

# Touchstone

Surrey  
Earth  
Mysteries



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## A WALK ROUND OXTED

When attending a course in Oxted recently, I took advantage of the opportunity of a country walk by walking from the station. I was interested to note a number of Scots pine clumps in the area; perhaps the most significant was the one at the east end of the church - a nine hundred year old building some way out of the old village which, like so many other places such as Amersham and Woking, stubbornly maintains its separateness from the larger newer town.

There were two other clumps visible from the A25; I was interested to see on looking at the map that they align with the church's clump and the line goes through a number of cross-tracks and junctions in a small area. One of these also has a parish boundary going through it, and there is also a hilltop point where a county boundary crosses the road, with a trig point nearby. The line also goes through a Norman motte.

At each end of Spring Lane, the road leading to Oxted Mill, where my course was held, there was a pine clump, and the alignment of these passes through several coincident, mean-following and parallel stretches of road, one half a mile long with a cross-roads incorporated, as well as Tandridge church. The mean-following stretch at Beare Green is over a mile long.

The very commanding hilltop clump at Oxted Old Town above the A25 has an alignment that passes through one of the other two clumps mentioned, Castle Hill and a cross-roads at Bletchingley, and a church in Reigate.

At one of the clumps in Spring Lane is a very Watkinsian view of another pine clump on the horizon. This line, going southwards, passes through a major cross-tracks with six feeder tracks about two miles away, and going northwards goes through a church at Selsdon.

These indications simply obtained from an hour's walk and another hour's mapwork show that the ley system is still very much with us, despite all modern developments - and paradoxically, its most controversial and ephemeral markers, the clumps, seem to have a major role in the system's continuity.

JOHN AUBREY'S SURREY

by Chris Hall

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### THE RIDDLE OF THE STONES

I recently heard of a series of educational radio programmes "The Riddle of the Stones" - just in time to record the last of them, on Uffington White Horse! It was advertised as being about "some of the myths surrounding ancient sites and trackways. (I am enquiring to see if the series is to be repeated, and will pass on information on the others if and when I have it).

Being broadcast by BBC Education I was expecting any mention of leys to be ridiculed, but not so - Paul Devereux was one of the members of the discussion, which took place at the White Horse site, and he was allowed a fair hearing. However, he did have to water down the ley message somewhat, which was a pity.

He mentioned a ley passing through Dragon Hill, Uffington and this was countered by archaeologist Chris Chippendale who pointed out the age difference in the sites and the fact that there is no mention of leys in medieval writings. He said there were two possibilities if leys were genuine - that churches were sited on them secretly by some arcane secret knowledge, or that people's hands were guided without their knowledge by unknown influences. Both of these are in fact partly true - but unfortunately Paul lost the opportunity to emphasise this. He mentioned leys which are made up entirely of ancient sites, and explained multi-age leys by suggesting that later peoples recognised the sanctity in earlier sites. This is probably true, but it is a somewhat weaker stating of the case. When extraterrestrial influence in making the Horse and other sites best visible from the air was mentioned, Paul brushed this under the carpet as quickly as possible by the old standby theory that the figure was meant to be seen by gods.

Nevertheless, the programme must be seen as a breakthrough in that it was a rational discussion about the ley system, in contrast to the television broadcast "The Strange Case of the Old Straight Track", in which Paul was set up and knocked down by clever television work. A discussion of that kind must be a difficult task requiring quick thinking - certainly not one I would undertake lightly - and the end result was very publicly favourable to the subject of leys.

Significantly, the programme ended with one of the archaeologists summing up with the ley hunter's plea since 1925 - that we must get away from the idea of single isolated sites existing by themselves.

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See the current issue of AMSKAYA (available from Jimmy Goddard) for an article by Paul Screeton in the 1960s "Betwixt Earth and Sky",

Part 2  
Horsell. On the Heath in this Parish are two round Hills or Barrows, supposed to have been the Burial Place for Men slain in Battles. (Aubrey actually spells the name "Horshill", which is more accurate: the name is thought to mean "muddy hill-slope". The barrows, actually three in number, are dated to the early Bronze Age. The two Aubrey knew are bell barrows; the third is a disc barrow not noticed until the present century. They are on the heath between Horsell and Maybury, T014598 and 016597).

Bisley. Near the Church is a Spring, called St. John Baptist's Well; the Dedication made me curious to try it with Galls, which turns it to a Purple Colour. It is colder than other Water in Summer and warmer in Winter. (The well exists still, west of the church, SU956595. It may be reached by a public footpath).

Chobham. In Valley Wood is a stoned Well, the Water whereof has a rough Taste, and with Powder of Galls, turns a Purple colour, which comes from Iron. It very rarely freezes in the hardest Winter, and when it does, the Ice not so thick as two Leaves of Paper. There was formerly erected a White Cross, and the Forest Division, where was also a Cross, called Long-Cross. Two great Ditches here extend across the Way, are imagined to have been made in ancient Time for Defence of some Army lying there; the Earth is thrown both ways, they are of a great Depth, being 10 foot or more. (The well cannot be identified. Long Cross is likely to have stood at the point where Chobham, Sunningdale and Chertsey meet; a hamlet of that name still exists there. The ditches on Chobham Common may be the earthwork known as the Bee Garden; anciently Albury).

Frimley. In this Tithing, on Collingley Ridge, is a very high Barrow, which exceeds any of those I have seen in Wiltshire, except Silbury Hill. About it is a large round Ditch, in which is commonly found Water, notwithstanding it is a high Mountain. (This reference has caused much debate. The name Collingley has become corrupted to Colony, now only the name of a bog. The Ridge is probably that now called Chobham Ridges, but there is no barrow on it of any size, let alone one to rival Silbury. At one end of the ridge, close to Frimley, is Burrow Hill (SU888580). It may well be Aubrey's hill, but is now regarded as a natural feature).

Woking. Here are two Fairs, on September 12th, and Whit-Tuesday (a Pedling Fair). The Market, and the Fair of the 12th of September, were granted by Patent of King Charles II.

Ockham. In this Parish are some Wells, which in their Nature are purgative, and in them is found a Mineral, much like Alum; but with the Water the Inhabitants can neither brew nor wash. The Inhabitants have a Tradition, to have gone into a Vault at Newark Abbey which, say the People, went under the River to a Nunnery at Ockham Court.

Worplesdon. In this Parish is a medicated spring, or Well, of the

same Nature with that at Evesham.

Frensham. At Holt Common, about a Mile off in this Parish, is a Medicinal Spring of the Nature of that at Effingham, but lately discovered, which begins to be in vogue.

*In extracting these notes from Volume 3 of Aubrey's work, I have modernised the spelling of place names and certain other words, but retained the style and sentence structure of the original.*

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## LETTERS

From Mary Bonney, Windsor:

Mention of St. George's Hill and its rich occupants reminds me that recently, over coffee in Windsor, I met some people who had been visiting a relation there, and they all decided they "never wanted to live in a place like that - it did not feel happy". This was not a case of sour grapes as they could afford to live there if they wanted to, but have moved north and are now happily restoring an old water-mill and cottages.

I don't think the name of Addlestone derives from "Attel's Dene" as there is no trace of a dene, denu or den in the area, so I agree with your idea of a stone or stone circle being more likely. "Attel" is unusual - he is more likely to have been "Athel-" something, a kind of prince. Any trace of a large burial mound in the place? There is a chance, if any genuine charters have survived, one may solve the problem.

I have been collecting notes on the Thames and its tributaries, particularly any legends, ghost-stories etc., and on early settlements, and there is one query someone in Surrey E.M. may have an answer to. It concerns the "Wish Stream" which runs through the RMA grounds at Sandhurst, and which also forms part of the Surrey-Berkshire boundary. I wonder how it got its name, which sounds "spooky", "wish-hounds" etc., but might be connected with it being considered sacred at some time, then becoming a stream which granted wishes.

One light-hearted suggestion came from one of our Army neighbours: that it might have originally been something to do with a witch in the area, and the authorities changed the name so it would not frighten young recruits! My reply to this was that if a witch lived near, the lads would be off to see if she could do something about six-foot-plus warrant officers...

There is a story that there were chalybeate wells at Sunninghill, six miles or so from Windsor, which were said to have "rivalled those at Bath", but no clue as to what became of them, and the place has been very much built up. An ancient yew tree may still exist here in someone's grounds. Between Sunninghill and Sunningdale is a large

pond or young lake; and between Virginia Water and Englefield Green is a place marked as "Egham Wick". I got this from a rather elderly footpath map.

The "Midsummer Silver" custom is one I have not heard of before. It probably is silverweed, which is a most attractive "weed" with yellow flowers which look like buttercups, and is used in some medicines today. As with all herbs, it is to be used with care, infused or better still as an external compress, for wounds and piles, as it contains tannin. Possibly it has other names in different parts of the country.

I have to agree with Daniele Hart that "the Greens do not seem interested in Earth Mysteries". Of all people they should be, if they really cared about their surroundings; but they are busy theorising and politicising and in some cases preaching loftily to the rest of us.

From Fred Hadley, Surbiton:

Another good "down-to-earth" edition, much enjoyed here, especially for reports of summer expeditions. Concerning the OUGRAF meeting, I think the young lady studying geology will get nowhere with gravity anomalies. Paul Devereux became interested in the subject when exploring the Scottish Stone Circles. One has to remember that geological maps were constructed by footsloggers, or horse riders, looking for identifiable rock formations. You cannot detect electromagnetic energy with a steel hammer, or even a magnetic compass! Gravity anomalies are not shown on ordinary geological maps, "Solid" or "Drift".

From Bob Dickinson, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire:

As a musician and composer I was interested to read your "The Significance of Sound" in "Skyways and Landmarks Revisited". At the moment I am doing some research into "Bullroarers" and their manifestations in Lincolnshire. I wonder if frequency analysis of the Bullroarer tone would correlate with the frequencies you identified in your article? It is curious that Bullroarers appear throughout history and in places many thousands of miles apart; Derbyshire cave dwellers, Aborigines, and inhabitants of Borneo and Lincolnshire. I would be interested in any information or views anyone has on the subject.

## EARTH PULSE

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# NOTES AND NEWS

## Hurt Wood field trip

The Surrey Earth Mysteries Group, together with the London Earth Mysteries Circle and the Open University Graduates Research into Anomalous Phenomena (OUGRAP) will be having a field trip to the area of the Hurt Wood Track on June 30th. This track is the longest coincident track so far discovered in Surrey, running from Winterfold Forest nearly to Holmbury St. Mary. Its extension is a good ley with several "ley" names including Leylands Farm, Leigh church and Goodley Stock fort. Please let me know if you would like to come, just in case anything is changed in the meantime.

1) Meet at Newlands Corner near Guildford, a well-known beauty spot; Jimmy Goddard will describe the UFO seen there in 1967, and will if possible bring the strangely-marked stone found at the spot.

2) Drive to Pitch Hill car park where Gordon Millington (OUGRAP and BUFORA) will give details of the UFO sighted there and Jimmy Goddard will give an outline of Philip Heselton's Hurt Wood sighting.

3) Walk down Hound House Road to the meeting place with the Hurt Wood Track, which extends in both directions from here. Note the difference in the track on each side of the road. It does wander slightly from the straight, but the digressions are so small that the map does not show them. It is thus strictly speaking a mean-follower, but one of the best examples, and shows the likelihood of physical tracks wandering from the straight alignment over the years.

4) Follow the track to Lawbrook Lane. Note the difference again the other side of the road. I suggest we travel a little further to the striking pine clump the line passes through, then retracing steps to Lawbrook Lane to return to the car park.

5) Drive to Holmbury Hill hillfort - not on the line but the contours of the hill seem to reach northwards to touch it.

6) The extension of the track goes through the following points:

Spotmarked cross-roads/tracks at Holmbury St. Mary, Leylands Farm, hilltop with trig point near in Redlands Wood, track junction with stream Westwood Common, compact hill and church at Leigh, church at South Nutfield, fort at Goodley Stock near Limpsfield.

Suggest visit Holmbury St. Mary junction, then take the main road via Dorking to visit the track/stream junction and the hill and church at Leigh. Although not immediately obvious, the church is the centre of several aligning tracks and roads - we will see these. It also, to me, seemed rather powerful - it will be interesting to see what feelings others have on this.

On visiting the track recently I found some of my memories of it had become somewhat idealised - such as its straightness and one of the clumps which seems in fact to be quite a large pine wood. Nevertheless I still feel it is a significant part of Surrey's ley landscape.

## London meetings

The London Earth Mysteries Circle have arranged the following meetings, to be held at the Maria Assumpta Centre, Kensington.

May 8th - Memories and Visions of Paradise, by Richard Heinberg.

May 22nd - Hypnotic Regression, by Paul Bew.

June 12th - Social Evening.

June 26th - Geopathic Stress and Noxious Earth Energies, by Robert Harris.

July 10th - Hypnagogia, by Dr. Andreas Mavromatis.

July 24th - Cropfield Circles Mystery, by Ralph Noyes.

LEMC are also having the following field trips and outings:

May 28th - Festival Stall at Kingston Green Fair - a turf maze will be constructed.

June 30th - Hurt Wood field trip, described above.

July 24th - Butser Iron Age Camp and Winchester.

September 15th and 16th - Ley Hunter Moot in Cornwall.

Please contact Rob Stephenson on 01-624-0983. The code will probably change during May.

## Ghostly breaks

Tom Perrott of the Ghost Club, who is a subscriber to Touchstone, recently sent me a catalogue of ghostly weekend breaks with a specialist guide lecturer showing customers round various haunted spots. Ghosts involved include the usual monks and nuns (one headless!), a lady with a poison cup, a jockey, Dick Turpin and Boris Karloff! Sounds interesting, but the price is a bit beyond what I can afford, I'm afraid. If anyone is interested, contact Albatross Tours at 88, King Street, Maidstone, Kent.

## E. M. Yorkshire tour

A seven day earth mysteries tour of Yorkshire is being organised by Northern Earth Mysteries Group. It will feature stone circles, standing stones, holy wells, leys and ancient customs, including the Burning of Bartle. The cost is £150, which includes accommodation, food and transport. If interested please contact Rob Wilson, 40b, Welby Place, Meersbrook Park, Sheffield, S8. 9DB.

## 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. Some refutations of currently held views on the nature of our neighbouring planets. 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.

CLUMP ALIGNMENTS ROUND ADDLESTONE, SKYWAYS AND LANDMARKS, COLDRUM FIELD TRIP, BALLOON OVER GLOUCESTERSHIRE. These four video presentations will all fit on to a 3 hour cassette - anyone who wants them please send me a blank cassette and postage and I will copy them on and return the cassette.

ENIGMAS OF THE PLAIN. This booklet, edited by Jimmy Goddard in the 1960s, is now out of print, but photocopies are available for 50p. Includes a map of geometrical arrangement of alignments on Salisbury Plain by Philip Heselton, and articles on such things as carvings on Stonehenge, the Salisbury Star Map and White Horse Triangle, and the Warminster ley centre.

ALL THESE PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE.

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#### EXCHANGE LIST

FORTEAN TIMES, 96, Mansfield Road. London NW3 2HX.

NORTHERN EARTH MYSTERIES, 40b, Welby Place, Meersbrook Park, Sheffield, S8. 9DB.

THE PIPES OF PAN, Blaenberem, Mynyddcerrig, Llanelli, Dyfed, Cymru, SA15. 5BL.

FOLKLORE FRONTIERS, 5, Egton Drive, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, Cleveland, TS25. 2AT.

THE LEY 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, Carn Bosavern, St. Just, Penzance, Cornwall, TR19. 7QX.

TERRESTRIAL ZODIACS JOURNAL, 170, Victoria Avenue, Hull, HU5. 3DY.

LONDON EARTH MYSTERIES, Flat 24, 5, The Parade, Kilburn High Road, London, NW6. 5UN.

MARKSTONE, The Chimes, 17, St. Andrews Street, Kirton-in-Lindsey, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire.

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

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