

TERRESTRIAL ZODIACS NEWSLETTER

No. 3

Plenty has been going on recently in the field of terrestrial zodiac research as is witnessed by the number of new articles included in the continuing bibliography. Also as I type this I am only a couple of days away from giving a talk on the subject at the Middlesbrough centre of the University of Leeds. The central part of this newsletter is the insert provided by Jill Bruce and Bruce Lacey. They have presented "Earth Spirit: An exhibition of documentary objects and performance -- the result of a year spent relating instinctively to the forces of the Earth and cosmos" from December 19-23 at Battersea Arts Centre and will be again presenting this "myth-defying experience" at Chapter Arts Centre, Market Road, Canton, Cardiff, CF5 1QE from February 14-24. An article to combine with the insert here appears in this newsletter and they have also produced a booklet, "Journey Round the Glastonbury Zodiac", a record of their Somerset trip with poems by Jill Bruce and photographs by both. It is an extraordinarily evocative production, combining verse, information and illustrations relating to the sectors of the zodiac and the activities they performed therein. I'm sure that all readers will wish to own a copy and these are available from Bruce and Jill at 50p plus postage from 10 Martello Street, London E8 (01-254-0353).

As for "T.Z.N." it is not available by subscription and is limited to those with a serious interest in the subject. Those wishing to receive copies as and when produced are asked to send stamps, ~~stamp~~-addressed envelopes or donations. Cash gifts I wish to acknowledge have been received from Jim Kimmis, John Billingsley, Peter M. Hughes and Jill Bruce/Bruce Lacey. Remember it's your newsletter and can only be as good as you make it: either by financial or written contributions. The address is 5 Egton Drive, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, Cleveland, TS25 2AT.



TOO MUCH SPECIALISATION

I will attempt a brief introduction to ourselves and what we are currently doing.

I find it difficult to be brief.

We do not believe in specialisation. We believe mankind evolved as a successful species because he was not specialised and could adapt. We believe man's ever-approaching downfall has to a significant extent been caused by his ever-increasing specialisation.

In the same way we do not believe in specialisation in art. We don't see how all the varied forms of human experience can be parcelled up in separate boxes. Why, if you are a painter, can you not be a musician, etc. Our artistic experience is a complex blending of all the artistic disciplines. We believe art is part of life as it was originally, when it was a physical manifestation of man's relationship with all the subtle energies and forces around him, with which he lived in harmony; not separate from it. We believe everyone is an artist: we are only called artists because modern society puts labels on everything and we don't do any other job.

Our work now comes under the label of Performance Art, and this year we have concentrated on trying to get back to that original harmonious state. We have visited many ancient sites and given ourselves up to them, letting them suggest the creative activity which we then manifest. We have also done a lot of very subjective research.

We are not interested exclusively in zodiacs, but every aspect of earth mysteries and ancient knowledge, but we had an overwhelming compulsion to make a journey round the Glastonbury Zodiac. It was a pilgrimage rather than a journey of objective scientific research. We gave ourselves to the zodiac and it gave back ideas and places. When we can get far enough away from the experience to look at it objectively, there will probably be a lot of knowledge, too.

For a few sites we wanted to visit a specific place, such as Wimble Toot or Ponters Ball, but in most cases we just hunted and explored until we found a place that "felt" right. We took a few prepared objects and had a few ideas of things we might like to do but no idea of where we'd use them. We used some of them, some of them we didn't; in all places but one, what we did was evolved on the spot, relating to and suggested by the

site -- we just drew on the things we had as one draws on a vocabulary of words. The one exception was Glastonbury Tor; we planned ahead what we would do there, but we'd been there before and even so the wind considerably modified our planned activities. It was an incredibly intense and satisfying experience. At the end we felt as if we had been round the Earth; round the Universe.

If anyone would like further details they can get in touch with us ((address on Page 1)).

The experience has inspired us to torrents of feverish creative activity since we've been back. I've been writing poetry and Bruce plans to do so and he is creating a lot of electronic music and we're going to put this all together with the slides and films we took which we hope to present in an audience situation.

-- Jill Bruce & Bruce Lacey,
October '77.

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THE HEBDEN BRIDGE ZODIAC

by JOHN BILLINGSLEY

Detectable along the valley sides of the River Calder as it passes through the Hebden Bridge area in West Yorkshire is a zodiac that to my knowledge is the smallest yet discovered, measuring approximately 5 x 2½ miles. It is independent, not only in its appearance, but also in that it does not touch on any other known zodiac of the Pennines -- though this does not, of course, preclude further discoveries. It is marked out in roads, tracks, paths, streams, field boundaries, and significant landscape features, and the forms arrived at are very clear -- frequently not only from the map but also, when it is possible to overlook a figure, from the hills around. There are two particularly unusual features in this configuration -- one is that all the figures are drawn so as to be "upright" when seen only from a northerly viewpoint (i.e. no pretension is made to a circular arrangement) and the other is that in the order of the signs, the normal constellation progression is reversed. In certain cases, the figures themselves are quite individual, too. The complete list is as follows:

ARIES is a seated lamb looking back over its shoulder. The figure lies atop a hill separate from those around it. A well is at its eye.

TAURUS is a bull above Eastwood and facing Cow Bridge.

GEMINI the giant clasps his hands above his head at Blackshaw Head and gazes towards Sagittarius.

CANCER is a boat sailing west with the site of a tumulus and a farm called Windy Harbour at the stern.

LEO is a cat positioned on Hebden Bridge and overlooked by a rock outcrop named Cat Scout. It shares an interesting relationship with VIRGO, who is an old hag coming down from the moors. A strong suggestion of witchcraft permeates this relationship -- the cat seems, perhaps a familiar; nearby the conjunction of the two, where Virgo lays her hands on Leo's head, are Joan Wood -- Joan being a common "witch" name -- and Bog Eggs, a reputed haunt of witchwomen. Across the moor the name Joan appears again in connection with the standing stone Churn Milk Joan. In this case Joan is said to be a milkmaid who was lost upon the moor; and if you find money atop the stone you should exchange it for an equal or greater amount from your own pocket if you wish to be assured of good fortune in the coming year. A notable point is these figures' recall of the Tarot's "Fortitude/Strength". Virgo's head is at Dodnaze.

LIBRA is a hawk delineated by woodland and centred on Hwaksclough.

SCORPIO lies on the hillside, claws threatening Mytholmroyd and the hawk, while its sting curls back very close to the Crow (q.v.). On its left claw is Calder High School, the first comprehensive in the West Riding, and the agent responsible for reviving the local pace egg play.

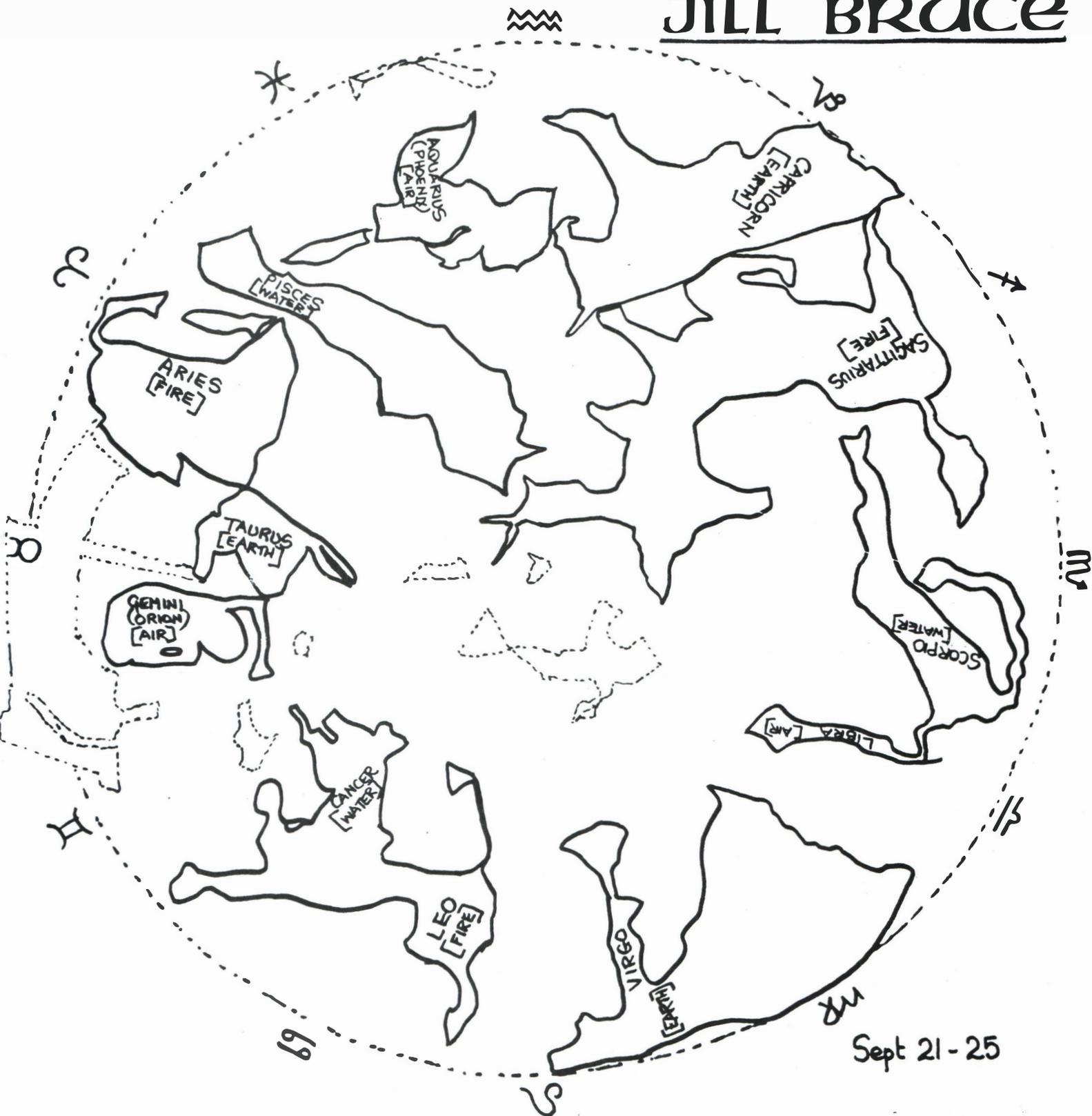
SAGITTARIUS is a finely detailed archer on horseback leaping over Mytholmroyd and shooting his arrow towards the centre of the zodiac and Gemini. A Roman coin hoard was uncovered in the position of its anus, and the village tip lies below this point! John Wesley preached on the horse's ear.

CAPRICORN is a unicorn with its hind legs beside Cragg Brook and rearing up on the Bell House Moor.

AQUARIUS. Maybe an eagle or phoenix, it rises from the Nest Estate on a fold of the fire sign Sagittarius, and flies over bleak moorland.

Bruce Lacey &

JILL BRUCE



JOURNEY ROUND THE GLASTONBURY ZODIAC

A journey of personal discovery. Concentrating on the 10 figures containing the 12 Zodiac signs, we shall visit each figure in turn, selecting our exact site as we reach each sign. Relating instinctively to each site, we shall carry out activities associated with the Earth, Air, Fire or Water element of each sign, including one or more of the following: - an instinctively devised performance, ritual or ceremony; construction of a symbolic and/or practical structure; monitoring the site; observation of astrological phenomena using special equipment and objects made by Bruce.

Rough schedule :- Sept 21 (eying) - Gemini; Sept 22 - Cancer, Leo, Virgo; Sept 23 - Libra (the equinoctial sign of balance) for the equinox at 5.30 am, Scorpio, Sagittarius; Sept 24 - Capricorn, Aquarius (Glastonbury Tor), Pisces; Sept 25 - Aries, Taurus.

Documentation of these events will be part of an exhibition based on a year of such work by us to be held at Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff in February 1978.

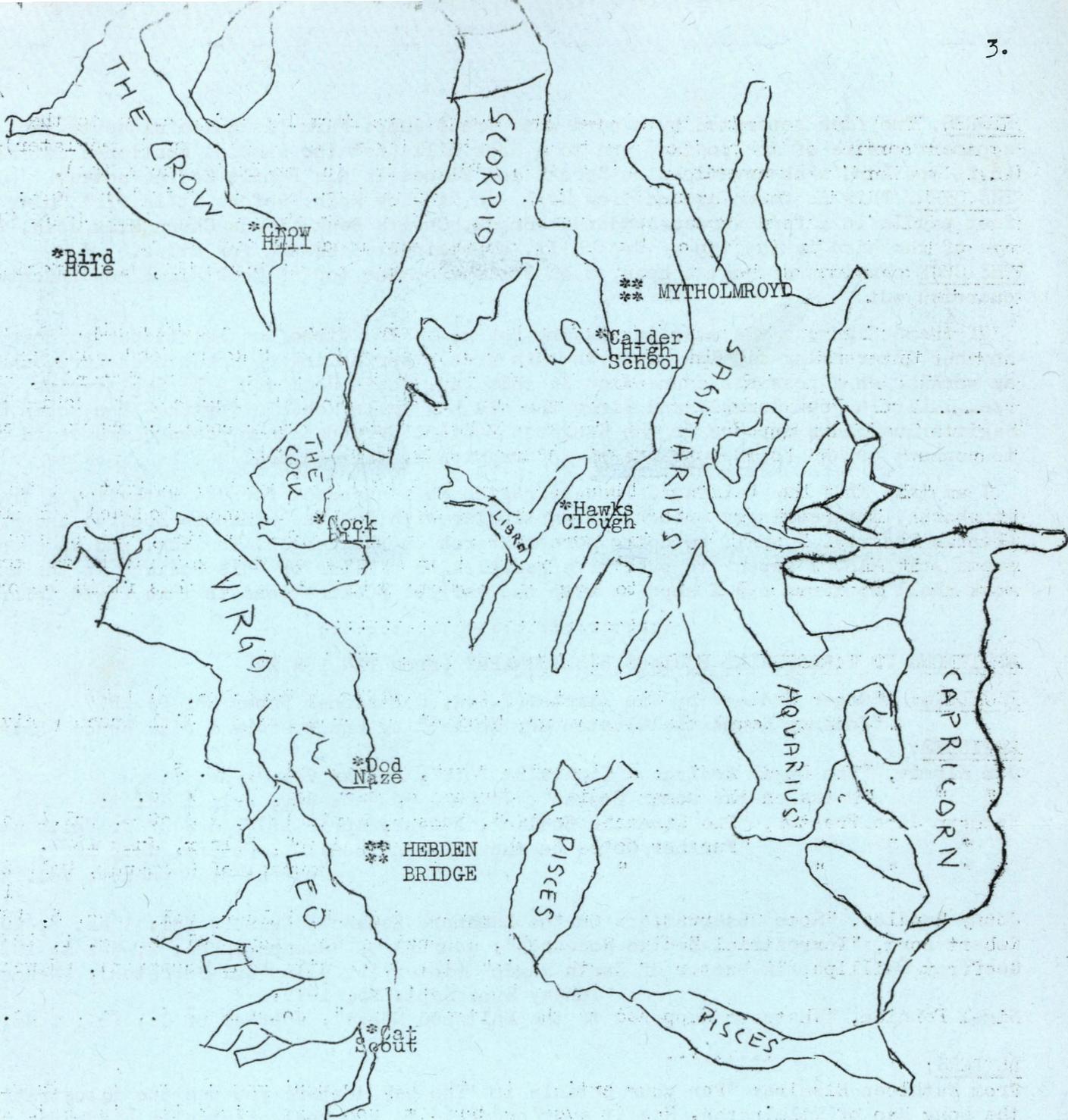
These events dedicated to Katherine Malkwood and our ancient ancestors.

Bruce Lacey ~ JILL BRUCE

"JOURNEY ROUND THE GLASTONBURY ZODIAC"

<u>Time on actual site</u>				<u>Site selected + Activity carried out.</u>
22. Sept 7.55- 10.00am	<u>CANCER</u>	- (Stars fall in neck of Lion)	- WATER	Small 'beach' on bank of Chabrick Mill Stream - (Back of Lion's neck) "Initiation of the little fountain"
				
12.45- 3.00pm	<u>LEO</u>	- (The Lion)	- FIRE	Top of Green Down - (Lion's groin) "The Lion's head of fire".
				
4.45- 6.15pm	<u>VIRGO</u>	- (The Virgin with- W heatsheaf)	- EARTH	Wimble Toot tumulus - (The Virgin's nipple) "Corn Dolly from surrounding gleanings".
				
23. Sept EQUINOX 4.15- 7.35am BST; 8-9.30	<u>LIBRA</u>	- (Stars fall in Right arm of Scorpion)	- AIR	Bank of River Brue - (Right arm of Scorpion) "Observing the Equinox before dawn, Observing the sunrise behind cloud."
				
11.40- 1.15pm	<u>SCORPIO</u>	- (The Scorpion)	- WATER	Weir near Alford - (Left arm of Scorpion) "Communicating with the water molecules".
				
3.45- 5.45pm	<u>SAGITTARIUS</u>	- (The Horse, and Hercules the Archer)	- FIRE	Hill between Higher & Lower Southtown - (Forequarters of the Horse) "Breaking in the bucking sun-kite."
				
24. Sept 6.25- 8.00am	<u>CAPRICORN</u>	- (The Goat)	- EARTH	Ponters Ball earthwork - (The Goat's horn) "The Horn of Plenty"
				
Noon BST- Noon GMT -	<u>AQUARIUS</u>	- (The Phoenix)	- AIR	Glastonbury Tor - (The Phoenix' head) "The Phoenix burns and rises from it's ashes".
				
3.50- 4.55pm	<u>PISCES</u>	- (The Whale and Two Fish)	- WATER	River Brue by Cow Bridge - (Mid-part of the Whale) "Launching the leaf-fish barges".
				
25. Sept 6.15- 8.15am	<u>ARIES</u>	- (The Lamb)	- FIRE	Arbor in wood on Walton Hill - (Lamb's back leg) "Homage to Aries".
				
10.40- 12.00	<u>TAURUS</u>	- (The Bull's Head)	- EARTH	Wood on top of Windmill Hill.- (Base of Bull's horns) "The Bull in the centre of the Maze"
				
1.20 - 3.15pm	<u>GEMINI</u>	- (Orion)	- AIR	Dundon Camp on Dundon Hill - (Orions ear) "The Heavenly Twins and the Comets"
				

THE CIRCLE COMPLETED



THE HEBDEN BRIDGE
ZODIAC

John Billingsley,
10, Jubilee Street,
Mytholmroyd,
Hebden Bridge,
West Yorks.

