



# Wessex Research Group Network *Newsletter*

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 12.

December 2019

December arrives and with it a newsletter packed with festive events. Stoneseeker Publishing is offering seasonal discounts on a number of its publications. FFI visit [www.stoneseeker.net](http://www.stoneseeker.net)

2019 has seen the continued development of the Wessex Research Group audio lecture archive - [www.wessexresearchgroup.org/lectures1.html](http://www.wessexresearchgroup.org/lectures1.html)

Lectures are also now freely downloadable from Spotify, Apple Music and Podbean. The numbers of lectures downloaded continues to increase worldwide; the largest audience being the USA.

## ***The Traditions of Christmas***

***By Byron Plane***

Many people will erect a decorated tree for the Christmas period. But how many of us understand the symbolic importance of the evergreen at this time of year?

The evergreen is associated with pre-Christian winter festivals especially those concerning immortality and fortitude. It is used and is symbolic within many cultures - Egyptian, Chinese, Hebrew, as well as the European, druidic and pagan orders. In the Christian tradition, trees were often put up in December to serve the dual purpose of warding off the devil and allowing a perch for whatever birds still remaining. During the Middle Ages evergreen trees were decorated with apples and wafers and used in Christmas Eve plays to represent the tree from which Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit.

The first evidence for decorated Christmas trees comes from German craftsman guilds during the Renaissance period. After the Protestant Reformation, trees enjoyed a surge of popularity among Protestant households as counterparts to the Catholic nativity scene.

Also associated with Christmas is Mistletoe. The plant features in Druidic and Norse mythology. Its use as decoration stems from the fact that it was believed to protect homes from fire and lightning. It was commonly hung up at Christmas time often to remain hung in place all year, until being replaced by another sprig the following Christmas.

Amongst other pre-Christian cultures, Mistletoe was believed to carry the male essence, and associated



with romance, fertility, and vitality. Mistletoe continued to be associated with fertility and vitality through the Middle Ages, and by the 18th century it had become formally incorporated into Christmas celebrations.

Victorian England is credited with first recording of the tradition of kissing underneath mistletoe. A man was allowed to kiss any woman standing underneath mistletoe, and that bad luck would befall any woman who refused the kiss. One variation on the tradition stated that with each kiss a berry was to be plucked from the mistletoe, and the kissing must stop after all the berries had been removed. The implications of ingesting Mistletoe are less romantic, the plant causing diarrhoea and stomach pain.

The origins of Santa Claus lie rooted in the life of a fourth century Greek Orthodox bishop named Nikolaos of Myra. Based in a province of Byzantine Anatolia, (now in Turkey). The life of Nikolaos of Myra is associated with acts of generosity, kindness and charity, all symbolic with the spiritual dimension of Christmas time. St. Nikolaos, lover of the poor and patron saint of children, placed the teachings of Jesus Christ central to his life. One story tells of him presenting the three impoverished daughters of a pious Christian with dowries so that they would not have to become prostitutes. He was very religious from an early age and devoted his life entirely to Christianity.

In Europe (more precisely the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria and Germany) he is still portrayed as a bearded bishop in canonical robes. In 1087, the Italian city of Bari, wanting to enter the profitable pilgrimage industry of the times, mounted an expedition to locate the tomb of the Christian Saint and procure the remains. The reliquary of St. Nicholas was desecrated by Italian sailors and the spoils, including his relics, taken to Bari where they are kept to this day.

*The Traditions of Christmas is continued on Page 3.*

Weymouth & Dorchester  
Roma 01305 816644

Dorset Earth Mysteries  
www.dorsetmysteries.org

Bristol Dowzers  
www.bristoldowzers.co.uk

Joyous Isle workshops  
www.joyousisle.com

Axminster Awareness  
Centre  
www.awarenesscentre.org.uk

Stoneseecker Tours  
www.stoneseecker.net

Centre for Pure Sound  
www.centreforpuresound.org

The Martinsey Isle Trust  
www.martinsey.org.uk

Hawkwood College  
www.hawkwoodcollege.co.uk

Angelight  
www.angellight.co.uk

Taunton Association for  
Psychotherapy  
www.taplimited.org.uk

Totnes WRG  
Jeffrey Gale  
01803 866349

Findhorn Foundation  
www.findhorn.org

Dowsing Spirits  
www.dowsingspirits.co.uk

www.theswa.org.uk

Aquarian Age Community  
www.aquaac.org

Totnes Astrology Group  
David 01803 867145

One Spirit Alliance  
www.onespiritalliance.net

Crewkerne Awareness  
anacolourastro.wordpress.com

Ryde PLG  
Dana 07879 021521

Wellspring – Rode  
Tel. Caroline 01373 831046

Network of Leyhunters  
www.networkofleyhunters.com

Bath PL  
bathpositiveliving.co.uk  
Sian 0758 2111971

The Y files  
www.meetup.com

Burnham on Sea  
Pagan Group  
Sue 07776306125

**Fire in the Head**  
www.roselle-angwin.co.uk

**EVENTS**

**London** 1 Dec  
Shamanic Journeying  
Paradigm Explorers  
7<sup>th</sup> Meetup  
[www.explore.scimednet.org](http://www.explore.scimednet.org)

**Beaconsfield** 8 Dec  
Christmas Lunch  
Thames Valley Dowzers  
[www.thamesvalleydowzers.org.uk](http://www.thamesvalleydowzers.org.uk)

**Spreyton** 11 Dec  
Christmas Dinner  
Devon Dowzers  
[www.devondowzers.org.uk](http://www.devondowzers.org.uk)

**Weymouth** 11 Dec  
Yule Social  
Weymouth WRG  
Tel. Roma 01305 816644

**Bristol** 13 Dec  
Christmas Party  
Bristol Dowzers  
[www.bristoldowzers.co.uk](http://www.bristoldowzers.co.uk)

**Woodshaw** 16 Dec  
Yule Social  
Wyvern Dowzers  
[wyverndowsing@gmx.com](mailto:wyverndowsing@gmx.com)

**Glastonbury** 17 Dec  
Winter Solstice Celebration  
Elen's Flora  
[www.glastonburyplg.com](http://www.glastonburyplg.com)

**Burnham on Sea** 20 Dec  
Yule Rite  
Burnham on Sea  
Pagan Group  
Tel. 07776 306125

**Wimborne** 20 Dec  
Winter Solstice  
Gong and Drum Event  
[www.gauntshouse.com](http://www.gauntshouse.com)

**Glastonbury** 21 Dec  
Winter Solstice Celebration  
and Meditation  
[www.chalicewell.org.uk](http://www.chalicewell.org.uk)

**London** 22 Dec  
Winter Solstice Celebration  
[www.collegeofpsychicstudies.co.uk](http://www.collegeofpsychicstudies.co.uk)

**TALKS**

**London** 1 Dec  
Your Healing Voice  
and How to Use It  
Derek Barnes  
Tel. 0207 589 3292

**Glastonbury PLG** 4 Dec  
Connecting with Albion's  
Original Sacred Sites  
Peter Knight & Sue Wallace  
Tel. Samia 07930 007419

**Glastonbury** 4 Dec  
Meeting of the Pagan Moot  
Tel. Tim 07747 897 621

**DEMG at Stapehill** 5 Dec  
the Wonderful World  
of Bees  
Totty's Good Life  
Tel. Steve 01258 881008

**London RILKO** 6 Dec  
Britain's Geographical  
Centers of Power  
Gary Biltcliffe &  
Caroline Hoare  
Tel. Karen 07956939852

**Totnes** 6 Dec  
Sagittarius and Jupiter  
David Matthews  
Tel. 01803 867145

**Beaconsfield** 8 Dec  
A Magical Mystery Tour of the  
Bosnian Pyramids  
Jan Trewartha  
Tel. Susan 01494 813214

**Ryde PLG** 10 Dec  
Healing with Sound  
Margueritte Durham  
Tel. Dana 07879 021521

**Glastonbury PLG** 11 Dec  
the Breath of Life  
A Journey into Deeper  
Mindfulness  
Nick Owen  
Tel. Samia 07930 007419

**London** 11 Dec  
the Spiritual Beings in the  
Heavenly Bodies and in the  
Kingdoms of Nature  
Brendan McQuillan  
Tel. 0207 723 4400

**London** 13 Dec  
the Transformation of the  
Feminine Stream Today  
Louise Sofair  
Tel. 0207 723 4400

**Bath** 16 Dec  
Bath Storytelling Circle  
Tel. David 01225 482170

**Crewkerne** 16 Dec  
Cosmic Rebirth  
Clint Denyer  
[collingridge1@sky.com](mailto:collingridge1@sky.com)

**London** 18 Dec  
the Mission of the  
Archangel Michael  
David Lowe  
Tel. 0207 723 4400

**Totnes** 20 Dec  
Astrological Preview of 2020  
David Matthews  
Tel. 01803 867145

**Burnham on Sea** 20 Dec  
Poems and Stories  
on a Yule Theme  
Sue  
Tel. 07776 306125

**WORKSHOPS &  
COURSES**

**London** 1 Dec  
Introduction to the Chinese  
Five Elements  
Doe Warnes  
Tel. 0207 589 3292

**London** 3 Dec  
Sacred Sounds Gong Bath  
Olaf Nixon  
Tel. 0207 589 3292

**Stroud** 6 Dec  
Brutus and the Myth  
of New Troy  
John & Caitlin Matthews  
& Charles Newington  
Tel. 01453 759034

**Forres** 7 Dec  
Subtle Energy Activism  
Tim Haas & Adele Napier  
Tel. 01309 690311

**Glastonbury** 14 Dec  
Wreath Making Workshop  
Nina Jane  
Tel. 01458 831154

**Forres** 14 Dec  
Time to Stop the Gift of Retreat  
Rosie Turnbull  
Tel. 01309 690311

**Stour Row** 14 Dec  
Angels of Sound Playshop  
and Sound Therapy  
Practitioner Course  
Dean Carter  
Tel. Dean 01935 389655

**Oborne** 15 Dec  
Divine Union Soundbath  
Dean Carter  
Tel. Dean 01935 389655

**Wimborne** 20 Dec  
Gong Labyrinth and Drums  
Scania and Heike  
Tel. 01202 841522

**London** 21 Dec  
Astrology and the Winter  
Solstice  
Demian Allen  
Tel. 0207 589 3292

**Axminster** 21 Dec  
the Winter Spirit  
of Sacred Sage  
Adela Mei  
Tel. 01297 32331

**London** 21 Dec  
Guidance on the  
Path for 2020  
Edwin Courtenay  
Tel. 0207 589 3292

**Iona** 21 Dec  
Returning to the  
Light on Iona  
Hugo Klip  
Tel. 01309 690311

**London** 21 Dec  
Holly Ivy and Mistletoe  
Sacred Solstice Plants  
Gerrie March  
Tel. 0207 589 3292

**Stroud** 21 Dec  
Spiritual Chanting II  
Tel. 01453 759034

**London** 23 Dec  
Winter Solstice Gong Event  
Olaf Nixon  
Tel. 0207 589 3292

**Wimborne** 27 Dec  
Meditation and Mindfulness  
Teacher Training Module 1:1  
Zenways  
Tel. 01202 841522

**Iona** 28 Dec  
New Year Retreat on Iona  
Hannah Morjan  
Tel. 01309 690311

**Forres** 28 Dec  
New Year Celebration  
Crossing the Threshold  
Barbara Swetina &  
Fabian Barouch  
Tel. 01309 690311

**Oborne** 29 Dec  
Divine Union Soundbath  
Dean Carter  
Tel. Dean 01935 389655

## LIGHTWORKER GROUPS

**Global Meditation Event**  
1 Dec 9pm  
[www.networkoflight.org](http://www.networkoflight.org)

**New York** 11 Dec  
Sagittarius  
Transforming Planetary  
Consciousness Webinar  
UN Meditation as  
Planetary Service  
[UN@aquaac.org](mailto:UN@aquaac.org)

**Axminster**  
Meditation Group  
Tel. 01297 32331

**Bath** (Weds & Sundays)  
Celtic Healing Circle  
Jane Jackson  
Tel. Jane 07533 383162

**Axminster** (Wednesdays)  
Buddhist Chanting  
Mantra Group  
Tel. 07779946444

**Forest of Dean**  
Shamanic Sundays  
Mandy Pullen  
Tel. 01594 541850

**Penzance** (Tuesdays)  
Kriya Yoga  
Tel. 01736 362 371

**Totnes** (Fridays)  
Astrology Group Meeting  
Tel. 01803 867145

**Bournemouth**  
(Alt Thursdays)  
The Y Files  
[www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com)

**Axminster** (Fridays)  
Spiritual Awareness Group  
Tel. 01460 221522

**Poole** (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)  
Dialogues of the Heart  
Tara Divina Brown  
Tel. 01202 604340

**Wanstrom** (alt Tues)  
Lightworker Group  
Tel. Marina 01373 465848

## TRIPS, TOURS & VISITS

**Little Maplestead** 12 Dec  
Sagittarius. Pilgrimage  
Along the River Thames  
Gatekeeper Trust  
Tel. 0300 123 7723

**Scotland** 14 Dec  
Roslin Chapel and Edinburgh  
at Christmas  
Megalithic Tours  
Tel. 01772 728181

**Keswick** 21 Dec  
Winter Solstice at  
Castlerigg Stone Circle  
Megalithic Tours  
Tel. 01772 728181

**Stanton Drew** 21 Dec  
Winter Gathering  
Bristol Dowsers  
Tel. Rory 07748 734127

**West Kennet** 22 Dec  
Winter Solstice at West Kennet  
Stoneseecker Tours  
Tel. Peter 01249 823287

**France** 27 Dec  
Megaliths of Brittany's  
Cotes-d'Armor  
Megalithic Tours  
Tel. 01772 728181

## The Traditions of Christmas (continued)

Nikolaos was well on the way to becoming associated with Santa Claus by the time he reached the Netherlands, around the 14th century. The popular short form Dutch for St. Nikolaos is Sinter Klaus. In the middle ages the celebration of St Nikolaos Day (6 December) involved depositing baskets of food and clothes anonymously at the doorsteps of the needy.

The tradition of gift giving at Christmas is often associated with the 3 wise men who visited Jesus and gave him gifts of myrrh, frankincense, and gold. Roman children would often be given gifts of wax dolls during the festival of Saturnalia. The boughs of certain trees and other plant

matter were also common gifts and were used to represent bounty and good harvests.

By the 1780's gift-giving as a custom began to acquire momentum in North America notably through children's toys manufactured and exported from Europe.

Modern Christmas traditions include the Giant Lantern Festival held in the Philippines, the building of the 13 metre high Yule goat in Gavle Sweden and the hiding of brooms in Norway to prevent witches and evil spirits whisking them away. Residents of Caracas in Venezuela travel to church on roller skates on Christmas Eve with roads closed to enable a safe passage.

[www.Mindspiritnetwork.com](http://www.Mindspiritnetwork.com)  
Bath Storytelling Circle.  
Tel. 01225 482170  
Earthstars Sacred Space  
[www.earthenergynetwork.co.uk](http://www.earthenergynetwork.co.uk)  
[www.body-spirit.co.uk](http://www.body-spirit.co.uk)  
[www.fire-in-the-head.co.uk](http://www.fire-in-the-head.co.uk)  
[www.chalicewell.org.uk](http://www.chalicewell.org.uk)  
Thames Valley Dowsers  
[www.thamesvalleydowsers.org.uk](http://www.thamesvalleydowsers.org.uk)  
[www.libraryofavalon.org.uk](http://www.libraryofavalon.org.uk)  
Glastonbury PLG  
[www.glastonburyplg.co.uk](http://www.glastonburyplg.co.uk)  
[www.positivelivinggroups.org.uk](http://www.positivelivinggroups.org.uk)  
[www.theosophical-society.org.uk](http://www.theosophical-society.org.uk)  
[www.fisu.org/en](http://www.fisu.org/en)  
[www.faeryevents.com](http://www.faeryevents.com)  
[www.openhandweb.org](http://www.openhandweb.org)  
[www.stargaia.com](http://www.stargaia.com)  
[www.RILKO.net](http://www.RILKO.net)  
[www.Enneagram-uk.com](http://www.Enneagram-uk.com)  
[www.sacredconnections.co.uk](http://www.sacredconnections.co.uk)  
[fifthdimensionalnetwork.net](http://fifthdimensionalnetwork.net)  
[www.networkoflight.org](http://www.networkoflight.org)  
[www.megalithictours.com](http://www.megalithictours.com)  
[www.gauntshouse.com](http://www.gauntshouse.com)  
[www.educationaid.net](http://www.educationaid.net)  
[www.collegeofpsychicstudies.co.uk](http://www.collegeofpsychicstudies.co.uk)

Wyvern dowsers  
Bea Menier 01793 694943

[www.energeticsolutions.co.uk](http://www.energeticsolutions.co.uk)  
[www.kabbalahcentres.com](http://www.kabbalahcentres.com)  
[www.caduceus.info](http://www.caduceus.info)

[www.ihf.ac](http://www.ihf.ac)  
[newhumanitymovement.com](http://newhumanitymovement.com)  
[www.waverleydowsers.co.uk](http://www.waverleydowsers.co.uk)  
[www.tamar-dowsers.co.uk](http://www.tamar-dowsers.co.uk)  
[www.devondowsers.org.uk](http://www.devondowsers.org.uk)

Society of Leyhunters  
[www.leyhunters.co.uk](http://www.leyhunters.co.uk)

World Peace Mission  
Tel. 01736 362371

Glastonbury Pagan Moot  
Tel. 07747 897621

## **Book Review: Christ Power and Earth Wisdom**

**By Marco Pogacnik**

Christ Power and Earth Wisdom is the story of the author's discovery of a 'Fifth Gospel', woven invisibly into the four canonical Gospels. It teaches humanity how to live positively in the third millennium. Bringing together knowledge of elemental beings, Earth science and Christ, the author has translated over one hundred of Jesus' sayings into a language that the modern mind can understand. He identifies blockages in the Biblical gospels that have prevented the Spirit of Christ from manifesting in the past era. But the time is now ripe for understanding the multi-layered reality of these teachings.

Based on methods of investigation and perception that Pogačnik has developed over many decades of work in healing the various dimensions of Earth's landscape and nature, he deciphers the hidden, holistic messages in Christ's teachings, dismantling the obstacles that have arisen through outdated interpretations.

The text is complemented with Pogacnik's energetically-charged drawings, forming a feeling counterpart to the thought flow of the book. A new Postscript offers an important update relating to methods of gaining a broader, spiritual perception of reality in the present. For further information contact Clairview books [www.clairviewbooks.com](http://www.clairviewbooks.com)

## **All Heal**

By Kevan Manwaring

Between the earth and the stars,  
it hangs like a threat of love,  
a promise of bliss.

White bubbles to burst on your lips like a kiss.

This is old druid magic,  
ancient fertility rite in your living, room,  
live in front of plasma screen.  
Raise a glass to the golden bough,  
to Baldr's bane,  
Aeneas' passport to Hades and back.

On oak and lime and apple,  
how the mistletoe glows like a swarm of green bees,  
berries of awen waiting for the glint of sickle,  
in the virgin midwinter sun.

*To promote an event or submit a contribution to the newsletter email Robert at [robertmulliss900@uwclub.net](mailto:robertmulliss900@uwclub.net) or log on to [www.wessexresearchgroup.org](http://www.wessexresearchgroup.org)*

## **Book Review: Nature Spirits of the Trees and What They Want to Tell Us**

**By Verena Stael von Holstein**

Verena has learned to communicate with elemental and nature beings, and to translate their language into terms we can understand.

In her remarkable book Nature Spirits and What They Say, she conversed with a range of beings, including spirits of fire, air, water and stone. In this new volume, we hear from trees, the nature spirits that in many ways are most similar to human beings.

Through Verena's remarkable clairvoyant abilities, conversations with different tree species – such as sweet cherry, rowan, elm and common oak – are relayed. These communications reveal compelling insights into the role of trees within the natural world and their relationships with the vegetable, animal, human and spirit kingdoms. Particular emphasis is placed on the characteristics of trees that correspond with qualities of the human soul, such as the oak's connection to individualism.

The tree spirits want to speak, and are responsive all kinds of questions, such as their roles in the landscape, their specific shapes, on problems that affect them in particular, and on urgent issues that are relevant to all beings on earth, such as climate change.

The interviews disclose beautiful, fascinating and often challenging insights, offering inspiration to help us build more constructive relationships to these wonderful entities. For further information contact Clairview books [www.clairviewbooks.com](http://www.clairviewbooks.com)

## **Book Review: Bridges between Life and Death**

**By Iris Paxino**

How can we change the way we think about dying and death? Can we build a new relationship with loved ones who have passed? Iris Paxino, psychologist and professional counsellor, leads the reader through the process of dying, the moment of death and different aspects of death. These thoughtful insights help readers to understand more about death and dying, leading to the possibility of a new connection with lost loved ones.

This book introduces alternative ways of thinking about dying, death and the journey of the soul after life. A personal and moving book which explores different aspects of death, from fear of death, to meeting with Christ, to materialistic and atheist outlooks from an experienced psychologist and professional counsellor. For further information visit [www.florisbooks.co.uk](http://www.florisbooks.co.uk)