

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PEACE STUDIES AND GLOBAL PHILOSOPHY

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IIPSGP SUMMER 2006 NEWSLETTER

1. IIPSGP PARLIAMENTARY WORK: The IIPSGP meetings in London will hopefully be restarted in the House of Lords this Autumn, 2006, and discussions are underway concerning the best way to take this forward. It is expected to hold a series of seminars on conflicts and conflict resolution in different parts of the world, perhaps starting with a meeting on the situation in Nepal and what we can do to help resolve the tragic conflict taking part in their society. Further details to IIPSGP members and associates once the date has been finalised.

2. SIR EDWARD HERBERT SYMPOSIUM – SEPTEMBER 30, 2006: This special event is being organised by IIPSGP to commemorate the life and work and influence of Sir Edward Herbert, one of the unsung heroes of the history of global philosophy and the early Enlightenment. The Symposium is taking place at a Welsh Country house in Montgomeryshire, near Welshpool. Researchers with an interest in Herbert as a historical figure are invited to attend to this historic event on the subject of his life and thought. Herbert was one of the great figures of the rise of rationalist philosophy and proposed a fold universal system of common notions which underpin all faiths and religions. His most famous work was *De Veritate* (On Truth) which almost single-handedly launched the European Enlightenment. He was esteemed by later figures such as Kant, Voltaire, Hegel etc., The current Earl of Powys is a direct descendent of Herbert, who was also a brother to George Herbert the famous metaphysical poet. There is also a famous portrait of Herbert in Powys Castle which is well worth seeing. Coincidentally, Herbert had a summer palace at Llanerfyl, in the small castle there (now ruined) close to the IIPSGP's base. He was also a diplomat and friend to King Charles, Prince Rupert, but also Parliamentarian intellectuals such as John Selden. Above all he desired peace instead of the civil war then ravaging Britain, and his philosophy was intended as a contribution towards a philosophy of peace. Places at the Symposium

will be limited due to space constraints so if you are interested in coming, please contact: International Institute for Peace Studies and Global Philosophy, Rhos Gallt, Llanerfyl, Powys, Wales, SY21 OER, Tel. 01938 820586 email: iipsgp@educationaid.net

3. PUBLICATIONS OF IIPSGP: The publications of the IIPSGP Director are now being made available through LULU, an online publishing agency, and can be ordered by members and friends as either downloads (direct to their computer in electronic format) or as published books. Consult the website: www.lulu.com/iipsgp where members will find the required information. Thomas Daffern has recently published the following volumes via Lulu, which can be found as follows:

MUSINGS VOLUME 3: 1991-1992

<http://www.lulu.com/content/283511>;

MUSINGS VOLUME 2 1981-1990

<http://www.lulu.com/content/283381>

SELECTED POEMS 1971-2005, VOLUME 2:

<http://www.lulu.com/content/286144>

SELECTED POEMS 1971-2005, VOLUME 1:

<http://www.lulu.com/content/285939>

MULTILINGUAL DICTIONARY FOR MULTIFAITH
AND MULTICULTURAL MEDIATION, PEACE AND
GLOBAL PHILOSOPHY

<http://www.lulu.com/content/281249>

4. ORDER OF WANDERING PEACE POETS, PHILOSOPHERS AND DRUIDS continues its gradual work, as a member of the Council of British Druid Orders, and works alongside other Druid groups, orders and associations, both in the UK and internationally. Thomas Daffern is being presented with the ceremonial regalia of the Peace Officer of the Council of British Druid Orders at *Avebury, on Beltane, May 1st, noon*, and anyone interested is welcome to attend this public ceremony. The Council of British Druid Orders continues to meet quarterly, and is

currently being chaired by Denny Price of the Glastonbury Order of Druids, with its next meeting in Bath on June 4th with the Secular Order of Druids hosting (Tim Sebastian). In Macedonia the poet Katarina Jovcevska has recently published some more of her poems and has sent in details of a new discovery of an ancient Bronze age sacred site in the hills near Kokino. Interestingly, archaeologists are also exploring another spectacular find in the Balkan region, namely the huge pyramid at Visoko, in Bosnia, North West of the Capital city of Sarajevo. Visoko was the mediaeval capital of Bosnia. Archaeologist Semir Osmanagic who is in charge of the excavations, along with geologist Nadje Nukic, both of whom feel that the hill is not a natural formation; they have already found a paved entrance plateau, entrances to tunnels and large stone blocks. Ever since Marija Gimbutas drew attention to Old European Culture in her work on the early goddess cultures of the Vinca and related peoples of the Balkans, it has been obvious that ancient South East European culture was highly sophisticated religiously and spiritually. One can assume therefore that poetry, music, the Bardic arts and the Mysteries were a key part of these ancient cultures – which were largely peace loving and Goddess centred in their spiritual focus. Here then was the heartland that philosophy later grew out from, and the homeland of Dionysus...Balkan equivalent to the Druid deity Cernunnos. Here's a poem for Dionysus to celebrate these new discoveries:

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You're the one who,
When you have to ride
Somewhere, would prefer
To go on a donkey.

You're the one for whom
Your lovers would make
A garden and in the middle
Plant a special flower,
Amidst the souls and soils,
An unforgettable perfume.

Also, you're the one
For whom poems
Come in dreams,
Unfurling like banners,
From a staff of waking sleepfulness.

You're the one who can
Save the situation
Between all these religious quarrels,

With your actual ecstasy
Calling them all to remember.

You're the one who lives inside us
And yet beyond us, into whom
Our souls die and then get
Gifted back, miraculously.
You're the one who demands everything,
And gives nothing back in return.
And then demands nothing,
And gives everything.

You're the one with the fruit,
And the wines,
And the wildness,
You're the one hiding out in the vines;
You're the one who harvests
The luscious liquid liquor of knowing...
You're the One.

5. MAY BIRTHDAY PARTY AT RHOS GALLT: IIPSGP is hosting a May 6th Peace Party at Rhos Gallt, Llanerfyl this year, and all IIPSGP friends and members are welcome to attend. The party celebrations start with tea from 4pm onwards, and will last through to the early hours for those able to stay. We plan on having a bonfire, poetry, music, dancing, a peace meditation, a river walk (with swimming for the brave) plus storytelling and feasting. Ideally come in fancy dress (Dionysian robes), or something splendid to celebrate the occasion ! Please call 01938 820586 or 07951 600959 for details. The party is called especially to celebrate Thomas's 50th birthday, having been born in 1956 in Montreal. There are plenty of hotels in the area for those wishing to stay overnight, especially recommended is the Royal Oak in Welshpool and the Cann Office in Llangadfan. Some limited space for friends wishing to stay overnight is also available at Rhos Gallt. Please bring a tent if possible as there is plenty of space for camping in the garden and hopefully the weather should be warm enough!

6. PATTERNS OF HARMONY: DRAWING ON THE ENNEAGRAM AND SPIRITUAL WISDOM SOURCES FOR COLLECTIVE PEACEMAKING and ENLIGHTENMENTS - June 9-11, 2006, Lammas Barns, Near Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England, A workshop exploration with Gayle Scott and Thomas Daffern. **Gayle Scott** is a spiritual teacher from Boulder, Colorado, who has been teaching the sacred psychology of the Enneagram as an essential resource for understanding human behavior and motivation and dynamizing spiritual potential since 1990. She holds it to be one of the most profound and powerful tools for self-knowledge and personal development available today. She is also an experienced

seeker in the Diamond Approach of the Ridhwan psychospiritual school, and has taught at the Naropa Mahayana Buddhist University in Boulder, Colorado, founded by Chogyam Trungpa. Gayle draws eclectically from her work with the Enneagram, Sufi and Buddhist spiritual practices, as well as on her own combined Native American and Celtic heritage. This is her first workshop in the UK. Gayle is currently serving as Director of The Enneagram Institute of Colorado, and as a Board Member of the International Enneagram Association www.internationalenneagram.org (IEA), and in her role of Conference Chair, helped to deliver the 2005 International Enneagram Conference (www.internationalenneagram.org/c2005) in San Francisco. She has been studying and training with two leading international Enneagram teachers, Don Riso and Russ Hudson, since 1993. She has also been served as a member of Claudio Naranjo's ongoing International SAT (Seekers After Truth) group. Gayle was for many years involved in the development of West Coast Goddess and feminist spirituality teachings and was a friend and student of the late Dr. Marija Gimbutas, whose pioneering archaeological work publicized the ancient Goddess cultures of Old Europe in the Balkans. **Dr. Thomas Daffern** is a philosopher, historian, transpersonal theorist, Druid and poet, who has been teaching comparative philosophy, religious studies and the history of ideas since 1985 and is Director of the International Institute of Peace Studies and Global Philosophy. He founded the Pagan Academic Network in 1996, and has lectured and travelled in over 30 countries worldwide. He has co-chaired some 33 meetings in the UK House of Lords aimed at encouraging parliamentarians and NGO's to develop a culture of peace and global responsibility and has initiated the *Global Green University* as an ongoing conversation in planetary education aimed at solving the current crises in world affairs. He has published widely in comparative philosophy, transpersonal history, and educational theory. He is convening a new *Truth and Reconciliation Commission for Britain and Ireland* in August 2006 on Anglesey. With current global and national events ever more full of conflict, violence and misunderstanding between different faiths and cultures, this workshop will focus on the positive traditions of different spiritual lineages, and ask whether a deep peace-making is possible between pagan and revealed religions, between feminine and masculine archetypes, and between secular and religious traditions. We will be working with the teachings of the Enneagram of esoteric tradition, and the Nine Muses of classical European philosophy. We hope to empower participants with potent tools of self-discovery, and inspire with the experience of the energy of peace. We will explore the potential of conflicts held in balance as a creative force enabling a movement towards liberation from suffering. This workshop is being hosted at a private venue, Lammas Barns, a converted 17th title barn near Shrewsbury, Shropshire, and attendance is by donation, with a suggested figure somewhere about £70 pounds for the weekend, (those that can afford to give more are welcome to do so and those who cannot afford this figure

are welcome to offer what they can). We will be sharing food and refreshments of healthy and nutritious cuisine during the weekend, which will be included in the event. We also hope to organise a bonfire on the Saturday night for a celebratory Eisteddfod of poetry, music and storytelling to share. For those wishing to stay overnight there is space for camping in the delightful grounds, and for the faint at heart there are also excellent bed and breakfast facilities nearby. For further details of camping and accommodation please contact Kate on 01952 770191 or email clanartia.events@virgin.net Contact www.educationaid.net or email iipsgp@educationaid.net for further details on the work of IIPSGP, and www.enneagayle.com for more about the Enneagram work

Spaces are being limited to ensure that all participants derive maximum benefit. To reserve your place at this unique event, please contact us asap. Prior booking will ensure we save your place. To confirm your attendance please write or email to: International Institute of Peace Studies and Global Philosophy (IIPSGP), Rhos y Gallt, Llanerfyl, Powys, Wales, SY21 0ER, 01938 820586 or 07951 600959 - iipsgp@educationaid.net.

7. ACADEMIC RESEARCH NETWORK ON HUMILIATION AND DIGNITY STUDIES: This work continues to hold meetings globally, with an event in New York. An interview with its founder Director, Even Lindner was published in the Muses Love Journal for 2005/6. The Director of IIPSGP serves on the International Advisory Board of the network and has teamed up with the work of Prof. Francisco Gomes de Matos of the Federal University of Pernambuco in Recife in North-Eastern Brazil, who is the author of a Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights (1984) and For Communicative Peace (1993). Prof. De Matos has pioneered the notion of a peace linguistics over recent decades. See www.humiliationstudies.org for details.

8. KEELE UNIVERSITY PAGAN MOOT is talking place on May 9th, at Keele University Campus, Staffordshire and features a talk by Thomas Daffern on PAGANISM AND EDUCATION: DOES HISTORY HAVE A FUTURE ? taking place at the Postgraduate Centre on campus, from 7pm onwards. Contact IIPSGP International Secretary, Sheena McDonagh for precise details, on 07779851739.

9. THE SUNRISE SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION is taking place from 16-21st June, in South Somerset; Thomas Daffern has been invited to give a talk on the afternoon of June 21st, on the theme of *Cosmic Philosophy and Sustainable Peace*. He will be accompanied by Gayle Scott from Colorado, who is visiting the UK at that time. Contact www.sunrisecelebration.com for details. Tickets cost £50 / £65 for all 6 days. IIPSGP member Jeffrey Gayle is helping to organise the permaculture field.

10. DERBY FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE is holding a discussion circle on the evening of Wednesday May 17 featuring a talk by Thomas Daffern on DRUIDRY AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF PEACE, starting at 7pm, at the

Quaker Meeting House, St Helens Street, Derby. All are welcome to attend this talk.

11. HISTORIES AND MYSTERIES STUDY GROUP meeting is taking place on June 5th, 2005, in Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire, featuring a talk by Thomas Daffern on RE-SEARCHING FOR THE LOST PEACE: THAT MOST OCCULT OF ALL HIDDEN MYSTERIES. Contact IIPSGP International Secretary, Sheena McDonagh for precise details, on 07779851739.

12. NEW ZEALAND is a country with many exciting new spiritual developments and developing links with IIPSGP. Jenny Wheatcroft, the treasurer of IIPSGP, has recently moved to New Zealand, and can be contacted at 176 Tutere Street, Waikanae, Kapiti Coast, Nr. Wellington, North Island, New Zealand, or 00 64 4 2932987. She has recently been on pilgrimage to the Mountains of North Island and reports that their beauty is outstanding. OBOD members in New Zealand organise occasional events including a Summer camp: contact Pamela Meekings-Stewart, The Woolshed, Pukera Bay, New Zealand, or Pamela@thewoolshed.com

13. THE MULTIFAITH AND MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION AND MEDIATION SERVICE (MMEMS) remains active in its work of multifaith peace building and is hoping to extend its activities on a more global basis, and to achieve a long-term secure source of funding. MMEMS has recently exchanged correspondence with the office of the Prime Ministers of both Britain and Ireland over the launch of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for Britain and Ireland. MMEMS proposed some years ago the formation of an International Peace Museum in northern Ireland and remains pleased at the announcement that the Maze prison is to be turned into a permanent Peace Museum to commemorate the time of troubles, as well as to host an International Centre for Conflict Transformation. We remain also most concerned about the situation in Iran/USA – and have heard from an old Zoroastrian IIPSGP friend recently returned to London from Iran, who was kept there under house arrest for 2 years and had his passport stolen ! We still hope to organise a Peace Poetry Symposium in honour of Hafiz in Shiraz when conditions allow. The situation in Israel/Palestine is also of concern with continuing killings on both sides; our proposal to launch a Truth and Reconciliation Commission for Israel/Palestine is still on the table and will be launched in Bethlehem/Galilee when conditions permit. Finally, the situation in Iraq is a matter of continuing tragedy, and the achievement of a lasting peace based on sustainable and just political structures in the country is a high priority. The release of Norman Kember is a great relief to peace activists all over the world, but the tragic death of so many others in that conflict is a sad consequence, it would seem, of adopting a military strategy in the beginning, to solve what was essentially a political and diplomatic problem. Meanwhile all those interested in helping with peacemaking in these areas can at least help with distant prayer and mediation work. Those who would like to assist

the further work and development of the MMEMS in these and other regions (including Nepal) please get in touch. We remain convinced that, no matter how tragic the conflict, and how deep the pain on both sides, genuine dialogue and spiritual diplomacy, conducted from the standpoint of searching out the *common absolute good* (CAG) of all parties in a conflict, can lead to alternative solutions than violence for all sides.

14. A.R. WALLACE SYMPOSIUM, which IIPSGP organised in February 2005, will hopefully be revived as an annual event, taking place in Poole, Dorset, where Wallace died and is buried, commemorating the creative relationship between Charles Darwin and Alfred Russell Wallace, the co-discoverers of the theory of natural selection underlying the evolutionary transformation of living species.

15. HOLY ISLAND (Scotland) remains an important base for Buddhist and interfaith peacemaking, plus a Tibetan Buddhist spiritual retreat centre. Shirley Tourret, a longstanding friend and member of IIPSGP, is living and working at the South End Retreat Centre as she has been doing for the last seven years, during which period she has undertaken a two-year solitary spiritual retreat. Natalie McCall, another good friend to IIPSGP, is also staying and working on Holy Island this summer. If any IIPSGP members and friends are able to get to Arran, do go over to Holy Island and visit Shirley, Natalie and the rest of the community, and preferably write to them in advance: Natalie McCall, Holy Island, Lamlash, Isle of Arran, Scotland, KA27 8RS, Tel. 01770601100.

16. THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION FOR BRITAIN AND IRELAND (TRCBI) is being launched this Summer on August 5/6 at Holyhead, Mona (Anglesey), during a BRITISH-IRISH PEACE SYMPOSIUM ON Ending The Wars, Making The Peace, which will also see the formation of an ECOCOUNCIL OF THE ISLES. This gathering is open to all whom have the long term interests of peacemaking in Britain and Ireland, and particularly the ending of the long conflicts in Ireland at heart. It is being held in Anglesey to make it possible for participants to come both from Ireland as well as through the British Isles. Mona was sacred to the ancient Druid orders, who formed the educated intelligentsia of both Britain and Ireland in former times, and whose work was specifically involved with mediation, peacemaking and the giving of justice. Among other participants we hope a number of Druids from contemporary Druid orders in both Ireland and Britain will be in attendance. With the peace process in Ireland having moved so far, it is the hope of this symposium to encourage a healthy debate between both Irish and British peace thinkers, activists and spiritual leaders, so as to vision together a long future for both Britain and Ireland. We also intend to launch at this gathering a new body, an Eco-Council for the Isles, which will serve as a forum for representation of all those interested in the ecology of the British Isles: with seabirds dying off our shores, fishes depleted, and global warming

effecting our weather patterns, we have an increasing ecological responsibility to end our conflicts and feuds, and pursue ways of peace, justice and harmony. All those who have thought for the long term sustainability of our environment, who love and care for this magical part of the world, and who have the protection of our sacred sites at heart, and who have specific news of environmental issues and campaigns in their part of the world, are invited to attend or send representatives. We are also launching at this meeting a *Truth and Reconciliation Commission for Britain and Ireland (TRCBI)* which will examine testimony concerning all aspects of the conflict in Ireland, and allow persons who have perpetrated acts of cruelty and injustice to come forward and apologise to those whom they have wronged, whether in Britain or in Ireland, and also empower those working for peace and reconciliation to come forward and tell their own stories. The TRCBI might also examine Britain's role in the wider world of international relations, and its nuclear weapons policies, for example, or its involvement in the Middle East, or the Cold War, especially where they relate to British-Irish affairs. We are keen to hear testimony geared towards reinvigorating Britain and Ireland's ethical wellbeing. The formal meeting is taking place on Saturday August 5th and Sunday August 6th in Holyhead Town Hall, with those attending being encouraged to camp with us at a special camp site on Holy Island itself, (a small island off the far North West of Anglesey where Holyhead itself is also located). The camp site is just near an ancient set of standing stones, besides the sea, with wonderful views across to Snowdonia. On Saturday night there will be an Eisteddfod at the camp site for those coming from afar, in which we can hopefully share poetry, music, dance and storytelling into the early hours... To book your place at the Symposium please contact the host. The cost for the event, consisting of the hire of the Town Hall, will be met by donations, to which people are invited to contribute according to their capacity. The cost of the camping will be approximately £8 per night (you need to bring your own tent !) Hosting the meeting is Dr Thomas Daffern, Peace Officer of the Council of British Druids, and Governor of the Saor Ollscoil na h'Eireann (Free University of Ireland); Director of the International Institute of Peace Studies and Global Philosophy and founder of the Global Green University (GGU). For those wishing to camp with us overnight, space on a camp site has been reserved which is just close to Holyhead itself, on Holy Island, and close to an ancient stone megalithic site, with stupendous sea views. We plan to have a bonfire and Eisteddfod there on the Saturday night. Attendees at the Symposium are welcome to phone directly and book, (mention you are coming to the Peace Symposium) to: Gayle Parry, Blackthorn Camping and Caravan Site, Holy Island, Anglesey, 01407 765262. If you are able to attend, or send a representative, please contact: The International Institute Of Peace Studies And Global Philosophy, Rhos y Gallt, Llanerfyl, Nr. Welshpool, Powys, Wales, SY21 OER, Tel/Fax. 01938 820586 (m) 07951 600959 Email: iipsgp@educationaid.net

17. SAOR OLLSCOIL NA H'EIREANN / FREE UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND remains in place as an alternative higher education institution in Ireland, and one is able to undertake both BA, MA and Ph.D. degrees via their good offices, as a recognised qualification in peace studies. The BA is a taught degree so one needs to be within commuting distance from Dublin, built up with credits of classes attended over time, but the MA and PhD degrees can be undertaken at a distance. Please contact Thomas Daffern for further details, who serves as a member of the Saor Ollscoil's Governing Board. More details from the website: www.saor-ollscoil.ie

18. STONEHENGE SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION will again take place on the dawn of Wednesday June 21, at Stonehenge. The Institute Director hopes to be present along with other friends and IIPSGP members and friends are welcome to come along and join us. Although there will not be a formal peace stewards team this year, we can help to hold the energies peacefully anyway. Nora Morris, who organised this scheme last year, has sadly passed away during the year. The car park behind Stonehenge itself opens to the public on the evening of Tuesday 20st June at 20.00 hrs. The stones will be open for public access from 22.00 on June 20th to 09.00 on 21st June.

19. THE GLOBAL GREEN UNIVERSITY continues to develop as an international initiative for educators and world citizens seeking 3rd millennium paradigms for an educational process which makes a difference to the real issues affecting peoples' quality of life and the social and environmental challenges affecting us all such as global warming, urbanisation, poverty, war, human rights, educational choices, interfaith spirituality and theology. Contacts are developing in Greece, Israel/Palestine, India, Russia, USA, England, Scotland, Macedonia etc. The Institute remains the lead organisation in this new initiative. Dr S.L. Gandhi has become co-ordinator for the GGU in India and has agreed to supervise the higher research degrees which can be undertaken by students through the GGU in South Asia. In India, contact him directly on: anuvibha@datainfosys.net or pmovedicpeeth@epatrika.com or slgandhi.com

20. THE INSTITUTE LIBRARY, ARCHIVES AND SCHOOL comprise approximately 10,000 monographs and about 80 ft of archival papers and documents connected with peace education and comparative philosophy. It is a reference library available to serious visiting scholars who may come on study retreat. IIPSGP keeps a detailed *documentation archive* of documents received in the office, including correspondence from peace educators worldwide, philosopher and general educational institutions; these documents have been catalogued in two sequences, the new sequence of which started in September 2001. This sequence has now reached 5000 documents long which are indexed on disc and can be subject searched in word, on all aspects of global peace and spirituality. This list is available only to full members of the Institute as it contains

some sensitive material. The library also includes tapes and videos of interest. People with archival knowledge and library science are always welcome to come and assist the work.

21. PAGAN ACADEMIC NETWORK (P.A.N.) continues to develop as a project of IIPSGP. PAN is interested to work on research and development projects concerning all aspects of the overlaps between paganism and education. Academia began as an impulse cultivated under the guidance of classical pagan teachings; the Academy in Athens, the Lyceum established by Aristotle, and the Mouseion (Museum) of Alexandria were all conceived as places of learning based on spirituality, religious idealism and practical education and research. Anyone interested in this aspect of our work please get in touch. Interestingly, IIPSGP has recently been in touch with a Greek pagan organisation, mentioned in a short article in the Times newspaper in March 2006, which is campaigning for religious freedom under the Greek constitution as the legal successor to the ancient Greek pagan priesthood, and requesting freedom of access for religious worship at the ancient Greek shrines and temples scattered throughout the land. Contact their website for details: www.ysee.gr or write to them at: YSEE (Supreme Council of Pagan Hellenes), PO Box 78211, Athens, GR 17400, Greece.

22. IIPSGP TRANSLATION AND LANGUAGES FACULTY: the ongoing work of IIPSGP in facilitating inter-cultural discourse through linguistic communication continues. We are keen to network with other translators with expertise in different languages that may not yet be included in our Multilingual Peace Dictionary, and so are looking for volunteer translators with expertise particularly in African, Polynesian and Amerindian languages who can translate a basic word list of some 30 core words in philosophical and peace terminology. Please consult the existing extent of the IIPSGP Peace Dictionary which is available via www.lulu.com/iipsgp

23. INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION is holding its biannual conference June 29-July 3, 2006 in Calgary; IIPSGP Director is co-convenor of the Peace Theories Commission meetings along with Dr Sean English of the Saor Ollscoil na h'Eireann, and is also a member of the European Peace Research Association Governing Board (which will be meeting in Calgary likewise). IPRA was founded in 1964, and since then it has vigorously promoted peace research and peace education. With over 1300 members from some 90 countries, IPRA is the most respected scholarly association in this field. IPRA has links with more than 200 research institutions and is a member of the International Social Science Council. In 1989, IPRA received the UNESCO prize for Peace Education. IPRA has five regional associations: Asia-Pacific Peace Research Association (APRA), Africa Peace Research and Education Association (AFPREA), European Peace Research Association (EUPRA), Latin American Peace Research

Association (CLAIP) and Peace and Justice Association (North America). Anyone interested in peace research, or who can come to Calgary, please get in touch with Larry J. Fisk, Chair, Organizing Committee, IPRA 2006 Conference, Calgary, Canada, Email: larry.fisk@shaw.ca T/F: (403)210-3184 Mail: 2 1640-20th Avenue N.W.Calgary, Alberta Canada T2M 1A8 E-mail: fisklarry@hotmail.com or via the main IPRA website on www.ipra2006.com or <http://soc.kuleuven.be/pol/ipra> and to present a paper to the Peace Theories / Peace Philosophy Commission contact Thomas Daffern (we will accept late proposals).

24. BALKANS IIPSGP NEWS: for details of events and unfolding relating to peace and conflict resolution and philosophical and spiritual developments in the Balkan region, please contact our regional secretary, based in Skopje, Ms Gordana Netkovska, on giordana@hotmail.com. She has recently updated their website, which is now an excellent resource for all aspects of Macedonian culture and tourism: www.macedonia.co.uk

25. THE BIG GREEN GATHERING takes place again this year in Somerset from August 2 – August 6th on the Mendip Hills. IIPSGP will be represented in the ESP Field again and Thomas Daffern will be doing some workshops – please come along for a day at least. The convenor of the ESP field is Maxwell Steer, a musician and composer, who has an interesting website <http://colourmuse.org> about a new ColourMuse system of teaching musical intelligence to pupils, and which is based on the Muses (origin of the word music of course). Contact him directly on m@msteer.co.uk. Details about the event as a whole from www.big-green-gathering.com

26. FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE CONFERENCE UK is taking place in Stoke on Trent on Saturday July 1st, from 9.30am to midnight, at Kings Hall, Kingsway, Stoke on Trent, featuring talks from Philip Gardiner, Andrew Collins, Nick Popoe, Paul Devereux, Lionel Fanthorpe and many others. Details from www.philipgardiner.net or from IIPSGP International Secretary Sheena McDonagh on 07779851739.

27. WITCHFEST WALES is taking place at the University of Cardiff Student Union on June 24th from 10-2am, hosted by the Children of Artemis, and includes talks and loads of stall on Wicca, Druidry, paganism, philosophy etc. details from www.witchfest.net

28. HEALING FEST 2006 is taking place at Badger Farm, Asterby, near Louth, in Lincolnshire from 12-13 August, organised by Druid colleague Kevin Guy, details from 01283 221764 or 01283 224170 or grove@kevinguy.plus.com or www.grove-of-mercia.co.uk

29. CHRISTIANS AGAINST TORTURE is a member of the International Federation against Torture (FiACAT) and includes Desmond Tutu and Archbishop Rowan Williams among its patrons. Members help support campaigning

work worldwide to prevent torture in all its forms, which is still tragically widely practiced. Details from Terry and Eleanor Newland, 32 St Stephens Road, Saltash, Cornwall, PL12 4BQ, 01752 210389.

30. THE MOVEMENT FOR THE ABOLITION OF WAR is a campaign run by IIPSGP friend Bruce Kent which campaigns for the ending of war as an instrument of diplomacy worldwide. Details from 11 Venetia Road, London N4 1EJ, Tel. 020 8347 6162 www.abolishwar.org.uk

31. THE PEACE TAX SEVEN are a group campaigning for the right to withhold one's taxes from going to military purposes. They can be contacted via: Woodlands, Ledge Hill, Market Lavington, Wiltshire, SN10 4NW www.peacetaxseven.com or info@peacetaxseven.com

32. STOKE ON TRENT PAGAN MOOT, 25 July 2006, Kidsgrove, The Blue Bell, 7pm onwards, Hardingswood Lane, www.blubellkidsgrove.co.uk a talk by Thomas Daffern on *Pagan Ethics And Metaphysics: On Being And Doing The Good*

33. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS/ UN PEACE COMMISSION are holding their biannual meeting at the UN Headquarters on Tuesday May 2nd from 10am to 2.15 pm. Ewe have arranged for Prof. Don Klein of the IDHS to attend and to represent IIPSGP at this gathering, which will feature several USA based presenters, including: Prof. Cristiane Carneiro of Arcadia University, Dr Carl Mirra of SUNY College at Old Westbury and Ms Ann Wright former US Ambassador. The meeting will be chaired by Sister Only, Chair, and President of Holy Family University, Philadelphia. The IAUP / UN Commission organised an educational conference in the Philippines in 2004 to which IIPSGP Director was invited to make a presentation about Education Aid.

34. SHROPSHIRE ART EXHIBITION: June 2006 sees a joint exhibition between artist Mary Napper and potter Rose Perry in Ellesmere, featuring their latest artistic creations respectively. Any IIPSGP members travelling in the Marches at that time are urged to go along and look. Contact Mary on 01939 233834 for details.

35. SHREWSBURY MUSEUM SERVICE is hosting an exhibition on the History of Shropshire Churches and Chapels from 21 Nov to 22 Dec 2006, plus hosting a parallel exhibition on the 150th anniversary of the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Shrewsbury. The Museum Service itself runs not only Rowleys House Museum but also Shrewsbury Castle and the Pumping Station. Rowleys House Museum itself is under threat of permanent closure and sale, and act of cultural vandalism in the eyes of the IIPSGP Director, since it is a unique Tudor building in the heart of Shrewsbury. The Liberal Democrat Party recently organised a protest against the closure, which is been pushed through on the assumption of relocating the

Museum to the Music Hall, in the long run. IIPSGP Secretary General, Mary Napper, is also Manager of the Shrewsbury Museum Service, and we have held several joint events between IIPSGP and the Museum Service on education for peace, including a successful exhibition on the *Art of War and the Arts of Peace* in 2003 commemorating the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Shrewsbury in 1403. Shrewsbury is also a town of great culture and beauty, and has been the home of many famous writers, poets artists and thinkers, not least Sir Philip Sidney, and Charles Darwin. The town surely deserves a world class museum, and therefore more investment and an expansion of its existing excellent services. Letters of support urging that Rowleys House Museum should remain open can be sent to the Chief Executive, Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council, The Guildhall, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

36. DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR: IIPSGP member Olga Skerry, originally from Russia, is keen to see that IIPSGP's work is further advanced both in the London and the global context. Originally from Ryazan, in Central Russia, Olga spent years living in Nizhny Novgorod and then Moscow, and ended up working with a group of travelling Soviet rock musicians, organising their concerts around the former Soviet bloc. Since coming to live in the UK, she has been involved in the film industry as well in as science, healing, spirituality, beauty therapy and clinical hypnosis. She is hoping to assist with the reconvening of meetings in the House of Lords in London aimed at conflict resolution and peace-making in specific conflict areas and to support the overall development of IIPSGP's projects in this area, including the MMEMS in particular. Her role as Development Coordinator also includes helping to revive the IIPSGP fundraising committee, so if you have suggestions and contacts you feel ought to be in touch with us, please contact her on: Ms. Olga Skerry, Development Coordinator, London 0207 341 7632 Mobile 0798 5590052 o.skerry@btinternet.com

37. RURAL PEACE STUDY RETREATS: Serious students of peace, comparative philosophy, spirituality, education and the arts are invited to apply for a study retreat at Rhos y Gallt, Mid Wales. The location provides an excellent atmosphere and ambience conducive to reflection and meditation. The River Banwy is nearby, and there are beautiful walks in the neighbouring Cambrian Mountains. The beautiful landscape of Lake Vyrnwy, which provides the water supply for Liverpool, is within a short travelling distance. The farmhouse is surrounded by a rich wildlife: rabbits, foxes, hens, sheep, cattle, blue tits, house martins, crows, dragonflies, kingfishers, trout, a herd of white cattle with a bull, badgers, and magnificent trees such as ash, oaks, rowan trees, hawthorn, damsons, elderberries, apple trees. Just a 10 minute drive away up the lanes is a stupendous view from the Cambrian Mountains of Cadair Idris and up towards Snowdonia, (you can see for miles and miles in all directions) and there is a magical lake of fresh water with trout jumping in it just a little further on the track. Lakes were of course sacred to the

Goddess of the land in the ancient Cymric cultural worldview. From Rhos y Gallt, it is also a short drive into Snowdonia proper, to Bettws Coed and Mount Snowdon, and also to Anglesey, sacred island of the Ancient Druids, as well as to Holyhead and frequent boats to Dublin. In Dublin, Trinity College Library and the Chester Beatty Library are among the world's great cultural treasure houses. The large reference library of the Institute is available for study. Divided into 9 sections, each named after a different Muse, the library has a comprehensive coverage of all aspects of peace research, history, comparative philosophy, world religions, social sciences, politics, biography, fiction, literature, poetry, philology, Druid and pagan studies, Welsh history and folklore, world mythology & esoteric philosophy. There are also computers available for writing projects, plus a large garden for sitting in the sunshine, or for after dark bonfires, weather permitting. Please note that any breakages must be paid for, and that there is a strict ban on leaving naked flames unattended. During the Summer months it is also possible to swim in the local river.

Priority for retreats is given to Institute members. Non members may, however, also apply. There is normally no charge to undertake a study retreat at the Institute; retreatants are however expected to join in the Institute daily meditations, and to contribute a minimum of four hours voluntary work for the Institute per day, plus to cover the costs of their own keep during their stay, and also to contribute a payment for energy costs (electricity etc.) as well as to pay for own transportation costs. If retreatants would rather not undertake the 4 hours work for the Institute they are expected instead to donate £30 for bed and breakfast per night during their stay. Welshpool Railway station is nearby with excellent communication links to all parts of the UK and abroad. A small airport is even available nearby for private aircraft. Please apply in writing using the form below to the Retreat Manager, Sheena McDonagh, on sheena.mcdonagh@ntlworld.com or phone/text: 07779851739.

38. SCIENTISTS FOR GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY: IIPSGP remains a member (through Thomas) of this important network of scientists working for peace and social justice and ecological responsibility; they sponsor lectures and meetings and have several members who belong to the Royal Society in London; the late Prof. Cedric Smith, a founder of IIPSGP, was a member, as if Prof. Tom Kibble. Contact them via their excellent member email forum, which carries useful news of developments in the technological and scientific aspects of peace and peace studies. The main challenge, probably, lies in assuring that scientists have the economic structures in place to devote their technical intelligence to working on projects for human well being rather than military and defence related projects. Details from sgrforum@gn.apc.org

39. MINISTRY OF DEFENCE LINKS TO ACADEMIA: One member of Scientists for Global Responsibility has recently drawn our attention to the new website of the

Ministry of Defence, which lists the various research projects underway in British academia concerning military technology, and which are listed at www.science.mod.uk. The tragedy of our current situation both in Britain and around the world is that major funds are largely reserved for military related research, while peace research, the technology and intelligence to prevent or solve conflicts, like Cinderella, lurks in the basement, too poor to go to the ball....Perhaps the Peace Tax Seven and similar campaigns should ask that their taxes specifically be channelled to peace and conflict prevention work, rather than military, and perhaps the Treasury should set up a special team to investigate how this might be done. This relates to the important project to set up a Ministry of Peace in the UK Government, co-ordinated by Diana Basterfield, since voters could then opt to have their "security" taxes specifically channelled to ways of resolving conflicts non-violently. Perhaps a national petition is needed to effect this policy, whatever governing party is in charge.

40. MINISTRY OF PEACE: Diana Basterfield continues with MP's to run this important campaign to see a Ministry of Peace set up in the UK, and they organise an ongoing series of meetings in Parliament to this end. See www.ministryofpeace.org for further details.

41. ORDER OF BARDS OVATES AND DRUIDS (OBOD) continues to develop its work, and its chosen chief, Philip Carr-Gomm, has recently set up an interesting forum concerned with saving trees from imminent destruction, based on his experience in Lewes. A new governor of Lewes prison wantonly cut down the superb ring of ancient beech and other trees surrounding the prison, notwithstanding Philip's attempt to effect a citizen's arrest on the said governor. The website is designed to be an alert system for anyone who knows of trees in imminent danger of destruction, and also suggests places to go for legal and other forms of remedy. Contact: <http://www.saveourtrees.info/index.php> For information about OBOD in general contact the OBOD Office, at PO Box 1333, Lewes, Sussex, BN7 1DX, office@druidry.org Tel/Fax 01273 470888, www.druidry.org

42. WORLD RUSSIAN PEOPLE'S COUNCIL – this body has recently issued a DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIGNITY which is well worth quoting in full since it presents a profound theology of human rights not normally heard in the West, based on Christian Orthodoxy: "Aware that the world, passing through a crucial point in its history, is facing a threat of conflict between the civilizations with their different understanding of the human being and the human being's calling, - the World Russian People's Council, on behalf of the unique Russian civilization, adopts this declaration: *Each person as image of God has singular unalienable worth, which must be respected by every one of us, the society and state. It is by doing good that the human being gains dignity. Thus we distinguish between human worth and dignity. Worth is given, while dignity is acquired. The eternal moral law has a solid foundation in the human soul, independent*

of one's culture, ethnic origin or life circumstances. This foundation is laid down by the Creator in human nature and manifested in human conscience. The voice of conscience however can be muffled by sin. Precisely for this reason the religious tradition that has God as its Origin is called to help discern between good and evil. We discern two kinds of freedom: inner freedom from evil and freedom of moral choice. Freedom from evil is valuable *per se*, while the freedom of choice becomes valuable and the person gains dignity inasmuch as the chosen alternative is good. Conversely, the freedom of choice leads to self-destruction and loss of human dignity when the choice is evil. Human rights are based on the worth of the person and should have as their goal the realization of the person's human dignity. Therefore, human rights essentially involve morality. Any separation of these rights from morality means their profanation, for there is no such thing as immoral dignity. We are for the right to life and against the "right" to death; for the right to creation and against the "right" to destruction. Human rights and liberties are effective inasmuch as they help the individual to grow in good, defend the individual from evil within and without, promote the individual's positive role in society. It is in this perspective that we respect not only civil and political rights and liberties, but also social, economical and cultural rights. Rights and liberties are inseparable from human obligations and responsibilities. The individual in pursuit of personal interests is called to relate them to those of the neighbour, family, community, nation and all humanity. There are values no smaller than human rights. These are faith, morality, the sacred, motherland. Whenever these values come into conflict with the implementation of human rights, the task of the society, state and law is to bring both to harmony. It is unacceptable, in pursuit of human rights, to oppress faith and moral tradition, insult religious and national feelings, cause harm to revered holy objects and sites, jeopardize the motherland. Likewise we see as dangerous the "invention" of such "rights" as to legitimize a behaviour condemned by both the traditional morality and historical religions. We reject the policy of double standards with regard to human rights, as well as attempts to use them for political, ideological, military and economical purposes, for imposition of a particular socio-political system. We are willing to cooperate with the state and all benevolent forces in ensuring human rights. Particularly important for this cooperation are such endeavours as preserving the rights of nations and ethnic groups to their religion, language and culture, defending the freedom of conscience and the right of believers to their own way of life, combating ethnically and religiously motivated crime, protecting against arbitrary actions by the authorities and employers, concern for the rights of servicemen, defending the children's rights, taking care of inmates and other persons in state custody, protecting the victims of destructive sects, opposing total control over private life and personal convictions, preventing people from being involved in crime, corruption, slave trade, prostitution, drug addiction, compulsive gambling. We seek dialogue with people of diverse faiths and views on human rights

and their place in the hierarchy of values. Like nothing else, this dialogue today will help avoid the conflict of civilizations and attain a peaceful diversity of worldviews, cultures, legal and political systems on the globe. The future of people depends on their success in this endeavour." See www.mospat.ru for further details.

43. WORLD SUMMIT OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS: This conference has been called for July to take place in Moscow, at the invitation of Patriarch Alexy 2nd, leader of the Russian Orthodox Church. The Vatican has stated, through the person of Archbishop Antonio Mennini, that it will be sending a high ranking representative on behalf of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI. Russian President Vladimir Putin, expressed his support for this initiative of His Holiness Alexy II, in the following words: '*in today's times I consider it important to strengthen moral and spiritual values common to all confessions. Faith in good and justice, mercy and love of peace are basic affirmations of all the world religions*'. The aim of the World Summit of Religious Leaders will be to "*strengthen considerably the cooperation between traditional religions and express their position on urgent issues facing the world today*."

The Catholic Church leaders have always appreciated proposals for dialogue and cooperation in overcoming the major problems of humanity today and have normally taken a direct and active part in realising such initiatives. Russian President Vladimir Putin, speaking of his support for the initiative of His Holiness Alexy II, said that '*in today's times I consider it important to strengthen moral and spiritual values common to all confessions. Faith in good and justice, mercy and love of peace are basic affirmations of all the world religions*'. Archbishop Antonio Mennini add in an interview about the forthcoming Summit that "*For me it remains only to join the opinion expressed by the Russian leader. It is also noteworthy that in recent months there have been repeated statements by high-ranking representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church speaking positively of closeness in Orthodox and Catholic positions on most of the challenges brought by modern times. These statements give a special hope for fruitful cooperation during the forthcoming forum*." See the Bulletin of the Russian Orthodox Churches to European Institutions, for further details

44. THE EMERGENCE TO THE FUTURE FIFTH WORLD HAS BEGUN, MAY 5-16, 2006, is a conference, symposium and pilgrimage taking place in the USA with the Hopi nation elders and the Prophets Conference. It represents the last of the *Crossing Into Medicine Country Pilgrimages* into the stunning and spiritual North American Southwest. "*Today we, Hopi and white man, come face to face at the crossroads of our respective life....It was foretold it would be at the most critical time in the history of mankind. Everywhere people are confused. What we decide now and do, we are all talking about the judgement day....In the light of our Hopi prophecy it is going to take place here and will be completed in the Hopi Empire....*" --The Hopi – Full details on: www.greatmystery.org/events/sw06.html

45. SHROPSHIRE PAGANS is a useful local information network on all forthcoming pagan events in and around Shropshire in England; the group was set up by Elaine Lawson, a pagan scholar and friend to IIPSGP, who lives in Telford, Shropshire, near where Thomas used to teach; see <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/shropshirepagans/> or email: shropshirepagans@yahoogroups.co.uk

46. ORDER OF WANDERING PEACE POETS WOMEN POETS LIBRARY: This poetry library remains in Wem and can be visited by IIPSGP members and friends and OWPP members; it consists of a collection of poetry books by women poets donated to IIPSGP by a local Shropshire collector, and Mary Napper has given it sanctuary. Mary herself is an active poet, as well as Secretary General of IIPSGP; this is one of her recent poems:

A SENSE OF PLACE

*Between form and no-form
The rain falls*

*Between here and there
Is a landscape of clouds
Between being and becoming
The wind assails our ears
As we lean over the brow of the hill*

*Between sleeping and waking
We abandon Time
Past, present and future merge
Into narratives of infinite possibility
To be realised between birth and death*

*Consciousness
Is a conversation with the universe
Between many voices:
The chattering television
The love song of Prufrock
The still, small voice in the void
Creating Matter from Word*

*We are all strung out on this line.
Footprints trailing across the shifting sands
Dancers flickering under the strobing light
Small birds darting
Between one dark door and another*

April 2006

47. LAMMAS BARNs WORKSHOP Programme 2006-2007. As well as hosting Thomas and Gayle Scott's workshop in June (see No. 6 above) a fascinating series of other events are taking place at the same venue over the Summer months, as follows:

May 6th 'Magical Herbalism' led by Anna Franklin, visit <http://www.annafranklin.co.uk>. A 'hands-on' day of learning, gathering and 'brewing' in the kitchen! Includes an exploration of the Barns grounds for herbs and plants

you can use in your workings. £28.00 per person includes lunch and most materials.

May 7th 'Sigils, Talismans, Key of Solomon' exploring planetary squares, sigils, talismans and some of the pentacles from the Medieval grimoire the Key of Solomon. Middle Pillar exercise. Led by Shropshire occultist & author Gary Nottingham. £14.00 per person including lunch.

June 10 -11th Enneagram & Peace Study weekend workshop with Gayle Scott and Thomas Daffern. Gayle flies from Colorado to lead a weekend of experiential workshops using the Enneagram system in conjunction with a peace study by Thomas Daffern. FFI visit: <http://www.enneagraminstitute.com> or www.educationaid.net £70 including meals.

July 1st 'Familiars' led by Anna Franklin a day of learning and exploration into the magical world of familiars, what they are, how they find us, and how to work with them. £22.00 per person including lunch.

July 2nd 'Herbalism, medicinal, magical, astrological configurations and preparations' led by Gary Nottingham. £14.00 including lunch.

June 24th 'British Folk Traditions & Pathworking' led by Pete Jennings, ffi visit <http://www.gippeswic.demon.co.uk>. AM Traditional songs, customs and dances illustrated with song & dance forms. Plus hands on experiential use of masks. PM How to construct a pathworking, practical considerations. Experience a pathworking & visualisations provided by Pete £25.00 includes lunch and materials.

June 25th 'Ritual Movement, & Runes' two practical 'hands-on' workshops with Pete Jennings, AM Learn graceful movements for use in ritual and ceremony, PM a hands-on 'Introduction to Runes' workshop. £25.00 includes lunch and materials.

August 19-20th Two Day Rune Workshop: a practical, in-depth workshop with Rig Svenson (http://www.runewebvitki.com/about_me.html) Includes their origins, consecration, divination, creating a heathen sacred space, rune staining, divination. Suitable for those who want to learn hands-on about the runes in depth. £50 per person for the weekend including lunch and materials.

September 10th 'Astrology, 17th C astrologer William Lilly, methods & some charts'. Horary astrology is a complex subject therefore more suited to those with some astrological comprehension. Also of interested to the occult mind as we will explore several charts from individuals present to determine the outcome of events in their own lives if they wish. Led by Gary Nottingham. £14.00 including lunch.

November 5th 'Kabbala & it's mysteries' Using the traditional methods of exploring the sephera ending with a celebration of the Mass of On-Nophris, which is a ritual to

endeavour to balance one's own elemental nature. Led by Gary Nottingham. £14.00 including lunch.

January 7th 2007 'Alchemy & Spagyrics' A study of mercury, sulphur, salt of the vegetable kingdom. Also several alchemical techniques such as pelicanisation, cohabitation & the black crow's head. Magical fluid condensers and their birthing according to alchemical praxis. Led by Gary Nottingham. £14.00 including lunch.

March 4th 2007 'John Dee & the Enochian System' A complex day examining this occult modus, with a look at the energies of the Sigillum Ameth Dei and the elemental watchtowers with a working with one of its angelic beings, which is not to be confused with new age approaches to the angelic realms. Led by Gary Nottingham. £14.00 including lunch.

Workshops General Info: Numbers per workshop will be limited to ensure you get the most out them and as such places are issued on a first come, first served basis. If you need to stay overnight there are local B&B's or very basic camping available in the property's grounds. The amounts asked for are the minimum donation required to cover teachers fees, expenses, materials, running costs & usually a vegetarian lunch (although please note that we can't cater for individual dietary requirements, sorry).

Lammas Barns Is a privately owned property situated 15 minutes from Shrewsbury. Our aim is to provide a friendly and informal environment within which you can meet like-minded folk & enjoy interesting, practical and affordable workshops in subjects of a craft or esoteric nature. ALL faiths and paths welcome and the workshops here are run with a non political / religion specific policy. Smoking / any other substances are not permitted at the property, neither are prejudice and bigotry! Kate has been involved in organising local events of a spiritual/creative nature for some years and these workshops are a natural progression of this work, she lives at the Barns with husband Mark, two St Bernards, two cats and a plethora of wildlife. If you're interested in one of the workshops we have further detailed itineraries/booking forms, if you'd like a copy, or if you have any other questions, please contact Kate on 01952 770191 (office hours only please) or 07816 683903 or email via clanartia.events@virgin.net

48. COUNTDOWN TO PEACE: This event is taking place at St James' Church in London on May 6, 2006, 10.30 – 4.00, and is being organised by long time IIPSGP friend and member, Dorothy Forster, and features a number of speakers including: Rt. Hon. Tony Benn, Dr. Scilla Elworthy, Rev. Donald Reeves, Sarida Brown (editor of Caduceus and focaliser of the Sufi Healing Order), and Jeremy Gilley. The event is free, and there will be a peace scroll for signing made available on the day. Dorothy is reviver of the Big Ben Silent Minute Prayer for Peace and Director of the Silent Minute Trust (of which Thomas Daffern is a Trustee) and is very active on all kinds of peace work; contact her at: Dorothy Forster, 16 Crastock

Court, 7-9 Queens Gardens, London, W2 3BG, Tel 0207 262 9625. People attending this service are welcome to come on to Thomas Daffern's 50th birthday party which is taking place in Wales later that same day (only 3 hours drive from West London !)

49. 2ND INTERNATIONAL PEACE SALON IN PARIS: UNESCO are helping to organise the 2nd salon for peace, which comprises exhibitions and presentations by numerous NGO's and international actors working to deliver a peaceful and non-violent world. This event is part of the celebrations of the Word Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence. If you're in Paris between June 2 and 4th check it out. *Le deuxième Salon international des Initiatives de Paix s'inscrit dans le cadre de la « Décennie internationale de la promotion d'une culture de la non-violence et de la paix au profit des enfants du monde » proclamée par l'ONU en 1998. Organisé par la Coordination française pour la Décennie, il se tiendra à Paris les 2, 3 et 4 juin 2006, au Centre des Congrès de la Villette, à la Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie. Ce Salon permettra à un large public de se familiariser avec la culture de non-violence et de paix. Des exposants français et internationaux présenteront leurs initiatives de non-violence et de paix et de nombreuses animations seront proposées. Le Salon déclinera la culture de non-violence et de paix dans ses différentes dimensions : justice, résolution non-violente des conflits, médiation, défense des droits humains, développement et respect de l'environnement, désarmement, égalité hommes-femmes, etc.* More details from the website: <http://www.decennie.org/> or Salon international des Initiatives de Paix Coordination Francaise pour la Décennie 148, rue du Faubourg Saint-Denis F - 75010 Paris Tél: +33 (0)1 46 33 41 56 Fax: +33 (0)1 40 51 70 02

50. UNITED NATIONS OF RELIGIONS: Rabbi Yona Metzger, Chief Rabbi of Israel, has joined the Dalai Lama and other religious leaders to call for a religious United Nations, and suggested it might be headquartered in Jerusalem. The proposal was presented during he visit to Israel by the Dalai Lama in February 2006, and also in Seville, Spain at the International Congress of Imams and Rabbis for Peace. Metzger has been interested in religious dispute resolution since trying to help solve a conflict in Jerusalem between different religious groups, specifically between Jews and Armenian Christians. The idea has also had the backing of Dr Frederico Major, former Secretary General of UNESCO, and no the co-president of the Alliance for Civilisations, a Spanish lobby group for international conflict resolution. IIPSGP has also been in touch with Rabi Metzger to express support and solidarity with the proposal, and to inform him of the work of our Multifaith and Multicultural Mediation Service, which would certainly like to work in tandem with any such United Nations of Religions once it is established. Metzger has gone on record as saying that: *"Instead of planning for nuclear war and buying tanks and fighter jets, it will invest in peace... Religious leaders will get the opportunity to meet one another and discover that they*

have more in common than they may have realized..." IIPSGP member and friends can write and express support and encouragement for this project at: Rabbi Yona Metzger, c/o rabbia@rabbinate.gov.il or write to: Harbanuth Harashith, 80 Jeramia St, PO Box 7525 Jerusalem 91360, Tel: 972 2 5313131. Rabbi Metzger is the Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi of Israel.

51. THE FIRST WORLD CONGRESS OF IMAMS AND RABBIS FOR PEACE took place in Brussels, Belgium in January 2006. 150 Rabbis and Imams participated. The focus of the conference was: "Islam and Judaism as instruments of peace - recognition and respect of others". The program was intended to be a forum for planning concrete actions and setting up of frameworks for cooperation. The goals of the meeting included 1) condemning violence perpetrated in the name of religion 2) creation of a dialog and partnership between the two religions 3) facilitating development of peaceful solutions to conflict by influential religious leaders 4) gather these leaders before the media to promote a message of peace. A final declaration, posted on the [Hommes de Parole Web site](#), was made as follows: "We, leaders, representatives, Rabbis and Imams of Muslim and Jewish religious communities who have assembled from all over the world for the first world congress of Imams and Rabbis for Peace affirm our commitment to strive to end all bloodshed and attacks against innocent human beings that offend the right to life and dignity given by the Almighty to all human beings. We call upon all people to combat hate, ignorance and their causes and to build together a world of peace, rich in diversity, in which all faiths and their practices are respected and protected. We call upon the political leaders of all peoples to work for righteous and peaceful durable solutions around the world and in particular in the Holy Land for the benefit of all peoples and faith-communities who live in the land and hold it dear. We pledge ourselves to pursue a shared goal of respect for human rights for all people and peoples, without which no peace can be possible. We call upon all religious leaders in Jewish and Muslim congregations around the world to devote regular sermons and addresses to their communities on the importance of inter-religious respect and reverence for all human life under all circumstances. We announce the establishment of a permanent joint committee to help implement these commitments and propose programmatic initiatives on a regular basis, in keeping with the proposals presented during the congress and in its spirit for the wellbeing of all peoples." The SECOND WORLD CONGRESS OF IMAMS AND RABBIS FOR PEACE took place in Seville, Spain from 19 to 22 March 2006. The Second Congress focused on building trust and confidence necessary for joint projects, creating a forum in which religious leaders can use their influence in conflict resolution, help religious leaders to challenge the misuse of religion in fanaticism, and to create structures to facilitate practical day to day work in prioritized areas. A final declaration, posted on the [Hommes de Parole Web site](#), was made as follows: "In the name of the One Creator and Master of the Universe, the Compassionate and All

Merciful, we Muslim and Jewish leaders and representatives, gathered for the Second World Congress of Imams and Rabbis for Peace organized by Hommes de Parole in Seville, in the region of Andalusia - recalling the past era in which Jews and Muslims lived together here in harmony and mutual enrichment - and aspiring for such relations today and in the future. We accordingly affirm that contrary to widespread misrepresentation, there is no inherent conflict between Islam and Judaism, on the contrary. While modern politics has regrettably impacted negatively upon the relationship, our two religions share the most fundamental values of faith in the One Almighty whose name is Peace, who is merciful, compassionate and just; and who calls on us human beings to manifest these values in our lives and to advance them in relation to all persons whose lives and dignity are sacred. Therefore we reiterate the message we sent from our first congress, that we deplore bloodshed or violence in the name of any ideology everywhere. Especially when such is perpetrated in the name of religion it is a desecration of religion, itself and the gravest offense against the Holy Name of the Creator. Thus, in addition to calling upon all our co-religionists to respect all human life, dignity and rights, to promote peace and justice; we call upon them and the governments of the world and international institutions to show respect for the attachments and symbols of all religions, as well as their holy sites, houses of worship and cemeteries, particularly in the Holy Land, due to its special sensitivity. Accordingly, we condemn any negative representation of these, let alone any desecration, Heaven forbid. Similarly, we condemn any incitement against a faith or people, let alone any call for their elimination, and we urge authorities to do likewise. We recognize that there is widespread misrepresentation of our religions, - one in the other's community as well as in the world at large. We affirm therefore the urgent need for truthful and respectful education about each other's faith and tradition in our respective communities and schools; and call upon those responsible to promote such essential education for peaceful co-existence. Solemnly we pledge ourselves to the abovementioned continue to seek out one another to build bridges of respect, hope and friendship, to combat incitement and hostility, to overcome all barriers and obstacles, to reinforce mutual trust, serving the noble goal of universal peace especially in the land that is holy to us all."

52. HOMMES DE PAROLE is based in Seville, Spain, as an interfaith peace organization dedicated to bringing together the representatives of the great faiths who share a common belief in the sacredness of scripture and Holy Texts; it reinvokes the era when Muslims, Christians and Jews lived in cultural symbiosis and harmony in Spain's golden age. It has many important ongoing projects, such as organizing the ongoing World Congress of Imams and Rabbis for Peace; developing an **International Interreligious Monitoring Center**, directed by Galitt Kenan, the objective of which is to denounce and condemn anti-religious acts in the world and whose web site will be providing in each country, key information relating to Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and Christianophobia. **The**

Committee for the Protection of the Holy Places, directed by the Chief Rabbi Shear Yashuv Cohen, Chief Rabbi of Haifa and President of the Rabbinic High Court and the Imam Imad al Falouji, Imam of Gaza, former Minister of Transport and Telecommunications of the Palestinian Authority. The primary objective of this committee is the application of United Nations resolution 'Protection of Religious Sites' of 2001, calling on all member states and international organisations to prevent acts or threats of violence and destruction of all religious sites. This resolution and those related to the culture of peace and dialogue between civilizations could serve as the base for national legislation in Israel and for the Palestinian Authority. The very first action by this committee in the coming months will consist of reviewing the 26 synagogues in Gaza, synagogues more than 3,000 years old in Gaza City, and in parallel the 26 or 27 Mosques in Israel. Founding a French branch of the **Institute for Global Ethics**, coordinated by Rabbi Michel Serfaty. The objective of the Institute is to provide students in religious seminaries (Jews, Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs etc) with the tools necessary to become leaders capable of guiding their communities along the path towards peace and respect for all persons and all faiths. The students would receive practical instruction by courses, but also through the Web-University. Course would also be provided throughout Europe in cooperation with numerous universities and United Nations agencies. EDUCATION is one of three key areas of work and at the recent Congress of Imams and Rabbis for Peace, in Seville in March 2006, a total of 12 proposals and recommendations were made, which were aimed at the setting up of teaching programmes to initiate the young generation in the knowledge of the different religions of the Book (Judaism, Christianity and Islam) and their respective cultures. Thus the possibility was evoked for study programmes in comparative religion, exchanges between mosques, churches and synagogues, so as to facilitate an opening for knowledge and comprehension relative to religious differences, the specific training of teachers in these disciplines and the meeting of young people of different faiths. The participants underlined the absolute necessity to initiate dialogue and develop respective knowledge of the other from the most formative years of education, so that ignorance, the source of fear or hate, be eliminated. TEXTUAL RESEARCH AND STUDY: AN ENLIGHTENED RE-READING OF SACRED TEXTS - at the recent Congress of Imams and Rabbis for Peace, in Seville in March 2006, a total of 8 propositions and recommendations were made, exhorting an enlightened and contextual re-reading of the Holy Books, and more particularly the passages used by fundamentalists to justify the rejection of the other and used as a recourse to violence. An important number of the participants extolled the creation of specialised structures susceptible to undertaking this work and to determine adequate reading methodologies that take into account the tools provided by the humanistic disciplines (archaeology, anthropology, history, literature, sociology and hermeneutics in general) and which are respectful of context (a text read out of context could give

place to the freest and most literal interpretations). As certain participants observed, the texts could be read in a fundamentalist or evolutionary perspective, it is therefore crucial that all be equipped with the appropriate reading tools. (N.B. Philosophers for Peace and IIPSGP could certainly help with this work) Regarding the **COMMITMENT OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS** at the recent Congress of Imams and Rabbis for Peace, in Seville in March 2006, the following proposals were put forward: - The cooperation between Imams and Rabbis in social and humanitarian action. - The engagement of religious figures in the media and in their own communities by not only reacting against racist acts, commentaries, intolerance, bearers of hate and violence, but also to promoting their message of peace. - The creation of a joint committee to protect holy places. - Setting up of exchanges between communities: imams inviting rabbis to speak in their communities and vice-versa.- The engagement of religious leaders to provide information relative to their respective religions that goes beyond stereotypes and wrong interpretations of the texts (the engagement of Imams to spread Islam's face of peace, countering images given by the media or by extremists). In all the above 3 areas of work, the Hommes de Parole is key and supportive, and shall we say catalytic. Another important project of Hommes de Parole is the creation of THE INTERRELIGIOUS UNIVERSITY OF PEACE, which states in its declaration as follows: *At the moment when throughout the world so many conflicts use religious principles to justify the worst atrocities, or when so many fissures appear between communities – often through ignorance – the Foundation proposes that this University be a common structure for research, training, reflection and action between religions. Objectives - To enable religions to: • exercise a real and durable impact on the resolution of conflicts • contribute to the emergence of a peace culture Organisation : The IPU would cooperate with other existing universities in Europe, the USA, Asia and Africa, such as the Al-Azhar University of Cairo, the Catholic University of Paris, the University of Saint Joseph of Beirut, the Hebraic University of Jerusalem, and The University of Sofia of Tokyo, the International University of Qatar or the Universities of Sevilla and Florence. Each university would have under its responsibility a research unit that would communicate and cooperate with the others including the use of video conferences.* Another project of Hommes de Parole is The WALL OF DIALOGUE which is an electronic way of creating a dialogue space between Israeli and Palestinian's for peace, and which states: *Today even as we speak of peace nothing is done to permit dialogue between the people of Israel and those of the Palestinian Territories. This project for a virtual wall has the object of favoring this meeting, by avoiding the political, legal and territorial fetters. By means of 'special France Telecom screens', the size of which will vary according to the different places and needs, and by Internet, Israelis and Palestinians will finally be able to 'see' each other and speak to each other by means of these video-meetings on these 'walls of presence'. There exist numerous concrete applications or this dialogue, including*

so called 'practical' applications: Palestinian doctors, who have not had continuous training, could for example dialogue and cooperate directly with Israeli doctors, students could organize meetings and video conferences to exchange ideas of subjects that concern them, artists, school children, mothers could share their everyday concerns. This project could then be extended so that Israelis and Palestinians could communicate with correspondents throughout the whole world and broaden their dialogue and the opening that follows. We thus hope to develop the power of an infinite and uncontrollable force that would open to each and every one the possibility of knowing the daily lives of the others. If the failure to recognize the other is often the cause of rejection this virtual wall of dialogue will become a place of meeting and learning. The use of 'Broadband' will enable the entire world of Internet users to see and hear live this dialogue without limit

ALAIN MICHEL, FOUNDER OF HOMMES DE PAROLE, has also edited a book called Visages de Paix, of which he states: *Peace exists! It simply needs to be seen. I believe it just as wrong to overlook 'evil' and let it happen, as it is not to attest to 'good', because in my opinion this is the most infectious of all human expressions. Why do the media always report dramatic events, horror and the cruelty of human beings, expressed through conflicts (Israeli-Palestinian, Rwanda, Iraq, Chechnya...)? By doing so they destroy hope, encourage inaction and weakness. Why not speak of what gives faith in humanity, of that which lifts us higher and incites us on to effort? Who knows of the hundreds of associations of inter-aid and initiative between Israelis and Palestinians, that constantly work for peace between their communities and know that this peace is possible and urgent? Who knows that Jews and Muslims have for centuries shared the same songs, the same cuisine and the same traditions? Who knows that one hundred and fifty dignitaries of Islam and Judaism have met at the beginning of 2005 and will meet again in Seville in March 2006 to reflect and work together so as to change the world? Some, not too familiar with these problems, will be able to better judge what these images of Jewish and Muslim leaders represent, side by side, page after page. Others, more concerned, nearer to these cultures, will without doubt be surprised to see, each succeeding the other, the Spokesman for the Council of Palestinian Ulemas and the Chief Rabbi of Ramat Gan, the Director of Islamic Affairs of Morocco and the Former Chief Rabbi of Israel.... This book is the symbol that demonstrates that nothing is impossible and the utopias of yesterday can be transformed into the realities of today. By their courageous presence these men have demonstrated their engagement to bring change in the world. They urge us to go beyond the limits of the imaginable and to be, together, responsible for our future. We have been actors and witnesses to these extraordinary images, we are happy to share them with you. See the Homme de Parole website, from which the above has been taken, for further details: <http://www.hommesdeparole.org/>*

53. WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES through its member churches is organising special events worldwide during the World Decade for a Culture of Peace. The WCC

basically includes all world Christian churches apart from the Roman Catholic Church, which however send observers to its meetings. See the website at: <http://overcomingviolence.org>

54. IIPSGP MEMBERSHIP: To renew your membership of IIPSGP, please write in or ring the office in Wales. Membership remains £15 (unwaged) or £25/£50 per annum and is normally a pre-requisite for being involved in any of the specific projects run by the Institute. It also brings access to the documentation index of the Index archives, priority in undergoing retreats, and information about all courses available, including those run by the Global Green University. At present, membership forms can only be processed via ordinary mail. Normally, a first degree is required for full membership of the Institute, or indication of an equivalent level of educational achievement. To join, please enclose a completed membership form, CV and covering letter plus cheque to the office: International Institute for Peace Studies and Global Philosophy, Rhos Galt, Llanerfyl, Powys, Wales, SY21 OER, Tel. 01938 820586 email: iipsgp@educationaid.net
