

The Dragon's Egg

Litha 2002 Newsletter of

The Geomancy Group



Litha 2002

Greetings, friends.

It seems difficult to believe that less than four months has gone by since the last Newsletter but a glance out of the window reveals Nature now fully garbed in the lush greenery of early summer. In fact it is now over a year since we first explored the possibility of continuing to work as a group and considered how this might best be achieved as well as how it might serve us. The group identity continues to evolve and the group and the individuals within it continue to grow.

We had hoped to get this newsletter out at Beltane, but a lot of late-breaking news has meant that we missed that deadline. Hopefully you will have received it by Litha (summer solstice). This is probably our longest newsletter to date; we hope the additional content ameliorates for the late arrival.

Our cover illustration this issue is based on Jamie's wonderful pencil drawing, shown after some initial computer enhancement by Heather (Barry's wife). It still needs work, but has an interesting 'molten glass' feel to it. Many thanks Heather, we know it will only get better!

The key features of the past few months for us have been the publication of the second Response Document, the move to a new online forum, and of course the spectacularly successful Roslin trip. Discussions based on the RD continued throughout that weekend, culminating in the formal Business Meeting on the final day. Grahame has done an excellent job as usual in writing up the Minutes from that session and you will find them below. Furthermore he has done his utmost to summarise the events of the weekend for those who were absent, based on Patrick's comprehensive mapping etc. Many thanks, Grahame.

We'd like to take this opportunity to express our deep and heartfelt thanks and appreciation to, and for, Gordon Strachan, our Chapel guide Jim Munro, and Patrick for a memorable, magickal and mystical introduction to Rosslyn Chapel, Roslin Glen with its varied wildlife, and much more besides.

Ho!



Geomancy Group News

New Geomancy Group Forum

Thanks to the guidance of our Webmaster, Barry, we have moved our online operations to a new Forum at Community Zero. To say that there is no comparison is something of an understatement; it is effectively an internal website. In addition to the ability to post and view messages, we have a wide range of other facilities available to us. There is a private messenger service that allows a user to know who else is currently online and engage in a private real-time textual exchange. Following on from this, we have a Chat Room where a number of members can have a 'conversation'. This capability means that we can schedule online text-based meetings for the whole group. What's more, it's fun!

Some of the most exciting options are based around the file-sharing capabilities of the software. We have already loaded a couple of booklists and some material from previous sessions, as well as all the other Newsletters, Questionnaires etc. The Shared Lists section allows us to have everyone's current contact details to hand. We have also utilised this function to create a list of recommended suppliers and websites of interest.

We now have a Gallery that covers both our Portfolio and General pictures. Another very useful function is the Calendar that allows us to post details of upcoming courses, events etc. We anticipate that this should prove invaluable in scheduling future events. Maria has already posted details of every course and event that we currently know about that may be of interest to us.

The Forum is completely private; we have to send an invitation to a prospective member to allow him or her to join and even then the application has to be approved before the individual may gain access. This means that we should not receive any junk email as our details are not accessible by anyone outside the group, and no outsiders can just 'drop in' by accident.

We have found that some people have had difficulties joining. If this happens, please don't give up but contact Grahame or Maria and we'll do our utmost to get you up and running. When choosing your User Name and Password, you may find that your full name works best as the user name has to be unique across the entire Community Zero subscriber base, not just in our own group; so mine is *mariahayden* for instance. If even this is rejected, try adding a number after it or stick in your initial. User name and password are case sensitive by the way, so you'll need to remember not just what you wrote but also how you entered it (all lower case is less secure but a lot easier to remember). Regarding the password, it's supposed to accept a string of up to 24 characters (no spaces) but in my personal experience, I was allowed to enter no more than 12 characters. Fortunately, the site remembers you the next time you log in, so you don't have to go through all that rigmarole again.

Because joining is by invitation only, we clearly need to have an email address (preferably your own) where we can send this initially. However, once you've joined, you'll be able to access the system wherever you are in the world. It would be useful, though, if each of us had an email address that we accessed even occasionally as there is a group email facility in the software. It is quite strange, having endured so many of Sig and Patrick's appeals to get more people online during the School, to find ourselves in that same position of frustration now. Please do try and make the effort to access the forum; it is such a valuable tool for exchanging information amongst the Group.

Geomancy Group Website

Barry has agreed to do some work on our 'public' website, www.geomancygroup.org, as soon as we can get some material to him. Grahame is working on this project, and once again we'd like ideas for content, pictures, favourite links, articles, etc. Please send to Grahame or Maria. Currently the website contains only an introductory front page, with informative content similar to the brochure (see below).

In the course of my discussions with Barry, he advised that we post a photograph and bio for each of us, indicating our areas of interest etc, at least for those who are interested in being contactable by potential clients. We'll probably also have a few general group pictures, as well as our Portfolio Gallery. To have a picture of yourself and/or your sacred site(s) included, simply email a .jpeg to Grahame or Maria or send a few pictures to one of us in the post so that we may scan them in for you. The same applies to images that you want to add to the forum gallery.

If anyone has a site (your own or a recommended one) that you would like linked in to ours, please advise us of the URL and a contact name if you have one. The more links that we have the better in the longer term but we do need to ensure that the sites in question are suitable for us to be linked with.

Barry has suggested that we go ahead and get the site up and running, working on extra content as we go along. There is no point in posting lots of pages that people don't want to hit; we would be better off to wait and see what people might ask for. Perhaps the old MEG forum can be linked in and re-used as a place for the public to ask us questions on the website.

One of the most useful by-products of the website is that we can each have our own email address @geomancygroup.org. If you would like to avail of this facility, please advise us how you would like your details to appear. For instance, my own could be maria@geomancygroup.org or mariahayden@geomancygroup.org or whatever else felt right. This function can be operational almost immediately.

One of the other features that has been in our minds since the beginning is an online Events Guide, similar to the print version we sent out with the last Newsletter. We are currently unaware of any such resource existing (though The Megalithic Portal does have quite a lot of events listed) for those with our interests. It would probably operate on a similar basis to our Calendar on the Forum, though one of us would have to moderate the content for suitability before non-members could submit anything. Therefore if you have any events that you would like to post where the general public could view them, please advise Grahame or Maria and ensure that we are on the circulation list for any mailings etc. Similarly, if there is any organisation or group with whom you are connected that you feel might be interested in participating, please advise us accordingly, preferably supplying a contact name.

Geomancy Group Brochure

Grahame had produced a prototype Group brochure at the Roslin meeting (see Minutes), which provoked much discussion. Subsequently, Grahame has produced another sample, copies of which are included with this mailing. These are rather poor colour laser copies and we apologise for the quality. The colour balance is too blue and the printout a bit blotchy in places. The original looks much better, as would a properly printed version. On the bright side, the photocopy man was equally apologetic about the colour balance (he was waiting for an engineer to call) and let me have them for a third of the original price!

Please let us know what you think of the look and content of the brochure, and whether you might be interested in having some printed.

Financial Matters

John is happy to report that the Roslin trip went very well and that we ended up with a surplus of £232.56 when all our debts had been settled. This money has gone into the general fund, which now stands at a healthy £352.56.

Our Treasurer would like to remind you all that membership comes at a costly £10 subscription. (The period that this covers is currently unclear as it's used to cover whatever sundry costs we incur). Anyone who has yet to contribute is warmly encouraged to do so. John is happy to accept cheques, notes, gold sovereigns or anything vaguely negotiable on the open market.

Outstanding Items

Despite the fact that we did not manage to fit a Talking Stick round into our last meeting, it is something that we certainly intend to do. We were all in agreement that there were really no outstanding items at the end of the weekend and that the energy had remained remarkably clear throughout.



Roslin Weekend 19-22 April 2002

Minutes from The Geomancy Group meeting on 22 April 2002 during the Roslin weekend.

Present: Sarah, Grahame, Brannie, Sara, John, Maria, Sally, Susie, Jamie, Patrick & Barry

As the meeting had been postponed until the last day, it was felt there was insufficient time available for a full talking stick circle. This meeting was held over lunch in the hotel bar...

Group Identity: are we clear as a Group about how we want to appear to outsiders and clients?

After some discussion, it seemed clear from this weekend that we already have some sort of identity to those outside the Group. We were clearly perceived favourably as a group by both the hotel and Jim Munro, our tour guide for the chapel.

There was some discussion as to whether the Group could serve both those wishing to undertake full geomantic training and those whose interests are more varied. We eventually agreed that this is indeed the case and that we should all be aware of this and accommodate the differences. Summarising everyone's comments, Patrick suggested that our declaration of Group identity should be "as a forum for the study, practice, discussion and promotion of geomancy and geomantic awareness". Everyone seemed generally in agreement with this, and this will be included in the Group brochure.

Brochure & logo: Grahame produced some mock-up brochures for everyone to have a look at, with the intention that we could have some generalised handouts that would explain in broad terms what geomancy was about and the kind of services we offer, without going into too much depth and without mentioning charges. But they would carry the name of the Group, with individual contact details added as required. The general look and feel of the brochure was liked, but there were differences over content. However, many constructive suggestions were made.

People are pretty evenly divided on the logo design, with many feeling that the background gold line appears to strike out the words, whilst others seemed happy with it. Grahame said he would make some changes to the design, ranging from attempting to make the line less prominent and/or making the letters look raised, to alternatives with the text above the line. (Done) We did make some progress in establishing that the basic design has merit and can probably be amended to suit everyone. Various versions of the design are currently on view on the new forum. . Patrick also emphasised that he felt the inclusion of a labyrinth motif on any Group literature would be highly beneficial. Some people couldn't see themselves using the brochure, as they didn't feel it relevant enough to their own work. Grahame offered to customise it as far as possible to individuals,

including their contact details and their own pictures if required. If a suitable file-sharing format could be found, the DTP files could then be sent to individuals for them to get it printed at their local bureau. There was a certain amount of resistance to excessive customisation as a number of people felt that there should be some uniformity in the overall appearance of the brochure, with only the individual contact details being different.

Sally suggested some changes to the actual text (now implemented).

It was felt that the idea of including other skills of the Group was perhaps not a good idea, as it serves only to muddy the waters over what our geomancy is about. Furthermore peoples' special skills will continue to evolve anyway and we want to ensure that clients have up-to-date information.

It was also suggested that we should consider the use of recycled paper for the brochure. Grahame did point out that this may compromise the print quality of the photographs, but promised to look into it.

Bank account: John has been looking into the bank account options. If we want an account with a chequebook, it appears that we have to be properly constituted with office-bearers and all the other frills of bureaucracy. We have indicated at previous meetings that everyone would like to retain our present loose structure if possible. However, it appears this is not an option if we want the ability to write our own cheques. Further investigation is promised, but for the purposes of further exploration of a NatWest chequing account, Maria was elected Chair, with Grahame as Vice-Chair and Sara as Secretary. A proper constitution has still to be produced, but Patrick's suggested "aims of the Group" is a good step towards this.

The current situation with the building society account, though unwieldy, seemed to function adequately during the weekend. Many of the pre-written building society cheques were for incorrect amounts due to Nicola's absence, but John coped admirably with this, although he inevitably had to process a lot of transactions through his own account, which is hardly ideal.

Opening the Group to Others: The Roslin weekend was the perfect time to discuss this as we had Barry along as our guest. Although only a few of us knew him at all beforehand, he blended in incredibly well with the group energy. His presence caused a couple of people who had previously resisted opening the group, to embrace the idea wholeheartedly. Patrick also contributed an outline of the Maple Dragon model. Their experience is that while others being admitted initially diluted the energy a little, it has ultimately been a very positive thing for the group and it is a course of action that he would heartily endorse. Although we have yet to examine the parameters that we might establish for enlargement, it looks as though we have reached consensus that it is the way forward for the Group. The suggestion that we might have some meetings reserved for founding members was rejected as being divisive. Barry has indicated that he would love the opportunity to join us again and Ros Briagha has also indicated a strong interest in joining the Group (*Ros has since been invited to join the online forum*).

Website: Barry informed us that he has found a new, third party community area on the internet that has many more features than our current forum, including the ability to share files and pictures, a chat room, and a calendar, and suggested that we move over to it. It is currently free, and carries no advertising. It's also a totally private set-up, as you have to be invited to join. (Since returning, M, G, B, J & S have been playing with this new facility and customising it to meet our requirements, and are generally very impressed with it. The rest of the Group who have email should by now have received invitations to join).

Barry offered to take some of the pressure off Maria by putting our website together for us, and this was enthusiastically received. Although the new online community serves many of our needs within the Group, it is felt that we still need a public presence on the Internet. (Grahame has since suggested that the old forum could be linked to the website and used as our public interface, where people can ask questions and get advice in the manner of the MAG forum.)

A reminder then, that we still need pictures and content for the website. Pictures of your sacred space, ideas for things we should have on the site, and so on. Please contact Maria or Grahame.

Communications: We are all concerned that group communication is not all that it might be between meetings and this is something that Maria and Grahame would really like to improve. It seems that the new forum presents a remarkable opportunity in this respect, as it will allow us to have online conferences etc. Maria has consistently been resistant to moving to an entirely web-based solution, as it would seem to exclude those who cannot use computers, nor prefer not to do so. However, after much discussion, and input from Jamie on behalf of those in this category, it was agreed that we would indeed move our operations online, with the occasional phone call to fill in anyone outside the system. It would also seem a good idea to have more telephonic communication in any case. We also confirmed that anyone wishing to receive the Newsletter

should pay the £10 subscription fee. It remains to be seen if this is an annual fee (unlikely), a quarterly fee or if we perhaps need to contribute £5 per month for ongoing expenses.

Upcoming Events: Cornwall Nicola has already done a lot of work researching this weekend and we would like to express our thanks for this. However as she didn't make it to Roslin at the last minute, there wasn't much new information to share. Unfortunately, there wasn't an overwhelming enthusiasm for this trip from the people present due to the most popular dates (5-7 July) being unsuitable for most people there, but Maria is going to investigate this further with Nicola and we will probably have a phone poll to try and get a definitive answer on this one. Clearly accommodation will need to be booked very soon if we do wish to go

This has subsequently been cancelled and the weekend will now take place at John's instead.

Summer Camp: This looks exceedingly dubious at the moment, as there didn't seem to be much interest in holding it in August, which had seemed the most suitable time from the questionnaire responses.

Ros' stone circle build for the Welsh Green Gathering: Not much news to report on this, as Ros is still searching for suitable stones. She thinks it likely that, given the time constrictions, the circle will be constructed with smallish stones, allowing a 2-3 day build time

This has subsequently been cancelled as the police have at the last minute rescinded permission for the Green Gathering.

Earth-Healing School: Ali has again offered her course event weekends to the Group as was mentioned in the newsletter. Those that she currently considers of special interest to our group include: 'Creative Earth Healing and Nature Spirits – Earth Art and Creative Communion' with Marty Caine in Cornwall 25-27 May 2002, 'Chakras in the Landscape – Landscape Temples, the Europa Line and Global Grid Activation' with Peter Dawkins in Pembrokeshire 4-7 July 2002, and 'Alignments, Astronomy, Astrology – Astro-drama, Cycles, Lunar & Solar Alignments, Ceremony & Attunements' with Ros Briagha in Glastonbury 13-15 September 2002.

Global Geomancy Gathering: Maria and Grahame reported having been invited to the advance-planning meeting for this, though regrettably neither was able to attend due to the short notice given. Suzie Lee-Vickers has promised to keep us updated on further developments. On Friday 27 September, there will be an informal dinner and forum for working geomancers, followed by the main conference on Saturday and Sunday. These two days will be open to anyone interested in geomancy.

Samhain 2002: The proposition that we hold the Samhain Group weekend in Derbyshire, facilitated by Ali and taught by Patrick, met with general approval. Theme is proposed to be Celestial Mechanics with emphasis on the lunar cycle – Grahame has offered to do a workshop on this, with possible orthographic projection revision, and including several site visits to nearby stone circles to demonstrate approaches to analysing such sites and more nature spirit work from Patrick. Patrick has also offered to teach something about EM and air quality in buildings, and how to correct problems. Ali has done some initial groundwork on this regarding a possible venue that has a limited amount of accommodation across the courtyard available for hire separately, with other cottages, B&Bs etc in the locality. The brief outline of this given on the agenda may have been misleading. The hire cost of the venue was £200, with £400 (weekly rate) being the hire charge for the cottage (sleeps 5) as it's peak period due to half-term holidays. However this proposal has become somewhat redundant because of our experience over the weekend. There was a general feeling that having the Group all staying together had worked wonders for cohesiveness over the Roslin weekend, and this is something that we should strive to continue. Suggestion has been passed back to Ali to see what the alternatives are. Assuming that there isn't a substantial change in costs, Ali estimates that the cost for the weekend will be in the region of £210 plus Friday night's dinner and transport, based on 10 attendees. *We would like to thank Ali for putting this together for us.*

Dates for this are also still floating, as Patrick is due to be a father at the end of September. The initially proposed dates of 18 – 20 October may be too close for comfort, and it was suggested that we try and put this back a weekend to 26-28 October, when Patrick is also available.

As we go to press, it now seems that this is in doubt as the EEG meeting will be held over the last weekend in October and a considerable body of members plan on attending this. Grahame is also currently in doubt about his availability in October. Two weekends in a row is a bit much for quite a few people, especially as this will be half-term holiday. Brannie will have left for New Zealand by 26 October. Sally will also be leaving the country about then to return to India. Our best hope of salvaging this weekend seems to be to tag on to the EEG meeting and try and fit in a session of Group business on Friday evening.

Patrick's other dates in 2003 are 26-27 April, 12-13 July, 6-7 September, 25-26 October, and 1-2 November. We haven't confirmed dates for his two teaching weekends yet, but these are worth pencilling in the diary. We also hope that he may be able to join us in his role as group member on occasion. Please get back to us as soon as possible to notify us of any dates that you may already have booked in for next year. This will allow us to schedule all our meets to facilitate attendance by as many members of the group as possible. It looks as though we will have four main weekends, with the Annual Meeting scheduled to coincide with the Samhain gathering.

Imbolc 2003: Ros Briagha is very keen to host a group weekend over Imbolc (31 Jan – 2 Feb). The venue would be Brithdir Mawr in Wales where she has been building her most recent stone circle. The theme of the weekend would be astrology and ceremonial space construction; looking at what's happening astrologically and then designing a temporary sacred space using local materials to hold a new moon ceremony on the Saturday night. It would be an ideal opportunity to put our training into practice.

There is also a Sweat Lodge available for our private use that weekend. We would like to point out that the Sweat Lodge is entirely optional. Although most of the group participating is likely to be naked as the traditional ceremony calls for, anyone who prefers to do so may wear a swimming costume.

Accommodation for the weekend will be in the youth hostel (that also serves as the venue). This sleeps 12 and has cooking facilities. Local B&B accommodation is available for those that require it, though as was said earlier it would be ideal if we could have everyone under one roof.

Reports from Absent Members: Maryrose and Pam sent greetings; Paul's contribution on the discussion document was read out; Ali's details for the Derbyshire trip were shared; and supportive messages were received from Tony and Sig.

Minutes processed by Grahame and Maria.



Journal of The Geomancy Group Roslin weekend 18-21 April 2002.

Venues: Roslin Glen Hotel, Rosslyn Chapel, Roslin Glen.

Guest teachers: Patrick MacManaway, Gordon Strachan, Jim Munro (chapel guide)

Guests: Barry Hoon (webmaster)

Present: Sarah, Grahame, Brannie, Sara, John, Maria, Sally, Susie, Jamie, Patrick & Barry

We managed to cram an incredible amount of teaching material into this weekend – many thanks to Patrick, Gordon and Jim for their efforts. This account cannot hope to convey the full depth of what was learned, but it will hopefully give a flavour of what we got up to.



Friday: We opened the circle at about 6.30 pm on Friday evening, once everyone had arrived and had a chance to settle in to their rooms. Maria, Sally and Barry had done some work covering the ubiquitous mirrors

and space clearing the function room (a separate building out back of the hotel) during the afternoon, a process continued by Patrick after his arrival. After welcoming Patrick, Gordon and Barry to the circle, a brief outline of the weekend was discussed, before adjourning to the hotel dining room for dinner followed by a pleasant evening in the bar where Patrick did his best to increase our knowledge of malt whisky.

On Saturday morning after opening the circle at 9am, Jim Munro, our guide to the chapel, arrived to lead us on our tour. Jim is the "unofficial" Masonic guide to the chapel. He's a really nice guy and full of loads of legends and tales about the chapel and the vaults, much of which is probably apocryphal, but very interesting nonetheless.

Apparently the chapel was built over the site of a Roman temple of Mithras, and the chapel pillars actually rest on the Roman ones. The vaults were dug within the Roman temple, but deeper than it. He also said that they'd found the outer walls of the vaults during an excavation under the north aisle, and a test hole had been bored into the vault. Allegedly there are fully armoured bodies of knights lying on ledges around the walls...! We're talking serious site guardians here! :)

***Aside:** Barry has since sent me a video of a programme that had been on the History Channel whilst we were at Roslin, about the Knights Templar and their involvement with the Sinclair family and Rosslyn Chapel. It was presented by Andrew Sinclair, and showed scenes of archaeologists scanning the floor and the Apprentice Pillar in the chapel (although it never showed the results of these scans). They also showed some excavations. A hole was drilled downwards from the centre of the nave until the drill penetrated into a void, and a fibre-optic camera was passed down the hole. Unfortunately, the hole kept filling up with debris and they didn't see anything. This struck me as somewhat suspicious, as if they were in fact probing into a void surely the debris should have fallen clear of the hole? The other excavation was under the north aisle, and this seemed to match Jim's description of a side-chamber outside the thick walls of the vault. But nothing conclusive, of course.*

Whilst we had the chapel to ourselves, Jim also showed us a neat trick when he manipulated the energy on the ley that runs through the northeast corner; indeed Susie almost fell over when he did it with her.

We then went downstairs into the sacristy, which is a pretty powerful place. It has several 'mason's marks' and geometric drawings on the walls and, although very plain compared to the ornate chapel upstairs, the atmosphere is if anything more potent. Encouraged by Jim and led by John, we formed a circle and indulged in a major bit of toning that really spiced things up considerably. The air was almost tangible when we stopped. We felt completely isolated and at peace, and were absolutely flabbergasted when we went back upstairs to find the chapel wall-to-wall with people! Several other tours were in progress, and we had to literally push and shove our way around in order to finish our own tour.

Much of the focus of the tour was on the iconography and the Sinclair family connections rather than on the architecture but was fascinating nonetheless. The Chapel has been covered over to 'protect' the roof so we had the opportunity to get a bird's-eye-view of the buttresses etc from the walkways.

Jim really took to the Group, and promised to show us around the Glen the following morning.

Back to the hotel for lunch, then an intensive afternoon of theory from Patrick on 'the complete metaphysics of communication with non-human consciousness'. I cannot hope to do justice to Patrick's wonderful teachings, but will try to summarise the basics. We first looked at the different levels of human consciousness as related to the chakras, and showed how various sorts of non-human consciousness interacted with these. In order to communicate with different levels of beings, we have to move our own consciousness into areas that they can resonate with. A table was constructed with this information, which Patrick has kindly shared:

Functional classification of non-human consciousness

Rests on which vertical level of consciousness a being is primarily holding consciousness in, and therefore what their nature and purpose is, and how human consciousness is able to / likely to interact with them.

1 angelic

Hold higher consciousness for human soul stream - support and inform human activity, do not interfere with human free will and therefore need to be asked for guidance and assistance.

2 elemental consciousness

Mostly physical and / or etheric - collective emotional

3 nature spirit consciousness

Mostly etheric and emotional consciousness - collective mental

4 "Devic" - New Age appropriation of Hindu word meaning "spirit"

Angelic equivalent - hold mental, spiritual and higher consciousness for lower nature spirits and are therefore the beings to consult with regarding pattern and healing and deeper issues of relationship between human and landscape.

We also revised some of the Glastonbury material on the use of the eight-fold Wheel as analytical tool to diagnose trauma or to sell widgets, and looked at different cycles and axes of symmetry of the Wheel.

After an intensely stimulating afternoon, we again had dinner in the hotel restaurant during which Gordon was on top form. Then it was back to the function room for some sacred geometry. Straightaway we kicked off with some practical exercises that Gordon had prepared, which required us to check the geometry of the Chapel on some copied plans that were distributed. Gordon had posed a series of questions to check the overall dimensions of the space and to find the underlying geometry of certain areas. He also spent time explaining the different geometric systems employed by medieval builders, Ad Quadratum and Ad Triangulum, how these interact, and how they were implemented in the chapel geometry. A very stimulating evening, and it didn't prove too taxing for most of us.

On Sunday morning, Jim Munro showed up with his wife and dog to take us on our tour of the Glen. We welcomed them into the circle for attunement before leaving, although I'm not sure what they made of our altar! Gordon unfortunately had other commitments (being Sunday), and didn't manage to join us till late afternoon.

The Glen is a magical place, and there is a definite sense of different areas and layers protected by 'gateways' as you progress deeper into it. Jim and his wife proved to be delightful company, and he showed us some of his 'special places' in the Glen, including the Neolithic cup-and-ring markings, Wallace's cave (regrettably rather inaccessible on the far side of the river), and simulacra like the 'witch's head', the green man, and a rather sinister-looking weed covered rock that his mother had always refused to walk past. Patrick identified it as the 'house' of a rather dark and troll-like earth elemental, so it became known as 'the troll house' after that. A number of us were aware of a very disgruntled elemental lurking behind the 'house' as we talked about it.

Patrick demonstrated how to merge consciousness with a tree, and we all went off to practice communicating with different species of trees. Even Jim and his wife were seen to practice this. Apart from Jim losing their dog as we were leaving the Glen (he turned up later on), it was a very pleasant morning.



After lunch, we were scheduled for another theory session with Patrick but, as the weather was still reasonable, we decided to go back to the Glen once more. Here Patrick taught us how to summon faeries and nature spirits, by invoking childlike emotional joy in ourselves. This proved quite successful with most people reporting at least a heightened sense of awareness of nature; for example all the white anemones around us seemed to turn and look at us!

Further on, we did some work with various interdimensional portals in the rocks, and also a fascinating exercise 'riding the dragon', where consciousness is projected along a ley to the next nodal point or farther, and then returned. Different groups of us brought back similar reports of this experience, which was very encouraging.

Back at the hotel, Patrick shared another of his 'Geomantic Practitioner Maps' with us, showing the various things to consider when approaching a place for a consultation:

Everything to consider when approaching a place

- **Energetic anatomy:**
 - chi paths yin and yang,
 - grid / web capillary matrices
 - ? presence & nature
 - ? free and harmonious flow or traumatised
 - psychic membranes / boundaries
 - ? present or absent
 - ? appropriate and contemporary
 - interdimensional portals
 - ? to where
 - ? appropriate
- **Psychic / mental / emotional residue, place memory / predecessor chi / curses & thoughtforms**
 - ? good, bad or indifferent
- **Spirit consciousness**
 - human
 - ? consciously placed guardian
 - ? "earth bound" due to mental or emotional attachment to place / person / project or don't know they're dead or disbelief in further journey of soul
 - non-human
 - ? nature
 - ? dislocated or traumatised

We spent some further time looking at various classifications of non-human entities, and also analysing the various classifications in the above table, seeing how these can manifest as symptoms of geopathic stress; how to recognise them and how to deal with them. All too soon, it was time for dinner in the restaurant.

By this time Gordon had arrived, in slightly mischievous mood, and we had a hard time prising him away from the table to give his second talk of the weekend. This proved to be a bit of a history lesson on the Chapel, with reference to the Scottish link to King Arthur and Lailoken, the 'Scottish Merlin' and his connections to St. Columba and St. Kentigern, which by an extremely circuitous route brought us to Glasgow Cathedral and the supposed similarity in the geometry of its choir to Rosslyn Chapel, alleged to be a half-scale copy. There are family connections between the Douglas clan, who were heavily involved in the construction of Glasgow Cathedral, and the Sinclairs who built Rosslyn (one of the very wealthy Douglas women having married one of the Sinclairs), so it was a fascinating theory. Nevertheless, I fear Gordon lost many people during this discourse, although I found it very interesting as I've been reading a lot about the Scottish Arthur theory recently. However, things perked up a bit when Gordon handed out plans of Glasgow Cathedral and Rosslyn, and we proceeded to compare the geometries for similarities. Despite our best efforts (particularly Patrick's), we were unable to correlate the two geometries, so concluded that any links between the two ground plans were merely superficial. Regardless of the fact that it was rather late by now, Gordon had yet to get to the bit that we were really interested in: some practical geometry of the Gothic arch. We decided to carry on a little longer and managed to cover the Gothic and the Islamic arches from the Machmus arch (5th) through to the 3rd arch and finally ending with the Lancet arch by which time many of us were sinking from pure exhaustion – it had been a long and intense day.

This session finished rather later than planned and, as Gordon would not be with us the next day, we closed our circle with our fond thanks and farewells, and a small gift of liquid smudge that had been specially prepared for this occasion by Grahame's Priestess (who is a clinical aromatherapist), and charged in her 3-circuit Hecate's labyrinth at the Full Moon. This seemed to impress Gordon at any rate!

On Monday, Patrick had planned to do some earth acupuncture with us in the Glen but, as the Glen had been so kind to us the previous day, he felt it would be inappropriate to work there so went off early in search of another location, which turned out to be Castle Law hillfort, a short car ride away.

But before we went, Patrick gave us another of his 'maps', categorising earth energies.

Patrick's Earth Energies map:

Yin Dragons:

Water veins

Quarries

Some faults & fractures

Some crystals

Yang Dragons:

Energy leys

Some faults

Some crystals

Capillary Grids:

Hartmann

Curry

Other

Buildings:

('etheric' – shape of the building)

Patrick also went through a refresher on the earth acupuncture stuff we covered in Glastonbury, relating to checklist questions to ask yourself when treating a site, and where and how to apply various earth acupuncture techniques. We had a reminder that if the veins are ascending, the geopathic stress will normally be found on the edges while for descending streams, the geopathic stress is found at the centre of the vein.

When everyone was clear on the theory, we all piled into the three cars that we had, and headed off to nearby Castle Law. This is actually next to an MOD firing range, but luckily it was deserted that morning. Patrick quickly divided us up into three teams, and marked out three areas with flags that we were to practice in. The object was to space-clear the land until it was "fit enough to build a house that your granny could live in", and we all set about the task enthusiastically. There were some minor squabbles over Patrick's stock of tools and who was doing what where, but we all managed to diagnose and treat our areas, although Patrick's sudden announcement that we had two minutes left did speed up the operation considerably!

Having verified our work by the simple expedient of getting us to check each other's space, it was all too soon time to drive back to the hotel for our final lunch. We still hadn't managed to hold a talking stick circle (despite our promises that we would), as we had packed a great deal of work into the weekend, so lunch in the hotel bar became an informal Group meeting where outstanding business was discussed, as recorded in the Minutes.

And sadly, that was all we had time for. We briefly retired to the function room to close the circle and gave Patrick and Grahame our small gestures of appreciation for their contributions to the weekend. Grahame was suitably impressed with his gift of "Megalithic Lunar Observatories" by Alexander Thom, and Patrick quietly appreciative of a bottle of liquid smudge. Maria and Sally once again space-cleared the function room whilst people made their preparations for departure.

In retrospect, it was a great weekend. The extra day meant that a lot of pressure was removed and people had more of a chance to relax. Staying in the same place meant that more socialising went on in the evenings,

which helped the Group bonding immensely. Having Barry with us showed that we can easily accommodate guests without compromising the Group integrity, and we look forward to seeing him again on future occasions.



Other Recent Events

BSD EEG AGM

A very interesting weekend at the Earth Energies Group in Bakewell 10th to 12th May - talks by David Furlong about his work in Wiltshire linked to sacred geometry in Egypt, slides from Michael Glickman about the messages of crop circles and a perspective from John Barnatt, an archaeologist, on the stone circles and sacred sites in Derbyshire; an exciting pudding-making activity for the adventurous at the Old Original Bakewell Pudding Shop where we gathered for our evening meal - all on the Saturday, as well as the AGM. On Sunday we had an interesting visit to the local honouring of the Water Spirits at the six wells at Tissington, dressed and decorated by the villagers with natural objects like alder cones, flower petals, pebbles, all pressed into thick mud that had been soaking in specially prepared wooden boards in the village pond. Then we visited Arbor Low stone circle, Nine Ladies and Nine Stone Circle [with some stones not physically present]. It was really good to meet with Tony, Paul, Shaun and Sig and other dowsers.

Many thanks to Maryose for this contribution.

International Labyrinth Symposium

This event, sponsored by The Labyrinth Society, took place at Glastonbury Town Hall over the weekend of 17-19 May. It was organised by Sig and Karin and Jeff and Kimberley Saward. In addition to the main event, Kathy Jones led pilgrims into the Tor Labyrinth on Thursday 16 and out again on Monday 20.

Helen Curry, President of TLS opened the proceedings on Friday morning. Kathy Jones followed her with a short talk on the Glastonbury Tor Labyrinth. For me one of the highlights of the entire weekend was Robert Ferre. For those of you who don't recognise the name, he is the world's most prolific labyrinth creator (currently more than 500 to his name, many of them portable, Chartres style but covering the entire range of media and types). He spoke with great eloquence on the influence of the Chartres labyrinth, pointing out that it really exists in the vertical plane, rather than the horizontal. It is almost impossible to describe the labyrinth in a literal, scientific sense; rather it is akin to the world of alchemy. This of course proves difficult when confronted with potential clients who seek facts and figures to back up any proposals to install a labyrinth in a hospital etc.

Friday afternoon opened with a talk by John Kraft from Sweden on labyrinth names in Scandinavia. Key to this talk was the Trojan connection: a huge number of the labyrinths (all classical or the Baltic variation) are named along the lines of 'City of Troy'. However another common phenomenon is naming them after other 'foreign' cities, like 'French Paris', 'Lisbon' (which was probably named circa 1755 when a tsunami destroyed the city), 'Fortification of Jerusalem' and 'Constantinople'. The myth attached to the labyrinths in this area is frequently that the labyrinth represents the map of a well-fortified city that is very difficult for interlopers to penetrate. There is normally a 'square' in the centre of the city. One extremely interesting snippet emerged concerning the usage of the labyrinths. They seem to have been used exclusively between Easter and mid summer, with the maximum concentration of usage around Whitsuntide. (This would certainly seem to imply that there might originally have been some connection with a fertility rite.) In Northern Sweden, all the labyrinths are to be found on small, uninhabited islands.

The final session on Friday afternoon was courtesy of Liz Warren who is a storyteller teaching mythology to 3rd level students in Arizona. In her lecture on 'Labyrinth and Grail: The Quest for the Feminine', she proposed that the labyrinth is a symbol for the Hero's Journey and provides us with tangible metaphors for understanding the quest. Throughout myth and folklore, heroes must become lost as they wander purposefully toward a centre and the goal of the quest. But what are all of those questers seeking? Integration and balance of the masculine and the feminine! Both the Grail and the labyrinth can be seen to nourish us, to contain us and to transform us.

The Friday evening slide show was given by an expert, originally from out-of-town but now practically an institution - our very own Sig. Working with the title 'The Mythology of Glastonbury', he really outdid himself. For those new to Glastonbury, it was a wonderful introduction; for those of us who may have a little more

background, it was frankly mind-boggling just how much ground he managed to cover in an hour and a half. The presentation followed the blurry line of the history and mythology of Glastonbury, covering everything from the Goddess connection to the Druids and Joseph of Arimathea, from Arthur to Bligh Bond through to Tudor Pole and down to the current eclectic mix that is Glastonbury, linking in references to Enchanting the Land, Sacred Geometry etc as he went. Following this, Jon Appleton introduced many of those there to The Appleton for the first time, in a Classical 7 Circuit laid out in about 20 minutes from rolls of bin liners held down by our shoes ('Heart and Sole!'). By this time there were probably close on 80 people present and it was interesting to see how it worked with such a large group. A point that came up over and over during the weekend was that it is a very different experience using the labyrinth as part of a group experience, rather than alone or in a small group. Clearly we have already seen some of the benefits of working in a group in terms of what happens to the energy but there is also different learning there for the individuals who have to interact with each other and the space.

Saturday opened with a slide show of labyrinths in the UK and those created by some of those in attendance, presented by Karin and by Kimberley Saward. We really need to get some of our own pictures transferred to slides for such occasions, as there was something of a dearth of new UK labyrinths represented. It was wonderful to see the incredible level of creativity and skill that has been applied to both main forms by those actively working in the area, as well as those who just wanted to 'have a go'.

After coffee, Regina Coppens-Koot from The Netherlands led a workshop on how one might use dowsing in the context of the labyrinth (as was later demonstrated, a large body of those interested in labyrinths do not come from a geomantic, but rather a Church-based, background and would therefore be unfamiliar with dowsing and its potential uses). Sigi and Jim Seaward (who live in the geomantic playground outside Glastonbury that we visited last year) and I had a little play with the effect that walking the labyrinth had on our auras, resulting in the health aura doubling or indeed even trebling in size.

The first session in the afternoon was essentially a networking opportunity where we broke into small special-interest groups. The real difficulty was choosing just one group to join, as everyone was interested in more than one area. Having previously discussed the options with Grahame, I opted for Spiritual & Ceremonial Aspects. As someone pointed out later, the strange thing about this group was that almost everyone in it (something like 13/15) was based in the UK (this was in stark contrast to the symposium overall where there were very significant numbers of American delegates). One of those present was Jon Appleton who elaborated a little on a technique that he had mentioned when we were doing the dance. For a very different experience, try guiding your partner for the walk in 'blind' and suggest that the individual's own Minotaur might well be waiting to be confronted in the goal.

The next presentation was a lecture by Bo Stjenstrom on Labyrinths in the Baltic Sea Archipelagos. For many years, he, his wife and various friends have been researching the designs, history, legends and whereabouts of these labyrinths and have worked on restoring them and signing them.

That evening, after the Symposium Feast, Dr Lauren Artress delivered the Keynote Speech: 'Labyrinths: Watering Holes for the Soul'. Based at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, she is largely responsible for the renewed interest in labyrinths in a Christian context. Anyone who has not yet read her book "Walking a Sacred Path: Rediscovering the Labyrinth as a Sacred Tool" is definitely recommended to do so. It was interesting that Lauren Artress picked up again on the labyrinth/Grail connection. For her, one of the key facets of the Grail is that 'it meets you where you are and gives you what you want' as indeed does the labyrinth. Walking the labyrinth also represents a method of 'quickenning the spirit' and is a particularly good tool for embracing the feminine, providing a way to learn more of the yin/receptive archetype that is so lacking in our society. The evening finished with an offering from the Avalonian Free State Choir.

On Sunday morning, Jeff Saward, editor of *Caerdroia* and font of labyrinthine knowledge, gave a lecture on Labyrinths in the Far North. He has been on a number of expeditions to locate and sometimes restore labyrinths in Iceland, and Russia amongst other places. As in much of the Northern lands, many of the labyrinths in these areas were built of stone on small offshore islands or in other remote areas. Most of them were probably constructed by the fishing fleets or by ships from Sweden and generally do not date much beyond four hundreds years old, though many were much more recent than that. However as the Northern labyrinths are almost all made of rock (occasionally they are carved on bed boards etc), they are incredibly difficult to date accurately. Researchers have to rely on such practices as working out height above sea level to get an idea of their age (it seems that there is significant tectonic activity in the White Sea area with the land rising up to 9mm per year.) There is one category of labyrinth that seems exceptional in a number of ways. These are found on some of the Russian islands well inside the Artic Circle. They are of a different design, having not just a cairn at the centre, like many of the Baltic varieties, but also having stonewalls at the mouth that form a ceremonial entrance way. One island in particular is literally dotted with piles of boulders and it seems that this was a Sammi sacrificial site. The implication is that these labyrinths may also be much older than the others, based on the evidence of offerings excavated in some of the cairns, and have been used in

early Sammi rituals. They also seem to have a solar alignment, invariably having the entrance facing South unlike the later labyrinths. Jeff wove a wonderful tale of his journeys, featuring KGB agents and all manner of adventures.

Continuing the storytelling thread, Liz Warren held the hall spellbound with her rendition of The Story of the Grail and Parzival.

In the afternoon, Lilan Laishley, a religious studies scholar conducting research into labyrinth rituals gave an insight into the Harmony Society and their labyrinths. The Harmony Society (also known as Harmonists or Rappites after their founder Georg Rapp) was founded in the early 19th century by exiles from Germany who lived a communal lifestyle and followed a set of beliefs that combined Lutheranism, alchemy and worship of Sophia with a belief that Christ was to re-appear amongst them 1831. Their communes were essentially Utopian and the nation's first kindergarten, first free public school, first free library and first school with equal education for boys and girls were established by them. The Society became very wealthy (to fund the repatriation of Christ and themselves to the Holy Land) and over a number of years founded three towns, Harmony, Pennsylvania, New Harmony, Indiana and Economy, Pennsylvania. Each of these towns was very carefully laid out and each of them featured a large, planted labyrinth at its centre. Drawings of these still exist, as do reports in assorted visitors' journals of their usage. (Despite the fact that the Society had excellent and extensive libraries, it did not keep records of its practices etc). It seems that the men, for it was meant to be a male-only Society, entered two at a time for their rituals. However there seems to be some confusion as to what may have happened once they were inside as it was reported that it was incredibly difficult to penetrate through to the goal, which suggests a maze rather than a labyrinth. In the goal was a grotto, rough-hewn and simply thatched on the exterior but beautifully embellished on the interior; the difficult path to reach it served as an allegorical representation of life. New Harmony in Indiana is a living museum now with a re-created labyrinth (as well as a magnificent modern rose quartz permanent labyrinth).

See <http://www-lib.iupui.edu/kade/newharmony/home.html> for further information on the towns. Because of the fact that they didn't really want to share their wealth, they didn't take in many new members (and these had to come from Germany) and due to this and the celibacy rule, the Society died out in 1906 though it took years to wind up the estate.

The final afternoon session was an overview of the two main strands in the current labyrinth revival, delivered by David Gallagher of TLS. The first thread, revolving primarily around the Classical labyrinth, grew from the geomantic and dowsing tradition and was sparked by Sig; the second thread centred on the Chartres labyrinth in a mainly Christian setting and developed from the work of Teilhard de Chardin and really blossomed under Lauren Artress. Jean Houston was the person responsible for getting the two groups together at the first two Labyrinth Conferences in the mid 90s and The Labyrinth Society subsequently grew out of this. However it was Richard Feather Anderson that really fused the two traditions in terms of working when he advised Lauren Artress on the siting etc of the Grace Cathedral labyrinths.

The Symposium closed with an address from Helen Curry on Sunday evening, followed by a performance by Seize the Day.

It was wonderful to have the opportunity to catch up with Sig and Karin, who assured me that they hope to join us for some of our events in the not-too-distant future. I was especially delighted to meet up again with Barry and we managed to fit in some productive discussions on the new forum and website.

Report from Maria.



Dorset Art Weeks – John and Sara's Chakra Labyrinth

John and Sara have built a 7-circuit labyrinth, in the shape of a dodecahedron at Townhill Farm, for Dorset Art Weeks, which run from 25th May to 9th June 2002. The Chakra Rainbow Labyrinth is so named because its path is lined with coloured ribbons, each one corresponding to a chakra colour. The bamboo canes were placed in a vertically ascending sequence; the outermost rim being one foot long, and those in the centre being 8 feet in length. When you walk the

labyrinth, you are surrounded by colour: the path is red- the colour of the base chakra, and you gradually walk through the colour sequence, as the canes get higher. When you reach the centre of the labyrinth, you are surrounded by seven bands of colour – quite something with the glorious Dorset downs as a backdrop!

Before Sara arrived at Townhill, John dowsed for the centre of the circle, and placed a bamboo cane on the spot to mark it. When we teamed up, we dowsed the site, and found two water lines and an energy ley crossing at that spot, creating a clockwise spiral of energy. Generally the energy felt harmonious within the site, but in order to create an even more pleasing and joyous energetic space within the labyrinth, we both felt that the energy needed enhancing. We placed apple, ash and hawthorn wands into the water lines and the ley to radiate the healing, vitalising and transforming energies of those trees into the space. It was hard trying to tie 750 metres of ribbon in strong winds, and by the end of the second day, we had tied about half the colours into place. We decided to leave the rest until the next morning, just in case the wind blew the lot over to Bournemouth overnight! As we stood in the farmhouse living room that evening, looking out over the fields, an enormous rainbow appeared in front of us, and dropped one end right over our labyrinth – what a sight!! And what a blessing on our work!



In all, the physical labyrinth construction took a good day and a half to complete. The first walk through it (500 metres in all) was an uplifting experience – not only was there a tremendous sense of achievement, but it was a joy to be surrounded by rainbow colours in glorious countryside! We hope that a good number of people come to visit the labyrinth over the next fortnight as they tour Dorset Art Weeks exhibitions, and that their experience of it is a positive one. We designed a little brochure for people to use and take home – the wonders of digital cameras and computers.

Thanks to Sara for that report. Hope you get lots of people through the labyrinth.



Upcoming Events

The Events Guide that we included with the Imbolc Newsletter was primarily intended to be an online resource. All of the events listed and any new dates that have come to our attention have now been transferred to the Calendar section of our new Geomancy Group Forum. We would encourage you all to add/amend entries to this resource as you become aware of them. This information will eventually be available to anyone who logs onto the group website.

We would like to advise you of the following dates:

The Geomancy Group – Next Meeting

5-7 July. The trip to Cornwall has been postponed and is being replaced by a return visit to Townhill in Dorset, courtesy of our host and Treasurer, John. This will be mainly a dowsing weekend with visits to local sites planned.

14-21 September. Final week of construction on Ros's stone circle at Brithdir Mawr, Wales. Two stones remain to be erected, culminating in an Equinox dedication ceremony on the 21.

27-29 September. Global Geomancy Conference, Marlborough, Wilts. There will be an informal dinner and forum for working geomancers on Friday night. The main Conference on Saturday and Sunday is open to all.

The Geomancy Group - Samhain Meeting

18-20 October, Derbyshire. Weekend teacher will be Patrick; or 25-27 October, Northampton

BSD EEG

25-26 October, Northampton. Two-day event. Please see website for details:

<http://www.britishdowsers.org/EEG.html>

The Geomancy Group – Imbolc Meeting

31 Jan – 2 Feb, Brithdir Mawr in Wales. Guest Teacher: Ros Briagha. The theme of the weekend will be astrology and ceremonial space construction; looking at what's happening astrologically and then designing a temporary sacred space using local materials to hold a new moon ceremony on the Saturday night. There is also a Sweat Lodge available for our private use that weekend.

Planning Other Group Events for 2003

If we hope to achieve a situation where most of the group can attend a meeting, it is absolutely crucial that we have advance notice of any key dates in your diary, especially those that might also affect others, e.g. BSD or EEG events. We would urge you most strongly to advise Grahame and/or Maria of any such dates as soon as possible.

Initial Proposal for French Trip 2003

Following a stimulating conversation with Robert Ferre at the Labyrinth Symposium, Maria has come up with a proposal for a Geomancy Group trip to France next year, to visit sites in Brittany including Mt. St. Michel and Carnac, with the main emphasis being on workshops with Robert at Chartres. Robert has special permission to use the labyrinth outside of normal hours for ceremonies and workshops, and also has access to other parts of the Cathedral not normally open to the general public.

A quick phone poll of some Group members has unearthed a huge groundswell of enthusiasm for this proposal from all apart from her husband Fred, and also Grahame, who is visiting those very sites this June and says he's unlikely to want to go back again next year.

This is likely to be quite an expensive trip, with Robert's fees running in the region of \$900 a day, and it may be too large an undertaking unless we consider opening it up to outsiders to make up numbers. Nonetheless, Maria is continuing to investigate the options and hopes to have a fuller proposal together soon.

Dates are likely to be 9-17 August 2003 or thereabouts.

If you are excited by this proposal and feel that you may be interested, please contact Maria and let her know, as she needs some encouragement to press ahead with this.



And Finally...

The Golden Ruler and Compass

These ritual tools are still travelling with us as part of The Geomancy Group regalia but have yet to be awarded. Suggestions on a postcard, please!

Logo

The great logo debate continues to rage. Below you will find some of the current options that are available for viewing on the forum. Please vote for your favoured top three options listing them in order of preference. Please also indicate if you would prefer just to start over again, preferably with a rough sketch or description of what you feel might work. We really urge you to make any comments that reflect your true feelings on this matter. Current opinion on the forum seems to favour #8, which manages to retain the essence of the original concept in a simpler and clearer form.

#3 vesica variation with text above line:



#5 enhanced original for comparison (fainter line, embossed text):



#6 without the line:



#7 even simpler, but the font doesn't feel right with the vesica:



#8 simpler font, maybe we can keep the line after all?



#9 more corporate, perhaps?



That's it! Have a great summer, and we hope to see you in Dorset!
~Maria and Grahame

