



NEWSLETTER



SOCIETY FOUNDERS

Joy Austin

WEST WALES DOWSERS SOCIETY

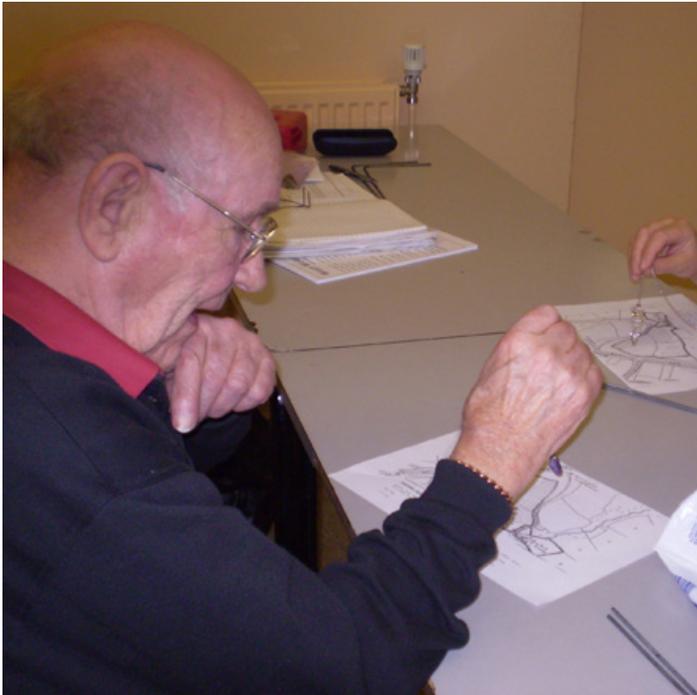
CYMDEITHAS DAROGANWYR GORLLEWIN CYMRU

Affiliated to the British Society of Dowzers

HON LIFE PATRONS

Mike Owen

J Arthur George



George Cooke RIP

We were very sorry to hear of George Cooke's death recently. George had been a stalwart member of the West Wales Dowzers Society for many years. He had also been an invaluable member of the Committee.

It's George we have to thank for the great selection of books as raffle prizes that appear every meeting. He loved visiting car boot sales on a Sunday morning in the hope of finding a 'gem' for the raffle table.

The money raised in the raffle goes towards the speaker's fee and/or expenses, so again his hard work was always much appreciated. He and his friend Patsy will be sadly missed by us all.

Field Trip to Preselis, Gors Fawr & Bedd Arthur & Waldos Stone

by Linda Griffiths

The Stone Circle at Gors Fawr dates from the Neolithic or early Bronze Age. It's a circle of sixteen stones measuring about 22 metres in diameter, lying just to the south of the Preseli Mountains – famous for being where the Stonehenge bluestones originated.

Some reports say eight of the stones are of 'bluestone' (spotted dolerite), and are believed to have come from the Carn Meini outcrops to the north of the site, others say that only one bluestone was used in the circle, the rest being composed of local glacial erratic boulders.

The stones are quite small, with none being over a metre in height, and the stones towards the south are the tallest ones. Forming an egg-shaped ring, old reports indicate that there was once an avenue leading to two outliers (two larger standing stones), which can be found about 134 metres away on the north-east side of the site.

These outliers are both nearly 2 metres tall - one of them is known locally as the 'Dreaming Stone'.

When viewed from the south-west these stones appear to frame the distant Carn Menyn outcrop and some suggest that the southwest to northeast alignment of these outliers means they may be connected to the midsummer sunrise which would be seen over Foel Drych, a nearby hill.

We spent a busy morning dowsing energy lines and finding several interesting parts to the site. After dowsing for the entrance to the circle and asking permission to enter, several of us dowsed for which particular stone would be beneficial for our health (Gors Fawr is known as a healing circle, with individual stones being attributed to parts of the body).

A few investigated a small group of stones that were in a 'figure-of-eight' a short distance away from the main circle. In another part of the site Vivianne and Julian found what appeared to be a 'Calendar Stone'. Some managed to sit on the 'Dreaming Stone' and have a short meditation.

After lunch we moved on to nearby Rhosfach common where Waldo's Stone (Carreg Waldo)

stands. Waldo's Stone is a memorial to Waldo Williams (1904-1971), who is also known as the most original Welsh language romantic poet of the 20th century.

We only had a short time dowsing at the stone before the black clouds that had been menacing most of the morning finally dropped their load and with the rain hammering down we decided to pack up and head home. Another good field trip!

JOHN BILLINGSLEY

– Mystery of the Head Cult

John started his talk with some gruesome illustrations of 'Madame Guillotine' disposing of the unfortunate aristocrats in Paris and strangely, beheadings in York. Apparently, York had special dispensation from Henry VIII to perform executions by removing the miscreants head. Amazingly, it seems as though some heads had a 'life of their own' even after being removed from its owners shoulders, one even landed in a lady's lap and proceeded to clamp its teeth on her apron!

In those days it was the general belief that life continued for a while but according to John, the idea that consciousness persists after death, had been with us since 'the dawn of time', not continuous but reoccurring regularly.

Heads were viewed as a way to bridge the world of the living to that of the dead. They could be used in a variety of ways by everyone from the general populace, the shaman or clergy all the way to Royalty. We have already heard from other speakers how our prehistoric ancestors would keep the skulls of their ancestors to either visit from time to time, or even carry with them as a kind of 'oracle' to family or tribe matters.

Skulls were often daubed in red ochre to signify blood, mimicking childbirth because the 'soul' of the departed had now been 'born' into another life. Some tribes indulged in cannibalism, viewing the heads of their enemies particularly brave ones, to be 'brain food' and it was very important to consume the 'essence' to gain more courage.

It's no surprise that when excavating medieval sites it's quite common to find skulls buried at crossroads, or under doorways or other exits and entrances like gates. This signified another view of how important a skull was to the occupants or travellers with regard to protection. A 'doorway' or crossing point was seen to be fraught with danger because it allowed evil spirits to enter and cause mayhem.

They were used as a talisman to ward off bad luck.

Heads have been depicted in many different ways over the centuries, from the simplistic to the fantastic. One curious stylised image is very popular. The face is quite fat and flat, with elongated eyes, almost as if you were viewing it in the 'Hall of Mirrors'. Some experts presumed that they have been drawn by people with no artistic skill or even children but in most cases they have been found in caves with magnificent drawings of animals etc. so clearly this is not the case. John believes that the distorted features signify this individual is not of this world but has moved on to the next. Therefore you can't see them as 'human' and have to view them differently.

For more fascinating facts, legends and stories read John's book on the subject: 'The Stony Ga0ze - Investigating Celtic and Other Stone Heads'.

Avebury Sacred Site

with Peter Knight

Peter proved to be an excellent guide with a vast knowledge on the history, symbology and dowsing opportunities at Avebury. As well as the main 500m diameter circle there are the remains of two inner circular features, one of which may have been a horseshoe.

Two Avenues (one now destroyed) connected to the circle. Peter believes that the two stone circles were dedicated to worship of the Goddess and probably still are to this day. Some of the stones are unmistakably female whereas others are undoubtedly meant to be phallic.

In the second circle we dowsed, the stones are deliberately arranged to be alternatively male and female. Sadly many of the female stones have disappeared and probably have been used as building material in properties surrounding the site. Unlike Stonehenge, where the stones have been quarried and brought to the site, the Avebury stones have been found in outlying areas and deliberately chosen for the animal or image that was required

For instance, there is an obvious 'skull' to be seen in the stone representing Samhain (Halloween). We were able to dowse not only the auras of the stones but the energies leading to and from them. Also, it was exciting to pick up the famous 'Michael and Mary' lines first dowsed by Hamish Miller and Paul Broadhurst. They are extremely powerful and standing between them can be quite a 'heady' experience.

Peter showed us a house situated right in the centre of the lines and perhaps not surprisingly, it has proved impossible to get people to rent it for more than a few months. Some felt nauseous but others revelled in the energies surging through them.

Most of us retired afterwards to The Red Lion pub and enjoyed a welcome 'pint' and a meal before starting on our homeward journey. Peter has written a highly informative book on Avebury and he also runs meditation evenings at the Circle. Please see his website <http://www.stoneseeker.net/> for more information. Thanks Peter for a wonderful day.

Recruiting – Here, There and Everywhere

by *SID VINCENT*

Marjorie and I have always had an interest in dowsing and use it extensively in our own lives. We encourage people to dowse before they buy our products at Mind, Body, Spirit exhibitions, so that they are sure they are buying what is right for them. Most people have a vague idea of what dowsing is all about and some have not heard about it, so we set about teaching people to dowse.

Although you do not need tools to dowse, the use of them gives a tangible response to your quest. A local craftsman made wooden pendulums for me in spite of being handicapped with a stroke. Why wooden pendulums? The original dowsing tool, a forked twig, was wood. These proved to be very popular and Dennis had to work overtime.

Then, sadly, Dennis had another stroke and was unable to use his lathe. There are plenty of woodworkers around, who could turn pendulums, but they were asking silly money which would deter people buying pendulums, so I had to source my pendulums elsewhere and was fortunate in finding a manufacturer in India. Additionally, another manufacturer in India who now makes me very attractive suede pouches for the pendulums.

Dowsing "L" Rods proved a bit of a problem and our early attempts were a tad amateurish until we had a EUREKA! moment. Purists will tell you that you do not need "handles" that allow the rods to swivel but our rods, used correctly, are very sensitive. The look of utter amazement when the rods move in the hands of a novice is one of the satisfactions of teaching.

Bobbers are the ultimate in sensitivity, even though our bobbers are basic as compared with bobbers made by the late Arthur Bebbington.

It is all very well teaching people to dowse at our stand at the exhibitions – but I was torn between our main business of promoting and selling products of The Healing Neem Tree: www.theneempeople.com and devoting time to teach people to dowse. I also felt I had to cast my net wider if I was going to recruit more people into our dowsing fraternity so I spoke with event organisers to ask for a speaking slot, and I was allocated a room and 30 minutes. So much to talk about and so little time!

Realising the popularity of my talks I was given an hour to do a workshop; the numbers attending varied from 3, at a local MBS exhibition, to 65 in Dublin. An hour was still too short so some organisers stretched the time to 90 minutes.

My free workshops are interactive, with the audience given the opportunity to try dowsing with a forked twig, pendulum, "L" rods and the bobber.

During my introduction I mention the Special Interest Groups. I demonstrate the method of dowsing with each of the dowsing tools. The audience is then invited to try dowsing with the forked twigs I have brought along.

We move on to the bobbers, where I show them how sensitive they are. Next, I hand out pairs of "L" rods which the audience seem fascinated by and

Finally everyone is given a wooden pendulum to dowse with. To wrap up, I hand out information and charts on dowsing, and we discuss this with Q & A before closing.

I have no idea how many attendees I will have, so it is touch and go as to whether or not I have sufficient material for all. Sadly, I have to race through the whole programme because time flies and the next speaker needs the room. Our last exhibition was at the truly awesome Monastery in Gorton, Manchester and it was the first time I was allowed to do a 90 minute workshop here. This organiser gets people to pre-book seats for talks and workshops, so was able to advise me that I had a full house of 55 people. I was keen to see the room I was allocated and went cold when I saw that the 2nd floor room was arranged in an "intimate" classroom style with no room to move about. THINK!

"I have become my own version of an optimist. If I can't make it through one door, I'll go through another door – or I'll make a door.

Something terrific will come no matter how dark the present." Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)

I explained my predicament to the organiser and

suggested that I hold the introduction in the room, then we all move down to the quadrangle – luckily it was a dry, albeit cold, day – for the practical dowsing, returning to the room for the conclusion. I explained this to my audience – the overflow sat on the floor – and they took it in good spirit (Monastery!). A lot of my audiences buy my dowsing tools and I encourage them to join their local dowsing group. Note: Every now and again there will be someone in my audience who cannot use any of the dowsing tools. This puzzled me until I found the reason. (*Dying to know what this is Sid! Ed*)

There will be two more firsts for me later this year, as I have been accepted as a workshop presenter at a six day MBS exhibition at Earls Court, London and a three day show at Olympia.

Can I? Yes – May I? Yes – Should I?

MOST CERTAINLY.

Thanks Sid and best wishes for a successful Olympia!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday September 23rd *John Seward*

Sunday October 28th Patrick Macmanaway?
TBC

Sunday November 25th *Geoff Holder*
101 things to do with a Stone Circle: If you thought that there were only three main theories about Stonehenge (*ancestor rituals, healing centre, astronomical observatory*) think again; Geoff, popular speaker and writer of this witty book with same title, will offer 101 theories to explain why the UK's more than 900 Stone Circles were built.

INDOOR MEETINGS

Due to the slight increase in the cost of hiring the hall, indoor meetings will be slightly shorter than before. As a rough guide, the structure of the meetings will be as follows:

1:45pm	Doors open
2:00pm – 3:00pm	Talk by speaker
3:00pm – 3:30pm	Tea break
3:30pm – 4:00pm	Questions for the speaker
4:00pm – 4:30pm	Practice dowsing and healing, as and when required
4:30pm – 4:45pm	Put chairs and tables away

OTHER GROUPS

Stone Circle Creation, Rune & Tarot Readings, Birth Chart Interpretations, Astrology, (Carmarthen / Ammanford): For enquiries, contact Ros Briagha on 01269 870175 or e-mail: rosbriagha@hotmail.com

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Ian Pegler	01970 623695
<i>Wood-turned pendulums & L-rod handles</i>	
Sid Vincent	01437 764415
<i>Dowsing Bobbers</i>	
Glyn Williams	01267 235565
<i>Reiki / Reflexology</i>	

The above list of service providers is given without prejudice. In providing this list, the West Wales Dowzers Society makes no claim as to the abilities of the dowzers concerned. The Society will not accept liability of any kind, nor does it act as an Agent for any of the dowzers listed. It is the Enquirer's responsibility to enter into any contact direct with the dowser. The dowser is to be employed on a purely personal basis. The West Wales Dowzers Society is a Society affiliated to the British Society of Dowzers. It is not a requirement of either Society that members of the West Wales Dowzers Society providing these services become individual members of the British Society of Dowzers.

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