

## Brief Biography of Sir George Trevelyan

George Trevelyan was born in Westminster on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, 1906, into a family of historians and political radicals. His father was Sir Charles Trevelyan, a liberal M. P. and later Minister for Education in the first Labour governments. George went to Sidcot, the Quaker co-education school in the Mendip Hills. Here he found a passion for exploring caves, to which later, whilst in Cambridge, a love for mountaineering was added. George studied history at Trinity College, Cambridge and after his degree, in 1928, he went to Germany for six months where he made contact with the Freischaar, a liberal aspect of the German Youth Movement. Coming back to England and still unsure about what career to pursue, he threw himself into furniture making. For two blissful years George worked as an apprentice in the workshop of Peter Waals in the Cotswolds. Sir George made many fine pieces of furniture including a tall fall-front bureau and a bed in which he finally died. Whilst in Cambridge George also trained as a teacher with Alexander, who had developed a Technique about conscious, constructive direction of the use of the self. For George the significance lay in the vision of wholeness.

In 1936, at the age of thirty, George was introduced to Kurt Hahn, the great headmaster and founder of Gordonstoun School. He offered George a teaching post at the School to teach history, literature, woodwork and outdoor pursuits. George was a teacher with inspiration and enthusiasm, aware of the importance of the 'Living Ideas and the Living Word', meaning that the teacher was to keep in touch with his inspiration and to speak from the heart direct to the hearts of the pupils without using set notes. Before the Second World War, George had been fired with a new vision – namely using England's great country houses as cultural centres for everyone. He felt that the ideal tool for a new consciousness would be the short residential course in a country house to break through into wider interests. George hoped that the family home in Wallington, Northumberland, could be used for that purpose. However, in 1941, his father bequeathed the house and large estate to the National Trust.

George's opportunity came in 1947, when, on retirement from the army, he was appointed Warden and Principal of Attingham Adult College in Shropshire. Here Sir George did his pioneering work in organising a great number of stimulating activities and courses, including literature, history, architecture, archaeology, music, drama, all the crafts, painting, birdsong, butterflies, geology, heraldry and much more. In his introductory talks George made a point of finding the 'integrating ideas', emphasising how the subject in hand would relate to a wider context. In 1942 George had attended a lecture given by Dr. Walter Stein, a student of Rudolf Steiner. This had led to George's spiritual awakening, as he found himself completely in tune with the idea of 'Man as a spiritual Being' and of 'Earth as a training ground for souls.' When arranging the programmes at the College he slowly introduced esoteric subjects such as 'Finding the Inner Teacher' or 'The New Holistic Vision', or 'Death and Becoming', a subject that was in those days virtually taboo. These courses turned out to be an unprecedented success

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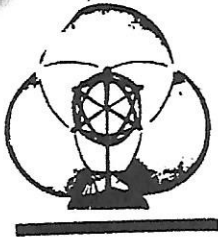
and brought in the greatest number of people. In 1970 George was struck by rheumatoid arthritis, which could have been totally crippling, but with strict diet of raw food and other nature-cure treatments he restored his body to sufficient health to be able to throw himself into the next phase of his life.

In 1971 after retiring as Warden from the Attingham Park College Sir George was asked to found the Wrekin Trust, so that the exciting pioneering courses that he had instituted there could continue. The Wrekin Trust was founded as an educational charity concerned with promoting awareness and study of the spiritual principles that operate through individuals and the universe. After more than 15 years of conferences and courses on the holistic world view, many of which were carried out in English country houses, the Trust added a specific curriculum for spiritual training, which combined the ageless wisdom with modern developments in psychology and scientific knowledge. Thus the annual 'Mystics and Scientists' Conferences were born. For its 'Work forming an essential contribution to making life more whole, healing our planet and uplifting humanity,' the Trust received the Right Livelihood Award (also known as the 'Alternative Nobel Prize') presented at Stockholm in 1982.

George's tremendous enthusiasm and his deep conviction of the wholeness of all life made him a supporter of many new ventures, into which he poured his wisdom and vision. These included the Findhorn Foundation, the Soil Association and various holistic healing organisations. This was the period when George travelled extensively giving lectures all over Britain, also in Germany, France, Holland, in the U.S.A. and in South Africa. He became a true pioneer of Spiritual Renaissance thinking, a rallying point for a new initiative in spiritual awareness and has been fondly referred to as 'The Grandfather of the New Age Movement'. In the late seventies he began to write books about the new spiritual world-view, of which the three main ones are *A Vision of the Aquarian Age* (translated into German), *Operation Redemption* and *Exploration into God*. He also allowed a series of documentary video films to be made of him, as a record and a continuing inspiration. He was a seeker after truth – not a walled-in, dogmatic truth, but a holistic, boundless truth.

In 1940 Sir George got married to Helen; after a few years they adopted a baby called Catriona.





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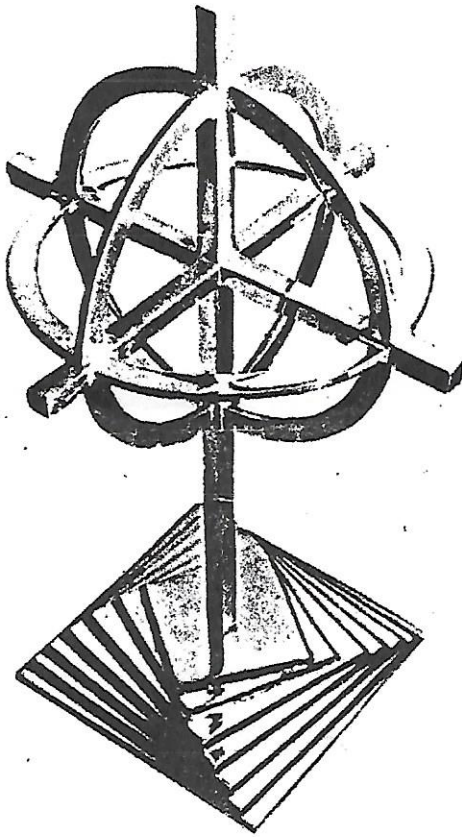
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