

DFEST SOUTHWEST DOWSING FESTIVAL '18

23rd and 24th June 2018

South Zeal, Devon

*‘Consciously communicating
with our surroundings’*



SOUVENIR ISSUE July 2018

An Overview

by Nigel Twinn

There are good dowsing weekends and there are great dowsing weekends. This one exceeded all expectations right across the spectrum - a bit like dowsing itself, really.

The first South West Festival of Dowsing (DFest) was held in South Zeal, which is a postcard pretty, tucked away sort of place, nestled under the bleak northern edge of Dartmoor, and overshadowed by the looming bulk of the mighty Cosden Beacon (well, it's big by our standards!). It's the sort of place that is easily bypassed, even by many who have lived in the South West for years. But this is a secluded village with a long history, and plenty of 21st century experience of hosting such events, as it has been the venue for the burgeoning Dartmoor Folk Festival for many a year. With its two excellent pubs - one much haunted and containing an in situ Menhir, the other with a good camping field, and a bit more space - not to mention a very serviceable village hall, this was an ideal and very compact place, right next to a vast and beckoning open space, for a coming together of the open hearted and the open minded.

Originally conceived by the Somerset Dowzers and the Devon Dowzers as an event within an hour and a half's drive from most of the likely participants - it ended up as a wonderfully intimate gathering of dowzers from right across the south and west of England. Support was forthcoming from members of both the Trenchrom and the Tamar Dowzers, and counties from Sussex to Gloucestershire to Cornwall were all well represented, together with a scattering from further afield.

The hope was for an attendance of at least 50, with both the Devons and the Somersets tentatively chipping in to underwrite the endeavour. The eventual turnout of well over 100 could hardly have been anticipated.

The vibe was in full flow right from the outset. National (dowsing) Treasure, Ann Lodygowski, set the ball rolling in her inimitable style, recounting her own introduction to the craft, and her personal history of living in the village as a teenager. Normally known largely for her great experience in animal communication, this was AL explaining many of her broader insights, and how she came to gain that experience.

Mandy Bennett kept the flow moving nicely with a well-balanced and well-prepared presentation about the aspects of her work as a professional health dowser relating to dowsing and healing of land - including examples of some of the sites on Dartmoor chosen for Outings during the weekend. Again, a nice blend of the personal and the professional - concepts in action, and theories in practice.

Basking in the quite exceptional Dartmoor heat (just for once, not an oxymoron), by lunchtime on Day 1 people were already whispering in hushed tones to one another about

how, when and where the next DFest would be held. What!



The afternoon saw most of us breaking into groups to do some outdoor dowsing in the superb scenery, and under perfect blue skies, in the strangely semi-arid landscape of the surrounding area. Others had the indoor option of two excellent workshops, run by Somerset's Sarah Shaw.

The evening was spent socialising and networking with friends old and new. This was very much the mood of the moment - and one of the great successes of DFest 2018.

The morning of Day 2 saw us visiting more special sites, both around Dartmoor and closer to the village, for some practical dowsing and helpful demonstrations. Another workshop, with Ann Lodygowski demonstrating remarkable healing techniques to those present, was a parallel opportunity for those who hadn't bargained on a couple of days of intense Mediterranean weather.

John Moss, of the Trenchrom Dowzers, provided the afternoon entertainment, with his own stories of coming into dowsing, and of being the Director of the British Society of Dowzers for several years. John's talk was deliberately challenging, but laced with good humour, and provided a welcome dose of grounding, as well as advice for all comers, based on his own experience. His approach was particularly valuable for those entering our exciting new arena for the first time.



The weekend ended, far too soon, with a Panel of the more experienced fielding some well-directed questions from the floor. It was a forum in which some of those just setting out felt comfortable in speaking up, and those who have been around for rather longer were generous in sharing their experience. How do you move an energy line; what is 'Michael & Mary'; who says ants like detrimental energy; Hamish who? It's good, and rewarding, and necessary to get back to dowsing basics from time to time. Punters still had the opportunity to buy dowsing paraphernalia, including the specially commissioned DFest merchandise, which they purchased in some volume - and to get hold of information about the BSD and its activities.

For a few fortunate hours, novices and those needing a little more confidence rubbed shoulders with some of the more experienced professionals and practitioners in the South West. Both groups learned a lot from one another, with dowsing taking the role of the bee in the flower garden.

Low cost, low tech, low impact - but maximum interest, enjoyment and camaraderie. This was unashamedly old time dowsing at its very best, albeit with an injection of new millennium enlightenment.

Inevitably, and rightly, Gwynn and Mandy may have been heavily focussed on getting their helpers and supporters through this adventure largely unscathed, but such was the unleashed power of the friendship of fellow travellers that, by the end of Day 2, there was already a surreptitious mini-Olympics process underway of bidding for the follow-up.

Huge thanks go to Gwynn and Mandy for getting the venture up and running, which had clearly developed a momentum of its own from the very start. Many thanks, too, to the platoon of volunteers from the Devon and Somerset teams, who kept the show seamlessly on the road - and especially to Diana Burton and to John Stedman, who did most of the backroom paperwork and administration, which provided the pivot, around which the rest of this temporary miniature universe turned so smoothly.

NT

Saturday morning indoor sessions:

Ann Lodygowski
Mandy Bennett

Saturday afternoon field trips:

Brent Tor
Scorhill
Kestor
Taw Valley

Sally Cunis/Mandy Bennett
Jo Rowe-Leete
John Moss
Alan Murray

Saturday afternoon indoor workshop:

Sarah Shaw

Sunday morning field trips:

Merrivale
Fernworthy
Lydford Gorge
Belstone

Ros Twinn
Gwynn Paulett
Stuart Dow
Angie Kibble

Sunday morning indoor workshop:

Ann Lodygowski

Sunday afternoon indoor session:

John Moss

Plenary

'How Dowsing has developed' Ann Lodygowski

Ann grew up in the South West, and spent much of her teenage years in the village of South Zeal. For some time, her parents owned the Oxenham Arms, renowned for its ghosts and spirits - and for its pre-Christian Menhir in the restaurant.

This talk described some of her early experiences, both social and psychic.

Ann has become widely regarded as one of the most experienced animal communicators and healers in the UK. She spent some years living in Spain, where she still has contact with clients seeking help with equine ailments and issues. Yet her westcountry roots have kept her well grounded.

Given the sheer range of her experience and practical work, she can be forgiven for adopting such a butterfly approach to her presentations. Audiences across the country are always engaged and enamoured by what she has to say.

Make no mistake, Ann's deep understanding of her subject is inverse to her diminutive stature - and, as this cameo session reinforced, it is always a privilege to be in the presence of this giant of the field.



NT

'Land Dowsing and Healing' Mandy Bennett

Minehead-based professional Health Dowser, Mandy Bennett, has developed her own style of informational dowsing and remedial action, since her initial training with Jack Temple. Her work with individuals expanded over the years into dowsing and healing of property, and then land - the subject of her talk today.

As a great admirer of her late friend and mentor, Kate Fortlage, Mandy emphasises the need to know the source of an issue, (whether personal, property or land), rather than just applying an esoteric sticking plaster. Repairing a situation is of little use, if it just comes back to bite you later on.

Her work, throughout the UK and abroad and mainly conducted remotely through map dowsing, has taken her on some strange journeys. From personal traumas to battlefield remenances and a 12th Century Priory lost under a cricket ground - one of the findings of the dowsing investigation 'What's wrong with Taunton?' and its subsequent healing. The latter venture involved tracking back through the timeline of Somerset's modern capital to find the roots of its current malaise. The construction of the M5 didn't exactly help matters.

Much of Mandy's day-to-day work involves property and land clearing, and her descriptions of case studies, including some of the sites to be visited over the weekend on Dartmoor, will have been particularly interesting to those relatively new to the field. Everything from routine water and earth energy problems, to residual human and discontented nature spirits - including 'dragons' and 'giants' in the terroir, and the odd tethered gnome!

When you do this sort of healing, you just have to go with the flow.

NT/MB



Scorhill

led by Jo Rowe-Leete

Our little caterpillar wove its way up, down and around a maze of Devon lanes, until we arrived at the end of the track and - thankfully - a car park. We carefully double-parked, locking our newfound dowsing friends in to make sure no one escaped early.

Then, Jo Rowe-Leete led us into her special world - a world inhabited by thousands of people in Neolithic times. It was the perfect place on a perfect summer's day, with warm sunshine and good visibility. Jo was gentle and caring, concerned that we should each get the most from the experience.

The whole area around Scorhill is peppered with the remains of Neolithic settlements, and the fun started almost immediately we left the car park. Dowsing rods were twitching, bobbars were bobbing, and pendulums swinging gaily in celebration at entering this magical world.

We crossed a stone row, walked round hut circles and we saw concentric stone circles to our right as we walked up the gentle hill to its brow. The panoramic view from there was breath taking, and we could easily see two ancient clapper bridges in the distance.

As we walked on, we got our first glimpse of Scorhill stone circle, with the white flax growing in the dip in the valley below it. We spent a long time there, dowsing for energy lines and searching for our healing stone. The experienced dowsers found a powerful positive energy line flowing right through the stone circle - its path marked out by grazing sheep - and found this energy so irresistible they could barely drag themselves away from it. I took off my shoes and it felt like having my feet in a soothing and gentle energetic stream.



Eventually, Jo gave us two choices, so we split into two groups with one group turning back to visit the stone and hut circles we had passed earlier, and the more hardy and adventurous of us continuing on towards the stream. This was where I demonstrated the great advantage of carrying a proper walking stick, which took decades off my age in terms of climbing and scrambling agility.

We crossed over the clapper bridges, and Jo asked us to see what we dowsed as we passed first over a female stream, then over a male stream, and we finally realised what happened at the confluence, when the male and the female joined together. The energy was undeniably more powerful after the junction, probably because the terrain became steeper there, so the water flowed more quickly.



After crossing back over a third clapper bridge we walked along the riverside to the confluence, where we passed what, to Jo, was one of the most enchanted spots of the whole area, with a fairy tree. It was certainly a beautiful and peaceful place.



We eventually arrived at the Tolmen Stone, where Jo demonstrated how to pass through the stone. This stone is said to have been used by Druids for purification: wrongdoers were lowered through the hole into the water.

Finally, we retraced our steps back to the car park, where we found that our cunning parking strategy had paid off, and we were reunited with the rest of the group.

GD

Saturday Field Trip

Brent Tor led by Sally Cunis & Mandy Bennett

Over 30 intrepid souls, all keen to dowse, gathered in the wonderful sunshine at the impressive site that is Brent Tor. Unusual in the fact that the Tor is volcanic in origin, and with the beautiful Church of St Michael de Rupe perched atop its craggy mound.

After the usual checks and permissions regarding entering the site and dowsing, people admired the incredible views and set to dowsing. The site has so much to offer, with the presence of both the Michael and the Mary currents, various items of archaeological interest and many ethereal aspects to dowse.

The Church was of particular interest, and many found interesting energy lines and features, especially in the vicinity of the font.

Others dowsed for Angelic presences, and departed human spirits.



One person worked and provided assistance to three spirits associated with the three gravestones shown in the image. Some people see butterflies as a sign of 'spirit' and it is interesting to note the three butterflies - seen as dots in the image; mirroring the positions of the headstones.

Others identified the position of an energetic 'portal', and many went on to find the locations of naturally occurring 'healing points' in the landscape where they could stand, and the increase in the size of their auras was demonstrated through dowsing.

A thoroughly enjoyable outing, with an array of features to dowse - something for everyone!

MB

Saturday Field Trip

Taw Valley led by Alan Murray

Six lovely ladies accompanied me along a short stretch of the River Taw near Sticklepath on a wonderfully sunny afternoon - in the protective shade of the tree-lined riverbank.



We set off from Finch Foundry, a National Trust owned water-powered edge tool works, past Tom Pearce's summerhouse (of Uncle Tom Cobley fame), past the Quaker Graveyard and along the south bank in the direction of Belstone. As we walked along this most beautiful river, with its crystal clear water, we dowsed for elementals, yin and yang springs and their water qualities, pictograms, energy and water lines and a particularly fine copper beech tree.

We crossed the river over the 'Tarka Bridge', with its evocative carved quote from Henry Williamson's book about the Taw River tumbling off Dartmoor, and sampled cool drinks of water from a lion faced spring at Skaigh.

Fully refreshed, we returned along the north bank to Sticklepath passing near to The Mount, where the Methodist John Wesley often stopped off to preach from on his way to Cornwall, and past another spring in the village, the water of which was definitely not drinkable!

AM

Kes Tor

led by John Moss

On Saturday afternoon, the first day of DFest, a convoy of cars wound its way through ever-narrowing lanes up on to the high moor beside Batworthy. A clear day meant we could enjoy spectacular views, and a temperature of 26 degrees with no wind made for a very enjoyable experience.

Our first destination was the so-called birthing stone close to the wall of Batworthy. This is a flat stone about 1.5m long, resting horizontally on smaller stones. We dowsed for the energies of this stone but it appeared to be resting quietly - perhaps because none of us were pregnant!

We then walked up and across the moor to a curious formation on Shovel Down, where there were two twin stone rows. The long one seemed to be processing towards the wonderful Scorhill Circle not far away, and the second, veering off to the right, perhaps down the hill towards a water source at Batworthy. Near the junction of these two rows is an interesting feature marked on the map as a cairn. Although partly concealed in long grass, there are four concentric circles of small stones which formed a dowsable spiral into the centre. Alongside this is a fallen Menhir, which was still beaming out its series of frequency bands.

We spent some time here dowsing around the stone rows before following the main row further up the hill until we reached the Long Stone, which is situated at the end - or beginning - of the 148m row. At 3.1m, this is said to be the 4th tallest Menhir still standing on the moor. We explored the various energy configurations at this wonderful old monument, which was originally referred to in 1240 as a parish boundary marker. Indeed the letters DC (Duchy of Cornwall), C (Chagford Parish), and G (Gidleigh Parish) are clearly incised on three sides.



The final climb took us to the summit of the tor, 421m above sea level, where, apart from being able to admire the wonderful views, we dowsed around the large rock basin. In

Victorian times, this basin was responsible for the popularity of the tor, as it was suggested that it had been used by the druids.

The basin is said to be 0.8m deep, although it was hard to verify this through the murky water, and about 7m across - although that did appear to be a little generous! There are other smaller basins on the tor and we were able to dowsed the various energies on this impressive site.



From the top we could just make out Scorhill Circle as well as some of the 41 stone hut circles said to be scattered around the northern and eastern slopes.

Several of these huts have walls still standing a metre high with doorways still apparent. Also visible is the complex pattern of field systems, known locally as Reaves, as well as some droveways.

We visited one of the larger hut circles on our way back down the hill, dowsing for the location of the hearth, doorway and other features.

Our last stop was at the very impressive Round Pound, which consists of a central circular hut with a double skin wall a metre thick, a diameter of 11 metres, with a clear doorway to the south. This hut is enclosed by an outer wall of about 33 metres in diameter, 1 to 2 metres thick with a door to the west. The site and field systems are attributed to the Bronze Age, but an excavation in 1952 uncovered iron smelting tools and pits, obviously relating to the Iron Age. It was re-used in mediaeval times and altered by the addition of some internal walls.

The Round Pound alone could have been suitable as a dowsing subject for the whole afternoon. The trip gave us the opportunity to explore and dowsed several different features, nevertheless, in this fascinating and beautiful part of Dartmoor.

JM

Crystals for Health & Conciously Communicating with Other Realms

Sarah Shaw

Sarah Shaw led the Crystals for Health workshop with erudition and self-effacing humour. Whilst she is a psychic, medium, Reiki and crystal therapist, she apologised for not being a quantum physicist or a geologist, given the focus of the workshop she had been asked to deliver - which was to explain how crystals are formed and the nature of their properties.

Her clear explanations, with colourful Powerpoint illustrations, gave us some insight into the processes involved in crystal formation. We now know a little bit more about the interactions of quarks, radiation, neutrons, helium, electrons, hydrogen, lithium, and beryllium - as well as the place of stars, supernovas and the creation of elements. These make up the structure of the Earth itself, from the core to the outer crust, while volcanoes are deeply involved in the formation of rocks and crystals. She also explained how we, as human beings, are chemically linked - just like crystals, which are evolved products from both the creation of Universe and of the Earth.



Sarah showed the group an amazing photo of the 500,000-year-old Selenite Caves found in Mexico in 2000, which demonstrated the extraordinary nature of the geological activity deep within the Earth.

She discussed theories about how crystals can actually 'work' to help us, by relating them to the concept in quantum physics - where everything in the universe is made of energy, and that energy is in a constant state of vibration.

She linked this theory to the work of one crystal therapist in particular, Michael Gienger. Giegner identified particular crystalline structures, e.g. 'monoclinic', 'triclinic' and 'hexagonal', which, he felt, were very good at holding a constant, stable vibration. By remaining essentially unchanged for millions of years, their properties can be of great assistance to us. As we are such complex entities, a changing mix of vibrations can very easily get out of balance, which can cause illness and disharmony in either our body and/or our energy field.

Using crystals therapeutically can assist in restoring that balance within the body and, in steadying vibrations, can return our system to a more harmonious state.

Sarah also discussed and demonstrated the need to look after crystals by charging them, cleansing them and storing them carefully so that they can work to their best ability - and so that they neither become 'overloaded', nor feed back into the environment any negativity that has been removed.

The geology of Devon was examined and, in particular, the nature of some of the granite on Dartmoor, such as the Big Feldspar Granite. She ended the presentation with Albert Einstein's quote that 'everything is energy'.

As part of the workshop, following her talk, people were given the opportunity to undertake some dowsing exercises. The first of which involved the use of crystal cards from two different packs, with the intention either to 'Dowse for a card to find what crystal is suitable for you now' or to 'Dowse for a card that will help you in an area of your life that currently needs assistance' - and then to read the message/affirmation, and something about the crystal, from the card. Sarah also brought in various formations of stones and rocks. Participants were asked to dowse their energy fields, and then to discover how many bands of energy the rock exhibited. Group members were also invited to dowse for a crystal from a tray of tumble stones to keep. There were plenty of reference books available to look up information about the various stones, or to read further about the items that had been recommended by the cards.

In Sarah's second workshop she asked the group to sit in a large circle. We then talked about connecting with spirit, elementals, angels, totems and spirit guides - and described some of our experiences.

She explained how people could connect psychically and mediumistically with these energetic forms. She stressed that the best and safest way to prepare yourself is to ensure that you are well grounded and protected, before opening up to these external energies. To do this, Sarah invited the members to use the crystals that they had brought from the previous workshop. She then led the group in a guided visualisation through the process of grounding and protection - and then journeyed through a meditation, using the chosen crystals to assist in opening up to messages from other energies.

After the meditation, she set up some group activities to enable us to work on our psychic abilities - by 'feeling' who was standing behind us, and 'seeing' what we could pick up.

It was a powerful and relaxed ending to an afternoon of excellent workshops.

Merrivale

led by Ros Twinn

Of all the Dartmoor dowsing sites, this is probably one of the most accessible, and has a very good range of archaeology available.

With a standing Menhir, a fallen cousin, two long, double stone rows, a veritable hut circle village, a Reave that dowses very unlike the boundary work shown on the OS map, and all sorts of sites of missing megaliths, this is a multi-layered complex to engage any dowser.

The last Menhir standing is almost an upright encyclopaedia of straight and wiggly lines - earth energy, water, leys, lines of consciousness, grids - you name it, my friend the Menhir has got it. You could spend all day just at this one spot.

The circle, with its expanding and contracting quiver of radials is always worth a visit, too, and the stone rows, with their larger stones pre-dating the smaller ones, are both a timeline of sequential use and a tapestry of patterns and alignments.



Whether or not The Reave to the east of the site is part of Dartmoor's Great Western Reave (a Reave being some kind of boundary work), it certainly doesn't dowse like an inconsequential embankment. With earth energy braiding and straight lines in abundance, kists, cairns, spirals and pictograms, this is no glorified hedge-bank either. Dowsing indicates that the stones lost to quarrymen over the centuries would have dwarfed those that remain - and that the 'Reave' could probably have been the most significant part of the original matrix.

Many thanks to Ros Twinn for bravely stepping out of her comfort zone to lead the group, as the intended steward chose that moment to faint in the car park in front of the assembled multitude. It will be a good after-dinner story for all concerned, but more than a bit embarrassing for yours truly. (As I am now writing this, I am assuming that I am still alive and typing!)

However, people seemed to have really enjoyed their taster time at Merrivale - for which I am truly relieved!

NT

Fernworthy Stone Circle

led by Gwynn Paulett

The stones were waiting for us, as we walked up the gravel road from the car park and through the pine trees, which encircle Fernworthy reservoir.

We gathered prior to entering the site to request our permissions, and experienced dowsers quickly engaged with the energies present.



The less experienced were soon getting dowsing reactions from energy lines, spirals, blind springs, cairn occupant numbers, and stone circle cross talk.

In such a timeless space it all passed too quickly. Before leaving, we all chose a stone to be with, and to listen to what was present, before sharing some dowsing results.

Two members had been talking to the Guardian of Place, who was not of human origin - ten foot tall, but happy to be in communication. Others had measured the stone row energy sling shot phenomenon, and male and female healing spots in the circle had been enjoyed.

We left the stones, in their wooded clearing, with the trees holding a peacefulness and quiet energy that one can experience when free from the distraction of far off horizons.

As we walked back down the gravel road we were escorted by darting blue dragonflies.

GP

Lydford Gorge

led by Stuart Dow

..... and so it was that a nicely manageable party of ten intrepid dowsers assembled at Lydford Gorge on a Sunday morning for a walk, talk and dowse of the Michael Line - and of any elementals that they might encounter.

Personally, I feel that the subtle, but powerful, effects of the Michael Earth Energy, channelled and intensified by this gorge, had much to do with the power and naked lawlessness of locally based outlaws in the late middle ages.

Much later, the present 'Castle', which was actually built as a courthouse and prison, became known as a place of great dread, and was described as "--- one of the most Heinous, Contagious and Detestable places in the whole Realm".

I think that is a good lesson about the power of 'intent' created on an Energy Line. We have a choice - and thus it is wise to go in peace, in love and in light upon this planet that we all share.

I handed out maps, showing the course of the Michael Energy, and we set off on the three mile walk, taking in the beauty of the woodland. Halfway towards the White Lady Falls, people were beginning to zone in to the Spirit Loci of the area, and they had picked up the dowseable energy of a curious granite stone way-marker with a backwards S carved beautifully into it. This Stone is an enigma - it has chakras, and it appears to be placed upon an energy line. Some found it severe and dark, others felt fine and were happy to be there.

As we approached the White Lady Falls, everyone appeared to notice the change in 'vibe', and soon were tracking the course of Michael, as we descended into the floor of the Gorge. At the foot of the falls, where everyone stopped and gazed in rapture, is a beautiful, sparkling



Energy of undoubted healing presence, where the Lady conjoins with the coursing Michael Energy. It took everybody quite a while to move from this place, but given the time schedule, we all walked on along the woodland path by the river, with the Michael Energy beside us, creating a feeling of the 'Otherworld'.

Where the path crosses the river, and also the Energy, there is a tunnel. Here, some found their dowsing rods spinning wildly! It was wonderful to see the sheer joy on the faces of the dowsers. We tracked, by this time wearily, on through 'Pixies Glen' to the highlight of the walk - the Devil's Cauldron.

At this point, some left as time was pressing on for lunch, but others bravely descended into the narrow gap between rails and rock, and on down into the river chasm, with the near deafening sound of the water assaulting their ears and senses. Rods were once more spinning wildly for some, as we were right in the middle of the funnelled, and thus accentuated, power of the Michael Line. At this point it is a force to be reckoned with!

Here, I explained that the Devil's Cauldron, no doubt so-called by a jealous church, should be renamed 'The DIVINE Cauldron'! A chalice of white surging water and of white noise, the sound of PURE Energy!

I then spoke of the progression of the Ages, from Pisces and being 'a fish in water', to Aquarius and being 'of and at one with water' and that water IS life - and thus also the essence of pure Love.

We then spent a few minutes of silent Meditation and Gratitude amongst the deafening energy, of the white noise, before climbing out of our Otherworld and rejoining the world above



SD

Belstone

led by Angie Kibble

Dowsing is a great leveller. What else would induce sixteen individuals of diverse background to huddle together in the shade of the last tree before the open moor, on a glorious hot summer morning, to be introduced to the wonder and mystery that is Belstone?

My challenge was to condense into three hours a walk that would usually take a full day, mindful that our group included the DFest closing speaker, a certain John Moss Esquire, who could not, under any circumstances, be late back!

We started off at the Nine Maidens, a charming little stone circle suffused by the Michael Line. By a happy coincidence our group also contained nine maidens - if only we had realised this happenstance in time to take a photograph. Maybe next year!



After an impromptu talk on dowsing for the benefit of the 20-strong Nordic walking group, who turned up and wondered what on earth we were doing, we visited the Church of St Mary the Virgin. This building contains an ancient ring cross stone, several discarnate monks, and a very strong energy line, which may (or may not) be Michael.

Finally we dowsed at the beautiful Holy Well, which has the same energy line flowing through it.

Hamish Miller and Paul Broadhurst's map does not show the Michael line at either the Church or the Holy Well, so the dowsing jury is still out as to whether the line has moved - or not.



Angie Kibble with John Moss

Either way it was a good excuse to visit my most favourite part of Dartmoor.

AK

Animal and Human Healing

Ann Lodygowski

For those who were a bit less mobile, overwhelmed by heat or just couldn't get enough of this remarkable woman, Ann Lodygowski ran an indoor session in South Zeal Victory Hall, as an alternative to the field trips.

Ann felt she had "a great group of people on the workshop, all working together - whether it was communicating and/or healing cats, dogs or horses. We tuned into them via flower remedies, to find their feelings. We then moved on to the skeletal and muscular systems to find any problems, basic deficiencies (with vitamins, minerals etc.), and finally we dowsed for which herbs we should give them to cure their problems - always asking what they needed, not what they wanted.

After a slightly delayed coffee break, I thought it would be good to dowse on behalf of the two-legged species (aka humans), using some new diagrams. As a result, we managed to sort out some of their problems and queries.

To finish with, we all sent healing to those who needed it. We used pendulums or rods going to positive to send healing. When the tool goes to neutral (as I call it) I know that the healing has been accepted. Finally, the tool gives a negative response, indicating that there is no need to send any more healing."

There was some very strong positive feedback from this session.



AL/NT

John Moss

For almost a decade, John Moss wrestled to cope with that medusa-like organism, The British Society of Dowzers. Although it provided him with great insight, and a huge knowledge of the subject, it also left a few scars.

But scars are good if, like John, you can learn from the experience, and move on.

Today JM has become a senior statesman of the dowsing community, and his conceptual views, let alone his practical discourses, are always worth a listen.

Here, he was being deliberately challenging, in part to ground the assembled group, but more to take issue with some of the aspects of dowsing theory that appear to have become irrefutable facts - albeit bereft of much evidence.

Those new to dowsing will have benefitted from this talk, in that it shows the subjectivity of our gift. It also reminds us all not to be taken in too glibly by the unfounded statements of those who should know better.



Even when being deadly serious, JM has a genial, subversive way of getting across his message.

Maverick dowzers must hate this bloke. DFesters loved him.

NT



To complete the weekend, some of the more experienced dowzers fielded questions from the floor - a sort of Question Time without the predictable responses.

The requests for information were varied and, at times, challenging. As a consequence, the panel probably learned more from the session than anyone else!

At the end of a typical weekend, either for work or for leisure, large numbers of attendees usually slope off 'to catch an earlier train'. However, at South Zeal, perhaps because there are no trains, or maybe because the panel seemed actually likely to say something of interest, nearly everyone stayed right up to the very end.

Indeed, if there had been any hint of the activities being extended further, you had the feeling that many would have stayed on almost indefinitely - such was the positive ambience of this inaugural DFest.

NT

Some attendee feedback from 2018

People were so willing to share their knowledge of dowsing with me which was great.

Re-inspired my dowsing work.

The talks were very interesting and covered different aspects of dowsing.

I've loved exploring dowsing this weekend. Would love another DFest weekend. Brilliant weekend. Must do it again.

Really enjoyed the whole weekend. Looking forward to the next one.

Another DFest in South Zeal would be a great idea, so we can do the expeditions we haven't been able to do.

Brilliant weekend. Thank all of you for all of your hard work. You thought of everything.

The location is perfect – to have the chance to explore the different locations would be great.

Absolutely loved the weekend. Thank you so much for organising. Looking forward to the next one.

A brilliant weekend. Well done to all the organisers.

What a great weekend. I hope it will be repeated.

It would be great to have a chance to dowse all the other places on the outing.

If "outstanding" ranks above excellent, I'd rank it all outstanding. Absolutely brilliant and great fun. Thanks.

A wonderful experience, my first taste of dowsing, but won't be my last.

So many people said they had learned so much over that DFest weekend.