

## **Soul-Voyagers Network Terms of Reference for the year 2016/2017.**

**Terms of Reference describe the purpose and structure of a project, and provide a documented basis for making decisions and developing a shared understanding of aims and objectives, vision, roles, resources, plans and schedule. Set out below are the Terms of Reference the SVN Steering Group have agreed as their goal for 2016/17. They are based on the ideas, wishes and feedback expressed by SVN members at the AGM in October 2016. Constitutionally the AGM is the SVN forum where members review the previous year's activities and elect Steering Group Members for the coming year. This is the second year that the Soul-Voyagers Steering Group have created Terms of Reference. Therefore, this is an update linking new decisions made at the AGM in 2016 to ongoing activities, and includes references to the feedback and evaluation informing our journey for the coming year.**

The **core aims and objectives** for the Soul-Voyagers Network are to seek to expand and promote the deep healing work facilitated by regression practice, holotropic breath work, ancestral work, constellation work, psychodrama, bodywork, shamanism and other related transpersonal therapies and spiritual paths. SVN also seeks to promote the vital importance of such a synthesis of understanding and practice and to find ways of maintaining the deep bonds that are created between those who have shared the experience.

**The vision for Soul-Voyagers Network in our constitution is of a growing 'community of spirit' united by inner experience and the deep understanding and compassion (for self and others) that arises from transpersonal journeying.**

For the past five years the Annual Retreat has provided an opportunity for members who can attend to come together in person. The website enables members to post information and share articles and experiences. During 2015 the Steering Group began a monthly online Newsletter, and in 2016 are moving towards outward expansion.

As a result of discussion, feedback and decisions made at the 2016 AGM (held at the Annual Retreat in October at Charney Manor) the Steering Group elected for 2016/17 see their brief as follows:

- **To support the group energy of the Soul-Voyagers Network moving outwards in coming years; moving on from its origins in Deep Memory Process to embrace and disseminate the diversity of transpersonal experience and the journey of the soul.**
- **To continue the aim of increasing participation among members and creating an online 'community of spirit' through the Newsletter and the Website.**
- **To continue the success of our five Annual Retreats in creating a space and a place where those present create and maintain deep bonds through the sharing of transpersonal experience.**
- **To experiment in 'moving out' by holding a one-day workshop in Bosham, West Sussex in March 2017, and to evaluate the outcomes.**

- **To implement our three- year financial plan in order to make the above objectives possible.**

### **How do we do this?**

- Throughout 2016 the Steering Group explored the creative potential of ideas gathered from members at the 2015 AGM. One by one these ideas were featured in a new online newsletter. The Annual Retreat in 2016 was inspired by the idea of ‘Oasis...gathering...tribal meeting’ and themes from the Appreciative Enquiry became the guide the Steering Group followed throughout 2016. The ideas from the original Appreciative Enquiry continue to be integral to our thinking and exploration.

Community of Spirit  
 Network - with potential for dynamic expansion  
 Acceptance of each other  
 Place of enquiry...seeking  
 Spirit of place and retreat - Charney  
 Support - kindred spirits  
 Heart connection though lifetimes  
 Place for Soul Work  
 Thinking beyond limits  
 Oasis...gathering...tribal meeting  
 Sharing of philosophies  
 Triumph of the Misfits

- Last year we said ‘aiming to develop the potential of SVN through the website we are embarking on an unknown voyage, and rather like the explorers of old we are setting out not knowing where our journey will take us, but guided by our vision and our intention’. At the 2016 AGM/Annual Retreat, as we let go of the old to bring in the new members began an exploratory process towards identifying a collective purpose. The possibilities identified by members at the AGM were:

Uplifting consciousness  
 Journey of the soul  
 Potential for Sacred Activism  
 We are all Soul-Voyagers, more diverse than graduates of Deep Memory Process  
 We share a vision of soul healing  
 We are a vanguard group  
 We aim to become more intergenerational

- Combining these thoughts with ideas from the Appreciative Enquiry 2016 (above), the Steering Group have seed thoughts for 2017 that will the inform everything we do. During the year we will explore new opportunities for ‘moving out’ while continuing our exploratory journey through the Newsletter, the website and the Annual Retreat.
- As a result of positive feedback from members the Steering Group will continue to send out monthly newsletters, continuing with the theme and image of gathering in a tent at an oasis. The intention in 2017 is to draw more on the transpersonal experiences of our members, who will be

invited to write articles to augment those contributed by the Steering Group and the Council of Elders. Members have requested more reports on work in progress and news from members, with forthcoming events and Shamanic journeying all of interest. The monthly online exchange of information and ideas through the Newsletter is intended (as last year) to help us renew our energy and affirm our purpose. In 2017 the overarching theme is 'Spirituality and the Sacred Journey' and each month will feature a different facet of this.

- The Annual Retreat will remain our most important gathering of the year, as well as key to the decision making process. An evaluation has taken place following the 2016 Annual Retreat. The Retreat is valued as a place to meet old friends and make new ones. A move towards fewer presentations and more free time is indicated. Linking themes with discussion groups were also among the suggestions for consideration. With this feedback in mind the Steering Group are suggesting to members that we explore 'Varieties of Transpersonal Experience' (inspired by William James' 'Varieties of Religious Experience') and once again we hope our members will come forward to be the presenters.
- This year as an experiment we will explore the potential of holding one-day workshops in different parts of the country. These are intended to provide a bridge between the small group of 20 plus members who attend the Annual Retreat, and the larger membership online. It will also, if successful, enable the word to spread and reach others. These workshops are important in that they will provide an opportunity to 'move out' which we can evaluate, and assess the potential for other workshops. Our first one-day workshop will be held in Bosham in West Sussex in March 2017.
- The Steering Group will dedicate time to reviewing the website: What do we want from it? How many people use it? How do we encourage people to look at it? Do we need to establish a Facebook group also?
- The Steering Group have created a financial plan, taking into consideration financial expenditure over a three year period, and aiming to create a financial cushion from monies that come from the Annual Retreat and donations. The plan was discussed and agreed at the AGM. This plan will need to be reviewed and updated each year, and shared with the membership. It is recognised that Soul-Voyagers has only one income stream apart from donations, and that is the Annual Retreat. Funding the Annual Retreat is reliant on 20 plus members attending, but so far this has been possible. There is no intention at present to introduce a subscription.

### **Who will take part in this?**

- The Steering Group elected at the 2016 AGM comprises of Suzanne Ross Chair, Richard Livings, Secretary and Webmaster, Jen Kershaw, Treasurer, Pam Douglas Smith (link to the elders), Pauline Compton Tough and Ingeborg Borst.
- Also re-appointed at the 2016 AGM were a Council of Elders who agreed to act as a support to the Steering Group. They are Julia Collet, Carol Duncan (link to Steering Group), Mary Haskins, Kris Misselbrook, Nick Nicholls and Geoff Pullen. Pam Douglas Smith will continue to liaise with Carol Duncan and the elders to work out what form the support and the communication will take.

- Our Webmaster Richard Livings will oversee the Newsletter and its content, and take responsibility for putting everything on the website. Richard will send monthly alerts by email to our members to send the Newsletter and inform them of the new content on the website. The feedback from members at the Annual Retreat on the Newsletter was positive, but developing an online community will require much more participation through the website than has been the case so far. Steering Group members will explore possibilities for the existing website and continue to share writing up ideas and content for the Newsletter. Input is needed from the Council of Elders and members and the Steering Group will continue to work towards encouraging this.
- Planning the Retreat will be the responsibility of the Steering Group and the theme this year will be 'Varieties of Transpersonal Experience'. Members will be invited through the website to say if they would like to present their work or run workshops at the 2017 Retreat. The Steering Group will then undertake the detailed planning of the programme choosing from the presentations and workshops on offer.
- The work of bookings and financial administration for the Annual Retreat will be undertaken by Jen Kershaw as Treasurer. Facilitating the Retreat as it happens will be done by members of the Steering Group, and by elders or other members by negotiation and agreement between all concerned.

### **Work breakdown, structure and schedule**

- The Steering Group meet monthly on the third Thursday of each month through Skype.
- One face to face meeting is planned for May 2017.
- Minutes are made from each meeting and will become available on the website.
- The accounts from 2016 will be audited and become available on the website.
- Apart from Treasurer and Webmaster tasks are shared between all Steering Group members. This is a structure the Steering Group are developing, experimenting with rotating the roles of chairing meetings and taking minutes. Email communication between meetings facilitates understanding and the decision making process between Skype meetings.
- Pam Douglas Smith is the liaison between the Steering Group and the Elders.
- The financial plan has established how much money can be accumulated over a three year period from the Annual Retreat. This plan includes financial provision for the continuation and updating of the website, but does not allow for further expenditure. The costs involved in running the Retreat at Charney Manor continue to be assessed. SVN are committed to this venue and deposits are paid for 2017 and 2018, but the high cost of accommodation leaves little margin for profit.
- The aim is to continue to produce monthly Newsletters, but to time them to appear at the beginning of each month.
- Planning for the Annual Retreat will be a priority for the one face to face Steering Group Meeting, as will thinking through how to best utilise the website.

## **How will we measure our success?**

Through the following practical achievements:

1. Accounts for 2015/16 published on the website
2. Terms of Reference established for 2016/2017 and published on website
3. Three year financial plan implemented during 2017 and 2018
4. Establishing the role of the Council of Elders
5. Monitoring the length of tenure of Steering Group members (minimum one year).
6. Above to be reviewed each year for 2/3 years at the AGM to establish how best to ensure both continuity and change.
7. Reworking the Website making the best use of existing facility
8. Using ideas generated by enquiry and feedback for inspiration for monthly Newsletters, and writing content within the overall theme of 'Spirituality and the Sacred'
9. Planning and delivery of 2017 Annual Retreat taking into consideration feedback from 2016 evaluation.
10. Delivering one day workshop at Bosham in March 2017, and evaluating outcomes.

Spiritual success is intangible and much more difficult to quantify than the above.

Once again the Steering Group will count it as a success to create an Annual Retreat where members are valued and listened to. In addition the Steering Group will explore the possibility of generating a similar atmosphere at one day workshops. We know that many of our members value our Newsletters and website and dip in and out throughout the year. The aim is to create a 'community of spirit' offering spiritual inspiration and practical support to all our members undertaking transpersonal journeying. This year our objective is to explore how we might do this.