

## **Field trip to Whiteleaved Oak Slimbridge Dowsing group**

### **Introduction**

Whiteleaved Oak is a tranquil hamlet located in a valley between Ragged Stone Hill and Chase End Hill at the southern end of the Malvern Hills. The hamlet itself comprises only a few cottages which are reached by a winding single lane country road. The centre of the hamlet is located where the boundaries of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire meet.

The hamlet itself takes its name from an ancient whiteleaved oak which apparently was located where the three county boundaries actually meet. We know of the tree's existence when in 1584 Henry Dingley, the official of the Chase hunting ground, noted the tree on one of his walks around the boundary, and wrote "there groweth a great oake cauled White Leaved oake" According to local history this old oak tree was cut down by an irate landowner who was fed up with the crowds of people who came to visit this magical tree and leave offerings behind. Whilst the exact date of when the tree was cut down is not known, it is believed to be either at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century or beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Despite the loss of this magical old tree, another old oak tree was located a few fields away, and it was not long before people started to visit this site. Sadly, this ancient tree was destroyed by fire on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020 by some careless visitor. However, before this event the hollow tree, reputed to be 700 – 800 years old, was regularly adorned with ribbons, amulets, stones and crystals. Like the original oak before, it seems that people were attracted by the energies and spirituality associated with the area. It should be noted however, that while the original whiteleaved oak was purported to have variegated white leaves, a variety known as *Quercus Robur Albomarginata*, the tree that burned down was a Sessile oak, and not a true variegated white leaved specimen.

### **Claim to Fame – Interesting Facts**

Having visited Whiteleaved Oak on a number of occasions it has always struck me, not only how quiet and peaceful the hamlet is, but that I never met another person during my time there. Despite this seemingly unassuming hamlet, it is difficult to ignore the many reasons to suggest that Whiteleaved Oak is really quite a special place. Such as:

- According to Welsh Triads, in the past three choirs of monks 2400 strong located at Llantwit Major, Glastonbury and Amesbury would chant, 100 of them at a time, 24/7 in order to enchant the landscape. The legend of the three choirs is still recognised today. The Three Choirs way runs through Whiteleaved Oak, and we have the Three Choirs vineyard not far away to name but two.
- John Gibson-Forty a local dowser enlisted to investigate the story of the Three Choirs spent three years of his life plotting the path of ten energy lines

emanating from Whiteleaved Oak and forming a decagon. This work formed the basis for his book "The Interconnectedness of all Things"

- In his book John Gibson-Forty states that at one time Whiteleaved Oak was thought to be one of the spiritual centres of Britain, if not the spiritual centre. Certainly, one of the visitors to Whiteleaved Oak, a Native American, head medicine man of the Ojibway Nation, claimed it to be one of the three most important energy centres in the World.
- Brian Haynes, a local resident, says in his book "Tales from Whiteleaved Oak" that during the forty years he has lived there he has welcomed a procession of often spiritually challenged visitors. They have included dowzers, Druids, pagans, witches, faeries, Native American Indians, extra-terrestrial Ambassadors, Mayan astrologers, a BBC sports presenter who warns we're being taken over by alien lizards, and actor Patrick Stewart.
- One of the ten energy lines dowsed by John Gibson-Forty, Line 6 from Whiteleaved Oak to the designated grave of King Arthur in Glastonbury Abbey, has a special interest to the SDG. It passes through the church of St Mary the Virgin at Frampton-on-Severn, close to the Frampton-on-Severn village hall where we have held some of our meetings. It then passes just outside the Whitminster village hall, and then onto Slimbridge where we used to hold our meetings in the village hall there. It even passes through the Tortworth chestnut tree, the location of one of our past field trips.

## Dowsing at Whiteleaved Oak

During our visit to Whiteleaved Oak some people may wish to simply enjoy the peace and quiet, and the beauty of the local landscape. Others may wish to dowse the locality intuitively and find out what Whiteleaved Oak means for them. Others may wish to confirm for themselves the various energies that emanate from the area. For those not sure where to start I give below some suggestions on what to dowse. It would then be interesting to compare our findings afterwards.

- Locate the centre where the ten energy lines originate from. **Tip** according to John Gibson-Forty you will need to be shown the energy lines that are from 2000BC.
- Can you identify the energy line 6 mentioned previously
- Can you locate where the original whiteleaved oak grew. Can you determine how old it was when cut down, and when this was.
- If the energy lines are at least from 2000BC, see if you can determine when they came into existence.
- Can you locate the field where the old oak that burnt down grew. If so where did the oak grow, and what energies can you detect.

I hope you enjoy your visit to what I believe is a rather special place.

Lawrence Wadsworth