



# NEWSLETTER



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WEST WALES DOWSERS SOCIETY

CYMDEITHAS DAROGANWYR GORLLEWIN CYMRU

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*Mike Owen*

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John Seward and 'Birthday Boy' John Taylor, Llanstephan Castle *photo by Vivianne Ancliffe*

## Jon Appleton – The Goddess in the Sky

Jon first witnessed this starry Midwinter spectacle following previous research into alignments in and around Avebury Henge. Most of the alignments and henges tend to align with the sun or moon risings and settings. However, Jon and colleague, Jamie Blackwater, noted two alignments at the Avebury Henge pointed South to 'bracket' Waden Hill with one leading directly to Silbury Hill. With no horizon events, or solar/lunar influence then the next focus had to be on the stars themselves.

Using Voyager III astronomy software programme and focussing it on the Neolithic period, they observed how Orion appeared to be walking over the top of Waden Hill with his 'dogs', Sirius and Procyon (Canis Minor) following. This led to other musings but today our focus was on the Goddess. Jon then looked at the twin horizontal stars, Castor and Pollux, often in mythology seen as eyes and thought to be represented in Unbounded Sky Goddess'.

Locating the 'eyes' on screen he was surprised to see a huge female figure formed by a combination

of the constellations of Gemini and Orion. Her arms outstretched, the right hand being marked by Capella and the left by Procyon (Canis Minor). The 'foam' of the Milky Way drapes across her breasts, which is a strong indication of how the area got its name. Below her wide skirt, her 'son' Orion the Hunter, is seen by her feet (Rigel). Both seem to stand on Silbury Hill at midnight, on Midwinter's Day. 'The figure marks the limit of the path of Venus as an evening star and is visited by Mars, Jupiter and Saturn as well as the Moon.

During the summertime the Sun invisibly brushes across her breasts when she spends time in the underworld in the South, after joining him in the spring.'

Fanciful? Just Jon's imagination? Not so, there are countless references to this Universal image, from Egyptian to Norse and Vedic mythology and poetry. She has been seen in the Northern landscape for 10,000 years. During this time, male-dominated religions were gaining precedence and Orion was elevated 'over her' but ideas and worship of the Goddess are returning and in future, if there is demise in patriarchal religions, she may regain her rightful place. To get a better idea of what Jon

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spotted in that midwinter sky, I recommend you go to his website: [www.jonappleton.org/star\\_goddess.html](http://www.jonappleton.org/star_goddess.html) to see an astronomical map.

You will also see the formation depicted on a mat made by Jon himself. Due to light pollution, and the effects of the precession, 'She' is now more difficult to see but Jon recommends the delightful but freezing practise of reclining on a lounge, gazing up towards the Western Midwinter sky after sunset and you may just be honoured by her beautiful eyes looking back at you!

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## Sig Lonegren – Archaeoastronomy:

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Members will remember that Sig learned to dowsing from his mother and his fascination developed into a passion. This later branched out into a more 'polymath' approach which then led to him gaining a Masters Degree in the study of Sacred Space which included Archaeoastronomy, Sacred Geometry and Earth Energies, Archaeology, Anthropology and Psychology.

Archaeoastronomy involves researching and uncovering the evidence that ancient man had an interest in the heavens. To illustrate this, Sig gave us a worldwide tour of many ancient sites where petroglyphs (rock markings) have been etched in such a way to catch the rays of the sun, the light of the moon, or the movements of Venus and Mars at certain times of the year.

A stone calendar of light and shadow marking seasonal durations and transitions which were vital to hunting, planting crops and harvesting covering all cultures and time periods. We know from dowsing, that sacred sites are built on areas of amazing energies and archaeoastronomy also reveals when, and at what time, a power centre is at its spiritual peak energetically.

Because of the Earth's seasonal movement, a shadow cast by the sun on a petroglyph moves measurably everyday of the year, except near the times of the solstices. The term solstice refers to the most northerly and southerly horizon positions of the sun in June and December. The secrets of these monumental sites were unravelled by understanding that the stones are aligned with the sun on these important days of the year.

Over two dozen sites have been located that indicate an intentional solar alignment on an important celestial day. Equinox sunrise is an event recorded by these ancient peoples, but we also see equinox sunset and solstice sunrise and sunset sites. Equinox occurs twice a year in March and September when night and day are equal and the sun rises and sets due East and West.

Sig then went on to describe the Druidic Eight-Point year. Druidry recognises eight particular times during the yearly cycle which are significant and which are marked by eight special festivals. Winter Solstice, Spring Equinox, Summer Solstice and Autumn Equinox and the Cross Quarter days (see below). At the Solstices, the sun is worshipped at its apparent death or waning in midwinter and it's waxing in the longest days of summer.

- The Summer Solstice at Stonehenge is a very important Druid festival then as it is now. The Druids have an even greater focus on the Cross Quarter Days:
- Samhain (Celtic New Year - October 31st – November 2nd): During this time animal food was in short supply so the weaker ones were killed for a feast and to give a supply of meat over Winter –'meet for meat'.
- Imbolc (The Quickening - February 1st): lambs were being born and seeds starting to show.
- Beltane (May 1st): Seeds were right up, so it was seen as a time of fertility and nurturing. May Day was the traditional time for 'lads and lasses' to cavort in the woods, the emphasis on fun
- Lughnasadh (August 1st): 'Loaf Mass' and the 1st Harvest.

The cross-quarter days are very important because the 'veil' between this world and the next is seen to be thinnest especially during Samhain (Halloween). It's then that man felt closer to his God or more likely then, and increasingly now, the Goddess.

Ancient peoples lived far more of their lives outside and were much more in tune with nature and the changing seasons and skies than we are. A variety of stone circles, cairns, barrows etc were aligned to mark these most significant times in the year, the first calendars represented in stone. In the case of the ancient calendars, the edge of a shadow or a beam of light will enter or hit a target on a specific day

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of the year and at a specific time of day as indexed by the petroglyph features or the position of the sun (i.e. moment of sunrise or sunset or sun). The most famous and significant archaeo-astronomical sites includes Stonehenge in England, Chichen Itza' in southern Mexico, and Fajada Butte in Chaco Canyon, New Mexico USA.

Sig then went on to talk about various stone circles, barrows, chambers etc highlighting their astronomical alignments. In particular, the Stone Chambers in Vermont, USA and in one, where during Imbolc on Feb 1st, the morning sun shone on the back of the chamber lighting up the image of a bird signifying 'day' or 'Morning Star'. Archaeologists believed these chambers were solely built to store food but Sig disputes this, pointing to their astronomical alignments.

The Temple of Solomon was built in such a way that as the sun rose it shone through the columns to the centre or the 'Holy of Holies' – the Inner Sanctum. Cairn T, part of the Loughcrew Mounds near Newgrange, where the rising sun of the Spring and Autumn Equinoxes ignites a stunning design of circles at the back of the cairn.

Sig also spent a great deal of time genially answering questions about all sorts of pertinent topics and we all felt we'd learnt a great deal at the end of the day. Looking forward to next time Sig! If this has whetted your appetite to learn more about archaeoastronomy, go to: [www.ancient-wisdom.co.uk/astronomy.htm](http://www.ancient-wisdom.co.uk/astronomy.htm)

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## Field Trip to Llanstephan and St. Anthony's Well

by *Linda Griffiths*

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A party of 16 dowsers and friends set off for the castle, the first site of the day. Now maintained by CADW, Llansteffan Castle is impressive, sited on a hilltop overlooking the estuary of the River Tywi. Before the present castle, a 6th century B.C. Iron Age hill fort occupied the site, and you can still see its double ditch to the west of the castle.

The first Norman castle was created during the beginning of the 12th century between the earlier earth and timber defences. The castle was first mentioned in 1146 when it was captured by Lord Rhys and his brothers the Princes of Deheubarth,

and changed hands several times during its history

From the late 12th to the early 14th centuries the castle was owned by the Camville family who transformed the castle into a stone fortress. It was held briefly by supporters of Owain Glyndwr in 1405-1406 and at the end of the 15th century King Henry VII passed it to his uncle Jasper Tudor, Earl of Pembroke.

Viv supplied maps of the site and everyone set off dowsing for various energy lines and the position of the well etc. One young friend, without any knowledge of the history of the castle, dowsed that there was a connection with Welsh royalty – well done Beth! After a happy morning dowsing we had lunch within the castle walls, which later rang to the sound of 'Happy Birthday' as we tucked into a surprise 80th birthday cake for John Taylor. Many thanks to his wife Enfy who arranged the surprise and supplied the cake!

After lunch we set off to visit St. Anthony's Well, which can be found tucked away behind a wooden door in a stone wall next to the path that leads down to Scott's Bay. We were pleased to see water running in the well as sometimes recently it has been dry. The water was difficult to reach but some managed to touch it.

A stone plaque by the arched opening reads: "St Anthony of Egypt (c251-356), the first Christian hermit, had a powerful influence on the Celtic Church in South Wales. According to local tradition a Welsh hermit, Antwn (Anthony) who had taken the name of his great Egyptian predecessor, settled near this spot, probably in the 6th century. It is probable that he used water from the well to baptize converts to Christianity. Ever since that time St. Anthony's Well has been a place of pilgrimage. It's waters also became renowned for their healing qualities. It remains a quiet and peaceful witness to over 14 centuries of Christianity on the shores of Carmarthen Bay."

Some dowsed and found the well had existed long before St. Anthony's link to it. Others discovered that its focus was on healing of limbs.

After the well we walked back along the beach and Ros gave us an impromptu demonstration on how to create a labyrinth, drawing one in the sand. A few walked the labyrinth and then after an unscheduled climb up many steps (*the tide had not gone out far enough to walk back all the way on the beach after all*)

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it was back to the car park and café for a welcome cuppa. (*Thanks to Viv for chauffeuring less mobile members and lunch bags up to the castle*)

\*Letter from John Taylor

‘Our recent field trip to Llanstephan was memorable for me due to the huge surprise I received. I would like to thank my wife for thinking it up, Lou furtively lugging the cake all the way up to the castle, cutting it so accurately and to all who sang ‘Happy Birthday’. Talking to John Seward the other day, he remarked that ours is a ‘happy society’ and to me that day proved it. Thank You All!

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday June 24th** Dowsing Practise:  
Learn how to dowse energy lines, auras and chakras, map dowsing or building a stone circle plus members forum to swap ideas and get answers to your questions.

**July 8th** Field Trip  
Avebury Stone circle.

**Sunday July 22nd** *John Billingsley*  
The Mystery of the Head cult

**August 12th** Field Trip  
Lampeter Mound.

**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

## SOCIETY CONTACTS

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General Officer - John Taylor	01267 281706
General Officer - Vivianne Ancliff	01269 851291/
<i>Mobile</i>	07773 979683

## DOWSING SERVICES

John Seward	01834 814278
<i>Healing</i>	
Mark Lange	01239 614442
<i>Feng Shui, Bowen Techniques, Allergy Testing</i>	
Ian Pegler	01970 623695
<i>Wood-turned pendulums &amp; 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 Dowsers Society makes no claim as to the abilities of the dowsers concerned. The Society will not accept liability of any kind, nor does it act as an Agent for any of the dowsers 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 Dowsers Society is a Society affiliated to the British Society of Dowsers. It is not a requirement of either Society that members of the West Wales Dowsers Society providing these services become individual members of the British Society of Dowsers.

## DISCLAIMER

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## 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](mailto:rosbriagha@hotmail.com)