

## **The Noah's Ark Society**

### **(For Physical Mediumship)**

Back in 1990 an advertisement appeared in the 'Psychic News' from a newly formed society entitled 'The Noah's Ark Society for Physical Mediumship'. It had been launched primarily to encourage the formation of 'Physical Circles' which it would help, advise, inform, encourage, and support. Principally the Society had been created because by then, and for quite a number of years, Physical mediumship had virtually disappeared from the Spiritualist Movement. Of course, we must remember that back in the mid 1800's Spiritualism itself had been created as a direct result of Physical Mediumship and the movement had – like a forest fire – spread quickly across America and Europe and then into the UK. Also, for over one hundred years mediumship both mental and physical was primarily developed within Home Circles which back then existed in profusion, and it was from those that the wonder mediums of the past developed their gifts. However, towards the latter part of the 1900's Circles had diminished massively in number and people were encouraged to attend courses as a means of developing mediumship. Of-course knowledgeable tutors can help advise inform support and encourage potential mediums but more than that they cannot do. However, the Society had no doubt that the general disappearance of quality mediumship was as a direct result of the massive demise of the Home Circle. Within them– people would sit in total harmony and with considerable patience and create the vital ambience and atmosphere in which the Spirit World could best work in their endeavour to develop potential mediums. Of-course, for that to happen considerable patience was and is absolutely essential because the gradual development of mediumship of any kind cannot be rushed. However, the fact has always been that if just one sitter developed then the Circle as a whole would benefit. This is something that I have always believed and immediately I saw the Societies advertisement I wrote to its chairman Robin Foy who had created it. Then, several days later, I received a telephone call from him, and we had quite a lengthy conversation during which I told him of my years of intensive research regarding Physical mediums of the past. However, at that stage I did not even mention my own physical mediumship which was then still in its early stages of development. Anyway, in knowing of my research Robin very kindly invited me to become the Archives Officer of the Society which, of course, I was absolutely delighted to accept.

#### **Then it Began.**

A few weeks later I was invited to attend the Societies first Committee Meeting, and I can still clearly recall how I felt when I met its members and immediately knew that we were a united whole. All with exactly the same opinions and views regarding the gradual demise of Physical Contact with the Spiritual World and as a united committee we were determined to encourage the formation of Physical development Circles and our intention was to help, advise, encourage, and support them.

Well – to say that the Society quickly met with success would be an absolute understatement. The fact is that within a matter of months its reputation – its standing and its membership growth became massive. From having no Circles at its launch, within months it had well over one hundred of them and members from all over the world. There was absolutely no doubt whatsoever that, at that stage, the Society was working hand in glove with the Spiritual World and soon it began to issue monthly Newsletters which were sent out to all of its members (1). As the Societies Archives Officer these often-included articles that I had written about the wonderful Physical Mediums of the past. Additionally, it was not long before it occurred to me that elderly Spiritualists who, in the past, had sat with historic Physical mediums, were taking with them their memories of those sittings when they were passing over. As a direct result of that, I appealed to them in one of my articles to make contact with me in the hope that I could encourage them to verbally record those memories and I would ensure that they would always be available for present day and all future generations of Spiritualists (and interested parties) to hear. In other words, their wonderful memories would not be lost when the contributors passed over. Thankfully, several of them did respond and sent to me their recordings and from those I went on to create a composite CD entitled ‘Physical Séance Room Recollections’. Pleasingly, they created considerable interest amongst the Societies members and copies of them were sent all over the world. (2)

Several months following the formation of the Society, we (the committee) took the decision to hold a weekend Seminar at a Hotel in the Midlands and within twenty-four hours of it being announced in a Newsletter it was totally sold out with people attending not only from the UK but several from other countries. The seminar included advice about the formation and running of a Physical Circle - talks regarding past Physical Mediums and a demonstration of Mental mediumship etc. However, on the Saturday evening a Physical Séance was held and the young physical medium back then was known only as Lincoln (3). Of course, with over one hundred people in attendance it was not possible to have one single Circle and therefore we had an inner one in which the medium sat. Then one surrounding it and an outer Circle surrounding the middle Circle. I myself was extremely fortunate to be seated in the inner Circle literally just four seats away from the medium and for the first time ever I was to actually see the trumpets in flight etc and that was something that I had not previously seen in my own Circle because I had always been in Trance when it had occurred.

**(1) It's truly excellent monthly Newsletters would have disappeared forever had it not been for Lew Sutton (an accredited member of the Society) who recently took the time and trouble to put them on-line. To say that I would highly recommend them would be something of an understatement. Here is the link: New Archives Website for the 'Noah Ark Society' <https://noahsarksocietyarchive.org/>**

**(2) A few years ago, I produced from the recordings sent to me, a second CD so that now it is available as a double CD Album.**

**(3) He had been discovered by a committee member.**

Well – following the séance – in the hotel bar - I plainly saw the absolute joy on the faces of all the people who had attended the séance and I must say that I began to feel selfish that the Society at that stage knew so very little about my own early Physical Mediumship development.

So – at the following Committee meeting I spoke for a while about my own development, and this was to lead directly to either myself or Lincoln sitting at the Societies future seminar seances.

Then in 1993 I was to be highly honoured to be appointed to the position of the Societies Presidency which, of course, I was delighted to accept. Now, at this stage readers should understand that the growth of the Society was massive to say the very least with a countless number of Members and Circles all over the world sitting under its umbrella.

Seminars held at hotels around the country became regular and each of them were to sell out very quickly. Additionally, and understandably, a multitude of friendships were formed amongst its membership and there was absolutely no doubt that the Society was on-course to achieve its aims which, to repeat, was to reintroduce Physical Mediumship to the movement of Spiritualism. However, during the time that I was the President, and with the passage of time, I gradually began to notice that inexplicably and contrary to the wellbeing of the Society, things had begun to change in a negative way, and in fact, Robin Foy - the man who created the Society -had felt exactly the same and together with his wife sadly took the decision to resign their membership. Understandably this was a terrible blow to the future wellbeing of the Ark. Then a year later a serious fall-out was to occur between two of the couples on the Committee and despite my extensive efforts to resolve the matter (For the wellbeing and future of the Ark) it proved to be of no avail and very sadly one of the couples resigned. Additionally, a number of the Societies long-term members had become uneasy with the Ark's wellbeing, and this was to become very evident at one of our Committee/Members meetings. It was then that I finally began to realise that sadly there was unrest within the Committee and that the Society was no longer on the same Spiritual pathway as I had long been on. This directly led to one of the most difficult decisions that I have ever had to make. I resigned from both the Committee and from the Society itself.

Of-course, back then I knew that members would be left wondering why Stewart Alexander, the President and Archives Officer, had taken that difficult decision and so I genuinely felt that it was my duty to present to the membership an explanation.

I therefore spent several weeks drafting an article for the Newsletter although I must point out that within it, I did not make accusations against any particular Committee member. I simply stated that the Society was – in my opinion - no longer on the same spiritual pathway as I was on – hence my extremely painful resignation decision. I then submitted it to the editor of the Societies Newsletter but surprisingly (or perhaps not surprisingly) it was not published – it never saw the light of day. Frankly, if

**nothing else, I honestly believe that this told me that I had made the correct decision in resigning.**

**A few years later - in the year 2004 – the Society was to collapse, and this certainly did not surprise me in the least but I shall take this opportunity to state: ‘When the messenger becomes more important than the message and when we stop listening to the Spirit World then the way will always be lost’.**

**In the years that have since passed I have always felt extremely sad that what started as a literal breath of much needed fresh air within the Spiritualist movement, in the end failed in its mission because of basic human nature.**

#### **FOOTNOTE**

**Over the years that have passed since my resignation, I have never doubted that there will have been and probably still is speculation regarding my resignation hence my decision (at last) to write this article of explanation.**