

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT SDG AGM DECEMBER 14/12/24

A warm welcome to all members and friends.

Today is quite an important occasion for SDG because we are here to elect officers for the coming year. I want to thank you all for taking the trouble to venture out on this winter's day, to contribute to the future of the group.

I feel this has been a successful year for SDG. Our membership has grown considerably and we have had good turnouts at our talks. Since the Spring we've been treated to a wide variety, including Map Dowsing, with Ken Sheather, the celebrated Maria Wheatley on Secrets of Stone Circles, Lines in the Landscape with Nigel Twinn, Dreams, with Rosanne Jacks, and Guardians of Earth Energies with Adrian Incedon-Webber. Our own committee members have given us some lovely experiences, Lawrence taking us up Cam Peak to dowse, on a truly beautiful day in May, and Jayne entertaining us with a wonderful visual tour of the Megaliths of Ireland. We've also had two extra-curricular events, both successful in their own way – these were the Ghost Hunt in Gloucester and the extremely well-attended event last month with Ronald Hutton speaking about 'Village Magic and Witchcraft', to a sell-out audience

So I want to thank all of you for your support and input, and a massive thank you to this dynamic committee who have done so much to provide these memorable events.

I know the other committee members are with me in giving a special thanks to Rob, who does our publicity, who has created our new website, and who produces our Newsletter, and to Suzanne who acts as both Treasurer and Secretary, coping with all the admin details. These two people hold SDG together and we want to acknowledge them especially with these gifts.

[Gift presentation took place]

Now I'd like to say a little word about the role of Chairperson, which it has been a great honour and privilege to hold. I see this role as being one of going forwards with a lamp, hoping I'm progressing in the right direction and lighting the way for others. Of course, it's always hard to know if you *are* 'going in the right direction', and there have been one or two times when I've had major doubts. However, I'm happy to stand again for re-election, if you choose me.

Dowsing, to me, is a unique, pivotal and valuable subject, and skill. We are told by mainstream science that we are just material creatures, with no eternal spirit, created by random chance, snuffed out of existence after four score years having ended our meaningless existence. Many of us know that is not true but it's hard to hold the line in the face of the establishment and its proponents.

However, there are certain things that have not been accounted for by the mechanistic model, and dowsing is one of them. Almost anyone can dowse, and it has observable,

provable results, that have been practically applied yet for which 'science' has no explanation.

Is dowsing related to the large amounts of our brains that we do not use? What other abilities have atrophied in our species? The skill of dowsing begs so many questions about ourselves and what we might call our spiritual essence. It leads on to many deep questions, but it can also be explored as a fascinating ability, that adds to our lives.

So I see this group as offering a space for seekers who are interested in the expansion of human consciousness, the realisation that we are far more than we appear to be, and generally finding out more about our potential, where we have come from, and where we may be going.

But it is also a space for people who simply want to dowse – who want to find Roman remains, ancient mounds and even water. A beacon for complete beginners who want to find out more about the art of dowsing and their own abilities.

And for those many in-between matters of earth energies and spirits of place, with which we are mostly occupied in our talks.

So, SDG is for spiritual seekers and simple dowzers, and everything in between. That's my vision.

So thanks once again for your support over the year, and don't forget please that whoever is on the committee next year, they want to hear from *you*, about what you want.

All blessings

Teresa