

# Slimbridge Dowsing Group Newsletter August 2021

Founded by Peter Golding.

Affiliated with the British Society of Dowzers



## Wonderful Nature

Dear Members and Friends,

I think Summer was here since I last wrote to you, but clearly looks like it's the downward spiral of November weather arriving everywhere. I do hope that Summer interlude has given you all the opportunity to get out and about, even potentially dowsing in the local environment.

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Early in July, I took the opportunity to go on a tree walk up to Haresfield Beacon as I wanted a couple of photos for my talk on “Trees” to the dowsing groups. My plan was to get some photos of the tree circles on the beacon and at the Iron Age Hill Fort. I anticipated a short walk, but the universe decided that we would walk a bit further thus discovering an old Oak Tree growing all by itself in a field. Being in its presence was an amazing experience and through dowsing and connection, we established that it was a Beacon Tree of some 936 years old!

It was about that time that the summer vanished, so a rain sodden walk back up the hill to the car ensued.

The Talk on Trees was very enjoyable (for me at least!) With more than 80 attendees. If you would like to watch the replay, please get in touch and we can share the link with you. The talk was followed by a very lively and interesting discussion although I did not record this. With the benefit of hindsight, I wish I had, as the discussion was fascinating, including many shared experiences and some book recommendations. I would be very interested to hear feedback from the members on how they feel about recording the Q&A from these calls.

The beacon tree does seem to feature a lot in my journey at the moment. Wherever I go, I find them and they are constantly making their presence felt. Sometimes they are in obvious locations such as the local park, but I have also found them by the side of the road with the fabulous oak tree at Brookthorpe as an example.

The question is, am I noticing these trees more because I now know what I am looking for or because they are becoming more visible to those whose eyes are opened to their presence?

The same applies to the plant Mugwort!

During the last few months, mugwort has appeared on my radar multiple times. It has been mentioned in dowsing talks, appeared in healing sessions and also via dowsing and connection! I have felt increasingly drawn to working with this plant, but had no idea how to do it, other than by reading up on it. However, a number of synchronicities led to me connecting with an amazing plant medicine healer, Dr. Karen Stead-Dexter. We spent a day at her wonderful home in Wellington, Somerset learning about and connecting with the plant and while we were there, we had the opportunity to meet with some of her birds of prey. More on that later. . . .

At the last minute, we also created an opportunity to start our mugwort journey early and travelled, via Glastonbury, to Wellington where we stayed overnight. Having had such an amazing mugwort day, we decided we would stay in Somerset for another night to explore further and capitalise on the wonderful experience of our day. Believe it or not, there were no rooms to be found between Exeter and Bristol, hens’ teeth would have been more common, so back home we went.

Early the following morning, our quest for adventure unabated, we decided to head to Wayland’s Smithy, the long barrow which has long been a source of sanctuary and inspiration for me. Usually

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when heading for Wayland's Smithy, I would park close to the barrow but, having missed the turning, it seemed more appropriate to head to the car park at Uffington. This means that we ended up walking along the ancient Ridgeway track where we saw mugwort appearing everywhere. Did you know that the name comes from beer? It was the forerunner to hops!

For those of you who have read Pam Grout's book, I strongly sense that I am now tuned in to what I know. Just as when I recently bought a red car, I started to see red cars everywhere when previously, I had not really noticed them.

So, I do really think that my level of awareness has improved as I spot beacon trees and tree circles as I travel around and I have found that dowsing practice and connection has helped me with this search.

Anyway back to Mugwort - more synchronicities - we ended up at Uley Long Barrow looking for the stuff the following Sunday - only to meet two people exploring their thoughts and feelings...and through dowsing we found a connection to their past and to the barrow itself. What we discovered was that one of them has such a strong connection to the barrow, that he feels the need to travel there when life becomes too much for him - and he lives in Leicestershire! At the Barrow he finds that he is grounded and cleared of his everyday stresses.

Dowsing is such a fascinating tool but it is clear how the universe puts us in the right place at the right time and that is what happens when you go with the flow! This was the lesson I learned when trying to spend more time in Somerset. Perhaps the universe guided us to walk the Ridgeway instead?

As you all know, we have been having regular community chats via Zoom on the fourth Tuesday of the month. These chats are full of fun and interesting chats, it would be great if you can join us on the next one!

The topics of dowsing, the universe and going with the flow were discussed during our most recent chat but in the wider context of our local environment and trying to understand the past better. Those who attended were keen to get involved in a project to look at our local environment from both a connection and a dowsing archeological point of view and see if we are able to connect dots and connect the layers over time.

The scope was discussed and even a few books pulled from respective bookcases to show a number of maps and info sources. So are you interested in helping join a few dots by going to local places like barrows, Villas and ancient sites to see what you find and report back?

Every month, when I come to write this report, I wonder whether any of you are reading it and if you find my ramblings to be of interest? It would be great to have some feedback if you can spare a few moments to drop me a line.

As the news of Linda's passing is beginning to circulate across the dowsing universe, I had the opportunity last weekend to revisit the land we worked on together back in April. I was reminded how

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much fun we had in the sun and snow, how much I admired Linda's dowsing ability and how much I learned from her.

Her adage will always ring in my ears with her lovely smile

"Why don't you dowse for the answer!"

Kind Regards

*Paul*

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**Chairman**

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## News

**A Celebration of Linda's life is being held on Monday 16th August and all are welcome to attend**

**Join us to celebrate  
Linda Fentum's  
amazing life**



**Hellens Manor, Much Marcle, Ledbury,  
Herefordshire, HR8 2LY.**

**Monday 16th August 12.00 noon to  
4.00 pm**

**Dress code-Bright colours  
what3words-apples.putty.porridge**

**PIC•COLLAGE**

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## Dowsing Tips

When starting to dowse and getting **no** answers to any of the Can I, Should I, May I questions. It may be the wrong time for you to dowse. So dowse if it may be ok to dowse for this at a later time and when this may be. It may also be that you are not sufficiently protected to dowse this at the current time. You may change this by increasing your protection. Remember that some things can be detrimental for you to know, so think of the future effect of the knowledge/information being requested.

***Rob Gerrish***

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## 2021 Programme

So far so good!

We are going to have our 1st in person meeting on the 14th of August - nearly 18 months since our last talk.

Details are the same - Whitminster Village Hall, School Lane, Whitminster, Gloucestershire, GL2 7NT.  
what3words - classics.metro.surpassed

We are still waiting for any guidance from the hall on any specific Covid related items but otherwise we believe it's as it was when we stopped. So we hope to have tea/coffee and biscuits available and be able to sit wherever you want.

If anyone wishes to move chairs, wear masks etc, then please feel free to do so.

We are still imagining a future where we combine face to face meetings with Zoom talks to allow for everyone's individual circumstances and preferences and we have now managed to complete our 1st field trip.

Possibly our Zoom talk may move to the 4th Tuesday of the month as this would balance with the in person meeting on the 2nd Saturday. We would propose to scrap the community Zoom as we will be able to chat when we meet in person although we can always arrange ad hoc Zoom chats as required.

### **What are your thoughts?**

### **Online Talks**

We have set up a waiting room to join the meeting **15 minutes** before they start to help assist people with any technical issues joining the meeting and this has proven to be **invaluable** to those who have needed it.

For any of the ticketed talks, we do now ensure that tickets are available to be purchased after the start time, just in case you have been distracted.

For the online talks that we are offering, do make sure you register early to avoid disappointment.

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## August Programme

**August 14th 2021. 9:45 for 10:30am start.**

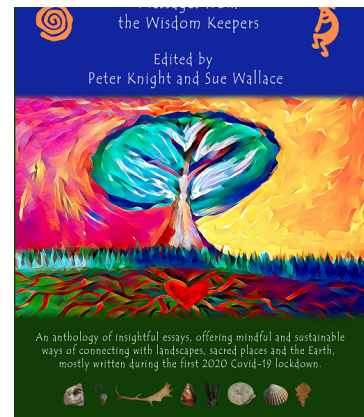
### **Sensing the Earth – Messages From the Wisdom Keepers by Sue Wallace and Peter Knight**

Sue and Peter (authors, guides, and Wiltshire Dowisers committee members) return to the Slimbridge Dowisers with an inspiring powerpoint talk to share the wisdom of their latest book. This is a collaborative work in which they invited 50 leading lights in the world of dowsing, earth mysteries, Earth-healing, shamanism and environmentalism to share their thoughts on their subject, as well as how they see the world progressing in a post-Covid world. Peter and Sue will also share their own personal revelations on the subject of earth-healing and connecting on a deeper level with the land.



**Ticket Price £3 for Members, £5 for Guests.**

**NOTE - This talk will be in-person at Whitminster Village Hall**



### **August 24th 2021. Informal Community Meeting - Via Zoom**

This will be our eighth community forum and we welcome input from members on topics for discussion.

The Zoom Meeting details are:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86396103366?pwd=K1l1S3ZJeWNvQ0hveTdyR1oyazFKZz09>

Meeting ID: 863 9610 3366 Passcode: 020828

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## September Programme

September 11th 2021. 9:45 for 10:30am start. £3 for members, £5 for guests.

**This talk will be in-person at Whitminster Village Hall**

**Introduction to Bird Spirit Wisdom - Dr Karen Stead-Dexter**



An introduction to the world of the winged ones and how their communication through the ages has helped, warned, guided and amused the human world. I will bring in stories from the Vikings, WWI and lots of interesting facts about the wisdom or medicine the Birds have to offer. I will teach you how to open your awareness to receive the wisdom that the Bird Spirits have for you - from a simple feather, call or sighting. I will be accompanied by three birds of prey, each having their own wisdom for us on the day. Each bird will be brought into the talk one by one and their medicine explained. Energetic interaction will be encouraged throughout these sessions - the felt-sense so important to how the bird's wisdom is being received.



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Karen Stead-Dexter PhD is an Animal Assisted Therapist, Medicine Women, Teacher and Environmentalist. Academic work and Spiritual work, for a long time, were always kept separate but for Karen something was missing. Having spent the majority of her academic career learning the damage 'we' have done to the planet, the need to explore ancient ways of understanding our relationship with the Earth led her in to learn more of the ways of the Shaman. Spanning 30 years, Karen now has a strong understanding of ancient healing modalities, bringing in Shamanic traditions of North America (Navajo & Lakota), South America and Celtic Shamanism. She runs a popular clinic in Somerset for Animal Assisted Therapy & Energy Healing, and runs regular Shamanic workshops in Energy Healing, Bird Spirit Medicine and Plant Spirit Medicine connecting people back to nature, back to who they really are and gets them to truly listen to the world around them. Karen has also been a Falconer for 20 years undertaking pest control work, managing a falconry centre, wild bird rehabilitation, running a successful falconry club for 8 years, and running her own independent falconry business (Kingfisher Falconry for the past 9 years) to allow people to experience the birds close up. Merging her therapy clinic with her Falconry business has allowed Karen to pursue her dream - bringing animism and science together through Animal Assisted Therapy under 'Flying in Nature'.

1st class Honours degree in Environmental Science  
Masters in Radiation & Environmental Protection  
PhD Environmental Geochemistry  
Post-Doctoral Ecotoxicology

Reiki & Seichem Master & Teacher  
Numerous shamanic courses and 1-1 teachings from elders all around the world  
Advanced Practitioner in Flower & Vibrational Essences  
Shinrin Yoku (Forest Bathing) Practitioner  
Currently undertaking the International Diploma in Forest Therapy

Flying in Nature - [www.flyinginnature.co.uk](http://www.flyinginnature.co.uk)



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### **September 28th 2021. Informal Community Meeting - Via Zoom**

This will be our ninth community forum and we welcome input from members on topics for discussion.

The Zoom Meeting details are:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86396103366?pwd=K1l1S3ZJeWNvQ0hveTdyR1oyazFKZz09>

Meeting ID: 863 9610 3366 Passcode: 020828

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## **Library / Resources**

The library is a key membership resource which was actively utilised at our face to face meetings. Our plans to expand it into a centralised resource for more than just books took a back seat when we were no longer able to get together.

As the Pandemic continues to prevent our meetings, we plan to find new ways to enable members to access these resources and are also looking to expand the collection to allow members to share their own libraries where they wish to.

### **Book Review**

Sorry, no book review this month as Lawrence is on holiday.

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## What's in a photo

Why don't you connect to it through the picture and see what you can feel / find. Dowsing is an excellent tool to do this.

A couple of questions you may like to ask / Find out. But don't be limited by these questions - see what **YOU** get.

- Its location ?
- What is it??
- What's nearby ?
- What else can you see?



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Again what's in a photo

Connect again - What do you find? →

- What is it ?
- Where is it ?
- What is special about it ?
- A Name?



This is a real test of your dowsing and we would love to know your answers.

Please bring them to our members' talk on the 24th of August where we can discuss or email one of us so we can circulate to everyone.

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## Membership

As a reminder to all members with paid subscriptions for 2020, your membership has been automatically extended to December 31st 2021.

For anyone reading this newsletter who is not currently a member, the annual fee is only £10, so please join us in 2021 for a year in which we will learn to make the most of one of the key tenets of dowsing - "Connection".

Contact our membership secretary Anna Howard for a membership form and details of how to renew your membership/join up. We have designed new membership forms to ensure that we are fully GDPR compliant and will be asking all members to complete the new forms in due course. More on this to follow.

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## Contact Us

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