

ENTER THE DRAGON by Monica Perdoni

Now why would someone want to become an acupuncturist? A secret fetish for needles but drawing not up to much, so tattoo artist is out? Try healing and Taoism you cynic.

The dragon acupuncture project is a unique collective of trained acupuncturists, founded by Calum Thomson and Nick Tilling. Inspired by their internship at the pioneering NHS Gateway clinic in London, the only other multi-bed space in the country, these guys set up the project a year ago which has just grown and grown!

Acupuncture is based on the disharmony of energy flows. Needles are inserted into acupuncture points on various meridians that run throughout the body and act as channels for energy known as 'chi'.

The needles produce a stimulation of nerves, which release endorphins that have powerful pain killing effects and boost the immune system-particularly good for treating painful conditions such as muscular aches and pains. A full medical history is taken- both physical and emotional. You may find having to stick your tongue out as part of the diagnosis

will prompt you into a new regime of oral hygiene, but other than that there is nothing to be nervous about. Okay, yep the needles! Well, if you have a phobia of injections maybe this isn't that advisable but bear in mind the needles are super-fine, a far cry from Carry On films and you really won't feel more than a slight sensation if that.

More than just a treatment, it's also a way of life. "Acupuncture is about promoting health and well-being rather than fixing you when you get ill", Calum says. What makes this project radical is not just the working environment but also the low cost of treatments, successfully achieving their goal of making it available for absolutely everyone. "The real strength of Chinese medicine is preventing illness, apocryphally Chinese doctors were paid a retainer by their patients which ceased when the patient became ill."

The premise of *the dragon acupuncture project* is more than just to provide affordable treatment. Its implicit aim is to implant a Taoist perspective in the West and as Calum explains: "Taoist thought and practise has so much to offer stagnant confused and ungrounded western culture and we are here to start making that to happen."

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Mad Hatter Monthly

Free

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Magic Mushrooms

Come n' get your mushrooms while you can! From the 18 July 2005 a new law comes in to force that prohibits the consumption and sale of magic mushrooms.

Mushrooms have been available to buy over the counter at the Hatter and similar outlets throughout the UK due to a loophole in the law. However, Clause 21 of the revised Drugs Act 2005 reclassifies fresh mushrooms as a Class A drug.

Mushrooms are now being classified in the same bracket as crack cocaine and heroine. Despite the fact there is no proven deaths or addictions. Even a fresh mushroom will be regarded as a Class A drug. Carol Flint, the home office minister was quoted in *The Guardian* as saying (before the general election) that mushrooms could trigger psychosis and there was evidence of self-harm. And to quote Clause 21, 'Magic mushrooms are a powerful hallucinogenic and can cause real harm, especially to vulnerable people and those with mental health problems.'

So, they could cause psychosis. Lets examine other things that might cause psychosis – television, mobile phones, working 40 hours a week and the stress from constantly being in debt. These things are *guaranteed* to cause psychosis. Ultimately the material and spiritually devoid society we exist in *is* a psychosis.

And self harm? Smoking and eating fatty

Alice in wonderland gets advice from the caterpillar on a magic mushroom



foods that are high in free radicals are some other examples of legal past times that cause self-harm. Not only that, those who govern us economically welcome companies that sell fatty foods, such as burger chains. (i.e. the government promotes companies that sell products that are know to cause self ham to the people who buy them.) Why does the government continually let us down? In fact a Dutch study has shown that there is **no** evidence to link magic mushrooms with psychosis. The quote in clause 21 is a complete lie. *Real harm is done to vulnerable people who believe such laws.*

Continued overleaf.....

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Magic Mushrooms

From front cover...

Magic mushrooms have been a necessary and positive contributory factor to the development of the human psyche. Numerous accounts are scattered through history from various cultures across the world whereby mushrooms have been used by groups or individuals to open up new experiences and positive ways of viewing others and the world around us. Indians, Aztec, Celts, Shaman, Witches and Medicine Men from prehistoric tribes are known to have used mushrooms.

The penalisation of individuals for experimenting with ways to alter their own conscious is the violation – not the ingestion of mushrooms or other substance that do it. Our leaders always seem to get things the wrong way around. More importantly people who ingest mushrooms are simply having fun in harmless scenarios without disturbing anyone else. (Compare with the law

abiding drunken fool!). Mushrooms are used to connect with nature at a fundamental level. The western world is on the brink of war and if there's ever been a time when mankind needs to get back in touch with the world, it is *now*. Yet again another ludicrous law is castrating our attempt at healing. So what is being done about this scandalous matter? Dutch company Entheogen Defence Fund (EDF), who supply most of the legally sold mushrooms to the UK, have put forward £10,000 for a campaign to challenge the British Legislation. They claim that Clause 21 could be in breach of European Law, which would make it illegal to put restrictions on free trade. Sign their online petition. You can make a difference by writing a letter to your local MP and explaining your utter disgust at the government. Some people are going to be permanently carrying around fresh mushrooms in protest. Better still get everyone you know to do likewise and protest in any way you find suitable: **Stand up, shout and get psycho-active!**

www.entheogendefencefund.org.uk

Norris



Two month's ago, Norris, the Hatter's pet spider set off on a spiderdelic journey to space and beyond. He's now under the guide of the extreme surfers ...

Hi Norris here and I wish the very best to you all. Strictly speaking I should say 'Norris everywhere'. I have visited so many new places with my space spider mates that I almost cannot comprehend

with my mind, living cooped up on my tiny web at the Hatter.

I have now been taught an extra seven senses on top of my old earthly ones. This has opened up my view of everything as there is so much more to comprehend and see and hear.

Before I go I must say that I'm a bit captivated by a racy female spideress called Spinetta. Apparently in her earthly life she once had a web in a downtown bar/brothel in Lagos. Her stories! Wow she's a shocker – sexy with it!

Bye for now,

Norris x x x

MHM review



Mamma Cherrie's

Has Gordon Ramsey managed to kick mamma's butt hard enough? Brunch at Mamma Cherrie's rated high on the taste buds. The omelettes and hash browns were cooked to perfection but it took over 40 minutes between ordering food and it being delivered to the table. Which is a little too long, especially when the restaurant wasn't full. Nevertheless the staff were friendly and talkative, which passed the time pleasantly. Even though the food tasted good, it was a tad overpriced for what it was. The menu could do with a lot more vegetarian options. Its debatable whether there's any soul left in the food now Ramsey's had his hands from hell in there.

Blackout Funky, kitsch and colourful are the only words that can describe the boho paradise, that is *Blackout*. Walk through the doors and step into a world of plastic roses, Indian slippers, and turquoise glass door knobs. An environmentally-conscious collective travel all over the world to bring back original and unusual items for us lucky people. You'll find all sorts here - gorgeous hand-made bags and clothes, cute bits and bobs from stickers to hair sticks and cool spotty dinner plates. I should know, half my home is from there, courtesy of these guys. So if you're looking for a dinky gift, in need of a heart shaped rug, or just want to see the two gorgeous cats – (the real owners of the place,) then click those red glittered heels, you'll no doubt have bought here, three times and whisk yourself off to true bohemia. (Reviewed by Monica Perdoni)

Blackout, 53 Kensington Place, Brighton. Mon-Sat 10am-6pm. Tel: 01273 671 741

Crystal



Moonstone

Cancer, Libra and Scorpio – it vibrates to number 4.

Balancing, reflective feminine and of the moon. Moonstone is automatically fully charged when it is shown the moon. It draws what is needed from the universe. It's a travellers' stone – a talisman of good fortune. Brings calmness with awareness and rejuvenates. Alleviates degenerative conditions of the skin, hair eyes and fleshy organs of the body. Good for childbirth and PMS. Enhances fertility. Good for insomnia, insect bites malaria and circulatory disorders.