

Touchstone

Surrey
Earth
Mysteries



No. 35

January 1993

LEYS IN FLORENCE

Doris and I had a very enjoyable and interesting time in Florence for four days at the end of September, and I was interested to find two quite interesting leys there, and indications of many more.

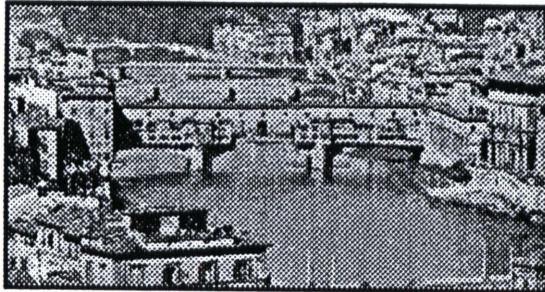
The great dome of the cathedral of Santa Mariadel Fiore, usually just called "the Duomo", dominates the city and has come to be its symbol. By dowsing (with a small instrument made from a ball-point pen which I can use without being noticed!) I found at least three leys cross under the dome, which has a polygonal walled area containing the high altar. The one I followed is one which also passes through Giotto's Campanile or bell-tower - a detached tower by the cathedral. The line was about ten paces wide and took in the whole of the Campanile - detectable all the way up to the top. A beautiful view of the city is had from here, which would have been even better if the weather had been kinder. We had torrential rain for most of the four days.

In the south-westerly direction this ley, after leaving the tower, goes through the Piazza Goldini, a square named after a dramatist whose statue is there, and which is a meeting point of several roads by the Ponte alla Carreia, a bridge over the River Arno. It then goes through the church of San Frediano in Costello. This is also a domed church, and does not appear when close to it to be very spectacular. However, when one goes along the ley a little way towards the river it can be seen to be in a very commanding position, and the dome of the Cathedral is visible also all along this stretch - it and the Piazza Goldini can be seen to be precisely in line. Dowsing picks up the ley strongly. In the other direction from the cathedral the theoretical ley appears just to miss two churches, but if ten paces wide it should just take them in, especially if the leys double their width at sunset as all other leys seem to. Unfortunately we did not have time to investigate these.

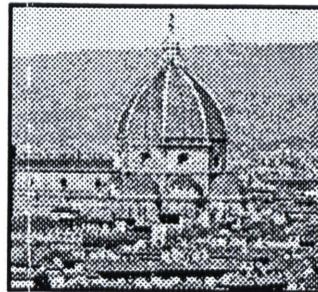
The other ley found was originally found by dowsing at the Cathedral - a line passing roughly south. This was found later in another rather spectacular case of intervisibility - looking along the Ponte Vecchio, the "old bridge" in Florence, and the only one to have been left intact by the retreating Germans at the end of the war. The dome of the cathedral can be seen to be precisely in line with the bridge. The bridge, which has a row of shops built along it, crosses the narrowest part of the river and was part of the Roman consular road, the Via Cassia.

This ley skims another church south of the bridge, and goes through a number of cross-roads in the city, including the crossing point of the paths in the Giardino dei Semplici, but is not particularly good mapwise apart from that. However, it is powerful to dowse and takes in the whole of the Ponte Vecchio in its width.

The city is a fascinating place and I would like to investigate it further in better weather.



Ponte Vecchio



Duomo

NOTES AND NEWS

Recent field trips

Much of the information gained by the group is now stored on video, and there is too much for it all to be shown at meetings, so I would advise all who can to request copies. These are free, I just need a tape to copy them on and the postage. If you have no video recorder, you could still get them and arrange with a friend to view them.

Earlier Videos

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.

Ley on the Underground

When travelling to the National Gallery to look at their computer information system last year, I noticed a plan of the gallery and its area (Trafalgar Square) on the wall of Charing Cross Underground station. I was intrigued to see that the poster was in two parts, not quite joined, and the gap between them formed a straight line that joined the centre of the Gallery dome to Nelson's column. My interest was even more aroused when, on seeing the area itself, this alignment was also seen to run along a stretch of Whitehall and to visibly align with Big Ben tower in the distance. The alignment did indeed pass through the centre of the dome and the centre of the pillared main entrance. Also placed on the line, in Trafalgar Square, were the Imperial Standards of Length - metal plates giving the standard inch, foot and yard at 62° F. The plaque beside it said "Imperial Standards of Length - placed on this site by the Standards Department of the Board of Trade, by permission of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Works and Public Buildings, MDCCCLXXVI. I think that means 1876. Unfortunately I did not have a dowsing rod with me!

London Meetings

The London Earth Mysteries Circle holds meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, at the Maria Assumpta Centre, 23, Kensington Square, London, W8. January 12 - **THE CROSSOVER BETWEEN THE HIDDEN TEACHINGS AND EARTH MYSTERIES**, by Paul Hine. January 26 - **RE-ENCHANTING THE WORLD - THE HEALING VOICE**, by Jill Purce. February 9 - **FREE ENERGY AND THE REALITY OF ITS APPLICATION**, by Bob Harris. February 23 - **Social Evening**. March 9 - **SACRED KINGSCROSS: AN EXPERIMENT IN WHOLISTIC BUILDING**, by Julie Lowe. March 23 - **ANCIENT CARVINGS IN ESSEX CHURCHES**, by Ian Dawson. April 13 - **UFOS ARE LIKE LOOKING FOR WHITE CATS IN A SNOW STORM**, by John Spencer. There will also be a minibus trip to Essex on Sunday 28th March 1993, led by members of Albion's Sacred Heritage magazine.

TEMS meetings (please ring numbers given for details)

Sunday January 31st - **TELEPATHIC COMMUNICATION**, by Keith Wakelam (Wimbledon, 081-542-3110). Sunday February 21st - **EXPERIMENTAL GROUP TO FOLLOW ABOVE TALK** (Wimbledon, 081-542-3110). Sunday February 28th - **AVEBURY AND ITS MEGACIRCLE**, by Richard Colborne (Hampton, 081-979-3148). Wednesday March 10th - **JOINT SEMG-TEMS MEETING - FIELD TRIP VIDEO AND TALK**. Please note that this is the usual meeting of our group for this

month, but will be in HAMPTON, not at my house as it usually is. (081-979-3148). JOINT BUFORA/SIGAP/TEMS MEETING - THE HISTORY OF UFOLOGY (Guildford, 0483-576914). Saturday April 17th - FIELD TRIP TO STRANGEHERTFORDSHIRE-SCOTTS GROTTO AND ROYSTON CAVE. Car-share. (Lionel, 081-979-3148, or Eileen, 0483-69583). Sunday April 25th - THE BEST LEY IN SURREY, by Eileen Roche. (Hampton, 081-979-3148). Saturday May 22nd - FIELD TRIP TO HAMPSHIRE, FOLLOWING LEY DESCRIBED IN ABOVE MEETING (Lionel or Eileen, numbers above). Sunday May 30th - BIG CAT SIGHTINGS, by Detective Constable Steve Ashcroft. (Hampton, 081-979-3148).

Antigravity Project

You will remember that some years ago we did some experiments in natural antigravity based on the fairly well-known but little researched "Pyramid of Hands" phenomenon. These experiments were shelved because they need at least five people to do them, preferably a few more, and I could not find enough interested to do them on a regular basis. Last year, however, I went to a meeting of the Borderland Investigation Group in London, who were interested in the phenomenon and we did some experiments that evening with interesting results. I have invited those present to our meeting on January 13th, with the aim of setting up a working group comprised of members of both groups, to continue the investigation. We could do some experiments on this evening, but could later organise separate meetings for the project, for those interested.

These are the results obtained from the previous work (it would seem not necessary to go over old ground for the present, though it could be done for confirmation later):

- 1) The classic "pyramid of hands" procedure was found to be effective in lifting the subject, this being much easier than in control attempts without the pyramid.
- 2) Only a very much smaller effect was noted when each lifter used one finger instead of one from each hand. This seemed to show some kind of circuit was effective.
- 3) The same effect was found when an inanimate object (a table) was used instead of the subject - seeming to show that any energy flow involved comes from the lifters, not the subject.
- 4) Experiments alone using a large set of scales at my then place of work seemed

TEMS MEETINGS

TEMS meetings are to be held on the last Sunday of each month, but at various venues. See the accompanying list; please contact Lionel Beer for further details (081-979-3148).

TEMS now produces a very interesting newsletter.

successful, but would have to be repeated to be sure.

5) The effect was also obtained when the pyramid of hands was done not on the person's head, but on a nearby surface away from the subject. This seemed to confirm the finding in (3).

6) When the lifters linked hands in a circle instead of piling the hands, a stronger effect seemed to be noted. This seemed to be confirmed by the quotation from "Earth Magic" published in "Beginnings", about the sacred boulder in Shivapur, near Poona.

At the meeting in London, we seemed to get the two following interesting findings:

- 1) A tingling sensation was noted by several of the subjects after being lifted.
- 2) The effect seemed much less when Judi, the only woman in the group, was being lifted. As she was the subject, this meant of course that the lifters were all men, which suggests there could be a kind of potential difference between people of different gender, generating more energy. This would be an effect which would be very interesting to test.

Possible further experiments:

- 1) It would be interesting to see how long the effect lasts by trying to hold the person or object up as long as possible. This would have to be done over a settee or other soft surface to avoid the risk of injury.
- 2) The gender polarity effect could be tested using various configurations of men and women as lifters.
- 3) It might be interesting to organise a field trip to test whether the effect is stronger at ley points or centres.
- 4) Experiments could be done to see what is the maximum weight of objects possible to lift. This would have to be done with objects of gradually increasing weight, with no excessive effort expended and using great care to avoid accident.

"Martian" field trip

We had a very interesting field trip last year, visiting Horsell Common, the site chosen by H. G. Wells for the landing of the Martians in War of the Worlds. We saw the small standing stone near there, and also other sites, including Chobham Church and Longcross Church. The latter is on the paw of Mary Caine's Great Dog - and has a stained glass window containing dogs and paws! Lionel noticed, when we visited the Queen Victoria Monument described in the last issue, that it had definite earthworks round it rather like a tiny version of a camp or hillfort. Nothing of this is mentioned on the map. A video of the trip, including readings from War of the Worlds done on the trip, is being prepared, and hopefully will have other material about Mars which is less fanciful but still shows indications of life.

LETTERS

From Norman Darwen, Blackpool, Lancashire:

Granada Television, which is broadcast across the north-west of England, has a series of images (which change periodically) which it uses along the extreme left of the screen when they are announcing future programmes. In September, the image was a painting of Granada's logo, represented as a pictogram in a cornfield, replete with tramlines! I wonder if other areas used anything similar as, curiously, the north-west has experienced very few crop circles. In a quiet year for circles/pictograms, this is one glyph that has entered the consciousness of millions of people!



From Simon Thioux, Long Stratton, Norwich:

1) How odd that this issue (No. 34) has so much in it about my new location. It is most interesting and will give me a head start in doing some of my own investigating. By the way, the Roman town at Caistor St. Edmund was recently the subject of an article in the Telegraph - there is a proposal to excavate it as a tourist attraction (ugh!) I was interested to read that the henge was only visible by different shades of grass; when I visited it two years ago it was a large circular depression in the field - I hope it hasn't been filled level.

2) Just a line to confirm that the henge is a circular depression in the ground, and clearly visible. A footpath runs through the field, so access is easy.

St. Benet's Abbey near South Walsham is built on a large low mound and at the moment I have no further knowledge of the historical facts. I will do some research and get back to you.

(Sorry about the mistake in the last issue; I didn't actually get the chance to visit the henge on my visit to Norfolk, and mis-read the account of it that I had - JG)

Apologies for the non-appearance of the October issue - this was due largely to my daughter's wedding which did not leave me much spare time! Subscribers will, of course, still receive four issues for their subscription.

MYSTERIOUS GUILDFORD

by Eileen Grimshaw



A lively group of TEMS members spent a pleasant day in Surrey on Saturday 4th July, touring Mysterious Guildford. The walk was based on documentary research by Jimmy Goddard of SEMG and oral evidence contributed by a local resident who had worked in the town until her retirement some years ago

The tour started in the upper part of this charming gap town with a brief history of its growth from pre-Roman times to the coming of the railway. Emphasis was placed on the possible significance of visual alignments of a number of local churches with ancient monuments in the local landscape, and the geography of the older preserved part of the town explained. The wider geomantic context was set with reports of unexplained phenomena, such as hovering orange lights in the sky and psychic happenings over the Hogs Back, the meadows of which were clearly visible from the street, outside the Guildhall.

A number of buildings were visited along the route of the upper and lower High Street, where reports had been received over the years of ghostly sightings and mysterious apparitions. These included the ghost of a young girl said to have been murdered in the boys' school now used as a shop at the top of the town, and another ghost resident in a shop lower down. This one regularly knocked over or moved the displays of goods which did not suit her fancy. Both staff and regular customers were used to the inexplicable smell of cooking and mischievous attempts to communicate on the part of this friendly ghost. Two other haunted shops were looked at, including one where a figure had been seen of a gentleman walking down an invisible staircase.

Two carparks were noted where Ladies in Grey had frightened people who had seen them. A couple of churches and churchyards with long and interesting histories were pointed out and the beautifully preserved facades of the shops, buildings and old alleyways leading off the cobbled High Street added to the interest of the tour.



A local hotel, the Angel, was investigated, which boasted at least three ghosts. One of these was a gentleman who had a habit of appearing dressed in military uniform in visitors' bedrooms, sometimes looking at them in the mirror. Another was reputed to be the ghost of one of Lord Nelson's guards who had died whilst on duty in the hotel. This sad figure has been seen still on duty outside the door of what had been Nelson's chamber.

The ancient crypt under the hotel was opened for the party, who enjoyed seeing where the tunnels leading to the castle had been closed up, and hearing about the latest sighting of an anomalous shadow two days previously which had alarmed a member of staff on the stairs to the crypt. Permission from the manager is required if you want to see this crypt.



The recently beautifully restored medieval undercroft to one of the nearby shops was admired, and the place where passages and tunnels had been sealed up was seen. This is now the Tourist Information Centre and so can be visited at any time during opening

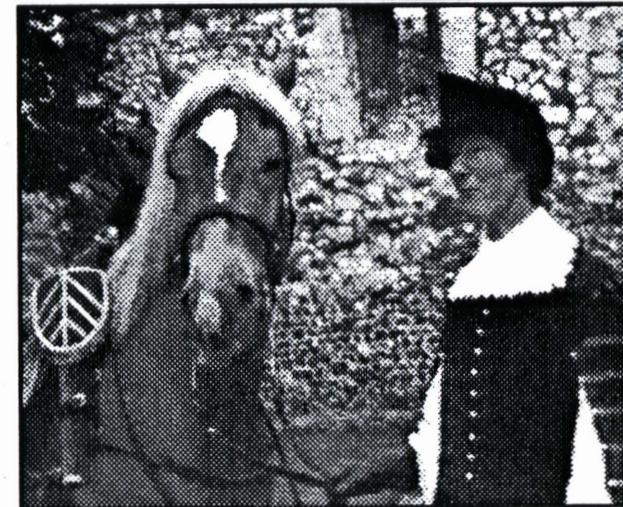


hours. The destruction of the site of the old Medieval Friary at the bottom of the town was deplored in passing.

After lunch, the party walked along the tow path by the River Wey in the centre of the town, crossing at a lock, and returned to the older part of the town by the medieval alleys still in use. It was observed that the town has had continuous thriving occupation for at least a thousand years. The connection of the town with Lewis Carroll, author of the philosophic and symbolic 'Alice' books, was noted, and the riverside statuary with Alice and the rabbit was appreciated.

The grassy, tree-lined and hilly open space where the blue woollen cloth had been prepared for export to France in medieval times was investigated, along with the place in the chalk cliff-face indicating the bricked up passages and tunnels leading to the High Street. The party then called at the Guildford Museum, where archaeological artefacts from the local area were admired, and useful information obtained about the area.

Gardens within the castle grounds on the itinerary provided members with a lively demonstration of scenes from the life and times of the turbulent seventeenth century, as part of the Guildford Festival.



The castle ruins were explored, with fine views over the surrounding countryside for those who climbed to the top of the keep.

The party then returned to the river, and followed the towpath beyond the watermeadows to the holy well and the ruins of St. Catherines's chapel. This is situated on what the Saxons had called Dragon's Hill, by the red-gold sand which some say gave Guildford its name as the Golden Ford. Here anomalous earth energy bands were discovered by the dowisers amongst the party.

One of the most exciting things about the tour was the way in which local notables and dignitaries of the town were welcoming to TEMS members, helpfully telling them of ghosts which they may have missed. The Curator of the museum, seated on a horse and dressed in seventeenth century garb as part of the Festival attractions, pointed out the barred window of the room in the old folks' hospital, built in Tudor times and still in use today, where Lord Monmouth had been locked the night before his execution. His ghost still haunts the room. A writer and local historian pointed out the hotel with its ghosts, and the assistant curator described the piano-playing ghost which is reputed to haunt his cottage next door to the museum. The town's Honorary Remembrancer told the party of the seated horseman which haunts the archway by the old belltower in the Grammar School, built in Tudor times and still used today, situated in the High Street.

The day ended with a torrential downpour of rain as the members were saying goodbye to each other. The mystery about this was that it had stayed fine so long for the tour, during what was a very wet weekend.

*Across the sodden midland plain
The south wind blows and tells me how
Beech leaves lie knee-deep in the ditch
That wrinkles Beacon Hill's green brow.*

*A hundred miles and thirty years
Divide me from that southern steep
Yet still it stirs my heart to know
On Beacon Hill the leaves lie deep.*

*A. J. Carr, publisher and
Hampshire exile, Kenilworth.*



The clump at Staple Hill, Chobham Common, from *Chertsey Abbey*, by Lucy Wheeler, published 1905. The clump is no longer there.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM JIMMY GODDARD
(in addition to the ones described on the back cover)

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.

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 Grinshaw 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, Meerbrook Park, Sheffield, S8. 9DB. FOLKLORE FRONTIERS, 5, Egton Drive, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, Cleveland, TS25.2AT. THE LEBY HUNTER, P.O. Box 5, Brecon, Powys, Wales. MAGONIA, John Doe 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, Carn Bosavern, St. Just, Penzance, Cornwall, TR19. 7QX. LONDON EARTH MYSTERIES, Flat 6, 136, Bravington Road, Queens Park, 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: