



## Questionnaire – 2002 and Beyond

1. Are you generally happy with the way the group is developing? What is working for you? What isn't working so well? What lessons do you feel we can learn from our experience of the first two meetings? Please be as detailed as you can. We really need all your comments, whether critical or supportive.

Most of those who responded seem to feel reasonably happy with the way that the group is developing. For those who have yet to attend a meeting, their difficulty in getting to the meetings seems to be the main concern. There seems to be a general acceptance that we are very much engaged in an evolutionary process and that we have to trust in that process. It has been pointed out that the group reflects the growth of the individuals within it and therefore should accept that conflict can be a healthy reflection of change. However there also is a view that we need to iron out the friction within the group.

Amongst those who addressed more specific issues, there was a concern that the group is having difficulty bridging the transition from the clearly defined leadership of the course to being a leader-full group of peers. A number of people have commented on the fact that there appears to be a tendency towards fragmentation and fractionalisation. This is partly due to an unconscious reluctance to take responsibility for our own actions and partly due to the dichotomy that exists in the group's perceived function. Herein lies the heart of the matter. For some of us this is a loose support group looking at all kinds of energy-related interests. For others this is stage two on the way to becoming professional geomancers. Perhaps I should have said 'trichotomy' for there are others for whom it is something else again.

Interestingly, although one of the areas that people felt they wanted to change after Glastonbury was to abandon the Talking Stick, the wheel seems to have come full circle on this point. There is almost universal acceptance of the fact that we really need this tool and that the Talking Stick should be re-introduced. Grahame has actually already been working on this initiative and the Talking Stick will definitely make its comeback at Roslin.

[Questions to ponder: What does the group look like to us? Can we define the group identity so that it supports all our tastes and interests? What do we want the group to look like to those outside?](#)

2. Have you any specific comments to make with regard to the scheduling of sessions over the course of a weekend?

Again, a wide range of views surfaced, from appreciation of the fact that we have one main theme per weekend to a general feeling that the first weekend lacked structure, which we need. There are those who would like to see evening sessions and nighttime ceremonies and those who would like to see a reasonably early end to the evenings and to the weekends. There are

those who believe that, as we come together so infrequently, we really need to get through as much as we possibly can. As we attend a weekend session to work, we should put in more detail and development and not pander to sightseers. However it has also been pointed out that if people are tired by the time we come to do our rituals, then they are not able to give their all. The rituals would be much more powerful if we feel energised and within our own power. The suggestion was made that we choose one of the less busy days of the weekend and have a rest before the ceremony; the main difficulty with this would be identifying those 'less busy days'.

Questions to ponder: Do we need a ceremony at every meeting? When do you think would be the best time to hold this over the course of the weekend? Are there any specific themes you would like to see addressed in ceremony (honouring the earth and seasons, healing, rescue circles etc.)?

3. Are you happy with the job that Maria and Grahame are doing? If not, please specify and offer constructive suggestions as to how they could improve their service.

Everyone who replied seems very happy with the status quo.

4. In Glastonbury, the majority of the group ratified the appointment of Maria and Grahame. Please indicate if you would like them both to continue in their current roles or if you consider that it would be more beneficial to the group energy that one or both of them step aside and leave the organisation etc to other members of the group.

All those who responded indicated that they would like Maria and Grahame to continue in their current roles, if they are happy to do this. It has been suggested that they or any future successors be elected at the AGM.

*While we (M&G) are indeed happy to continue for the moment, it is probably we who are most concerned with the status quo. We are exceedingly conscious of the circular nature of this group and do wonder if perhaps our roles are, or rather are perceived as being, too hierarchical in nature. We both feel a deep sense of responsibility to, and probably also for, the group. We would very much welcome the involvement of others in the organisational end of things. Specifically we feel that tasks should be rotated around the group: producing and editing the newsletter is a prime example. Likewise, while there may be a perception that we 'run' the weekends, this is partly due to the fact that we were given a central co-ordination role, and probably largely due to the fact that Maria was one of the weekend leaders at John's in Dorset and that Grahame has been the regional representative for the Roslin trip. We would like to further the idea that regional committees would facilitate gatherings in their own areas. As our performance has recently been endorsed by the group, we would envisage completing 'a year and a day' in our current roles and would expect that the situation be formally re-evaluated at Samhain, which might be a suitable time for our Annual Gathering or meeting or whatever we may call it; AGM seems a very formal term. .*

5. You have probably not yet had sufficient opportunity to evaluate the job that John and Sara are doing. If, however, you have any comments to make on their role, please do so.

Other than wishing them well, there were virtually no comments. The only question that was mentioned concerned the use of the Nationwide account versus a chequing account. It might be appropriate to re-evaluate the success of the current system after the Roslin trip as we will undoubtedly have far more complex arrangements to make in the future, especially if we organise any overseas trips. Certainly the main reason that Maria and Grahame initially identified the need for a Treasurer was that we felt a real need for a group cheque book.

6. Are you happy with the structure of the group or do you feel it needs to be more defined?

Most people seem very happy with the structure as it is and expect that it will evolve as necessary. There was a feeling that too many rules can stifle initiative and also that we should absolutely **not** have a defined structure; it should be organic and allowed to ebb and flow freely. We had one comment that the structure needs to consider about how we appear to the outside world as well as how we appear to ourselves. Another comment along similar lines suggested that, while we can probably continue as we are for another year or so, if we really want to have an outside presence, we will have to have a more defined and formalised structure with duly appointed officials etc. These might well be suitable points for discussion at the Annual Meeting.

Questions to ponder: Can we maintain our organic structure and have an outside presence? How can this be achieved?

7. Can you suggest any ways that we can improve the decision-making process in the group? Ideally everything would be decided by the full circle, however as it has been at least eight months since we all last met face to face, this is not practicable. Is it appropriate that whoever attends a particular meeting gets to decide policy for the entire group? Do we need to circulate a questionnaire each time we need to make a policy decision? How do we evaluate what is a policy decision that needs to be referred back to the group at large? Maria and Grahame have found that to operate effectively, they need to be able to evaluate and settle operational issues quickly which does not always allow for the entire group to be consulted about every tiny detail. Do you accept that this is reasonable? If not, can you offer a more satisfactory solution?

Not surprisingly, this was one of the questions with the widest range of comment, partly because of the breadth of the question. There was universal agreement that where possible, decisions should be made by the group, though the definition of this varied considerably. Policy decisions concerning our group purpose should definitely be made by the entire group, preferably in circle but otherwise by whatever means seem appropriate. As already mentioned, it seems that we definitely need to re-introduce the Talking Stick to the circle.

We have had many similar suggestions along the lines that we should invite email or forum contributions from group members about any major decisions such as the logo, with a clear cut-off date. We are most happy to do this however we need to identify the fairest way of doing

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this. I am cognisant of the fact that a number of group members are still not happy using computers, and would be effectively excluded if we were to conduct all of our business online. Furthermore, we would like to point out that we have repeatedly requested input but rarely find it forthcoming until it's too late. In terms of the logo, for instance, there was a request for participation in this process in the Samhain Newsletter and those who had worked on designs spent some time working on this in Dorset. Anyone who could not attend the meeting, but who was interested, had been advised to submit his or her suggestions in advance. This is the crux of the matter. We know that there is much behind-the-scenes work involved between meetings, and this is when much of the group energy is channelled. These are the times when we need input from others – if we don't get it, we are forced to manifest that energy according to our perceived image of the group mind. We can only react to information received.

Even in terms of this questionnaire, we have not had contributions back from everyone and in fact only received nine back by the due date. We would definitely like to see greater use being made of the forum and indeed would be interested in instigating online meetings. This is a tool that we have found to be very effective in working together.

But how can we get more people to use it?

It has also been suggested that we post agenda points in advance of a meeting so that anyone who cannot attend is in a position to send a message to the meeting. This we are more than willing to do. In fact, for the forthcoming meeting, Grahame has already contacted those who cannot attend to offer himself as Devil's Advocate, and to speak on their behalf, if they submit something to him. We still need agenda points for discussion, but I think the chance of getting something out to everyone and getting replies before Roslin pretty slim.

There have also been a number of comments suggesting that we get out of a group what we put into it and that people's energy levels ebb and flow at different times. In view of this, it has been suggested by a few people that whoever is present at a meeting is whoever **should** be there at that time and that the group present should make whatever decisions arise.

There seems to be a general acceptance that Maria and Grahame or our successors should be able to decide operational issues as necessary.

*Please be aware that each of us must take responsibility for our own actions and ensure that we get to meetings on time. If someone is late for a Talking Stick Round or other discussion time, or decides not to attend, we cannot hold up group business to take this into account.*

I have a bad feeling about that last paragraph; can't say why exactly as I think it is a valid point, but it rubs the wrong way somehow. I don't know if you should try and soften it further maybe??

Questions to ponder: On a practical level, how can we improve inter-group communication between meetings?

8. How do you feel about other people being involved with the group? Would you like to see partners welcome to come along when we go away for the weekend? Would this only be acceptable if the partner concerned were interested in dowsing, geomancy, magic etc? Would you be happy for partners, children, grandchildren, friends, dogs, canaries etc. join us for family camps in a more relaxed atmosphere than our regular meetings? How do you

feel about having other geomancers join the group? If you were open to this idea, would it be on an occasional *ad hoc* basis or would you be willing to see invited geomantic guests become regular working members of the group?

There was another reasonably varied response to this one. Views cover the entire gamut from not inviting partners, geomancers or anyone else except teachers at all for the moment, to opening our doors completely, but in a controlled way, to interested parties of whatever ilk, on an *ad hoc* basis at first. There is a definite feeling that before we would consider admitting new members to the group on a permanent basis; we would have to spend time getting to know them. Even then, admission would have to be on a probationary basis. Most people seem to feel that the best option would be to hold some informal sessions, like a camp for instance, where partners, geomancers etc would be made welcome. This would then allow some meetings to be reserved for current group members. Most of us felt the need to retain our own identity and integrity in some way as a group.

For discussion of a possible Summer Camp, please refer to Question 18.

9. Is it appropriate to include other geomancers on our mailing list? It seems reasonable, for instance, to include former teachers or those who are about to attend a meeting for the first time, at least.

The vast majority expressed the opinion that we should include teachers or those about to attend the group for the first time, at the very least. One person expressed the view that we should keep it solely to the Glastonbury group. However a considerable body of our membership feels that we should open the list up to any interested parties who wish to be included. A very valid point was made that anyone who did wish to receive mailings should contribute the same £10 levy as each of us. Another suggestion was that if the list were opened up, everyone in the group should receive a copy of the full mailing list once a year.

There seems to have been a certain amount of confusion regarding this question (partly due to my omission of the word 'include' no doubt; apologies to everyone) so I trust that I have interpreted the replies correctly. Clearly if we were to open the list, quite a lot of our material would not be sent to non-members, probably just the newsletter or a truncated version of this. Weekend details would simply be sent to those who needed them for logistical reasons.

10. Do you feel that four quarterly meetings are sufficient or, indeed, too frequent? How many meetings would you now ideally like? Would you like any additional meetings to take a different format?

Most people still seem to regard four formal meetings as being pretty much what's required. Most of us would like to have an informal Summer Camp in addition to this schedule that would be open to anyone we would like to bring along, children, partners, other geomancers etc. As before there is a perception that various interested parties may well additionally meet up at other events or for specific purposes.

Questions to ponder: If we decide on an additional meeting in the form of a camp or gathering, should this be the same 3-4 day length as our weekends, or would you like something longer, say a week to 10 days?

11. Do you consider it appropriate that we hold an AGM when every member of the group strives to attend?

Almost everyone feels that we should do this, though the term 'AGM' was probably misleading. For the moment at least, it would be most unlikely to be very formal in nature. There would certainly be a large amount of time allocated to Talking Stick rounds and group business. The dates suggested so far have been the Summer Camp (though this is unlikely to work if not everyone wishes to attend a camp) and the Samhain meet. As we have Patrick booked to teach the Samhain 2002 weekend, this may or may not work well this year. Clearly we need to work this date out as far in advance as we possibly can to ensure that as many people can attend as possible. Perhaps in this light it would be appropriate if everyone could notify Maria or Grahame of availability around Samhain 2003 within the next two weeks so we can try and schedule next year's meeting when we meet at Roslin. If other dates seem more suitable, please suggest them. We will also endeavour to see if there's any way that we can schedule such a meeting this year, as part of another weekend or otherwise.

12. Would you feel that it would be beneficial for us to book Patrick for two meetings per year, themes to be decided by consultation between Patrick and the rest of the group? (Patrick has indicated that he would be happy to collaborate with this idea).

The overwhelming majority felt that this was an excellent idea, for the time being at least. We clearly need to re-evaluate further down the line. There was also a suggestion that we should call on Richard too.

13. What topics would you like to see us cover in upcoming meetings?

Virtually everyone asked for astrology, especially a working knowledge related to everyday life and also in terms of magickal timing. Other areas mentioned were as follows:

Angels, Shamanism and Wicca; it might also be appropriate for us to spend more time honouring the earth.

Astrodrama; developing seasonal etc related rituals; deep meditation; work with nature spirits; development of stone circles and labyrinths; shamanic work.

Global geomantic traditions that can inform and broaden our understanding, e.g. introductions to feng shui, vaastu shastra, medicine wheels, songlines etc.

Astronomy.

Earth healing and devas etc.

Tree work; more nature spirits; ongoing series of dowsing technique tutorials; revision of astronomy; labyrinth building; visits to sites of interest.

More experience with spiritual and magickal work; more ceremony and metaphysical work, plus hands-on geomantic consultations at an apprenticeship level; vastu shastra etc; more work with EM pollution and how it interacts with earth energy; myth cycles; more advanced dowsing; archaeo-astronomy.

Ceremony; temple design; more dowsing; more earth acupuncture; more work on spirit release etc; land clearing; Feng-Shui of the landscape; vastu shastra; sacred geometry; astronomy; mythology; more devic and nature spirit work; shamanic work; sweat lodge; EMFs and other energy fields found in the home and environment that affect health etc.

Earth-healing; meditations; mini vision quests

Astronomy and orthographic projection: what is it, how do we do it, when do we use it?

Whatever we need to do to be effective.

[Love those last two comments!!](#)

14. Are there any particular locations that you would like to suggest for a group meeting? Do you know of suitable group accommodations in, or near to, this location?

Rollright Stones and surrounding area  
Second weekend in Cornwall, perhaps southern part next  
Uffington and Waylands Smithy area  
Carnac (lots of interest in this one!), Mt St Michel, Chartres  
Ireland (another popular choice)  
Avebury  
The Peak District (Arbour Low, Nine Ladies etc)  
Aberdeenshire – recumbent stone circles  
Callanish (June 2006) – major moon standstill  
Iona  
Mother Meera in Germany?  
Morjim, Goa!!!

Thanks to everyone who suggested appropriate accommodation. We particularly savoured the idea of a weekend in the wonderful-sounding **Toller Porcorum** in John's neck of the woods.

15. Would you like to offer a workshop or a presentation to the group? If so, please supply details.

In alphabetical order:

Grahame: 'Revision on sacred geometry, celestial mechanics & OP, ~~more~~ [Wicca and ceremony](#), -guided meditations etc.'

John: Sacred geometry etc; toning.

Paul: 'Happy to do dowsing, earth acupuncture on whatever basis may be needed.'

Richard: 'Any of the topics offered by Beech Hill College that the group would be interested in, either as a tie-in with our classes here (perhaps at a group rate!) or as a presentation wherever we are meeting.'

Susie: 'I would be happy to do a talk on communication with clients.'

16. Have you any particular projects coming up that you would like to bring to the group's attention? If so, please provide details.

Maryrose: Gildas group in Woodstock; further dates available from Maryrose

Richard: 'a) Geomantic study tour through China and Tibet, April 2003, studying the reality of application of local geomantic traditions (brochure forthcoming later in the year)

b) Labyrinth building day at Beech Hill, Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May (or June 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>).'

17. Would you like to participate in the trip to Cornwall, if the dates suit you? If so, please indicate the weekends in June or at the very beginning of July that suit you best, numbered from 1 onwards, with 1 being most suitable. Please note that we will arrange this according to the dates that suit the majority of those interested.

A few people will not be available at all over this period or indeed over the entire summer, which is a shame, and reiterates the need for good forward planning. The weekend with the most votes is the weekend of 5-7 July. Richard will only be able to do the weekdays of 1-5 July so perhaps anyone who's interested in meeting up with him could arrange to go down a little earlier.

18. Would you like to participate in a family camp over the summer? Would you like this to take place at Beech Hill or elsewhere? If you would like such a camp, what theme(s) would you like us to explore or would you prefer it to be a purely social occasion. If it were purely social, would you still like to attend? The first weekend in June might be ideal as it will be a 4-day Bank Holiday weekend this year and would coincide with most children's half-term. However if we are going to Cornwall in June or the beginning of July, the dates might be too close for comfort. What period during the summer would be your preferred time for such a camp?

With regard to a summer camp, most people greeted this idea with great enthusiasm. (There were two pretty vociferous exceptions, based on a hatred of camping and/or a reluctance to have children involved). This would be in addition to the four quarterly meetings. Most people

indicated that they would prefer to have some loose structure or theme to such a long weekend though a number of people would be happy to come along even if this were not the case.

Ideas that were suggested were:

- Magickal tool making
- Dowsing
- Sweat lodge

#### Firewalks

- Labyrinths
- Ceremonies
- AGM
- Forum
- Informal chatting time

In terms of venue, there were a number of people strongly in favour of Beech Hill, especially if we were to have it to ourselves. There were two comments that we should not go there out of deference to the situation pertaining between two other members of the group. One of these failed to respond to the questionnaire; the other felt that this was all past history and should not affect our group at all. Most people were open to going to whatever venue suited. Although quite a few people were keen on the June Bank Holiday weekend, it was generally felt that this was too close to the Cornwall trip. August seemed to be the most popular suggested time; the only date that Beech Hill would be available to us would be 26-30 August.

If we do not go to Beech Hill, we need to have some definite suggestions for alternative venues where we can camp, where the children will have a reasonable amount of freedom but yet be safe and where we can pursue whatever theme we choose.

The other options would be to link up with Ros' circle-building camp (probably the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> week in July) or to tie in with an Oak Dragon camp, though the latter may be too long for most people.

Could you please notify Grahame or Maria in the next two weeks of your preferences, giving as much choice as possible, so that we can settle it all at Roslin. With high season approaching, bookings clearly have to be made well in advance over the summer or we might find ourselves camp-less.

**19. This question is entirely optional** and quite personal. It is simply aimed at evaluating the direction that the group might take in the longer term and if the current group alone can continue to address everyone's requirements. For instance, it might be the case that those wishing to pursue geomancy in a professional capacity would require or desire additional or more intensive training to others in the group. Do you have any greater clarity regarding where you would personally like to go with geomancy? Do you see yourself becoming a professional geomancer? Do you simply wish to augment your understanding of energies, to enhance your own practice of Feng Shui or a healing therapy, for example? Do you see this as an interest, effectively a hobby, but something that you are unlikely to apply in any kind of client-related practice?

This was a difficult question to ask, a difficult question to answer and harder still to evaluate the answers. We have a range of responses:

Richard is already a practising geomancer

Four people say they that they do some of this kind of work already and that want to develop their skills further.

Another knows that she wants to work with all of this professionally but is currently unsure how.

Three others state that they would like to become professional geomancers.

There are a couple of others who simply wish to develop their understanding of energies or stay connected with the spiritual self.

## 20. Have you any suggestions to make regarding The Geomancy Group brochure?

There still seems to be quite a lot of confusion surrounding the brochure, even though this was first discussed the penultimate weekend at Glastonbury. Reading between the lines, I get the impression that a lot of this is due to the confusion surrounding the group purpose. I suspect that until we have clarified **who we are and what our aim is**, that we will not reach clarity on the brochure issue. This is not a question with which I have been intimately involved for more than six months now but my understanding is that what was envisaged was a brochure aimed at ~~perspective-prospective~~ clients. It would not necessarily be for immediate use.

One of the aims of the group is to be known for the excellence of any work done and this would probably also be reflected in the brochure. It is difficult to see how all this might pan out in the long term but the perception was that any clients that came to the group would be assured of a high quality of service, whether the local representative were an expert in the given area or not; the group would stand over the final product, however we sourced the skill in-house.

The brochure itself would open with a brief 'What is Geomancy?' section. The other sections would give a little information about the group and how to contact us nationally (probably an email address and website details, possibly also a phone number), the services that the group could collectively offer, with a few pictures of our work, details of allied services offered by group members and space for our own contact details. The content would be kept fairly general so that everyone can use it, and would not go into detail about individual services, nor would it contain a list of charges.

## 21. Are you happy with the new logo?

The views on this seem to be split into extremes. The vast majority of people seem to like it; the others feel that it has a very negative connotation, with the group name appearing to be crossed through. This is not very positive in feng shui terms and in graphology anyone who signs his or her name like this is depressed or suicidal! There is also a feeling that it's too busy and overly-contrived. The question has also been posed: is it aimed at other geomancers or at Joe Public? The only constructive suggestions that were made suggest moving the text above the bar or removing the line altogether and just keeping the jewels as markers. Otherwise we could use a simple logo with just the words written 'maybe embossed but understated, leaving enough room above it for growth. It could be in a dark green or blue.' The other option would be to revert to Grahame's four interlocking circles (you can see this on The Middle Pillar handout, if you can't remember it.)

Anyone who wants to look again at the logo question should come up with some suggestions and preferably some drawings and forward them to Maria or Grahame within the next two weeks so that the question may be examined at Roslin. If these are not already computer art, bear in mind that one of us (at the moment Grahame!) has to try and recreate it as such before we can use it. If the design is complex, we may have to employ a graphic artist for this task.

22. **You may wish to reply to this question on a separate sheet of paper, as you will effectively have to identify yourself.** Do you wish to be included on the brochure in terms of services that we can collectively offer to clients? If so, please specify the services that you can currently offer on a professional basis, in other words, those in which you have been trained and/or gained experience, possibly already offering them professionally to clients in your own practice.

This is probably not the time or place to examine the answers to this question.