

**The International Spiritualist Federation (ISF) held its Fraternal Weekend, at the T&G Conference Centre Eastbourne from the 21st-23rd November 2008.**



**The Attendance for the Fraternal Weekend 2008 was 57 attendees plus day visitors.**

**To reflect the International membership of the ISF, the challenge of organising the weekend programme was given to Steve Vogel USA. Steve's organisation of the programme of events for the Fraternal Weekend 2008 made sure that attendees were kept on their toes. At the same time, attendees were given the opportunity to experience the skills they had chosen to work in.**

**The skills covered by the courses during the weekend were: Mental Mediumship, and Trance at Basic & Advanced levels, Psychic Art, Healing, Exploring Physical Mediumship, and Shamanic Journeying.**

**There were also demonstrations of Mediumship by both the Tutors and attendees during the evenings.**

**For those who like to rise early, there were chances to participate in daily sessions of Tai Chi, or Meditation. Prior to breakfast, healing sessions, as always, were held after breakfast and dinner.**

**The tutors for the weekend were Pat Campbell, Ann Robson, Robin Hodson, John Alexander, Bill Parkins, Mary Parkins, Colin Hall, Coral Ryder, and Steve Vogel.**

Registration opened at 2pm on Friday afternoon. As attendees arrived to register there were a great many warm hugs and handshakes exchanged as the ISF became once more united as a family. One or two of those attending this ISF family gathering seemed slightly bemused at the things that were taking place in the registration area.

Proceedings started at 4-30 pm with the Weekend being declared open by the President of the ISF, Ann Luck. Ann gave all of those attending the Fraternal Weekend a very warm welcome, especially those attendees who were here to attend an ISF function for the first time. After the welcome it was time for the flag ceremony to start. 13 attendees from the following countries placed their national flags on the table - Australia, Belgium, Finland, Iceland, Israel, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, USA, .England, Portugal and Ireland,

It was then time to meet the tutors and fellow classmates for the Weekend. By the time the discussions were over it was time to go for dinner.

A demonstration of mediumship had been arranged to commence at 8-pm. It was chaired by the ISF President, Ann Luck. The demonstrators for the evening were Pat Campbell, Ann Robson, Bill Parkins, Robin Hodson and John Alexander. The evidence provided by the demonstrators covered a great many aspects of spiritual understanding; humour, physical descriptions and animals all of which helped to create a very light and pleasant atmosphere.

After the demonstration it was time to retire. Some attendees chose to sample the contents of the bar, others just to sink into one of the very comfortable sofas in the lounge area with a group of friends and pass the rest of the evening with like-minded family members.

As the T&G had provided entertainment for the Fraternal Weekend, it didn't take long for the ISF attendees to invade the dance floor - a position they held for most of the Friday and Saturday evenings. During this time Big Eric returned to the dance floor to lead the ISF attendees in dancing the Locomotion. He was ably supported by local singer, Emily Jane, who pulled out all the stops in her rendition of the song. Some of those who were sitting things out joined in to sing the songs with the entertainers. At the same time some of the ISF attendees made use of the microphone with their rendering of popular songs ably supported vocally by those who were sitting things out.

Saturday and Sunday the real work started. There was a hive of activity as attendees attended the group work organised for them. The group work was split into morning and afternoon sessions.

At 7-30pm Saturday night there was a demonstration of mental mediumship with chairperson, Steve Vogel. The demonstrators were Isabelle Duchene, Jan Danielson, Erikur Carlsen, Sandra Macfadden, and June Jardine, with Corel Ryder providing a demonstration of Psychic Art which proved to be evidential. The whole evening proved an evening of humour intermingled with survival evidence which was joyously accepted by those who attended the demonstration.

On Sunday morning at 9-30am the attendees had the opportunity to attend a trance demonstration. The trance demonstration was given by Frederick Smith and chaired by Robin Hodson. During the course the demonstration attendees were given the opportunity to have questions answered by one of the personalities who came through. The trance demonstration also had within it a lot of humour, plus a lot of thought- provoking information.

At the same time the trance demonstration was in progress, psychic artist Colin was preparing drawings for his demonstration which followed the trance demonstration.

At the commencement of his demonstration, Colin gave a brief outline of the way his drawings were created. During the demonstration the evidence contained within the drawings was gratefully accepted, giving a few people some food for thought.

At 11-30am it was the turn of the students who had been in the mental mediumship group to have chance to demonstrate their skills. The demonstration chairperson was Pat Campbell; the students were Orit Houlli, Genevieve Bailey, Alan Law, Graham Connolly, Ivo Santens, Matthias Guldenstein, Robert Cash, and Anni Plummer. Once the butterflies had settled down, things started to move forward. As the evidence was accepted, the student's confidence seemed to grow. Overall the demonstration covered many aspects including spirituality, humour, plus evidence of survival.

At 2-15 pm the healing service commenced. The service was chaired jointly by Peter Watson and Jean Murton (Kent). Mary Parkins gave the healing invocation prior to the start of the healing. Healing lists for absent healing were read out, being interspaced with readings and the singing of hymns. The combination of the reading of the absent healing lists, the readings, and the singing of the hymns, plus the healing created an uplifting and emotional atmosphere which was experienced by many of those who attended the service. To draw the healing part of the service to a close the final invocation for the healers was given by Graham Twyman. This was followed by the closing prayer for the healing service given by Peter Watson.

The Pow- Wow was brought forward to enable attendees who wanted to get away the time to do so. There were some matters that arose which the Committee has agreed to look into.

It was then time for the Flag ceremony to start whereby all of the flags were taken out of their base and given back to the committee until next year in Satra Brunn.

**Will you be there when the ISF family reunites in 2009 at the spa town of Satra Brunn in Sweden?**

**We hope to see you.**

**As the flags are removed from the plinths (base) there is always a hint of sadness. It's as if there is a sense that the euphoria and camaraderie recently experienced is over as the ISF family disperses.**

**Singing our traditional song, Let There be Peace on Earth, that ends each family gathering, lets us remember that we can be sustained in the knowledge of unity and strength experienced during the time our family has been together.**

**The universal love and friendship we experience during these family gatherings is beyond measure and price.**

**I would like to thank all who brought raffle prizes as this enabled over £100 to be raised. Thanks go to Alan Law for his hard work in selling the raffle tickets... also thanks to all who donated to the healing. This raised over £20.**

**Not to be forgotten are the Committee plus all of those who work behind the scenes to ensure that ISF events are a success in addition to the staff of the T&G Conference Centre whose work is very much appreciated by all those who attend the family gatherings at Eastbourne**

## **Rumour Corner**

**An email has been received from the Ole Brothers Juan & Thomaso apologising for not being at the Fraternal Weekend. This, they claim, is due to the heavy work they have at the moment. However, they have promised to make an appearance in Satra Brunn.**

**Jan's people are in the process of rehearsing some new dance routines which we are promised will be unveiled for the first time at the ISF Fraternal Week 2009 in Satra Brunn.**

**Local singer, Emily Jane, expressed her disappointment that Tom Lindberg had not returned to sing the promised duet with her in Eastbourne.**

**On a personal note. I would just like to thank all who attended the Fraternal Weekend in Eastbourne - for being there and helping to make my weekend such a great experience.**

**Graham Twyman**

**ISF Publicity Officer UK**