

## ***The Geomancy Group***

### **Minutes of meeting held at The Bunkhouse, Trecastle 25 July 2004**

**Present: Grahame, Barry, Maryrose, Susie, Sally, Sig, Jon, Elspeth (guest)**

#### **Agenda:**

- Make a statement of intent for the Group, for ratification at the AGM
- Discuss 'resignation' letter from Maria
- Decide on text for Group Quaich
- Theme/Schedule discussion for 2005
- Decide time of leaving

We began by asking Jon Appleton to talk about his Star Gate reading that he had done for the Group previously, by way of offering some oracular insight into the situation. In general, it confirmed the shift in Group energy that we were all feeling, showing that we had a strong foundation and good energy to draw on, but seemed to be in a state of flux, with the future looking uncertain. 'Fog' and 'Sand' were two of the cards in that direction.

There followed a discussion on deciding on Group intent; are we a closed group or do we want to develop a more public image?

Sig thought that we could perhaps think about being a more open group, and consider running training courses.

Sally spoke in favour of becoming a constituted body in some way, as it would allow us to approach public bodies and become known to them, and would announce our presence. Suggested that Maria had a contact with the BCMA that might be worth investigating?

Susie expressed some reserve at this approach.

At this point Sig suggested that we should send a letter to Maria expressing our support and gratitude for her service. Some discussion followed, and it was eventually decided that Sig would draft a letter and send it to Grahame for checking and approval before sending it to Maria.

We moved on to talking about the best approach for increasing the size of the Group. Jon stressed that the matter of how people are brought into the group is important. Sig said that we need to ensure that basic standards are met for newcomers. Barry's friend Marcus is a good example; someone who does not have the knowledge, but is out there doing the work.

Grahame returned to the subject of constitution, asking if that was the way we wanted to go?

Jon spoke of his experiences with Oak Dragon, who had initially gone down that route, but latterly rejected it all because of the hassle involved, becoming once again just an association of like-minded people.

Sig cited the BSD example; they are going through a similar process just now, self-regulating and trying to avoid externally imposed limitations by public bodies. The suggestion was that we are not big enough yet.

Jon mentioned that some of the work we do could be considered 'iffy' where officialdom is concerned, so it might be better if we preserved our relative anonymity.

Some further discussion followed, but nothing was resolved.

Sig suddenly asked; Do we want to continue as a Group? This was met with a unanimous 'yes'.

Sig then suggested that we adopt a different approach to the weekends. Instead of the Chair or Vice-Chair having to 'run' things, we could appoint a focaliser for each weekend, whose job would be to make sure things happened when they were supposed to happen. This focaliser would not necessarily be responsible for organising the whole weekend, just for making sure that we keep roughly to schedule.

Barry immediately offered to focalise the AGM.

Sally pointed out that we could not really organise the upcoming year just now, as our shamanic schedule had been disrupted by not having Ivan as often as we had thought. Plus, there were not that many of us present. It was decided that this would be continued at the AGM, when we would appoint 4 focalisers for the 2005 weekends. These four would comprise a bubble group to investigate possible weekend speakers and locations.

The dates for 2005 were reviewed and confirmed as 4-6 February, 29 April-1 May, 29-31 July, and 28-30 October.

Newsletter: Sally called for different newsletter editors to be allocated; this is something else that needs to be discussed at the AGM.

For the next (autumn equinox) edition, Maryrose offered to write up this weekend, Sig offered to contribute something following from his talk on Money and the New Age, Sally said she could offer something complementary to that, and Grahame mentioned that we still had Ros's Brithdir construction account on hand anyway.

Quaich: Patrick's gifted Quaich finally made it into Group hands, and there was much discussion about what text we should have engraved on it, and whether it should include the date of the Group's inception, or the date that we received the Quaich on it. Opinion was pretty evenly divided on this point, and in the end we opted just to have the Group name on it, or even the Group logo if this was at all possible without enormous expense. Sig took the Quaich to check it out with the engraver.

Talk moved back to next year's events. Sig offered to facilitate another Glastonbury weekend for Imbolc, and his proposed itinerary met with some enthusiasm. Sig proposed that we stay at 60 Bove Town again, and make Saturday a day trip to visit Snowdrop Valley, which is somewhere over Exmoor way, returning to Glastonbury in the evening for a meal in Gigi's. On Sunday, we would make pilgrimage walk to Bride's Well. Sig would approach the lady who runs annual pilgrimages and ask if she would be our guide. (*Sig*

*has since confirmed this as happening, provided we take her with us to Snowdrop Valley.)*

Sally suggested that perhaps the year theme could be Goddess?

There was some attempt to revisit the Group intent discussion, but it was thought in general that Patrick's definition was still valid, whilst remaining loose enough for flexibility.

Jon suggested that we could email everyone in the Group, asking them to state what they thought the Group intention should be? And if nobody responded, perhaps that was where the problem lay?

Grahame iterated the problems with electronic communication and the Group, citing the appalling response to the online forum as example. This led to a discussion mostly driven by Sig over the merits of forums against majordomo mailing lists. However this didn't lead anywhere and no resolution was reached.