

Touchstone

Surrey
Earth
Mysteries



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PROJECT BAALBECK

In "Men among Mankind", Brinsley Le Poer Trench (Lord Clancarty) describes an amazing structure in Lebanon:

The ruins of Baalbeck lie at a height of 3,500 feet, to the north-east of Beirut. The Romans built magnificent temples to their gods upon, in the words of Mark Twain, "massive sub-structures that might support a world almost. The material used is blocks of stone as large as an omnibus..."

The main ruins consist of the Great Temple, as well as the temples of Venus, Bacchus and Jupiter... The Great Temple was raised on a high platform, approached by steps which led to a dodecastyle Corinthian portico "in antis".

The massive sub-structures, referred to by Mark Twain, are truly amazing. He wrote that one stretch of the platform, composed of only three stones, was nearly 200 feet in length! They are thirteen feet square, two of them being sixty-four feet and the third sixty-nine feet long, and built into the massive wall twenty feet above the ground. No-one, so far, has come up with the answer to who built the massive platform at Baalbeck, upon which the Romans are known to have constructed a very long time afterwards their wonderful temples.

The quarry from which these colossal stones at Baalbeck were taken is a quarter of a mile away from the platform and at a much lower level. Mark Twain relates how in a pit lay a similar stone, "the mate of the largest stone in the ruins". What is more, it lies there, "squared and ready for the builder's hands, a solid mass fourteen feet by seventeen feet wide and seventy feet long". What caused that tremendous block of masonry to be abandoned, leaving the work unfinished?

These immense stone blocks are not, of course, the only huge stones to have been moved around in ancient times, though they must be among the heaviest. How could they have been transported? The answer may lie in an effect which is surprisingly well-known yet, amazingly, never fully investigated.

In November 1986, Bob Swift, a work colleague and member of Surrey Earth Mysteries Group, brought the following extract to my attention. It is from "The Mysterious Unknown" by Robert Charroux:

The experiment may be called "Diminution of Weight" or "The Pyramid of Hands". To carry it out, five people are needed: one man simply to sit on a chair or stool, and four others (men, women or children), to lift the man, who shall be called "P". The important point is that P is to be lifted solely by means of two fingers of each of the four "lifters", that is to say, the weight of his body will rest entirely on the top two phalanxes of the four pairs of index fingers.

A dummy run is made by choosing positions around "P" and trying to lift him using the two fingers of each person, to show it can't be done! Regardless of P's weight, he can be lifted at ease following this simple method: The four people will pile their hands one above the other, the first touching P's head. NOTE: the hands must be placed so that no two consecutive hands belong to the same person. All eight hands are now resting on P's head. No pressure need be exerted, contact alone is sufficient. The important thing is that contact should last about twelve seconds, but preferably twenty-five to thirty.

Then at a given signal the four lifters get quickly to their previously chosen positions and lift. He rises like a bird! The experiment is successful 10 times out of 10, and 100 times out of 100. It can even be done by children.

At the next group meeting we discussed the effect. Two members present had previously experienced it - in the variation described by Paul Baines the lifters shouted "Allah, Allah" while the hands were piled, suggesting it may have come to us from the Moslem world, though this invocation is quite unnecessary for the effect. Charles Refoy mentioned a case where someone rose so quickly they forcibly hit the ceiling, causing the people concerned some anxiety!

Having sufficient people, we decided to try it. At first we made a mistake and tried to lift the person with only one finger from each person. There seemed to be a small effect, but very little. When the same experiment was tried with two index fingers from each person under each lifting point, a much stronger effect was noted, and the person was lifted to about head height. We then tried with an inanimate object (a table) which seemed considerably lighter when lifted after the pyramid of hands. Finally, the experiment was repeated as previously with the seated person, but without me in the circuit. There was an extremely strong reaction, with the person lifted almost to the ceiling.

We came to the conclusion that the piling of hands was acting as

a kind of battery for the mysterious energy involved, but is this energy accumulated by the object or the lifters? The fact that two index fingers are required (a kind of circuit) suggests the latter. The fact that my presence in the circuit seemed to partly inhibit the effect suggests that life force may be involved - certain previous indications have seemed to show that mine is less than most people's.

Further experimentation was hampered by the fact that no-one outside the group seemed willing to co-operate in the project. However, I did a number of interesting lone-wolf experiments using the scales in my department at work, which were just right for the purpose as they were quite sensitive, yet capable of weighing quite heavy objects. I tried piling my two hands on various objects on the scales, then touching them with two hands, and found to my surprise that there did seem to be a very slight weight loss. I later found piling the hands prior to the touching to be unnecessary - the piling with the group of people seemingly simply accentuates an already innate effect.

I tried the experiment with a number of different objects on the scales of varying materials and weights. The materials of the object had no effect at all - it was noticeable on wooden objects, wooden cases containing metal items, and metal containers such as silica gel drums. However, the weight of the objects seemed very relevant. When weights of objects were plotted on a graph against weights apparently lost, there seemed to be a proportional loss gain with increase in weight - in other words, the heavier the object was, the more weight it lost. There were fluctuations, but the points on the graph were a fair approximation of a straight line. It must be realised that the scale was graded in pounds, and so differences of less than a pound had to be estimated. Object lost, very approximately, three ounces per hundred pounds. The lightest object to give an appreciable reading was a drum of silica gel weighing 49 lbs, which seemed to lose about an ounce, and the heaviest was a pallet of equipment weighing 420 lbs, which lost 14 oz.

At the January meeting, there were insufficient people to do further experiments due to the snow, but Richard Pywell brought forward a possible objection to the findings at work. He said there was a possibility that I could be subconsciously slightly lifting the objects while my fingers were on them, despite my conscious attempts not to. I felt this was unlikely, partly because the losses increased with weight, whereas an unconscious lifting would probably have stayed the same or been even less with heavier objects. If my subconscious was working it out mathematically it is certainly better than my conscious mind, which is not capable of mental arithmetic to the extent of the calculation necessary. However, I decided the matter should be tested, so I put two boxes on the scale with a combined weight of 120 lbs. Between the boxes I put a duffel coat with the arms protruding from the sides. Holding the arms loosely (I found it impossible to lift the box in this position without lifting my arms quite high) I found the boxes seemed to lose about four ounces.

However, there were still difficulties. When Bob Swift did the experiment with me on the scales, there seemed to be no weight loss. Also, no other scale or balance seemed to be suitable. The letter scale in the department did not weigh heavy enough objects, only going

to 30 lbs. The big scale that is used suspended from an overhead crane weighs heavy objects, but is not nearly sensitive enough to register the small weight losses. A chemical balance borrowed from my wife's school, on the other hand, was too sensitive - the slightest touch sent it reeling about drunkenly, and even using wooden stabilisers and fabric to link with the object this was not properly overcome.

At the February meeting, we did further experiments, but once again the attempt to show weight losses empirically was thwarted. Firstly we had a member standing on the scales while the pyramid of hands was made on his head. This was not satisfactory, however, as the lifters had to stretch and there was the possibility of cross-contacts. Nothing was shown on the scale when the person was touched with the fingers, but this was not conclusive as the scale was found to be faulty - it kept giving different readings for the same person and tended to stick. It was a bathroom scale.

Then we repeated the former "classic" experiment with the seated person (after the usual dummy run) with the usual successful result. Then the same was tried with the pyramid of hands not on the person's head. Once again there was success - indicating that the accumulation of energy was in the lifters, not the object or person lifted. We did not have enough people to do the opposite experiment - the pyramid of hands on the head followed by attempted lifting by another four people - but we deduce that it would have been unsuccessful. Then Daniele Hart suggested linking hands in a circle instead of doing the pyramid of hands. There was a very strong reaction which seemed to take the lifters by surprise as the person found himself travelling halfway across the room! At one person's suggestion that concentration might be the answer, the lifters concentrated on the person without making hand contact - but this time there was no effect, just as with the dummy runs. The final experiment was with a linked circle around a person on the scale - without any effect on the scale when the person was touched, but, as mentioned before, this is inconclusive because the scales were faulty.

What conclusions can we draw? Whether or not there is an actual weight loss (this cannot be ascertained without both co-operation of others and adequate instrumentation) there is an effect whereby using and accumulating some kind of energy coming from the hands, objects become much easier to lift. What they are made of seems to make no difference, only the hand contact either in the pyramid or the circle.

We have had previous indications that there is some kind of energy in the hands. Eeman's copper circuits linking people's hands, head and base of spine were said to have healing effects - but this was not just faith healing, for if polarities were reversed (or if one person was left handed and had not compensated by reversing the wires) the opposite effect (tension) was obtained. In seances hands are linked in a circle, and in the Reiki radiance technique and in church spiritual healing the hands are used to promote healing. Somehow, this energy can also seemingly be used to help people lift heavy objects, and this may well have been used in the past (possibly with a great many more people involved) at such places as Baalbeck.

WAVERLEY ABBEY

by Rob Stephenson

The abbey will be one of the sites visited on the joint field trip to Mother Ludlam's Hole by the Surrey Earth Mysteries Group and the London Earth Mysteries Circle. Waverley Abbey and Moor Park have an interesting past, with many literary associations.

William of Gifford, Bishop of Winchester, founded the abbey in 1128 with twelve monks from Normandy. He gave lands so that it could "be situated by a stream and away from the conversation of men." A quiet haven though occasionally flooded from the River Wey, the monks unfortunately sleeping at ground level. It was the first Cistercian house to be founded in this country and was a reaction to the easy rule of St. Benedict at Chertsey Abbey.

Henry III supported the order and it became a large and flourishing establishment, building itself a huge church between 1203 and 1278. The abbey shoemaker was arrested for murder by King's Officers in 1240. However, they made the mistake of doing so in the Abbey precincts. The Dean and Vicar of Farnham, appalled by this violation of sanctuary, flogged them in Farnham churchyard. And even after this ill-treatment they were still required to ask a pardon from the Abbot.

The monks also owned Wansborough Church, holding a fair there on feasts of St. Bartholemew and building a big tithe barn next to it in the 14th century.

Sir William Temple (whose heart was buried in a silver box in Moor Park in 1700) laid out the gardens in a mixture of Dutch, French and English styles. He changed its name from Compton Hall to one of an admired estate in Rickmansworth. A Roundhead, statesman, scholar and certainly a diplomatist, for he was married to Dorothy Osbourne, who was a Royalist. An Irish relative of hers, who became his secretary for ten years, was none other than the young Jonathan Swift.

Sir Walter Scott fell in love with the place while researching for a life on Swift, naming his first historical novel "Waverley Abbey". Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in another historical novel called "Sir Nigel", writes about the abbey and has his hero living in nearby Tilford.

William Cobbett, who was born at Farnham in 1763, grew up and worked as a boy at Moor Park. He became well-known later for his "Rural Rides". These accounts of his country journeys enquiring into farming and local matters make fascinating reading - Surrey being well featured. On October 27th, 1825, he visited the area and got permission to look over the estate with his ten-year-old son Richard. Showing him around his childhood haunts he relates some of his early memories. One of these must be the first account on record of a sighting of the Surrey Puma. It tells how, when "a very small boy" (which must have been about 1767-70), he saw a large cat "as big as a middle-sized spaniel dog" enter a hollow elm tree. Unfortunately he got a beating for sticking to this story, but said he would still be prepared to take an oath on it. While travelling in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia he saw the great wild grey cat called the Lucifee, which seemed identical to him - this is in fact a lynx.

Sadly, as we know, the monastic system would become a casualty of the megalomania of the less sympathetic King Henry VIII. The great walls that once surrounded 60 acres ended as a stone quarry for people like Sir Thomas More of Loseley.

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DRAGON PROJECT MEETING

by Ian Jackson

On Saturday, January 10th approximately 30 people met at the Rollright Stones in order to discuss and try to put together a programme for monitoring unusual energies at the stones. This is an extension of the Dragon Project which was set up in late 1977 and has so far resulted in various articles in The Ley Hunter as well as Don Robins' book Circles of Silence, as well as much unpublished work, including findings of a psychic nature.

The project was originally overseen by Dr. Robins, the psychic programme by John Steele and overall co-ordination by Paul Devereux. Robins now has other demands on his time and Steele has returned to California, and thus this was thought a suitable time to streamline the effort and to take stock.

The project has also received some generous private funding which has enabled it to add two sensitive magnetometers and a tunable wide-band ultrasonic receiver, as well as a multimeter (for a variety of electrical measurements - an expert is still required for this), a Kirlian camera and various sundry items.

The primary aim of the meeting was to set up a continual monitoring period with as few breaks as possible. Various groups were represented, from Gloucestershire, South Wales and London. The London E.M. Circle suggested that a three month period from March should be aimed at for monitoring. As I live near London it seemed best for me to join with the London group - however if any Surrey E.M. Group members would like to donate time I would be happy to co-ordinate an effort. Rollright is a little over an hour's drive away, the machinery is easy to operate, but the monitoring can be boring. However, I feel such monitoring is essential so that funding for a full-scale investigation can be secured.

On the morning of the meeting some members had been at the stones at dawn with the ultrasound receiver and had taped extraordinary activity taking place inside the largest stone of the circle. The signal was received from about two feet above the ground to the top and about two feet away from the stone. No unusual activity was observed from any other stone, and this activity continued for about an hour. No unusual activity was observed from any other stone, and it continued for about an hour, between 38 and 40 KHz. Around midday - just as we were about to retire to the pub - the intense activity appeared to start again.

Will anybody interested please contact me on Woking 25439.

MOTHER LUDLAM'S HOLE FIELD TRIP

This field trip will take place on SUNDAY, JUNE 28TH. We will follow a fixed itinerary so that people coming late can find us by travelling round the course. This worked well last year. We will meet at WAVERLEY ABBEY (SU868453) AT 10.30 A.M. From there we will visit the following places: the sharp bend in the road by the bridge that a ley passes through (looking for anything unmarked, etc.), Mother Ludlam's Hole in Moor Park just to the north, cross-roads at Millbridge, Frensham church, tumuli Frensham Common, The Devil's Jumps, Kettlebury Hill, the Grayshott cross-roads (SU863354) and the Sleaford cross-roads and tumulus (SU802380). If time permits, we may also visit Linchmere church near Haslemere, which is on a relevant ley. Please bring packed lunch, strong shoes and rainwear in case the weather is not as kind as we would like. IF ANYONE NEEDS OR CAN OFFER TRANSPORT WILL THEY PLEASE CONTACT ME, Weybridge 49505.

NOTES AND NEWS

Chris Hall writes: "I do not have a sufficiently long straight edge to link Frensham Common with Yateley, so can only say it looks approximately straight. I was more struck by what it apparently misses, such as Farnham Castle and the parish church. Millbridge cross-roads is likely to be an old road alignment. There is a possible mark stone in Millbridge, but it falls rather off the alignment. Incidentally, a tunnel is said to link Waverley Abbey and Farnham Castle. Could there be a hint of a ley in this?"

More Campus Lines

Two correspondents have come up with further information on the ley-university connection. The first is Terry Veale, a librarian at Bath University (featured in "Campus Lines"), who writes: "There used to be a stone circle on the Claverton site - near the playing fields by the Avenue. Only two stones remain. I have this information from the head groundsman of the University. On studying the map I discovered what seems to be an almost perfect triangle of three sites: Stonehenge, Glastonbury and Claverton. Each one I believe corresponds to an astrological age and an aspect of traditional Deity. Stonehenge represents Aries-Will, Glastonbury corresponds to Pisces-Love/Wisdom and Bath to Aquarius-Mind/Intellect. So Bath and the other universities are the dynamic aspect of Aquarius, the development of minds and brains for the New Age. The microcosm of this Sacred Triangle is seen at the Claverton site: the Claverton stone circle centre corresponds to Aries, the golf course ley and the hillfort to Pisces, and the campus centre to the University - Aquarius."

Norman Darwen of Sidcup writes of another campus: "I am slightly familiar with Stirling University in Scotland as my brother-in-law works there. The University is on the outskirts of Bridge of Allan, a couple of miles north of Stirling, and was built in the sixties. The valley in which the campus lies has the hillfort of the Hill of Dumyat to the east (not marked on the map), and the Wallace Monument and hillfort to the south. There is a standing stone just outside the perimeter to the east (not on original site) and a large single stone to the north-east. One of the fields to the south is said to mark the site of the final defeat of the Picts by the Scots. There are more

modern sites to the east - a church, "Airthrey Castle" and another castle further east. A line drawn SSE from a cairn called "Fairy Knowe" (N of Bridge of Allan) passes through the campus to the standing stone. Extending the line further, it arrives at the point where a minor road crosses the A907."

Maze site wanted

Ian Jackson would like to know if any readers have a piece of land on which he could build a Cretan labyrinth, approximately 20 yds x 20 yds, using local material. Will anyone interested please phone Ian on Woking 25439.

Green Fair

There is to be a Green Fair at Kingston on Monday, May 25th, run by a group of interested individuals from local groups such as the Green Party, Greenpeace, etc. It is being planned on a large scale with music, food, entertainment etc. to create a friendly family atmosphere. Anyone interested in having a stall for a group, craft, workshop etc. please contact Sarah Joiner on 01-546-1821 or 1827.

London meetings

Meetings of London Earth Mysteries Group at Maria Assumpta Centre, Kensington are as follows: April 28th, "The Straight Track Club" - Clive Harper. May 12th, "Skyways and Landmarks Revisited" - Jimmy Goddard. May 26th, "The Development of Legend" - Michael Spittal. June 9th, "Tarot Cards" - Joan Andrews. June 23rd, "Stonehenge as model of solar system" - Mike Saunders. July 14th, "Celtic fire festival of Lughnasad" - Ken Rees. July 28th, "London Terrestrial Zodiac" - David Geall.

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