When it comes to matters of two-world communication - between our own reality and that of the spirit world - many people experience what one could describe as a “spiritual journey” which leads to special moments and places.

Looking back over my own life, I can clearly see a pattern emerging, comparable to a river journey. Life has flowed from the source, symbolized as my birth, onward to what will eventually be called my death, which one could symbolically represent as the river spilling into the sea, that very moment when my own individual and narrow perspective opens up and flows into the vastness of the mighty ocean. Yet upon that river journey I shall see many sights along the way, many of which will add charm, colour, light and shade to my own journey. I have so far experienced many ports of call that have left a lasting effect upon me, creating and inspiring memories and even key moments of personal spirit world contact. These ports have brought to me, like an ancient explorer, the spices that life has to offer which include people and places that will change how I proceed forward forever.

During the weekend of the 17th-19th March 2017, I experienced one such port of call. To assume that I was alone and that the flow of the river of my life had brought only myself to stop briefly upon this enchanted island, well, that was not the case. About sixty delegates, of which I was one, met together within the picturesque grounds of the Cober Hill conference centre in North Yorkshire, England. I become aware that these travelers upon their own journey of life had all come together at this brief moment, that they had all been drawn in to dock by a powerful, mysterious tide that nature is yet to reveal to us.

In conversation with some of the many first time attendees of the Stewart Alexander & Friends seminar, organized bi-annually for 20 years by June & Alf Winchester, I began to learn that life and its incredible synchronicity had also been speaking to them, guiding them to this gathering – as if conspiring to ensure that they would be present this weekend. Whilst my logical mind may wish to dismiss this, it becomes quite impossible to do so given that my experience has been so very similar to these people - we KNEW that we had to be there.

The seminar opened in a well established and time honoured fashion, with Stewart Alexander, probably the world’s most respected trance and physical medium, introducing all present to this so aptly described “island of tranquility” where for just a few days we can be ourselves, like-minded people that we are, together with the spirit world, without concern for the outside world. Stewart then gave a presentation regarding the physical materialization mediums of the past – but there was a surprise in store!
Stewart is a true historian, a vast collector of firsthand accounts from elderly spiritualists of yesteryear who kindly committed to tape their own wonderful experiences with many great mediums that today we can only read about. Tonight, just for us, he told us, they will speak about their experiences first hand. As these voices from the past described what they witnessed with such mediums as Alec Harris, it was a privilege. But it became a poignant moment when one considers that these recordings are now over twenty-five years old and the people speaking have themselves all transitioned into that great world. Their accounts evoked laughter and wonder for all delegates present. It must not be forgotten that Stewart is not sitting silently upon a vast historic library of audible accounts, far from it! Two years ago he released a double CD containing a selection of these very recordings and this double CD is available for all interested parties to purchase. In fact, I would go as far as saying that EVERYONE should own a copy and all enquiries to purchase should be directed to: Sue@finka.karoo.co.uk

Saturday was the first full day and as always there was never a moment that lacked content. The day began with medium and speaker Peter Egan, who gave, as always, a most uplifting and thought-provoking talk. After a short break, those in attendance were free to join their various workshops, including: demonstrations and explanations of healing within the altered state of consciousness, spirit art, inspirational speaking, and Stewart himself playing host to those who wished to ask questions, to understand and seek advice on their own individual development and that of their Circles.

Following lunch we were in for a real treat. On March 7th, 2017 an historic event took place - the renowned American journalist and New York Times bestselling author Leslie Kean published what may well go down in history as the most in-depth and extensive study into matters of post-death survival since Arthur Findlay wrote the great best seller ‘On the Edge of the Etheric’ in 1934. On this day we were privileged to be a part of Leslie’s UK launch of her in-depth and very personal study into the many aspects of the “survival hypothesis.”

Not only does this 409 page hardback (with many glossy photographs) uncover and make public intensive research made by notable and respected scientists on mediums of the past, (many whose names have been largely forgotten or rarely noticed), but also it documents the hard factual studies made to support the evidence for rebirth – and none can be more compelling than the story of an American boy named James Leininger.

At two years of age and just learning to speak, James began reliving his own traumatic death as a World War II fighter pilot through recurring nightmares. He provided specific memories in astonishing detail of a previous life. This was difficult for his Christian parents who had to journey through the long process of understanding what was happening to their cherished son. The accounts of James Leininger could perhaps be dismissed as an over-active imagination had the person been of more mature years, but this toddler did not have exposure to anything that could have generated these memories and they were too specific to have been
fantasies. His early words included the full name of his best friend who fought in battle with him in 1945, his first name in that previous life, the specific type of airplane he flew, the name of the aircraft carrier he launched from, details of how different WW2 fighter planes mechanically worked, what happened when his plane was shot and who shot it, and so much more. Fact after fact was confirmed during the unfolding story, until the “previous personality” was identified through a veterans group and every statement provided by James was found to be accurate.

As Einstein himself once said “Condemnation without investigation is the height of ignorance” - well – when one reads the documented research into the proven accuracies of James' accounts, along with those of other young children with specific memories of their past as presented by Leslie Kean, one is left with little doubt that there is vastly more to know than the limited perspective that we take to be all that there is to experience within our reality in this world.

In addition to past-life research, Leslie's presentation, just like her book, took us onward through her own experiences with both mental and physical mediumship and research into such names as Franek Kluski and the incredible happenings documented within the séance room of the almost forgotten Icelandic physical medium Indridi Indridason. A French Nobel Prize winner in medicine imposed rigorous controls while investigating Kluski and was able to obtain moulds of materialized hands after they were dipped into hot wax during his sittings. And, we learned that during Indridi’s séances, researchers would hear both a male and female opera singer dueting together from different parts of the room independently of the medium, and that information about a fire raging in Denmark was transmitted by a “drop-in communicator” and later found to have actually occurred. This unexpected, uninvited communicator speaking through Indridi identified himself by providing specific details about his life on earth, which were recorded in a log book. Many decades later, investigator Erlendur Haraldsson found records that this individual actually lived and that the facts he provided about his life were accurate.

One cannot transmit through this limited report the true value of Leslie Kean's research on the subject of life after death, asking why, in this great age of understanding, scientists and other mainstream academics refuse to investigate this area which ultimately affects every person without question – we are all going to “die”! For so long now, the seemingly dogmatic disciplines of mainstream science have assumed that there is no such evidence to support humankind's survival after bodily death. Perhaps a new chapter in the scientific journey is about to open. SURVIVING DEATH – A Journalist Investigates Evidence for an Afterlife is now available from all high street and online outlets. To learn more, go to www.survivingdeathkean.com.

So, I ask myself, how can this weekend get any better? Is it at all possible? The short answer is – YES IT CAN!

At 7:30 pm we all gathered at the doors of the theatre room where all the major talks have taken place. The previously well lit room had now been prepared for Stewart's own experimental physical séance. With all light removed and all
delegates searched to ensure that nobody was carrying articles that could interfere with the séance, we took our seats. When the lights were switched off, we sank into the wonderful conditions of 100% darkness. Stewart's Cober Hill seminars have shown witnesses so many wonders over the years, and tonight the many first-timers would share in the experience of two worlds literally coming together.

A relaxing piece of music was played, the same music every time, which helps trigger Stewart's trance state.

We didn't wait for long. Around one minute passed, and then White Feather, Stewart's principle control, made his presence known through the entranced medium. He welcomed us all and invited us to bring the two worlds together through our love and harmony. Following White Feather, the real “star of the night” (by his own admittance), Christopher, a little boy who has worked through Stewart for more than thirty years, came to speak. As always he created great laughter and fun, lightening the atmosphere and joking with one older sitter about growing old and how he avoided it. Christopher stayed for only a few minutes before Walter Stinson took control of Stewart.

For those who don't know, Walter is responsible for the physical manifestations and specific experiments that take place during the séance. He was also the brother of famous Boston medium Mina Crandon, known to the world as 'Margery the Medium'.

Tonight Walter proved himself to be in top form. Firstly, he requested that a female come and sit at his side. After a brief moment of fun and light-hearted humour with her, Walter proceeded to ask the young lady to hold the medium’s right hand with her left hand at all times, then with her available right hand to feel the cable tie tightly securing the medium’s wrist to the arms of the chair – this she duly did. Then without letting go, Walter performed the demonstration that any sceptic has yet to reproduce – he took Stewart's arm through the plastic strap, leaving the strap hanging from the arm of the chair.

Following this, Walter proceeded to take the plastic strap through the arm of the chair and handed it to the lady for her to keep. Moments later we could hear a brand new strap being taken from the table top by paranormal means and moving along the table cloth, followed by the unmistakable sound of the medium's arm, still controlled by the lady sitter, being re-secured to his chair as the new cable tie was pulled through the ratchets and locked to Stewart’s arm. The lady then inspected the cable tie, chair and wrist of the medium confirming that the medium was again bound to his seat.

Still holding on to Stewart's right hand and having not let go, Walter again demonstrated this phenomenon, only this time he passed the cable tie through the arm of the chair whilst still looped around the medium's wrist, meaning that the controlled hand of the medium was now in the air with a cable tie looped around it. Walter instructed the lady to keep tight hold of Stewart's hand and to NOT let go. Seconds later Stewart regained consciousness just enough to comment that his
arm felt weird, that something was happening to his arm... seconds later there was a pop sound and the cable tie passed through Stewart's wrist, with him conscious and fully aware.

It took just seconds before Walter regained control of his medium, and again somehow secured the medium, asking the sitter to examine the binding before thanking her for taking part and leaving her with two cable straps to take away with her.

Walter proceeded to instruct Ray, the circle leader, to place the two illuminated trumpets on the floor in front of the medium. Having done so, we began to sing to lift the energy that is so vital to the levitation of these fascinating funnel shaped cones.

We were only three verses in when the first trumpet, fully illuminated, gracefully lifted from the ground and swooped out with such speed and control – gliding effortlessly past the sixty sitters that made up the two half circle rows. Not once did the trumpet collide with any of the delegates. A little later the second trumpet was up in the air and gliding. Both trumpets glided into different locations of the room, some 10 – 15ft away from the medium who was still strapped to the chair, fully visible via his illuminated knee tabs while being held firmly by two sitters. To demonstrate the intelligence behind this phenomena I heard someone on the opposite side of the room from me shout out to a trumpet “come here” and within the darkness I observed it move towards the area that the person's voice came from. Not wanting to miss the opportunity to test the phenomena I called out for myself “trumpet, come over here”. Then without any hesitation the trumpet immediately and at great speed swooped around the half circle and stopped clearly in front of my face, it wiggled from left to right as though it was shaking its head and saying “no” before it swooped immediately back to the person it left prior to my request. Whatever logical explanations the skeptic could offer would fail for they could never reproduce this, that I am sure!

Following the trumpet phenomena we were greeted by the well known voice of Freda Johnson, always a true lady who we believe always dresses for the occasion. Freda is responsible for bringing together loved ones in reunions. However, on this occasion, Freda informed us that she would not be able to reunite loved ones. She explained that the medium had left it until late to decide whether he would demonstrate with trance only or with physical phenomena – she added that she preferred to have the floor entirely to herself and since much energy was being used to produce the phenomena, she didn't think that she could go on successfully. (Given the magnificent quality of evidence that I reported was provided during the April 2015 and the October 2015 trance demonstration that Stewart gave, I think she wanted the standards to be kept high.)

Now, for reasons that we may never understand, quite suddenly Freda seemed to change her mind announcing that she had a person present who would like to speak to someone named Ken. Ken stepped forward and Freda allowed the spirit person to try and control Stewart. After a few seconds, a communicator stated that
it was Arthur here, excitedly announcing that he had done it, he had at last kept his promise. Freda returned with more evidence from Arthur for Ken and this was accepted as accurate. Following the séance Ken was pleased to confirm that the message was deeply personal, and he was quite satisfied to confirm that what was given was exceptionally meaningful to him and him alone.

Freda informed us that she would take her leave, promising that next time she would do her utmost to reunite souls.

Walter returned, requesting that the small glass-topped table with an isolated red light installed inside be brought closer to the medium. A young lady called Mel was brought forward and was asked whether she would like to see the living energy Ectoplasm? Then with her hand placed upon the table lit by red light, she reported seeing a dark mist, with substance, black in colour gradually building in front of her which then began to morph into a solid human hand. It was different from that of the medium's own hand. It then withdrew.

“Just one moment” Walter added, “there is someone else here for you ma'am”... a moment later the mist re-emerged upon the table top and from it came the much smaller, child-sized hand of a person in the spirit world attempting to reach out across the great divide to a loved one in our world.

With a flash Freda returned and informed us that the evidence from this loved one was far too emotional for her to transmit in front of everyone present and that she would like the lady to stay behind afterwards so that they could speak privately. Moments later Freda bid us all a goodnight. Walter returned and wished us well, and we ended as we began with White Feather wishing that the blessing of the Great White Spirit be with us all.

Quietly we filed out of the room, leaving behind us the lady who would be speaking privately with Freda. At a later date I was able to speak with Mel and she gladly shared with me her experience which occurred at that time.

“Freda returned after everyone had left the room and she didn't say too much, but what she did say was fantastic... She firstly asked me if I recognized that little person in her world trying to communicate. – and I instinctively knew who it was! My sister had miscarried a couple of years ago and this was the small hand of a child age around 2 years which materialized, fully animated, solidly upon the table and touched me. Freda then asked whether my sister (whose child this was) believes in survival. Yes she does, I replied... Freda said that she was being told to tell me that I am a wonderful Auntie and she is a wonderful Mother both (relationships to the young soul being accurate)! Then Freda said, just one word to tell you dear – and when she told me it, I was amazed! It was a very significant word because when I was on holiday in America I bought a lovely gift for my new baby nephew, but sadly it wouldn't be long before the sad news of my sister’s miscarriage would be received. I simply put that gift in the cupboard, where it has sat for over two years. But what was significant, although I had forgotten about it,
was that the gift which I bought and that single word that Freda gave me from my little unborn nephew within the spirit world were a perfect match."

Needless to say, there is a huge comfort to be gained from this experience, but there is a lesson also! Death, like birth, is merely a process leading on to another level, a passing from one state of being to another state of being. From Earth we continue to be astounded by how much more there is to learn about life, whereas in the spirit world they simply “continue on”...

Sunday was exciting. It started with much fun as Peter Egan and Richard Dunford gave a demonstration of clairvoyance / clairaudience, whilst at the same time Rosemary Lipscombe presented her psychic drawings. A lot of laughter, fun and plenty of individual evidence was presented and accepted. I counted very few misses and almost entirely HITS. Stewart then gave his presentation on Mina Crandon followed by a session of questions and answers.

But alas, the current upon that river of life changes and it was at this point that many of us had to say our goodbyes to one another. As we did so, one was left secure in the knowledge that we had all shared in a most wonderful experience, that for a short time the spirit world had drawn close to us, that they had literally, physically touched our world. They had refilled us with enthusiasm and the power to soldier onward with our own development, they had shown us that they are never far away at all – they reconfirmed that message which goes back to antiquity – you are not alone, you do not die.

And so, as I complete this report, I do so knowing that without a doubt that the river of life, the flow of which we seem to have no comprehension of, will continue to meander its way onwards, always going forward, and again one day I shall find that current leading me to yet another unique port of call, where many familiar and new faces will again come together for yet another brief but special moment – that very moment will surely be Stewart's Autumn Seminar in October.

Warren James,
30.03.2017