



TRANSIT

the astrologer's newsletter
November - December 2004

By the time you read this, the results of the US election will be in (or perhaps not...) and we will all know which astrologers were successful in their predictions. Sometimes I wonder why we astrologers feel the need to predict everything, down to every last detail. The other week, I read an article by US astrologer Anthony Peña that provided me with a possible answer. He asked if astrologers were, by calculating every last minor transit and progression for a person or event, unconsciously trying to gain control over events. Certainly, I myself have spent the anxious hours of more than one family crisis poring over charts and graphs; I have to admit that I could not endure the alternative of simply waiting for events that were utterly beyond my control to take their course. Trying to predict likely outcomes did indeed give me the illusion of not being helpless (i.e. "I *knew* things would start improving - the Moon has just passed his Sun/Pluto midpoint!").

Many people, and not just in America, regard this Presidential election as one of the most important in history. They have a huge emotional investment in the outcome; so, unable to sit back and allow things to take their course, they have calculated and graphed and predicted to the nth degree. Let's hope they don't feel let down by the outcome.

This issue, we have articles on Tony Blair's health crisis; a seasonal article from Paul Newman on a Christmas classic; David Fisher's Data Dept, with the birth data of Ian Holms, Anne Mueller, the cast of long-running British TV show *Steptoe and Son*, Christopher Reeve, Janet Leigh and (another topical subject!) Guy Fawkes; and an examination of the astrology of the horrendous floods that hit Boscastle in August. There are also all the usual roundup of news, events and conferences.

- Val Dobson, Editor

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CONFERENCE 2005

Make a note in your diaries now! The AA's next annual conference promises to be very special. In co-operation with Continental astrological organisations and the USA's ISAR, it will be a multi-lingual conference, in English, French, German and Italian.

Held in the conference centre of the University of York from the 30th September to the 4th October, there will be room for up to 1000 delegates. Speakers so far booked include: André Barbault, Liz Greene, Bernadette Brady, Robert Hand and Dennis Elwell. The total cost for all five days is expected to be around £499. This will include a room for four nights, three cooked meals a day, entry to all Main Conference sessions, many of the special attractions, the Astro Exhibition, a pocket radio receiver/earphones for the translated sessions and VAT. You can of course book just for individual days, for much less than that; there will be discounts for group bookings; there will also be a 10% discount if you book and pay a £49 deposit by the end of the year.

Changes and Passages

James Brockbank is now the new Treasurer for the AA, taking the place of Kate Czerny. Hallo James, and welcome!

And Claire Chandler, President of the Astrological Lodge of London, is handing over the editorship of Astrology Quarterly to Gill Dorren, the current Lodge Vice President. Claire, by the way, has her own website: www.clairechandler.com, which has lots of interesting articles.

US Astrologer Joyce Jillson, who was consulted by Ronald and Nancy Reagan, died last October (2004) at age 58. Jillson, once an actress in the TV series "Peyton Place", was the official astrologer for 20th Century Fox Studios, and was consulted by them on the best opening days for Fox movies. She picked the opening date for 1977's "Star Wars".

This October, America's Kepler College awarded academic degrees in Astrological Studies for the first time in 400 years.

Ceremonies were on October 10, 2004 in Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. and Bachelor's Degrees were awarded to: Linda R. Birch, Norma Jean Ream, Lindy Bradstreet, Paula Wagner, Karen Hawkwood, Maire Masco, Tishelle Betterman and Elizabeth Kitney.

A couple of astrological groups are holding Christmas parties, to which all are invited:

13th December: The Astrological Lodge of London is holding its Christmas party at 8pm. Invitations are extended to all members of the astrological community. Contributions of vegetarian food will be gratefully received. Entrance will be £5 for members and £7 for non members. (Those bringing a donation for the party will pay the normal entrance fee.) At The Theosophical Society, 50 Gloucester Place, London W1.

The Scottish Astrological Association will be having its Christmas bash on 15th December. Venue: The Theosophical Society, 28 Great King St, Edinburgh, time: 7.30 pm.

DATA

CHERIE BLAIR: 23 September 1954; 01:20BST; Bury, Lancs. (50N54, 0W34); Sun 29Vir27, Asc 0Leo18. Rodden rating is A, "from memory", quoted from Frank Clifford in 1996 - she had obtained the birth time from her father. David Fisher received a letter in 2000 with the same date and place, but a birth time of 01:30.

JOHN PEEL: 30 Aug 1939; '07.30' GDT Heswall, England (53N20 03W06); "His data in Frank Clifford's book, only has a rating of C, as the time is vague - 'around breakfast time'. (FC uses 7.30am)" Death: (data from the Guardian, 27 Oct 2004) 25 Oct 2004; approx 9.00 pm local time; Cuzco, Peru (71W59 13S31)

British astrologer Lyn Birkbeck has bought out a new book: The Instant Astrologer (ISBN 1903816491), a large (570 pages) hardback book with a CD containing an astrology calculation program. I was impressed with the book. This is aimed at astrology novices and contains extensive 'cookbook' delineations of natal aspects, transits and synastry. Well written, beautifully designed and printed, it is a handsome addition to any bookshelf. I was less impressed with the computer program; it simply calculates and prints out natal charts, interpretations and graphic transits. The graphic design here is very plain compared to the book, and rather disappointing. However, it will be improved and upgraded in future editions. The whole lot costs £30; rather expensive, I think, for a beginner's book. The fact that it doesn't tell the reader anything about how to calculate charts by hand is, for me, another black mark. However, it could

make a good Christmas present for the budding astrologer in your life!

Some of you may have heard of Hedley England and his research into the astrological history of aviation and space flight. He has just published a book called Degrees of Flight. Hedley writes: "It explores the argument that there is a degree of flight at 5 Sagittarius from the degree of the first powered and controlled flight MC at Kitty Hawk in 1903. I follow that argument, going back to the Montgolfier balloon ascent in 1783 and find an MC connection to the early degrees of Sagittarius again, and then look at first certain flights from 1903 onwards. I go into some detail with the BOAC Comet 1 accidents in the early 1950's, and have a chapter on Concorde. The book is written in a fictional style, as though I was the official astrologer there at the time first flights happened to make it a more enjoyable read. It is 224 pages long, contains over 40 photographs, some in colour, and over 320 charts, spaced in the text so the story is easy to follow. I introduce new methods of prediction, showing that is possible to predict when and where an incident is going to happen, and develop new theories about the black Moon and the important role it plays in aviation astrology as well as your own natal chart."

It costs £14.99 plus P+P and will be published in November. It should be available from astrological bookshops; in case of difficulty, Hedley can be contacted via email at hedley.england@lineone.net or from the website: www.lunationpress.co.uk (which may still be under construction).

And still on the subject of books, The Wessex Astrologer has a new book list out. Amongst their new books on offer is Darrelyn Gunzburg's *Life After Grief: An Astrological Guide to Dealing with Loss*, a revised version of Nicholas Campion's *Book of World Horoscopes, Harmonic Charts* by David Hamblin and lots of others, including a series of reissued astrology classics. They also have slightly damaged books going cheap. Go to their website, or request a catalogue: The Wessex Astrologer, 4a Woodside Road, Bournemouth BH5 2AZ. Tel/fax: +44 (0) 1202 424695

Finally, if you are planning next year's holiday, why not try a Greek island Summer School? Forget classrooms - relax on a sunny vine-covered terrace a stone's throw from the beach while you brush up your astrology or your tarot! There are several courses available, from May to October, and each costs £150 (exc. flights and accomodation). For more information, contact Joanna Watters: joannaw@otenet.gr or tel/fax 0030 26450 92943.

DAVID FISHER'S DATA DEPT.

NEW DATA!!

Ian Holm, for many years one of our finest actors, recently wrote his autobiography. He was a member of the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre company in the mid-1950s and toured Europe with Laurence Olivier in *Titus Andronicus*. Subsequent Shakespeare roles have included the title roles in *Richard III* (1963-64), *Henry V* (1964) and *Romeo and Juliet* (1967). He has also acted in plays by modern playwrights such as Harold Pinter and Edward Bond, although a severe bout of stage-fright kept him away from the theatre for many years.

His film appearances include *Chariots of Fire* (1981), Kenneth Branagh's *Henry V* (1989) and as Bilbo Baggins in *Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* (2001). (This wasn't his first role as a hobbit, by the way; he took the part of Frodo Baggins in a 1995 BBC Radio adaptation.) He has also appeared in many TV dramas and was knighted in 1998.

IAN HOLM (real name Ian Holm Cuthbert): 12 September 1931; Ilford, Essex (51N33 00E05); 2.00 am BST (1.00 am GMT). Autobiography *Acting My Life* (Bantam Press, 2004). Two other references give Goodmayes, which is quite near Ilford.

They say it's a small world, and this was brought home to me twenty years ago when I took responsibility for the AA's Data Section. An AA member - and I have to admit that I've forgotten her name - asked me if I could obtain a birth-time for senior civil servant Anne Mueller, a woman about whom I knew nothing. I think I must have obtained her home address from *Who's Who*, so I wrote off to her. Imagine my surprise when she replied that, as a schoolgirl during the Second World War, she was evacuated to an aunt's house in the village of Notton, where I have lived for most of my life. She wanted to know if the village green was still there - yes, it is - and all about the post office which overlooked the green - that's still standing although it recently underwent drastic refurbishment.

Although Anne Mueller was a successful career woman, it appears that her private life was not exactly happy. She obtained a degree in philosophy, politics and economics at Somerville College, Oxford in 1952, and the following year she joined the Civil Service, working in the Ministry of Labour. In 1956, she was in a near-fatal car accident in Paris, resulting in two years of operations and rehabilitation. Her marriage to a fellow civil servant lasted from 1958 to 1978. In 1984 she was posted to the Cabinet Office as second permanent secretary. Born to a German engineer and an English mother who was a schoolteacher, Anne Mueller was made a Dame of the British Empire in 1988 and died on 8 July 2000. ANNE MUELLER: 15 October 1930; Bombay, India (18N58 72E50); 02.00AM IST (20.30 GMT 14 October 1930). Letter from her to David Fisher, 20 June 1984.

There are few sitcoms in the history of British TV which are more revered, or groundbreaking, than Steptoe and Son which ran from 1962 to 1965 and then again from 1970 to 1974. Scriptwriters Ray Galton and Alan Simpson had already tasted success with Hancock's Half-hour on both the radio and TV, but with this saga of father and son forever trapped in a love-hate relationship and a not very profitable rag-and-bone business, they reached the heights of true comedy. Where it differed in previous sitcoms was in the use of straight actors instead of established comedians. The BBC chose Wilfred Brambell to play the dirty old father who is constantly "holding back" the son, played by Harry H. Corbett, who had more upwardly-mobile pretensions. This same theme runs through the entire saga. In time Corbett came to resent the series; he became so identified with the character of Harold Steptoe that the public would not accept him in anything else. This was a shame because he was regarded by many as one of the finest British actors of his time. Happily, Galton and Simpson are still with us, but Corbett died after a heart attack on 21st March 1982 and Brambell died of cancer on 18th January 1985. They are both still sorely missed.

ALAN SIMPSON: 27 November 1929; Brixton, London (51N27 00W12); 00.40 am GMT. Letter from his agent to David Fisher, information from Simpson himself.

The rest of the data appears in Steptoe and Son by Ray Galton and Alan Simpson with Robert Ross (BBC Worldwide 2002):

RAY GALTON: 17 July 1930; Paddington, London; time not known.

WILFRED BRAMBELL: 22 March 1912; Dublin; time not known.

HARRY H. CORBETT: 28 February 1925; Rangoon, Burma; time not known. (The 'H' didn't stand for anything; it was merely to distinguish him from Harry Corbett, the creator of Sooty.)

PILOT SHOW, ONE OF A SERIES OF COMEDY PLAYHOUSE, FIRST TRANSMISSION: 5 January 1962; London; 8.45 pm (20.45) GMT. The first episode of the first series went out at 8.45 pm BST (19.45 GMT) on 14 June 1962.

We say a sad farewell to two movie stars who died recently, Janet Leigh and Christopher Reeve. Although Janet Leigh (d. 3 October 2004) appeared in several notable films, she will always be remembered for one particular scene - the shower scene in Hitchcock's Psycho, in which she was stabbed to death to the sound of screeching violins. Married to actor Tony Curtis 1951-62, her third husband, she was the mother of Jamie Lee Curtis. Her fourth marriage lasted some forty years until her death.

Christopher Reeve died on 10 October 2004 and will always be remembered as Superman (look at his chart and you'll see why), a part he filled with a degree of tongue-in-cheek humour. A self-confessed Anglophile, he had been paralysed since a riding accident in May 1995.

JANET LEIGH (born Jeanette Morrison): 6 July 1927; Merced, California (37N18 120W29); 2.15 pm PST (22.15 GMT). The Gauquelin Book of American Charts from birth Certificate.

CHRISTOPHER REEVE: 25 September 1952; New York NY (4045 73W57); 3.12 am EDT (07.12 GMT). Linda Clark quotes his letter.

Finally, I am reminded that next year sees the 400th anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot and, although he wasn't a leading figure in the plot, Guy Fawkes is the one we remember most because he was the one who was caught in the act. Although he was part of a Catholic conspiracy, his parents were Protestant. He was born in York and I have a date of birth for him - 16 April 1570 O.S. (26 April 1570 N.S.) - but I cannot recall where I obtained it. Maybe it was from a documentary; Antonia Fraser's book The Gunpowder Plot merely gives the year 1570. Fawkes was executed on 31 January 1606 O.S. (10 February 1606 N.S.).

HEART OF THE MATTER (2) by Claire Chandler

In October 2004, Tony Blair announced that he would be having surgery to correct his minor heart defect. Looking at the chart for his heart scare last year, you can see the triggers to his natal Mars, Mercury and Saturn Neptune conjunction.

Mars is square itself, Uranus was square his Jupiter, having squared his Mars and transiting Mercury was conjunct his natal Saturn Neptune conjunction in his sixth house. Progressed Mercury had just reached his IC and, by virtue of their tight square, was squaring his natal Mercury. At the time of the doctor being called, 9.30 am, the degree of his Sun was about to set. There are many signatures for hearts and shocks and rapid rhythms and those I've just listed do seem to cover quite a few of them. It is even more alarming when you take into account the fact that Blair's ascendant ruler, Mercury, is also the ruler of his sixth house. Could this be the sign of an underlying health problem? I wrote about this in Transit, November 2003, after the first scare and I still agree with the conclusions I made then. This is a man who needs to look after his health but who would not necessarily view himself as sickly. Looking at the astrology of the morning of the operation you can see many of the same triggers in action. I've shown the chart with the degree of his Sun setting as this would have happened at some point during the procedure and does resonate with the first incident. We know that he left Downing Street at 7.00 am and that an announcement was made on the radio that the procedure was over was made at 12.15.

Mars this time was trine to its own position, probably indicating the planned nature of the event. Uranus was tightly square his natal Mars and Saturn had stationed on his IC and square his Mercury. Mercury, as we've already said, is the ruler of his sixth house. His progressed Mercury has now moved into Leo and is still near his IC in the fourth house. There will be another pass of Uranus to his natal Mars, in December 2004 but there are fewer of these additional triggers at that time.

The major reason I would order Mr Blair to have two weeks enforced rest is the coming eclipse which will conjoin his Saturn Neptune conjunction in his sixth house and transiting Mercury will square itself from the top of his chart. By bestriding the globe like superman, he may have exacerbated a situation which would take care of itself with a little TLC (tender loving care).

Blair's Mercury square MC/IC has seen a lot of tension recently, from both slower and faster moving planets. The last quarter Moon saw Sun, Moon and Saturn all at 27 degrees of cardinal; the solar eclipse Mercury was at 27 Capricorn and Mars is moving to square Saturn on 6th November passing 21 Libra, the degree of the solar eclipse and Blair's Saturn Neptune conjunction, on the day of the Grand Quintile, which will focus even more stressful energy through his sixth house ruler.

Saturn conjunct the IC is also very apt for someone who has just bought a substantial property, but if I had a Saturn ruled MC and Saturn was transiting my IC and I lived over the shop, I might worry a bit about my future. The next few months will be crucial for Blair's health and his political career. In addition to Blair's announcements about his health, he made explicit declarations about his intention to fight the next election and remain leader for a third term.

This news would have been particularly interesting to Gordon Brown, widely seen as the obvious successor to Blair. Some commentators have speculated that his time has passed and this is reflected by the fact that his Sun at zero degrees Pisces has received all the transits from Uranus for this cycle. However, he does have Mercury and Mars in Pisces which will be squared by Pluto early next year.

There is a tragic air to the succession and it may be that the chosen one will not be Brown and will come from one of the other young bucks that are jostling for position.

THE BOSCASTLE FLOODS by Glenda Cole

First we will look at the chart for the new moon set for Boscastle (see below). The new moon occurred on the day of the floods, 16 Aug 2004, at 02:23:47, BST -1:00

In this chart Cancer is on the Asc and Pisces on the MC, so we are instantly pointed to the possibility of the land and people's homes being flooded here and now. Both signs are connected with the sea and the new moon itself is in the 3rd bringing a focus on the immediate neighbourhood.

Uranus is conjunct the MC and trining the Asc, so making it easy (trine) for something unexpected to happen (Uranus) at this time and place (MC & Asc)

The new moon itself is in Leo, which is connected to high, steep and rocky places. The moon, ruler of the ascendant is associated with rivers and their banks. So the new moon is highlighting rivers that flow through steep rocky banks, certainly a good description of the river in Boscastle.

Note also that the new moon is in the sign of Jupiter's triplicity and term which also happens to be the

place of Saturn's detriment. So we have increase with Jupiter, but as Jupiter is in detriment in Virgo it would indicate that any increase may well be unwelcome. And Saturn is perhaps powerless to constrain anything in his usual manner.

Mars is opposite Uranus, implying sudden danger or peril and Uranus itself is on the Mercury/Mars midpoint of which Ebertin says, "...to act with lightening speed. The danger of catastrophes," and finally, although I don't use Arabic parts, I can't help noticing that the part of peril is conjunct the ascendant.

So the new moon chart indicates the potential for a sudden, large scale catastrophe involving the sea and the local neighbourhood.

So let's move on to the time a member of the Boscastle Cliff Rescue Team put a call in reporting concern for people in the vicinity of the harbour. It was 15:46 BST. Interestingly this is the day of the moon and the hour of the moon has just this minute ended so we are now into the hour of Saturn.

Jupiter rules the ascendant and is the most elevated planet, being at the top of the chart and in a wide conjunction with the MC, is this the Jupiter promise of unwelcome increase from the new moon chart now coming to fruition?

Now we have an emphasis on the 9th house - why the 9th? According to Bills, the 9th rules losses in business and sorrow through one's business so this is apt.

Both the Moon and Mars are squaring the ascendant, now we see that the force (Mars) of the sea (Moon) is part of this place in time.(Asc)

Mercury is on the Sun/Pluto midpoint and the Sun/Jupiter midpoint. Bills says of the Sun/Pluto midpoint, "physical suffering, danger to life through 'force majeure.'" I don't think we can argue with this.

But what Sun/Jupiter and of Mercury? Sun Jupiter is surely the large scale transformation. But putting all three together I think reflects the sterling and heroic measures of the rescue services. It was a well controlled (Pluto) large scale (Jupiter) response (mercury) in order to save lives (Sun.)

That the services were so well coordinated is also reflected through the Moon which by this time had just entered Virgo and so is ruled by Mercury. Mercury in Virgo is in both dignity and exaltation. To me this is certainly a reflection of well organised and well coordinated rescue efforts, thanks to which no lives were lost. The Moon on the Sun/Mercury midpoint just serves to reinforce this point.

The Museum of Witchcraft

So how do the floods affect one particular place in Boscastle, namely the Museum of Witchcraft? The only chart we have of the museum is when the current owners took it over at 00:00 hours GMT on the 1st November 1996.

This chart produces Leo on the Ascendant, with the Sun in Scorpio on the IC, thus we have a place that celebrates (Leo) the powerful feminine image. (Scorpio)

Two other feminine signs are also prominent, Cancer, where we find a dignified moon and Taurus which is the sign on the MC. These three signs are intricately tied together in that the moon in Cancer trines the sun in Scorpio and sextiles the Taurus MC, whilst the sun opposes the MC. The museum illustrates all sides of witchcraft - the dark, the magical, the practical and the positive. A good reflection of this Cancer/Scorpio/Taurus dynamic.

The museum's balanced approach to its subject is also echoed by Venus, ruler of the MC, dignified in Libra. Venus is in the 2nd, but very close to the 3rd cusp. It makes a close opposition to Saturn perhaps indicating that the authorities can be the cause of tension, either through contracts or through finances.

A Virgo Mars in the first house rules the 9th house of tourism and of understanding. Perhaps indicating the hard work and attention to detail that is needed to make this a successful commercial venture. It also indicates that there could be lots of little 'niggles' that get in the way of this and of course Mars is the depositor of Saturn, which once points out the hard work needed in order for the museums to be a financial success.

The new moon chart of the 16th August shows that the new moon is conjunct the museum's ascendant and that the new moon ascendant for Boscastle is conjunct the museum's cancer moon, thus bringing the museum into focus on the day.

By the time of that first phone call to the coast guards the moon has just moved into Virgo and is now conjunct the museum's Mars in Virgo, aptly describing the disruption to the natural order of things that

the storm caused. This conjunction also shows the hard work that is going to be needed for the cleanup operation.

The Mars return

It's interesting to note that the museum has recently had a Mars return, (11th August) so I had a quick look at this chart. In the return chart the museum's place in the world comes into focus via its Taurus MC, now conjunct the return ascendant.

Venus, the ascendant ruler in the return chart is in an exact conjunction with a dignified moon in Cancer, reflecting the importance of the museums own moon in cancer during this period. Mars in the return chart is opposite uranus, indicating that sudden events would call for lots of energy and reorganising. As the mars return chart is in effect for approximately 2 years perhaps this opposition shows that during this time the museums direction may change in some way.

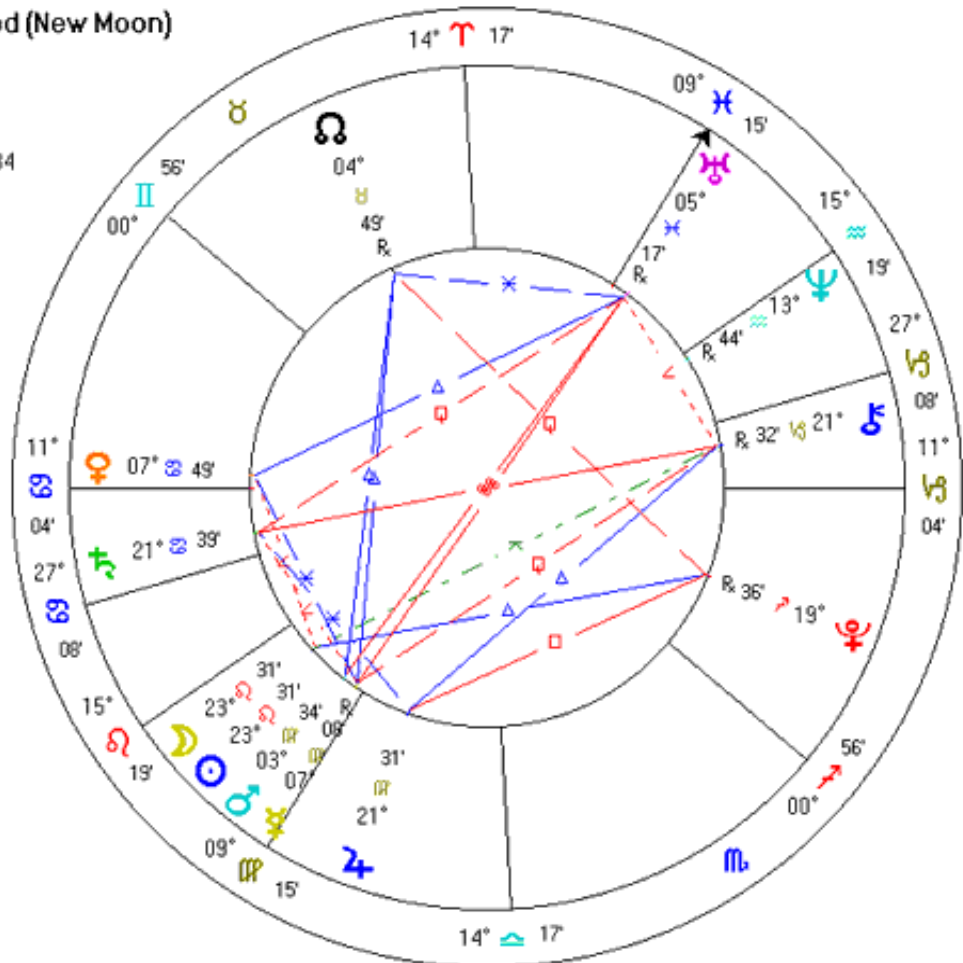
Saturn sits on the IC in the return chart, aptly reflecting the end of the museums current home, but also symbolising the rebuilding and restructuring that will be going on. Saturn rules the return MC from its position in the 4th house and Mars is ruling intercepted Aries in the 4th, perhaps showing that the museum's aims and energies during this period are concentrated inward. As always with Saturn there can be problems, so there may be delays to the rebuilding program.

Mars is widely conjunct Mercury and both are opposite Uranus in the 11th. I know that various online pagan groups are putting out appeals for funds to help the museum rebuild, apt symbolism for Mercury, Uranus and the 11th house.

So to summarise, for the next 2 years the museum will have to concentrate its energies on rebuilding and re-establishing itself. Then, during the spring of 2006 the progressed moon will cross the IC, and by July 2006 the next Mars return will swing into action, with mars in this chart conjunct the Ascendant! Plus transiting Jupiter will be crossing and re-crossing the IC during this period. All in all the spring or summer of 2006 looks to have good omens for a grand reopening.

Boscastle Flood (New Moon)

Natal Chart (1)
 16 Aug 2004
 02:23 BST -1:00
 Boscastle
 50N41 13 004W41 34
*Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node*



CHARLES DICKENS' CHRISTMAS SPIRITS by Paul Newman

Jupiter and Saturn have a good claim to be the spirits of Christmas in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. The whole story of Mr Scrooge and his ghostly Christmas Eve encounter seems symbolic of the two planets that rule the signs either side of the Winter Solstice. Jupiter and Saturn were the same pair that Dickens had in opposition on his own birth chart and that some say came together in the Bethlehem skies to form the Christmas star.

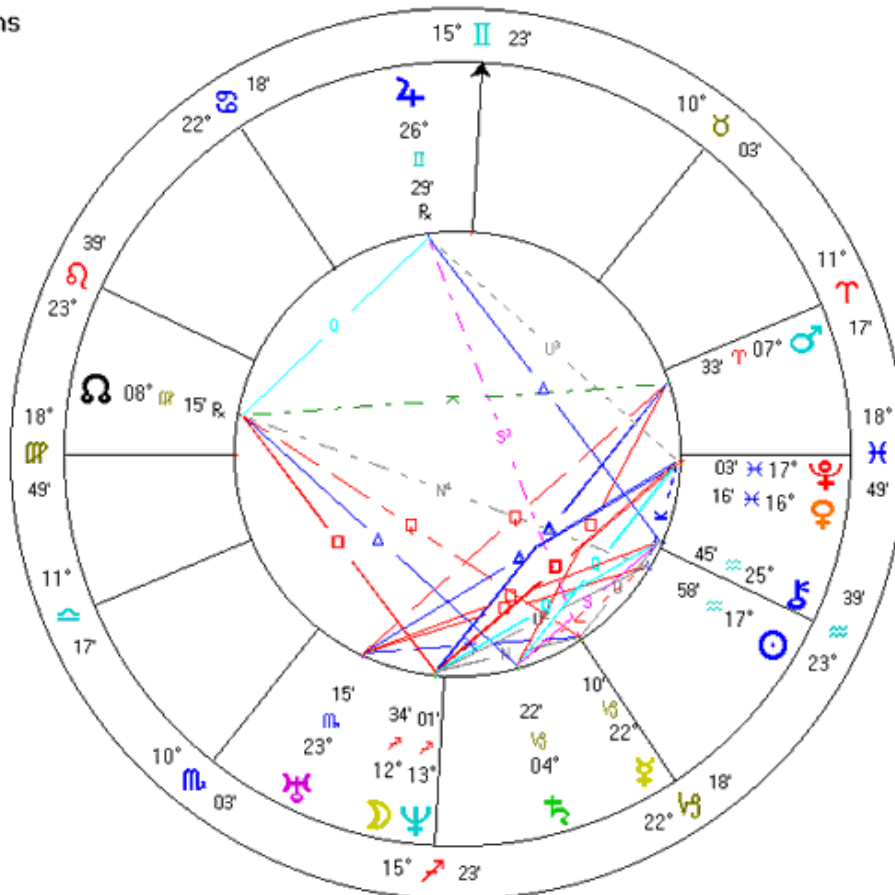
Miserly Mr Scrooge exemplifies Saturn at its worst but he will turn into generous Jupiter at the end of the tale. It all starts on Christmas Eve when Scrooge retires to bed and is visited by the ghost of his old business partner, Marley. Symbolically "7 years dead" (the length of a Saturn square), this wailing apparition appears loaded down with Saturn symbols. He trails clanking keys and heavy locks and warns the terrified Scrooge not to put business before compassion as he did himself for so many years. He also tells Scrooge to expect visits from three more spirits.

The Spirit of Christmas Past, the Spirit of Christmas Present and the Spirit of Christmas Yet to Come, are three faces of destiny that are simply full of images of either the Greater Benefic (Jupiter) or the Greater Malefic (Saturn). Christmas Past is neutral in character but presents cold and lonely Saturnian images to the humbled Scrooge. The expansive Spirit of Christmas Present is so Jupiter-like he even lives for twelve days, as if he were a telescoped Jupiter Cycle of twelve years. And Christmas Yet To Come is Saturn again as the hooded Reaper. It all comes right in the end as the two forces balance out and Scrooge discovers the Jupitorean joy of distributing some of his hard-earned wealth. To quote Dickens, Christmas is "when Want is keenly felt, and Abundance rejoices", a Saturn-Jupiter quote if there ever was one. And the famous Christmas message has remained evergreen for over 150 years. Even the story itself is book-ended by Saturn-Jupiter: its first sentence begins "Marley is dead..." and its last sentence "God bless Us, Every One!"

Charles Dickens: 7 February 1812, 7.50pm London. (Chart shown below). Source: AA Newsletter July 1994, time quoted from *The Elements of Astrology* by Dr Broughton 1906, giving data from Dickens to Professor Wilson "a London astrologer".

A Christmas Carol was published 17 December 1843, London. Saturn was strong in Capricorn, as it is in Dickens' natal chart, and Jupiter was in humanitarian Aquarius conjunct Dickens' Sun and trining his own Gemini Jupiter.

Charles Dickens
Natal Chart (I)
7 Feb 1812
19:50 GMT +0:00
London, England
51N30 000W10
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node



LOCAL GROUP NEWS

The Astrological Lodge of London programme for November and December is as follows:

1 November: 7:00 Clairvoyants, Mystics And Other Strange People - Helene Schnitzer. What gives these people access to the "otherworld" and to the information we all need? An investigation into the role of the outer planets. 8:00 Tea and Biscuits 8:20 AGM (members only)

8 November: 7.00 Stars And Swastikas: Astrology And The Nazis - Neil Spencer and Santiago Mantas The Nazi Association with astrology is more fabled than fact, but it existed. Neil and Santiago unravel the mysteries and charts of the Third Reich. 8:00 Tea and Biscuits 8:20 Master Class (1): Heaven And Earth: Re-Discovering The Planets And The Seasons - Bernard Eccles Stars and seasons: the stellar calendar of old, still working today. 8:20 Charts Discussion (Tea Room)

15 November: 7:00 Stars and Cards - Joanna Watters Making a journey from her home in Greece Joanna will be talking about how the two crafts of astrology and tarot inform each other and how they can be combined when working with clients. 8:00 Tea and Biscuits 8:20 Master Class (2): Heaven And Earth: Re-Discovering The Planets And The Seasons - Bernard Eccles Syzygies: cycles of life made visible. 8:20 Charts Discussion (Tea Room)

22 November: 7:00 How To Shine In The World And Show Your True Colours - Annie Lionnet Each of us has infinite potential and possesses a unique set of attributes, talents and resources. When we are in tune with our true nature we feel alive, authentic, creative, radiant and magnetic, effortlessly attracting the right people and situations to us. So often, however, we adopt a persona that masks our essential self and prevents us from expressing the fullness of our being. Using many examples from the birth chart, we will see how this unique mirror of our psyche reflects both the 'sickness' and the 'cure' to becoming whole. What are you meant to do? 8:00 Tea and Biscuits 8:20 Master Class (3): Heaven And Earth: Re-Discovering The Planets And The Seasons - Bernard Eccle. Sacred spaces and the rectangle of the solstices. 8:20 Charts Discussion (Tea Room)

29 November: 7:00 A Question Of Time - Komilla Sutton. 'Dasha' is a unique system of timing used by Vedic Astrologers. It helps pin- point when events are going to happen -relationships, career, children etc. Time has a quality, which means different things for each individual according to their birth chart and the dashas they are running. Learn to understand what time is saying to you by studying the dasha systems. Komilla will present an easy to understand lecture which will be useful to all astrologers - vedic or western. 8:00 Tea and Biscuits 8:20 Lecture continues

6 December: 7:00 Old Man River - Adrian Duncan. Water signs are said to be mute - they emot, but they don't talk. Adrian will illustrate how they manifest in the consultation, and how to deal with them. 8:00 Tea and Biscuits 8:20 Lodge Ritual: the Rite of the Planets

13 December : 7:00 The Year Ahead - Bernard Eccles. Bernard will present his usual light hearted look at the Cosmos and talk us through what we can expect in the coming year. 8:00 Christmas Party. Invitations are extended to all members of the astrological community. Contributions of vegetarian food will be gratefully received. Entrance for tonight will be £5 for members and £7 for non members. Those bringing a donation for the party will pay the normal entrance fee.

All meetings held at: 50 Gloucester Place, London W1.

Suffolk Astrology Group:

Tuesday 2nd November: Discussion - Charts You Love to Hate. Bring along your most loved or least favourite chart for discussion.

Tuesday 16th November: Discussion - Receptions. As a follow on from his talk on planetary dignities on the previous programme, David Bird will lead a discussion on receptions in traditional astrology.

Tuesday 7th December: Speaker Evening Glenda Cole - A Profile of Murder. Glenda will be looking at astrology of murder. In particular she will be looking at Harold Shipman and the 15 victims he was found guilty of murdering.

Tuesday 21st: Discussion Astro Quiz. Our Christmas meeting and a light hearted quiz led by Heather Cheek. Drinks are not allowed in the meeting room, so this meeting will finish early for a Solstice/ Christmas get-together in the Bushel.

All meetings held at Friends Meeting House, St Johns Street, Bury St Edmunds. 7.45 - 9.45.

The Company of Astrologers meetings for November and December are as follows:

3rd Nov: Trouble with the Law with Jane Amanda. A look at how the law has been used to discriminate against astrologers in the UK, especially with the Vagrancy Act and the Fraudulent Mediums Act. Jane will also consider the current law in relation to astrologers. Jane Amanda is a retired solicitor with fourteen years experience in the criminal justice system. She has worked as a Magistrate's Court Clerk, and for eleven years as a Senior Crown Prosecutor, specialising in domestic violence, child abuse and youth offending. She began to study astrology seven years ago through her interests in Theosophy and metaphysics, and is the first student to attain the MA in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology from Bath Spa University College.

Charts We Have Loved. Join us for the Company's 21st Birthday Celebrations On Sunday 14 November 2004 (2 - 6pm) Admission FREE. Company members and friends celebrate the Company's coming of age with tea, cakes and charts they have loved. Co-founders Geoffrey Cornelius and Maggie Hyde will discuss the origin of the Company and its chart, as well as the work of their fellow co-founders Derek Appleby and Gordon Watson. Policy meeting members Pat Blackett, Graeme Toby, Joanna Watters and Vernon Wells will show some of their favourite charts and outline their own current research. Tutors Chantal Allison, Elisabeth Brooke, Sally Kirkman and Elaine Shalet will also join our guest lecturers and friends. For an account of the Company's early days, see the review of Moment of Astrology by Kirk Little on the Astrology Year Zero website, www.astrozero.co.uk/articles/Defining. Please let us know if you are planning to attend so we won't run short of cakes! Ring 01227 362 427 or e-mail admin@coa.org.uk

17th Nov: Astrology As A Ritual Act: Symbolism As A Key to Transformation with John Wadsworth. If we are to understand astrology as divination, then should we not re-examine our relationship to time and space, moment and place? John Wadsworth has been practising astrology for fourteen years ever since his first dramatic encounter with astrological symbolism, an experience so profound that it permanently altered his way of seeing and interacting with the world. He is currently studying for an MA in Cultural Astronomy & Astrology at Bath Spa University College, exploring phenomenological approaches to astrology.

1st Dec: The Cock & The Chameleon with Patrick Curry & Maggie Hyde. Taking up themes from Patrick's talk at the recent Imaginal Cosmos conference at the University of Kent, we will look at examples of omens and divination in the light of Plato and Post-modernism. Dr Patrick Curry is senior lecturer in the MA in Cultural Astronomy & Astrology at Bath Spa University College, and author of several books on the history of astrology, including *Astrology, Science and Culture* (with Roy Willis, 2004). Maggie Hyde is a co-founder of the Company of Astrologers, author of several books on Jung and astrology, and the astrologer for *Woman's Own* and *getlippy.com*. She is currently a student on the MA programme in the Study of Mysticism and Religious Experience at the University of Kent.

15th Dec: Continuous Correspondence & the Consultation Chart with Adam Smith. Does the mysterious moment of making an appointment with an astrologer have more meaning than we suppose? Adam Smith is the past editor of *Transit*, the *AA Journal* and the *Astrology Quarterly*. He writes sunsign columns now, though still tries to do as much proper astrology as he can.

VENUE: 4 Marty's Yard, 17 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 (opposite Post Office & Zen restaurant)

Company of Astrologers, PO BOX 792, Canterbury, Kent CT2 8WR

Bromley Astrological Association are meeting on the 9th November and the 14th December. Venue: 5th Floor, Bromley Central Library, High Street, Bromley (next to the Churchill Theatre). 7:30 pm to 9:45 pm (Doors open at 7:00 pm). £4 members (£5 non-members). Bookstall and refreshments. For further information, email Frank Clifford or call Lynne Beale on 020 8402 8948.

Arcturus Rising of Bristol is holding a meeting on 24th November: Hunting The Wild Ascendant - What is the rising sign about? Where is the ascendant in astronomical terms, why are some rising signs more common than others and why do house systems break down at higher latitudes? Start at 19:45. Please e-mail Chris Mitchell or phone him on 0117 963 6847 for any further information. All meetings are held at the Friends' Meeting House, 126 Hampton Road, Redland, Bristol. They won't be having a formal meeting in December, but may have an informal social get-together in another venue if there's enough interest.

The **Old Windsor Astrology Club** holds monthly meetings at the Old Windsor Day Centre, Straight Road (A308), Old Windsor, Berks (opposite The Toby restaurant). There are plenty of free car parking spaces available. Meetings start at 8pm (although doors are open at 7.30pm) and finish at 10.30pm. Members £3.00. Non-members £5.00. Their next meetings are on 11th November and 9th December.

West Wickham Astrology Club , Bromley, is still going strong

. Their next meeting will be on Thursday 11th November, at West Wickham New Church Hall (entrance via Surrey Road) 7pm. Further information can be found on their website.

Aquarius Severn Astrology Society (Cheltenham) present:

Thursday 4th November: **WEREWOLVES - MYTH & REALITY** Fascinating folklore and legend, true historical cases of werewolves, and their means of transformation in the Old World and the New, their links to the Moon and calendrical customs in Ancient Greece and the Americas, including doping in the early Olympic (and other Greek) games, and a few handy recipes, so that you too can become a werewolf! We welcome back Artist, writer and mycologist Adrian Morgan, who will guide us through this natural and unnatural world! P.S. And what about Little Red Riding Hood?

Sunday 7th November: **COMPUTERS IN ASTROLOGY** Drop by anytime during the afternoon to view a wide range of Astrology software. We will be demonstrating Solar Fire, Solar Maps, WinStar, IO for the Mac, as well as shareware (cheap!) programs. We also hope to have a demonstration of Bernadette Brady's Starlight program and Astrolog. A real chance to see some of the best astrology programs before you buy. 1:30-5:30pm (£3 members / £5 non-members)

Thursday 18th November: **THE MIRROR OF ATTRACTION** A broad view of the interconnections between Individuals and their Significant Others, whether they be people or places, with a special study of why D.H. Lawrence chose to settle in Mexico. We welcome back Mandy Perkins, who read Classics at Oxford, then got deeply involved with Jung and the I Ching while raising two children and teaching music from home. In 1997 she obtained the D.M.S.Astrol. with distinction and has been seeing clients ever since.

Thursday 2nd December: **REVIEW OF THE YEAR & FORECAST FOR 2005** At the start of 2004 a gathering at Aquarius Severn looked into the future to see what might happen in 2004. How did we do? The words '...wintery fog in the middle of summer', could have been right, but were we predicting the weather? Suggestions were made about the housing market. Tony Blair, the Queen and America. Why not come back and see how we all performed, and then look into 2005 for what may lie ahead...

VENUE: We meet at no 2 Wolseley Terrace, Oriel Road, Cheltenham (next to the BT building close to Rodney Road car park). **Parking:** Parking is available in the Rodney Road car park (free in the evenings). Please do not try to park in Wolseley Terrace itself, as BT (opposite our new venue) get upset!

Contact: kris @aquariussevern.com or telephone Graham Boston on (01242) 228796, Andrew Sime on (01453) 763357 or treasurer Kris Lee on (01451) 821487

Arcturus Rising (Bristol):

Sept 29th: **ASTROLOGY AND TAROT:** Astrologer and tarot reader Glenys Massey has been giving talks on astrology for many years, and has had regular slots on TV and in the local press. Arcturus Rising is delighted to welcome her as our guest speaker to start off our autumn programme, where she will tell us about astrology and its links with tarot.

Oct 27th: **GRAND QUINTILES AND CREATIVITY:** "aspects" in astrology are the shapes that planets make in charts - triangles ("Grand Trines") are considered flowing and fortunate, squares ("Grand Crosses") challenging. So how about a pentagon shape, using the lesser known "quintile" aspect? October sees not one but two rare "Grand Quintiles", and this event has spawned a number of websites from the informative to the downright sensational. Come along and find out what quintiles really mean - and see if you've got any in your chart!

All meetings are held at Friends' Meeting House, 126 Hampton Road, Redland, starting at 7.45. For further information, telephone Chris Mitchell on 0117 963 6847

SUBMISSIONS TO TRANSIT

All contributions to Transit are welcome. We will publish information about groups, societies and courses as well as more general news about astrology - and your opinions. If at all possible please submit your contribution by email to Transit editor at transit@astrologicalassociation.com

Alternatively contributions may be sent through the post to Transit, The Astrological Association, Unit 168, Lee Valley Technopark, Tottenham Hale, London N17 9LN, preferably on disc in .txt or .doc format. Illustrations are appreciated where possible. If sent electronically these should be in .jpg format. Otherwise please make your contribution as clear and neat as you can.

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Transit aims to publish articles of general and specific interest to all astrologers. It is published bi-monthly and available free to all members. Contributors are at liberty to express such opinions or advocate such astrological techniques as they wish. The publication of these does not imply that they are endorsed by either the editor or the Council.

The deadline for contributions to the January 2005 issue is 21st December 2004. Genuinely urgent or newsworthy items may be submitted for publication at a later date.