

The Theosophical Society in England and Wales

Summer School 2024

Monday 2nd - Friday 6th September 2024



The Mystery of Life and Death

Programme

**The Hayes Conference Centre
Swanwick Derbyshire**

MONDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER

14.30 onwards. **Arrivals and registration.**

19.30 **Welcome** by the President,
Introduction of speakers and optional meditation

TUESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER

07.00-08.00 **Qigong with Terri King**

09.45-10.00 **Meditation**

10.00-11.00 **Talk: Greek Hero Myths and the Quest for Transcendence**
Gary Kidgell

The challenges and rewards of the spiritual path are beautifully illustrated by the Greek hero myths. The adventures of the hero within the mythic landscape and the characters found therein, represent archetypal aspects of the human psyche that surface as one seeks to achieve liberation from the Wheel of Rebirth and the cycle of life and death

11.30-12.30 **Study Groups:**

A - Life, Death and Immortality (1) Wayne Gatfield

Is life a dream? Is there such a thing as death and if so, is it what we all think it is? Is there such a thing as soul death? What do Theosophy and other Spiritual teachings tell us about immortality? In these sessions we will be discussing these very questions and seeing what our insights and intuitions reveal to us.

B - The Death of Socrates (1) Neville Crofts

Socrates is with his friends on the day of his execution. He is unperturbed by his fate, whilst his friends are deeply affected. Phaedo narrates the discussion which follows. This covers the immortality of the soul and why the true philosopher has no fear of death; in fact, he welcomes it.

14.00 Theosophical Order of Service Annual General Meeting

14.30-15.30 Free time or choice of workshops:

(A) - Yoga Nidra with Jenny Baker

Yoga Nidra is deep relaxation that brings about an altered state of consciousness and feelings of peace and serenity.

(B) - Yantra Colouring with Terri King

A practical art session designed to deepen your concentration and awareness on a Divine Image.

16.00-17.00

THE BLAVTASKY LECTURE

Petra Meyer

THE MYSTERY OF LIFE AND ITS CYCLIC EVOLUTION

The cyclic evolution in the illusionary world of physical reality was known to every Initiate the world over. This illusion enters into all finite things because they have only a relative not an absolute reality. Nature is never stationary during its active period but ever becoming, and Karma—the unerring Law of cause and effect on all planes of existence—is interwoven with the Law of Reincarnation—of birth and rebirth—until the illusion is overcome.

19.30-20.30

Musical Presentation

Neville Crofts

20.45-21.15

Meditation

07.00-08.00 **Qigong with Terri King**

09.45-10.00 **Meditation**

10.00-11.00 **Talk: Life in Transition Resurrection** **Tony McNeile**

This talk is about Life's Journey as a complex experience driven by the interaction of our emotional spiritual, intellectual and physical selves and the world around us. The journey contains the seeds of success and failure set against the unconscious drive to seek happiness. Looking back, it is a series of lives that are linked. There may have been many resurrections or none.

11.30-12.30 **Study Groups:**

A - Death and Immortality (2) **Wayne Gatfield**

B - The Death of Socrates (2) **Neville Crofts**

14.30-15.30 **Free time or choice of workshops:**

(A) - Yoga Nidra with Jenny Baker

(B) - Yantra Colouring with Terri King

16.00-17.00 **Talk: Life and Death in Shakespeare** **Elizabeth Crofts**

Is life simply “a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing” as Macbeth states in the play of that name? If Shakespeare's description is a possible outcome of life, then we would be well advised to turn our minds to spirituality immediately. This talk will examine the wise words of Shakespeare on this all-important matter.

19.30-20.30

PUBLIC LECTURE

Petra Meyer

ETERNAL DURATION AND MOMENTS IN TIME

Time is something that we think we understand but an exact definition of time has proved remarkably elusive. Time means change; nothing remains the same for a fraction of a second. Both Theosophy and Science agree with Albert Einstein who once said that 'the separation of past, present and future is only an illusion, although a very convincing one'. In this talk we are going to explore the illusion of time from the ancient teachings of Theosophy and the theories of modern Science.

20.45-21.15 **Meditation**

THURSDAY 5th SEPTEMBER

07.00-08.00 **Qigong with Terry King**

09.45-10.00 **Meditation**

10.00-11.00: **Talk: Awakening to our True Self** **Wayne Gatfield**

Plato has stated that “All (true) learning is merely recollection” -we just need to wake up to who we really are. The Voice of the Silence says: “look inward thou art Buddha”. Buddha means enlightenment and we are all enlightened if we just open our (spiritual) eyes and realise it. This talk will give us signposts to help us on the path and as the Maha Chohan says: “All of us has to get rid of our own Ego, the illusory, apparent self, to recognise our true Self, in a transcendental divine life”.

11.30-12.30 **Study Groups:**

C - Death and the After Death States (1) Peter Brierley and Terri King

In the first study session we will study statements from Ancient Wisdom on death and the after-death states. The second session will be interactive when we will compare teachings with accounts given by contemporary authors and individuals on near-death, death and after-death experiences.

D - Why am I Here and Where am I Going? (1) Pam Evans

In this study group we will explore what Theosophy and the world's greatest religions and cosmologies hold in common and how a sense of the sacred can lead us to a heightened consciousness. Whilst exploring these ideas and more, lively debate will be encouraged.

14.00 Coach Outing to Newstead Abbey. Damon Scothern

Newstead Abbey was the ancestral home of Lord Byron and boasts of 300 acres of parkland including lakes, waterfalls, Japanese gardens, and a café. The cost of the coach is £12 which includes entry to the grounds and gardens but not into the Abbey itself which is only open at weekends.

19.30-20.30 Light-hearted Quiz Damon Scothern

20.45-21.15 Meditation

FRIDAY 6th SEPTEMBER

07.00-18.00 Qigong with Terri King

09.45-10.00 Meditation

10.00-11.00 **Talk: The Mysteries of Existence Jenny Baker**

For hundreds of years philosophers, theologians and scientists have pondered the meaning of existence and whether there is a form of consciousness after death. This talk investigates the theosophical view of the subject.

11.30-12.30 **Study Groups:**

C - Death and the After Death States (2) Peter Brierley and Terri King

D - Why am I Here and Where Am I Going? (2) Pam Evans

12.30 **Closing of the School**

14.00 **Departure after lunch.**

MEAL AND BREAK TIMES

Breakfast	08.00-09.00
Coffee break	11.00-11,30
Lunch	13.00-14.00
Tea break	15.30-16.00
Dinner	18.00-19.00

The Theosophical Order of Service

The T.O.S. is the service arm of the TS, a worldwide organisation devoted to giving practical and humanitarian help by supporting small ethical groups and charities. Money is collected through donations and fund-raising activities, sympathisers and wherever possible, money is sent through local T.O.S. groups who make sure that it is spent effectively.

Membership of the T.O.S. is currently £4 per annum. At this year's school, there will be a 'bring and buy' stall. Please bring a contribution to the stall if you can.

