



Wessex Research Group Network Newsletter

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 12.

December 2014

December beckons and is festooned with a variety of events. Dowsing Spirits end this year with a move to a new location that of Darley in North Yorkshire. For further information contact Adrian Incedon Webber at www.dowsingspirits.co.uk

The latest addition to the Wessex on-line article archive www.wessexresearchgroup.org/literary_resources.html is *Telepathic Consciousness in Higher Dimensions of Heart, Mind and Body* by Peter Borys

The latest addition to the Wessex on-line lecture archive www.wessexresearchgroup.org/digital.html is *Living Water* by Ted Pawloff

The Status of Women in Anglo-Saxon England

By Sonya Jay Porter

In general, Anglo-Saxon England was a golden age of independence, power, wealth, and education for women.

Many Saxon mercenaries were already living in Britain on what was called the Saxon Shore, at the time the Romans left just after the start of the fifth century, but they and their close neighbours the Angles and the Jutes from northern Europe, then came and settled in many parts of Britain. Fights for territory between the war lords raged until the 10th century, with the Danish Vikings arriving to join in during the 9th century, but gradually individual kingdoms were established and under the Saxons great rafts of laws were established. In spite of time and wars, many of these have survived.

The first were perhaps those of King Aethelbert of Wessex in the mid 7th century and they continued to be written through the time of Alfred the Great in the late 9th century to that of King Canute who died in 1035. And, perhaps surprisingly, many of these laws dealt with the well-being of women.

Of course, as in later centuries women's status, their rights and duties, would have depended on their social class, but even the 'unfree' or slaves, were given protection. And it was perhaps the daughters of the ruling families who although they had education and status, had less independence for they were likely to be married off as a '*fricwebba*' or peace-weaver into the ruling families of an enemy kingdom. But occasionally, this type of marriage would work well and the woman would achieve great power and



Above: Æthelflæd (from the Cartulary and Customs of Abingdon Abbey, ca 1220).

prestige. Aethelflaed, the daughter of King Alfred of Wessex, for instance, was married to the King of the Mercians and even before her husband died in 911, she exercised a good deal of power. After her husband was killed she became known as Lady of the Mercian's as far as Ireland for her success in battles (some of which she was known to have led herself) to reclaim land which had been lost to the Vikings.

Below the ruling class, the woman had a right to refuse her suitor and even if she agreed, her family would ensure that a marriage agreement was drawn up to her advantage. There was a bride price, but this was not given to the bride's family but to the woman herself on the morning after the wedding and this was to do with as she wished. This '*morgengifu*' or morning-gift, could be anything from a pound's worth of gold or a number of estates to an ox depending on the bridegroom's wealth and position and is still remembered in such names as Mayfield, a town in Sussex.

Laws also made clear that within a marriage the finances were held to be the property of both husband and wife and not of the husband alone.

The Status of Women in Anglo-Saxon England continues on Page 4.

Sherborne & Yeovil
Jennie 01935 817685

Frome WRG
Marina 01373 465848

Totnes Astrology Group
David 01803 867145

Glastonbury WRG
Mike 01458 835620

Weymouth & Dorchester
Roma 01305 816644

Yeovil Psychic Society
www.yeovilpsychics.org.uk
www.dorsetmysteries.org

School of Energy
Healing Educational Trust
www.energyhealing.co.uk

Bristol Dowzers
www.bristoldowzers.co.uk

Joyous Isle workshops
www.joyousisle.com
www.awarenesscentre.org.uk
www.stoneseeker.net

www.dragonseeker.co.uk

Centre for Pure Sound
www.centreforpuresound.org

The Martinsey Isle Trust
www.martinsey.org.uk

Hawkwood College
www.hawkwoodcollege.co.uk

Wellington Pagan Moot
Tel. 01823 665868
www.angellight.co.uk

Taunton Association for
Psychotherapy
www.taplimited.org.uk
www.wccsg.com
www.wrekinforum.org

Theosophical Society in Scotland
www.findhorn.org

Dowsing Spirits
www.dowsingspirits.co.uk

www.theswa.org.uk
www.unicorn-at-rainbows-end.org

Totnes WRG
Jeffrey 01803 866349
www.angelmagic.biz

Aquarian Age Community
www.aquaac.org

Totnes Astrology Group
David 01803 867145
www.thegiftofsound.co.uk

Crewkerne Awareness
anacolourastro.wordpress.com

EVENTS

Bristol 5 Dec
Christmas Social
Bristol Dowzers
Tel. Lea 01749 678834

Stroud 5 Dec
Open Evening
Food Land and Healing
in Celebration of UN Year
of the Soil 2015
www.hawkwoodcollege.co.uk

Thakeham 12 Dec
Angel Gathering Circle
to Celebrate Christmas
Justine@angeldivinity.com

London 12 Dec
Open Evening
College of Psychic Studies
www.collegeofpsychicstudies.co.uk

Wimborne 13 Dec
Gaunts House
Christmas Concert of
Classical and
Seasonal Music
www.gauntshouse.com

Woodshaw 15 Dec
Christmas Social
Wyvern Dowzers
www.wyverndowsing.freereserve.co.uk

Alwston 20 Dec
Yule Ceremony
www.firestartherapies.co.uk

Forres 20 Dec
Christmas Retreat
www.findhorn.org

Glastonbury 21 Dec
Winter Solstice
Ceremony
www.chalicewell.org.uk

Stroud 21 Dec
Solstice Spiral
Ceremony
www.hawkwoodcollege.co.uk

Glastonbury 25 Dec
Free Garden Admission
www.chalicewell.org.uk

Forres 27 Dec
New Year Celebration
www.findhorn.org

Iona 27 Dec
New Year Retreat
www.findhorn.org

Forres 27 Dec
New Year Retreat
Turning Within
Moving Onward
www.findhorn.org

Glastonbury 29 Dec
New Year Retreat
www.openhandweb.org

Glastonbury 31 Dec
Avalon Faery Party
www.faeryevents.com

TALKS

Melksham 1 Dec
Heal Your Home
Adrian Incedon Webber
Tel. Tess 07713 573333

Poole PLG 2 Dec
Perceptions and Beliefs
Juliet Vorster
Tel. Sarah 07919343613

Bransford 3 Dec
Creating Sacred Space.
How to Charge an
Atmosphere with Positivity
Kate Bird
Tel. 01452 840033

Glastonbury 3 Dec
Meeting of the Pagan Moot
Tel. Tim 07747 897 621

London (TS) 3 Dec
Psychic Pets
Rupert Sheldrake
Tel. 0207 563 9817

Frome 4 Dec
3 Trance Channels Come
Together for the First Time
Simon Rowe, Damien Jordan
and Harry Ferwerda
Tel. Marina 01373 465848

Bridport 4 Dec
Meeting of the Pagan Moot
Tel. 07539316595

DEMG at Stapehill 4 Dec
the Art of Psychic Questing
Andy Collins
Tel. Dave 07977 144147

Bransford 5 Dec
Diana Divine Healing
an Evening of Love, Healing
and Channelling
Anne Stewart
Tel. 01452 840033

North Hill 7 Dec
Belief and Disbelief
Alan Neal
Tel. 01566 774902

London (TS) 7 Dec
the Paranormal as a force for
Positive Transformation
Graham Aldridge
Tel. 0207 563 9817

Glastonbury PLG 10 Dec
Divinicus
Chris Bourne
Tel. Glen 01458 833950

Bristol 14 Dec
Meet Your Totem Animal
Celia Gunn
Tel. Lea 01749 678834

Crewkerne 15 Dec
Angel and Unicorn Healing
Fiona Pinney
collingridge1@sky.com

Bath 15 Dec
Bath Storytelling Circle
Tel. David 01225 482170

Poole PLG 16 Dec
Laughter Yoga
Heidi Bennett
Tel. Sarah 07919343613

Newport IoW 16 Dec
Heilagmanoth (Holy Month) of
December, its festivals, traditions
and the coming of the light
Judith Lock
Tel. Dana 01983 874 645

Glastonbury PLG 17 Dec
the Science of Sound Healing
Jen Jen
Tel. Glen 01458 833950

**WORKSHOPS &
COURSES**

Glastonbury 1 Dec
the Template
Sacred Geometry
Claudie Planche
Tel. 01458 835506

Forres 6 Dec
Spiritual Practice Tarot
Jorn Fiebig
Tel. 01309 690311

Forres 6 Dec
Falling in Love with
Where You Are.
Embracing the Pain
and Joy of Life
Jeff Forster
Tel. 01309 690311

Milford on Sea 7 Dec
Vocal and Soundbath
Lorna Heath
Tel. 01590 642994

West Yelland 7 Dec
Awakening to your
Spiritual Truth
Valery Coburn
Tel. 01271 860317

Middle Piccadilly 13 Dec
Inka Wisdom Introductory
Elaina Harvey
Tel. 01963 23468

Milford on Sea 17 Dec
Vocal and Soundbath
Lorna Heath
Tel. 01590 642994

Stroud 21 Dec
Rekindling the Light
Firelight, Starlight, Storylight
Kevan Manwaring
Tel. 01453 759034

Oborne 28 Dec
Divine Union Soundbath
Dean Carter
Tel. Dean 01935 389655

**LIGHTWORKER
GROUPS**

Global Meditation Event
1 Dec 9pm
www.networkoflight.org

London (CPS) 4 Dec
Menspeak
Personal Development
Group for Men
Kenny D'Cruz
Tel. 0207 589 3292

New York 5 Dec
UN Meditation as
Planetary Service
UN@aquaac.org

Thakeham 12 Dec
Meditation Evening
Justine van de Weg
Justine@angeldivinity.com

Bournemouth (Alt thursdays)
The Spiritual Exchange
www.meetup.com

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

Glastonbury (Saturdays)
Shamanic Bowl Sound Bath &
Guided Visualisations
Corrina Thorby & Cara
Tel. 07763 343612

Alweston
Meditation Group
Pauline Elsworth
Tel. 01963 23705

Weymouth
Earthbound Bug or
Butterfly. Spiritual
Development Group
Tricia Davis
Tel. 0783 3164615

Bournemouth
(3rd Thursday of month)
Universal Law of Attraction
monthly meet up
sallyehallum@yahoo.co.uk

Ringwood (weds)
Yoga & Meditation
Tel. 07976547606

Totnes (fridays)
Astrology Group Meeting
Tel. David 01803 867145

Sturminster Newton
Safe Journey Resource
and Drop in Centre
Martinsey Isle Trust
Tel. Judith 01258 475125

Glastonbury (1st Tues)
Ascension Exchanges
Meditation Group
Tel. 01458 830443

TRIPS, TOURS & VISITS

Wiltshire 6 Dec
West Kennet Full
Moon Gathering
Peter Knight
Tel 01249 823287

Scotland 6 Dec
Rosslyn and Edinburgh
at Christmas
Megalithic Tours
Tel 01772 728181

Wiltshire 21 Dec
West Kennet Winter
Solstice Gathering
Peter Knight
Tel 01249 823287

Creating Guardians of the Gates

By Christian Hummel

One can hardly pass a garden these days without seeing a statue of St. Francis, Buddha, Quan Yin or another religious figure installed there. Perhaps unknowingly, the owners have created a "guardian" of their property by installing such figures. Despite the country, religion or culture, as you begin to look for them, you will find these "guardians of the gates" wherever you go.

Gateways of all types are important to the energy flow of a property and a home. Many of the temple builders throughout the world understood the importance of these gateways, and consequently often installed temple guardians at the gateways to the property or building.

Perhaps the most famous and obvious temple guardians are those found guarding the Egyptian temples. Hovering up to 50 feet tall in some cases, these "guardians" surely would have intimidated any who entered.

In the Christian churches and Cathedrals, one finds Mother Mary, or Archangel Michael standing watch over the temple gates.

Often when entering Indian homes there are elaborate mandalas on the ground at the entry way. In China, the lion is the traditional temple guardian, holding a specific symbol, the Flower of Life, in his paw.

In India, the doorways are protected with sacred symbols that act as the temple "guardians" transforming any harmful energy before they are permitted to enter the temple. In the Jewish tradition, the mezuzah, a scroll with biblical passages on one side and a name of God on the other, is attached to doorways of houses and temples to "initiate" those who enter the property.

Associated with each of these figures there is a devic being that will obey the intentions of its owner. Symbols too can be used in this manner. You can use any symbol that has significance to you.

When installing your own "guardians of the gate," be sure to acknowledge them whenever you pass by, as the energetic "Guardians" behind the idol or symbols respond to your attention.

For further information about Christian's research visit www.earthtransitions.com

Wessex Research Group Network

www.Mindspiritnetwork.com

Bath Storytelling Circle.
Tel. 01225 482170

the London Forum.

www.body-spirit.co.uk

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

www.challicewell.org.uk

www.unicorncentre.co.uk

www.mysticklight.com

www.thamesvalleydowsers.org.uk

www.libraryofavalon.org.uk

Glastonbury PLG

www.glastonburyplg.co.uk

Poole PLG

Sarah 07919343613

Bristol PLG - New Dimensions
Lea 01749 678834

Newport Isle of Wight PLG

www.positivelivinggroups.org.uk

www.theosophical-society.org.uk

www.fisu.org/en

www.faeryevents.com

www.openhandweb.org

www.stargaia.com

www.white-elk-woman.com

www.RILKO.net

www.Psychic-Sanctum.co.uk

www.Enneagram-uk.com

www.sacredconnections.co.uk

fifthdimensionalnetwork.net

www.networkoflight.org

www.megalithictours.com

www.gauntshouse.com

www.educationaid.net

Sea Spirit Centre

<http://spiritual-courses.co.uk>

www.collegeofpsychicstudies.co.uk

Wyvern dowsers

www.wyverndowsing@freeserve.co.uk

www.energeticsolutions.co.uk

www.kabbalahcentres.com

www.caduceus.info

www.ihs.ac

newhumanitymovement.com

www.waverleydowsers.co.uk

www.tamar-dowsers.co.uk

The Status of Women in Anglo-Saxon England (continued)

Earlier laws even ensured that a woman could walk out of a marriage which did not please her and if she took the children with her she was entitled to take half the property -- a right not given again until the 20th century. Until the time of the Danish King Canute when adultery by a woman was severely punished, a financial penalty was the only one imposed on a woman. Another law which existed from about 700 onwards and in this case continued by King Canute, ensured that a wife could not be held guilty for any criminal activity of her husband unless she, too, was found to have been involved.

In Anglo-Saxon England the law of primogeniture did not exist and both sexes could be left property and goods so that a woman could, for instance, inherit not only from her husband but also from her own family. In one will of the later Anglo-Saxon period, Wulfgeat of Donnington left most of his property to his wife and daughter but only a bequest to a grandson and many women owned and ran estates which had been left to them. Laws dating from the time of King Ine of the late 7th century ensured that widows and fatherless children with little in the way of money or land were safeguarded by their kinfolk.

A degree of education would have been necessary for women to have run any large estates and also to have been nuns after Christianity was reintroduced into England from the 7th century onwards, especially as Abbesses ran both nunneries and monasteries when these were a double foundation. Indeed, King Alfred, at the end of the 9th century, assumed that 'all free-born young people ... should be set to learning', using the word 'geong' or young, which at that time meant both boys and girls.

As in all ages, the women in Anglo-Saxon England were regarded mainly as homemakers, and their work was usually involved with cloth -- weaving, spinning, the making of clothes, etc. Women in the upper classes were renowned throughout Europe as embroiderers of gold thread, especially of church vestments and hangings. But women on the lower social rungs could so have the equivalent of 'careers'. The Anglo-Saxon female suffix of 'stere' is still current today in the word 'spinster' and various surnames. Women could be 'baxters' or bakers, 'brewsters' or brewers or even entertainers, 'sangsters' and although the only work on a farm for them was in the dairy, women exclusively were the gardeners in monasteries and nunneries.

While it is true that in Anglo-Saxon England would have faced the hardship and danger common in that age, especially in childbirth, they enjoyed more equality and freedom in England than until the recent past. In fact, it would take almost 900 years before they would enjoy such status in this country again. For further information about Sonja's research email Sonyaporter@aol.com

To promote an event or submit a contribution to the newsletter email Robert at robertmulliss@btinternet.com or log on to www.wessexresearchgroup.org

Book Review: Finding Work Life Balance - Achieving Fulfilment at Every Stage of Life

By Jos van der Brug

At different stages of life, we approach work with varying levels of energy drive and perspective.

Many people feel unfulfilled in their work, or feel their work-life balance is hopelessly wrong. Jos van der Brug's readable and informal book helps the reader to understand why and how our working lives evolve at different ages and provides helpful tips for cooperation and leadership within a team of diverse members. In-depth case studies also offer insight into the impact our professional lives can have upon our personal lives, and vice versa. For further information log on to www.florisbooks.co.uk. Available also as an ebook.

Book Review: Dowsing - the Virtual Bridge

by Nigel Twinn

Everyone can dowse. A little tuition and a modicum of private practice will help, but it is a natural, virtually universal, human ability. However, dowsing can be both a simple, useful, practical skill -- but also a portal onto a radical new view of the world around you. Modern dowsing embraces a vast spectrum of ideas and applications.

In this eBook, author and dowser Nigel Twinn explores his own journey, from novice dowser to experienced questor. It is a journey that has taken him from the end of the road to the ends of the earth -- and he's still travelling, both physically and metaphorically.

Written over the last decade as a series of short essays, the author describes many of the people and the phenomena that he has encountered, both in the British Society of Dowsters and in the wider dowsing community. The reader is left looking at their own life, and wondering if the events that have shaped their own understanding of reality were quite what they seemed at the time -- and, indeed, if their current existence could similarly be enhanced with the aid of a couple of pieces of bent wire! Log on to <http://nigeltwinn.org> for more information. The book is also available from Smashwords at: <https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/414065>

Release By Marina King

I release the pain and let the joy flood in
Like golden sunshine after rain
For lifetime after lifetime I've been haunted by the pain
Of unresolved emotions from Earthly lessons learned
Time to let them go with all the bridges burned
The past is done and over
My place in the sun hard earned