

Keeping mediumship in the family

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



There can't be too many fathers and sons who are both mediums, but Steve Woods (pictured) left and his psychic son Paul fall into that category. Moreover, both demonstrate at the Spiritualist Association of Great Britain's London headquarters.

Below, Steve answers various points. The first question put to him was: "Your son, Paul, is also a medium at the SAGB. Is there a psychic gene in the family?"

I DON'T know about a psychic gene, but Paul and I both believe that we all have psychic abilities. These are at different levels, as in all walks of life.

Who's in the rest of the family? How do they regard your mediumship?

I'm from a very large family. The immediate family is my wife Jeanette, Paul, daughter Janine, son- and daughter-in-law, Craig and Sam, and five grandchildren – Alex, Lois, Ell'e, Jack and Amelia.

I also have three great-grandchildren Archie, Alice and George. Then there's Rachel and Dan, my grandchildren-in-law.

Concerning how they regard my mediumship, I think they are pretty impressed with it other than that I can't get the correct Lottery numbers, which would seriously impress them!

Are you a full-time medium or do you have a day job as well?

I need a day job just to keep up with the bills, but at the moment it's pretty

much mediumship and healing on a daily basis.

At present, I'm a part-time handyman doing gardening, fencing, plumbing, and kitchen and bathroom fitting, etc.

Before that, for 29 years, I had my own insulation company called Bush Thermal, which was run by my wife and myself. Unfortunately, due to the recession and a mistake that I made, it closed down in 2010.

I then worked for another company for about thirteen months, but it did not work out and the whole team was disbanded.

However, it was a great experience and they were a very good company. Not being able to get another job, I took whatever came up and still do if I can physically do it.

Do your neighbours know you are a medium? If so, what's their reaction?

Some do, but I tend not to push the issue, as everyone has their own beliefs.

What psychic gifts do you have?

Apart from mediumship, I'm also a spiritual healer. Some call what I do psychic surgery. I also have a trance gift, which mainly revolves around my healing.

Where did you develop your gifts?

I was mostly taught what I know by Spirit over a five-night period of dreams, which I was told would happen by a wonderful medium and friend called Reg Baldwin.

I spent four years doing what I was taught without any input from others and then started some healing at Romford Spiritualist Church, Essex.

While at Romford, I joined a circle, which helped immensely with my mediumship. Mediums who have helped me along the way include Poppy Bowling, Jenny Rankin and Gaye Elsom Muir.

Were you raised as a Spiritualist?

No. I was brought up as a Christian, but religion was not really important in my upbringing.

Where were you born?

I was born and raised in Becontree, in Dagenham, Essex, with a four-year spell in Seven Kings.

Where do you live now?

I've lived in Laindon near Basildon since 1980.

From a medium's point of view, what makes a Spiritualist church really good?

Many churches have an energy that has been built up over the years. This seems to enhance a medium's ability to deliver messages in a stronger and more accurate way.

Also, on the healing side, when I worked at Romford church many unusu-

al and inexplicable things happened, such as people feeling multiple hands working on them when there was only one healer.

Spiritualist churches and centres are where the spirit world will always be because in a sense they belong to them.

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

That's a hard question in the sense that I find it all satisfying. If I had to give a specific answer, it's probably the joy and happiness mediumship brings to others not only with spirit messages, but to their general well-being.

How much time are you able to devote to your mediumship?

As much as I can, which is daily really because I'm always doing healing. On the mediumship side, apart from being at the SAGB, I take many services and give one-to-one sittings. I also serve about five or six churches a month.

What advice would you give to fledgling mediums?

Work hard in a circle and meditate as much as you can. Try to give any information, thoughts and feelings as you receive them even if you think that it makes no sense.

If you have any questions about what you've received, don't be frightened to ask. (I pinched that last one off Paul!)

Have you worked abroad? If not, where would you most like to visit and why?

Not as yet, although I've given healing when on holiday. If I were invited abroad, I do fancy Australia, America and Africa. I would then like to go to countries beginning with B all the way through to those starting with Z.

I suppose that if this happened, I would be a very busy boy. In fact, I would probably run out of time and have to finish on the Other Side!

If you were stranded on a desert island, which three or four luxuries in life would you miss the most?

Everyday food, as I just love my food! I would also like a comfy bed – you need one of those – toiletries and some nice clean clothes. These are probably what most people would want.

Similarly, if you had to leave your house in an emergency, which three items would you grab on the way out?

Well, the most important thing is obviously family members. If I had time for anything else, it would probably be my phone, so I could call the emergency services ASAP.

I would also try to get some clothes because I was once evacuated from an hotel in the middle of winter. Fortunately, we managed to grab our coats, but there were some very cold people outside, including actor and TV presenter Stephen Fry.

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

It's a bit corny I know, but the best day was when I got together with Jeanette and all the wonderful things which have come from that. I could not ask for more.

I can't really think of a worst day, as my life has been pretty good. I've got great parents, an equally great mother-and father-in-law, and all the rest of my family. I reckon I've been extremely lucky, so have a lot to be thankful for.

What is your philosophy of life in no

more than two or three sentences?

Well, I have always worked hard and not asked for anything I've not earned, so I suppose that's one of my main guiding principles.

Be as good as you can and try not to harm others. Most important of all, be the best parent and grandparent you can because what you instil into your children is what they generally turn out like.

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

Yes, I like golf. I am pretty average, but it's a great day out. I also watch a lot of football with my grandson and used to love watching him play.

Many years ago I taught martial arts, which I still love, but the joints won't let me do that now.

I also used to waterski. I wasn't very good at it, but Paul kept us busy taking him all over the country, as he liked to waterski too.

How do you relax at the end of the day?

I don't think the word "relax" has ever been in my life, which has always been ruled by family and work. I suppose they always will. When my wife and I go on holiday, we like to chill out with books, etc.

If you could invite four people, "dead" or alive, to dinner who would you choose?

My dad, my wife's granddad, my mum's mum and both my granddads because they always give me messages. That's more than four people, but I'm no good at counting, so they would have to make allowances for that on the Other Side.