

Touchstone

Surrey
Earth
Mysteries



No. 33

April 1992

SOME INTERESTING TRIPS

Recently I had a letter from Terry Veale, a subscriber who works at Bath University (see letters section). He told me that a Zen meditation garden had been built on the campus, near the open-air theatre which was pictured on the front cover of my booklet *Campus Lines*. This interested me greatly, and so a little later, when my wife and I had a free Sunday, we travelled to Bath to have a look at it, and to see if it was sited on any of the leys previously found going through the campus.

The garden was found to be a very pleasant place, roughly oval in shape with rocks and shrubs and a waterfall. Its atmosphere certainly seemed conducive to meditation. It was certainly on one of the leys, described in the booklet as passing through an unmarked Claverton centre, the "ski mound" (apparently subconsciously sited - I was told it was built for ski practice), skirting the northern edge of the open-air theatre (also subconsciously sited, with its "megalithic" stagestone?), the ley centre mound on the campus, a long stretch of Roman road near Bristol and some Bristol churches.

It was not this ley, however, which seemed immediately apparent at the site. What seemed to be prominent at first sight was an alignment with a young Scots pine on the edge of the garden, the garden itself, a short "entrance path" leading into the garden (it had two of these), and the northern end of the ski mound. This mound was quite long - almost like a miniature Glastonbury Tor - and I was interested to see a Scots pine clump growing on it that was not there when I was at the university in 1978. Going in the other direction from the garden, the line passes through a large clump of bushes, a rather strange sculpture resembling a human torso sited exactly on the line, and the southern edge of the open-air theatre.

On the map, this line passes through Claverton Church. In the other direction, it just skirts

the Guildhall, goes through Queen Square to a spired church in Locksbrook (not the cemetery one), a large multijunction at Hengrove Park, south of Bristol, a hill peak with triangulation point south of Long Ashton, a church at Tickenham and one at Clevedon. It is fascinating to see how this ley is continually being added to - a real illustration of subconscious siting at work.

On March 22nd, Eileen Grimshaw, Gordon Millington and I went to visit the area of Kent where Tony Wedd used to live. One would think that after Skyways and Landmarks Revisited there would not be much left to discover, but not so. Our first destination was the church, where Eileen found by dowsing a north-running line and an east-running one. The latter was found to be a particularly good ley, going through Chiddingstone Castle, Starborough Castle, and skirting Tonbridge Castle, among other points.

However, when looking at the video later and plotting Eileen's reaction points in conjunction with other points found by video dowsing, a diagonal line also became apparent, which passes through the cave which Tony theorised could have been Mithraic. There also seemed to be a diagonal in the other direction, going through the Chiding Stone.

Visiting the Chiding Stone, we were interested to see that the smaller outcrop nearby has a hollow apparently cut in it, indicating its possible sacredness. This hollow was not visible on the Coldrum trip in 1989, as the video of that trip showed, as it was covered with vegetation which has now been cleared.

Eileen found two diagonal lines going through the Chiding Stone, one of which goes through the cave and the Mark Beech clump, a prominent mixed clump on one of Tony's lines, where a UFO was once seen.

From here we went to visit the cave, which was not easily accessible but worth the effort to see again. As I had a still video camera I was able to get shots of the inside (with flash), showing the beautiful workmanship on the walls and the burn marks on them which seemed to indicate the use of torches. We were interested to note a large stone on the hill above, just above the supposed altar point at the end of the cave.

We then went to see a point where the E-line we had been following crossed a bridge over the Sevenoaks bypass (near the clump there, which seems to have suffered some wind damage). Eileen picked the line up strongly with the rods as expected. Fuller details of the discoveries are on the video (see information on videos elsewhere in this issue).

A PERSONAL VIEW OF EARTH MYSTERIES

Talk by Philip Heselton at London Earth Mysteries Circle meeting
January 14th, 1992

Philip began by saying that he was not going to talk on any aspect of Earth Mysteries in particular, but rather how he became involved with the subject over the past thirty years, and how he sees it at the moment.

He said that he doesn't particularly like the term, but uses it in the absence of anything better. It is in fact a very wide field and difficult to define, but its raw materials seem to be astronomy, archaeology and some unorthodox things. He said he thought he owed his first introduction to such subjects to his grandfather, who had said that in Kent there are a lot of places with "street" in their name that line up when plotted on a map, representing ancient straight tracks. This was years before Philip knew about Alfred Watkins or leys.

Another strand of his introduction to the subject was an interest in UFOs, and he mentioned attending London UFO Research Organisation meetings with me in the early sixties, when we were at school together. LUFORO had been founded in 1959, and in 1961 Philip had noticed an article in *Flying Saucer Review* entitled *Diffusionist Theory and the STAR Fellowship* by J.A. Dunkin Wedd. This put forward the theory that the Earth had been colonised from other planets. He contacted the author, who he soon found out was known as Tony Wedd. The STAR Fellowship, he was told, was devoted to investigating claims of contact with extraterrestrials rather than logging UFO sightings. He was invited to the forthcoming STAR Rally in May, which proved to be a very stimulating occasion where he learned of Tony's theory of the connection of Alfred Watkins' idea of prehistoric alignments with similar alignments of UFO sightings plotted by Aime Michel during a wave of reports in France in 1954.

Tony Wedd was a free thinker who generated many fascinating ideas. It did not really matter if some were later proved to be mistaken - he started people thinking in a lot of new directions. He had read Watkins' *The Old Straight Track* and then had been fascinated to find a line through a clump of pines and a tumulus on Hampstead Heath. Watkins had noticed many pine clumps had occurred on the ley alignments, but nevertheless had said trees were a weak point with the ley hunter, as they were much more temporary than the stone and earth monuments which come down to us from prehistoric times. Tony went on to do further work in Kent which caused him to disagree, and Philip showed some of his photographs of clumps in the area.

Philip believes that there has been a tradition of tending or caring for the clumps over hundreds of years, and feels that this may be declining. Several of the clumps Tony photographed were shown to have fewer trees in later pictures, as did Coles Tump in Herefordshire pictured by Alfred Watkins. (Gills Lap in Sussex, immortalised by A.A. Milne in *The House at Pooh Corner* and particularly mentioned by Tony in *Skyways and Landmarks*, has been particularly decimated by recent storms and is virtually unrecognisable, though there is some new growth - JG).

Tony found alignments between the clumps which Philip, Paul Baines and I found to be accurate when we investigated his findings for *Skyways and Landmarks Revisited*. He resisted calling the alignments leys, but noticed that there had been UFO sightings at places with "Mark" names. He related this to contactee Buck Nelson's statement, allegedly from extraterrestrials, that "magnetic currents are named and numbered, and that where they cross is comparable to a cross-roads sign". Since the sentence would have been complete without the last word, he considered it significant and felt that it meant visible signs on the earth, such as the pine clumps. He went on to visit France and found pine clumps at some of the places Aime Michel's UFO lines had crossed.

Philip was enthused with the subject and found leys in his home area of Middlesex and Surrey, particularly one from Dorking to Gills Lap which seemed to feature a number of moats. He also tried to contact the members of Alfred Watkins' Straight Track Club which had folded up fourteen years before. Some had died and the ones he did manage to meet were in their eighties and nineties, but he found that their enthusiasm had not left them and they talked at length about the subject, delighted that a younger person was interested. Alfred Watkins' son Allen was particularly keen, as was Egerton Sykes who produced a number of small magazines on mythology, Atlantis and other controversial subjects. He was of the opinion, however, that ley hunting and UFOs did not mix, as they attracted a different kind of people!

Philip and I went on to form the Ley Hunter's Club which eventually founded *The Ley Hunter* magazine, still published today. About this time I was on television on a children's programme "Tuesday Rendezvous", speaking about a trip to Avebury with the Club and the Pendragon Society, having won a "Roving Reporter" competition. The inaugural meeting was on November 17th 1962 at Kensington Central Library, London, at 7.30 p.m. By strange coincidence, or synchronicity, the Findhorn Community in Scotland had been founded the same day, though this was at 9.30 a.m.! The following April *The Ley Hunter* magazine was started, which is still continuing of course although the club ceased to function.

Various themes came forward at this time, perhaps the best known being that of the idea of energies in the leys and the landscape. In the 1970s came the connection with folklore,

and it was found that sites associated with this were often ley sites too. Paul Devereux then launched the Dragon Project, a disciplined investigation into landscape phenomena. It first met on the first week of November 1977, which coincides with the discovery of the minor planet Chiron, which astrologically is associated with previously antagonistic disciplines coming together.

At this time there was a considerable emergence of local earth mysteries groups. Earth mysteries perhaps more than most other subjects is based on place - so groups will be different in nature wherever they form, reflecting the differences in the areas they cover. But there are still huge gaps where there are no local groups.

Earth mysteries looks at the landscape as a whole - it came into being through ley investigation but has shifted slightly towards looking at the sites themselves. Wells, mazes and markstones have all received attention. Contact with orthodox local history societies is valuable, especially in the area of protection of minor ancient places like roadside markstones. Many are under threat, though there is beginning to be official interest in them. We may be returning to the concept of tending.

The subject is more than just ley study - it is that of the Earth as a living being. Like ourselves, the planet has physical and higher levels of existence and this is often expressed through poetry and ritual. These are ways we can interact with the landscape. The Chinese *Feng-shui* or sacred geography and earth acupuncture are two concepts relevant here. At the far end of this spectrum is the desire to control the energies. Philip felt this is unwise - it is much better to consider ourselves as part of the Earth. Paul Devereux's metaphor was of a tree with the branches representing energies and the roots in the living earth. Such things as aromatherapy and tending of plants would seem to be relevant.

Speculation is important, but can lead to problems, one of which is the superficial plastic package approach. It is very difficult to be definite about these things - inspiration and ideas are the wellspring but do a disservice when given as facts. Scientific method may not be the best method of investigation. Psychic ability, for instance, does not seem to like testing, and science must adapt to the requirements of each particular study. We must not be afraid to be wrong. Most scientific advances are the result of inspiration. Dowsing rod reactions do not necessarily make a conclusion more valid - Philip has found that an imagined pendulum often does as well. There must be balance between the right and left hemispheres of the brain - Paul Devereux's analogy was of a chariot in which the two horses have to pull equally or it goes round in circles.

For the future, we have Paul Devereux's recent ideas on shamanic origin, and such things as subconscious siting and aesthetic resonance. Watkins, for instance, said that his best

photographs were the ones taken along leys. Perhaps it is a self-creating geometry, like crystals forming. The subject is certainly not just a study of prehistory - it is about us now and how we relate to the Earth. It is concerned with personal involvement - relating rather than study. When visiting a site we should perhaps take nothing with us, not even our ideas, and be open to sight, sound, smell and feeling. We should find that the sites respond and welcome our visits. Tending can be carried on, and a relationship will be established.

NOTES AND NEWS

London Meetings

Maria Assumpta Centre, Kensington. April 28th - THE INNER SIGNIFICANCE OF BRITISH FOLK CUSTOM AND SONG, by Peter Jennings. May 12th - SPONTANEOUS HUMAN COMBUSTION, by Geoff Viney. May 26th - SOCIAL EVENING. June 9th - EARTH ENERGIES AND DYNAMICAL SYSTEMS, by Grant Warrell. June 23rd - ST. BEGA AND THE MYSTERIES OF CUMBRIA, by Alex Langstone. July 14th - THE PHYSICS AND METAPHYSICS OF THE PARANORMAL, by David Ash. July 28th - MODERN SOURCES OF "ANCIENT" SACRED TEXTS, by Gareth Medway. Mini-bus trips: Dorset, April 25th. Essex and Hertfordshire, July 11th. Contact Rob Stephenson on 081-459-0652.

Videos

I have two new videos available to anyone who sends me a tape and postage. **Whirls of Energy** is about the recent Old Sarum and Winchester field trip. Why is it called that? Get it and see! **The Pitch Hill Project** is a chronicle of the project to date - mainly using stills as video was not taken on most of the field trips. **A Visit to Tony Wedd Country** describes a trip by three SEMG members to Chiddingstone, visiting sites made legendary by the late Tony Wedd, and including some recording of Tony himself at a talk he gave in 1968. **Surrey Earth Mysteries** is an outline of the subject followed by a detailed illustrated examination of the Ferry Lane ley from Chertsey to Horsell.



Yet more campus lines?

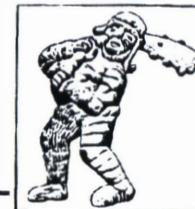
This is the Chaplaincy (the campus church) on the Riccarton campus of the University of Edinburgh, seemingly subconsciously sited near this impressive pine clump. It is aligned with a path which is named on the university map as Old Lane.

TEMS

This is the name of a new organisation recently formed by Lionel Beer. Originally a

TEMS - CALENDAR OF EVENTS 1992

Incorporating the Surrey and West Middlesex etc Branch of ASSAP, and affiliated to the Surrey Earth Mysteries Group



- 29 March
2.30 pm
Sunday
Speaker : Mary Caine on the Kingston and Glastonbury Earth Zodiacs
Venue : Kingston Phone : Barbara 081 942 3447
- 26 April
2.30 pm
Sunday
Speaker : John Spencer, ACA, author of "Perspectives" and editor of "UFOs 1947 -87" on Aliens and Abductees
Venue : Hampton Phone : Lionel 081 979 3148
- 31 May
Sunday
Crop Circles afternoon - talks and videos. Time and venue to be advised. Phone : Lionel 081 979 3148
- 7 June
Sunday
Local outing : Walled garden, Sunbury, St. Ann's Hill, Great Cockrow, Railway or River Trip.
Time to be advised. Phone : Lionel 081 979 3148
- 27 June
Saturday
All-day Field Trip to see crop circles (Winchester or Reckhampton areas) and ancient monuments on route.
Car share. Phone : Ken 0252 626311
- 28 June
2.30 Sun
Speaker : Linda Williamson on Mediums and Their Work.
Venue : Wimbledon SW19 Phone : Ann 081 542 3110
- 4 July
Saturday
Mysterious Guildford - a guided tour of the Town Possible river trip, castle, haunted shops and tea etc. Time to be advised. Car share.
Meet in Guildford. Phone : Eileen 0483 69583
- 10-12 July
Weekend
away !
Mysterious Norfolk - self-catering weekend in country house, exploring Kings Lynn, ancient/redundant churches, Castle Acre, Castle Rising etc. Car-share
Outline programme available.
Phone : Lionel 081 979 3148
- 19 July
6.00 pm
Sunday
"Jazz on a Summer's Day" - Lionel Hampton and two other jazz orchestras at Marble Hill House, Twickenham. Price £10 (grass only) concession £6.
This is an English Heritage event - so book early !
- 25 July
12.30-6.30
Saturday
Informal Garden Party with barbeque lunch, talk and tea. (TEMS members will be able to meet the BUFORA Council) Venue : Hampton.
Phone : Lionel 081 979 3148

SEMG

The Surrey Earth Mysteries Group meets the second Wednesday of the month in Addlestone for general discussion and videos.

Phone : Jimmy Goddard 0932 849505

branch of the Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena, it is now virtually autonomous, with an affiliation to the Surrey Earth Mysteries Group. It has organised some very interesting meetings; a programme of future ones is included in this issue. The title stands for Travel and Earth Mysteries Society, with the similarity to the name of our river not entirely accidental!

Miss Mary Bonney

I am sad to report that Touchstone subscriber Mary Bonney of Windsor died in December. Although I never actually met her, she was a very active subscriber in correspondence and I always found her letters stimulating and full of interesting information. A number were published in earlier issues of Touchstone.

“Ghost line” at Chertsey

When making the video of the Chertsey Ferry Lane ley (*Surrey Earth Mysteries*), I happened to notice on the still video picture of the aerial photograph of Chertsey displayed in Chertsey Library, a very faint line seemingly going obliquely across the picture. It did not seem to be composed of anything physical that could be identified; in fact, like the line seen from the balloon over Gloucestershire, it seemed to disappear if one approached the screen closely to try to scrutinise it. When plotted on the map it seemed to be quite a good ley however; it passes through a monument on Chobham Common, it skirts Cockcrow Hill (a tree-crowned eminence strikingly visible from the M25), a spotmarked junction, a coincident edge of a wood for one-third of a mile (we noticed this phenomenon on the Pitch Hill project), and a church on the road to Shepperton. It then runs along Green Lane, Shepperton - a long straight road from the multijunction at Shepperton Station - at a very slight angle, runs just south of West Molesey church and continues to several churches in London. I have seen beautiful sunsets along Green Lane.

Intervisibility in Weybridge

When walking in the park at Weybridge recently I happened to notice two Scots pine clumps - one on the edge of the park and consisting of two mature trees and a young one, and another further away with several mature trees. On walking until I was in alignment with them I was surprised to find the clumps in line with the church - the line goes across the building slightly obliquely. I continued down the footpath until I came to the other clump - which is in an estate called Hillcrest, off Baker Street. It is indeed on the crest of a hill, with much singing of the wind through the branches and a great feeling of power. The church spire and the top of the other clump are visible from near it. But this was not all - on rounding the corner I found that the line also goes through one of the junctions

at Temple Market - the one which now has the War Memorial! It continues to some unusual trees at the beginning of Portmore Park Road; there are also some others in St. James's churchyard, where the line passes through. It also goes through the Crouch Oak, Addlestone (a tree reputed to be 800 years old, where Queen Elizabeth I was said to have picnicked and whose bark was once prized as a love potion!), Longcross church and the same monument that the ghost line described above passes through.

Course on Earth Energies

Rob Stephenson is tutoring an evening class on earth energies in London, starting in June. Contact him at: Flat 6, Brabington Road, London, W9. 3AL. Tel: 081-969-3928.

BOOK REVIEWS

Old Stones of Gloucestershire - a survey of megaliths and mark stones past and present, by D.P. Sullivan, published by Reardon and Son, £2.80 inc. p&p.

This beautifully produced booklet is a mine of information on the stones of Gloucestershire, some of which I visited on my holiday last year. The photographs are of excellent quality and the booklet is very reminiscent of Alfred Watkins' publications. It will be invaluable to anyone ley-hunting in the region, for it not only lists the existing stones with their attendant folklore, but also gives the positions of stones now vanished, and gives information derived from dowsing.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM JIMMY GODDARD

SKYWAYS AND LANDMARKS REVISITED. A re-examination of Tony Wedd's work in leys and flying saucers. £1.20

CAMPUS LINES. Results of a nine year project investigating leys around six university campuses. £1.20

COSMIC FRIENDS. An account of communication with extraterrestrials over the course of many years, and information derived from it. 70p.

THE INHABITED SOLAR SYSTEM. Evidence that our system is not as dead as current opinion holds. 70p

ENIGMAS OF THE PLAIN. Booklet on Salisbury Plain mysteries, originally printed in 1966, now reprinted A5 size. 70p.

TOUCHSTONE. Newsletter of the Surrey Earth Mysteries Group. Quarterly, £2 for four issues.

AMSKAYA. Newsletter of the STAR Fellowship, concerned with extraterrestrial communication. Quarterly, £2 for four issues.

ALL THESE PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE.

LETTERS

From Terry Veale, Bradford-on-Avon

You may remember that I work at Bath University - it is interesting that a number of people here, both students and staff, have become interested in leys, not realising the importance of the campus as a place of power. Also a Zen garden has now been built between the ski slope and the amphitheatre, to celebrate the University's jubilee.

The garden was completed in June 1991 and is a place of "quiet and meditation". A committee of academics and administrators was formed to consider ways of celebrating and commemorating the jubilee (the Institution received University status in 1966). One of the decisions made by the committee was to establish a Japanese Zen garden on the campus.

It was designed and built by Bill Bowen, the head groundsman, who is also responsible for the amphitheatre, ski mound and artificial lake. (I would speculate that in a previous life he was strongly associated with sacred engineering - while not openly "New Age" he told me of a mystical experience he had experienced at Stonehenge back in the fifties - he was alone there one winter's day and felt the power of the place). The garden has a fountain and running water which adds to the power of the place.

I found your booklets extremely interesting. Like you, I subscribe to no one particular religion, but see merits in them all. I am an avid reader of the Alice A. Bailey books which propound the Ancient Wisdom teachings. One prediction states that a new religion will be formed in the near future, which will replace the existing religions. These have become outmoded and unsuitable for the present time. England (not Great Britain) appears to be strongly involved in this new movement, as current trends appear to indicate - Green party, Earth energies and the appearance of crop circles, not all of which are hoaxes!

From: Professor David Martin, Woking, Surrey.

I have now had a chance to read your booklet, and it certainly offers a lot of food for thought. I'm particularly interested by the material on the Woking Mosque, Pyrford etc., and natural protruberances. About the overall argument I'm not any kind of judge, given that my field is sociology not comparative religions. I take it you are interested in drawing a map of "vibrations of the sacred", and that is certainly an intriguing idea. About the underlying unity I'm less sanguine (or perhaps less perceptive) than you are; especially with regard to the contrast between Jerusalem (and monotheism) and Benares (cf P. Berger, *Theoretical Imperative*).

THE SONG OF THE LEY



*What can we say of the song of the ley?
Sounding so faintly, and so far away -
Echoing hauntingly over the land,
Ever elusive, yet ever at hand.*

*Song of the joys and the sorrows of Earth,
Singing of death, yet constant rebirth -
The face of the ley may change over time,
But the song of the ley is eternal, sublime.*

*Life in its fulness, and death with its pang -
Love of the mother, and carnivore's fang -
Earth in entirety, darkness and light;
Song of all gentleness, song of all might.*

*Earth is the Mother, and Earth is the Force;
Earth of all life the umbilical Source -
Earth is the Cycle, as night follows day
And the song of the Earth is the song of the ley.*

*Mountains and continents, oceans and seas,
Hurricane, earthquake and soft summer breeze -
Song of all being, to time without end;
Song of all songs the ultimate blend.*

*Taking, transforming the rude works of man -
Weaving them into its intricate plan -
Whether the knowledge be little or great
The song of the ley makes the crooked way straight.*

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THE HIDDEN UNITY and BEGINNINGS

These two booklets have recently been brought out by the Surrey Earth Mysteries Group.

The Hidden Unity looks at the strange phenomenon of subconscious siting of ley points, and notes that places of worship, of all religions and all ages, tend to predominate on leys. The environmental and philosophical implications of this are discussed, and the apparent necessity of worship but irrelevance of doctrine. Two ley centres are given as examples, and investigated in depth - the Shah Jehan Mosque in Woking and the Guru Nanak Sikh Temple, Scunthorpe. There is an appendix by Eileen Grimshaw on the significance of the Pagan religion to this study. Illustrated with photographs, maps and line drawings.

Beginnings is about a series of potentially useful discoveries, mainly made by Jimmy Goddard over a period of about twenty years, but having some overlap with discoveries made by others. For various reasons, the investigations are all in their early stages, and some have not been continued. They include earth energy detection, natural antigravity, subconscious siting, ley width, and the solar transition effect. There is also a chapter on cognitive dissonance - a psychological factor which seems to have been at the root of all bigotry - scientific, religious and other - down the ages. The booklet is concluded with an account of the discovery of leys by Alfred Watkins.

Each booklet is £1 plus 30p p&p from the Touchstone address.

EXCHANGE LIST

FORTEAN TIMES, 96, Mansfield Road, London NW3. 2HX. NORTHERN EARTH MYSTERIES, 40b, Welby Place, Meersbrook Park, Sheffield, S8. 9DB. FOLKLORE FRONTIERS, 5, Egton Drive, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, Cleveland, TS25. 2AT. THELEY HUNTER, P.O. Box 5, Brecon, Powys, Wales. MAGONIA, John Dee Cottage, 5, James Terrace, Mortlake Churchyard, London, S.W.14. 8HB. GLOUCESTERSHIRE EARTH MYSTERIES, 49, Moorend Road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL53. 0ET. MEYN MAMVRO, 51, Cam Bosavern, St. Just, Penzance, Cornwall, TR19. 7QX. LONDON EARTH MYSTERIES, Flat 6, 136, Brabington Road, London, W9. 3AL. MARKSTONE, The Chimes, 17, St. Andrews Street, Kirton-in-Lindsey, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. Our thanks to all exchange publications, especially those who have mentioned us.

TOUCHSTONE is published by Surrey Earth Mysteries Group, 25, Albert Road, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15. 2PX. Sub TWO POUNDS for four issues, please make cheques payable to J. Goddard. All articles are welcome and all are welcome at our monthly meetings in Addlestone. IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE AN "X" WILL FOLLOW THIS SENTENCE: