the PIONEER

Volume.1 No.2 January 2014

Contents list:

036 – The J. Arthur Findlay College, for the Advancement of Psychic Science – The early years

050 – Ernest Walter Oaten (1875-1952) – His contribution to Spiritualism was long and notable, giving almost 60 years' service

052 – The History of The Two Worlds

053 – Twenty-one Years – Oaten tells us how through Spirit Guidance his position as Editor was orchestrated by the spirit of Emma Hardinge Britten

056 – Who were the first Ministers of the Union?

062 – New Presidents Page

This new history journal will be presented using original researched material wherever possible. Articles and quotes are taken from original sources as they were published at the time and reproduced by "Optical Character Recognition" (OCR), the conversion of scanned images of handwritten, typewritten or printed text into machine-encoded text. This means that grammar, old English, spelling mistakes, etc. are not usually changed. However, long paragraphs are sometimes split for easier reading; any errors or explanations needed are noted in footnotes.

Special thanks are acknowledged to Minister David Hopkins and Leslie Price for their work in sub-editing and corrections in this issue

Contact the editor pioneer@snu.org.uk

All references to Psypioneer in this issue are archived in Australia by Garth Willey at the Woodlands Sanctuary Foundation. For further information about Psypioneer or to subscribe please visit:—http://www.woodlandway.org

The J. Arthur Findlay College, for the Advancement of Psychic Science



Stansted Hall 1948

The above title was the Hall's original name as a place dedicated to the growth of Spiritualist education and spiritual development.

The following article will take us back to the early days of the college, from its conception and to almost five decades later, when it is a thriving success, earning itself international respect. For many Spiritualists and visitors alike, Stansted Hall holds fond memories of their visits; of the courses they have taken; of the mediums and their mediumship and of new friends they have made.

Information for this article has been taken mostly from original records held at the Britten Memorial Museum; unfortunately, there are gaps so this is by no means a full account but hopefully gives a good basic overview. I have not referenced all the quotes due to space, but any reader wanting further information on any of the subjects mentioned herein should contact the editor.

James Arthur Findlay was born on 16th May 1883, and on 15th July 1913 married Annie Gertrude Walker (known as Gertrude). In 1921, the Findlay's adopted Joan (spelt Joane on her birth certificate) Margaret, born on 12th August 1916, on 9th September 1939, Joan married a London Chartered Accountant, Francis Wayne. Unfortunately, the planned ceremony was held a week after the outbreak of WWII and many of the numerous invited guests were unable to attend the ceremony.

In the 1940s', Findlay made the decision to bequeath his home, Stansted Hall, to the Spiritualists' National Union for the purpose of a college following his death and for the college to be named after him. On 19th July 1963, Findlay's wife Gertrude passed away and so it was decided that the college be opened early and that Findlay should remain in residence. Therefore, on 6th and 7th June 1964, a meeting of members of a Management Committee was held – "It was understood that this meeting was preliminary to the complete formation of Committee owing to replies to invitations to join not having been yet received from all the members of the original Management Committee (A. Findlay 1954) who have or are willing to have constitutional links with S.N.U." Findlay accepted the position of Honorary Member of the Committee.[1]

[1].–**January 1966 SNU General Secretary Richard Ellidge**:–"It was early in 1945 that Mr J. Arthur Findlay first approached the Union regarding Stansted Hall when it was occupied by the Red Cross as a Convalescent Home and when he resided at Rockingham Castle, Market Harborough. This was followed in 1950 by personal contact with W. Lorraine Haig, then President of the Union, who appointed a President's Committee to

This meeting resulted in a quotation for heating fuel from Hicks and Co being accepted. Electrical installation firms were to be invited for completing necessary electrical work throughout the Hall, conditional on "free" inspection and fixed price tenders to be sent to the SNU President Charles Quastel who was acting as Secretary for the Committee, SNU General Secretary Richard (Dick) Ellidge, was requested to invite "Sun" Co. to submit the cost of insuring the fabric of the mansion. It was agreed to write to Mr. McAllister (medium and hotelier) of London, to inspect Stansted Hall and submit his opinions on future possibilities to use the Hall as residence for guests, etc. It was agreed that Mr. Payne, Findlay's personal chauffeur and servant, be engaged by the College for suitable duties (driving committee members to and from the railway station for example), and that the SNU pay a quarter towards his salary, with Mr. Findlay paying the remainder.

An agreement was reached for two further inclusions to Findlay's Will:

a. gift of motor car to S.N.U. after Mr. Findlay's death.

b. statement in Will to following effect,

"I wish the Spiritualists' National Union to have, for the future use of the College in Stansted Hall, the furniture, furnishings and pictures, which are necessary for the functioning of the College, apart from the particular items which are desired by Mrs. Wayne for use in her home".

Quastel agreed to this and Findlay invited his lawyer to join them at Stansted Hall on June 20th to deal with the additional codicil to the Will. A further agreement was made that Findlay's personal secretary, Mrs. Eden, be given permission to continue to live at the Hall and she, Mrs. Eden, assured the Committee that she would be willing to allow her furniture to be used in the rooms (five roomed flat) at any time when visitors would occupy them. In the short term (around a month), Mrs. Eden doubled up with the Union, giving her services as typist and receptionist whilst continuing to live at Stansted Hall. She was also available to

---

investigate and report on a College for Spiritualism. But it was not until January, 1954, that Mr Findlay wrote to Mr H. Dawson, who had been elected President six months previously, followed by meeting at Stansted, that a direct and close liaison between the Hall and the Union was established.

"Mr Findlay submitted the Charter of the proposed Arthur Findlay College and at his request only sufficient copies were duplicated for the then Members of the National Council each marked "Private and Confidential." The Council accepted the proposed bequest of Stansted Hall in April, 1954. At that time the bequest was to comprise the Hall, thirty five acres of land and a more substantial endowment than that which the Union eventually received.

"In 1955 Mr Findlay transferred £2,000 to the union in the form of Stock towards the cost of furnishing and decorating the proposed College, and in 1956 the Council accepted a gift of shares in Psychic Press Ltd.

"The position changed however, and following the passing of his wife in 1963 he transferred Stansted Hall in April, 1964, by Deed to the Union along with £28,000 cash. It was intended that Mr Findlay should occupy five rooms in the Hall and the first plans of the architect provided for this.

"Unfortunately Mr Findlay passed to Higher Life in July, 1965 [should read 1964], rendering the arrangement void.

"There were no legal "strings" attached to the gifts, but the College of his dreams is now nearing fruition, perhaps in a modified form – but who knows!"

show visitors around the Hall, where teas (3/6d), cold lunches (6/-) and postcards were on sale.



Then, on 24th July 1964, amidst the implementation of agreements and requests, James Arthur Findlay died. The funeral service was conducted by Dr. John Winning, Vice-President of the SNU supported by Percy Wilson, M.A., and Grace Boyers. The service was held in the Gallery of Stansted Hall and attended by members of the Findlay family and friends from Chelmsford and nearby villages. Representing the National Council were Mr W. S. Fowler, Mr Joe Capstack, Mr Sills and Mr S. T. Gunning.

Just over a year later, the first residential group of forty-six people from Longton Church and other areas saw the first Summer School at Stansted Hall held in the first week of August 1965, organised and under the leadership of Gordon Higginson and Frank Tams. The newly elected S.N.U. President, Dr. John Winning conducted the first Spiritualist service at the college this week, as well as a naming ceremony for Semantha (sic) Jane ….. who was given the Spirit name "Joy". Also on the evening on Sunday August 1st the President conducted the Ordination service for Wilfred Watts in the Gallery whilst the Longton Choir sang from the grand staircase, Watts gave a short address and was followed by Gladys Mallaburn who demonstrated survival. All told, the week was so successful that Longton Church re-booked for the following year.

With the success of the first residential week, there was much activity behind the scenes. There were concerns for the College's maintenance, upgrading and finance etc. For example, the Hall's drinking and domestic water was sourced from a deep well in the court-yard. In anticipation of a hundred visitors being in residence, it was necessary for the Hall to be connected to the main water supply and the existing well's water be possibly used for the gardens. The soil and rainwater drainage was of concern, as it did not comply with sanitary requirements. Therefore, new drains had to be laid and connected to the main sewer. A new electrical supply, central heating system and hot water were required; the old house was wired for 110 volts, so all the existing wiring had to be replaced with a new up-to-date circuit. Alterations were planned to make provision for one hundred beds, including baths, new hand basins, more toilets etc. In addition, there were much-needed repairs to gutters and roofs; second floor carpeting etc., was needed as well as new kitchen equipment.

In 1966 it was decided to install a four line manual exchange telephone system at a cost of £32.00 to install and £16.00 per quarter rental, thus allowing for two entries in the telephone directory – *The Spiritualists' National Union, Stansted Hall, Essex.* & *Findlay College, The J. Arthur, Stansted Hall, Essex. (see also S.N.U.).*

Dr. John Winning who had been appointed the College Principal in January 1966,[2] decided on room décor. He considered the College should not have too many colour schemes, and so instructed the walls be pale sunshine and the woodwork a pale green or blue. It was decided that the "Stable Block" building, should in future be known as the "Annex". Winning produced the first draft brochure of the College and agreed it could be sold for one shilling per copy, the last page listing the charges being left loose to allow revised charges. It was initially agreed the full board tariff include afternoon tea and biscuits but not early morning or night-time teas etc. The tariffs for lunch and dinner were added at 7/6 and 9/6 respectively. Adverts for staff were placed in *Psychic News*, including one for a Manager or Manageress, whose appointment came with on-site residence. There were twenty-seven applications for this position, but none of them were appointed due to a lack of information given by the applicants. The position was then re-advertised requesting certain information from potential applicants and also stating that a furnished flat was part of the appointment.

There was a hive of activity at the Hall in preparation for the College's official opening; tentatively the agreed date was July 16th. Charles Quastel had produced a proposed comprehensive syllabus for educational purposes and suggested the text books be available at the College. Dr. Winning and Dick Ellidge were tasked with pricing shopping lists which included 50 new beds, linen and blankets etc, 30 wardrobes and 28 chest of drawers, dining chairs and tables, 100 tumblers, 120 ice cream/fruit dishes, knives, forks, toilet rolls and

[2].–In March 1968 Dr. John Winning then Union President and Honorary Principal of the Arthur Findlay College since January 1966 advised the members of the Board of Governors and Management Committee his views on his role as College Principal:—"In an Educational College there is a Principal and a Bursar and some form of Board of Governors. The Board of Governors determine the general policy of the College and instruct the Principal and the Bursar to see it is carried out. The Principal is entirely responsible for the Educational Curriculum, The Bursar for the general management of the College. He is usually the treasurer and is often a qualified accountant or solicitor. These are the two main persons in touch directly with the Governors.

Each of these two persons may delegate some of their work to subordinates but the final responsibility is with the Principal and the Bursar.

The Principal is responsible for planning the details of the Educational Courses approved by the Board of Governors and seeing them carried out. He need not do the actual work of arranging the details but all must have his final approval.

The Bursar is responsible for all finances of the College and also the general fabric of the building. Again he may delegate these duties to others who must get his authority for spending any money.

According to the Charter of the Arthur Findlay College "The Principal must be a man or woman of sterling character, and the teaching staff must always be men and women of unblemished reputation. Neither the Principal nor the staff will profess or teach any of the worlds creedal supernatural religions, nor perform within or without the College any of the ritual or ceremonies connected therewith, their duty being to inform the students on all matters relating to Spiritualism, Religion and History, such subjects for instance as I have covered in my various books,."

Consequently the Principal must always be a convinced Spiritualist of many years standing and of great knowledge so far as psychic matters are concerned.

Regarding his or her appointment we should determine who should appoint. It may be that the appointment is made by the Board of Governors subject to the approval of the National Council. With this set up there need not be a Management Committee and a Board of Governors. There could be one governing body with its chairman and secretary which should not meet more often than three time a year, but with the Principal and Bursar in regular touch with the chairman and secretary of the Board of Governors.

The President of the Spiritualists' National Union should not be the Chairman of the Board of Governors but he or she may be an ex officio member of the Board of Governors. Yours sincerely, John Winning.

towels etc., from suppliers in Stansted and Bishop's Stortford. Mr Paine, Findlay's personal chauffeur and servant, was tasked with the job of fixing the curtain rods, whilst Mrs Sawbridge and Mrs Hesling made curtains. Mrs Sawbridge was appointed housekeeper, Miss Edith Morris senior housemaid, and Mr Paine was further appointed boiler man in addition to his regular duties and would be paid an additional £1 per week; he was also available to wait on breakfast tables as well as wash up after. A cook, one kitchen assistant, two housemaids and two waitresses would be required. Seven hives of bees were installed by a member of the Chelmsford Spiritualists' National Church which the owner would maintain, and any honey produced would be given to the Hall. The head gardener received an order book to record all the garden produce supplied to the College as well as any outside sales to local shops etc. Upon its official opening, there would be forty beds available on the first floor of the College, forty-four beds on the second floor, a possible three spare beds, five staff rooms, and fifteen beds in the annex (available around the end of August).

Stansted Hall's official opening, a little later than previously scheduled, was on Saturday, September 17th at 3 p.m. and was officiated by Mrs Francis Wayne, daughter of Arthur and Gertrude, carried out the official opening, to which the public were invited at the price of 3/6. *Psychic News* reported there were over two hundred and fifty people; this included four coach parties.

Findlay's daughter stated in her dedication:

Mrs. Wayne recalled that her father "tried to find answers to questions mankind has always asked. This search eventually led him to Spiritualism."

"As a result of his writings and speeches there were people who did not agree with him," she said. "I remember one woman wrote to him and accused him of being in league with the Devil. We laughed. Daddy didn't mind. I didn't mind. And I don't think the Devil did either!"

She said Stansted Hall been a very happy home for years, adding, "My husband and family are very pleased to think that you now have care of this house." Mrs. Wayne spoke of her father's dream that his house should be used for research into psychic matters. And she expressed her pleasant surprise at the change that had taken place in spite of the many difficulties which had faced the Spiritualists' National Union.

Declaring the college open, Mrs. Wayne quoted "the words you have as your motto: 'May this house flourish'."

The first College manager was Thomas W. Harrison;[3] he took up his new position at the College accompanied by his wife, son and two daughters on November 1st 1966, with his elder daughter and son taking up some duties in the College. Tom himself was given instruction on bee keeping and later on in November, he appointed a cook to take on general day duties with Mrs. Sawbridge as the breakfast cook.

[3].–Harrison was a life-long Lyceumist, like his parents before him. He was for many years active in Middlesbrough Spiritualist Church, for which he was Treasurer. After moving to Slough, he became active in Windsor Church. Tom had also held office as the Secretary of the Tees-side Lyceum District Council. Tom was the son of Minnie Harrison, a well-known physical medium. Incidentally, Tom and his wife gave up a restaurant they ran on the seashore in Perranporth, Cornwall, to move to the College.

Nearing the end of 1966, it was agreed to put slot meters in the guest rooms of which 41 would be required. This move would mean guests could heat their own rooms; many of the bedrooms had no keys so locks and master sets of Yale type locks were required. A laundrette was agreed to for the laundering of the College's bed linen, to be sited in the old kitchen and consisted of a Bendix type washer, a heated tumble dryer and a rotary iron. For a fee, there was also a guest laundry service available. The manager's daughter was busy dyeing parts of the main stair carpet where it was stained or badly worn; producing such good results, she was given £5 as a Christmas gift as her work was voluntary. In the main reception area, general reading books, confectionery etc were available for purchase.

Prior to the College's official opening, short courses had been available on healing; there was a Conference for Ministers, Diploma holders etc. At this time full board (seven nights) to include accommodation, breakfast, lunch, afternoon Teas and Dinner, would set you back a tidy sum of £10. 10s with a reducing scale to children under 5 years at £3.10s.

Christmas week at the College began on Christmas Eve with a children's party from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. with each child receiving a gift to a suggested value of 2/6. This was followed by another party for the adults, with a four-piece band. Christmas Day we can note began with a 10 a.m. service, with Christmas Dinner at 1 p.m. High Tea at 5.30 p.m. then another service at 7 p.m. followed by a 10 p.m. supper. This year, The Hall and Annex was full over Christmas, catering for over 70 guests!

In July 1966, Miss G Owen, SNU Treasurer, accepted a temporary offer whereby she would move from her home in Bootle to take up residence at the Hall to act in a dual capacity as SNU Treasurer, as well as College receptionist and Hostess.[4] This was on the understanding that no member of the National Council received payment for work done at the College. In January 1967, she was asked to stay for a year and continue her work at the College and to also act as Hostess; for the latter she would receive no monetary payment, instead she would receive free board and accommodation. With her agreement she conducted her work from her second floor room. As Miss Owen was now under the direction of the manager, she could no longer be a member of the Board of Governors.[5]

President John Winning also acted as the Medical Superintendent for the college and carried out guest consultations in room 101. A consultation fee of three guineas was charged to the guest and the payment given to the College as Dr. Winning would not accept this payment for

[4].–Gladys Owen was the Spiritualists Lyceum Union's (SLU) President for 1961-1965, and for many years she was the President of Daulby Street Spiritualist Church in Liverpool.

[5].–The original "Management Committee" included SNU President Charles Quastel, Dr John Winning (Secretary), Mrs Grace Boyers, Mr W. Fowler (Treasurer), Mr S. T. Gunning (Consultant Surveyor) Joe Capstack, Harry Dawson, and Ray W. Jones who would soon take up the role of Secretary. In around 1965 Mr W. W. Sills would take up the position as Financial Secretary. Miss G. Owen and Wilfred Watts were active members of the Committee.

In late 1965 the Committee was reformed to the "Board of Governors" with a "Management Committee" with Ray Jones (MSNU) as the Secretary of both committees (Jones was personally recommended as a Governor by Arthur Findlay), Richard Ellidge (MSNU) (General Secretary of the SNU), the Committee still included Charles Quastel (MSNU), Dr John Winning (MSNU), Joe Capstack and Grace Boyers (MSNU) who resigned in July 1967. She was replaced by Mrs Mabel Hibbs (MSNU), Mr S. T. Gunning, Miss G. Owen, Mr Walter W. Sills (MSNU) continued as Financial Secretary and Wilfred Watts (MSNU) and Council Member Gordon Higginson (MSNU) soon joined the Board. In October 1968 Ray Taylor became a member of the Board. In August 1969 Mr George Scott was co-opted on to the Board to give advice on catering, printing, publishing etc.

himself. College Manager Tom Harrison advertised in the Psychic Press for a Manager or Manageress. There were two applicants, Mrs Edna Hopkins of South Wales and Mrs Robson of London.[6] At their interview, they were advised of other suitable appointments, and so Mrs Robson was appointed Dining Room/Still Room Supervisor. Her twenty three year old daughter also required accommodation, so Mrs. Robson had two staff rooms allocated to her for which £1. 10s was deducted from her wage in payment for the extra room with an option for her daughter to work at the college if she wished and so receive a wage of her own.

Mrs Hopkins was appointed Housekeeper, replacing Mrs Sawbridge, and had accommodation with her retired husband in the Clock House, consisting of a kitchen, lounge, bathroom and two bedrooms. Her wage was reduced by just over half, in payment for her husband's board and accommodation, however Mr. Hopkins was soon engaged in book-keeping and attended to the accounts etc for the College's general office. He also sent out the adverts and Mr. W Sills (Treasurer of the AFC management committee) reported that the adverts to *Psychic News* were costing £36 a month. Dr. Winning stated concerning the adverts, "… the picture of the College has now been left out, the name "The Arthur Findlay College" is in heavy black type, the speakers' names are in larger black type than previously used and the general information regarding the College is also left out." By July 1967, a receptionist had been engaged with the appropriate name Miss Service,[7] her hours being 9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. Her duties included typing for John Winning and the college manager. Gordon Higginson said that voluntary staff should be used as much as possible and the reception desk be attended from early morning until late at night.

During this year, Charles Quastel stated that most of the mediums and speakers gave their services free, but almost certainly, payment would have to be made at some point; and it was also made clear to the public that Spiritual Healing be given to all without charge.

At the start of 1968, it was agreed at a meeting of the College's senior staff that seventy-two guests would be the general maximum. Seventy-two was an ideal number for the dining room, and an ideal number to be catered for with a minimum staff of cook, assistant cook, one house-maid, one general maid, one still room maid and one waitress; however, more guests would be catered for if required. In the spring, Mrs. Iris Burford had been employed as a Kitchen Assistant at £7.00 per week, and Ken Fullard engaged as cook at £14.00 per week with full board and accommodation. Mrs Robson, Dining Room/Still Room Supervisor left the College.

A speakers' platform was delivered to the College in May; it consisted of three sections and had a tubular rail along the front and two sides with a removable step at the back. It was

[6]–David Hopkins informs me: Winning approached my mother to take a position at the Hall. Clearly at the age she was (59) and with a retired husband, a move from South Wales to Stansted was a very big step. It meant leaving family, friends and all that both my parents had been involved with in churches (particularly Cardiff at that time), DC, Lyceum work etc. The main reason was agreeing to move was the fact that we all had such high hopes of what the Hall and College might become for the Union and Spiritualism. The suggestion that she just decided to apply for a job at the Hall is not accurate. She was actively encouraged to become part of the team.

[7].–Linda Service later married David Nellist, son of Edward and Edith Nellist. Edward Nellist was Lyceum Banner Editor and his wife Edith was Lyceum Union Secretary for many years. (David Hopkins)

proposed to affix a plaque stating its donation as an Educational gift by the late George A. Mack who had died in 1961. This was initially to be put into storage.[8]



Gordon Higginson offered the college his services for one weekend a month, district councils were approached in respect of a College based garden fete and asked what help they could give. A "Gala Day," was arranged and at a meeting of the Gala committee on July 20th 1968, it was said twenty coaches had been booked in to date; in all five hundred and ninety persons were booked. In addition to the general guests, the President suggested there would be one hundred V.I.P.s. Upon their arrival they would be escorted by members of the National Council and their invitation cards were marked with the initials of their escort. Traffic control was arranged with the Chief Constable of Essex and the fire brigade advised. It was decided no insurance cover would be taken out for loss due to rain, as it was too expensive – all other insurances were covered by the existing College insurance policy. The formal opening would be by Lady Dowding at 2 p.m. and later in the day she would be available to sign autographs. A PA system had been purchased and linked up with a record player; carrier bags with Stansted Hall on them would be for sale and St Johns Ambulance Brigade would attend. The London D.C. was responsible for the information room and for the SNU publicity material.

College manager Tom Harrison reported the conservatory's condition as unsafe, and it was subsequently roped off from the terrace walkway. Many items within the conservatory were in a very poor condition due to woodworm but thanks to numerous monetary donations and a draw amounting to £332, plans were under way to convert the conservatory to a Healing Centre etc. Provisional arrangements were made by the Principal for an official opening and dedication ceremony of the Sanctuary, to take place on July 12th 1969, with Harry Edwards agreeing to perform the official opening.

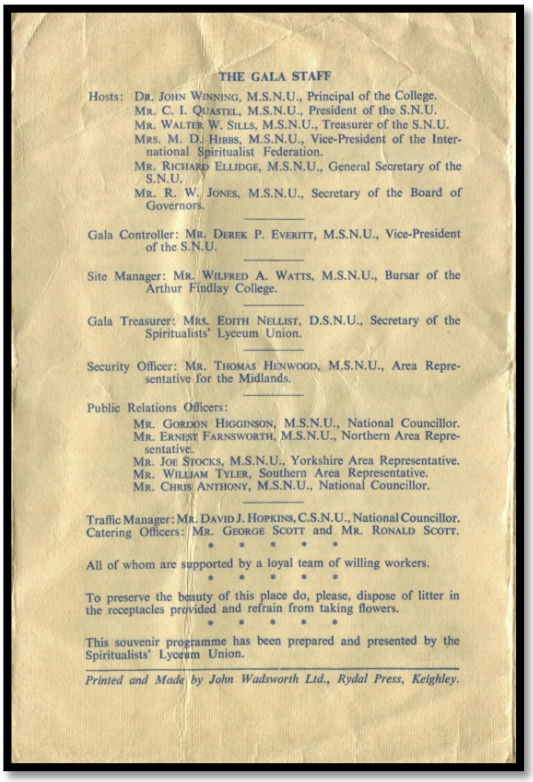
In July 1968, manager Tom Harrison resigned. Mr. W. Sills accompanied by his wife was appointed Acting Manager on July 27th, and it was considered a Bursar should be appointed within a month.[9] At this time there were major staffing problems elsewhere in the College; four staff were leaving, Mrs Hopkins reported applicants were declining due to the long hours; she herself was working thirteen or so hours a day. Staff shortage problems were in part alleviated by offering free room and board. Mrs. Hopkins' sister and nephew staffed the dining room and, with the help and co-operation of existing staff, the College remained functional. Then on August 12th, Mr. W. A. Watts was appointed Bursar. The Gardener's Cottage had been modernised, with the help of an improvement grant from the local

[8].–George Mack was a well-known Lyceum figure. As Lyceum President, on the afternoon of Saturday, February 2nd, 1924 he laid one of the foundation stones of Fleetwood Church. Ernest Oaten and Mrs. J. Butterworth represented the SNU and presentations were made to them. George A Mack's inscribed pendant showing Andrew Jackson Davis and his inscribed trowel are on show in the Britten Memorial Museum at Stansted Hall.

[9].–By this time Walter Sills MSNU had taken the position of SNU Treasurer, previously held by Miss Owen, who was now involved with the "Building Fund Pool," Sills was also assistant Principal and deputised for Winning in his absence.

Authority. A donation of furniture and effects of the famous medium Robert James Lees was accepted and these are now displayed in the museum. The programme for 1969 was agreed; where twenty-two weekly courses had been arranged between April and October.

Wilfred Watts the new Bursar/manager divided the staff into three sections. Housekeeping, with the addition of two staff who were engaged for general cleaning. Kitchen, dining room and still room; the cook Ken Fullard, who was working sixty hours per week plus paid overtime and his staff, were responsible for ordering and buying of all foods, and volunteer worker Mrs. M. Sills was in charge of the dining/still room. Linda Service and Miss. G. Owen continued to carry out office work and operated the reception desk. Under the new management morning tea was served to the bedrooms for those who requested it at an additional cost of 8d per cup, evening meal time was revised and this was now served at 6 p.m. where a newly introduced gong was sounded to announce meal times. After dinner meetings commenced at 7.30 p.m. continuing until 9 p.m. after which tea and biscuits followed for residents and guests free of charge. David Hopkins no longer acted as a voluntary worker, owing to him being a member of the National Council but he continued to split his time with his parents at Clock Cottage and Southend where he was teaching, he did however, continue to help out on occasion at the college whilst in Stansted. The billiards table was put up for sale and it was suggested the room be made into a games room and cafeteria with John Winning offering to donate a chess set.



THE GALA STAFF

Hosts: Dr. John Winning, M.S.N.U., Principal of the College.
Mr. C. I. Quastel, M.S.N.U., President of the S.N.U.
Mr. Walter W. Sills, M.S.N.U., Treasurer of the S.N.U.
Mrs. M. D. Hibbs, M.S.N.U., Vice-President of the International Spiritualist Federation.
Mr. Richard Ellidge, M.S.N.U., General Secretary of the S.N.U.
Mr. R. W. Jones, M.S.N.U., Secretary of the Board of Governors.

Gala Controller: Mr. Derek P. Everitt, M.S.N.U., Vice-President of the S.N.U.

Site Manager: Mr. Wilfred A. Watts, M.S.N.U., Bursar of the Arthur Findlay College.

Gala Treasurer: Mrs. Edith Nellist, D.S.N.U., Secretary of the Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

Security Officer: Mr. Thomas Henwood, M.S.N.U., Area Representative for the Midlands.

Public Relations Officers:
Mr. Gordon Higginson, M.S.N.U., National Councillor.
Mr. Ernest Farnsworth, M.S.N.U., Northern Area Representative.
Mr. Joe Stocks, M.S.N.U., Yorkshire Area Representative.
Mr. William Tyler, Southern Area Representative.
Mr. Chris Anthony, M.S.N.U., National Councillor.

Traffic Manager: Mr. David J. Hopkins, C.S.N.U., National Councillor.
Catering Officers: Mr. George Scott and Mr. Ronald Scott.

* * * * *

All of whom are supported by a loyal team of willing workers.

* * * * *

To preserve the beauty of this place do, please, dispose of litter in the receptacles provided and refrain from taking flowers.

* * * * *

This souvenir programme has been prepared and presented by the Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

Printed and Made by John Wadsworth Ltd., Rydal Press, Keighley.

Originally an idea of Gordon Higginson, college ties and headscarves were introduced. The ties were 17/6 and it was agreed all officials should wear one on the "Gala Day." Unfortunately, the day of the Gala, which took place on Saturday September 14th, was one of the wettest for about 20 year. Financially however, the day was a success with an income of £1,363 and an expenditure of £638, showing a net profit of £725.

Block bookings had been introduced for fifty persons or more with a five percent discount; where three or four bedded rooms are shared, a reduction of a further 10% was made. However, any cancellations would have to be met by the organisers, so the College would not loose any revenue. It was decided in the latter part of 1968 that no alcohol was to be consumed on College premises. Due to ill health, receptionist Miss. Service left the College and Miss. Owen was appointed receptionist and librarian. Mrs Hopkins resigned her position as house-keeper in November 1968, and the now vacant Clock Cottage would be used to house guests for Christmas, as the College was fully booked and had a cancellation waiting list. The Yorkshire D.C. endowed a bedroom for a welcome £150, in November £78. 17.6 was paid and payment was completed by the autumn of 1969. It was decided to ask all District Councils to consider doing this.

The Financial Secretary, Mr W. Sills gave details of staffing costs for 1969; inclusive of insurances etc it would be £9190, with an expected total expenditure of around £20,000. An income of £385 per week was therefore required, or roughly thirty guests per week at £13 per head. However, most of the improvements and renovations had been completed, thus reducing the capital expenditure in this respect for the forthcoming year. The only remaining work consisted of the modification of the old kitchen, which was being used as a storeroom; the disposal of the billiard table, and making the room into a cafeteria/games room; the modification of the old engine room at Clock Cottage; and Dr. Winning's College surgery was made into three single bedrooms of which all were used at Christmas 1968.

At the start of 1969 the fund for pending works on the sanctuary had reached £1625 and so work began on the roof. Estimates for heating the building were given by architect Mr. Cliff Gunning Jr who further reported that the whole roof needed renewing at an additional cost of £150. In spite of this extra work however, the project was still expected to be completed for the scheduled opening. Two Victorian style street gas lights were put up; the paint was removed leaving the copper exposed. One was used at the junction of the path at the gardener's cottage and Annex, the other as a guide light on the grass where the main drive diverts to the front entrance. In addition, a path lighting system had been installed between the college and the Annex as a measure of convenience and safety. A valuation of the Hall, Annex, Gardeners Cottage, Front Lodge and Land by Sworder and Co was prepared on January 7th 1969 and reported by the Principal (Winning) to be at a gross figure of £100,000; this did not include the furniture and fittings etc. Findlay had purchased Stansted Hall in September 1924 for the sum of £9.998.

A twenty-seat coach donated to the College was collected from Margate by Findlay's former chauffer and it was insured and taxed for the year. Head Gardener Mr. Bottomley decided in April to leave the area upon retirement in May but in order to help find a replacement for his position he agreed to sit in on the interviews, after which Mr Bell took the position. When Bursar Wilfred Watts was returning from a trip to London, he passed the College car on the road and promptly called the police. Although the car thieves were apprehended, the car itself was damaged.

In the Summer of 1969, work on the Sanctuary was completed and its official opening was overseen by four Ministers of the Union. Dr. John Winning chaired the event; Mr. Harry Edwards conducted the official opening; Mr. Charles Quastel performed the Dedication and Mr. T. Henwood (chairman of the Healing Committee) responded to Mr. Edwards. The day was well attended with about forty guests from other Organisations amongst the attendees who lunched in the Library. Around forty chairs were sold at a price of £3. 5s each, small plates would be fitted to the chairs showing details of the chair's purchaser. On the formation of Friends of the Arthur Findlay College as organised by Gordon Higginson, General Secretary Dick Ellidge provided a list of Class B members for Gordon to prepare a further list of possible 'Friends.[10] It was in July of this year Wilfred Watts left the College and Walter W. Sills took on the position of acting manager.

As always, the College was looking for ways of supplementing its income and in August 1969, the Board agreed for a Psychic Youth Group Walk to end at the College and for them to supply light refreshments, with showers and baths being at the disposal of the walkers. Among those completing the walk were Roy Stemman and Leslie Price. Mrs. Doris Davey

[10].–Prior to the formation of Friends of Stansted, there were 'Founder Members of the College.'

presented the College with a Wendy House and Swings. This play area was known as Uncle Bert's Corner in honour of Mrs. Davey's father Bert Fruin.[11]

The full time College staff at the end of August were as follows: Miss E Morris, housemaid, Ken Fullard, cook, Iris Burford, cook, three gardeners, Mr Payne, Mrs Leigh, waitress, Miss Leigh, reception and booking, Mrs Hampton, general and Mr. & Mrs Sills. With the College's annual closure getting closer a difficult decision was being considered to dismiss the entire staff but with more staff needing to be recruited once the College re-opened, the decision was therefore made to retain the staff they already had as there was the need to clean the College thoroughly whilst shut.

Ray Jones and Ray Taylor prepared a programme for the College to accept guests over Christmas and New Year. Jointly the festivities were charged at £25.00, individually, Christmas was charged at £15. 15s, and New Year at £6. 6s. The College accepted Gordon Higginson's offer of his services for December 30th. Although sixty guests celebrated the festive season and successful reports were later received, it was noted that the events could have been more successful had they been publicised earlier.

Mr. Jones and Mr. Taylor again teamed to organise the Gala Day for next year. Dr. Winning contacted the local college to arrange an accommodation overflow of their dormitories should the need arise. The day was planned to commence at 11.00 a.m. and continue until 9.30 p.m. that evening.

In the autumn, Ray Taylor made a suggestion for Mr. Leslie Price to start sorting non-psychic books from psychic ones in the library. Leslie recalls: "While I sorted the books in the Library standing on a ladder I was joined by an American guest and we chatted about psychic books. Later I received a postcard written on his plane back over the North Pole inviting me to assist him as a London rep, in his research into healing. He was George Meek,[12] later to publish important works on healing, the work of Bertha Harris, life after death and Spiricom." Dick Ellidge wrote to all the members of the National Council to ask for their opinions on the sale of alcoholic drinks at the College. A Dinner & Dance was arranged for February 21st 1970. It was stipulated a bar should be made available for this occasion, the legal position was therefore explored and a licence applied for, with the old billiards room in mind as a suitable bar area.

With the Sanctuary now open, Dr. Winning was in touch with the necessary authorities with a view to registering the Sanctuary as a place of worship and for the solemnisation of marriages etc. especially as arrangements were already in place for a wedding in the following spring, which would of course require the necessary licence. Also by the registration it would exempt the Sanctuary from paying rates; it was reported in March 1970 the rateable value of the

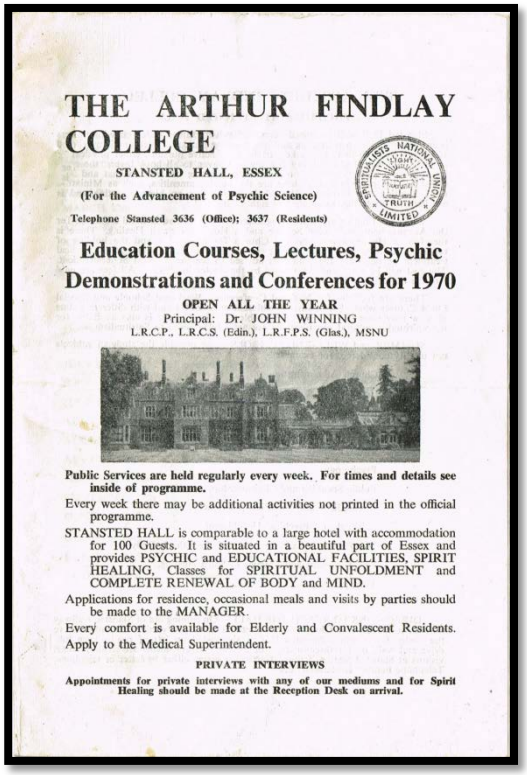
[11].–Doris Davey was well known in the movement, her husband Leslie was vice-President to Gordon Higginson in the early 1970's. Uncle Bert's Corner no longer exists; as you looked down the lawn from the house the area was at the bottom right hand corner. I myself and guests would often shelter in the Wendy House if caught out in the rain – or just for fun. Doris' father Bert Fruin was a well-respected Lyceumist and its President, 1940-1949.

In these early days the lawn was in good use with a height of leisurely activities, playing bowls, putting; or being very English with 'a game of croquet.' Chairs were often placed around the Tulip tree where group sessions, meditations etc took place.

[12].–The research of George W. Meek, Founder, Metascience Foundation:— http://www.worlditc.org/h_07_meek_by_macy.htm

College was reduced from £1138 to £1126. Towards the end of 1969, Ray Taylor was appointed Museum Curator[13] and an electric organ presented to the College by Colchester Church was installed in the Sanctuary.

Looking ahead to 1970, Gordon Higginson proposed a Garden Party to mark the College's spring re-opening, followed by a Bazaar in the autumn, both of which were agreed to be placed in the programme. It was decided that coach parties would be accepted for an inclusive cost to aim more at the overseas visitors staying at the College for more than a week, coach trips from the College would be arranged to local areas, London with theatre trips etc. The National Gardens Associations were invited to view the college gardens and it was decided that on set dates throughout 1970 the general public would be invited to tour the gardens at a price of 2/- for adults and 1/- for children. The proceeds would go to the Nurses Association and be collected by the Head Gardener. Although the college would not benefit directly from the admission proceeds, benefits came from hosting advertisements in the Year Book, direction signs, adverts in the local papers and the sale of garden produce, refreshments, tours of the College's public rooms and the sale of booklets. Another means of advertising the College were 15 x 12 inch printed posters, which were circulated to outside bodies.



THE ARTHUR FINDLAY COLLEGE

STANSTED HALL, ESSEX

(For the Advancement of Psychic Science)

Telephone Stansted 3636 (Office); 3637 (Residents)

Education Courses, Lectures, Psychic Demonstrations and Conferences for 1970

OPEN ALL THE YEAR

Principal: Dr. JOHN WINNING

L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. (Edin.), L.R.F.P.S. (Glas.), MSNU

Public Services are held regularly every week. For times and details see inside of programme.

Every week there may be additional activities not printed in the official programme.

STANSTED HALL is comparable to a large hotel with accommodation for 100 Guests. It is situated in a beautiful part of Essex and provides PSYCHIC and EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES, SPIRIT HEALING, Classes for SPIRITUAL UNFOLDMENT and COMPLETE RENEWAL OF BODY and MIND.

Applications for residence, occasional meals and visits by parties should be made to the MANAGER.

Every comfort is available for Elderly and Convalescent Residents. Apply to the Medical Superintendent.

PRIVATE INTERVIEWS

Appointments for private interviews with any of our mediums and for Spirit Healing should be made at the Reception Desk on arrival.

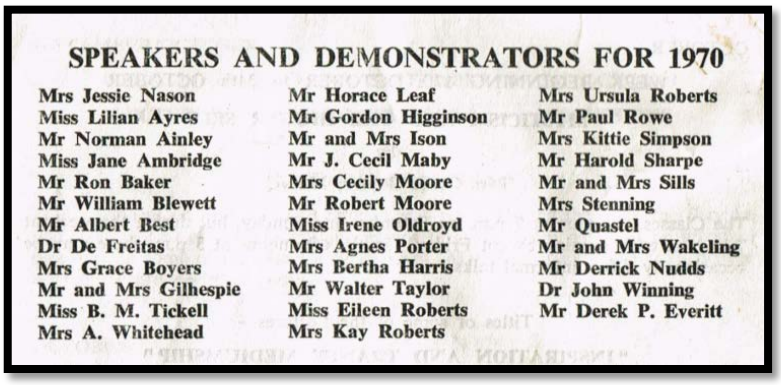
Moving into 1970, the Board gave confirmation of their agreement for the College to apply for a license as a Private Residential and Restaurant establishment in order to sell alcohol. As an experiment however, a one year 'see how it goes' limit was placed on the bar and Gordon Hibbs negotiated with local brewers to obtain bar facilities free of charge.

Leslie Price reported on his work in the library; he was asked if he was in a position to card index the library under author, title and category. Discussions took place regarding the various libraries, and it was agreed there would be no restrictions in housing the ISF library if required.

As the Sanctuary was now registered as a place of Worship etc, the first wedding was booked for March 22nd 1970. The groom was Mr Brian Lindsay and the bride Penelope Davey, whose father Leslie was the Officiating Minister. The planned Garden Party decided upon to mark the opening of the College in spring of this year was changed by Gordon Higginson to the Easter Weekend instead. In the early part of the year, The Friends of Stansted provided £40 for a much needed truck for use in the garden. Mr. Sills, who was responsible for the running of the College as a whole was asked to continue in that role, Dr. Winning agreed to continue as

[13].–The Britten Memorial Museum was not moved to Stansted Hall until August 1971, records show a museum room was used at the College prior to this at various locations e.g Findlay's old kitchen (today the old kitchen is part of the new kitchen, the kitchen before the alterations is today the office) the museum was also sited in Findlay's old office, today it is the mediums room, next to the Blue Room. Presumably the museum held items from Findlay, the bequest by Eva Lees of her father's personal affects etc. These included his 1888 diaries and Lee's participation in the "Jack the Ripper" case, some years later Ray reported these as stolen.

Principal and Charles Quastel agreed to work as the full time Education Organiser with lodgings at the College. In March, Miss. Owen left the College and moved to Liverpool.



SPEAKERS AND DEMONSTRATORS FOR 1970

Mrs Jessie Nason	Mr Horace Leaf	Mrs Ursula Roberts
Miss Lilian Ayres	Mr Gordon Higginson	Mr Paul Rowe
Mr Norman Ainley	Mr and Mrs Ison	Mrs Kittie Simpson
Miss Jane Ambridge	Mr J. Cecil Maby	Mr Harold Sharpe
Mr Ron Baker	Mrs Cecily Moore	Mr and Mrs Sills
Mr William Blewett	Mr Robert Moore	Mrs Stenning
Mr Albert Best	Miss Irene Oldroyd	Mr Quastel
Dr De Freitas	Mrs Agnes Porter	Mr and Mrs Wakeling
Mrs Grace Boyers	Mrs Bertha Harris	Mr Derrick Nudds
Mr and Mrs Gilhespie	Mr Walter Taylor	Dr John Winning
Miss B. M. Tickell	Miss Eileen Roberts	Mr Derek P. Everitt
Mrs A. Whitehead	Mrs Kay Roberts	

In the July, menus were being considered for guests to have a choice of food. For example, a choice of breakfasts was being considered whereby a guest could have half a grapefruit or cereal, scrambled egg, boiled egg, fried egg, bacon, sausages, and kippers instead of an already set bacon and egg breakfast. By this time, Gordon Higginson was SNU President and the Board was informed that the SNU might sell their property at Tib Lane in Manchester, then buy and use the College Annex as its headquarters. The Board therefore considered the value of the Annex and put forward an asking price to the SNU. The money from the sale would then be used to pay off part of the College's debt.

Preparations were in progress for a Gala Day. It was decided the catering should be done inside the College and the College's toilets used by the Gala's attending public to save money. Lists of stalls were to be drawn up and a 20 x 20 foot marquee be used, with another by the LDC for its Bingo. A piano and a platform from the College would be used in the Social Marquee, chairs, tables and ropes would be required for the sideshows etc. The Gala took place on July 18th.

In late summer, Higginson agreed to organise the first College dinner/dance for October 31st, principal guests were Grace Boyers, Maurice Barbanell, John Winning and Thomas Johanson SAGB (Coral Polge's husband) with Frank Tamms as the Master of Ceremonies. The planning of the Christmas and New Year festivities at the College was underway, the proceedings to be on similar lines as the previous year, with a combined stay, December 24th to January 1st for £25. 10s. A petition was given the Board signed by 53 Yorkshire DC members expressing their dissatisfaction with the College's main staircase carpet. It was their intention to raise funds themselves to have the carpet replaced, an action met with full agreement by the Board. Mr. and Mrs. Sills were still carrying out their duties on a voluntary basis and had done so for a long period. It was now decided that an advert be placed in the Spiritualist press for a permanent manager at the College.

At the Board of Governors meeting on August 30th 1970 Higginson moved, seconded by Ray Taylor that a bar would operate under a residential and restaurant licence to be applied for in the name of Mr W. Sills. It appears it would not be until the summer or later of 1971 that the licensed bar actually came into fruition in the old Billiards room.[14] It was also at around this

[14].–Today the bar remains in Findlay's old billiard room but in recent years it has been extended, in the old days it held a Grand piano. I was employed as its first bar manager. Ivor James, Gordon Higginson and Frank Tamms would sometimes entertain us: Frank's version of 'Oh Danny Boy' in his deep voice was a favourite. Many of our old friends spent many an enjoyable evening either singing or chatting in this room. I remember well Maurice and Sylvia Barbanell, Doris Stokes, Coral Polge, Bertha Harris, Albert Best, Robin Stevens, Don Galloway, Jean Bassett, Connie Ransom, Jack and Betty Wakeling, healers Maurice Tester and Gilbert Anderson to name just a few. The College's General Manager, Tanya Smith, has mounted portraits on the walls of some of our pioneers; the Sanctuary also has an area dedicated with individual plaques of our old friends.

time that an estimated date for the SNU office to transfer to the Annex was pencilled in as August 14th; it was agreed that Dick Ellidge and Miss Foster, a member of the SNU staff, be offered accommodation at Stansted Hall.

Acknowledgement and thanks should be given to all the early dedicated workers of the college, many of whom worked on a purely voluntary basis. Others while waged, often worked above and beyond their contracted hours during these years. The Union in striving to keep Findlay's magnificent gift, drew close to bankruptcy. Around this period a new member of staff called Jane Heatley started to work part time waiting tables etc, Jane was a member of the staff at SAGB, London, and would come to the College with Jimmy Young who would be appointed the new manager of Stansted Hall.

Editor's closing comments:

On October 31st 1972 Jane Heatley had taken up residence at Stansted Hall, and was employed by the SNU at their new registered office in the Annex named "Britten House." Today Jane still works full-time as Senior Administrator, and office Secretary to Mr Charles Coulston. Ken Fullard continued as resident cook until the early 1980's, his assistant Iris Burford continued for some years after. Today Ken is retired and lives in Stansted village; Iris died in 2005, and there is a dedication plaque in the garden of remembrance. In early 1973 I took up residence at Stansted Hall and still keep in contact with Ken and Jane. These early days hold many special and fond memories of all the friends and acquaintances made; sadly almost all of them now reside in the Spirit World.

—~—☼—~—

ERNEST WALTER OATEN

1875-1952

His contribution to Spiritualism was long and notable, giving almost 60 years' service

In the last issue of "The Pioneer Journal," we noted the significant part the *Two Worlds* played in the formation of the Spiritualists' National Federation (SNF), which brought about the Spiritualists' National Union (SNU). This was together with an article by James J. Morse, who gave an informed and detailed overview of the early developments of the SNF: "Spiritualism in Great Britain."

The Two Worlds was co-founded by Emma Hardinge Britten and Edward Wallis in 1887.[15] The first issue was published on Friday November 18th 1887, under the editorship of Emma Hardinge Britten.[16]

In the same issue of "The Pioneer" a brief mention was given to the former SNU President Ernest Walter Oaten.[17] Here is a short biography taken from 'The National Spiritualist' of October 1929:[18]

Who's Who in the S.N.U.



Mr. E. W. Oaten

President, International Spiritualist Federation.

Editor, "Two Worlds," Past President, S.N.U.

Mr. E. W. Oaten was born at Bristol, in 1875. His father was a Nonconformist lay preacher, and a keen politician with a gift for platform oratory, and this gift was handed on to his son like Elisha's mantle. He began work in a printing establishment at the early age of eleven years. By the time he was seventeen, he had left Bristol, and was assistant secretary of a large Band of Hope in South Wales.

His attention was attracted to Spiritualism the following year when he was a youth of 18 years.

[15].–See Psypioneer Volume 9, No 5: May 2013:—*After Forty Years – An Outline of the History of "The Two Worlds*."

[16].–Early editors were Emma Hardinge Britten (1887-1892), Edward Walter Wallis (1892-1898), Peter Lee (1889-1899), Will Phillips (1899-1906), James Johnson Morse (1906-1919), and Ernest Walter Oaten (1919-1945).

[17].–For more on Oaten see Psypioneer Volume 5, No 6: June 2009:—*The B.B.C. Gives in at Last. Ernest Oaten to Broadcast* & *The Personal Side* – pages 190-195.

[18].–*The National Spiritualist*: Vol. VI. No 64., October 1929 – the first official journal of the SNU edited by former SNU President George Berry.

He was fortunate in the many phases of phenomena he came in contact with at this easy stage in his career. Among physical phenomena he witnessed independent levitation, apports, independent writing (without contact) and materialisations in good light through the mediumship of Mr. W. Jeune and others. He listened to such orators as Mrs. E. H. Britten, J. J. Morse, E. W. Wallis, Florence Marryat and others. He then sought development which speedily resulted in Trance Mediumship. Joining the Cardiff Society, his services were sought in the district, and Pontypridd, Newport, Barry and Merthyr platforms were acceptably filled. In 1900 he moved to Portsmouth, and helped in the re-organising of the local psychical society, and in founding the Portsmouth Spiritual Temple. In these years, he gave valuable assistance in founding the Spiritualist Churches in Southampton and the surrounding areas.

For a brief space between 1905 and 1909, Mr. Oaten was back in Bristol, and took up political work, acting as assistant registration agent for a number of years.

During 1909 he responded to a call from the Sheffield Spiritualist Societies, to become resident organiser. In 1911, he secured a seat on the S .N .U., and has been continuously a member of the Council from that date onwards. In 1915, he was elected to the Presidential chair, and occupied that important position through all the trying period of the war years.[19] After three years service as organiser of the Sheffield D.C. Mr. Oaten spent two years as the resident speaker of the Attercliffe Church, a position which he only relinquished in Sept. 1914, in consequence of war conditions.[20]

In 1919 on the passing of Mr. J. J. Morse,[21] Mr. Oaten succeeded to the Editorship of the "Two Worlds," which he continues to edit with marked success. As Secretary of the Two Worlds Company he has disclosed keen business instincts. In 1928, he was unanimously elected President of the International Spiritualist Federation and in the interests of International Spiritualism he recently visited Holland and Belgium.[22]

As a speaker in the Spiritualist Movement, Mr. Oaten commands universal respect, and has won popularity unique in our movement. On the National Council,

---

[19].–Note his Presidential address, looking back at the War, delivered at the SNU Annual Conference held at the Mechanics' Hall, Nottingham, on July 5th 1919 – see Psypioneer Volume 7, No 6: June 2011.

[20].– Attercliffe Spiritualist Church: A Rededication ceremony was held on September 20th 1999 at the Attercliffe Spiritualist Centre, Bold Street, Sheffield by SNU President Minister Judith Seaman. Ten years later in December 2009 they celebrated their centenary. Note the church's history page and Oaten's early connection with the church:—http://www.attercliffespiritualistchurch.co.uk/history.php

[21].–for more on James Morse see Psypioneer Volume 8, No 10: October 2012:—*James Johnson Morse – Paul J. Gaunt*, & *J. J. Morse – Julia Schlesinger*.

[22].–An early sketch of the ISF was given at the sixth Congress of the International Spiritualists' Federation in Glasgow, in September 1937 by M. Beversluis who was the only original member of the Executive Committee. Beversluis was from Schiedam, Holland and had been a minister of the Dutch Reform Church for 46 years; he was in his 81st year. It can also be noted that Rev. M. Beversluis had played a substantial part in the early history and foundation of the ISF. See Psypioneer Volume 4, No 3: March 2008:—*A sketch of the History of the I.S.F. – M Beversluis* – note also the following article *The International Congress of Spiritualists*. [Please note: "Presented to the ISF's 1948 Congress in London," was incorrectly inputted]

his most enduring work has been on the Trust Property Committee and Pooling Scheme.

In 1909, Mr. Oaten took to wife, Miss A. Johnson, of Cardiff, a well-known platform clairvoyante. For 20 years he has been sustained and strengthened by loving comradeship and loyal support in the manifold duties that have fallen to his lot.

~—~~☼~~—~

In the *Two Worlds* February 3rd 1939 Oaten makes – An Appeal:

The History of The Two Worlds

OVER fifty years ago, *The Two Worlds* was formed to record the Phenomena, present the philosophy, and report the activities of modern Spiritualism, and to popularise a growing Movement. At that time Spiritualism was little known and much misunderstood; the weight of public opinion was dead against it, and even the Press treated it only with ridicule or contempt. The subscribed capital was just over £1,500, and on this limited sum the paper has been carried on for half a century. During that time it has materially assisted to overcome prejudice and opposition, has helped to popularise modern Spiritualism, and has become known and respected in every civilised country. Articles from *The Two Worlds* are translated and published in the foreign Spiritualist Press month by month.

What We Have Done!

Founded in 1887, it experienced heavy struggle. The first 25 years of its existence showed a consistently adverse balance sheet, but the paper was a brilliant success in that it did the work for which it was founded. *The Two Worlds* was largely instrumental in originating the Spiritualist National Federation and, later, in securing its incorporation as the Spiritualist National Union, Ltd., thereby enabling Spiritualist Churches own and control their own property. The National Fund of Benevolence was initiated by Mrs. Wallis during the time her honoured husband was the editor of our paper. The National Hymn Book was compiled and published at the expense of the *Two Worlds* and nearly a quarter of a million copies have been sold. By 1910 *The Two Worlds* had just become a paying proposition.

Then came the Great War, which put scores of newspapers out of circulation; costs rose steadily, paper was difficult to obtain and during the succeeding five years 1914 to 1919 its resources gradually dwindled. During the war the Company lost £400 of its capital, but *The Two World* readers subscribed for a fleet of six ambulances for the Red Cross at a cost of £1,100.

We asked nothing for ourselves.

In 1919, I took over the editorship after the transition of my old friend J. J. Morse. The financial position was then difficult and during twenty years I have had a continual struggle. *I know* I have friends throughout the country who appreciate the work I have done. I ask nothing for myself—I have no other desire than to see *The Two Worlds* placed upon a firm and solid foundation, and enabled to carry on its work of disseminating Light and Truth and showing Spiritualism to the world.

The Actual Facts

It has been stated that *The Two Worlds* is controlled by the Spiritualist National Union. That is not true. (The fact is, the Union was started as the result of agitation *in The Two Worlds*.) When the paper started in 1887, many Spiritualist Churches subscribed to its capital; they are *still* on the list of shareholders, so that many of the Churches rather than the Union have an interest in the paper. Further, every editor of *The Two Worlds* has been a member of the National Council, and *several* of them have been its President. Members of the Council of the Spiritualist National Union have *always* been invited to a position on its Board of Directors. There is no obligation in the matter, but *The Two Worlds* has always considered that an organised Movement is essential to the well-being of Spiritualism, and has considered it wise to work in the closest collaboration *with* such organisation. While individual effort can be useful in propaganda, we believe that organisation is necessary for consolidation.

Help Us To Expand

The growing popularity of Spiritualism in these days presents an opportunity for the development of Spiritualist activities which the company are largely hindered from taking advantage of, and I am therefore appealing to the readers of *The Two Worlds* and lovers of a clean and dignified Spiritualism to assist in raising a Sustentation Fund of £1,000 to enable *The Two Worlds* to maintain and extend the service it has rendered and to extend its usefulness in many directions.

I have devoted the whole of my life to the spread of the Movement, in return for a mere subsistence, I have conducted thousands of meetings in every part of the country, many of them without fee or reward, at the call of the spirit. Will you now help me to continue and expand the work for which *The Two Worlds* was founded? All contributions will be gratefully received and acknowledged in our columns.

ERNEST W. OATEN.

A year later in the *Two Worlds* March 15th 1940, Oaten tells us how through Spirit Guidance his position as Editor was orchestrated by the spirit of Emma Hardinge Britten:

Twenty-one Years

ON March 16th I shall complete twenty-one years as the Editor of *The Two Worlds*.[23] They have been years of struggle and difficulty, in which I have been heartened and sustained by the loyalty of my readers, the co-operation of contributors, and the good-will of the whole Movement.

When I entered upon my Editorial duties, the circulation of *The Two Worlds* was small, and the financial position critical. There have been many, times during the interim when it has been difficult to see a clear path, but through all those years I have been very conscious of the help and assistance of that noble band of pioneers whose successor I have tried to be. It would have been easy to have obtained material success by lowering the standards set by these pioneers, but I

[23].–Article is taken from *The Two Worlds* March 15th 1940 page 96.

have always been conscious of the fact that the maintenance of religious and philosophical standards is the only way to present Spiritualism deteriorating to the level of sensationalism, wonder-mongering, and fortune- telling. I have tried to make The Two Worlds the voice of the spirit world, to avoid credulity, and to maintain the standards of evidence. My object has not been to persuade people that Spiritualism is true, or plead for their adherence to the Cause, but to present such evidences as would leave them no alternative but to accept the Spiritualist position by the sheer weight of' evidence.

The story of my appointment may interest readers. When in February, 1919, Mr. J. J. Morse was suddenly called to the higher life, I was on tour in South Wales. I took an all-night journey to officiate at his interment. Standing at the graveside Councillor J. Ward, then Chairman of *The Two Worlds*, intimated that the Directors would like to see me the following week to discuss its future.



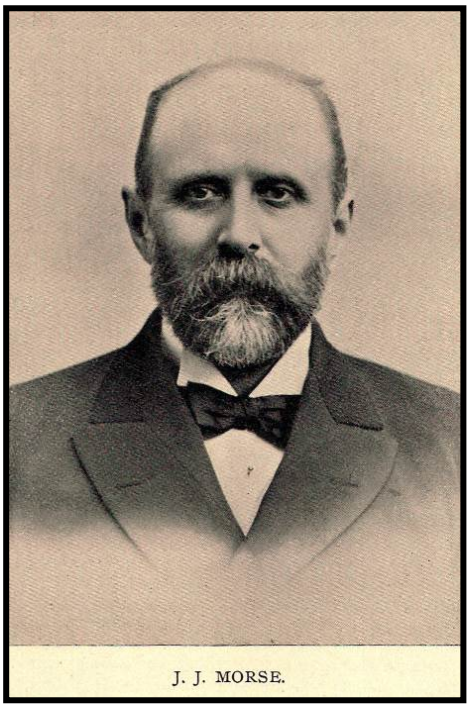
In September of the previous year I had attended a seance at the home of Mr. James Coates, at Rothesay. Mrs Coates was a fine trance medium. She was controlled by Mrs. Britten, and informed me that I had better take up writing, as she had selected me to succeed her in certain work which was dear to her heart. I told her that in accordance with my custom I was seeking nothing for myself, but if the call came to any phase of work, I would do my best. I suggested that she might confirm this message through another medium. It was confirmed two months later at a meeting at Derby. Then, at four successive meetings, I had a description of James Robertson, of Glasgow,[24] and on each occasion he was described as bearing an enormous pen. This description came at four different towns and through different mediums. I wondered what it meant. At that time I had never written an article in my life.

On arriving at my home in Sheffield after Mr. Morse's funeral, Mrs. Britten spoke to me through the mediumship of my wife, saying: "The call has come. I have selected you as Editor of *The Two Worlds*. The banner is entrusted to your keeping."

A few days later I set out to Manchester to meet the Directors. It was a cold day in early March. There was a thick misty drizzle, and I was chilled to the marrow.

[24].–James Robertson was President of the Spiritualists' National Federation in 1893, his work was mainly in Glasgow and his association with the "Glasgow Association of Spiritualists" founded in 1866. See Psypioneer Volume 7, No 10: October 2011:—*The Glasgow Association of Spiritualists – Paul J. Gaunt*, & *Historical Notes (Glasgow Association of Spiritualists) – The Two Worlds*. Jas Robertson died on October 9th 1913 at the age of 69

As I was a stranger to Manchester I had brought my wife with me to have a look round the city. Entering a restaurant for a hot coffee, a man tapped me on the shoulder. “Aren’t you Mr. Oaten.” I agreed. “What are you doing in Manchester?” “Oh! I have come over to see some friends.” He said: “I hear a rumour that you are likely to be the Editor of *The Two Worlds*.” I admitted that I was going to see the Board that afternoon, and he quickly replied. “You’ll want a house. I know just the one that will suit you.” Houses were difficult to obtain in 1919. He took me to his home, where we had a bite of lunch, and my friend. Mr. Charles Rickard, introduced us to a man who was just leaving his villa to reside at a distance. The house suited me; there were certain fixtures to take to, and I had taken the house and paid for the accessories before I had even interviewed the Board or got the post.



J. J. MORSE.

At the Board Meeting, I discovered that in the previous November, when J. J. Morse was apparently in good health, Mrs. Britten had communicated with two of the Directors to say that Ernest Oaten was to be the next Editor; and a few weeks before his passing, Morse himself had intimated that he would like me to succeed him in the event of his health compelling him to resign.

Through those twenty-one years I have been in close communication both with Mrs. Britten and J. J. Morse, and every message received through any medium has always been confirmed through another and independent one before I have acted on the advice. In the most difficult times (and the present ones are amongst the most difficult), I have always been sure of their companionship and advice. Readers will excuse this personal note, but I thought the story worth telling.

During the past twelve months, the loyalty of my readers and their contributions to our Sustentation Fund have been a help and an encouragement. Paper and other difficulties still beset the path, but the war will not last for ever.

With the assistance of my many friends, and the consistent support of the spirit world, I look forward with every confidence to a greater future for Spiritualism, *The Two Worlds*, and for the world in which we live.

A number of questions have been asked:

Who were the first Ministers of the Union?



The SNU has sometimes stated our *first* Ministers were appointed in 1939, but questions have been asked relating to Ernest Oaten who is described in various publications as being a Spiritualist Minister as early as the First World War. We can also note that Frank Blake was the resident minister of the Spiritualists' National Church, Bournemouth prior to 1939.

A paper was read to the London District Council's May meeting at South Place, Finsbury, May 19th 1921, by SNU President George Berry, entitled "The Seven Principles of Spiritualism. Considered as the Basis of S.N.U. Membership". The quote below is taken from the *Two Worlds*, Friday May 27th 1921:

> In reply to those who desire to assert the non-religious character of Spiritualism I must emphasise the fact that the S.N.U. claims to be a religious organisation. The S.N.U. is definitely and deliberately seeking recognition as a religious denomination so as to secure the same liberty to proclaim its message, and the same freedom from persecution for its public exponents and demonstrators as is accorded the ministers of other denominations. To secure that end it may be recalled that the Parliamentary Fund was established,[25] and measures taken to present a petition to Parliament as a preliminary to a Charter, and to bring before Parliament an amending Bill to alter certain obsolete laws under which some of our mediums have been prosecuted.[26]
>
> With the same object in view it will be remembered that our late President, Mr. E. W. Oaten, Editor of The Two Worlds, consented to claim exemption from military service on the grounds that he was a minister of a religious denomination. The case was fought through the lower to the High Courts of Justice.[27] The courts

[25].– Oaten addressed this issue at the fourteenth S.N.U. AGM, held at Glasgow on Saturday July 1st, 1916: — After a free and representative expression of views upon this important matter, chiefly drawing attention to the injustice and indignity suffered by mediums at the hands of the common law, due to the application of all but obsolete Acts of Parliament, the following resolution was carried: "That the E.C. be instructed to open a fund (amount named, £1,000) for the purpose of securing the amendment of the Witchcraft Acts and the Vagrancy Act, the adequate protection of mediums, and the creation of all necessary machinery." Moved by Mr. Keeling [S.N.U., President 1928-1930], seconded by Mr. F. T. Blake [S.N.U., President 1938-1941]. Mr. Morse [S.N.U., Vice President] promised to help in this matter by utilising space in the columns of the Two Worlds for the furtherance of the object.

[26].–On Tuesday July 1st 1930 an official deputation to the Right Honourable J.R. Clynes, M.P. (Home Secretary) at Home Office, Whitehall, S.W.1 by united Spiritualist Organisations. A major contribution was made by Ernest Oaten and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. This was Doyle's last of his many services to the Movement, as he passed on July 7th. The official printed minutes of the deputation, seeking a change in the law in England, are published in Psypioneer Volume 8, No 7. July 2012.

[27].–Ernest Oaten was charged on July 6th 1918 for failing to accept military service. The case was heard at Sheffield West Riding Police Court on October 15th 1918. A verbatim report of the full Police Court

granted that he was a qualified minister, but questioned our status as a religious body. That we did not win the case was not due to any lack of justice in our claim, but to the prejudice and opposition of religious bigotry.

During the course of the hearing in the lower courts, it was laid down that in order to fulfil the character of a denomination the community in question must stand separate and apart from other religious organisations. Mr. Justice Darling was quoted as declaring on some similar issue that to be entitled to call itself a denomination an organisation must "have a common denominator, some special features of its own which make it distinctive and give it a distinctive position among religious bodies."

To establish our claim, the first step taken was to exhibit some likenesses in the exercise of functions common to most denominations. Thus, we possess church buildings devoted exclusively to the propagation of our Cause. We have Lyceums, or Sunday Schools, for the training of our children in the elements of our beliefs and practice. We exercise the right of ceremonial for marriages, burials, and for the naming or baptism of infants. Not least in this category of likenesses, church membership is restricted to such as conform to the regulations contained in our Articles of Association, and who subscribe to the seven principles or tenets upon which the S.N.U. is founded.

The second step taken was to exhibit our differences, to throw into clear relief those special features which, in the words of Mr. Justice Darling, "give it a distinctive position among religious bodies." Taking the order of our services, the distinguishing feature is undoubtedly the introduction of the psychic element, whether by way of trance speaking or the clairvoyant description of arisen spirit friends. In the exposition of our principles equally clear differences appear, especially in the cutting across the creeds and theology of the older denominations. In the face of the old-time demand for a faith resting on the authority of the past, or in a priesthood, we begin by an appeal to facts which can be verified by the ordinary intelligent investigator. An essential part of our work is the provision of opportunities for the study of the facts and phenomena from which alone personal conviction is assured to the diligent student. There is also provision made for the development and training in the manifestation of the psychic powers.

The facts of science and the teachings of philosophy are laid under contribution to illustrate our phenomena or elucidate our themes. We proclaim the inherently spiritual nature of man; the government of the universe by spiritual laws; and the eternal progression of man towards complete unison with the great Father of all. We assert that such teachings and practice are truly religious, and at the same time it is thoroughly distinctive from the position taken up by other denominations.

The seven principles were first given through the mediumship of Mrs. Hardinge Britten, an apostle and early pioneer whose activities in the Cause of Spiritualism were truly world-wide. They are the first clear statements of principles around which the Movement has grown. From the first moment when the scattered individuals and

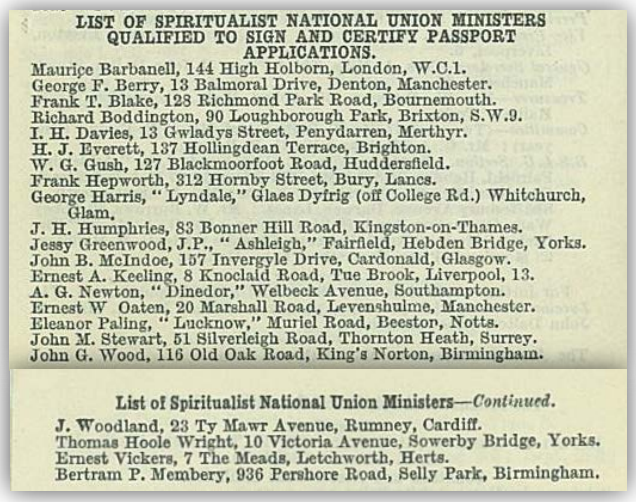
---

proceedings was published by the SNU in 1918 – "On the Side of Angels the Law v. Spiritualism." This will soon be published on the Presidents page (under Oaten):—http://www.snu.org.uk/spiritualism/presidents

small churches sought organic unity, these principles were adopted as the binding link. They have thus descended to us from the very early days and are consecrated through the labours of those who laid the foundation of our Spiritualist Movement.

—~—☼—~—

However, these early ministers were not appointed officially by the Union, although they no doubt enjoyed SNU interest and support, as can be noted in the Union's 1918 publication, "On the Side of Angels the Law v. Spiritualism."



LIST OF SPIRITUALIST NATIONAL UNION MINISTERS QUALIFIED TO SIGN AND CERTIFY PASSPORT APPLICATIONS.

Maurice Barbanell, 144 High Holborn, London, W.C.1.
George F. Berry, 13 Balmoral Drive, Denton, Manchester.
Frank T. Blake, 128 Richmond Park Road, Bournemouth.
Richard Boddington, 90 Loughborough Park, Brixton, S.W.9.
I. H. Davies, 13 Gwladys Street, Penydarren, Merthyr.
H. J. Everett, 137 Hollingdean Terrace, Brighton.
W. G. Gush, 127 Blackmoorfoot Road, Huddersfield.
Frank Hepworth, 312 Hornby Street, Bury, Lancs.
George Harris, "Lyndale," Glaes Dyfrig (off College Rd.) Whitchurch, Glam.
J. H. Humphries, 83 Bonner Hill Road, Kingston-on-Thames.
Jessy Greenwood, J.P., "Ashleigh," Fairfield, Hebden Bridge, Yorks.
John B. McIndoe, 157 Invergyle Drive, Cardonald, Glasgow.
Ernest A. Keeling, 8 Knoclaid Road, Tue Brook, Liverpool, 13.
A. G. Newton, "Dinedor," Welbeck Avenue, Southampton.
Ernest W Oaten, 20 Marshall Road, Levenshulme, Manchester.
Eleanor Paling, "Lucknow," Muriel Road, Beestor, Notts.
John M. Stewart, 51 Silverleigh Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.
John G. Wood, 116 Old Oak Road, King's Norton, Birmingham.

List of Spiritualist National Union Ministers—*Continued*.

J. Woodland, 23 Ty Mawr Avenue, Rumney, Cardiff.
Thomas Hoole Wright, 10 Victoria Avenue, Sowerby Bridge, Yorks.
Ernest Vickers, 7 The Meads, Letchworth, Herts.
Bertram P. Membery, 936 Pershore Road, Selly Park, Birmingham.

On what actual date the first Ministers were appointed is presently unclear as within the s published SNU Minutes and Annual reports there is no direct information. In 1938 there is no mention of the appointments. However, in the diary for 1939 which was sent to the printers around July/August and was available to members from mid-September 1938 at 1s. 6d. is a list of the SNU appointed Ministers so the selections would have been at some time prior to the above dates, as shown.

The Minutes and Annual report of the AGM held at Cardiff on July 1st 1939, under the presidency of Frank Blake tell us little, with just one reference. Shortly afterwards came the outbreak of war on September 3rd which would seriously affect all public gatherings and cause wide-spread dislocation of Church arrangements. The SNU Council appointed an Emergency Committee to conduct their business, pending further satisfactory arrangements:

"**Spiritualists Marriages in Scotland**.

"It was reported that as the result of efforts by Messrs. J. B. McIndoe and J. G. Findlay arrangements had been made by which marriages in Scotland performed by Spiritualist Ministers, will be registered as regular marriages."[28]

The following 1940 AGM reports that the Union warned:[29] "Our position can only be maintained by increased support from the more prosperous Churches and subscribing members, failing which it will be difficult, if not impossible, to continue efficiently the various services and functions of the Union. In the month of December the office suffered slight damage through enemy action and our thanks are due to the staff for the manner in which they carried

[28].–J. B. McIndoe is John Brown McIndoe, former SNU President (1930-1938). J. G. Findlay is John Galloway Findlay, who was Area Representative for Scotland and the brother of James Arthur Findlay.

[29].–The thirty-eighth AGM is advertised for July 6th 1940 at the Spiritualists' National Church at Reading, but the published official Minutes shows, no doubt due to the war, it was actually held at Brixton Church on August 31st 1940.

on with the work in difficult conditions."[30] There is no reference of the appointment of Union Ministers for 1940.

The following year the AGM was at the Spiritualist Church, Charnwood Street, Derby on July 5th 1941.[31] For the first time in the history of the Union its President died while holding office, Frank Thomas Blake passed on March 1st, and his position was filled by John Stewart. We reference SNU appointed Ministers in the published Minutes:

> "In reply to a question by Mr. Barbanell, the Secretary stated it was not intended to confine the appointment of Ministers of the S.N.U. to actual platform workers. It was desirable that Ministers should be able to conduct Church services if called upon, but their duties included those usually associated with a Minister of Religion."

Further mention in the Annual Report:

> "SPIRITUALIST MINISTERS. Following upon the regaining of the right for Spiritualist Ministers to conduct marriages in Scotland, the Council decided to appoint Ministers throughout the Movement. The matter was delegated to the Exponents' Committee, who, after inviting suggestions from District Councils and satisfying themselves as to the qualifications of the candidates, subsequently submitted recommendations to the Council, who appointed some 50 Ministers, bringing the total, including Scotland, to 60."

It was further stated:

> "MILITARY SERVICE. The Council approached the Ministry of Labour and National Service and requested that Spiritualist Ministers should be granted exemption from Military Service the same as Ministers of other religions. A deputation waited upon the Ministry and presented our case, which was later supplemented by a comprehensive written statement.
>
> "We regret to report that our efforts were unsuccessful, as our request was refused, and when pressed for the grounds on which it was declined, the reply was that it is not customary for the Minister to give reasons for his decisions."

The 1942 AGM was held at Parkside Spiritualists' National Church at Coventry on July 4th.[32] The Minutes report under Annual and Interim Reports:

> "Mr. S. Ingham (Northern D.C.) was informed that Ministers of the Union were entitled to sign Pension and similar Government forms.

[30].–The number of Churches on the register for 1940 were 401, with a membership of 13,863. This showed a decrease of 73 Churches and 1,137 members. During the year 13 Churches with an aggregate membership of 434 were affiliated.

[31].– The number of Churches on the register for 1941 were 414, with a membership of 12,457. This showed an increase of 13 Churches but a decrease of 1,406 members.

[32].–The number of Churches on the register for 1942 were 413, with a membership of 12,354. This showed a decrease of 1 Church and 103 members.

"Mr. N. E. Ainley (Northern D.C.) asked about the proposed form of ordination service for the installation of Ministers.

"Replying for the Council, Mr. E. W. Oaten said he had undertaken the compilation of a "Ministers' Handbook," which would contain services for Naming, Marriages, Funerals, Ministers' Ordinations, Induction of new Church members, etc., together with other information useful to Ministers and Church Officers, and was doing his best to finish these as soon as possible.

"Mrs. R. C. Johnson (East Midland D.C.) asked who the Ministers were and how they were appointed. The Secretary stated the list of Ministers appeared in the Union's Diary. They were appointed by the Council of the Union."

The 1943 AGM was held at Brixton, London on July 3rd. President John Stewart handed over his Presidential badge to his successor Mr. A. H. L. [Harold] Vigurs.[33] The following year's 1944 AGM was held at the Causeway Lane, Spiritualists' Church, Leicester on the July 1st under the presidency of Vigurs.[34]

The 1944 Annual Report stated the Exponents and Education Committee had appointed fifteen Ministers of the Union, they were:—

Mrs. I. Atmore (Fulham)
Mr. J. A. Baker (Sutton)
Mrs. A. Calway (Eltham)
Mrs. D. Hart (Southampton)
Mr. H. Metcalfe (Leamington)
R. A. Owen (Dublin)
Mr. E. E. Phillips (Stratford)
Mrs. E. F. Rayner (Palmers G'n)
Mr. H. Sharp, (Hampstead)
Mr. A. Taylor (Birmingham)
Mr. A. E. Taylor (Wembley)
Mrs. F. Tyler (Battersea)
Mrs. E. Winters (Wallasey)
Mrs. Mabel Wood (S. Shields)
Mr. H. Woodhouse (Worthing).

Some of these names will be familiar, notably Robert Owen, former S.N.U., President 1925-1928 who was profiled in the first issue of Pioneer. We can also note Harold Sharp the well-known medium for his Auragraphs, of which the Britten Memorial Museum holds two of his albums. At this time you did not have to be a member of the Union e.g., a Class B member, to be awarded an S.N.U., Diploma or Certificate.

The following year's AGM 1945 was held at Paignton Spiritualist Church, Manor Corner, Paignton, on July 7th. Harold Vigurs remained in office, three more ministers were appointed and the Ministers' Handbook was now in draft form.[35] 1946's AGM was held on July 6th at Matlock Town Hall, Harold Vigurs remained in office;[36] the Ministers Handbook was edited

[33].–The number of Churches on the register for 1943 were 437, with a membership of 13,006. This showed an increase of 24 Churches and 652 members.

[34].–The number of Churches on the register for 1944 were 400, with a membership of 13225 – Class B members 1021.

[35].–The number of Churches on the register for 1945 were 460, with a total membership of 14,924. This showed an increase of 60 Churches and 1669 members (an increase of 407 Class B members).

[36].–The number of Churches on the register for 1946 were 486, with a membership of 16,446. This showed an increase of 26 Churches and 1,522 members.

and would be printed as soon as paper supplies were available. Four more Ministers were appointed, including Mr. J. C. Hopkins D.S.N.U., of Barry Dock. John Clifford Hopkins is the father of Minister David Hopkins, to my knowledge this is the only case of father and son holders of that position! It was reported two S.N.U., Ministers were refused exemption from Jury service, which is granted to ministers of other denominations; an appeal by the Union was disallowed.

In 1947, the AGM was held on July 5th and 6th at the National Spiritualists Church, Bath Road, Bournemouth; this would be Harold Vigurs' last year of office.[37] The Ministers Handbook of 400-450 pages containing selected readings, and Questions and Answers was done, but Oaten stressed the great difficulty was the shortage of paper. A new Spiritualist Emblem was displayed, and Percy Wilson (National Council) explained the figures and symbols which surrounded the inscription of the Seven Principles.[38] During this year four more Ministers were appointed including Dr. John Winning D.S.N.U., who would become S.N.U., President in 1965-1969 overseeing the opening of the Arthur Finlay College in 1966 and serving as its first Principal.

—~—☼—~—

[37].–The number of Churches on the register for 1947 were 473, with a membership of 16,980.

[38].–See Psypioneer Volume 7. No 4. April 2011:—*Emblems of the Seven Principles – Paul J. Gaunt.*

NEW PRESIDENTS PAGE

Biographical information on Spiritualists' National Federation and Spiritualists' National Union Presidents from 1890 to the present day will soon be available, this is linked to the SNU Pioneer Webpage.[39]

Below is a more detailed list of all the Presidents.

Spiritualists' National Federation (SNF) July 1890 – July 1902

1890.—John Lamont (-1900) Liverpool
1891.—Samuel Southern Chiswell (1852-1910) born Barleston, Leicestershire
1892.—Samuel Southern Chiswell (1852-1910) born Barleston, Leicestershire
1893.—Mr. James (Jas) Robertson (1844-1913) Glasgow
1894.—Peter Lee (1841-1908) born Bolton
1895.—Samuel Southern Chiswell (1852-1910) born Barleston, Leicestershire
1896.—A. J. Smyth – (-1913) Birkenhead died age 60
1897.—Joseph Armitage (1843-1924) born Dewsbury Moor, Yorkshire
1898.—Mr. Edward Walter Wallis (1855-1914) born Teddington
1899.—James Johnson Morse (1848-1919) born Strand, central London
1900.—James Johnson Morse (1848-1919) born Strand, central London
1901.—John Venables (1853c-1931) Walsall (incorporation into the SNU) -[40]
1902.—William Johnson (1838-1914) born York –last elected SNF President -[41]

---

[39].– The Pioneer Journal:—http://www.snu.org.uk/spiritualism/pioneer

[40].– Mr. James J. Morse, on behalf of the Executive, proposed: 'That this Conference* adopt the advice of Mr. Bateman that the Federation be incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies' Act, with liability limited under guarantee, under the style of 'The Spiritualists' National Union Limited.' Mr William Johnson seconded. In the afternoon session after it was debated and amendments made: James Morse moved the adoption of the Memorandum and Articles of Association. Mr. J. Burchell seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously. When the registration was affected the body would be known as 'The Spiritualists' National Union Limited.'
(Information taken from the Conference report published in the *Two Worlds* Friday, July 12th 1901)

*Held on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th July 1901 at the Music Hall, Surrey Street, Sheffield.

[41].—The thirteenth and last Annual Conference of the Spiritualists' National Federation and the First General meeting of the Spiritualists' National Union were held at Stanley Hall, Stanley Road, Bootle on July 5th and 6th 1902. This was arranged by the Bootle Society; Mr J. J. Parr was the Societies Secretary (President Mr. J. Norton).

The First General Meeting of the Spiritualists' National Union:—"Following upon the adjournment of the Federation business at 8 p.m. on Saturday evening, those persons who had given in their names as desirous of becoming members of the Union met for their first general meeting.

"It was purely, a formal business meeting, but it was extremely gratifying to find that so large a number as 79 names were already enrolled as ordinary members of the Union. This was the number present, and the business was speedily transacted.

"The officers of the Federation would be the first officers of the Union; and a formal resolution was carried to give effect to this. **

"Messrs. Tallent-Bateman and Thwaites were elected solicitors.

"The Draft Bye-Laws, as approved by the Federation Conference, were adopted, and on the invitation of Mr. F. Hepworth, seconded by Mr. Jos. Whittaker, it was decided to hold the first Conference and Annual General

Spiritualists' National Union (SNU) July 1902 – present

1903.**—**John James Parr (1860's-1946) born St. Helens, Lancashire –First elected President
1904.—John Adams (1841-1922) born Devon
1907.—George P. Young (-1928c)
1909.—Frank Thomas Hepworth (1859 -) Clayton West, Huddersfield Leeds
1910.—Albert W. Wilkinson
1911.—George P. Young (-1928c) (term not completed moved–British Columbia, Canada
1912.—George Tayler Gwinn (sometimes spelt Taylor)
1915.—Ernest Walter Oaten (1875-1952) born Bristol
1920.**—**George F. Berry (1873-1947) Birmingham
1922.—Ernest Walter Oaten (1875-1952) born Bristol
1923.—Jessy Greenwood (1860-1958) Cawkwell, Lincolnshire–First woman President
1925.**—**Robert Anderson Owen (1881-) Bootle, Lancashire
1928.**—**Ernest Allan Keeling (1877-1958) Anfield, Liverpool
1930.—John Brown (Mac) McIndoe (1875-1958) born Paisley, Scotland
1938.**—**Frank Thomas Blake (1875-1941) born Bristol–First President to die in office
1941.—John Macintosh Stewart (1883-) Glasgow
1943.—A. H. L. [Harold] Vigurs (-1970)
1948.—W. Lorraine Haig (1891-1953) Glasgow
1950.—Percy Wilson (1893-1977) Halifax area, West Yorkshire
1953.—Harry Dawson (1886-) born Bolton
1958.—Charles Ivan Quastel – First Jewish president
1965.—Dr. John Winning (1886c-1975) Scotland
1968.—Charles Ivan Quastel – First Jewish president
1970.—Gordon Mons Higginson (1918-1993) Longton Second President to die in office
1993.—Eric Leslie Hatton (1926 -) born Brierley Hill, West Midlands
1996.—Judith Jane Seaman – (1946-) Methley, near Leeds –Second woman President
2000.—Duncan P. Gascoyne
2010.—David Robert Bruton (1960-) born Sutton Coldfield

—~—☼—~—

Meeting of the new Union at Keighley, on the occasion of the jubilee of that, the oldest British, society on July 4th and 5th, 1903.

"The meeting was of brief duration, and, as the attendance was of historic interest …" Taken from the *Two Worlds* July 11th 1902 page 357.

** With the exception of James J. Morse who had been engaged by the Victorian Association of Spiritualists of Melbourne, to lecture upon Spiritualism in Australia, and then to continue on to New Zealand.