

Wessex Research Group Network

Newsletter

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 12.

December 2015



December 2015. The month ahead contains all manner of events festive and otherwise.

The Traditions of Christmas

By Byron Plane

Many people (myself included) will erect a decorated tree for the Christmas period. But how many of us understand the symbolic importance of the evergreen tree 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 remained. 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 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 diarrhea and stomach pain.

The origins of Santa Claus lie rooted in the life of a fourth century Greek Orthodox bishop named Nikolaos of Myra. Nikolaos was well on the way to becoming associated with Santa Claus by the time he reached Holland, 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.

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. 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.

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. A consideration of the spiritual aspect of Christmas balances the increasingly materialistic and stress-filled Advent and festive seasons. Whoever we are, whatever we believe and however we celebrate, we can all honour the true spirit associated with this time of year.

Frome WRG
Marina 01373 465848

Glastonbury WRG
Jacqui 07516816915

Weymouth & Dorchester
Roma 01305 816644

Yeovil Psychic Society
www.yeovilpsychics.org.uk

Dorset Earth Mysteries
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

Axminster Awareness Centre
www.awarenesscentre.org.uk

Stoneseeker Tours
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

Angelight
www.angelight.co.uk

Taunton Association for
Psychotherapy
www.taplimited.org.uk

Wrekin Forum
www.wrekinforum.org

Theosophical Society in Scotland

Findhorn Foundation
www.findhorn.org

Dowsing Spirits
www.dowsingspirits.co.uk
www.theswa.org.uk

www.unicorn-at-rainbows-end.org

Totnes WRG
Jeffrey 01803 866349

Aquarian Age Community
www.aquaac.org

Totnes Astrology Group
David 01803 867145

The Gift of Sound
www.thegiftofsound.co.uk

Crewkerne Awareness
anacolourastro.wordpress.com

EVENTS

Stroud 1 Dec
Christmas Lunch
at Hawkwood
www.hawkwoodcollege.co.uk

Weymouth 9 Dec
Yule Social
Weymouth WRG
Tel. Roma 01305 816644

Bristol 11 Dec
Christmas Meeting
Bristol Dowzers
www.bristoldowzers.co.uk

London 11 Dec
Open Evening
College of Psychic Studies
www.collegeofpsychicstudies.co.uk

Derbyshire 12 Dec
Christmas at Chatsworth
www.megalithictours.com

Woodshaw 21 Dec
Solstice Social
Wyvern Dowzers
www.wyverndowsing.freeserve.co.uk

Iona 21 Dec
Solstice and Christmas Retreat
www.findhorn.org

Glastonbury 22 Dec
Winter Solstice Celebration
www.chalicewell.org.uk

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

Iona 28 Dec
New Year Retreat
www.findhorn.org

TALKS

Poole PLG 1 Dec
Living with Crystals
Fiona Bittlinski
Tel. Sarah 07919343613

London (CPS) 1 Dec
Telephone Calls from the Dead
Cal Cooper
Tel. 0207 589 3292

Glastonbury PLG 2 Dec
Metaphysical Iridology
Alex Payne
Tel. Samia 07930 007419

Bransford 2 Dec
Attuning and Connecting to
Your Heart, Higher Self
and Soul Aspect
Brietta Pinder
Tel. 01452 840033

London (CPS) 2 Dec
Student Demonstration
of Trance
Elizabeth Roberts
Tel. 0207 589 3292

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

DEMG at Stapehill 3 Dec
the Evolution of Ancient Druidry
Dennis Andrew
Tel. Dave 07977 144147

Frome 3 Dec
Connectivity and
Communication in Nature
Wendy Datta
Tel. Marina 01373 465848

London (CPS) 4 Dec
Wind Down to Winter
Festive Sound Bath
Diana Vernon
Tel. 0207 589 3292

London (CPS) 8 Dec
the Art of Manifesting
Sarah Tyler Walters
Tel. 0207 589 3292

Glastonbury PLG 9 Dec
the Cosmic and Esoteric
Secrets of the Loom
Olaf Christiansen
Tel. Samia 07930 007419

Bristol PLG 13 Dec
Angels and Clairvoyance
Jane Fishlock
Tel. Lea 01749 678834

Poole PLG 15 Dec
Christmas Harmonic
Activation Evening
Lynn Ray
Tel. Sarah 07919343613

Ryde PLG 15 Dec
Understanding the Power
of Art and Spiritual Influence
through Mandala's
Linda Caldicott
Tel. Dana 01983 874 645

Glastonbury PLG 16 Dec
A Demonstration of the
Power of Spirit.
Tareth & Kim Moore Cullen
Tel. Samia 07930 007419

Crewkerne 21 Dec
Ghost Busting
Jennifer Gould
collingridge1@sky.com

Bath 21 Dec
Bath Storytelling Circle
Tel. David 01225 482170

WORKSHOPS & COURSES

London 2 Dec
Death and Rebirth
Colin Price
Tel. 0207 563 9817

Wimborne 3 Dec
Regression Academy
Andy Tomlinson
Tel. 01202 841522

St Leonards 4 Dec
Let's Get Busy With Trance
Lorraine Edwards
Tel. 01424 729518

Stroud 4 Dec
the Western Way
Walking the Path of
the Mysteries
Caitlin & John Matthews
Tel. 01453 759034

Stroud 4 Dec
Resonance
Unlocking the Healing
Power of the Voice
James D'Angelo
Tel. 01453 759034

London (CPS) 5 Dec
the Ladies of the Lake
Exploring the Goddesses
of Avalon
Edwin Courtenay
Tel. 0207 589 3292

Forres 5 Dec
At Play in a Dimension of
Change. An Intuitive
Approach to Hatha Yoga
Louise Simmons
Tel. 01309 690311

London (CPS) 6 Dec
the Amazing Incredible
Wand Workshop
Edwin Courtenay
Tel. 0207 589 3292

Glastonbury 11 Dec
Empowering Women
Workshop
Steph
Tel. 01458 831154

Forres 12 Dec
Spiritual Practice
Introduction to Meditation
John Abdey
Tel. 01309 690311

Milford on Sea 13 Dec
L'il Happy Workshop
Lorna Heath
Tel. 01590 642994

Milford on Sea 16 Dec
Drum Circle
Lorna Heath
Tel. 01590 642994

Forres 21 Dec
Christmas Retreat
Marja Kuijer & James Pretlove
Tel. 01309 690311

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

Glastonbury 28 Dec
5 Gateways Retreat
Chris Bourne
Tel. 01458 830443

Forres 28 Dec
Turning Within Moving Forward
Astrid Gude
Tel. 01309 690311

LIGHTWORKER GROUPS

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

Totnes 18 Dec
Astrology Group Meeting
Tel. David 01803 867145

New York 24 Dec
Transforming Planetary
Consciousness Webinar
UN Meditation as
Planetary Service
UN@aquaac.org

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

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

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

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

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

Alweston
Meditation Group
Pauline Elsworth
Tel. 01963 23705

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

Ringwood (weds)
Yoga & Meditation
Tel. 07976547606

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

TRIPS, TOURS & VISITS

Edinburgh 5 Dec
Rosslyn Chapel and
Edinburgh's Ghouls and Ghosts
Megalithic Tours
Tel 01772 728181

West Kennet 20 Dec
Long Barrow Midwinter
Shamanic
Drumming Meeting
Peter Knight
Tel 01249 823287

Stanton Drew 20 Dec
Site Visit and Meditation
Bristol Dowzers
Tel 07748 734127

Abbotsbury 22 Dec
Winter Solstice Pilgrimage
Peter Knight
Tel. Roma 01305 816644

Brittany 27 Dec
Megaliths of Brittany
Cotes D'Amor
Megalithic Tours
Tel 01772 728181

Round Love

Grace falls silently from the sky landing as circles.

A round sound love arrives in her field's crop too herald awareness,
signing on to assist in our evolution.

The wondrously woven fields of our lady's tresses land so softly,
so suddenly, delivering another page;

teaching us of clean infinite power
in an image of balance and beauty
that is freely given, free for use.

The frequency of the leaves
resound with a profound urgency
to recover the sacred way of knowing,
shaking our very sense of literacy
to return us to the deep peace of humility
as receptivity in deferring to
her majesty.

George Repp November 2015

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.chalicewell.org.uk
www.unicorncentre.co.uk
www.thamesvalleydowers.org.uk
www.libraryofavalon.org.uk

Glastonbury PLG
www.glastonburyplg.co.uk
Poole PLG
Sarah 07919343613

Bristol PLG
Lea 01749 678834

Newport Isle of Wight PLG
www.dana-molecki.com
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 dowers
www.wyverndowsing@freeserve.co.uk

www.energeticsolutions.co.uk

www.kabbalahcentres.com

www.caduceus.info

www.ihf.ac

newhumanitymovement.com

www.waverleydowers.co.uk

www.tamar-dowers.co.uk

www.midsummerearthhealing.co.uk

Book Review: Astronomy and Measurement in Megalithic Architecture

By Peter Harris and Norman Stockdale

This is a small book with a potentially large impact on our appreciation of just how skilled and knowledgeable were the builders and designers of the megalithic structures we find throughout Britain, Ireland and Brittany. Harris and Stockdale have discovered a new standard measurement which they have named the Megalithic Foot. This measurement is used to amply demonstrate a concise relationship between the layout of a site and the passage of sun and moon, showing an intimate understanding of the eclipse year, the solar year, the lunar cycle, the anomalistic month, the metonic cycle and the value of pi. This gives support for a high degree of sophistication achieved by our ancient ancestors.

The authors look at the work of others, in particular Professor Thom. By using their Megalithic Foot they demonstrate a greater correlation with some of Thom's calculations, giving a broader interpretation to some of his findings. Harris and Stockdale contribute greatly to previous findings.

The book is clearly set out and is not impossible for the non-mathematical student to understand, if only to appreciate the perspective it gives onto an ancient world. For more information log on to the website of Northern Earth books www.northernearth.co.uk or email Peter Harris at peterfharris1950@gmail.com

Book Review: Prophet for our Times. The Life and Teachings of Peter Deunov

Edited by David Lorimer

'The whole world bows down before me; I bow down before the Master Peter Duenov – Albert Einstein

Peter Deunov (Beinsa Dounov), who lived in Bulgaria from 1864 to 1944 was a great and inspired teacher of the Perennial Wisdom, that essential thread of truth running through all the world religions. He was an extraordinary man who at once embodied great simplicity and tremendous profundity. All those who knew him testified to the fact that he inspired inner excellence in very ordinary people. His teachings were both direct and clear, and will speak to everybody whatever their creed. Essentially they gave a prescription for living in harmony with others, with the Earth and with the divine.

Prophet for our Times is being bought back into print following Dr Wayne W Dyer's desire to share the work of the philosopher who greatly influenced him. This selection of teachings makes ideal reading for anyone on the spiritual path, for it explains simply and directly how to find

love, wisdom, truth, justice, harmony and balance in life. It also gives advice on techniques of prayer, meditation and visualisation and valuable information on right diet and exercise to assist inner focus and clarity. Peter Deunov's wise words will speak to everyone and will have special appeal to those searching for an authentic spiritual tradition of Western origin. FFI email Hay House UK info@hayhouse.co.uk or Grantham Book Services orders@gbs.tbs-ltd.co.uk

Book Review: Giants on Record

By Jim Vieira and Hugh Newman

Over a 200-year period, thousands of newspaper reports, town and county histories, letters, photos, diaries, and scientific journals have documented the existence of an ancient race of giants in North America. Extremely tall skeletons ranging from 7 feet up to a staggering 18 feet tall have been reportedly uncovered in prehistoric mounds, burial chambers, caves, geometric earthworks, and ancient battlefields.

Strange anatomic anomalies such as double rows of teeth, horned skulls, massive jaws that fit over a modern face, and elongated skulls have also been reported. Many of these discoveries were sent to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C., seemingly never to be heard about again. The Smithsonian's own records describe at least 17 giant skeletons in annual reports. This book examines a possible cover-up initiated by Smithsonian scientists starting in the late 1800s.

The origins of "the tall ones" has been shrouded in mystery for centuries, but this book reveals where they came from, why they got so large, and the reason for their downfall, using the latest scientific research, genetic data, native myths, news reports, and ethnological research. This has become one of the most gripping stories of the last few centuries and for the first time the truth of the giants of North America has been revealed.

This book also considers how early explorers to America witnessed these giants first-hand, including Sir Francis Drake, John Smith and even some of the early presidents.

There is evidence from legends and myths that talk of cannibalistic, red-haired giants. - Strange inscriptions, metal armour, mummified remains, and sophisticated technologies buried with the skeletons. How secret societies such as the Rosicrucians, Freemasons and Theosophists all claim the existence of giant humans in the past as historical fact in their literature. How the giants may be connected to the Denisovans from Siberia, the Nephilim of Bible tradition, and other ancient cultures. Further information about this book can be obtained from www.megalithomania.co.uk

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