

# Wessex Research Group Network *Newsletter*

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 12.

December 2015



**D**ecember 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](http://www.yeovilpsychics.org.uk)

Dorset Earth Mysteries  
[www.dorsetmysteries.org](http://www.dorsetmysteries.org)

School of Energy  
Healing Educational Trust  
[www.energyhealing.co.uk](http://www.energyhealing.co.uk)

Bristol Dowzers  
[www.bristoldowzers.co.uk](http://www.bristoldowzers.co.uk)

Joyous Isle workshops  
[www.joyousisle.com](http://www.joyousisle.com)

Axminster Awareness Centre  
[www.awarenesscentre.org.uk](http://www.awarenesscentre.org.uk)

Stoneseeker Tours  
[www.stoneseeker.net](http://www.stoneseeker.net)

[www.dragonseeker.co.uk](http://www.dragonseeker.co.uk)

Centre for Pure Sound  
[www.centreforpuresound.org](http://www.centreforpuresound.org)

The Martinsey Isle Trust  
[www.martinsey.org.uk](http://www.martinsey.org.uk)

Hawkwood College  
[www.hawkwoodcollege.co.uk](http://www.hawkwoodcollege.co.uk)

Angelight  
[www.angellight.co.uk](http://www.angellight.co.uk)

Taunton Association for  
Psychotherapy  
[www.taplimited.org.uk](http://www.taplimited.org.uk)

Wrekin Forum  
[www.wrekinforum.org](http://www.wrekinforum.org)

Theosophical Society in Scotland

Findhorn Foundation  
[www.findhorn.org](http://www.findhorn.org)

Dowsing Spirits  
[www.dowsingspirits.co.uk](http://www.dowsingspirits.co.uk)  
[www.theswa.org.uk](http://www.theswa.org.uk)

[www.unicorn-at-rainbows-end.org](http://www.unicorn-at-rainbows-end.org)

Totnes WRG  
Jeffrey 01803 866349

Aquarian Age Community  
[www.aquaac.org](http://www.aquaac.org)

Totnes Astrology Group  
David 01803 867145

The Gift of Sound  
[www.thegiftofsound.co.uk](http://www.thegiftofsound.co.uk)

Crewkerne Awareness  
[anacolourastro.wordpress.com](http://anacolourastro.wordpress.com)

## EVENTS

**Stroud** 1 Dec  
Christmas Lunch  
at Hawkwood  
[www.hawkwoodcollege.co.uk](http://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](http://www.bristoldowzers.co.uk)

**London** 11 Dec  
Open Evening  
College of Psychic Studies  
[www.collegeofpsychicstudies.co.uk](http://www.collegeofpsychicstudies.co.uk)

**Derbyshire** 12 Dec  
Christmas at Chatsworth  
[www.megalithictours.com](http://www.megalithictours.com)

**Woodshaw** 21 Dec  
Solstice Social  
Wyvern Dowzers  
[www.wyverndowsing.freeserve.co.uk](http://www.wyverndowsing.freeserve.co.uk)

**Iona** 21 Dec  
Solstice and Christmas Retreat  
[www.findhorn.org](http://www.findhorn.org)

**Glastonbury** 22 Dec  
Winter Solstice Celebration  
[www.chalicewell.org.uk](http://www.chalicewell.org.uk)

**Glastonbury** 25 Dec  
Free Garden Admission  
[www.chalicewell.org.uk](http://www.chalicewell.org.uk)

**Iona** 28 Dec  
New Year Retreat  
[www.findhorn.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:UN@aquaac.org)

**Bournemouth** (Alt thursdays)  
The Spiritual Exchange  
[www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com)

**Poole** (1<sup>st</sup> 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**  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of month)  
Universal Law of Attraction  
monthly meet up  
[sallyehallum@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sallyehallum@yahoo.co.uk)

**Ringwood** (weds)  
Yoga & Meditation  
Tel. 07976547606

**Glastonbury** (1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.Mindspiritnetwork.com)  
Bath Storytelling Circle.  
Tel. 01225 482170  
the London Forum.

[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)  
[www.unicorncentre.co.uk](http://www.unicorncentre.co.uk)  
[www.thamesvalleydowers.org.uk](http://www.thamesvalleydowers.org.uk)  
[www.libraryofavalon.org.uk](http://www.libraryofavalon.org.uk)

Glastonbury PLG  
[www.glastonburyplg.co.uk](http://www.glastonburyplg.co.uk)  
Poole PLG  
Sarah 07919343613

Bristol PLG  
Lea 01749 678834

Newport Isle of Wight PLG  
[www.dana-molecki.com](http://www.dana-molecki.com)  
[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.white-elm-woman.com](http://www.white-elm-woman.com)  
[www.RILKO.net](http://www.RILKO.net)  
[www.Psychic-Sanctum.co.uk](http://www.Psychic-Sanctum.co.uk)  
[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)  
Sea Spirit Centre  
<http://spiritual-courses.co.uk>  
[www.collegeofpsychicstudies.co.uk](http://www.collegeofpsychicstudies.co.uk)

Wyvern dowers  
[www.wyverndowsing@freeserve.co.uk](mailto:www.wyverndowsing@freeserve.co.uk)  
[www.energeticsolutions.co.uk](http://www.energeticsolutions.co.uk)  
[www.kabbalahcentres.com](http://www.kabbalahcentres.com)  
[www.caduceus.info](http://www.caduceus.info)

[www.ihs.ac](http://www.ihs.ac)  
[newhumanitymovement.com](http://newhumanitymovement.com)  
[www.waverleydowers.co.uk](http://www.waverleydowers.co.uk)  
[www.tamar-dowers.co.uk](http://www.tamar-dowers.co.uk)  
[www.midsummerearthhealing.co.uk](http://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](http://www.northernearth.co.uk) or email Peter Harris at [peterfharris1950@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:info@hayhouse.co.uk) or Grantham Book Services [orders@gbs.tbs-ltd.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.megalithomania.co.uk)

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