

Touchstone

Surrey
Earth
Mysteries



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A MEDLEY OF MOOTS

Since the last Touchstone there have been a number of Moots held in different parts of the country. There was, of course, the Ley Hunters Moot in Lewes, attended by Michael de Styrcea and Chris Hall. Chris reports a number of interesting talks, including one by Charles Brooker based on his article in The New Scientist. Michael Wysocki spoke on lost serpent mounds in Britain, and Brian Larkman gave an illustrated talk on cup-and-ring marks and aborigine lore. Michael Bentine gave a talk of his own experiences of the spiritual, and Alan Bleakley spoke on symbolism and stone circles. The Moot was concluded with a slide show by John Glover; some of the pictures being of Surrey.

The Northern Earth Mysteries Group weekend Moot in Northumberland, which I attended, was a friendly and interesting gathering. We were the guests of Derrick and Anthea Wilbie-Chalk in Rothbury and a very well organised visit to many local interesting sites was laid on for us. These included two churches, a holy well, a stone row, a cup-marked stone, ancient settlement sites and two hillforts. It was certainly a weekend to remember.

On May 26-27th, the London Earth Mysteries Moot will be held at Tufnell Park Hall, Huddleston Road, Tufnell Park, London, N.7. Tickets can be obtained from Andy Collins at 19, St. Davids Way, Wickford, Essex, SS11 8EX, and cost £4.50 for adults (£3.50 for Senior Citizens or Unwaged) and £2.50 for children.

If anyone would like our group to have a weekend gathering perhaps they could let me know. It need not be in Surrey; perhaps somewhere like Avebury would be more popular. It would, of course, need several people to attend in order to make it worthwhile.

Jimmy Goddard

DOWSING A LEY

by Gordon Spinney

Part 1.

Dowsing is a general term which includes the search for a wide range of targets. We could distinguish two forms of dowsing. One, like the traditional water dowsing appears to rely on a mainly physical component based on spatial relationship. Here the experimenter moves around with his rod or pendulum seeking the point of the strongest reaction, where the target is assumed to be located. In this form we include metal detector type searches for objects that are buried underground, or have been lost about the house. We include also most aspects of archaeological dowsing in which a visit to the site is normally required to induce the dowsing reaction.

The other form has as its targets objects or persons that are often situated at considerable distance from the experimenter. Direct space-time relationships here seem to have little influence on the reaction, which does not require to be focussed over the target. Map dowsing is a prime example of this class, for the detailed arrangement of lines on a map cannot be regarded as a natural physical projection of the site itself. Another characteristic of this class is that the targets are not simply physical objects but sometimes abstract properties associated with these objects. In what we may call 'Lethbridge-type' dowsing, the pendulum can be asked to reveal the sex of the person who handled the object, the date at which it was buried, and even such abstract qualities as whether it has been associated with anger or death. In all these cases the information appears to have been acquired paranormally by a process we do not yet understand, which for convenience we call clairvoyance.

However, if we review the evidence more closely, we shall be forced to agree that there is no sharp separation between the two classes of dowsing we proposed to distinguish.

Clairvoyance appears to be a major component in both classes. For example, there are difficulties in regarding our first form as a purely physical effect, caused by some form of radiation or direct emanation from the target. If this were the case we should expect to find more signs of the effect of screening, interference from a multitude of similar objects in the vicinity, and a sharp decrease in sensitivity with distance as required by the inverse square law.

We should also expect much more uniformity in the codes used by dowsers. When we find that one dowser interprets one type of pendulum movement as 'yes' and another as 'no', and where one 'rate' of pendulum indicates silver to one dowser, and 'female' or '1500BC' to another, we cannot feel confident that any kind of physical force triggers the dowsing reaction. I write this not sceptically, as doubting the evidence that successful dowsing of this kind sometimes occurs, but only to damp down the view that dowsing will some day be brought under the laws of physics as these are presently understood.

It seems most likely that dowsing codes are purely subjective, chosen by the dowser and gradually developed and diversified in practise. By this I mean that the dowser first gets his extra sensory 'hunch' about what the answer to his question is, and then subconsciously produces the muscular twitch, which, according to his initial code, fits the answer. By continually introducing refinements, complicated codes can be developed, spelling answers to a whole range of questions. The belief that he is reacting to an objective physical source adds to the dowser's confidence in his ability to perform, and thus produces the psychological conditions for success.

We have so far made no reference to Ley dowsing. There is a difference here that sets it apart. In all other cases there is a physical object which we are trying to locate or describe, but no-one has yet been able to establish any physical presence, such as radiation connecting ley points. We seem to be dowsing for an idea, for a metaphysical rather than physical object. As a consequence, as Lethbridge admits in "The Power of the Pendulum", we are in some danger of setting up a circular argument. A successful dowsing reaction could only be judged by the existence of a ley, and the existence of a ley would be judged largely by getting a dowsing reaction. Of course, we might use Watkins type considerations as our main evidence, but we can hardly be said to add much strength to these arguments by dowsing, if we do not know how dowsing works, or what exactly a ley is.

Some ley dowsers would reply here that the failure of physical instruments to react positively to ley lines does not rule out the possibility that our mind is able to respond to faint signals in a part of the electromagnetic range which cannot at present be reached by instrument, or even to signals in some hitherto undiscovered form of energy. Certainly, the great surge of interest in paranormal phenomena in recent times does suggest that there is something behind it all, that there are some parameters which our mind can detect without the help of our known sensory organs.

We propose here to examine some of the pros and cons of the arguments for such extra sensory perception.

The general implications of the discovery of the wave properties of matter as embodied in Quantum Theory are slowly penetrating the public mind, but the caution of scientists and the positivist prejudices have greatly slowed down the rate and degree at which the change has been assimilated. The views we are offering here embrace the conclusion that ideas from Quantum Theory can help us to make hypotheses about how extra sensory perception takes place, and with it, of course, the clairvoyant element in dowsing.

Quantum Theory shows that energy is capable of existing in two states; a condensed particulate state in which units occupy defined positions and velocities in space time, and a much looser, ill defined "wave" state, in which units behave like interacting wave systems capable of being diffracted by obstacles and showing the characteristic pattern of interference that we find for example in water waves. There is constant interchange between these states. A particle may set in motion a train of waves and a chain of waves may concentrate itself in a flash and become particle like, by a transformation (the so called "collapse of wave" function) which defies mathematical treatment. It is important to bear in mind that the distinction between the two states is profound. We must regard the wave as occupying a totally different dimension from the particle.

Particles exist in space time and obey the laws of physics, whereas waves emitted by particles become rapidly more and more detached from the spatial universe as they spread, and appear to enter a dimension where nothing has precise localisation and everything is to some extent everywhere. Much has been written about the wave-particle dualism, which is of immense importance for philosophy but even a summary would take us far beyond the scope of the present context.

(To be concluded)

THE OLD STRAIGHT TRACK IN SURREY

by Jimmy Goddard

2) Ferry Lane, Chertsey.

The riverside town of Chertsey is a very ancient settlement, its main claim to fame being the Benedictine Abbey of St. Peter founded there in 666. It was twice raided by the Danes, but was refounded by Monks from Abingdon and became a very powerful monastic centre, its monks being renowned as artist-craftsmen. The Town grew round the Abbey from about the end of the ninth century, and by 1085 the Domesday Book records that it owned twenty eight manors and other lands. In 1300 the parish church was built, first dedicated to All Saints but at the dissolution in 1537 it took on the abbey's dedication to St. Peter, which it still retains.

Almost nothing remains of the Abbey today - even in the time of Stukeley so little was left that he says of those who demolished it that they had "so inveterate a rage against even the least appearance of it, as if they meant to defeat even the inherent sanctity of the ground". However, what does remain in Chertsey is another remarkable aligned track, called Ferry Lane. To walk it, begin at Guildford Street, which is also in line with the ley for part of its length. Walk towards the town centre and you will come to St. Peters Church opposite at the junction. The ley does not pass through the church, but just beside it, along the line of a public footpath called "Church Path".

The path diverges from the ley quite soon to pass round other buildings, but the first stretch is in alignment with it. Follow it and it eventually comes out at Abbey Green, where a rather confusing signpost shows public footpaths in all directions. Take a left turn to find Colonel's Lane, then walk down this till you come to a bridge across the Abbey River, a very pleasant little stream. Having crossed this, a newer bridge will be seen ahead - this time over the motorway - before reaching Ferry Lane. This is another very spectacular case of a long straight track aligned with a ley - to your left is the Laleham Golf Club and to your right the embankments of the waterworks. The path only bends when it is forced to, for the river blocks its way, and you may be glad of the "Chertsey Coronation Seat" placed here in 1902. The view across the river here is very pleasant.

There is no way of following the ley from here, although the public footpath continues across the golf course, through Mixnams Lane caravan park to Staines Lane opposite the entrance to Thorpe Park. The ley which you will have been following goes through Laleham Church, across the river and along Ferry Lane, along Church Path beside the church, either along or just parallel with Guildford street, and further south coincides with a stretch of the A320. It continues from here to pass through Worplesden Church, which is on another ley investigated by the group.

Next Issue: The Hurt Wood Track.

From Jeff Saward, Co-editor Caerdroia.

Your article by Paul Baines, "Aspects of Ley Energy", raises several interesting points upon which some comment is necessary. One which particularly caught my eye was Paul's statement that ball lightning is the result of high density tachion pairs which "prevent the ball from colliding with anything".

As one of the few, so-called "E.M. researchers" who has been fortunate enough to witness this rare phenomenon, I can assure Paul that ball lightning does collide with objects, and when it does, the results are dramatic if not downright frightening!

About fifteen years ago, I witnessed a large ball lightning (approx. 12 to 18 inches in diameter) strike our next door neighbour's house. Initially it struck the T.V. aerial, which blew the aerial and the chimney pot off with a loud explosion (and incidentally imploded their T.V. set. which was connected to the aerial, but fortunately wasn't being watched at the time!). It then "fell" from the chimney to the guttering running down the side of the house, scorching the paint as it followed the course of the gutter until it met with a lamp, of the type found on ship's bulkheads, which it totally destroyed, leaving it a dripping mess of glass and metal. The ball, its energy seemingly undiminished, then fell to the ground near the back door, leaving a scorched image of itself on the concrete and then "bounced off" in the same general direction as it arrived. It subsequently hit another house about 500 yards away and made contact with a gas flue attached to a gas cooker, at which the owner of the house was working. She suffered severe burns, but was saved from almost certain death by her wellington boots, which she still had on, having just come in from the garden.

This most certainly was ball lightning and not just a thunderbolt and was witnessed by several people in the area. The most striking thing about it was its obvious immense energy and its ability to change its speed and direction, seemingly of its own will; a phenomenon that I (and the owners of the house it hit) will not forget in a hurry. Perhaps this was a rogue individual; if so it seems that someone ought to tell it about Tachion pairs (incidentally, shouldn't it be spelt 'Tachyon'?) and what it can and can't do! This observation does seem to tie up with with one of the few published photos of ball lightning (see p. 98 of "Earthlights" by Paul Devereux) where the ball in question seems to make contact with several chimneys (and presumably the T.V. aeriels attached to them).

I would welcome some ideas as to what ball lightning is. I feel the various ideas suggested so far still don't tie up with what the damned stuff does in real life!

From Paul Baines:

I would like to thank Jeff for his interesting letter. This remarkable and devastating incident goes to show that there are always exceptions to the generally established rules. Since nature is above man made laws I will not attempt to be 'scientific' by bending the facts to fit the theory in order to effect an explanation but rather to try and discover if any other incidents of this kind have been recorded.

About the spelling of 'Tachion':-

"TACHYON - hypothesised 'faster than light' particles referred to by physicist Gerald Feinberg.

TACHION - term coined by researcher Ken Killick of Canada to define the particles forming the primordial basis of the electrostatic field. Independent experimental verification appears in the works of Chang-Won Cho "Tetrahedral Physics", privately published in Japan and Shinichi Seike's Kleinian Field in 'The Principle of Ultra Relativity', Ninomiya Press, Japan, 1978."

STRANGE SURREY

by Bob Skinner

The idea of this series of features in TOUCHSTONE is to record and discuss some of the strange phenomena and anomalous curiosities that have been observed in the County of Surrey. Such happenings are often described as "Fortean" after the American researcher Charles Fort (1874-1932), who collected data on various types of events and phenomena that were usually ignored or explained away by 'science' because they conflicted with the orthodox view of things. The work of recording such anomalies, even if they cannot be explained properly at present, is of great importance, and is being carried on in magazines such as FORTEAN TIMES. I hope that you, the readers, will help by looking out for any reports of strange phenomena in Surrey, and forwarding them to me for inclusion in this column c/o the Editor.

ENTOMBED TOADS

As a start to this column, I will give some Surrey data from my own present study. For hundreds of years there have been reports that living frogs and toads have been discovered enclosed, entombed or embedded within the solid matter of rocks, or the trunks of trees. There are several explanations that

could account for the phenomenon, but no one solution can explain every case. It is known that toads or frogs can survive for long periods of time without food, especially if they are in the dormant state of torpidity. There are not many instances of this phenomenon from the southern counties, but I have found two from Surrey.

On 28 April 1860, a letter was published in the FIELD magazine, describing how, some years previously, a tree had been cut down near Chertsey. In the centre of this tree was found a cavity containing a toad. The correspondent reported that the hollow in the tree was in fact used as a feature in a drawing room table made from a veneer from the tree, and the table, complete with the toad preserved under a crystal cover, was seen by him at an upholsterer's shop in Chertsey.

A more recent instance occurred in July 1933 and is recorded in Gerald Wood's GUINNESS BOOK OF ANIMAL FACTS AND FEATS. At a greystone lime pit at Dorking, blasting operations revealed a live toad, in the chalk, in a position 50 feet below the surface, and 4 feet from the face of the cliff. The toad was about 1.25 inches long, and was remarkable also for its pink colour, which gradually darkened on exposure to the air. It appeared to have no mouth, a feature occasionally reported in such cases, and often due to the fact that there is some kind of membrane covering the mouth of the animal, perhaps for the purpose of conserving fluids when the animal is torpid. The toad was later taken to the British Museum (Natural History) in London, for examination.

Although not occurring in Surrey, the following case may be of interest to readers as it happened at Warminster, Wiltshire, the location of many UFO sightings since the 1960's, and claimed by many to be a major "ley centre". In August 1816, workmen quarrying stone in the Boreham road found in the middle of a stratum of sandstone a smooth cavity containing a live toad and a newt. They were situated at least nine feet below the surface of the ground, and there appeared to be no aperture leading to the cavity which could explain how they got there. In this case too, it was observed that both animals changed colour after being found, and also that their mouths seemed sealed "with a kind of glutinous matter". When found, these animals appeared to be torpid, gradually reviving, but by all descriptions did not feel at all at ease upon awakening. They only survived about four hours. (Cited by J.J. Daniell in his HISTORY OF WARMINSTER published in 1879.)

The above instances are only two from about 250 similar stories I have collected whilst researching this phenomenon for the last 2 years.

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Our thanks to all exchange publications, especially those who have mentioned us.