

News

As we are now meeting in person again, the newsletter has gone back to its quarterly format from April onwards.

Membership

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

The payment had been deferred until March until we could meet in person again. You will be required to fill in a membership renewal form with your payment for accounting and data protection legislation purposes.

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. Forms are available at face to face meetings at Whitminster Village hall.

For anyone reading this newsletter who is not currently a member, the annual fee is only £10, so please join us in 2022. Guests pay £5 entry to meetings, members £3. Members have a say in the running of the Group.

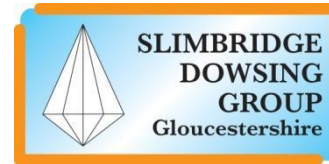
Library / Resources

Please see insert for Lawrence's book review.

The library is a key membership resource which can be actively utilised at our face to face meetings. We are expanding it into a centralised resource for more than just books. There is other equipment available to borrow. As the Pandemic restrictions have now been loosened, our resource is available again. Some members now allow others to share their own libraries where they wish to.

Slimbridge Dowsing Group Committee

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Newsletter

Slimbridge Dowsing Group

Founded by Peter Golding

Affiliated with the British Society of Dowsers

Issue 59

October - December 2022

Chairman's Report - Please see insert

October Programme

October 8th 2022. Laurence Main - Walking the Leys.



Druid Laurence Main is the author of many books on walking. He has spent a lot of time 'walking the leys' of the UK. He will present his experiences of these walks and experiences of the dreams he has had whilst camping on the features of these leys. He will help us identify leys for ourselves by pointing out the features in the landscape that are relevant and understanding place names.

October 25th 2022. Informal Community Meeting - Via Zoom

This is our community forum and we welcome input from members on topics for discussion. Opens at 7pm.

The Zoom Meeting details are: Meeting ID: 863 9610 3366 Passcode: 020828

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

November Programme

November 3rd 2022. Special Evening Presentation by the renowned Prof. Ronald Hutton. The Pagan Tolkien.



J. R. R. Tolkien has been declared the most popular British writer of the twentieth century, and he is responsible almost single-handedly for the establishment of fantasy as the favourite contemporary world genre of fiction.

Ronald Hutton is the senior Professor of History in the University of Bristol. He has published 18 books on British history and paganism.

As this is a special one off event, the entrance fee will be £10 by ticket bookable through Eventbrite or by contacting Paul Syrett if you are unable to use Eventbrite. More information to follow.

November 12th 2022. Gloucestershire Stone Stile Project - Jayne Tovey.



Stone stiles are a characteristic of the Cotswold landscape of Gloucestershire, with many stiles over 200 years old. For centuries stone stiles have allowed pedestrian access across the countryside and as such indicated ancient pathways which predate land enclosure, and point to where farmsteads, barns and villages, long since vanished, existed. Despite their historic value there is no comprehensive record of stone stiles in our ancient county of Gloucestershire.

Meetings at Whitminster Village Hall, School Lane, Whitminster, Gloucestershire. GL2 7NN. On the second Saturday of the month. 9:45 for 10:30 am start unless otherwise stated. £3 members, £5 guests.

Jayne has been instrumental in documenting over 500 of the 800 known. It's been a journey of exploration, not just of the landscape but that of her own spiritual journey and introduction to dowsing.

November 29th 2022. Informal Community Meeting - Via Zoom

This is our community forum and we welcome input from members on topics for discussion. Opens at 7pm.

The Zoom Meeting details are: Meeting ID: 863 9610 3366 Passcode: 020828

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

December Programme

December 10th 2022. Annual General Meeting and Christmas Lunch.

Get to decide who you want for your committee members, have input into the direction of YOUR Group and what talks/conversations you wish to have for the year ahead.. Reports from the Chairman and Treasurer.

Christmas lunch at the Whitminster Inn across the road from the Whitminster Village Hall.

More details to follow with lunch menu choices and prices to pre-book your lunch..

December 27th 2022. Informal Community Meeting - Via Zoom

This is our community forum and we welcome input from members on topics for discussion. Opens at 7pm.

The Zoom Meeting details are: Meeting ID: 863 9610 3366 Passcode: 020828

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

September 2022 Chairman's Report

As I wrote the last newsletter I was looking forward to a weekend of dowsing and connection as the Southwest Dowsing Festival (DFest22) and we were preparing for Maria Wheatley's fascinating talk entitled "From Avebury to Ancient Egypt" on June 11th. The talk was fascinating and Maria, as always, kept the audience captivated by her extraordinary depth of knowledge and ability to have knowledge and information at her fingertips. Even the unfortunate demise of her laptop during the talk, which precluded the showing of any more of her slides, did not detract from the enjoyment of the event.

DFest22 was a great success and an enjoyable weekend had by all. Fascinating talks and workshops throughout the weekend on the theme "Dowsing for One and All" I hope that one day we will have our own dowsing festival here at Slimbridge Dowzers!

For our July meeting we took a trip out to Rodmarton Long Barrow and were lucky enough to have local historian Dave James join us to give us some insights and information on this very special place. It was a beautiful day and we all enjoyed hearing about the history of the barrow as well as having an opportunity to do some dowsing of our own. Any concerns about being out and about away from any facilities were allayed by Rob's brilliant addition to the party of a portable military toilet which he installed discreetly along the path, half way between the layby where we parked our cars and the long barrow. Afterwards we all decamped to the Thames Head Pub where we had an enjoyable and sociable lunch with Dave and his wife as our guests.

As the summer progressed, we have seen some extraordinary weather, which reluctantly forced us to postpone the August meeting due to the extreme heat. Jayne Tovey, who was due to give her wonderful talk about her journey and her involvement in the Gloucestershire Stone Stile Project, will now talk to us at the November meeting.

As you will see from the programme, we have a great line up to take us through to the end of the year including an additional talk on the agenda on November 3rd at Whitminster Village Hall where we are excited to welcome Professor Ronald Hutton who will be giving a talk on Pagan Tolkien!

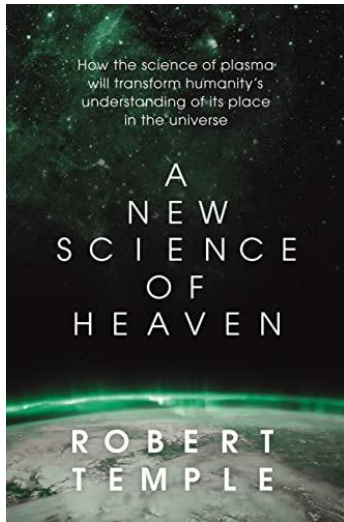
The BSD Conference 22 is also being held this weekend in Moreton-in-Marsh and we almost lost our September speaker as he was double booked! Fortunately, with a bit of negotiation we managed to get his slot at the BSD Conference moved to Sunday, so we are still looking forward to hearing from Ron Dudley-Smith on The Rollright Stones and the Bosnian Pyramids.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our upcoming meetings and as always, please remember your feedback and suggestions are always welcome.

Paul

Book Review by Lawrence Wadsworth

A New Science of Heaven – How the science of plasma will transform humanity's understanding of its place in the universe, by Robert Temple



This book, only published last year, concerns a highly topical subject. We have heard much about the “Electric Universe”, but now it seems Plasma is the latest subject to be put forward in relation to our understanding of the universe.

The author, Robert Temple, has worthy credentials. He is a Visiting Professor of History and Philosophy of Science, a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, and for many years he has been a science writer for the Sunday Times, the Guardian, and a science reporter for Time Life as well as a frequent reviewer for Nature, and a profile writer for New Scientist. He is therefore well placed to write about this subject in a way that non-scientists will also be able to understand.

In the book we are first introduced to the discovery in 1961 of two vast clouds many times larger than the earth itself, located between the earth and the moon. They were then observed again in 2019 by three Hungarian astronomers. They are called the Kordylewski clouds after the Polish astronomer who first discovered them. The interesting fact about these clouds is that they are comprised of plasma together with minute particles of dust – referred to as “Dusty Complex Plasma”. The author explains that plasma is the fourth state of matter along with gases, solids and liquids, and is made of incomplete or partial atoms, known as ions, protons and electrons. Lightning is a good example of plasma, as is our own Sun. In fact, the space between the Sun and the Earth is filled with the plasma of the solar wind, a flow of charged particles responsible for the Aurora Borealis at the Earth’s poles. The significance of the Kordylewski clouds led the author together with his friend, a retired Professor of Astrophysics to publish a paper “Kordylewski Dust Clouds: Could they be Cosmic Super Brains”?

The book continues with a summary of plasma research, and covers a multitude of facts relating to plasma. Such topics include plasma clouds and their energy, plasmoids and ball lightning, the cosmic web compared to the structure of our brains, plasmas as living beings, dust and crystals, spirals and the DNA double helix, quantum computers and quantum entanglement, electric people,

bioplasma and biophotons, how our bodies emit light and flash at birth and death, and how in relation to the work of scientist Freeman Cope, this could explain dowsing!

This really is a thought provoking book that gives us insights into how little we have really understood about our universe and our relationship with it, and that 99.9% of the universe, is made up of plasma, which may contain a high degree of intelligence and information. Overall, Robert Temple has an easy narrative style, and apart from some of the more difficult concepts to comprehend, he gives us a wonderful insight into the characters of many of the scientists involved, but also an insight into the secrecy of governments and the military, when it comes to imparting details of important scientific research.