

Medium is a high flyer

THE EDITOR'S E-MAIL INTERVIEW WITH A SERVING MEDIUM

Seatbelts on... and do read the plane 'safety card just in case! Why? Well this month's interview is with medium Peter Smith, who holds a private pilot's licence and is interested in aviation. Last month, Peter became a Spiritualist Association of Great Britain (SAGB) medium. The first question he answers is: "The majority of mediums are female. What do you think is the reason for this? Is it perhaps that generally women tend to be more sensitive than men?"

I THINK that women can be more intuitive than men. Men often try to come up with logical and scientific approaches to situations rather than listening to the intuitive side of themselves.

Your profile on the SAGB's website states you had a "busy career in engineering" and later began "a very successful business" working for yourself.

I am never quite sure what engineering means, so can you explain what your job entailed and what kind of business you run?

For the majority of my working life, I worked in electronic engineering/computer engineering on control systems for power stations and nuclear power stations, and was a specialist in intrinsically safe control systems for the petrochemical industry.

I then moved to a design role in sales and marketing, which I enjoyed immensely and made a success of due to the people contact I had.

With the managing director, in my last role as sales director I had the unfortunate job over two years of closing down the UK operation.

It is a sad process seeing over 300 people slowly leaving a business, but also encouraging and enlightening to see new doors open for them.

At the point I left the company, I took a long look at my life. I decided I wanted to spend more time with my wife, Lorraine, and not be travelling all over the world and living in hotels.

At this time, Lorraine was working full time and travelling 30 miles a day into and out of London.

My past role had meant organising a lot of events for international sales meetings, etc. We decided to set up our own business of executive travel for blue chip companies and organising conferences.

I made a success of it in twelve months, so Lorraine left her job to come and work with me. I believe our life on this planet is planned. This was a path I was given the opportunity to take and have no regrets in doing so.

Are you now a full-time medium?

At present I am not a full-time medium. I still run my business along with Lorraine. As we have grown and introduced successful operating systems into the business,

it has freed up much more time for myself. My intention is to spend more time on my mediumship over the coming twelve months.

Turning the clock back, can you describe your first psychic experience and your age at that point? Assuming you were a child, if you told your parents what was their reaction?

My first psychic experiences were when I was around seven years of age and I would see a gentleman in my bedroom.

One day at my grandmother's house we were looking through a photo album and I said, "That's the man who visits me." It was my granddad who I never knew. He died when my father was only 21.

My Nan said he visited her on a regular basis, which did not scare me. A few months afterwards, little things would happen when I visited.

The piano I loved to sit and play on would start to play single notes and an old sewing machine with a metal tread you operated by foot would start to move.

My dad would try to come up with all sorts of logical reasons, but none convinced my mother and Nan, who both had firsthand psychic experiences.

Can you recall any other unusual experiences?

On one occasion I was staying in a small hotel in Derbyshire where one half of my family comes from.

Lorraine and I were having an evening meal. While in the restaurant, I was aware of a lady wearing an early 1900's dress standing in a corner watching everything going on. She seemed agitated by one member of staff who did not have the best of customer relationship qualities you would

expect in her role of receptionist.

The more impolite or sarcastic the receptionist was with customers, the more the lady in Spirit moved forward from her corner and looked cross.

Whilst relaying what I was seeing to Lorraine, the receptionist, who was helping out in the restaurant, overheard me. She was fascinated at what I had seen and asked me to describe the lady.

Slowly watching the colour drain from her face, I had just described the head housekeeper who was a tyrant at getting things correct.

Over many years, she had been seen by guests and staff wearing exactly what I described.

This somewhat unprofessional receptionist was on duty to the early hours and wasn't happy that the spirit lady had seen her being somewhat unsociable to guests.

Where were you born and when?

In Leagrave, Bedfordshire, in 1959.

Where do you live now?

A very small village in Bedfordshire.

What psychic gifts do you have? Where did you develop them?

I am clairvoyant, clairaudient and clairsentient. I have had these gifts since around the age of seven, but it is only in the last five years that I've really focused on developing them.

The development has been mainly at the SAGB and some circles local to where I live.

If your neighbours know you're a medium, what do they make of it?

I find people are fascinated when I speak to them. I feel because I am a very grounded person it helps when I explain what I do if talking to people who have no experience or

are sceptical of Spiritualism.

What was your first encounter with Spiritualism?

It was with my mum's cousin when she visited us or I went to her house. I always remember seeing a Roman army walking through her living room. Later in life we discovered the house was built on top of a Roman camp.

How long have you been serving Spiritualist churches?

Four years.

From a medium's point of view, what makes a Spiritualist church a cut above the rest?

The people who attend and those who organise the church. Unfortunately, some churches fail in recognising that all mediums work for Spirit. Churches which do recognise this rise above the others.

This type of church will thrive as Spirit draws close, but churches that fail to recognise Spirit will sadly die.

Like many other religions, Spiritualism is suffering from a worrying and marked decline in congregations. Why do you think this is? What can we do to counteract falling numbers at services?

We need to show people that this life is just part of a much bigger picture. Spirit is happy when we are happy.

Mediums must not be held back by the organisers of Spiritualist churches who lay down rules on how many people you must address and what to say or not.

When I stand up in front of an audience or sit one-to-one, I only say what Spirit wants me to relay. It may be a lot or it may be a little.

It does not matter as long as the person goes away knowing that life exists after

death and those loved ones who have passed over still love us and care for us every day.

In a recent development course at the SAGB, I was saddened and alarmed to hear some terrible stories from mediums who worked at various churches. Spirit has spoken to me and is also saddened about this.

This does not apply to all churches, but I intend to work with Spirit to change some of the approaches of the old guard and hopefully increase the number of people who attend.

What's the most satisfying aspect about being a medium?

Giving evidence that life continues when we pass over and our loved ones are still close by.

What was the best day in your life... and the worst?

The day I married Lorraine was my best day. The worst was making people redundant from their jobs.

What is your philosophy of life in no more than two or three sentences?

We all play a very important role in this life. We all have an influence on others as well as ourselves. To that end we must help others to achieve however small that achievement may be.

Do you have any hobbies or special interests away from the psychic scene?

Yes, I am very interested in aviation and hold a private pilot's licence.

How do you relax at the end of the day?

By spending time with my wife and our dogs.

If you were stranded on a desert island which three or four luxuries would you really miss?

I had better be careful how I answer this, as at some point Lorraine will read it!

I have a great sense of humour that can't be taken away.

I would miss my wife and family, but they are like a luxury as they cost money to keep. I'd also miss the cars that we use in our business and holidays.

Assuming you were not taking a service, how would you spend your perfect Sunday?

With Lorraine driving out to one of our favourite places for a walk with the dogs or having lunch together. We've been married for 22 years.

If rebirth occurs and there's a choice, what would you come back as next time round?

I would love to come back and work as a doctor.