

**The SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION of GREAT BRITAIN**  
*Founded on the 10 July 1872*

**Talks by Carol Wood**

*There is no death! What seems so is transition;  
This life of mortal breath  
Is but a suburb of the life elysian,  
Whose portal we call Death.*

Henry Wordsworth Longfellow  
(1807-1882)



**Mrs MaryAnn Everitt**  
(1825-1915)



**Mrs St. Clair Stobart**  
(1862-1954)



**Mrs Ivy Northage**  
(1909-2002)

These three portraits of spiritual pioneers, which I like to think of as '*Torchbearers of Spiritualism*' spanning from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century have all played a very special role in the history of spiritualism. They are just three of the pioneers that I have researched for my talks.

So called 'Modern Spiritualism' started in 1848 with the Fox Sisters in America. Twenty four years later, in 1872, The Marylebone Spiritualist Association (MSA), now known as the Spiritualist Association of Great Britain (SAGB), was founded by Mr C I Hunt, who lived in Marylebone, hence our original name. **Recent research:** I have found out his first names were Charles Isaac and he was born in 1823, the same year as Mr Thomas Everitt and lived near Marylebone Workhouse. His Son, Leigh Hunt (1869-1940) was married to Florence Emily Hunt, the daughter of William Thomas Cooper. We owe so much to these early workers; all four held positions in the MSA, please see the back page.



Mrs Mary Ann Everitt  
(1825-1915)



Mr Thomas Everitt  
(1823-1905)

## **Introduction**

Over recent years I have been inspired to research and prepare talks about Spiritual Pioneers of the past. It was a chance remark by Karl Duncan, in the spring of 2017, who said that he did not know Mrs Thomas Everitt's first name that led me to say, "*I will find out.*"

I embarked on a long interesting journey researching Mr and Mrs Thomas Everitt and I would like to acknowledge the guidance I received from Leslie Price, the archivist & librarian, at the College of Psychic Studies. This was my first talk for the SAGB: *Mr and Mrs Thomas Everitt, 19<sup>th</sup> c Spiritual Pioneers* on the 21 October 2017.

My second talk for the SAGB was on *The Life and Times of Ivy Northage* on the 10 February 2018. As I was re-reading Ivy's life story<sup>ii</sup> my attention kept being drawn to the references Ivy made about her mother. My curiosity about her mother led me to discover her mother's first name and to include a tribute to Ivy's mother in my talk.

Spiritualism is not just about proving that life continues after so called *death*, it is also learning about spiritual philosophy and doing our best to 'walk the talk' according to the philosophy and natural laws. Ivy's guide Chan gave many spiritual addresses through Ivy while she was in trance, and I included several extracts of Chan's teachings in my talk.

My next talk: *The indefatigable, irrepressible, indomitable Mrs St. Clair Stobart* was on the 24 January 2019. Researching Mrs Stobart took me to the British Library to read her autobiography *Miracles and Adventures* and to the Imperial War Museum Research Room to read her red leather pocket diary kept during the horrendous Serbian Retreat in 1915. Her motto was *The Miracle Always Happens* ...remember that.

On the 2 May 2019 I gave a talk on **Mrs Helen Duncan – A Search for Truth - Mother, Wife, Medium and Friend**. This was a very difficult talk to research because so much has been written about Helen Duncan and not all of it is reliable and supported with sound evidence, hence the title.



Helen Duncan  
(1897-1956)



Estelle Roberts  
(1889 – 1970)



Maurice Barbanell  
(1902-1981)

My talk on 4 July 2019 was on **Estelle Roberts - “The Medium who made spiritualism respectable”<sup>iii</sup>** I included Estelle’s description of the process she experienced when demonstrating clairvoyance, how Red Cloud ensured that her direct voice séances were of the highest standard, and what happened when Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding attended Estelle’s private circle.

On the 31 October 2019 I felt privileged to give a talk on **The Ghetto Social and Literary Club, The life and times of the unpaid secretary, Maurice Barbanell**, who did so much in his lifetime for the spiritualist movement. During my research for this talk I fully explored and took photographs of the area where he grew up in Whitechapel/Spitalfields in a Jewish immigrant family from Russia Poland and considered the impact it may have had on his youth and future life.

**Further information:** All my talks are researched and given on a voluntary basis for charity. My next talks are:

**30 April 2020** Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding (1882-1970)

**2 July 2020** Sir Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle (1859-1930)

**19 Nov. 2020** Mrs Nan Mackenzie (1882-1985)



The W T Stead<sup>iv</sup> Auditorium (Fully air conditioned)

### **Early Presidents of the MSA**

Mr W Cowper 1872-1873

Mr Charles Isaac Hunt 1873-1890

Mr Thomas Everitt 1890-1905

Mr WilliamThomas Cooper 1905-1920

Mr Leigh Hunt 1920-1921

Mrs Florence Emily Hunt (née Cooper) was the MSA librarian for eighteen years, and I am undertaking further research about this.

### **The Spiritualist Association of Great Britain**

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Trains to Battersea Park Station from Victoria (4 mins); Clapham Junction (3mins)

Buses to Battersea Park Station: 44, 137,156,344,436 & 452

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<sup>i</sup> Taken from the title of one of Mrs St. Clair Stobart's books, *The Torchbearers of Spiritualism*, 1925, George Allen & Unwin Ltd

<sup>ii</sup> While I Remember, The Life Story of Ivy Northage, ed. by Brenda Marshall, 1999, Light Publishing, The College of Psychic Studies

<sup>iii</sup> Hannen Swaffer (Swaff) (1879-1962)

<sup>iv</sup> William T Stead (1849-1912), a noble pioneer. The marble bust of W T Stead is in the far right corner of the room. It was a gift to the association and an exact replica is exhibited in the Peoples' Palace of Peace at the Hague, in Holland. Tragically, William Stead, was one of many who went down on The Titanic.