are trying to do. If I have got it right I also know someone else trying to do the same thing. His name is Dr Patrick Shackleton, Dean of Postgraduate Medical Studies at the University of Southampton”.¹

George Blaker, Dr. Peter Leggett and Sir Kelvin Spencer had been discussing how to bring together scientists interested in the spiritual side of science. Andrew Glazewski (despite titles such as *Father*, *Canon* and *Father Deacon*, he preferred to be addressed as *Andrew*) had met Dr. Shackleton at a Wrekin Trust conference in May 1973. Dr. Shackleton must have been somewhat impressed as he wrote to Andrew, “You started to teach me something.” Over the following months Blaker, Shackleton and Andrew exchanged several letters in which they fleshed out their ideas for what became the Scientific and Medical Network.²

George Blaker had never heard of Andrew, a Catholic priest, physicist and healer who used the language of science to speak about spiritual matters. Since the mid 1960s he led regular workshops in Shropshire at Attingham Park, hosted by Sir George Trevelyan. Along with the healer Bruce MacManaway and the Sufi Reshad Field they drew large audiences of students and others interested in the emerging New Age consciousness. Few others were then talking about it.

Off the lecture circuit, Andrew was parish priest to a small enclave of Polish refugees near Newton Abbott, people who were too physically or psychologically scarred by war to fit in with British society. He lived in an old military barrack with a curved corrugated roof. Next to his living quarters was a laboratory with oscilloscopes, Wimhurst machines, magnetometers, coils and various electrical meters. He was proud of his collection though by the time I visited him in 1971 the equipment was covered in dust. He hadn't used it since the 1950s.

We first met in 1963 when he came to direct the Lent retreat at the boarding school I was attending. He talked about meditation — prayer without using

words, the subconscious and over-conscious minds and how to communicate with them; about healing through the human field. He spoke little about God. He wanted to put first things first. Most important was to know your lower and higher nature.

When I left school I took his teachings with me. We connected later when I was an undergraduate at St. Andrews University, and began a correspondence that grew into friendship. Most astounding for me was his assertion that living and non-living entities are surrounded by electric, sonic and infra-red fields. Not only that, but that there exists another field that controls the others, what he called, the Organizing Field, that operates beyond space and time and determines the growth of an organism; its healthy functioning.³ He had developed a healing technique where the hand moves through the body's field, clearing blockages to restore a natural energy flow. The practice is similar to Therapeutic Touch, later re-discovered by Dolores Kreiger and Dora Kunz.

However, Andrew's field theory was much more than a theory to explain healing or ESP. It was the basis for his spiritual outlook; his teachings on prayer and meditation. He even described angels in terms of the Organizing Field as self-organized “sets of proportions”. Musical harmonies. The process of psychological and spiritual development involved a growing awareness of one's own field, that of other people and other living things. He meant it literally. No doubt he had well-developed faculties that detected and interacted with fields; derived information from them such as the health of a person far away or events that took place long ago. He emphasized that he was not unique, that anyone could develop “field awareness”. Summing up a lecture to Edinburgh University students in 1968, he said,

*I am quite sure that of these three things. That everybody can cure, that there is a field medicine, and that you can go into quite a different world when you start to live in the world of proportions, when you meet the world of the subconscious and overconscious mind.*⁴

¹ *Recollections of the Founding of the Network* by George Blaker – see below

² *Andrew Glazewski, The Psychic Priest*, Bob Bloomfield. Unpublished manuscript 1995.

³ The Organizing Field was based on Gustaf Stromberg's work. See *The Autonomous Field*, Journal of the Franklin Institute, v. 239, no. 1, 1945. Rupert Sheldrake's Morphogenetic Field is a similar concept.

⁴ *The Harmony of the Universe* by Andrew Glazewski with Paul Kieniewicz, White Crow Books, 2014.

The first organizational meeting for the SMN was held at Exeter University, 4 September 1973. Andrew was present at that meeting. The organizers decided that the Network had to contain credentialed scientists and medical men. The more hard-boiled the better. Dr. Shackleton said, "If we are to catch people of scientific calibre into our Network then we need proper bait on the hook."⁵ The next meeting was to be in December, but Andrew never made it. He died on November 8 while leading a Wrekin Trust workshop at Hawkwood College.

A decade ago I trawled the internet but could find almost no information about Andrew. There were a few papers he'd published in the 1950s but nothing about his later teachings. Feeling compelled to remedy the situation I contacted Andrew's family and others who might have known him. However, I soon found that most people who worked with him were dead and that whole boxes of tapes, letters and other documents dis-

appeared after his death into unnamed basements. I had all but given up on the project when several tapes were mailed to me by John McManaway whose father had hosted Andrew several times. Though badly deteriorated I was able to transcribe the tapes. Along with other published writings, those talks became the basis for the books, "The Harmony of the Universe" and "The Cosmic View"⁶

Ruth Nesfield-Cookson, once secretary to Sir George Trevelyan and who knew Andrew well told me that on one of their walks he asked her if *she* would start *his* university, in the name of the Wrekin Trust, a university to study man's higher faculties. It would cost no more than 6 million pounds. She never got around to it.

However, for much less money Andrew helped establish the Scientific and Medical Network. I feel that he would be quite pleased at how far the Network has come, and grown in the fifty years since its founding.

⁵ Letter from Patrick Shackleton to Andrew Glazewski. See Bob Bloomfield, Ref 2.

⁶ *The Cosmic View* by Andrew Glazewski with Paul Kieniewicz, White Crow Books, 2022.



Top left to bottom right: Geoffrey Leytham; Sir Kelvin Spencer; Andrew Glazewski; George Blaker with Hertha Larive on George's 80th Birthday; Arthur Ellison, Peter Fenwick, Hertha Larive, Peter Stewart, Richard Hellen

George Blaker Recollects

The Founders pondered sometimes on what it was that had brought us together, and we could not ascribe it to coincidence. We felt driven to the conclusion that there was a deliberate planned purpose behind it. In my vocabulary that meant inspiration by that strong benevolent power, working in all of us, that supports and encourages us when we are doing things that are truly beneficial to other people, or to the world or planet as a whole, but does not support or encourage us when we are doing something that is intended to or will have the effect of inflating the ego or doing damage in other ways.

Holding such views it became natural to me to see purpose rather than coincidence in many incidents that kept occurring in life, and I mean in all life, not only connected with the Network, though the Network had its full share of such events. I think of that voice on the telephone that said to me: "You do not know me. My name is Andrew Glazewski. I am a Polish Priest. I have heard what you are trying to do with science and if I have got it right I know of someone else who is trying to do exactly the same thing, but in medicine. He is Patrick Shackleton and his

phone number is" Then he gave the same phone message to Patrick, with my phone number.

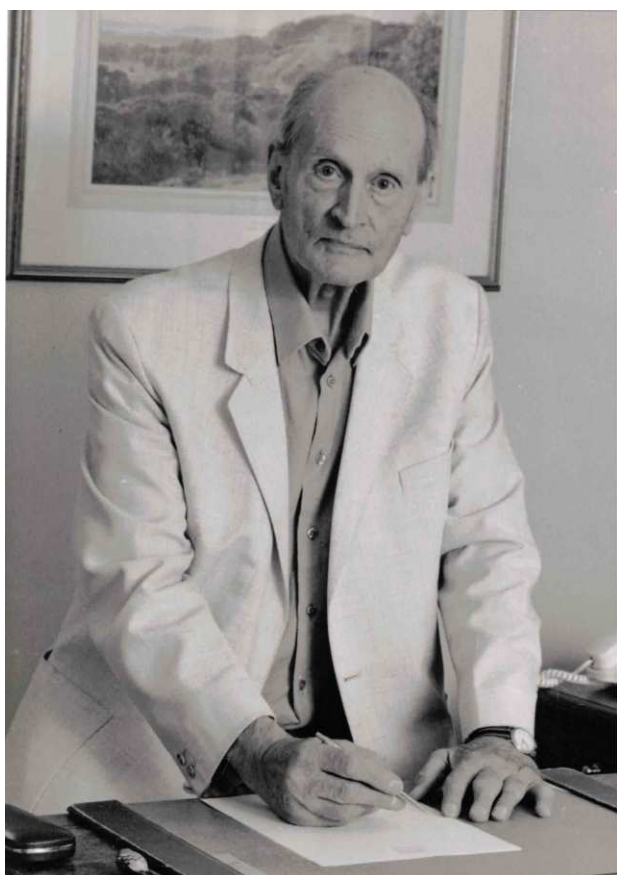
That was the first I had ever heard of either Andrew Glazewski or Patrick Shackleton. Patrick and I got together and after a whole day's discussion we were in agreement that we were both wanting to do the same thing. We decided that it would be ridiculous to go into competition with each other and that we had to work together. From the moment that decision was taken things that had held fire for both of us suddenly began to happen. A few weeks later the Network was born. A clear case, I thought, of constructive guidance; and there were to be other such synchronicities.

Below is an extract from Geoffrey Leytham, for a long time a Trustee of the Network:

In 1973, I was at the University of Michigan, on sabbatical leave from Liverpool, when I received a forwarded letter from George Blaker and Patrick Shackleton, inviting me to join a group that they had just decided to form. The following quote is from their letter:

'We are trying to establish a network or private and informal list of qualified people in this country (and later abroad) who have had scientific or medical degrees conferred upon them by a university; who are or have been continuously employed on scientific work; and who have at the same time a sympathetic and personal interest in all or any aspects of parapsychical, parapsychological or spiritual studies, research and consequent action. It appears to us that these are the people who have the necessary training and background to be able to further the object we have in view'.

As an academic psychologist with spiritual inclinations, this invitation came as a breath of fresh air, and I immediately wrote back and said that I would be delighted to join. This decision has given me immense nourishment and many rewarding friendships over the last twenty-five years.



George Blaker



The original SMN logo, designed by George Blaker

President and Vice-Presidents

President



Prof Bernard Carr, MA,
PhD (Cantab)

Vice-Presidents



Prof John Clarke,
BA, MA



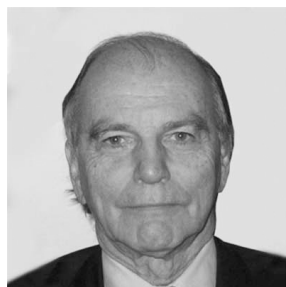
Diana Clift, MA, (Oxon),
M.Phil., A.I.P.T.I.



Claudia Nielsen,
PhD, MA



Prof Marilyn Monk, BSc,
MSc, PhD, MSTAT



Nicholas Pilbrow, MA



Dr Andrew Powell, MA
(Cantab), MB.BChir,
MRCP, FRCPsych.



Martin Redfern, BSc

Board Members and Trustees

Board Members



Vasileios Basios, PhD
*Co-Chairman & Galileo
Commission Portfolio*



Paul Kieniewicz, BSc
and MA Astronomy,
MSc Geophysics
*Co-Chairman & Editorial
Overview Portfolio*



Joan Walton, PhD
*Galileo Commission
Portfolio*



Tuvi Orbach, BSc. MBA
SMN Strategy Consultant



Jacqueline Nielsen, BA, BL
*Local and National Groups
Portfolio, Legal Advice*



Laurel Waterman, MA



Alice Letts, BA

Trustees



Janine Edge, MA
(CANTAB) MSc
Chairman of the Trustees



Adam Parkin, BA
(Warwick) MPhil (Oxon)
Economics Trustee



Oonagh Harpur, BA
Trustee



Edi Bilimoria, DPhil,
FIMechE, FEI, FRSA
*Trustee,
Education portfolio*

Current Officers

Management



David Lorimer, MA,
PGCE, FRSA
*Programme Director &
Global Ambassador,
Galileo Commission
Chairman, Paradigm
Explorer Editor*



Andrew Polson, MA
General Manager



Armando Lüscher
*Web Master & Cloud
Services Manager,
Membership Support*



Louise Livingstone, PhD
*Young Persons Support
Administrator*

Support Staff



Chiara Reghellin, PhD
*Accounts & Membership
Manager, Company
Secretary*



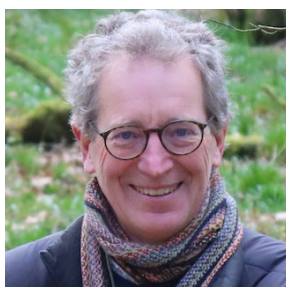
Jessica Corneille, MSc
*Communications
Coordinator, Galileo
Commission Portfolio*



Nikolay B Petrov, MSc
*Content Manager for the
Galileo Commission,
Recordings Editor*



Natalie Mears
*Network Support &
Webinar Host*



Jerome Bullard, ACA, BA
Webinar Host



Oliver Robinson,
MA, MSc, PhD
Conference co-organiser

Former Officers

Presidents of the Network

George Blaker, 1986-2001
Dr Peter Fenwick, 2001-2020
Prof Bernard Carr, 2020-

Chairs of the Network

Dr Peter Leggett, 1973-1985
Dr Peter Fenwick, 1985-2000
Prof Chris Clarke, 2000-2002
Dr Bart van der Lugt, 2002-2006
Prof John Clarke, 2007-2010
Prof Bernard Carr, 2010-2015
Dr Paul Filmore 2015-2023
Dr Vasileios Basios & Paul Kieniewicz 2023-

Vice-Presidents of the Network

Prof Arthur Ellison
Prof Brian Goodwin
Prof Willis Harman
Geoffrey Leytham
Max Payne (also Chair of Trustees 1986-2006)

Managers of the Network

David Lorimer, 1986-2000
Graham Gordon 2000-2001
Kate Brightwell, 2001
Charla Devereux, 2002-2015
Dr Chiara Reghellin, 2016-2019
Lana Sackwild, 2017 *during maternity leave*
Andrew Polson, 2019-

Former Board and Council Members

Dr Bo Ahrenfelt, Sweden
Dr Kevin Ashbridge,
Switzerland/UK
Dr Amit Biswas,
India/ UK
Prof John Clarke, UK
Diana Clift, UK
Dr Richard Dixey,
UK/ US

Prof Kurt Dressler,
Switzerland
Tony Edwards, UK
Bernhard Harrer,
Germany
Richard Irwin, UK
Dr Kim Jobst, UK
Dave King, UK
Dr Mike King, UK

Dr Stephan Krall,
Germany
Dr Chris Lyons, UK
Geraldine McManus, UK
Anne Miller, UK
Jose Montemayor,
Mexico
Prof Marilyn Monk, UK
Claudia Nielsen UK
Dr Richard Petty, UK/US

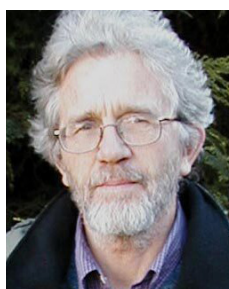
Dr Andrew Powell, UK
Martin Redfern, UK
Mariellen Romer, UK
Prof Peter Stewart, UK
Dr Teun Timmers,
Netherlands
Dr Natalie Tobert, UK
Dr Ole van Hauen-
Drucker, Denmark
Charmian Wylde, UK



Prof Chris Clarke



Dr Bart van der Lugt



Prof John Clarke



Dr Paul Filmore



Charla Devereux

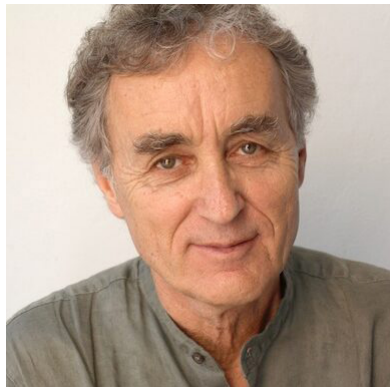
Honorary Members, Present and Past

Honorary Members 2023



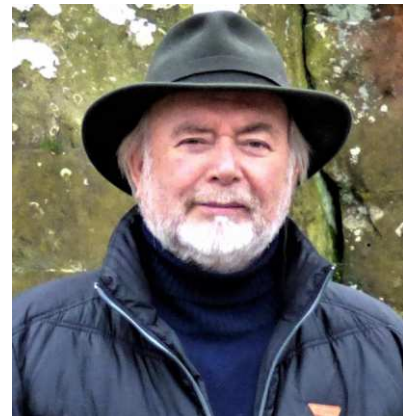
Dr Anne Baring (UK)

Jungian Analyst, author and co-author of many books including, with Jules Cashford, *The Myth of the Goddess; Evolution of an Image*; with Andrew Harvey, *The Mystic Vision and The Divine Feminine*; with Dr. Scilla Elworthy, *Soul Power: an Agenda for a Conscious Humanity*. Her major book is *The Dream of the Cosmos: a Quest for the Soul* (2013, 2020) and she recently published *Messages from a Transcendent Dimension*.



Dr Fritjof Capra (US)

Physicist and systems theorist, founding director of the Center for Ecoliteracy in Berkeley, California, and on the faculty of Schumacher College. His *Tao of Physics* was ground-breaking, as was *The Turning Point* and his joint book with Pier Luigi Luisi, *A Systems View of Life*.



Paul Devereux (UK)

Co-founder and managing editor of the academic publication *Time & Mind – the Journal of Archaeology, Consciousness and Culture*, researcher, lecturer, broadcaster, artist, photographer and author of over two dozen books.



Dr Larry Dossey, MD (US)

Former co-chairman of the Panel on Mind/Body Interventions, National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, National Institutes of Health. He is executive editor emeritus of the peer-reviewed journal *Explore: The Journal of Science and Healing*. He is the author of twelve books on the role of consciousness and spirituality in health, which have been translated into languages around the world.



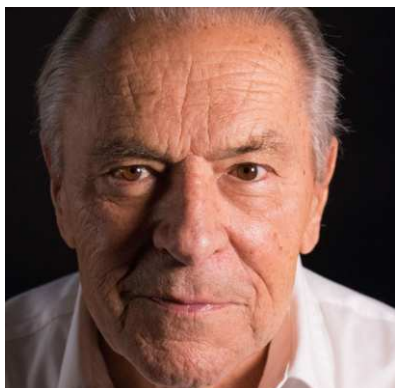
Federico Faggin (US, Italy)

Physicist, engineer, inventor, entrepreneur and author. He created the first commercial microprocessor and the MOS silicon-gate technology (SGT). 'Federico & Elvia Faggin Foundation' supports the scientific study of consciousness through theoretical and experimental research in many USA academic or independent institutions and projects. His work expands the scope of science empowering the study of consciousness.



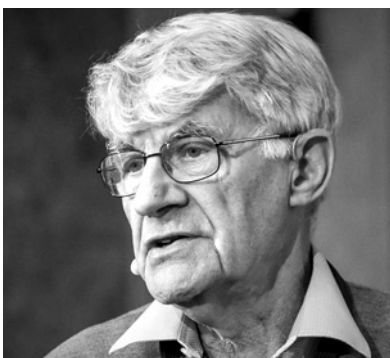
Dr Jane Goodall, DBE (UK)

Jane Goodall's pioneering research into the lives of wild chimpanzees has redefined the relationship between humans and animals. Her environmental, humanitarian and educational programme is promoted through 25 Jane Goodall Institutes around the world. Her Roots & Shoots programme empowers young people of all ages to make a difference in their communities in nearly 70 countries.



Dr Stanislav Grof, MD, PhD (US)

A psychiatrist with more than sixty years of experience in research of non-ordinary states of consciousness. Among his publications are over 150 articles in professional journals and the books *Beyond the Brain*; *LSD Psychotherapy*; *The Cosmic Game*; *Psychology of the Future*; *The Ultimate Journey*; *When the Impossible Happens*; *Healing Our Deepest Wounds*; *The Way of the Psychonaut*.



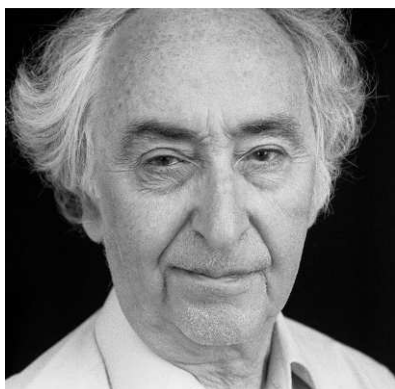
Prof Basil Hiley, PhD

Professor Emeritus of Physics at Birkbeck, University of London. He was a long-time collaborator with David Bohm, working on the implicate order and fundamental problems in theoretical physics, and co-author of *The Undivided Universe*. He was awarded the 2012 Majorana prize for his algebraic approach to quantum mechanics and in recognition of his paramount importance as a natural philosopher.



Jean Houston, PhD (US)

A world-renowned scholar, futurist, award-winning author, and researcher in human capacities, social change, and systemic transformation. She is one of the principal founders of the Human Potential Movement and one of the foremost visionary thinkers of our time. She has worked intensively in over 40 cultures, lectured in over 100 countries, and worked with major organizations such as UNICEF, UNDP, and NASA.



Prof Brian Josephson, FRS (UK)

A Welsh theoretical physicist and professor emeritus of physics at the University of Cambridge. Best known for his pioneering work on superconductivity and quantum tunnelling, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1973 for his prediction of the Josephson effect. He currently works at the interface between physics and consciousness.



Prof Stuart Kauffman, MD, PhD, FRSC (Canada)

A physician by training, renowned theoretical biologist and one of the pioneers of complexity theory and origins of life. He is one of the leaders of Santa Fe Institute for Complex Systems and the Institute for Biocomplexity and Informatics (IBI) at Calgary. He conducts leading-edge interdisciplinary research in systems biology and consciousness studies.



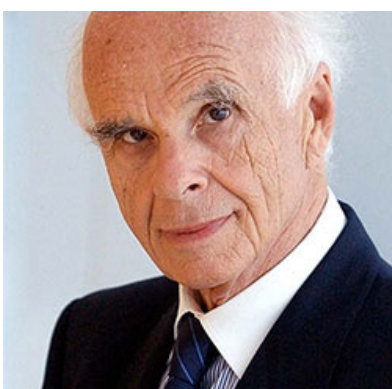
Prof Stanley Krippner, PhD (US)

Alan Watts Professor of Psychology at Saybrook University. He has authored or co-authored over 1,000 monographs and articles on such topics as anomalous dreams, post-traumatic stress disorder, shamanism, parapsychology, hypnosis, creativity, and psychedelics. He is co-editor of the award-winning book, "Varieties of Anomalous Experience: Examining the Scientific Evidence."



His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama

Tenzin Gyatso describes himself as a simple Buddhist monk - who is the spiritual leader of Tibet. In 1989 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. His Holiness has travelled to more than 67 countries and has received over 150 awards, honorary doctorates, prizes, etc., in recognition of his message of peace, non-violence, inter-religious understanding, universal responsibility and compassion.



Prof Dr Ervin Laszlo (Italy)

Hungarian philosopher of science, systems theorist, integral theorist - and originally a classical pianist - he is author and editor of over 100 books and founding President of the Club of Budapest and of the Laszlo Institute for New Paradigm Research. He is the recipient of many prizes, honours and awards, including the Goi and Luxembourg Peace Prizes.



Prof Dr Federico Mayor Zaragoza, (Spain)

Scientist, scholar, politician, diplomat, and poet. He has been a professor at different Spanish universities and has held numerous political positions, including Minister of Education and Science (1981-82). From 1987 to 1999 he served as Director-General of UNESCO. He is currently President of the Foundation for a Culture of Peace.



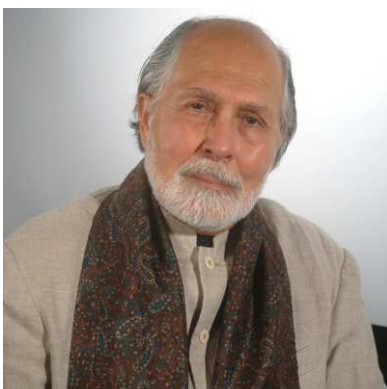
Dr Iain McGilchrist (UK)

Psychiatrist, philosopher and literary scholar. He is a Quondam Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford and a Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. His recent book, *The Matter with Things* consolidates the international recognition and acclaim and has marked him out as one of the greatest thinkers and philosophers of our time.



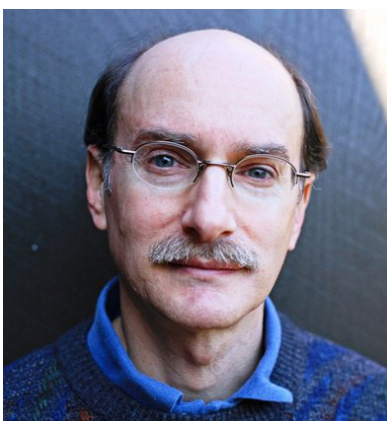
Prof Sir Roger Penrose, OM, FRS (UK)

Mathematical physicist and philosopher of science, former Rouse Ball Professor of Mathematics at Oxford. He was a 2020 Nobel laureate in Physics and is author of many books, including *The Emperor's New Mind*, *The Road to Reality* and *Fashion, Faith and Fantasy in the New Physics of the Universe*.



Prof Seyyed Hossein Nasr (US)

Iranian University Professor of Islamic studies at George Washington University, and an Islamic philosopher, author of many books including *Man and Nature*, *The Need for a Sacred Science*, and *Knowledge and the Sacred*.



Prof Dean Radin, PhD (US)

Chief Scientist at the Institute of Noetic Sciences and Associated Distinguished Professor of Integral and Transpersonal Psychology at the California Institute of Integral Studies. He is author or coauthor of hundreds of technical and popular articles, four dozen book chapters, and four popular books: *The Conscious Universe* (1997), *Entangled Minds* (2006), *Supernormal* (2013), and *Real Magic* (2018).



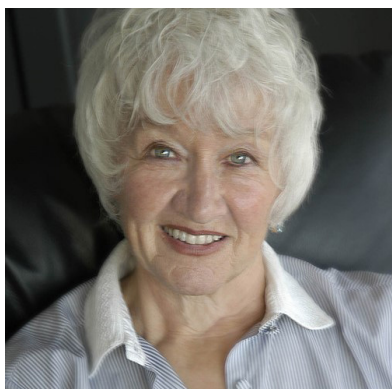
Dr Michel Odent (UK)

He was in charge of the surgical and maternity units at the Pithiviers (France) state hospital (1962-1985). For many years he was the only doctor in charge of about 1,000 births a year. He is the founder of the Primal Health Research Centre (London). His latest book of many is entitled *Can Humanity Survive Socialised Birth?*



Prof Ravi Ravindra (Canada)

Professor emeritus at Dalhousie University in Halifax (Canada) where he served for many years as a professor in the departments of Comparative Religion, Philosophy, and of Physics. He was a Member of the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton, and is the author of many books on science, consciousness, spirituality and comparative religion.



Prof Elisabet Sahtouris, PhD (US)

Internationally known evolution biologist. With a post-doctoral degree at the American Museum of Natural History, she is the author of *EarthDance: Living Systems in Evolution, A Walk Through Time* and *Gaia's Dance: The Story of Earth & Us*, and is co-author with Willis Harman of *Biology Revisioned*.



Prof. Marilyn Schlitz, PhD (US)

Social anthropologist, researcher, award winning writer, and charismatic public speaker. She serves as President Emeritus and a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Noetic Sciences. Her books include: *Consciousness and Healing: Integral Approaches to Mind Body Medicine; Living Deeply: The Art and Science of Transformation in Everyday Life; and Death Makes Life Possible*.



Dr Rupert Sheldrake, PhD (UK)

Biologist and author of more than 90 scientific papers and nine books including *Science and Spiritual Practices* and *Ways to Go Beyond, And Why They Work*. He was a Fellow of Clare College, Cambridge, and is currently a Fellow of the Institute of Noetic Sciences in California, and of Schumacher College in Devon. His website is www.sheldrake.org



Dr Vandana Shiva (India)

She is trained as a physicist and combines the sharp intellectual enquiry with courageous activism. Dr. Shiva has received Honorary Doctorates from University of Paris, University of Western Ontario, University of Oslo and University of Guelph. Among her many awards are the Alternative Nobel Prize (Right Livelihood Award, 1993), Earth Day International Award, and the International Environment Summit & Award 2018.



Prof Charles T. Tart, PhD (US)

Professor Emeritus at the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology in Palo Alto and Psychology at the University of California at Davis, and internationally known for his research with altered states of consciousness, transpersonal psychology, and parapsychology. Tart is the author of 250 academic papers and 13 books feature two that have been called classics, viz. *Altered States of Consciousness* (1969) and *Transpersonal Psychologies* (1975).



Dr Pim van Lommel, MD (Netherlands)

The author of over 20 articles (most of them in Dutch), one book and many chapters about NDE. In November 2007 his best-selling book 'Consciousness Beyond Life' (*Eindeloos Bewustzijn*) was published in The Netherlands. The book has been published in German, English, Polish, Spanish, French, Italian, Latvian, Hungarian and Chinese. These editions have sold more than 250,000 copies worldwide.



Lama Alan Wallace, PhD (US)

A Tibetan lama, physicist and philosopher of science who often serves as interpreter to the Dalai Lama. He is the founder and president of the Santa Barbara Institute for Consciousness Studies (<http://sb institute.com>). He has edited, translated, authored, and contributed to more than forty books on Tibetan Buddhism, medicine, language, and culture, and the interface between science and Buddhism.



Prof Keith Ward, DD, FBA (UK)

Taught philosophy at the Universities of Glasgow, St. Andrews, and King's College, London. He was Professor of the Philosophy of Religion at King's, London, and Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford. In 1993-94, he delivered the prestigious Gifford Lectures at the University of Glasgow. His most recent books are *Christ and the Cosmos* (2015), *The Christian Idea of God* (2017), and *Religion in the Modern World* (2019).



Ken Wilber (US)

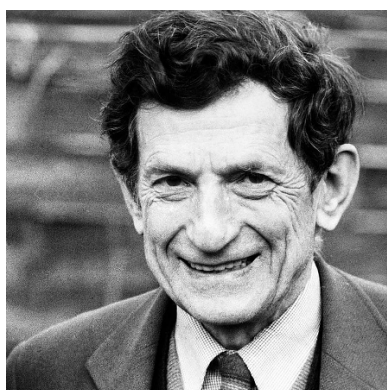
A pre-eminent scholar of the Integral stage of human development. He is an internationally acknowledged leader, founder of the Integral Institute, and co-founder of Integral Life. Ken Wilber is one of the most important philosophers in the world today. He is the most widely translated academic writer in America, with 25 books translated into some 30 foreign languages.

Emeritus



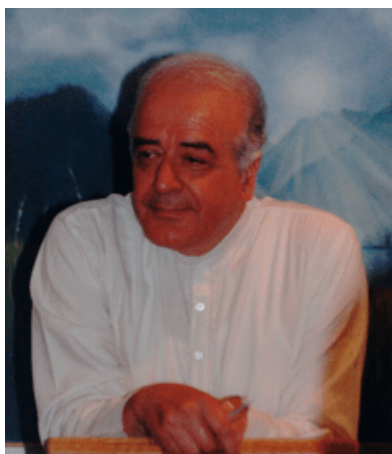
Prof Marjorie Woollacott, PhD (US)

Professor Emerita of Human Physiology and Neuroscience at the University of Oregon. She is President of the Academy for the Advancement of Postmaterialist Sciences (AAPS), and has written more than 200 peer-reviewed research articles—some on spiritual awakening and meditation, the theme of her latest book, *Infinite Awareness: The Awakening of a Scientific Mind*.



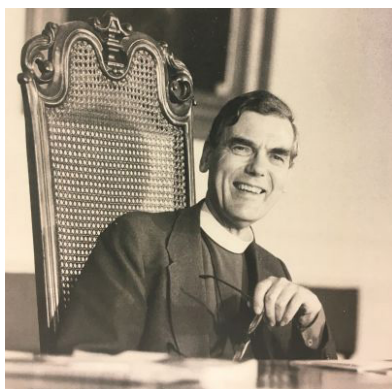
Prof David Bohm, FRS (UK, 1917-1992)

One of the most significant theoretical physicists of 20th century with his own ontological interpretation of quantum mechanics. His book *Wholeness and the Implicate Order* was enormously influential, and he conducted some well-known dialogues with Krishnamurti. Later in his life he became very concerned with language and communication, developing an innovative process of dialogue.



**Emiliios Bouratinos
(Greece, 1930-2023)**

Studied law in Athens and classical philosophy in Innsbruck, where he read with Heidegger. A diplomatic cultural advisor and editor of the cultural magazine *Dialogos* was an influential essayist promoting a Self-Reflecting and Interdisciplinary Science of Consciousness by organising its first conferences and workshops. His 2018 book *Science, Objectivity & Consciousness* won the SMN Book Prize for that year.



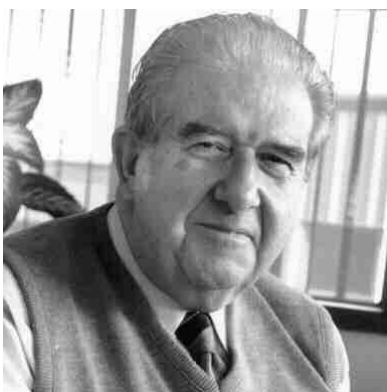
**Rt Revd and Rt Hon Lord John
Habgood, PhD, PC (1928-2019)**

A theologian and scientist, former Archbishop of York and Bishop of Durham. Among his books were *Science and Religion*.



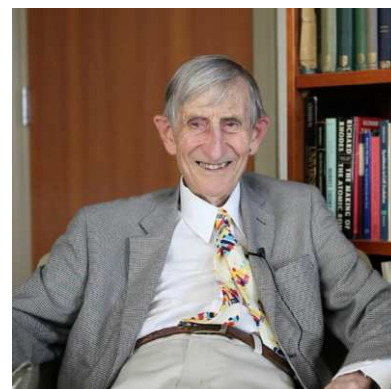
Dr Rodrigo Carazo (1926-2009)

President of Costa Rica from 1978 to 1982 and the Founder of the University for Peace.



**Prof Willis Harman
(US, 1918-1997)**

An American engineer, social scientist, academic, futurist, writer, and visionary. He worked at SRI International and was the first President of the Institute of Noetic Sciences. His later work focused on the metaphysical foundations of modern science. Among his books were *An Incomplete Guide to the Future* and *Global Mind Change*.



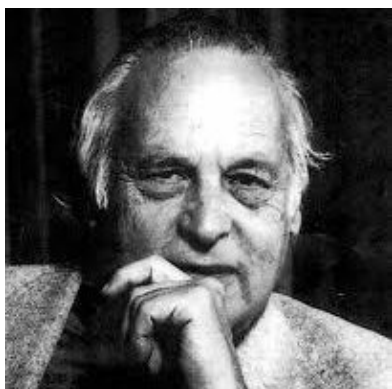
**Prof Freeman Dyson, FRS
(1923-2020)**

English-born American theoretical physicist and mathematician, was known for his work in quantum electrodynamics, solid-state physics, astronomy and nuclear engineering. Former Professor of Physics at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton.



**Prof Sir John Houghton, FRS
(UK, 1931-2020)**

Former professor of atmospheric physics at Oxford and Head of the UK Meteorological Office, co-chair of the Nobel Peace Prize winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's scientific assessment working group.



**Dr Lawrence Le Shan
(US, 1920-2020)**

Psychologist and author of over 150 papers and a dozen books, including *How to Meditate*, *Cancer as a Turning Point*, *Alternate Realities*, and *A New Science of the Paranormal*.



Dr Mary Midgley (UK, 1919-2018)

Prolific moral philosopher known for her work on science, ethics and animal rights. She published her final book, *Why Philosophy Matters* at the age of 99 and *Are You an Illusion* in 2016.



**Dr Edgar Mitchell
(US, 1930-2016)**

The sixth man on the moon and Founder of the Institute of Noetic Sciences.



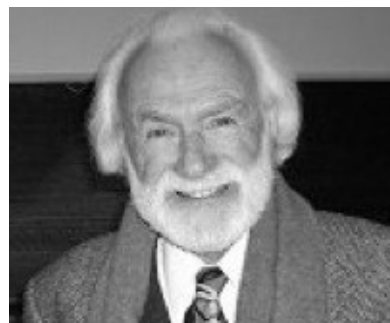
Dr David Peat (Italy, 1938-2017)

Canadian holistic scientist, biographer of David Bohm (*Infinite Potential*) and founder of the Pari Center. Author of many books, including *Blackfoot Physics*, *Gentle Action*, *Synchronicity*, *Pathways of Chance* and *Science, Order and Creativity*.



Prof Sir John Polkinghorne, KBE, FRS (UK, 1930-2021)

Former Cambridge professor of mathematical physics and President of Queens' College. Anglican priest and theologian, winner of the Templeton Prize and author of many books on science and religion.



**Pro. Karl Pribram
(US, 1919-2015)**

Eminent neurophysiologist who developed the holographic theory of mind. He was the first recipient of the prestigious European Havel Prize for "his fundamental contribution to the understanding of science as an integral part of general culture". He spoke at Mystics and Scientists in the early 1980s. See www.karlpribram.com



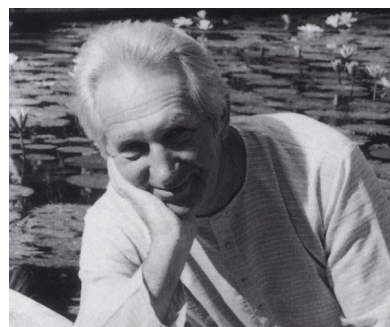
**Prof. Vicomte Ilya Prigogine
(Belgium, 1917-2003)**

Nobel Laureate and developer of the nonlinear theory of dissipative structures and pioneer of research in complex systems. He spoke to a SMN meeting on Time, Chaos and Creativity in 1995. Among his books were *Order out of Chaos* and *The End of Certainty*.



**Lord William Rees-Mogg Kt
(UK, 1928-2012)**

Editor of *The Times* from 1967 to 1981 and Chair of the Arts Council and of Pickering and Chatto Publishers. He gave a lecture to the SMN on Science and the Paranormal and chaired a number of SMN evening lectures.



**Prof Henryk Skolimowski
(Poland, 1930-2018)**

Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at the University of Michigan and pioneer of eco-philosophy. Among his many books were *Eco-Philosophy*, *The Participatory Mind*, *A Sacred Place to Dwell*, *Living Philosophy*, and *Let There be Light*.



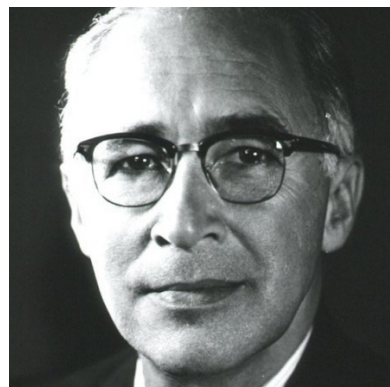
**Sir Crispin Tickell, GCMG, KCVO,
FZS (UK, 1930-2022)**

Diplomat, environmentalist and academic. Former ambassador to the UN, Warden of Green College, Oxford, Chancellor of the University of Kent and President of the Royal Geographical Society and recipient of over twenty honorary degrees. He was Founding Chair of The St Andrews Prize for the Environment.



**Surgeon Admiral Sir James Watt,
KBE (UK, 1914-2009)**

Medical Director-General of the Royal Navy between 1972 and 1977, and President of the Royal Society of Medicine where he promoted some of the first public debates on complementary medicine.



**Prof George Wald
(US, 1906-1997)**

Nobel Laureate in Physiology/Medicine for his work on the retina. Among his books were *Therefore Choose Life*, and *Homo Mysticus*.



**Prof Sir Frederick Warner, FRS,
FEng (UK, 1910-2010)**

Chemical engineer who was one of the founders of the Royal Academy of Engineering and received the Buchanan and Leverhulme medals of the Royal Society.

Annual Gatherings

Residential annual gatherings were instituted in 1989. Prior to that, the annual meeting took place after the May Lectures, and I recall that in 1988 only two other people attended apart from Peter Fenwick and myself! 60 members attended our first meeting at Dartington in glorious sunshine, and Dr Peter Leggett gave what we called the Blaker-Shackleton Lecture. On Saturday evening, we were treated to a performance of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*. As far as I remember, the tradition of our home-grown Saturday evening entertainment dates from 1991, when Joe Cooper on the eukalalie and Diana Clift on the guitar first performed

The Corn Circle Blues, which became a fixture at subsequent annual gatherings.

Below you will find locations and themes from these early meetings. Particularly memorable was our first Continental gathering at La Bussière Abbey, which is now a five-star hotel. Peter and Elizabeth Fenwick and I conducted a reconnaissance in May, and we all left from outside Victoria Station in a coach. The weekend coincided with Bastille Day fireworks, and we visited Vézelay on the way back. The photos in this section invoke the spirit of these meetings, including the entertainment.

- 1989 Frontier Issues in Science, Medicine and Spirituality**
First Annual Gathering at Dartington Hall, Devon
- 1990 Presuppositions and Values in Modern Science**
King Alfred's College, Winchester
- 1991 The Growth of Knowledge in Science and Spirituality**
Gaunts House, Dorset
- 1992 Upheaval in Social and Spiritual Structures**
Hawkwood College, Stroud
- 1993 Science and the Perennial Wisdom**
La Bussière Abbey, France
- 1994 Models of the Human Being**
Stowe, Buckinghamshire
- 1995 The Role of Fields in Science and Medicine**
Gaunts House, Dorset
- 1996 Building Bridges between Orthodox & Alternative Views**
De Voorde, Holland
- 1997 Putting the Heart into Science and Medicine**
St. Aidan's College, Durham. Speakers included Dr Mary Midgley

- 1998 Empowering Transformation in Science, Medicine and Education**
Warwick University
- 1999 Inner Growth and Outer Action**
St Andrews, Scotland
- 2000 Head and Heart in Science, Medicine and Education**
Gaunts House, Dorset
- 2001 The Nature of Time**
Crêt-Bérard, Switzerland

More recent AG themes have included 40 Years of Widening Horizons (2013, *Round Tables on Transforming Science, Medicine and Psychology*), *Envisioning and Embodying a New World* (2014 with Scilla Elworthy and Anne Baring), *The 21st Century – A New Era of Complexity* (2015 with Prof Pier Luigi Luisi and Dr Vasileios Basios), *Human Evolution in a Time of Global Crisis* (2016 with Dr Mick Collins and Dr Chris Thomson), *Widening the Evidence Base in Science and Spirituality* (2017

with John Hands), *Evolving towards a Wise and Flourishing Future* (2018 with Prof Tom Lombardo), *Shaping the Future of Consciousness Studies* (2019 with Dr Vasileios Basios, Dr Larry Dossey and Prof Max Velmans), *Gaia, Psyche and Deep Ecology – the Evolutionary Imperative of Metanoia* (2020 with Dr Andrew Fellows), and *Facing Adversity: Choosing Earth, Choosing Life* (2021 with Duane Elgin).



Top left to bottom right: Dr Andrew Powell at the piano; David Lorimer and Julian Candy;
David Lorimer and Dr Peter Fenwick; Max Payne and Diana Clift



Top left to bottom right: Dr Amit Biswas, Mara van der Lugt, Mariellen Romer, Doris Jones; Prof John Clarke with Dr Claudia Nielsen; at the bar; David Lorimer with Prof Chris Clarke (foreground); Dr Peter Fenwick, Dr Chris Lyons, Max Payne; Max Payne and Hertha Larive; Rupert Sheldrake; Dr Paul Filmore and Leo Hobbs



Top left to bottom right: Diana Clift and David Peat in Pari; Annual Gathering 1996; Kevin Ashbridge; Diana Clift; Prof Arthur Ellison; Prof Brian Goodwin; Peter and Elizabeth Fenwick

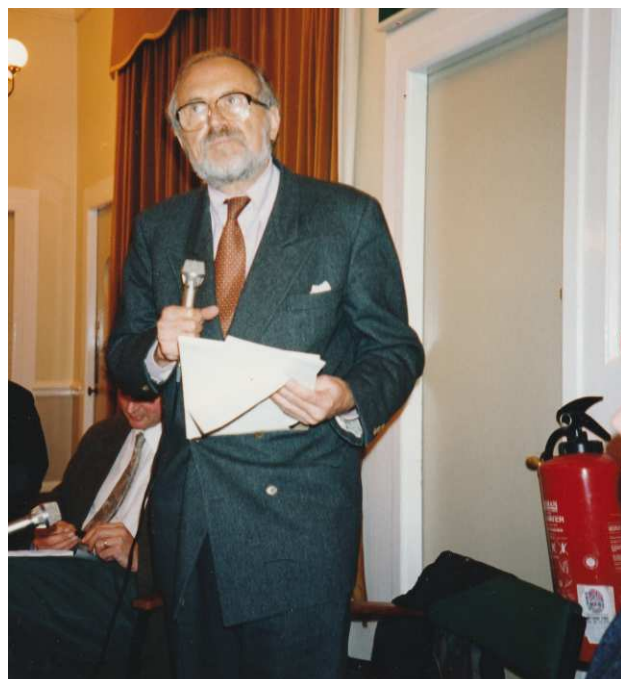
The May Lectures

For many years, the May Lectures were the Network's flagship event, first arranged in 1974 by a group that included Member Sir John Whitmore Bt. The Network was asked to take them over in 1977 and, as mentioned elsewhere, the 1978 event was *Mystics and Scientists*. There is a gap between 1980 and 1986, and the series mutated into the May Dialogue in 1990 to reflect the need for constructive Exchange rather than simply

lectures from the podium – the sage on the stage. I have also included for interest the Gaia Lecture Series I arranged as far back as 1990, having attended a conference arranged by Teddy Goldsmith in Devon in the autumn of 1989 – on the way, incidentally, I heard the news of the fall of the Bulgarian communist government.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| May
1977 | <i>Network May Lectures</i>
Science, Mind and the Spirit of Man
<i>Speakers:</i> Dr E.F. Schumacher, James Robertson, Prof Derek Bryce-Smith and Dr Peter Leggett |
| April
1978 | <i>May Lectures</i>
Mystics and Scientists,
jointly with Wrekin Trust, Winchester.
<i>Speakers:</i> Dr Fritjof Capra, Prof Arthur Ellison, Dr Brian Inglis, John Davy, Prof Derek Bryce-Smith |
| May
1979 | <i>May Lectures</i>
Spiritual Impulses Leading to Change,
London.
<i>Speakers:</i> Ronald Higgins. Prof Christopher Magarey, Canon Peter Spink |
| May
1980 | <i>May Lectures</i>
Bridges Across the Abyss – Visions in Science and Medicine |
| May
1986 | <i>May Lectures</i>
Intuition and the Energy of Money
<i>Speakers:</i> Lionel Fifield and David Lorimer |
| May
1987 | <i>May Lectures</i>
Emerging Models and Values in Western Science
<i>Speakers:</i> Prof Arthur Ellison, Dr Christopher Thomson |
| May
1988 | <i>May Lectures</i>
From Mechanism to Organism: Reanimating the World
<i>Speakers:</i> Dr Mae-Wan Ho, Dr Patrick Pietroni, Dr Rupert Sheldrake |

- May
1989 *May Lectures*
The Ecological Crisis as an Evolutionary and Spiritual Challenge
Speakers: Prof Henryk Skolimowski, Monica Bryant, Peter Russell
- Spring
1990 *Gaia Lecture Series:*
Gaia, Tropical Forests and World Climate, by Peter Bunyard
Gaia and Evolution, by Prof Brian Goodwin and Dr Mae-Wan Ho
Gaia and the Rebirth of Nature, by Dr Rupert Sheldrake
Gaia and the Oceans, by Dr Michael Whitfield
Gaia, Human Values and Sustainable Development, by James Robertson
- May
1990 *May Dialogue*
Evolutionary Crossroads
Speakers: Dr, Richard Dawkins, Prof Brian Goodwin, Prof Tim Ingold, Dr Robert Foley
- May
1991 *May Dialogue*
Science, Consciousness and the Human Spirit
Speakers: Prof Chris Clarke, Dr Richard Dixey
- May
1992 *May Dialogue*
Science, Religion and the Ecological World-View
Speakers: Dr Rupert Sheldrake, Edward Goldsmith
- May
1993 *May Dialogue*
Mind, Behaviour and the Law
Speakers: Prof Alexander McCall Smith, Dr Peter Fenwick, Prof Bill Fulford
- May
1994 *May Dialogue*
Rediscovering the Soul
Speakers: Prof Keith Ward., Dr Mary Midgley
- May
1995 *May Dialogue*
Time, Chaos and Creativity
Speakers: Prof Ilya Prigogine, Prof Brian Goodwin, Rev. Prof John Polkinghorne FRS
- May
1996 *May Dialogue*
The Participatory Mind
Speakers: Prof Henryk Skolimowski, Dr David Peat, Dr Jean Hardy, Jules Cashford
- May
1997 *May Dialogue*
Science, Heresy and the Challenge of Revolutionary Ideas
Speakers: Prof Chris Clarke, Prof Brian Goodwin, Prof Arthur Ellison, Dr Peter Mansfield
- May
1998 *May Dialogue*
Healing or Curing? Is there a clash of world-views underlying alternative and bio-molecular medicine?
Speakers: Dr Stephen Fulder, Dr Kim Jobst, Dr Susanna Graham-Jones



***Top left to bottom right:** Prof Brian Goodwin; Teddy Goldsmith; Rupert Sheldrake; Prof Henryk Skolimowski with Dr Jean Hardy and Jules Cashford; Prof Brian Goodwin, Prof Ilya Prigogine, Rev Prof John Polkinghorne*

Mystics and Scientists

Mystics and Scientists conferences have been running annually since 1978. Until 2012 they almost all took place at the University of Winchester and after that at University of Warwick and more recently at Horsley Park and online. They are open to all and consist of talks and discussions carried out in an atmosphere of community, dialogue and mutual respect. The original conference was billed as the 1978 May Lectures and founded by Malcolm Lazarus and Sir George Trevelyan

of Wrekin Trust, who had been inspired by Fritjof Capra's *The Tao of Physics* – over 550 people attended the inaugural meeting, which was co-hosted with the Network. Malcolm Lazarus and Wrekin Trust continued the series, and since the early 1990s, the conferences have been created and directed by David Lorimer, with SMN Emeritus President Dr. Peter Fenwick as Co-chair. Topics and speakers from the Mystics and Scientists conferences are listed below:

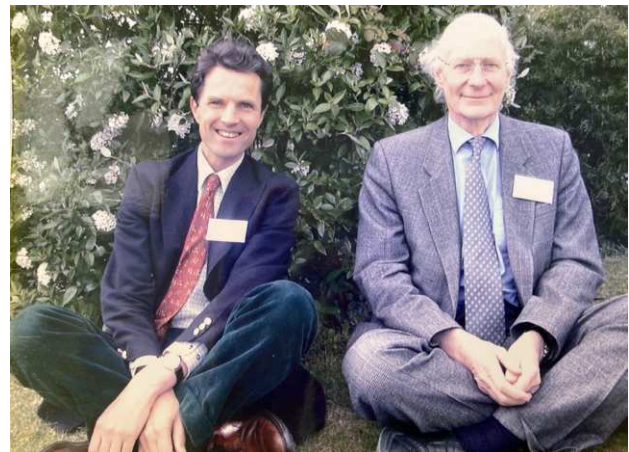
- 2023 The Healing Power of Light and Sound**
Speakers: Peter Mark Adams, Phyllida Anam Aire, Githa Ben-David, Prof Elvira Brattico, Chloë Goodchild, David Lorimer, Anna Maria Matziorinis, Lars Muhl, John Stuart Reid, Dr Glen Rein, Therese Schroeder-Sheker
- 2022 Music, Order and Beauty**
Speakers: Dr Kayleen Asbo, Dr Edi Bilimoria, Tim Bree, Prof John Butt, FBA, Painton Cowen, Prof Joscelyn Godwin, Nicola Graves-Gregory, David Lorimer
- 2020/
2021 Re-enchanting the World – Consciously Connecting with the Deep Wisdom of Nature**
Speakers: Anna Breytenbach, Prof Paco Calvo, Fred Hageneder, Heidi Herrmann, Pea Horsley, David Lorimer, Shakti Caterina Maggi, Judith Prager, Dr Rupert Sheldrake
- 2019 Technology, Spirituality and Well-Being**
Speakers: Jules Evans, Prof Jennifer Gidley (Australia), Charlotte Lorimer, Dr Ben Marder, Dr Jeffery Martin, Heather Mason, Dr Iain McGilchrist, Jose Montemayor, Dr Julia Mossbridge, Katherine Ormerod, Georgia Parkin, Dr Alexander Stell
- 2018 Eastern and Western Perspectives on Science and Spirit**
Speakers: Dr Bhakti Vijnana Muni, Dr Bhakti Niskama Shanta, Prof Ursula King, David Lorimer, Prof Keith Ward, FBA, Dr Joan Walton, Prof Max Velmans

- 2017 **The Continuing Search for Unity and Integration**
Speakers: Dr Fritjof Capra, Dr Jude Currivan, Prof Ravi Ravindra, Malcolm Lazarus, Charlotte Lorimer, David Lorimer, Prof Marilyn Monk. Dr Merlin Sheldrake
- 2016 **Non-locality and the Oneness of Mind. How we are more connected to each other than we realise (and why it matters)**
Speakers: Dr Helen Ford, Dr Larry Dossey, David Lorimer, Prof Tom McLeish FRS, Marja de Vries
- 2015 **Harmony: Cosmos, Nature and Self**
Speakers: Dr Lucy King, Satish Kumar, Dr Chika Robertson, Ian Skelly, Prof Paul Robertson, Dr Jean-Philippe Uzan, Prof Charles Jencks, David Lorimer
- 2014 **Consciousness and the Experience of Time**
Speakers: Prof Bernard Carr, Dr James d'Angelo, Narian Ishaya, Dr Barbara Magnani, Prof Jacob Needleman (via Skype), David Lorimer
- 2013 **The Nature of Inspiration in Art, Science and Spirituality**
Speakers: Rt Revd. Lord Richard Harries, Shakti Maira, Ruth Padel, Prof Paul Robertson, Prof Robert Turner, David Lorimer
- 2012 **The Mystery of Consciousness and Western Meditation Traditions**
Speakers: Fr. Laurence Freeman, Prof Robert Frager, Rabbi Nilton Bonder, Dr Anne Runehov, Prof Raymond Tallis, David Lorimer
- 2011 **The Nature of Dreams: On the Threshold of Other Realities**
Speakers: Prof Mark Blagrove, Paul Devereux, Dr Larry Dossey, Prof Charles Laughlin, Dr Morton Schatzmann, Dr Ann Yeoman, David Lorimer
- 2010 **Order out of Chaos: Possibilities for Transformation?**
Speakers: Prof Stuart Kauffman, Prof Basil Hiley, Brother David Steindl-Rast, Prof Wolfgang Michalski, Barnaby Brown, Prof Simon Conway-Morris FRS, Dr Marie Angelo, David Lorimer
- 2009 **The Science of Happiness and the Experience of Bliss**
Speakers: Rev. Dr Matthew Fox, Lord Richard Layard FBA, Shakti Maira, Dr Peter Malinowski, Dr Carol Craig, David Lorimer
- 2008 **Rhythms and Cycles in Biological and Spiritual Life**
Speakers: Jennifer Cole, Prof Keith Critchlow, Prof Brian Goodwin, Dr Michael Hastings, Sr. Eva Heymann, Alexander Lauterwasser, David Lorimer
- 2007 **Spirit and Cosmos: an Undivided Whole**
Speakers: Prof Christopher Alexander, Dr Margaret Colquhoun, Dr James d'Angelo, Alain Forget, Prof Keith Ward FBA, Dr Lawrence LeShan, Prof Eric Priest FRS, David Lorimer
- 2006 **The Spirit of Mountains: Inner and Outer Explorations**
Speakers: Julie-Ann Clyma, David Lorimer, Jim Perrin, Geshe Jampel Senge, Father Silouan, Paul Devereux
- 2005 **Healing the Split: An Alchemy of Transformation**
Speakers: Ven Sogyal Rinpoche, Anne Baring, Dr Julian Candy, Prof Chris Clarke, Dr Stephen Karcher, Dr Elisabet Sahtouris, David Lorimer
- 2004 **Time and the Timeless**
Speakers: Beata Bishop, Andrew Cohen, Dr Larry Culliford, Murry Hope, Dr David Peat, Wolfgang Schad, Dr Helen Sills, David Lorimer

- 2003 **The Nature of Space, Inner and Outer**
Speakers: Prof Chris Bache, Prof Bernard Carr, Prof Keith Critchlow, Paul Wertheim, David Lorimer
- 2002 **The Search for Unity (Silver Jubilee Conference)**
Speakers: Malcolm Lazarus, Prof Ravi Ravindra, Prof Brian Goodwin, Douglas and Catherine Harding, Dr Edi Bilimoria, Prof Marilyn Monk, Anne Baring, Caroline McCausland, Mary Sheepshanks, Prof Sean Spence, David Lorimer
- 2001 **Trees of Life: Humanity and the Harmony of Nature**
Speakers: Professor Huston Smith, Andrew Mitchell, Patrice Bouchardon, Dr Apela Colorado, Fred Hageneder, Jorg Schauburger, Dr Richard Betts, David Lorimer
- 2000 **Vision: A New Millennium Demands a New Vision**
Speakers: Dr Leonard Shlain, Prof Richard Gregory FRS, Dr Marie Angelo, Clive Hicks, Jay Ramsay, Fred Hageneder, Dr Peter Fenwick, Thetis Blacker, David Lorimer
- 1999 **The Science and Symbolism of the Sun**
Speakers: Peter Bunyard, Prof Bernard Carr, Hazel Henderson, John Moriarty, Prof Ravi Ravindra, Jane Ridder Patrick, David Lorimer
- 1998 **The Breath of Life**
Speakers: Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz, James Gregory, Peter Glover, Dr Philip Kilner, Dr Joy Manne, Jill Purce, David Lorimer
- 1997 **The Spirit of Science and the Science of the Spirit – 20th Anniversary Conference**
Speakers: Prof Derek Bryce-Smith, Dr John Crook, Prof Kurt Dressler, Prof Arthur Ellison, Dr Peter Fenwick, Warren Kenton, Prof Ursula King, Malcolm Lazarus, Dr Rupert Sheldrake, Danah Zohar, David Lorimer
- 1996 **The Nature of Energy: Science and the Subtle**
Speakers: Dr Joan Borysenko, Paul Devereux, Prof Chris Clarke, Peter Harper, Mary Ison, Fr William Johnston, Prof Ervin Laszlo, Dr Hermann Scheer, Gillian Wright, David Lorimer
- 1995 **The Water of Life**
Speakers: Prof Vithold Bakhir, Dr Jacques Benveniste, Beata Bishop, Alan Hall, Dr Michel Odent, Dr Rowena Pattee Kryder, John Wilkes, David Lorimer
- 1994 **Birth and Rebirth**
Speakers: Viscountess Bronwen Astor, Peter and Bojanka Ganev, Pearl Goodwin, Dr Michel Odent, Prof Ravi Ravindra, Sir George Trevelyan, Dr Roger Woolger, David Lorimer
- 1993 **The Life of the Heart**
Speakers: Anne Baring, Dr Larry Dossey, Dr Helen Ford, Fr. Matthew Fox, Dr Philip Kilner, Satish Kumar, Catherine Thom, Sir George Trevelyan, David Lorimer
- 1992 **The Nature of Light**
Speakers: William Anderson and Clive Hicks, Prof John Barrow FRS, Thetis Blacker, Fr. Bede Griffiths, Nicholas Hagger, BK Jayanti, Jacob Liberman, Sir George Trevelyan, David Lorimer
- 1991 **Cosmos, Chaos and Transformation**
Speakers: Thetis Blacker, Prof Edgar Gunzig, Murry Hope, Dr Peter Mansfield, Caitlin Matthews, Peter Russell, Sir George Trevelyan

- 1990 **The Nature of the Self: Psyche, Brain and Consciousness**
Speakers: Ven Ajahn Anando, Dr Peter Fenwick, Mavis Klein, Hertha Larive, Sir George Trevelyan, Lady Diana Whitmore, Dr Roger Woolger
- 1989 **Gaia, Evolution and Consciousness**
Speakers: Prof Keith Critchlow, Dewasanta, Prof Brian Goodwin, Dr Mae-Wan Ho, Prof James Lovelock FRS, Bishop Hugh Montefiore, Sir George Trevelyan
- 1988 **Creation, Evolution and Consciousness**
Speakers: Viscountess Bronwen Astor, Prof Paul Davies, Prof Brian Goodwin, Ven Lama Chime Rinpoche, Dr Rupert Sheldrake, Sir George Trevelyan, Dr Lyall Watson
- 1987 **Theories of Unification – The Search for Wholeness**
Speakers: Prof Paul Davies, Dom Laurence Freeman, Sir Fred Hoyle FRS, Prof Robert Morris, Dr Kathleen Raine CBE, Sir George Trevelyan
- 1986 **Matter and Sound, Music and Consciousness**
Speakers: Prof Ralph Abrahams, Dr R.A. Henson, Prof Arnold Keyserling, Jill Purce, Sir George Trevelyan, Dr Gillian Weir
- 1985 **Music, Mathematics and Consciousness**
Speakers: Dr Keith Critchlow, Prof Joscelyn Godwin, Prof Jonathan Harvey, Pir Vilayat Khan, Prof Glen Schaefer, Sir George Trevelyan
- 1984 **Brain, Body and Consciousness**
Speakers: Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh, Viscountess Bronwen Astor, Dr Peter Fenwick, Prof Arnold Keyserling, Dr Morton Schatzman, Sir George Trevelyan, Irina Tweedie
- 1983 **Reality, Consciousness and Order**
Speakers: Prof David Bohm FRS, Monica Furlong, Prof Arnold Keyserling, Ven. Sangharakshita, Dr Rupert Sheldrake, Sir George Trevelyan
- 1982 **The Evolution of Consciousness**
Speakers: Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh, Sir John Eccles FRS, Prof Brian Goodwin, Oscar Ischazo, Prof Glen Schaefer, Sir George Trevelyan
- 1981 **Frontiers of Consciousness**
Speakers: Warren Kenton, Prof Karl Pribram, Ven Sumedho, Prof Glen Schaefer, Prof Charles Tart, Sir George Trevelyan
- 1980 **The Science of Consciousness**
Speakers: Claude Curling, Dr Peter Fenwick, Dr Alice Green, Dr Elmer Green, Pir Vilayat Khan, Frederic Lionel, Sir George Trevelyan
- 1979 **The Medium, the Mystic and the Physicist**
Speakers: Dr Lawrence LeShan, Prof Ravi Ravindra, Prof John Hasted, Gururaj Ananda Yogi, Ven. Sogyal Rinpoche, Sir George Trevelyan
- 1978 **Mystics and Scientists – The May Lectures**
Speakers: Dr Fritjof Capra, John Davy, Prof Arthur Ellison, Prof Derek Bryce-Smith, Pir Vilayat Khan, Sir George Trevelyan, Dr Lyall Watson

Opposite page, top left to bottom right: Matthew Fox, Olly Robinson, Bronwen Astor, Tuvi Orbach; Peter Fenwick; Paul Kieniewicz making a point; Prof Ravi Ravindra and Henri Bortoft; conference group; Dr Peter Fenwick with David Lorimer; speakers' group shot, 1997; Prof Ravi Ravindra and David Lorimer, 1999; Sir George Trevelyan with David Lorimer; Dr Peter Fenwick



Beyond the Brain

[HTTPS://BEYONDTHEBRAIN.ORG](https://beyondthebrain.org)

The Beyond the Brain conferences, named in honour of the book of the same name by Stanislov Grof, were conceived at the Institute of Noetic Sciences conferences in Chicago in 1994 by IONS President Prof Willis Harman and Director of the Network David Lorimer. The inaugural joint conference was held at St John's College, Cambridge in 1995. Other partners have in-

cluded Alef Trust, The Division of Perceptual Studies at the University of Virginia and the Spirituality and Psychiatry Special Interest Group of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. The series has become the premier forum for exploring frontier evidence for consciousness beyond the brain. Topics and speakers at this conference series are listed below:

2023

Further Reaches of Consciousness Research - Online

Speakers: Prof Bill Bengston, Dr Jessica Bockler, Dr Dorothea Fuckert, Prof Les Lancaster, David Lorimer, Grainne McAnallen, Dr Iain McGilchrist, Dr Pascal Michael, Prof Paul Mills, Dr Masayuki Okhado, Dr Michael Nahm, Dr Oliver Robinson, Evan Premo, Dr Dean Radin, Dr Oliver Robinson, Dr Rupert Sheldrake, Dr Mona Sobhani, Prof Jim Tucker, Prof Marjorie Woollacott

2022

Further Reaches of Consciousness Research - Online

Speakers: Dr Eben Alexander III, Dr Jessica Bockler, Dr Peter Fenwick, Dr Siegmund Gerken, Mitch Horowitz, Dr Yvonne Kason, Prof Jeffrey Kripal, Prof Les Lancaster, David Lorimer, Dr Jeffrey Mishlove, Judith Quinn, Dr Steve Taylor, Dr Natasha Tassell-Matamua, Dr Oliver Robinson, Dr. Helané Wahbeh

2021

Further Reaches of Consciousness Research - Online

Speakers: Prof Etzel Cardeña, Dr Natalie Dyer, Dr Peter Fenwick, Prof Bruce Greyson, Graham Hancock, Dr Diane Hennacy Powell, David Lorimer, Dr David Luke, Bruce Parry, Dr Athena Potari, Dr Oliver Robinson, Dr Penny Sartori, Prof Marilyn Schlitz, Dr Rupert Sheldrake, Prof Jessica Utts, Prof Caroline Watt

2020

Further Reaches of Consciousness Research - Online

Speakers: Prof Harald Atmanspacher, Dr Peter Fenwick, Tim Freke, Prof Janice Miner Holden, Prof Ed Kelly, David Lorimer, Prof Kim Penberthy, Dr Noelle St. Germain-Sehr, Amanda St. Germain-Sehr, Dr Iain McGilchrist, Dr Oliver Robinson, Dr Tamara Russell, Analaura Trivellato

2019

Further Reaches of Consciousness Research

Location: University of Westminster

Speakers: Prof Stephen Braude, Evelyn Elsaesser, Amanda Feilding, Fabio Garces, Prof Betty Kovacs, Dr David Luke, Seth Newman, Prof Chris Roe, Dr Rupert Sheldrake, Dr Steve Taylor, Ken Wilber, Prof Marjorie Woollacott

- 2018 Further Reaches of Consciousness Research**
Location: Excel Centre
Speakers: Dr Eben Alexander, Dr Jessica Bockler, Dr Peter Fenwick, Prof Les Lancaster, David Lorimer, Dr David Luke, Lynne McTaggart, Dr Raymond Moody, Charlie Morley, Karen Newell, Dr Rosalind Pearmain, Dr Pim van Lommel
- 2017 Further Reaches of Consciousness Research**
Location: Regent's University
Speakers: Dr Diane Corcoran, Prof Stuart Hameroff, David Lorimer, Dr Dean Radin, Prof Chris Roe, Dr Penny Sartori, Dr Rupert Sheldrake, Dr Cassandra Vieten
- 2015 Free Spirits or Determined Machines?**
Location: Latimer Place, Chesham
Speakers: Dr Alison Armstrong, Dr Ulisse di Corpo and Dr Antonella Vannini, Prof Alfred Mele, Prof Marilyn Monk, Dr Nura Sidarus, Prof Richard Silberstein
- 2013 Shifting Consciousness: Brain, Mind and Self in the 21st Century**
Location: Latimer Place, Chesham
Speakers: Dr Mario Beauregard, Dr Marilyn Schlitz, Rev. Peter Owen-Jones, Dr Dean Radin, Dr Andrew Powell, Dr Kate Anthony
- 2011 The Science of Empathy and the Spirit of Compassion**
Location: University of Winchester
Speakers: Karen Armstrong, Dr Iain McGilchrist, Geshe Tashi Tsering, Prof Paul Gilbert, Dr Valeria Gazzola
- 2009 Self and Death – What Survives?**
Location: Kent University
Speakers: Prof Bruce Greyson, Dr Peter Fenwick, Dr Andrew Powell, Prof Betty Kovacs, Prof Paul Robertson, Dr Anabela Cardoso, Prof David Fontana
- 2007 A Still Point in the Turning World: Contemplation in Action**
Location: Bath Spa University
Speakers: Dr Carol Lee Flinders, Camille Helminski, Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia, Prof Les Lancaster, Dr Andy Newberg, Prof Paul Robertson, Sir John Tavener
- 2005 Memory Beyond the Brain**
Location: University of Lincoln
Speakers: Dr Rupert Sheldrake, Prof John Gruzelier, Dr Iain McGilchrist, Prof Gary Schwartz, Roz Carroll, Dr Pim van Lommel
- 2003 Healing, Prayer and Forgiveness: Frontiers in Consciousness, Research and Applied Spirituality**
Location: King's School, Canterbury
Speakers: Alexandra Asseilly, Suzanne Crater, Dr Peter Fenwick, Prof David Fontana, Dr Mitchell W. Krucoff, Dr Jeff Levin, Dr Andrew Powell, Dr Janet Quinn, Canon Beaumont Stevenson, Dr Bart van der Lugt
- 2001 Scientific and Spiritual Perspectives on Meditation**
Location: Ripon College, Yorkshire
Speakers: Z'ev ben Shimon Halevi (Warren Kenton), Dr Ram-Prasad Chakravarthi, Dr Peter Fenwick, Prof James Austin, Dr Andrew Powell, Prof Arthur Zajonc, Sr Jayanti, Prof Guy Claxton, Dr Bisong Guo, Prof David Fontana, Jonathan Shear, Dr Alan Wallace, Elizabeth West.

1999

Does Individual Identity Extend Beyond Birth and Death?

Location: St John's College, Cambridge

Speakers: Dr Marilyn Schlitz, Prof Erlendur Haraldsson, Diane O'Connell with Prof David Fontana and Dr Andrew Powell, Prof Ravi Ravindra, Geshe Ngawang, Prof Charles Tart, Dr Michael Grosso, Prof Mark Woodhouse, Dr Christine Page

1997

Frontiers in Consciousness and Healing

Location: St John's College, Cambridge

Speakers: Anne Baring, Barbara Brennan, Dr Peter Fenwick, Prof David Fontana, Thomas J. Hurley, Dr Kim Jobst, Prof Ervin Laszlo, Dr Jean-Marc Mantel, Dr Andrew Powell, Prof Kenneth Ring, Prof Anthony Stevens, Dr Roger Woolger, Gillian Wright

1995

New Avenues in Consciousness Research

Location: St John's College, Cambridge

Speakers: Anne Baring, Dr John Beloff, Dr Susan Blackmore, Prof Chris Clarke, Prof Guy Claxton, Dr Peter Fenwick, Prof David Fontana, Dr Stanislav Grof, Dr Stuart Hameroff, Prof Willis Harman, Prof Brian Josephson, Prof Ervin Laszlo, Dr Edgar Mitchell, Dr Marilyn Schlitz, Prof Charles Tart, Dr Max Velmans



Top left to bottom right: *Beyond the Brain*, Cambridge, 1995; *Memory Beyond the Brain*, University of Lincoln 2005: Dr Pim van Lommel, Prof Gary Schwartz, Dr Peter Fenwick, Roz Carroll, David Lorimer, Dr Andrew Powell, Prof John Gruzeliar, Dr Iain McGilchrist; Dr Bisong Guo, Dr Andrew Powell, Robin Baring in Cambridge; Dr Pim van Lommel and Dr Eben Alexander III, *Beyond the Brain* 2017

The New Paradigm Navigators

Louise Livingstone, PhD

I have been working with the Scientific and Medical Network (SMN) for the past two years, developing a project to grow young person engagement in the Network (I have a background in Careers Consultancy and student engagement at a UK red-brick university). The Young Person community is now known as the New Paradigm Navigators (NPNs), which is a subdivision of the SMN. This community comprises students, postgraduates and early career professionals.

When I first came into the Network, there was already a postgraduate discussion/social networking space online where people could come together and share information and research. Since January 2022, I have been working on expanding our offering to this community to encourage more engagement. For example, we now have a monthly themed coffee and chat taking place on the third Friday of the month. Each month we host a short talk from a member of our community; usually introducing their research area. Past themes have included *ecofeminism*, *transpersonal psychology* and *yoga*, *breakthrough thinking*, and *finding your purpose*. Members of this community come along with a cup of tea or coffee to have an informal conversation related to the theme of the month. We are also developing a range of educational webinars and have already run a very popular webinar exploring finding, applying for, and funding a PhD.

As well as this, we offer two years free affiliation to the SMN for students and postgraduates so that they can access all the wonderful benefits within the SMN during their studies - including the webinar library, book reviews, networking opportunities and much more.

Our biggest project so far has been the development of an online Students of Spiritual Science Symposium, which took place over the weekend of Satur-



Louise Livingstone

day 22nd and Sunday 23rd July 2023. This project began in the summer of 2022 when I collaborated with SMN Board member, Dr Joan Walton, to discuss how we could meet young people where they are and support them to explore issues that are affecting them. The methodology that underpinned this was participatory and collaborative enquiry, and we sent out a call to the younger members of the SMN community to attend a webinar called *Living in Uncertain Times: Exploring Possibilities For Young People to Take Positive Action In The World*.

This enquiry created a safe space for deep sharing and deep listening where students and young people were able to come together to explore practical ways

to respond constructively to issues that are affecting them on an individual, societal and global level. Each month since last June, a core group of around ten younger people have been meeting in a spirit of open and heart-centred enquiry, developing ideas for individual and collaborative projects. Through this enquiry, the young people agreed upon a new community name—*The New Paradigm Navigators*. They also wanted to develop a symposium with an aim to expand their community and build bridges between different ways of knowing and experiencing the world through sacred ritual, conversation spaces, presentations, creative offerings, and workshops. The Symposium was a resounding success, with undergraduates, postgraduates and researchers from all across the world bringing their own unique vision to the Symposium; sharing ways that they are exploring new paradigms to engage with the uncertain times we live in. The core NPN team are now editing the recordings from the event, and they should be ready for viewing soon on the NPN Youtube channel (see links below).

As well as this project, the NPNs are running a monthly salon; hosted by one of the NPNs on a rotating basis, providing a safe space for live discussions about living in uncertain times. This gathering takes place online via Zoom every third Wednesday of the month. Previous conversations have been based around the theme of beauty and eros, as well as a Summer Solstice online celebration.

Finally, the SMN is offering funding for the NPN community for individual projects up to the amount of £1,000. Several members of our community have already succeeded in gaining funding:

- Remo Eerma – developing a transpersonal psychology podcast and Tik Tok channel.
- Rainbow Goddess – running a project titled ‘The Village’; focussing on maternal wellbeing.
- Alice Letts – producing an e-poster and presentation for the Symposium exploring the Tibetan Wheel of Life through archetypal psychology.

Plans for future development include:

- Journal (after the Symposium)
- Expanding our educational offerings
- Mentorship programme
- Expanding the NPN website
- Supporting further individual projects
- Book club

This is such a wonderful project to be working on, and I am incredibly proud of the wonderful, passionate, dedicated, committed young people that are working hard to bring about dynamic and heart-centred solutions to the uncertain times we live in.

I would also like to say a big thank you to all our wonderful members for making this project possible. Through your membership and generous donations, you are supporting this project to grow into the future.

Useful links

www.newparadigmnavigators.community

<https://www.youtube.com/@newparadigmnavigators>

If would like to reach out to me personally, please contact me by writing to louise@scimednet.org



Frenchman's Cove over the Years

Diana Clift

The Weston family acquired this 45-acre plot near Port Antonio on the North coast of Jamaica in the 1950s and developed it into one of the most exclusive resorts in the world, frequented by the likes of Ian Fleming, Noel Coward, Errol Flynn, the British Royal Family, and even the Beatles. They loved the luxurious villas dotted about the cliff tops and lush wild tropical gardens, with a languid river flowing into a perfect beach.

But fashion is fickle. Jamaica went out of favour, the glitterati moved on and the buildings fell into disrepair. When Grainger Weston inherited the estate he had a new vision. He wanted it used for small conferences of leading thinkers in such areas as Science, Politics and Spirituality. When he met David Lorimer at Beyond the Brain in Cambridge in 1995 and heard about the SMN, he felt it was a match made in heaven. He invited David and his family over to Jamaica to see the estate and David organised a small event there in 1998. Grainger subsidised the accommodation and provided some funding to the Network for the conference programme.

The following year David, with the help of Louise Innes, organised a much larger event, with speaker Dean Radin, on the topic of *The Conscious Universe*. That was my first experience of Frenchman's Cove and I was hooked. To me this was the perfect experience: a combination of fascinating talks from an expert, workshops and discussions, tropical holiday, outings, music and parties with an international and diverse group of people, and all in the most stunningly beautiful surroundings. It was Paradise... But, the villas which had been state of the art in 1960 were in poor repair, electrics and plumbing were unreliable, roads were terrible, and nothing quite went according to plan!

Nevertheless, the following year we had another successful conference with James Austin, the author of *Zen and the Brain*. However, in November that year a second conference was organised with speaker Guy Claxton chaired by Janine Edge. This ended in near disaster. A serious security breach enabled a drug crazed man armed with a machete to subject two of the participants to a terrifying ordeal. They escaped eventually, physically unharmed, but it was an appalling trauma and an unforgivable security breach, showing just how badly equipped the villas were, with no phones or alarms. It was a massive wake-up call for the Network too. It was still an educational charity in those days and wide open to being sued. This event forced the SMN to change to a charitable company limited by guarantee, with a Board of Directors replacing the old Council. Understandably the new Board wanted nothing to do with Frenchman's Cove. But we had another event booked just two months on and this went ahead. Ravi Ravindra was our speaker and I chaired it. Security had been transformed and all went smoothly.

Those of us, like David, Louise Innes and I who were smitten with Frenchman's Cove, were reluctant to give up on it and when I was personally approached by Grainger Weston in 2008 and asked to re-start the conference programme, I agreed. How hard could it be?!

It was clear that this must be independent of the Network, but we applied for funding from the Weston Foundation which had to be channelled through a charity. The SMN refused even that, but the Wrekin Trust obliged and in 2009 David Fontana, Peter Fenwick and David Lorimer presented *Death and Beyond*, a small conference, but one which reminded us of FC

magic. Martin Redfern attended and persuaded our next speaker, the cosmologist and science writer, Paul Davies, to lead an exciting week on *Life, the Universe and Everything!* in 2011. With that the money ran out and all subsequent events ran on a shoestring, but if anything they got better and better... in large measure because of improvements at FC. We got wifi in some areas, and a proper café at the beach. We started each day with Yoga, Tai Chi or Paneurhythmy on the cliff tops, and finished with singing and dancing at my villa. David led the event in 2012, then Elleke van Kraalingen with David in 2013, Serge Beddington-Behrens in 2014, Alison Armstrong and myself in 2015, Iain McGilchrist in 2016, Bernard Carr in 2017, Jude Currivan in 2018 and Oliver Robinson in 2019. I'm indebted to my dear friend Patsy Carter who attended nearly all of these and helped with organisation in countless ways.

Elleke van Kraalingen had attended the 1999 conference with her partner Hermod Sverre. They had gone on afterwards to Negril beach and on their last day Hermod was knocked down by a car and killed in front of Elleke. Throughout this terrible trauma Elleke was aware of Hermod's continued presence and wrote a book about her experiences entitled *Love Beyond Death*. Ten years on Elleke was keen to return and later led one of our events together with David. By this time Elleke and her new husband, Peter, had bought a place in southern France to run as a retreat and yoga centre. In 2014 David, Martin and I were invited to attend a retreat there, modelled on FC events. It was on that occasion that David met his future wife Marianne and moved to France..... All because of the FC connection!

Those twenty years of events at FC have left a huge impression on me too... many interesting connections and wonderful memories.

Our expert driver, Andrew Wright, would meet us at Kingston airport with hugs and Red Stripe (Jamaica's famous beer which only tastes good in Jamaica) and then the gruelling three and a half hour drive over the mountains on terrible roads at night.... Each time I thought 'is this worth it?' then I'd wake up in Villa 2 next morning look at the view and have no doubt.

The vegetation was not only exuberant but active. Leaves the size of umbrellas make alarming noises when they blow onto the roof at night! And the ancient trees were complete ecosystems, covered in creeper, insects, woodpeckers, butterflies the size of birds, frogs and lizards. And everything was noisy! The sound of the sea was a constant backdrop and sometimes spray would be flung right over the 50ft cliffs and thunder on the roof. On the road to Port Antonio, Reggae blared out from every café and we would always get a chance to dance at Woody's, our 'local', sometimes with live bands and often with Papa Woody singing.

We ended each conference with a self generated entertainment. Anyone who wanted could contribute a song, a poem, a joke or a sketch. And it would always include a home-made calypso based on the events of the week. I miss those warm tropical nights...

I am often asked if I would revive the FC conferences. Covid demonstrated that purely academic events work well on Zoom. But there is no substitute for gatherings in interesting and beautiful places... and definitely no substitute for informal conversation, singing, dancing and fun. Let alone fire flies and baby turtles... So who knows...?

More likely I think will be events along the same lines in other lovely places. We held one on an island in British Columbia in 2019, with David as speaker, launching the Cascadia Group of the SMN. And our European events continue. Any suggestions for future venues for this particular form of Network Magic?

After All: Nobody's last words ever were 'I wish I'd had less fun'!

We are indebted to Grainger's son Galvin Weston, who spent his childhood at FC and loves it, for his support in countless ways.



Grainger Weston



Top left to bottom right: lunch; Diana Clift and Louise Innes with Andrew; lunch on the beach; Anne Miller with Dr Dean Radin; paneurhythmy on the headland; a pleasant session venue (!); beach in the morning; beach at lunchtime



Top left to bottom right: lunch on the beach; rafting on the Rio Grande; the headland; Diana Clift and Patsy Carter; the river; San San Bay; view from Villa 13

Continental Meetings

SOME PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON OUR CONTINENTAL MEETINGS OVER THE YEARS

In September 1992, the newly elected SMN Council (as it was then) held its first residential Retreat in Abergynolwyn in the wilds of Wales. It was an occasion to look ahead and consider how to build on our success.

Our newest and youngest Council member had quite an impact. Kevin Ashbridge, a New Zealander living in Basel in Switzerland, told us that the internet was going to change the way we do everything and that we would all need to use e-mail. This sounded challenging! His other suggestion was more popular. We should expand our outreach beyond the UK by holding residential conferences in continental Europe. Excellent idea! We decided that we would hold the AGM abroad every third year (starting in 1993 in France) and that we would have two continental conferences a year... usually one in Northern Europe and one in Southern or Eastern Europe, organised by our members overseas.

That became the pattern for more than a decade and those events became the high spots of my life. I just loved them all. But looking back I realise I recall very little of the academic content. It was all the rest that was so memorable.

Our first conference was held near Strasbourg. My overwhelming memory was of Max Payne, who had a serious mustard allergy, being assured there was none in the meal he was given and proceeding to collapse from his very considerable height as we tried to walk back from the restaurant. When challenged the chef admitted there was just a tiny bit Max recovered but it was quite scary.

But most memories are of the fun we had.

In Bulgaria in 1994 we stayed in a monastery in the Rila Mountains. At dinner there was a power cut and we continued by candle light. The Serbian Macedonian choir at the next table burst into song in exquisite harmonies and we responded in kind with songs from our various nationalities. We all drank a lot of beautiful local wine and the whole occasion became a party.

Apparently, there are in the Serbian Orthodox church two types of priests, some are celibate and some can marry. The priests in the choir were of the latter type. The son of one of them, who could speak some English, came over to me and said of the priests 'They ask that you sing them a love song to make them cry...!' Well, I sang...I don't know if they cried but a good time was had.

The following year we went to the island of Hydra in Greece. We arrived in Athens during a taxi strike and all assumed that David Lorimer, who knows everything, must be fluent in modern Greek. To our surprise he wasn't and was as much at a loss as the rest of us, except that - being an athlete - he ran off round the harbour looking for ferries. In the end we went to an island en route and spent a night there, finally arriving in Hydra a day late. There is no wheeled transport on Hydra as the island is so steep, so our luggage was taken up the hill on donkeys. And Eileen Lwin, who had had two heart attacks, was also hoisted on to a donkey to make the ascent. She proceeded to have a great time and join in all the dancing, of which we did a lot. Eric Collino, an Englishman living in Basel, also joined in the social side of the conference with gusto and made me a compliment which I treasure to this day. He said 'Di is a person around whom parties tend'...

We all learned a lot about the places we visited which we would have missed had we been tourists passing through. We stayed in Kyiv, just a few years after the fall of the USSR, at a time when Ukraine was reclaiming its identity and culture. Similarly, we visited Prague and Budapest before they got taken over by cheap tourism and British 'stag and hen parties'. We were travelling to Germany from Heathrow airport on the 7th July 2005, the day terrorists struck the London Underground and buses, killing 56 people. Our conference in Krakow included the experience of Auschwitz which still casts a shadow over that beauti-

ful city. We were in the South of France when war was declared on Afghanistan in 2001, staying at a retreat centre which had been a meeting point for religious and political radicals from East and West in the 1930s. We couldn't help but be reminded how war crushes such experiments in new thought, but paradoxically, by displacing and mixing people of many nationalities, also spreads new ideas.

We had several conferences in Sweden and Holland, and a Bohmian dialogue in Denmark. All the events were organised by local members and friends of the Network. It was a huge responsibility and there was no budget for it. Events had to pay for themselves... so it was a lot of work and anxiety for the organisers and I want to thank them all for the unique experiences we all had at every one. Over the years we saw Europe evolving...coming together in some respects and diverging in others. We learned the history, both ancient and recent, in each community, and appreciated the beauty of it all. Above all we met people and we talked about the issues of consciousness and spirituality which transcend all differences and the limited snapshot in time of our experience. I think of each event as having the characteristics of an organism with a consciousness of its own to which every

part contributes and every part responds, including the venue itself. And that organism continues to influence participants long after the event.

I'll end with just one more anecdote. This was a spooky experience we had at La Herradura in southern Spain. We had been discussing the paranormal throughout the conference and late one night a group of us decided to dabble in weird stuff. We used an Edwardian style planchette...not a Ouija board but a planchette with a pencil in it which moved freely on a piece of paper on which it could write and draw. Just three people touched the planchette and it gathered momentum, producing what looked like attempts at words. But we were cut short at midnight by the manager of the hotel knocking on the door to say there was an urgent call from the identical twin sister of one of the three 'planchetters'. Apparently, a large family portrait had suddenly fallen off the wall and smashed in the twin's home in Kent and she immediately assumed that her sister was in danger. When I returned to my hotel bedroom minutes later there was a triangle burnt into the wood of the door. It had not been there before. The stage seemed set for some disaster or miracle to occur, but that was all. Nothing else... What the SPR calls a JOTT - Just One of Those Things!



Left to right: Anne Miller, Tony Pritchett, Charmian Wylde, Budapest, 2000; Rila Monastery



Top left to bottom right: Meeting in Pari; Tuscany; Hydra Continental Meeting, 1995, with host Rob Browning on the left; Schloss Weisenstein; group in attendance

Paradigm Explorer

142 issues of what is now called *Paradigm Explorer* have been published, and I have edited it since No 32. It began as *Network Newsletter* and the first issue is dated 18th January 1974. George Blaker and Patrick Shackleton wrote that: 'It has been proposed that we should circulate an informal newsletter from time to time giving such information as we can about how we are getting on, and this is our first attempt at so doing.' The newsletter goes on to explain in some detail the criteria for membership and the rationale for the strategy: 'Our most immediate aim was to build up, by progressive personal contact, a private and informal list, or "Network" [the first such use of the term], of qualified scientists, pure and applied, including in the latter category medical men, who have adopted or are inclined towards a non-materialist interpretation of the Universe and who have a sympathetic personal interest in studies of and research into parapsychological, parapsychological and spiritual matters and in action that might usefully flow from these.' They continue: 'The criteria considered appropriate for recruitment to the network were rather exacting: scientific or medical degrees conferred by a University and a history of employment in scientific or medical work, in addition to the personal inclinations referred to above.'

'The reasons for adopting this strict selective process lie at the heart of the whole plan. The view was accepted that, despite fairly widespread expressions of disillusionment with science and some dislike of the direction in which it appears to be leading the world, people in general do, in this materialistic age, look to scientists directly or indirectly as their intellectual and spiritual leaders. They no longer accept the opinions of others about the nature of the Universe or what constitutes reality except where these opinions seem to be substantiated by the findings of scientific or medical research.'

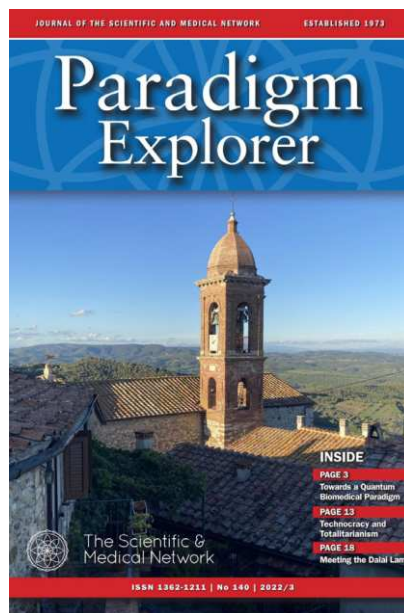
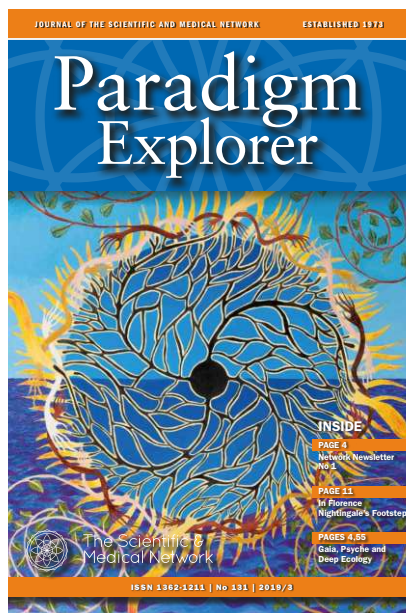
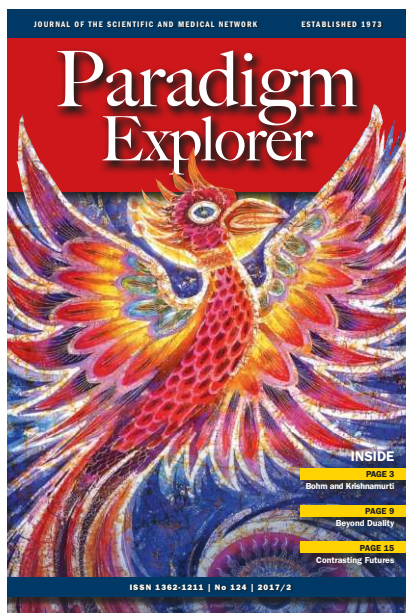
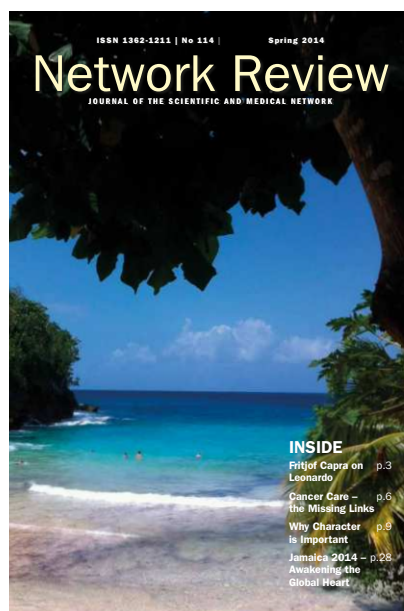
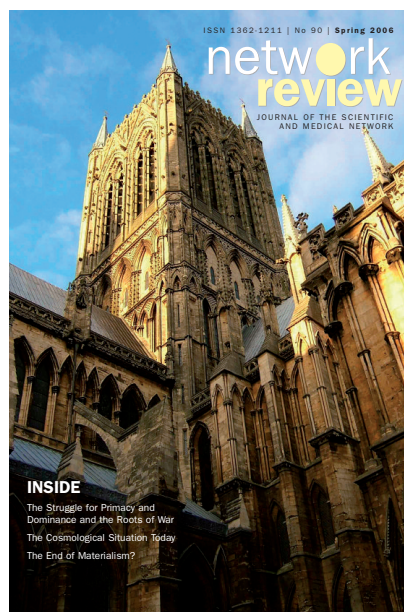
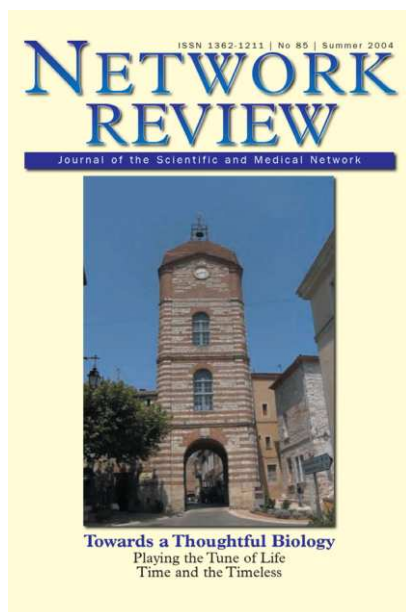
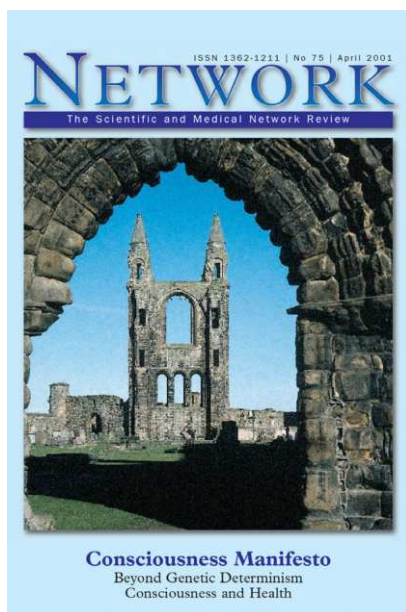
The Newsletter was sent out periodically and began to feature articles and occasional book reviews as well as updates and news. By the time I became Director in 1986, the Network had just over 400 Full Members and around 200 'Friends', who also paid a subscription and received a copy. The format had hardly changed. There was no proper cover, and my first innovation

was to use a coloured cover with the same simple design. I used to visit Paul Filmore at his home in Cornwall for help with finalising the format while he printed the labels on his dot matrix printer. It was printed at AJ Green in Cheltenham, then I stuffed the envelopes at my cottage in Hampnett, stuck on the stamps and took the packages to the post office in Northleach.

Dr John Miller, a retired anaesthetist in Cheltenham, enabled the first major upgrade in our format through his professional typesetting and with a black and white photo on the cover. Then we moved to an A4 publication in the summer of 1990 when it became *Network Review*. A colour cover followed and more recently the whole publication has been printed in colour. It became *Paradigm Explorer* in 2017. The contents also evolved over time towards the current structure of Articles, Reports, Local Groups, Network News and Notices, Members' Articles, Book Reviews under Science/Philosophy of Science, Health and Healing, Philosophy/Spirituality, Psychology/Consciousness Studies, Ecology/Politics and General, and finally Books in Brief that has expanded from 7,000 to 14,000 words per issue and covers some 150 books a year. The total throughput of books reviewed since 1996 is of the order of 7,500!



David Lorimer reading...



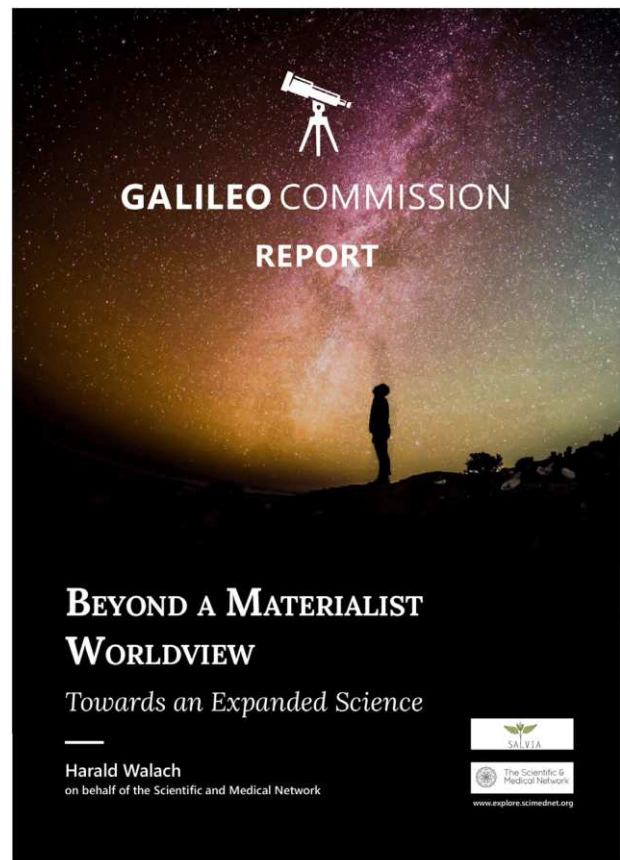
Galileo Commission and Report

WWW.GALILEOCOMMISSION.ORG

Background

The Galileo Commission was founded in 2017 with a view to expanding the worldview of science beyond its limiting materialistic assumptions, which are seldom explicitly examined. A central and widely held assumption is that the brain generates consciousness and is therefore extinguished at death. It is a project of the Scientific and Medical Network (www.scientificandmedical.net), one of whose principal aims is to challenge the adequacy of the philosophy of scientific materialism (scientism) as an exclusive basis for knowledge and values.

Following widespread consultation in 2018 with 90 advisers representing 30 universities worldwide, we have published the Galileo Commission Report, written by Prof Dr Harald Walach and entitled *Beyond a Materialist Worldview – Towards an Expanded Science*. The report has been widely endorsed as a ground breaking document, so we encourage you to support our movement by joining the Galileo Commission either as a Professional Affiliate or a Friend. There is also a Summary Report and a Layman's Report, and a brief summary of the argument is available in a number of languages. We encourage you to read and support Dr Athena Potari's Call for a Renaissance of the Spirit in the Humanities and to read our edited book *Spiritual Awakenings*, which documents the transformative experiences of 57 scientists and academics.



Purpose

The purpose of the Galileo Commission Report is to open up public discourse and to find ways to expand the presuppositions of science so that science (a) is not constrained by an outdated view of the nature of reality and consciousness; and (b) is better able to accommodate and explore significant human experiences and questions that it is currently unable to accommodate for philosophical reasons. We anticipate that expanding science will involve some new basic assumptions (an expanded ontology); additional ways of knowing and new rules of evidence (an expanded epistemology); as well as new methodologies flowing from these.

Cultural Significance – Why the report is important

Today's world is dominated by science and its underlying assumptions. Yet these are seldom articulated even though they generate not only a methodology but also a particular worldview, an ideology generally known as 'scientism'. The Commission fully supports scientific methodology that is underpinned by a set of evolving rules, socially negotiated among scientists, but it is highly critical of scientism – a set of presuppositions or philosophical commitments that can only be maintained by refusing to 'look through the telescope'.

Philosophical materialism proposes an evolutionary narrative where life is a chance occurrence with no intrinsic purpose. This gives rise to the view that humans are just complex biochemical machines and that consciousness and free will are illusions, a position strongly disputed as self-contradictory by the late Mary Midgley to whom we have dedicated the Galileo Commission Report.

This philosophical materialism is historically associated with materialism as consumerism, where the purpose of life becomes accumulation of material goods and values are correspondingly material. Some commentators even argue that moral nihilism is the logical conclusion of the view that the world is simply reducible to its physical aspects – then, as Dostoevsky's Ivan Karamazov asserted, 'everything is permitted.'

Here the very definition of the human being is also at stake as developments in artificial intelligence appear to blur the distinction between humans and things. In his book *The Restitution of Man*, Michael Aeschliman notes that "the ultimate effect of scientism is to dissolve the absolute qualitative distinction between persons and things – the very heart of the metaphysical tradition, of *sapientia* – reducing persons to things... giving them a value no higher than that of a camel or a stone or any other part of nature.



*Prof Marjorie Woollacott, Dr Vasileios Basios, Dr Joan Walton;
Dr Athena Potari, Jessica Corneille, Dr Edi Bilimoria*

This reduction of the human category to the natural runs parallel with a whole series of reductions from quality to quantity, from value to fact, from rational to empirical. If the doctrine of man as a rational moral being ...is weakened or destroyed, the grounds for expecting or encouraging moral conduct are similarly weakened."

The research evidence cited in this Report points to the existence of a deeper informing structure and levels of reality accessible to humans through experience and in which we are intrinsically connected in a holographic web of consciousness. On this basis, it seems that we are here to care for each other rather than pursue our own selfish material interests.

Activities

The Galileo Commission is run by a steering group consisting of Prof Marjorie Woollacott (Co-Chair), Dr Vasileios Basios, Dr Joan Walton, Dr Athena Potari, Jessica Corneille, Dr Edi Bilimoria and, from 2024, Liza Horan. We hold free monthly lectures and occasional summits; we have a number of special working groups; there is a monthly podcast Imaginal Inspirations (see special item); the Frontier Journalists Network (www.frontiernet.org) was formed in 2022 with a view to supporting mainstream communication of research into the further reaches of consciousness. From 2024, we will be initiating a number of new projects:

- Frontier Journalists' Network
- Galileo Commission Report Addendum on Health
- Integrated Worldview Project
- Wise Scientists
- Consciousness Educators Network Project
- AI and Spiritual Experience
- Pan-Episteme Project
- Know Thyself Monthly Lectures and Dialogues
- Intergenerational Dialogue

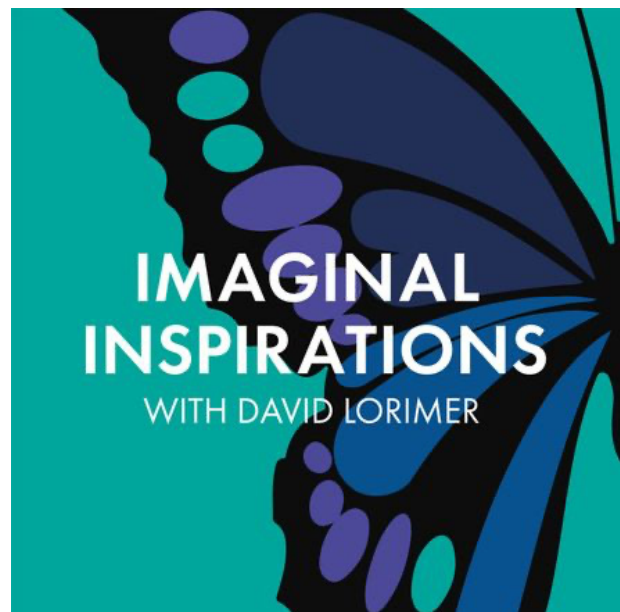
Imaginal Inspirations

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world, stimulating progress, giving birth to evolution."

Albert Einstein

Imaginal cells play a key role in the metamorphosis of the caterpillar into a butterfly (the Greek symbol for the soul). These cells are dormant in the caterpillar but at a critical point of development they create the new form and structure which is the butterfly. And as Einstein notes, imagination gives rise to creative insights and drives evolution.

In this podcast series produced by Martin Redfern, David Lorimer talks to authors and scientists about moments of transformation in their lives and development.



Episodes

<https://redcircle.com/shows/imaginal-inspirations>

<https://podcasts.apple.com/is/podcast/imaginal-inspirations/id1541199376>

Lisa Miller - Spiritual Psychology

Published on November 17, 2023

Mona Sobhani, Just Breathe

Published on October 24, 2023

Anneloes Smitsman: Systemic Transformation

Published on September 28, 2023

Thomas Verny: Pushing Boundaries

Published on August 30, 2023

Keith Ward: Philosophy and Belief

Published on July 24, 2023

Joan Walton: Action Research

Published on June 30, 2023

Ervin Laszlo: From concert pianist to systems philosopher

Published on May 25, 2023

Bernard Carr: Science, Mind and Spirit

Published on April 14, 2023

Aaron Kheriaty: An Ethical Life

Published on April 7, 2023

Lotte Valentin: Science with Soul

Published on February 19, 2023

Monica Gagliano: Resonant Earth

Published on January 23, 2023

Howard Eisenberg: Dream It to Do It

Published on December 18, 2022

Jean Houston on Evolving Wisdom

Published on November 22, 2022

Natasha Tassell-Matamua on Spiritual Experiences

Published on October 28, 2022

Eben Alexander on One Mind

Published on September 24, 2022

Cynthia Bourgeault on Wisdom Paths

Published on September 3, 2022

Mark Gober on an end to upside-down thinking

Published on July 27, 2022

Dean Radin on Noetic Science

Published on May 16, 2022

Athena D. Potari on Plato and Non-Duality

Published on April 22, 2022

Peter Fenwick on Neuroscience and Consciousness

Published on March 27, 2022

Diane Hennacy Powell on Telepathy in Autism

Published on February 18, 2022

Mario Beauregard on Postmaterialist Science

Published on January 17, 2022

Jeffrey Mishlove on Consciousness

Published on December 13, 2021

Natalie Dyer on Universal Love

Published on November 28, 2021

Satish Kumar on Pilgrimage

Published on October 22, 2021

Felicity Warner on Soul Midwifery

Published on September 15, 2021

Steve Taylor on Panspiritism

Published on August 24, 2021

Yvonne Kason on Spiritual Awakening

Published on July 18, 2021

Rosy Daniel on Love and Health

Published on June 18, 2021

Federico Faggin on Silicon and Consciousness

Published on May 20, 2021

Vasileios Basios on Consciousness and Complex Systems

Published on May 6, 2021

Bruce Greyson on the After life

Published on April 16, 2021

Marjorie Woollacott on The Awakening of a Scientific Mind

Published on March 17, 2021

David Lorimer on purpose, consciousness and Colin Wilson

Published on February 10, 2021

Apela Colorado on trees, dream work and indigenous wisdom

Published on February 3, 2021

Richard Tarnas on trusting the unfolding of life and revolutions of thought

Published on January 27, 2021

Kim Penberthy on gratitude for our parents and non-dualistic experiences

Published on January 20, 2021

Ravi Ravindra on Krishnamurti, effort and grace

Published on January 13, 2021

Marilyn Monk on curiosity, belonging and trust

Published on January 6, 2021

Jeffrey Kripal on 'impossible' experiences, precognition and the Esalen Institute

Published on December 30, 2020

Anne Baring on the divine feminine and Catharism

Published on December 23, 2020

Larry Dossey on pre-cognitive dreams and spirituality in healthcare

Published on December 16, 2020

Marilyn Schlitz on fiction, mortality and Edgar Mitchell

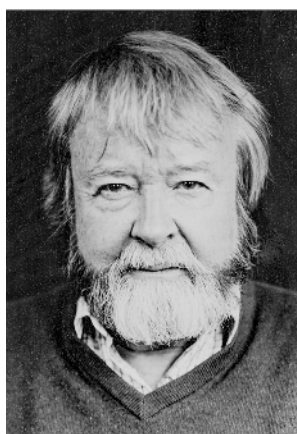
Published on December 9, 2020

Iain McGilchrist on spaciousness, Wordsworth and the soul

Published on December 2, 2020

Elisabet Sahtouris on imaginal cells, transformation and presence

Published on November 19, 2020



Top left to bottom right: Dr Yvonne Kason, Prof Bruce Greyson, Prof Jeff Kripal, Dr Elisabet Sahtouris, Dr Iain McGilchrist, Prof Kim Penberthy, Prof Richard Tarnas

London Group and the Consciousness Perspectives Forum

The SMN and Me *Claudia Nielsen*

The SMN is 50 years old and it pleases me to think that I have been part of it for half its life! The SMN has played a central role in my life over this time with many warm friendships and fabulous moments! I was a member of the Board of Directors for around 15 years where I had a number of responsibilities. I am also proud to have been awarded the title of Vice-President in 2013 and in the last 23 years have also been at the helm of what was the SMN London Group and is today the series of monthly webinars under the name of Consciousness Perspectives Forum.

My story goes back to the early 90's when I heard about the SMN from a school friend in Brazil, who I happened to be visiting in my country of birth. She referred me to Dr. Dan Benor who would be able to tell me more. When I came back home to the UK, I contacted Dan and shortly after attended a conference led by Peter Fenwick at the Maudsley Institute in South London. Bernard Carr won't remember this, but we had a little chat during the lunch break, and I was hooked. I had found my tribe!

I started attending the Consciousness Special Interests Group meetings at Regents College organised by David Lorimer and learned what to bring to the food sharing lunches. These were highlights in my calendar



Claudia Nielsen; her house in Hampstead

and I would make sure my children had planned programmes, so I could attend the full day. They were very interesting meetings. Amongst others, I learned there about the mystery of the dead/alive cat in Schroedinger's cage, which until then made no sense to me!

I was born in a home with few books and even fewer conversations that mattered. However, from very young I was interested in what I later understood was the nature of reality as well as human nature. The latter led me to psychology and my current profession of psychotherapy. The former led me to the SMN.

As well as the Consciousness SIG (Special Interest Group) I started attending conferences and in the early 2000's became more involved with practicalities of the SMN. In around 2001 I was asked whether I wanted to join the Board of Directors of the SMN. I was co-opted at the AGM in Norway in 2002 and the following year made a formal member of the Board. At the time the Chair was Bart van der Lugt. He divided responsibilities by domains, and as I was already organising the SMN London Group, was allocated the domain of Local Groups. Some time after he asked me whether I'd like to be a co-vice-chair with John Clarke, which I accepted. It gave me the opportunity to be even more involved. I became responsible for the domain of office which meant working with Charla Devereux, the manager at the time. Overall, the responsibilities were challenging but also very rewarding because I believed in the SMN and its message. At one point I was also Chair of the Programming Committee in which together with David Lorimer (Programme Director) we worked out the programme of the SMN, the speakers and venues. That was a very fun and rewarding time.

In 2007, Bart died quite suddenly. I knew he was unwell, he told me he was waiting for a heart operation. On that day I had called him some 20 minutes before to discuss something, but he did not answer the call. I then learned he had had a burst aorta outside a shop where he and his wife Manec were buying paint to repaint the hall of their home in Andorra. It was devastating. The whole team was in shock. I love stones and amongst various decisions taken, I asked colleagues to each let me have a stone which I then took to Rotterdam where I spent a day with his wife Manec and put the stones on a memorial for Bart. Some time later, in meditation, I felt Bart come to me and explain the nature of incarnation. It felt very real and later I read similar descriptions in various spiritual traditions.

John Clarke then took over the chairmanship and I continued as vice-chair. Later when he retired and Bernard Carr took over the Chair, I also continued as his vice-chair until we both stepped down at more or less the same time in 2015.

During all this time the SMN London Group continued meeting at my house in Hampstead. We had invit-

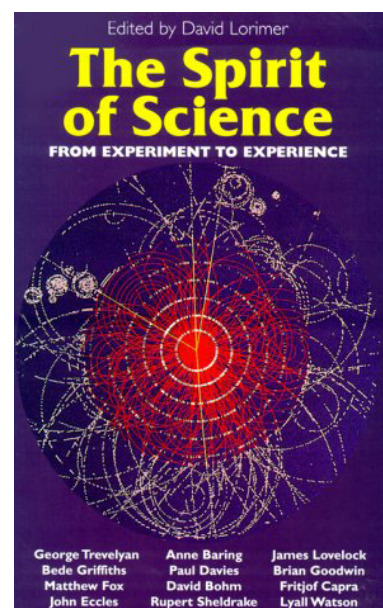
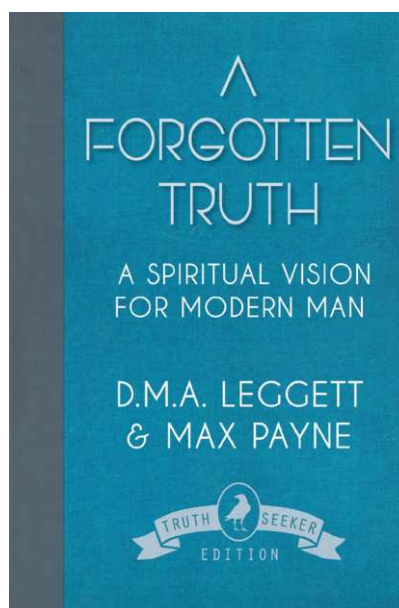
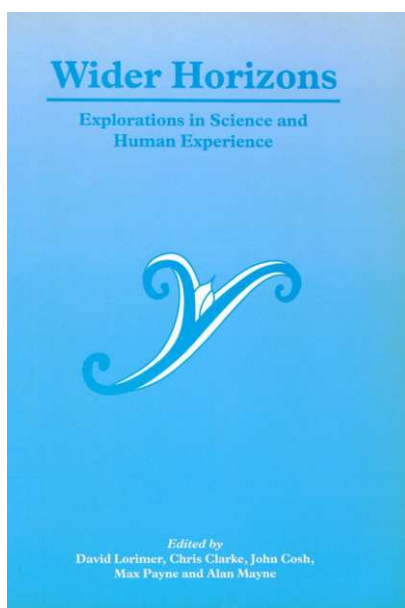
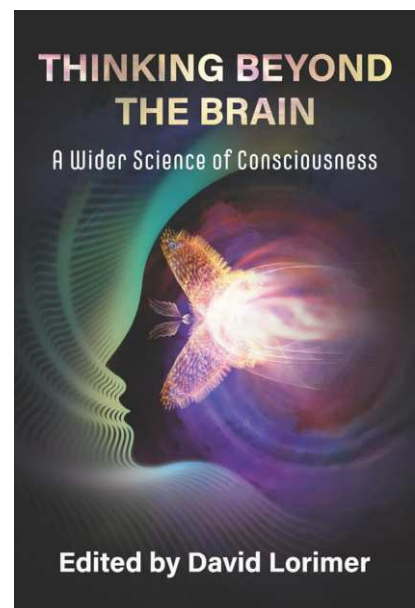
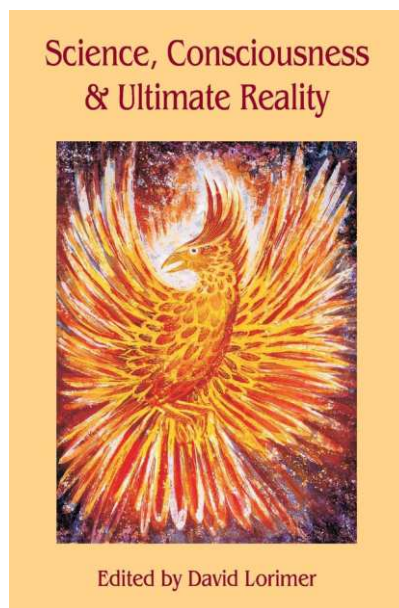
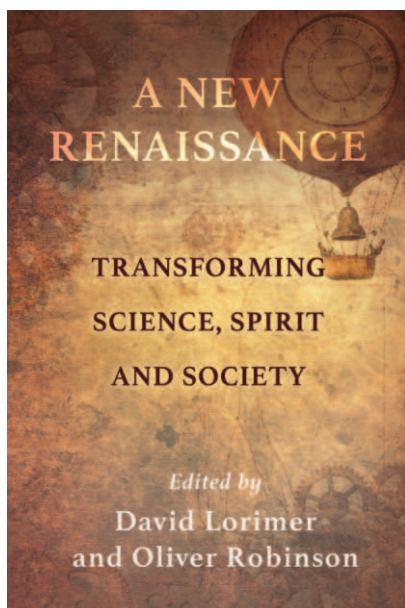
ed speakers every month and a core of people would support the group by coming every month. I was and am still very grateful to them. My house was a converted chapel and we had an average of 20-40 people per meeting but were able to accommodate 70 on some occasions. These meetings happened over 20 years up to the pandemic. The first lockdown happened in March 2020 and the meeting had to be cancelled. When our April meeting was also threatened, I investigated the possibility of doing it online. And so Gary Lachman's talk on *Dark Star Rising: Magick and Power in the Age of Trump* was the first online talk of the SMN London Group. These were early days of online webinars at least for us, and the new all singing and dancing multi-directional microphone Gary acquired did not perform as well as could be. But we managed.

Shortly after I realised that I could also do my psychotherapeutic work online, so decided to sell up in London. I bought a house in Hertfordshire and moved in May 2021. The London Group first became split into online (my part) and physical (Edi Bilimoria's) but only one physical meeting was possible because in 2021 we were still in the grip of the pandemic. Since I was no longer in London, the name London Group no longer applied. Together with the SMN Board of Directors, it was agreed that the name of the group would be changed to Consciousness Perspectives Forum. The remit continued the same, monthly meetings with invited speakers but now, instead for 30-40 participants, we could have access to people from around the world. The participation grew upwards of 100 and we have already hit the 200-mark for one talk. The CPF continues to be an important part of the SMN's offering to a worldwide audience interested in widening their understanding of our role as humans and as the world, within a wider context of Reality.

Reflecting on my own role within the SMN, I am reminded of Peter Fenwick's words which I heard in my earliest days with the SMN which resonate as much today as they did then. He said that people who attend our events are agents of transformation for others they meet along their way. It is my hope that my work with the SMN has helped that transformation which has never been more necessary in the world in which we live. Rick Tarnas, who spoke to the London Group in 2013 entitled his talk *The Role of 'Heroic' Learning Communities in the Postmodern Era*. He described Heroic Communities as 'communities consciously oriented toward a framework of values, or a vision of the good, which in some manner fundamentally challenges that of the larger mainstream society'. The SMN he said, is a Heroic Community.

On my death bed I'd like to know that within the SMN I have contributed in some way in making a difference to move the spiritual community towards the critical mass needed to make the world a better place.

SMN Books and Covers



Network Book List, 1975

A recent trawl through the Network archive revealed the following interesting list of recommended books, typed up on George Blaker's faithful manual typewriter. As readers will see, it covers a very wide field and includes some classic books - everyone will have their own suggested pre-1975 additions, and among mine would be CD Broad - *Lectures on Psychical Research*, just as one example. Among authors who were Members were Robert Crookall, Raynor Johnson, Shafica Karagulla, Arthur Koestler, E. Lester Smith, David Tansley, Charley Tart and Lyall Watson.

A Reading List was mentioned in the very first Network Newsletter: '*It is to be presumed that most of our members know the literature as well as or better than we do, but if anyone is interested in receiving a reading list, we have one ready to send, comprising a selection of more than a hundred books on a wide variety of paranormal matters and containing, in our estimation, some of the more usable material for the practical purpose of convincing other scientists that they would not be wasting their time in looking deeper into the origins of things than current opinion generally considers necessary.*'

Roberto Assagioli, *The Act of Will*, Wildwood House.

Alice Bailey, *A Treatise on White Magic*, Lucis Press.

John Beloff, *The Existence of Mind*, McGibbon and Kee.

Laurence Bendit and Phoebe Payne, *This World and That*, Faber and Faber.

Henri Bergson, *Creative Evolution*, Macmillan.

Barbara Brown, *New Mind, New Body*, Bantam Books.

Richard M Bucke, *Cosmic Consciousness*, University Books.

H.S. Burr, *Blueprint for Immortality*, Neville Spearman.

Whately Carington, *Matter, Mind and Meaning*, Methuen.

Robert Crookall, *The Supreme Adventure*, James Clarke.

Robert Crookall, *The Interpretation of Cosmic and Mystical Experiences*, James Clarke.

Geraldine Cummins, *Swan on a Black Sea*, Routledge and Kegan Paul.

Teilhard de Chardin, *Building the Earth*, Collins.

Teilhard de Chardin, *The Phenomenon of Man*, Collins.

Sir Arthur Eddington, *The Nature of the Physical World*, Cambridge.

Arthur Findlay, *On the Edge of the Etheric*, Psychic Press.

Eileen Garrett, *Many Voices*, GP Putnam.

Kahlil Gibran, *The Prophet*, Heinemann.

Sir Alister Hardy, *The Divine Flame*, Collins.

Sir Alister Hardy, *The Living Stream*, Collins.

F.C. Happold, *The Inward Journey*, Pan Books.

Rosalind Heywood, *The Infinite Hive*, Pan Books.

Rosalind Heywood, *The Sixth Sense*, Pan Books.

J.D. Pearce Higgins and L. Whitby (eds), *Life, Death and Psychological Research*, Rider.

John Hopkins, *The Seed of Wisdom*, Compton Press.

Martin Israel, *Summons to Life*, Hodder and Stoughton.

William James, *Varieties of Religious Experience*, Fontana.

Sir James Jeans, *The Mysterious Universe*, Cambridge.

Raynor C. Johnson, *The Light and the Gate*, Harper & Row.

Raynor C. Johnson, *The Imprisoned Splendour*, Hodder and Stoughton.

C.G. Jung, *The Interpretation of Nature and the Psyche*, Princeton.

Arthur Koestler, *The Roots of Coincidence*, Hutchinson.

Arthur Koestler, *The Ghost in the Machine*, Hutchinson.

Shafica Karagulla, *Breakthrough to Creativity*, DeVorss.

Krishnamurti, *Education and the Significance of Life*, Victor Gollancz.

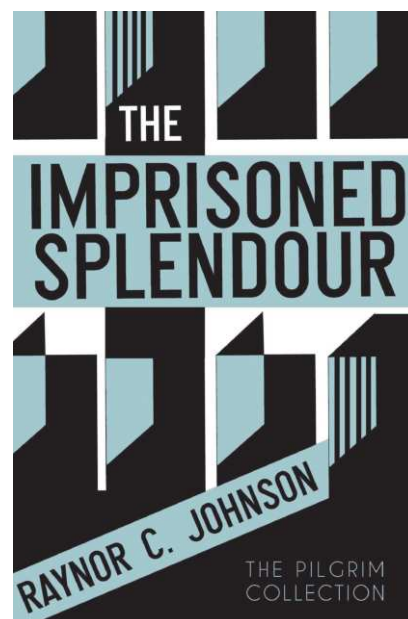
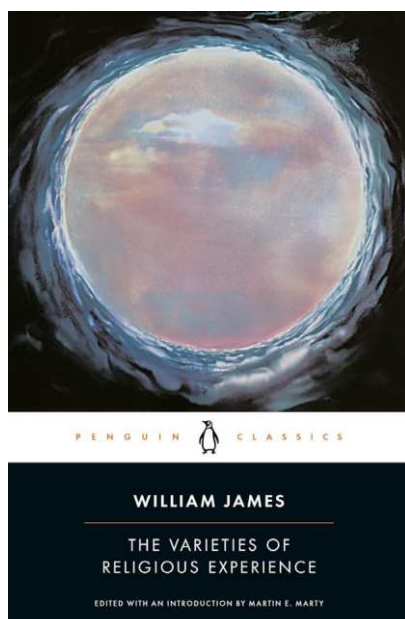
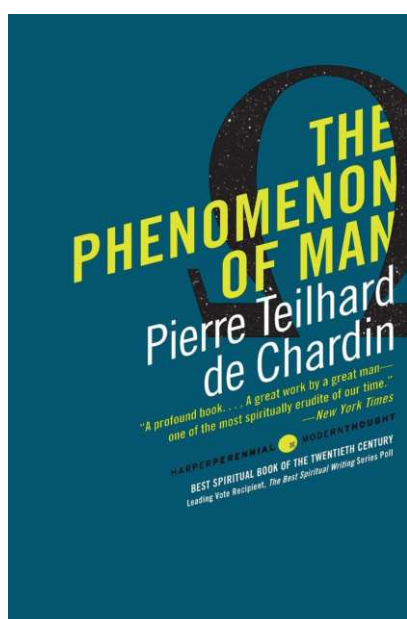
Margaret Isherwood, *Faith without Dogma*, Routledge.

Marvin Karlins and L.A. Andrews, *Biofeedback*, Garstone Press.

Lawrence LeShan, *Towards a General Theory of the Paranormal*, Parapsychological Foundation.

Lawrence LeShan, *The Medium, the Mystic and the Physicist*, Turnstone Press.

E. Lester Smith FRS, *Intelligence Came First*, Theosophical Publishing House.



Alan McGlashan, ***The Savage and Beautiful Country***, Chatto and Windus.

Felix Mann, ***Acupuncture***, Heinemann.

John Michell, ***View over Atlantis***, Abacus.

John Michell, ***The Old Stones of Cornwall***, Abacus.

F.W.H. Myers, ***Human Personality and its Survival of Bodily Death***, University Books.

Oestrander and Schroeder, ***Psychic Discoveries behind the Iron Curtain***, Prentice Hall.

Max Planck, ***The Universe***, Allen and Unwin.

Arthur D. Powell, ***Etheric Double***, Theosophical Publishing House.

E.W. Russell, ***Design for Destiny***, Neville Spearman.

Sir Charles Sherrington, ***Man on his Nature***, Pelican.

A.P. Sheppard, ***Scientist of the Invisible***, Hodder and Stoughton.

Gertrude R. Schmeidler and R.A. McConnell, ***ESP and Personality Patterns***, Yale University Press.

Rudolf Steiner (ed A.C. Harwood), ***The Faithful Thinker***, Hodder and Stoughton.

David Tansley, ***Radionics and the Subtle Anatomy of Man***, Health Science Press.

Charles T Tart, (ed), ***Altered States of Consciousness***, Wiley.

Charles T Tart, (ed), ***A Book of Readings***, Wiley.

G.N.M. Tyrell, ***Grades of Significance***, Rider.

G.N.M. Tyrell, ***The Nature of Human Personality***, George Allen and Unwin.

Evelyn Underhill, ***Practical Mysticism for Normal People***, J.A. Dent.

Kenneth Walker, ***Diagnosis of Man***, Jonathan Cape.

Kenneth Walker, ***So Great a Mystery***, Victor Gollancz.

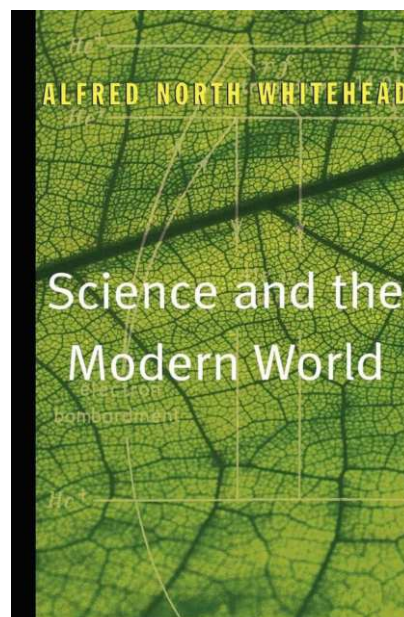
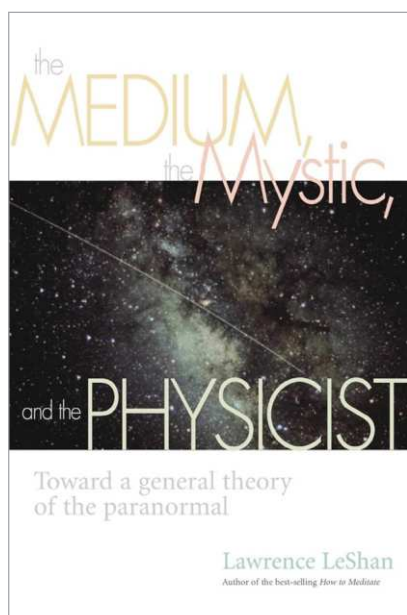
Lyall Watson, ***The Romeo Error***, Hodder and Stoughton.

Lyall Watson, ***Supernature***, Coronet.

Harvey Walters, ***The Living Rocks***, Unknown.

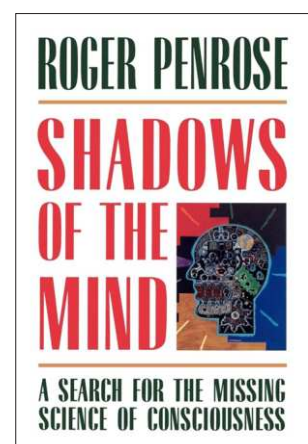
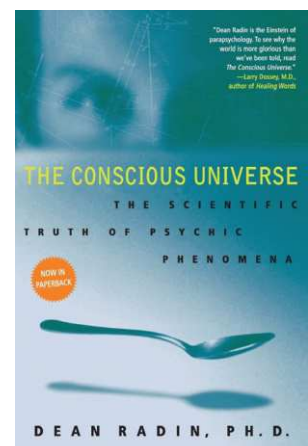
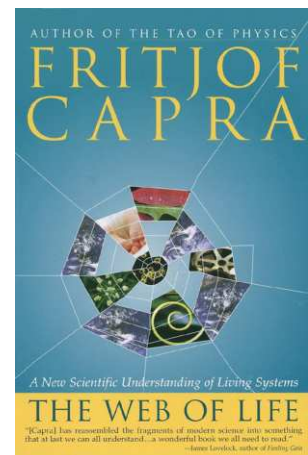
John White, (ed), ***Frontiers of Consciousness***, Julien Press.

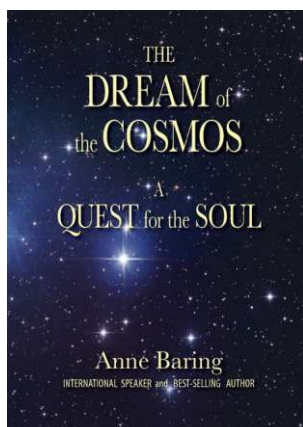
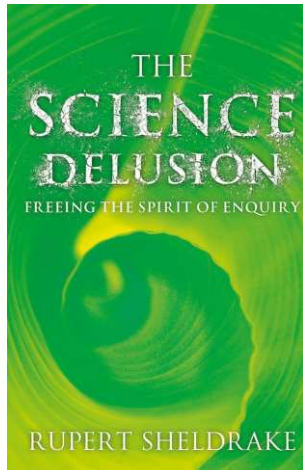
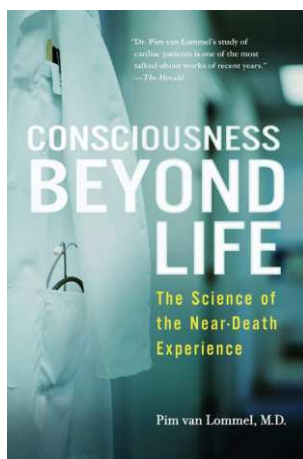
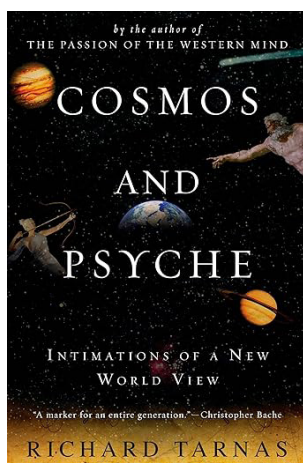
A.N. Whitehead, ***Science and the Modern World***, Cambridge.



SMN Book Prize Winners

- 1992 Les Lancaster – *Mind, Brain and Human Potential*
 Larry Dossey – *Meaning and Medicine*
 Henryk Skolimowski – *Living Philosophy*
 Alan Mayne – *Into the 21st Century*
- 1993 Arthur Zajonc – *Catching the Light*
 Ervin Laszlo – *The Creative Cosmos*
- 1994 Brian Goodwin – *How the Leopard Changed its Spots*
- 1995 Marco Bischof – *Licht*
 Undo Uus – *Blindness of Modern Science*
 Allan Combs – *The Radiance of Being*
 Sir Roger Penrose – *Shadows of the Mind*
- 1996 Fritjof Capra – *The Web of Life*
 Chris Clarke – *Reality Through the Looking Glass*
- 1997 Dean Radin – *The Conscious Universe*
 Prox. Acc. Henri Bortoft – *The Wholeness of Nature, Goethe's Way of Science*
- 1998 James Austin – *Zen and the Brain*
 Prox. Acc. – Rachel Naomi Remen – *Kitchen Table Wisdom*
- 1999 Rupert Sheldrake – *Dogs that Know their Owners are Coming Home*
 Barbara Montgomery Dossey – *Florence Nightingale*
- 2000 David Ray Griffin – *Religion and Scientific Naturalism*
 Prox. Acc. Max Velmans – *Understanding Consciousness*





- 2001 Alan Wallace – *The Taboo of Subjectivity*
Mary Midgley – *Science and Poetry*
- 2002 Christian de Quincey – *Radical Nature: Rediscovering the Soul of Matter*
Victor Mansfield – *Head and Heart: A Personal Exploration of Science and Spirituality*
- 2003 Laurence Foss – *The End of Modern Medicine*
- 2004 John Cornwell – *Hitler's Scientists*
Dan Benor – *Consciousness, Bioenergy and Healing*
Prox. Acc. Les Lancaster - *Approaches to Consciousness: The Marriage of Science and Mysticism*
- 2005 David Fontana – *Is there an Afterlife?*
Graham Dunstan Martin – *Does it Matter? The Unsustainable World of the Materialists*
- 2006 Richard Tarnas – *Cosmos and Psyche*
Malcolm Hollick – *The Science of Oneness*
- 2007 Elisabeth Lloyd Meyer – *Extraordinary Knowing*
Edi Bilimoria – *The Snake and the Rope*
- 2008 Mike King – *Secularism – the Hidden Origins of Disbelief*
Peter and Elizabeth Fenwick – *The Art of Dying*
- 2009 Iain McGilchrist – *The Master and his Emissary*
- 2010 Pim van Lommel – *Consciousness Beyond Life*
- 2011 Mary Midgley – *The Solitary Self*
- 2012 Rupert Sheldrake – *The Science Delusion*
Larry LeShan – *Landscapes of the Mind*
- 2013 Anne Baring – *The Dream of the Cosmos*
- 2014 Mick Collins – *The Unselfish Spirit*
- 2015 John Poynton – *Science, Mysticism and Psychical Research*
- 2016 John Hands – *CosmoSapiens*
- 2017 Thomas Lombardo – *Future Consciousness*
- 2018 Emilios Bouratinos – *Science, Objectivity and Consciousness*

2019 Andrew Fellows – *Gaia, Psyche and Deep Ecology*
 Stan Grof – *The Way of the Psychonaut*
 Betty Kovacs – *Merchants of Light*
 Paul Marshall – *The Shape of the Soul*

2020 Colin Tudge – *The Great Rethink: A 21st Century Renaissance*

2021 **Grand Prize**
 Iain McGilchrist – *The Matter with Things*

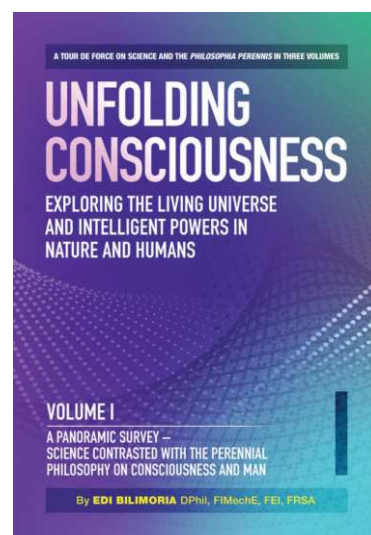
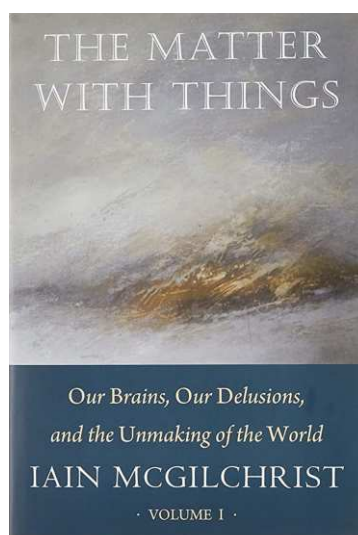
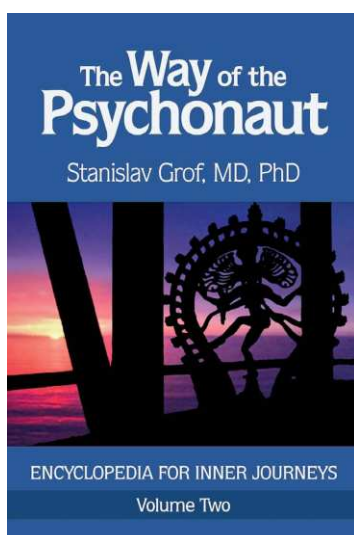
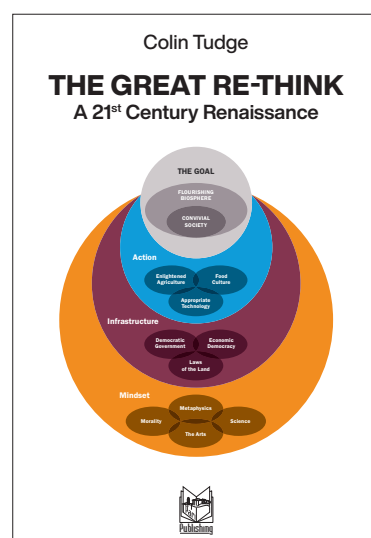
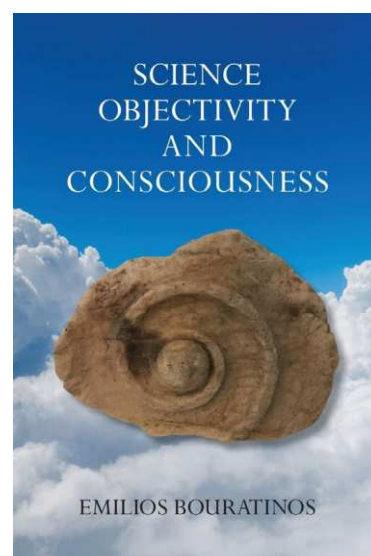
Prizes

Federico Faggin – *Silicon*
 Bruce Greyson – *After*
 Bill Plotkin – *The Journey of Soul Initiation*
 Rolf Sattler – *Science and Beyond*
 Steve Taylor – *Extraordinary Awakenings*
 Stephen Wright – *Heartfulness*

2022 **Grand Prize**
 Dr Edi Bilimoria – *Unfolding Consciousness: Exploring the Living Universe and the Intelligent Powers in Nature and Humans* (four volumes)

Prizes

Bernard Beitman – *Meaningful Coincidence*
 Mick Collins – *The Restorative Spirit*
 Jude Currivan – *The Story of Gaia*
 Neil Douglas-Klotz – *The Aramaic Jesus*
 Jeffrey J. Kripal – *The Superhumanities*
 Elena Mustakova – *Global Unitive Healing*
 James Tunney – *Plantation of Humans*
 Thomas Legrand – *Politics of Being*
 Mark Vernon – *Dante's Divine Comedy: A Guide for the Spiritual Journey*



Close Partners

The Alef Trust: a global postgraduate learning provider championing transformative education and social change



A generative partnership with the SMN spanning 11 years!

Les Lancaster

Fifteen years ago, I approached then Chair of the SMN, Professor Bernard Carr, with a vision to establish a partnership between the SMN and a new kind of higher educational organisation that would not be restrained by orthodoxies and rampant bureaucracy in the university world. Prior to this, I had spent 25 years with colleagues in the psychology department at Liverpool John Moores University, building a niche for study and research in the overarching disciplines of consciousness studies and transpersonal psychology. Not only were the topics controversial, but the pedagogical approach we developed, involving spiritual and mystical practices and values of transformation, were viewed as revolutionary. Despite institutional resistance, we achieved great success, with upwards of 100 alumni of our MSc course and 7 doctoral graduates, who have gone on to spread the values underpinning our approach in diverse professional areas. Nevertheless, the university environment darkened somewhat in the early years of the 21st-century, and it became clear to me that the core aim of establishing a scholarly community recognising both academic and broadly spiritual values needed a new home.

My co-founding director of what subsequently became the Alef Trust, Dr Jessica Bockler, brought a complementary skill set from mine. I had begun my career in neuroscience, Jessica was a performing artist with interests in ritual, imagination and embodiment, and participatory community engagement. The common ground between us—what provided the essential core to the Alef Trust's distinctive approach—

was our commitment to spiritual and mystical practices, a non-materialist approach to consciousness, and a will to galvanise learning and practice in broadly transpersonal areas for the betterment of our world. A central aim of Alef Trust from the outset was to support change-facilitators in bringing holistic, consciousness-based practices to professional and other fields.

We have delivered on those aims. Academically, we have established a vibrant partnership with Liverpool John Moores University, through which MSc and PhD programmes are offered. Our faculty and other support staff are international leaders in their fields, and we have more than 500 students and alumni from 40+ countries. Our alumni and staff have published over 50 articles, book chapters and books. We have launched an academic journal in the topics on which we focus: consciousness, spirituality and transpersonal psychology. The team involved in accrediting our MSc programme at LJMU wrote that, "This highly innovative programme is a tribute to the university. It has gained widespread recognition in the UK and abroad as an innovative, substantive and well-run programme."

In relation to the aim of facilitating change-makers to bring our core values into professional and other fields, significant charitable funding has enabled us to build a programme and community of practice, *Nurturing the Fields of Change*, which has a membership of over 300 change facilitators from around the world. To date, we have also been able to grant funding to 16 research projects investigating change facilitation, taking place in India, Pakistan, Ireland, South Africa, Mexico, Romania, and the UK.

There is no resting on laurels! Political and environmental crises affecting our world are very real and have the potential to impact future generations in devastating ways. We owe it to our children and grand-

children to work for a more sustainable and harmonious world, and we believe that inner change is as much a key to achieving these goals as are outward efforts to reverse the consequences of unfettered growth and exclusively material values.

And it is on this note that I return to our partnership with the SMN, and those tentative chats with Bernard 15 years ago. Bernard and the trustees of the SMN saw the commonality in our goals and the potential of our partnership. It gives me pleasure to celebrate our 11-year partnership as I join in marking the SMN's Jubilee! Let me take this opportunity to congratulate all those who work so hard to ensure that the SMN continues to be a real beacon for renewal in our day. The extent to which the SMN is in the vanguard of the most important energies for change in our day is truly impressive. The Jubilee is as much about the impetus for continuing to effect the change as it is about celebrating past achievements. A truly magnificent cause for reflecting with pride and joy!

The concept of the Jubilee has its roots in the Hebrew Bible and takes on distinctive meaning in Kabbalistic mysticism, where it is identified with the “fifty

gates of understanding”. These gates symbolically open a path of renewal, a shift to a higher level of being and a revitalised “Eden”. May the SMN long continue to promote these gates and, as did Galileo, help us envision a larger world.

Brian Les Lancaster is a Founding Director and Dean of the Alef Trust. He is also Professor Emeritus of Transpersonal Psychology at Liverpool John Moores University, UK, an Honorary Research Fellow in Religions and Theology, University of Manchester, UK, and Associated Distinguished Professor of Integral and Transpersonal Psychology at the California Institute of Integral Studies, US. He has previously served as Chair of the Transpersonal Psychology Section of the British Psychological Society, as President of the International Transpersonal Association, and as a Board member of the Association for Transpersonal Psychology. Les' research interests focus on the cognitive neuroscience of consciousness and the connections between this topic and mysticism, specifically focusing on *Kabbalistic Psychology*. His published works include *The Essence of Kabbalah* and *Approaches to Consciousness: The marriage of science and mysticism*.



Jessica Bockler and Les Lancaster

The Institute of Noetic Sciences (IONS)

WWW.NOETIC.ORG



The Institute of Noetic Sciences (IONS) is a non-profit research center and direct experience lab specializing in the intersection of science and profound human experience. Founded in 1973 by Apollo 14 astronaut and 6th man to walk on the moon, Dr. Edgar Mitchell, IONS explores the interplay between scientific knowledge and inner knowing.

IONS has the world's leading team of multidisciplinary scientists conducting research on frontier topics in consciousness and its impact in our lives. We are inspired by the power of science to explain phenomena not previously understood, harnessing the best of

the rational mind to make advances that further our knowledge and enhance our human experience.

For 50 years, IONS has been a trailblazer in consciousness research, including psi, meditation, mind-body healing, and more. IONS offers a diverse range of powerful workshops, courses, and webinars to deepen the way we understand ourselves, our world, and our purpose. When we collectively embody our true interconnection and embrace our inner wisdom, we envision the creation of a more compassionate and thriving world.

Academy for the Advancement of Postmaterialist Sciences

WWW.AAPSGLOBAL.NET



Our Mission

Founded in 2017, the Academy for the Advancement of Postmaterialist Sciences is a non-profit membership and education organization whose mission is to promote open-minded, rigorous and evidence-based enquiry into postmaterialist consciousness research.

Our Vision

To inspire scientists to investigate mind and consciousness as core elements of reality.

Our Values

Support rigorous applications of the scientific method

Nurture curiosity and creativity in research

Encourage open-minded exploratory and confirmatory investigations

Model integrity and honesty in communication and education

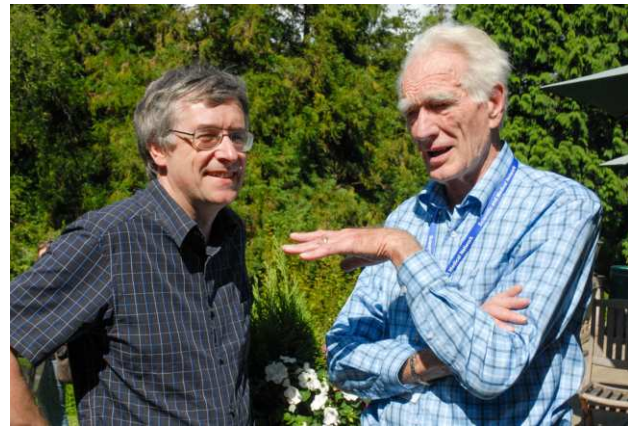
Value experimental and empirical data over dogma

Create safe settings for sharing theories, evidence, and experiences


Promote evidence-based innovation and positive societal change

Expand awareness of the interconnectedness of all things

Share postmaterialist evidence and understanding with the public



Top left to bottom right: Dr Peter Fenwick talking to Prof John Clarke; Dr Paul Filmore with Max Payne; *Mystics and Scientists* exchange with Richard Irwin, Marianne van Mierlo and Kevin Tingay; at the bookstall; Willis Harman (centre) with Nicholas Hagger (left) and Jane Henry (right) in Regent's Park; Dr Peter Fenwick, Jane and David Lorimer, Dr Larry Dossey, 1993; Dr Peter Fenwick with Dr Alan Sanderson; Prof Arthur Ellison with Elizabeth Lodge



Company limited by guarantee,
registered No. 4544694, England.
Registered Charity No. 1101171 UK.