



Wessex Research Group Network *Newsletter*

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October 2019

October 2019. This month's newsletter contains a listing of events, a book review and the following article.

The Origins of English Law and Parliament

By Sonya Jay Porter

Parliament was not established in the 13th century, as often thought, but set its roots in England some 800 years before that.

As we know, the Romans occupied much of Britain for about 400 years and finally left during the 5th century to defend their own territory. For some time the Angles, Saxons, Jutes and other Germanic tribes had raided the coasts of Britain but then took the chance to invade the now defenceless and depopulated country to establish small kingdoms of their own. What is less known is that they brought with them their traditions of Folcmoots and the Witan and by the 7th century these had been established in the southern kingdoms of the Jutes and Anglo-Saxons.

Folcmoots were gatherings of local people who made decisions for their area on everything from contracts to judicial matters and were also councils of war. *The Witan* or 'Wise Men' was an assembly composed of noblemen, both secular and ecclesiastic, and met at a Witengemot, meeting or council, to give advice to the King but only when called upon to do so. However, at this time the Witan could not frame laws but only assent to those already decided upon by the King. Anglo-Saxon Kings were not dictators and realised that they could not govern their territories without the local support of these powerful men of the Witan. It was the very beginning of a parliament as we know it today.

After the reintroduction of Christianity at the end of the 6th century, Law Codes were established in Kent, Mercia and in Wessex. King Aethelberht of Kent (601 – 604), which was originally settled by the Jutes, became the first ruler both to convert to Christianity and, impressed by Roman law, to draw up to a Law Code which he did with the help of the Bishops of London and Wi[ta]nchester. This was based on local customs and instituted many new secular laws but also established the legal position of the clergy.

Mercia next produced a Law Code based not only on King Ine's Code but also on the old British Celtic customs and regulations.



While later Anglo-Saxon Kings and also King Canute, both created new laws and added to Ine's Code, that of King Alfred (The Great) of Wessex (871 – 899) is probably the largest and best known. He not only appended to his laws (or Doms) those of Kings Ine and Offa which he thought suitable, but also attempted to blend old Celtic and Germanic customs together with the principles of the Mosaic and Christian laws. This then became the foundation for our Common Law.

Although Shires later spread throughout Anglo-Saxon England, it is thought to have been during the reign of King Alfred that they were created as administrative areas within the kingdom and then smaller areas, termed Hundreds established within the Shires. These were ruled, under the King, by Ealdormen who were responsible for law and order and for providing justice. Both the *Shires and the Hundreds* had their own courts (the earlier Folkmoots) which were run by local dignitaries. The Hundred Courts, which met every four weeks, dealt with petty crime in their own area, while the Shire Courts, which met twice a year and were overseen by an Agent of the King and dealt with more serious crime within the Shire as a whole. These courts also allocated the gold which had been collected as tax by the 'shire-reeve' or peace officer.

As burhs (boroughs or fortified towns) were gradually built during King Alfred's reign, similar courts, held three times a year, were also founded within them and this system existed until this whole structure of local government was replaced in 1889 by the introduction of county councils. The Shire Courts were held in the open air, using different locations for its meetings, as did the gatherings of the King's Witan. However, it was the King himself who determined the Witan's meeting times, the three main ones being held at Christmas, Easter and Whitsuntide. These then became the origin of the Courts of Assize, periodic courts of justice held around England and Wales until 1972 when they were replaced by a single permanent Crown Court.

The Origins of English Law and Parliament is continued on Page 4.

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

Stoneseeker Tours
www.stoneseeker.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

Pewsey 6 Oct
16th Convention of Archaeology
and Earth Mysteries
www.stoneseeker.net

Axminster 12 Oct
Axminster Health and
Wellbeing Exhibition
www.axminsterwellbeing.com

Glastonbury 19 Oct
Faery Weekend
www.faeryevents.com

Glastonbury 19 Oct
Faery Ball
www.faeryevents.com

TALKS

London 1 Oct
Sacred Sounds Gong Bath
Olaf Nixon
Tel. 0207 589 3292

Glastonbury PLG 2 Oct
Gentleness. The Heart of Yoga
Thalia Brown
Tel. Samia 07930 007419

Glastonbury 2 Oct
Meeting of the Pagan Moot
Tel. Tim 07747 897 621

DEMG at Stapehill 3 Oct
Desire Paths. A New Line
on the Ley
John Billingsley
Tel. Steve 01258 881008

Stroud 4 Oct
Free Equal and Mutual
Rudolf Steiner's Social Vision
Martin Large & Steve Briault
Tel. 01453 759034

Totnes 4 Oct
Something Completely Different.
Libra and the Astrological Chart
for the Monty Python Show
David Matthews
Tel. 01803 867145

London 5 Oct
How to Protect Yourself
from the Demonic Attacks of
Electro-Magnetic Radiation
and Vaccines
Are Thorseon
Tel. 0207 723 4400

London 8 Oct
the Human Organism and
the Plant World.
A Healing Relationship
Dagmar Steffelbauer
Tel. 0207 723 4400

Chulmleigh 8 Oct
Medicine Wheels
Heather Darwin
Tel. 01363 877352

Ryde PLG 10 Oct
Hypnotherapy & Regression
Ellemeik Drucker
Tel. Dana 07879 021521

Bath 10 Oct
Why Don't We All Heal?
Lyn Stones
Tel. Sian 0758 2111971

Glastonbury PLG 10 Oct
the Way of the Rose
Halima
Tel. Samia 07930 007419

Rode 10 Oct
Glastonbury Underground
What Lies Beneath that
Holiest Earthe?
Geoff Stray
Tel. 01373 831046

Cardiff 11 Oct
Is 5G Safe?
Ian Crane
info@iancrane.com

Beaconsfield 13 Oct
Working with Your Plant Spirit
Allies to hold Your Centre and
Maintain Your Energetic
Sovereignty
Davyd Farrell
Tel. Susan 01494 813214

London 17 Oct
An Evening of Spirit
Communication
Gordon Smith
Tel. 0207 589 3292

Taunton 18 Oct
the Long Goodbye
A Psycho Social of Endings
of Life in Therapy
Jane Woodend
Tel. 01278 663215

Bristol 18 Oct
Albion Dreamtime
Re-enchanting the Isle
of Dragons
Peter Knight & Sue Wallace
Tel. Rory 07748 734127

North Hill 20 Oct
Crystals and Crystal Healing
Sue Weaver
Tel. 01566 774902

Crewkerne 21 Oct
Albion Dreamtime
Re-enchanting the Isle
of Dragons
Peter Knight & Sue Wallace
collingridge1@sky.com

Woodshaw 21 Oct
Mead Magic and Medicine
Chris Park
wyyverndowsing@gmx.com

Bath 21 Oct
Bath Storytelling Circle
Tel. David 01225 482170

Burnham on Sea 22 Oct
Lions Light Aura Photography
Ian Fello
Tel. 07776 306125

Axminster 26 Oct
Learn the Art of Smudging
Adela Mei
Tel. 01297 32331

London 26 Oct
Theosophy and Human
Evolution
Peter Brierly
Tel. 0207 563 9817

**WORKSHOPS &
COURSES**

Forest of Dean 3 Oct
Shifting Terrain
Eco Shamanic Course
Mandy Pullen
Tel. 01594 541850

Stroud 4 Oct
Rudolf Steiner's Future Thinking
What Kind of Society do we
Want and How Do We Get There
Martin Large & Steve Briault
Tel. 01453 759034

Glastonbury 4 Oct
Mindful Writing
Joy Kenwood & Ana Salote
Tel. 01458 831154

London 5 Oct
the Medium
Maria Antoniou
Tel. 0207 589 3292

Forres 5 Oct
Active Hope. Nourishing
Our Capacity to Act
for Life on Earth
Jacqueline Buckingham &
Margo von Greta
Tel. 01309 690311

Woodbury Salterton 6 Oct
Writing in Nature
Roselle Angwin
Tel. 01548 821004

Glastonbury 6 Oct
Divine Union Soundbath
Dean Carter
Tel. Dean 01935 389655

London 8 Oct
Finding Stillness
Mike Buckley
Tel. 0207 723 4400

Stroud 10 Oct
Create a Singing Bowl
Ton Akkermans &
Caroline Schomper
Tel. 01453 759034

Cattistock 11 Oct
Messages and Meaning
Merrily Harpour
jwbharpur@leircom.net

Stour Row 12 Oct
Angels of Sound Playshop
& Sound Therapy
Practitioner Course
Dean Carter
Tel. Dean 01935 389655

London 12 Oct
Shadow Integration
Gold in the Lotus
Charlie Morley
Tel. 0207 589 3292

Forres 12 Oct
Permaculture
Craig Gibsons
Tel. 01309 690311

London 12 Oct
Karma Study Day
Elizabeth Crofts
Tel. 0207 563 9817

Stour Row 13 Oct
Divine Union Soundbath
Dean Carter
Tel. Dean 01935 389655

Stroud 14 Oct
Embodied Leadership
A Retreat for Women
Bee Jams & Lesley Joy Quilty
Tel. 01453 759034

London 15 Oct
Own Your Energy
Alla Svirinskaya
Tel. 0207 589 3292

London 17 Oct
Studies in the Sermons of
Meister Eckhart
Neville Crofts
Tel. 0207 563 9817

Stroud 18 Oct
Being Centered
Tai Chi and Conscious
Movement
Paul King
Tel. 01453 759034

London 18 Oct
Developing Your Mediumship
Gordon Smith
Tel. 0207 589 3292

Forres 19 Oct
Shaping Our New Future
with the Sidhe
Soren Hauge & Sussie
Luscinia Nielsen
Tel. 01309 690311

Exeter 19 Oct
Arise Divine Being
Chris Bourne
Tel. 01458 830443

London 19 Oct
Creative Ways to be Psychic
Geoffrey Beitz
Tel. 0207 589 3292

Cranborne 19 Oct
Sing Your Heart Out
Sarah and Gilo
Tel. 01202 885294

Wimborne 20 Oct
Divine Union Soundbath
Dean Carter
Tel. Dean 01935 389655

London 20 Oct
the Magical Mystery School
Maggie Whitehouse
Tel. 0207 589 3292

Ashburton 20 Oct
Introduction to Dowsing
Gwyn Paulett
Tel. 01363 877352

London 21 Oct
Conquer Your Addictions
with Kundalini Yoga
Gemma Bliss
Tel. 0207 589 3292

London 24 Oct
Crystals for Health
and Wellbeing
Valerie Pitts
Tel. 0207 589 3292

Stroud 25 Oct
the Art in Listening
Authentic Sound
Contemporary Soul
Nicholas & Ra Twilley
Tel. 01453 759034

London 25 Oct
Journey Intensive
Brandon Bays & Arnold
Timmerman
Tel. 01656 890400

London 26 Oct
Using Doodling to Develop
Psychic Ability
June Elleni Laine
Tel. 0207 589 3292

Axminster 26 Oct
Learn the Ancient Art
of Smudging
Adela Mei
Tel. 01297 32331

Oborne 27 Oct
Divine Union Soundbath
Dean Carter
Tel. Dean 01935 389655

LIGHTWORKER GROUPS

Global Meditation Event
1 Oct 9pm
www.networkoflight.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

New York 13 Oct
Libra Sunday
Transforming Planetary
Consciousness Webinar
UN Meditation as
Planetary Service
UN@aquaac.org

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

Axminster (Fridays)
Spiritual Awareness Group
Tel. 01460 221522

Poole (1st Sunday)
Dialogues of the Heart Tara
Divina Brown
Tel. 01202 604340

Wanstrow (alt Tues)
Lightworker Group
Tel. Marina 01373 465848

TRIPS, TOURS & VISITS

Menorca 13 Oct
Menorca's Mysterious
Talayotic Culture
Megalithic Tours
Tel. 01772 728181

Wiltshire 13 Oct
Full Moon at West Kennet
Longbarrow
Peter Knight
Tel. 01249 823287

Glastonbury 20 Oct
Dowsing Glastonbury Abbey
Somerset Dowisers
Tel. 07703 660884

Lancashire 26 Oct
Pendle Witch Day
Megalithic Tours
Tel. 01772 728181

Burnham on Sea 27 Oct
Samhain Ritual
Tel. Sue 07776 306125

Wessex Research Group Network

www.Mindspiritnetwork.com
Bath Storytelling Circle.
Tel. 01225 482170

Earthstars Sacred Space
www.earthenergynetwork.co.uk
www.body-spirit.co.uk

www.fire-in-the-head.co.uk

www.chalicewell.org.uk

Thames Valley Dowisers
www.thamesvalleydowisers.org.uk

www.libraryofavalon.org.uk

Glastonbury PLG
www.glastonburyplg.co.uk

www.positivelivinggroups.org.uk

www.theosophical-society.org.uk

www.fisu.org/en

www.faeryevents.com

www.openhandweb.org

www.stargaia.com

www.RILKO.net

www.Enneagram-uk.com

www.sacredconnections.co.uk

fifthdimensionalnetwork.net

www.networkoflight.org

www.megalithictours.com

www.gauntshouse.com

www.educationaid.net

www.collegeofpsychicstudies.co.uk

Wyvern dowisers
Bea Menier 01793 694943

www.energeticsolutions.co.uk

www.kabbalahcentres.com

www.caduceus.info

www.ihs.ac

newhumanitymovement.com

www.waverleydowisers.co.uk

www.tamar-dowisers.co.uk

www.devondowisers.org.uk

Society of Leyhunters

www.leyhunters.co.uk

World Peace Mission
Tel. 01736 362371

Glastonbury Pagan Moot
Tel. 07747 897621

The Origins of English Law and Parliament (continued)

During King Alfred's reign, the duties of the Witan were extended to discussion of such things as taxation, defence and foreign policy. But before the Norman Conquest of 1066 and the imposition of primogeniture, the Witan's greatest responsibility was that of electing the next King.

When William, Duke of Normandy, took the English throne in 1066 he introduced harsh laws to control his new subjects but did keep many which pertained to local customs and regulations. He also retained a smaller Witan with fewer duties which was then called the Curia Regis or King's Council. A larger group of noble advisers was then formed, known as the Magnum Concilium or Great Council which formed the basis of the modern House of Lords.

However, during the next 150 years William I and his descendants took more and more power to themselves under their perceived Divine Right of Kings which resulted in a rebellion by the Barons and the signing by King John of the Magna Carta in 1215. For the first time in history, this declared the sovereign to be subject to the rule of law and documented the liberties held by 'free men'. While not perfect, this Great Charter did provide the foundation for individual rights in Britain and elsewhere which have lasted until today.

Unfortunately the spirit of the Charter was later broken which resulted in more rebellions by the Barons and people and it was not until 1265 that a more representative Parliament was assembled by Simon de Montfort, the revolutionary Earl of Leicester who at that time was ruling England in place of the imprisoned King Henry III. He summoned not only lay magnates but two knights from each county and two citizens from each town and four men from each of the Cinque Ports. Although in 1295 a 'Model Parliament' was called by King Edward I and is said to be the model for later Parliaments, it is Simon de Montfort's Parliament of 1265 which is usually regarded as being the first English Parliament and Simon de Montfort himself is often regarded as the founder of the House of Commons. Indeed, in 1965 the Parliament of the United Kingdom presented a loyal address to Queen Elizabeth II to mark the 700th anniversary of Simon de Montfort's Parliament.

But perhaps during this century the Sovereign, the House of Lords and the House of Commons, if they still exist, might look back to the year 450 and also celebrate the Anglo-Saxons and others who brought to this country the very traditions from which the British sense of democracy has grown over the centuries.

To promote an event or submit a contribution to the newsletter email Robert at robertmulliss900@uwclub.net or log on to www.wessexresearchgroup.org

Book Review: Afterlife. A Modern Guide to the Unseen Realms"

By Ian Lawton

Afterlife presents a comprehensive well researched study of the afterlife. Part 1 provides the evidence for why the existence of the afterlife is an inescapable fact, including modern scientific views of the 'hard problem of consciousness', and evidential cases of human consciousness operating separately from the physical brain from the spheres of mediumship, remote-viewing, NDEs and OOBES.

Part 2 looks at the big picture and tackles contextual questions such as whether there are multiple universes, holograms or 'versions of the experience game', whether our human experience is different from others, and what we really mean by phrases such as *physical* and *out-of-body*. It also lays out the 'astral routemap model' in outline, comparing it to the theosophical schema (see Figure 1).

Part 3 covers the 'planes of confusion, delusion and obsession', with vivid accounts of spirits trapped in the near-earth and lower astral planes, of the various hells both self-imposed and collectively created, and of the fate that can await those who refuse to countenance any possibility of an afterlife. It also discusses the extensive help available from higher realms in terms of rescue and retrieval.

Part 4 covers the 'planes of transition, recreation and illusion' of the mid astral, which is where the majority of departed spirits find themselves. It describes the sort of healing and acclimatisation required, and the ubiquitous and oh-so-revealing life review, but it also explores the wondrous conditions of this new environment where everything is created by thought, travel is instantaneous, all communication is telepathic, and sound and colour and so on are magnificently enhanced. It describes heavenly homes and cities too, and the almost unlimited scope for pleasurable recreations, before turning to the idea that even these heaven worlds are essentially an illusion – as demonstrated by the huge numbers of departed spirits who, for example, cling to earthly religious beliefs and communities. It also revisits the concept of reincarnation, and asks whether space-time continues to dominate the mid astral sufficiently that departed spirits can get trapped in an essentially illusory cycle of what *appear* to be consecutive lives.

Finally Part 5 turns to the higher 'planes of learning, progression and integration' – that is, what I refer to as the upper astral, mental, superconscious and metaconscious planes

"Afterlife: A Modern Guide to the Unseen Realms" by Ian Lawton, available from Amazon US and UK, 516pp, £14.99