

Medium gets relative proof.

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

Below, Tony Ortzen meets medium George Lawson, who has now joined the ranks of those serving at the Spiritualist Association of Great Britain. As well as answering various points about his life and gift, George also tells how, as a child, he saw a "dead" relative just hours after his funeral.

The first point put to George was: "Are you a full-time medium? If not, what is your day job?"

I AM working towards being a fulltime medium and am extremely busy with my mediumship. To be able to do this work full time would be wonderful. I have no other job.

Have you had any previous occupations?

I used to work in the transport industry as a manager.

How much time do you devote to mediumship?

I work three or four days a week demonstrating, serving churches and giving private sittings.

What was your first psychic experience?

I saw my grandfather on the evening after his funeral. He sat opposite me smiling. As I was only about twelve years old, it spooked me a bit.

What mediumistic gifts do you have?

Where did you develop them?

I am clairvoyant, clairaudient and have recently been working with clairsentience.

I developed at Grays Spiritualist Centre.

Where were you born?

I was born in Glasgow, the middle son of three.

What's your age?

I am 54.

Do you have a family? If so, what do they think about your mediumship?

Both my parents have moved on to Spirit. My two brothers find it strange that this is my path.

What makes a really good medium?

I have always believed that compassion and right intentions are a powerful combination along with trust and a knowing that Spirit are around us all the time. I also have a total understanding that as a medium, I am here to serve.

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

The best day was when I met my best friend, Elizabeth, 25 years ago. The worst day was not going to my father's funeral.

Unfortunately, my father and I never really got on.

After my parents separated when I was about thirteen years old, my father moved back to Scotland, taking my younger

brother with him. I stayed in England with my older brother, where we had lodgings.

Sadly, I never respected my father in life and felt I could not do so in death. However, I now realise that like everyone else, he, too, experienced great struggles in life.

I judged what I never understood at the time. Since then, my spiritual path has taught me so much. Now I truly love my father and wished I had had the insight to understand him more.

What's the soundest piece of advice you have ever been given and by whom?

I had a lovely friend called Bill Bell, who told me: "Never be surprised at what Spirit can do. Travel your path slowly and quietly.

"Always do the best you can. It is not how much you do; it's how much love you put into it. You never know where your mediumship will take you." He was right! Thank you, Bill.

How do you relax at the end of the day?

With a good book or watching some TV, usually football. I phone friends and catch up with what's going on. Then there's cooking and playing with my cat. A few glasses of wine are always a good idea!

If you were stranded on a desert island, which three luxuries would you like to have with you?

Definitely a fridge with some cold beers and good wine so I could celebrate birthdays, Christmas and other special occasions. I would also like a Kindle, so there would be plenty of books to read,

and a hot tub for those long, dark, cold nights.

Have you demonstrated abroad? If not, which countries would you most like to visit?

I have not demonstrated abroad, but would love to work in the USA, Sweden, Japan and most of Europe.

What really irritates you in life and other people?

I find it a little irritating that so many people attach to others' dramas so easily. I'm saddened more than irritated by the lack of love that man has for his fellow man.

What would be your perfect day?

Sitting in the directors' box at the Champions' League cup final watching Arsenal win. You did say "perfect day," didn't you?

Turning to the Spiritualist scene, I would love to be able to sit down with fellow medium Gordon Smith and chat for an hour.

If you could time travel and live in a different century, which one would it be and why?

I would love to go back to the Victorian era and be right on the front line of Spiritualism to take part in all the physical mediumship that was then being demonstrated.

I am extremely drawn to this period and the pioneering days and shaping of this fantastic movement, perhaps rubbing shoulders with people like Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

How do you think your friends would describe you?

I think they would say that I am dependable and reliable, always willing to help, and supportive. I'm happy to talk things through, however long it takes.

What do non-Spiritualist friends think of your mediumship?

Most of my friends are happy to see me happy. I don't really know what some may think. To be honest, I would not like to know. I still try to walk quietly on this earth.

If you could change anything about yourself, what would it be?

I would like not to have to wear glasses and have perfect eyesight.

Are there any bad habits you would like to give up?

I gave up smoking three years ago, which was a good thing to do. However, I would like to stop eating chocolate!

What advice would you give to fledgling mediums?

The advice I would give a fledgling would be: "This is the most wonderful journey you will ever be on. Enjoy every second. Take your time and do not rush.

"The responsibility is great and you will need to be ready for that. Listen to those with compassion and good intentions."

What can people do to achieve a successful sitting with a medium?

There has to be harmony with all concerned - Spirit, the medium and the sitter. A sitter should have an open mind and listen carefully to all the information. Their expectations should be left at the door.

What's the best and worst thing about being a medium?

The best thing is that it is an absolute privilege to work for Spirit and to see first-hand the wonderful work they do. Being part of that process elevates me so much.

The worst thing is driving for miles on end. I don't really enjoy all the driving that my mediumship involves.

Where do you live? Do your neighbours know you are a medium? If so, what's their view of the subject?

I live in Grays in Essex. I have not told my neighbours what I do, but I think there would be mixed reactions.

If rebirth occurs, what would you like to come back as next time?

I would like to come back as a Tibetan monk, as I would like to experience their lives.

How would you halt the decline in congregations which many Spiritualist churches are experiencing?

I think there is a shortage of experienced mediums. So many seem to make the decision that they are ready to go out to work too soon. This leads to average mediumship - and people won't accept this.

We have to take a step back. Circles should demand nothing less than hard work, commitment and honesty.

There are some fantastic churches and centres out there which have large congregations. We can learn from them.