

Minutes from AGM - Samhain 2004

Saturday 23 October, 2004 - Haughton House, Afford, Aberdeenshire

Full Members Present: Maria (Chaired and Minuted proceedings), Grahame, Maryrose (3 founder members), Barry, Ros, and Oliver (3 new members)

Non-voting Probationary Members Present: Jon Appleton

Group Identity and Purpose

What is Geomancy? Is the current definition of Geomancy appropriate to what we do? The public generally has a very low awareness of what 'geomancy' is; even if they've heard the word, they frequently think of it in terms of divination by casting sand, stones, or earth, although some do equate it with *feng shui*.

Geomancy as we perceive it is a broad term, encompassing many different areas of expertise and skill. So while we all dowse, either consciously or unconsciously, not all dowers are geomancers, as we know.

In addition to this, some of us work almost exclusively with sacred space; some work in the secular arena only and others straddle both disciplines. Do we (Group members or geomancers?) all need to have understanding of all areas, even if we don't specialise in a specific service?

How do we really define what geomancy is, and clarify the range of services covered by geomancers?

- Start an online discussion to agree new definition that can be placed in the public domain

Where do we want to go with the Group and, indeed, Geomancy?

How do we capture the public market, awareness - TV?

We need to exercise caution in what we say to the media and consider carefully those with whom we associate, and might be associated. Aim to get Geomancy into the public awareness, in a positive way. The Group needs to aim to be known as 'the experts', capable of giving a grounded and reasoned view. Need to ensure that we are not associated in the public perception with the 'lunatic fringe'.

Look at getting onto TV contact lists? However, newspapers and magazines may possibly be a better avenue to investigate, as the material is probably not so easily abused.

Writing follow-up comment letters regarding articles etc would be good way of getting our name more widely known.

Perhaps we need to consider having a 'Press Officer'?

Suggest holding better details about individual practitioners on the website, possibly a profile of each practitioner? This was finally dismissed as being fraught with too many difficulties, including highlighting the relatively small number of practitioner members that we have. Also, helps preserve the mystique that we currently seem to enjoy in various circles.

- Agreed that ALL members, current and future, **must** compile a profile, indicating what Geomancy means to that individual, skills in one's portfolio, areas of special interest and services offered, both privately within the Group and publicly at a professional level, etc. This will be held in a central archive, and will shortly become available in Private Pages (i.e., not accessible by the general public) on our website. This will help in directing referrals etc.
(Also, please include details of the geographic areas that you are prepared to cover. Thank you.)
- Public pages *may* have short profile of practitioners but, as mentioned above, this may prove disadvantageous. (Afterthought - perhaps we could consider having a special feature on different practitioners, from time to time?)
- Practising consultants to be encouraged to join the BSD Professional Register and any other professional bodies that may be applicable.

Discussed the possibility of organising a Conference, aimed primarily at practitioners but with some public talks or workshops, for 2006.

- This requires further investigation with regard to possibilities, venues, and funding.

Suggested that an interim measure might be to look at possibility of co-running a regional EEG meeting. This could be partly open to the public and partly closed (either just Geomancy Group members or possibly other practitioners too).

- Need to do talks for local dowsing and other groups
- Investigate penetration into universities, e.g., architecture and archaeology departments, and other such forums to speak to, inform and educate students etc

Membership

Currently have 20 fully paid-up members and 1 Honorary Member (Gordon), of which 14 are founder members, 3 are new members and 2 are probationary members

- Agreed to have more sessions that are 'open', in our programme. A couple of times a year, fellow practitioners, speakers etc will be invited along in the capacity of 'Guest', not necessarily as a speaker. Enlarges our contact base, and gets our name more widely known.
- Agreed that, when appropriate, we might open sessions in a weekend to local people, such as the Glastonbury Pilgrimage at Imbolc 2005.
- Re-stated that Membership requires more than a contribution of £30 per annum. Members are expected to attend at least one gathering per year. If this is absolutely not possible, then a contribution to the newsletter is required
- In this regard, it was agreed that we need to contact Jamie, Tony and Paul to specifically request them to submit an article, drawing etc to the Newsletter
- Subscription to remain at £30 until Samhain 2005
- As previously agreed, members may donate extra funds to provide a bursary for extra places at each event. These may be used to subsidise Group members who are experiencing financial difficulties in attending events, or to welcome peers etc along as 'Guests'.

Election of Officers

- Maria re-elected Chair,
- Grahame re-elected Vice-Chair and Secretary,
- Susie re-elected Treasurer

Other:

- Responsibility for organising events etc to be taken on by various Group members
- All members will be required to attend at least one gathering per year (except in exceptional circumstances, e.g. Jamie living in Portugal. In this instance, a contribution to the Newsletter will be required as a minimum indication of energetic input). As agreed at the founding of the Group, Samhain is the Annual Gathering. Full Members are requested to do their utmost to attend this event, as this is when we focus most on energy building and the way ahead.
- All members will be expected to contribute, at a minimum, one 2 hour session on a subject of his or her choosing (ideally a skill-share session) at a Group Gathering. Given time constraints, the first round of sharing may well continue into 2006. Topics and scheduling to be co-ordinated with Maria (for overview purposes) and relevant event organiser(s).

- We need to consider if we require a Press Officer? (See 'Group Identity and Purpose').

Programme 2005:

The Theme of the Year for 2005 has been agreed as '*Goddess and God*; to be interpreted in whatever way a speaker sees fit.

Imbolc - Venue: Bove Town, Glastonbury - Facilitators: Sig and Karin - Trip to Snowdrop Valley, Pilgrimage to Bride's Mound - Guide: Lorne Bang.

- Also suggested possibility of inviting John Martineau along to offer a session. Refer to Sig.
- Possibility of Ivan joining us, if he is still in the country (Maria to investigate)?

Beltane - Venue: Beech Hill- Facilitators: Richard and Maria - Teacher: Richard - Topic: Earth Acupuncture

Lughnasadh - Venue: TBD - Facilitator: Oliver - Possible Speaker: Dan Winter? - Perhaps first opportunity for Group members to present topics

- Oli to arrange speaker(s) and co-ordinate event

Samhain - Venue Hostel, Peak District (or possibly Forest of Dean) - Facilitator TBA, - ANNUAL GATHERING - Possible Speaker: David Furlong?

- (Ask Susie make contact to check interest, availability, costs etc)
- Ros to check/book hostel

Other

- Jon suggested that we look at possibility of getting some female speakers, as most seem to be male. Point duly noted.

Anticipated Attendance 2005 Events (for members present)

Jon - definitely Imbolc; not Beltane; possibly Lughnasadh; probably Samhain

Ros - not Imbolc; definitely Beltane; not Lughnasadh; probably Samhain

Oli, Maryrose, Maria, Grahame and Barry - anticipate attending all

- Absent Members: to be contacted as soon as event details agreed, to indicate attendance plans

Events Planning

- Suggest we generally continue to have a speaker for one day and have Group members present session(s) for second day, though weekends with particular teachers may follow a different pattern, depending on range of material to be covered.
Two-fold purpose in this - share skills that members already have and also get to know each other better and what each of us can, and likes to, do
- Grand Rounds have proved to be very useful and members would like to see this developed more
- *On-going professional development seen as key*
- Necessary to get input on frequency with which individuals are likely to attend, dates that they are likely to attend, as well as the speakers that are likely to draw them - help with event planning re: venue, accommodation etc