

heresy *Gr. hairesis* choice

heresies

WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

September 2018 - June 2019

Organised by the Sheffield Steiner Group

Heresies now are not only spiritual but political, scientific, social – any view or practice that goes against the prevailing set of assumptions (often held unconsciously) about what is real or true. You used to risk losing your life if you committed one; now it's only your intellectual reputation. Or at the very least, you are just politely ignored. Yesterday's and today's heresies though, often become tomorrow's accepted truths. Included in this programme are some that have already become 'tomorrow's truths', at least by those who recognise there are other ways of knowing than the purely intellectual and reductionist one.

TALKS, WORKSHOPS, AND PERFORMANCE

The venue's full addresses and payment details (if not stated), are on the back of the programme.

Thursdays 10.30am – midday. Cherry Tree Rd

A STUDY GROUP ON ANTHROPOSOPHY.

Please contact Jacqui Swann tel 0114 2745659 for further details.

Sunday 9th September 10am – approx. 5pm.

FROM CIRCLE TO CAVE. Sensing the Spirit of the Place.

A day's contemplative observation of Harthill Moor in Derbyshire – its geology, botany, archaeology and folklore. We will explore the connections between its main features – the remains of a Bronze Age circle and its alignments; a rocky outcrop, Robin Hood's Stride; and the Hermit's Cave, with its unusual carving of a crucifix.



Please bring your own drawing and/or writing materials to record your experiences (or even a musical instrument)

Shared transport might be possible from Cherry Tree Rd, leaving at 10am (please check to find out) or we will meet up at 11am at the B5056 entrance to the Moor, not long past the turning to Birchover. Please bring a packed lunch

Bookings. £10. E: robertchamberlain43@outlook.com or tel 0797 490 6421

Fri 14th Sept 7.30 - 9pm and Sat 15th Sept 0am – 5pm. Freeman College
'WHATEVER MUST HAPPEN, WILL HAPPEN'. An introductory talk on the Friday,
and workshop on the Saturday, on Rudolf Steiner's 4th Mystery Drama, **'The
Souls Awaken'**, given by Richard Ramsbotham.* ('Mystery' meaning the
mystery of the spiritual human journey, not a thriller!).



Steiner's Mystery Dramas go far beyond our normal conceptions of drama.

They take place on several different planes of existence. As well as human beings of today and in their previous lives in past ages, various spiritual beings appear, who are involved, whether for good or bad, in the inner trials of the characters. The Mystery Dramas are above all contemporary dramas of initiation. In his fourth one, *'The Souls Awaken'*, challenges are faced which have a clear and urgent relevance today. In their attempt to transform a factory socially and spiritually, the characters face difficulties that are immediately recognisable – seemingly rigid management structures, the

economic realities of running a business with spiritual aims and the challenge of technology. Above all it is about the huge spiritual struggles the characters encounter within them.

Through improvisation, creative speech and drama work, Richard will enable participants to gain a direct experience of many of the characters, settings and situations of this extraordinary Mystery Drama, whose themes, challenges and transformative potential are of increasing relevance today. The workshop is intended for anyone – and no previous dramatic experience is required – only an openness and a willingness to participate.

***Richard Ramsbotham** has translated the 3rd and 4th Mystery Dramas, and is currently at work on a production of the 4th with the Stroud Mystery Drama Group. It will be performed in Sheffield on 10th November.

Thursdays, beginning 27th September. 7.30-9pm. Cherry Tree Rd.

HAS HISTORY (AND PRE-HISTORY) A MEANING?

Or is it “a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing”



This weekly course, led by **Robert Chamberlain**, will explore the age-old question, ‘Where have we come from, why are we here, and where are we heading?’ through short talks, discussions and experiential sessions contemplating the art and mythology of successive cultures and their symbolic meanings. We will also look at the

underlying realities of the social and political changes that have gone on through the millennia. (Part of this unfolding human narrative is revealed in the landscape visited on 9th September)

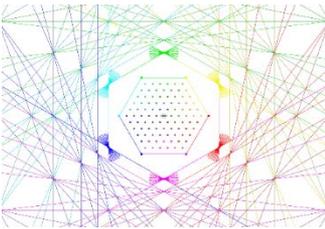
Costs. Voluntary donations



Saturday 13th October 10am – 5pm. Freeman College

A GEOMETRY OF BEAUTY AND LIFE.

Come and explore the wonders of projective geometry, which appeals to the heart as well as the mind. Feel the aesthetic satisfaction of creating beautiful forms, and the delights of clear, pure thinking. This kind of geometry has been employed in the understanding of the changing forms of living organisms, and as a meditative



practice for enhanced awareness.

No previous experience required! If you have been put off maths at school, don't worry. This approach is guaranteed to change your mind. Please bring coloured pencils. A workshop led by **Charles Gunn**, PhD. Mathematician, filmmaker, software developer, and teacher.

Saturday 10th November 2pm Merlin Theatre, Meadow Bank Rd, S11 9AH

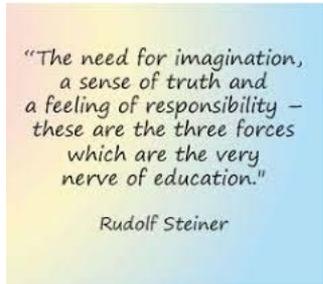
THE SOULS AWAKEN. Rudolf Steiner's Fourth Mystery Drama

Performed by the **Stroud Mystery Drama Group**. (A company of amateur and professional actors). The play lasts approx. 6 hours with two intervals (a unique opportunity for deep immersion in this extraordinary drama of spiritual struggle and growth). For a description, see the entry on 15th September.

FFI & tickets: Email stroudmysterydramagroup@gmail.com or tel. 01453 757436

Friday 23rd November 7.30 – 9.30pm Freeman College

EDUCATING THE HEAD, HEART AND HAND
Working with Steiner educational principles in the State Sector. A talk by **Kath Bransby**, who ran a rural preschool, was Early Years Lead at an inner city Sheffield school, and is now an associate lecturer in Early Years Teacher Training at Sheffield Hallam University.



Friday 30th November 7.30-9.30pm Freeman College



THE PILGRIMAGE TO SANTIAGO DE LA COMPOSTELA.

From the Pyrenees (Camino Francés) and over the mountains from Oviedo (Camino Primitivo).

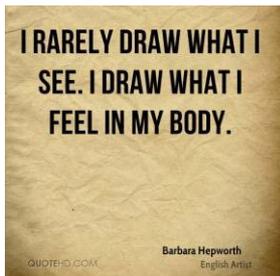
Find out what it's like to walk the Camino, meeting wonderful people, seeing beautiful architecture and landscapes and going on a spiritual quest with blisters and sore tendons thrown in for good measure!

A talk by **Michael Bates**, former head gardener at Weleda UK.

Saturday 23rd February 10am -5pm. Freeman College

SPIRIT IN ART. Looking at art, talking about it and doing it

In the morning, **from 10am to 12.30pm**, three artists, **Lesley Beckett, Alison Churchill and Kate Pickin**, display some of their work and enter into a dialogue with those who come to see it. All of them draw on spiritual inspiration



in different ways. Just drop in. Tea and coffee available. *Free admission.*



In the afternoon, 2-5pm each of the artists will offer a mini-workshop. No previous experience is needed to join

in. £10 to cover costs

Saturday 23rd March 10am- 5pm. Freeman College

HERESIES

Sylvia Francke* will trace the underground stream of Esoteric Christianity flowing through the Grail legends, the Cathar Heresy and onwards as knowledge held by the Knights Templar and later by the hidden



Rosicrucian Brotherhood of the 15th 16th and 17th centuries; eventually surfacing at the beginning of the 20th century in a contemporary, metamorphosed form in Spiritual Science. This stream also had its origins in Gnosticism and Manicheism; the latter a movement which did not, as widely supposed, present a prospect of unredeemable evil; but instead described the possibility of: 'Climbing into the skin of the Dragon and transforming it from within.' **Sylvia is a freelance researcher and lecturer and author of 'The Tree of Life and the Holy Grail'.*

Friday 29th March 7.30-9pm Freeman College

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR, MONKS OF WAR

. *An introductory illustrated talk by **Stephen Roberts**. Why did men of the ruling families of medieval Europe give up everything, including their lands and family, for a life of harsh discipline and bloody combat? Stephen will outline the Order's history and its demands upon initiated members.*



Saturday 30th March 10.30am – 12 noon

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR – their faith and spiritual legacy. *An illustrated talk by **Stephen Roberts**. What esoteric revelations underpinned the Order's rules and why are murals of St. Christopher found in some Templar churches? And did spiritual forces arise from the Templars' sacrifices which worked on after the Order's demise? Stephen will suggest answers to these and associated questions.*

Fri 10th to Sun 12th May Eastwood Hall Hotel, Eastwood NG16 3SS

NATURE SPIRITS – the reality and the responsibility.

A weekend conference (sponsored by Weleda UK) on recognising and co-creating with the world of nature intelligences, i.e. the conscious beings working within the mineral, fluid, gaseous and warmth processes. The conference will also recognise the increasing numbers of contemporary elementals connected with city life, machines and electronics, etc.

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Speakers and workshop leaders will include: **Tanis Helliwell** (*Summer with the Leprechauns*), **Karsten Massei** (*School of the Elemental Beings*), **Susan Raven** (*Nature Spirits – The Remembrance - A Guide to the Elemental Kingdom*) and **Ian Trousdell** (*Foundation for Water, Emerson College*). Others TBA. (Both residential (4-star) and non-residential places will be available)

For further information: See www.naturespiritsconference.com

Tuesday, 21st May 7.30-9.30pm Freeman College

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

How are we subtly being influenced by the mass media in what and how we think about political and social issues? How do we practise discernment as to what is true and what isn't?

*A talk illustrated with many examples, given by **Piers Robinson**, Professor of journalism and politics at Sheffield University.*

Saturday 8th June 10am – 5pm. Venue to be announced

A LIVING LOOK AT PLANTS – A Goethean Scientific Plant Study

Following the ideas of Goethe, we will look at a plant in the living sequence of its movement and transformation from a seed through



rooting, leafing and flowering to when it bears seeds itself.

We will participate in detailed observation, sketching, and using our memory to grow the plant in our imagination; in this way, together, we will try to relate to its being and gesture (what the plant is telling us) and finally how that may relate to the human being. We will discover lots of aspects we didn't know before and forge new connections to the plant world!

*A workshop led by **Michael Bate**, former head gardener at Weleda UK. Please bring coloured pencils, a board and fold-up chair, if possible,*

SPIRIT OF THE YEAR

Celebrating the seasons and festivals of the year with participatory artistic activities. You are welcome to bring along your own contributions - readings, music etc.

Michaelmas 29th Sept 2-5pm and **Christmas** 22nd Dec 2-5pm. Brantwood School

Three Kings and Epiphany 6 Jan 1.15pm High Riggs BD Market Garden,

Stannington S6 6BY. **Candlemas (Imbolc)** 2nd Feb 6.45am High Riggs.

21 April **Easter** BS

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Venues: Freeman College, 88, Arundel St, S1 2NG =FC. 78, Cherry Tree Rd, Nether Edge, S11 9AB = CT. Brantwood School, 1, Kenwood Bank Rd, S7 1NU = BS. Merlin Theatre and Freeman Hall, 2, Meadow Bank Rd, S11 9AH = MT. High Riggs Market Garden, Stannington S6 6BY=HR

Thurs (continuous) CT Study Group; 9 Sept From Circle to Cave; 14/15 Sept FC Mystery Play Workshop; from 27 Sept weekly CT. Has history a meaning?; 29 Oct BS Michaelmas festival; 13 Oct FC Projective geometry; 10 Nov MT Mystery Play; 23 Nov FC Steiner in the State Sector; 30 Nov FC The Camino; 22 Dec BS Christmas Festival; 6 Jan HR Epiphany festival; 2 Feb HR Candlemas Festival; 23 Feb FC Spirit in art; 23 March FC Heresies; 29/30 March FC The Knights Templar; 21 April BS Easter Festival; 10-12 May Eastwood Nature Spirits; 21 May FC The elephant in the room; 8 June tba A living look at plants.

BOOKINGS. Please book the weekend events at least a week before

Contact Robert Chamberlain robertchamberlain43@outlook.com Visit our website:

www.sheffieldsteiner.org.uk

FEES - For those events where no charge is indicated, please pay what you can afford. If you can pay the full amount, that obviously would be most welcome. (£5/£3conc. for a talk or course session, £12/£8 for a half day, £25/ £20 for a whole day.)

THE LENDING LIBRARY is at 78, Cherry Tree Rd, S11 9AB. For information about membership and access times, please phone Rita Evans on 01433 631762 or Lesley Musgrove on 0114 2214451.

BIODYNAMIC MARKET GARDENS. There are two in Sheffield – one in Moss Valley run by Martin Bradshaw, an independent grower and the other at High Riggs in Stannington, which is part of Freeman College. Contact Martin for details of his veg box scheme and opportunities for volunteering. martinbradshaw@hotmail.com Tel 07890 558098. Contact Peter Van Vliet, the head gardener at High Riggs, for his veg box scheme and public courses on biodynamics. petervvliet@googlemail.com, Tel 07975793193.

RUDOLF STEINER AND ANTHROPOSOPHY. Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925) was an Austrian philosopher, spiritual researcher and social pioneer whose ideas and methods are being applied worldwide today- in education, medicine, the arts, agriculture and various social and economic enterprises. His meditative path of insight and practice is called Anthroposophy ('anthropos'- the human being, 'Sophia'-wisdom) and in essence can be described as a 'thinking with the heart' which can be freely practised by anyone.

THE SHEFFIELD STEINER GROUP is an educational charity under the name of Tintagel House (Sheffield) Ltd. Charity no 201407