

SOUTH HEREFORDSHIRE DOWSERS

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Report of the Trip to Tenby by Ros Milward

Eleven members of the South Herefordshire Dowsers set off on 25th September for what was to be a very memorable four days. Blessed throughout by the radiant warmth of the sun, and the delight of the Harvest Moon displaying her light every night across the waters of Tenby Bay.

Day 1 25 September Talley Abbey and St Michael & All Angels Church

At the Reformation a parish church was made by walling off the transepts, aisles and west half of the nave of the 12th and 13th century abbey church. A new church nearby was provided in 1773 and replaced in the 19th century. The abbey was Premonstratensian (Cistercian interpretation of Augustinian rules). It was founded for white canons and is the only Welsh monastery of this order.

We thought its atmosphere heavy. Dowsing across from the outer north wall of the church graveyard and walking from north to south, we found alternating bands of male/female energy lines and found the male energy always aligning through the altars of the church and abbey's altars and flowing east/west. The 18th century church was surrounded by many yews. An ancient druid site with five concentric stone circles – the stones alternating male/female. Under the abbey tower we dowsed a circular energy with radials on the cardinal points and on the diagonals.

Tenby: Castle View House

We arrived late afternoon in perfect weather and made ourselves at home, relaxing and soaking up the views from the lounge bay window overlooking the harbour and sea front. Fish and chips were brought in which went down a treat!

Day 2 26 September St Nicholas Penally

A 13th century church with pilgrims travelling from Brittany and Cornwall to Ireland who would come ashore and then embark again on the southern shore of Cardigan Bay. The church is dedicated to St Nicholas of Myra and St Teilo. St Teilo was born in Penally and became the 1st bishop of Llandaff. Another saint is remembered by St Deiniolis Well by the Abbey hotel.

We all had coffee in the hotel and its remarkable grounds. Rods and pendulums came out to find its four wells, all active. The ruins of the old abbey resplendent amongst the lush greenery with a ley across its width. Back at the church within a raised druid site above the road and surrounded by yews again, we found three stone circles and by the south porch an anti-clockwise spiral which was very powerful. Standing within the spiral pulled your body back and forth and you felt the spiral as your body swayed, this linking to a clockwise spiral in the porch, with radials like those at Talley Abbey. Parts of old celtic crosses stood in the south transept with their relevant history panels. The village green had remanence of a past labyrinth.

Bier House, Penally

We drove off in search of food and Rob pulled in at a shop. Thanks to him, we found ourselves beside an old bier house. Now an historic monument and built in 1900 to house the parish bier and sometimes used as a mortuary, when bodies were washed ashore. It was built within the village pound and displays several history panels.

St James, Manobier

A 12th century Norman church with medieval paintings and dedicated to St James the Greater. It was believed to have been built on part of a 6th century site which was once a larger celtic monastic settlement founded by St Pyr.

Dowsing picked up the remanence of an early stone church, part within the church and extending past the north wall and a Roman Temple. We also found three stone circles the remanence of which lay in the font area, another in the nave and lastly one in the chancel. The individual stones within each circle alternating male/female and connecting like a triple figure of eight. Its central circle responding to female being held by male on either side and all interconnected by white male line down east/west axis of the church and held by black female lines on either side. The word 'Triple Goddess' came through. Dowsing also picked up a Chantry Chapel in the eastern part of the graveyard and significant ley. The views to Manorbier castle and the coast were spectacular.

St Govan's Chapel

This was south-west of Tenby, near Bosherton. Some of our group went to the lily ponds and walk and viewed Church Rock in Broadhaven Bay. St Govan is believed to have been a 6th century Irish abbot. His vessel was attacked by pirates but he headed for the coast and

took shelter within a rock fissure. He vowed to spend the rest of his days as a hermit and built a cell at the spot where divine intervention had thwarted the pirates. Within the tiny vaulted chapel is his altar with an almost completely invisible wheel and eight radials incised into its face and a cross on the wall above. Holy water issued below the stone floor and could be collected from a small opening. The main well, now dry, is in the rocky bay and can be reached easily from the chapel. Dowsing information revealed there was a reliquary within the altar. Leys ran east/west and north/south.

Back at Castle View we all joined forces, food was bought, chicken and pizza, and salad was provided by courtesy of June from her garden and Margaret had baked a magnificent spicy fruit cake for afters. Wine and chat flowed in abundance.

Day 3 27 September St David's

We headed for St David's Bishop's Palace. Basically built by Henry de Gower, bishop of St David's from 1328 – 1347 although portions of its structure were in place before his time. It is still an impressive ruin built around a massive courtyard with Bishops Hall, solar, chapel to the east and Great Hall and Great Chapel, entered by a decorated Gothic porchway and arcaded parapet, to the south. Two long undercrofts for storage and the palace well filled the west range.

Both chapels had their usual leys but didn't align east/west but to southeast/northwest.

Dowsing found a Sacred Way running east/west across the courtyard and again remanence of a labyrinth.

St David's Cathedral

In the Middle Ages two pilgrimages to St David's were considered the equal of one to Rome. In the 6th century David formed a monastic community. This was attacked by Vikings during the 10th and 11th centuries. King Henry II visits in 1171 and 1172. In the 14th century Henry de Gower became Bishop. After the Reformation the first Protestant Bishop was appointed. Then a gradual state of disrepair followed until 1860 when restoration took place. In 1932 it was placed in State care and conservation began.

The relics of St David are interred with those of his friend St Justinian.



St David's Cathedral viewed by some of our dowsing friends

Dr Beynon's Bug Farm

This was organised by Rob and saw some of us experiencing the delights or otherwise of a 7 cm cockroach being placed on our hands and huge 20 cm stick insects – bright green – for those brave enough, and then a huge wriggly beetle grub! To top it all, their restaurant food (grub) was made with 'mashed up' grub ingredients. These were optional!

St Non's Well

Information states that at the moment of David's birth the spring that was to bear her name burst forth from the ground. The well in earlier times had been enclosed in a building with a stone roof and benches.

St Non's Retreat Chapel

This was built in 1934 in the old celtic style with beautiful stained glass windows of the saints: Bridget, Catherine, Margaret and Non. It had a very peaceful atmosphere.

Back at base, the end of the trip was celebrated by a magnificent meal cooked by Rob with wine and merriment aplenty, taking us all to almost the midnight hour, when we retreated to our rooms before we changed into pumpkins.

Day 4 28 September

We bid a fond farewell to all and with great sadness left for home. Some went to Llansteffan. It was a beautiful day but access to the castle with cars proved too tricky. We enjoyed our last meal together and drove home.

From Sue Watts-Cutler:

With the cooler weather approaching, we're preparing to put in another order for SHD embroidered sweatshirts so if you missed ordering yours first time around, now is your chance. Wearing one not only helps to publicise our club but lets us present a smart, corporate image at events and on field trips. And they keep you cosy!

These are good quality, substantial garments (315 gm) designed to be a lasting investment. The colour is dark navy blue and they bear our logo on the left breast. They are 80% cotton and 20% polyester, being thus both comfortable to wear and also hard wearing. The neck is reinforced and the shoulder seams are twin stitched for extra durability. The collar, cuff and hem are ribbed.

Please choose from the sizes below:
(Chest measurement in inches)

Small 36-38"
Medium 40-42"
Large 44-46"
XL 48-50"
XXL 52-64"
3XL 56-58"
4XL 60"
5XL 62"

6XL 64"

Tip: if you are going to be wearing a shirt or jumper underneath, always go a size or two higher to allow for this.

The price this time around is £18.85 each. Please make cheques out to 'South Herefordshire Dowsers' and post them to me at: 20, Haymeadow Lane, Burghill, Hereford HR4 7RZ, letting me know how many sweatshirts you would like and what sizes.

Many thanks,
Sue



Forms for the Christmas Lunch and for renewal of membership are being sent as separate documents.