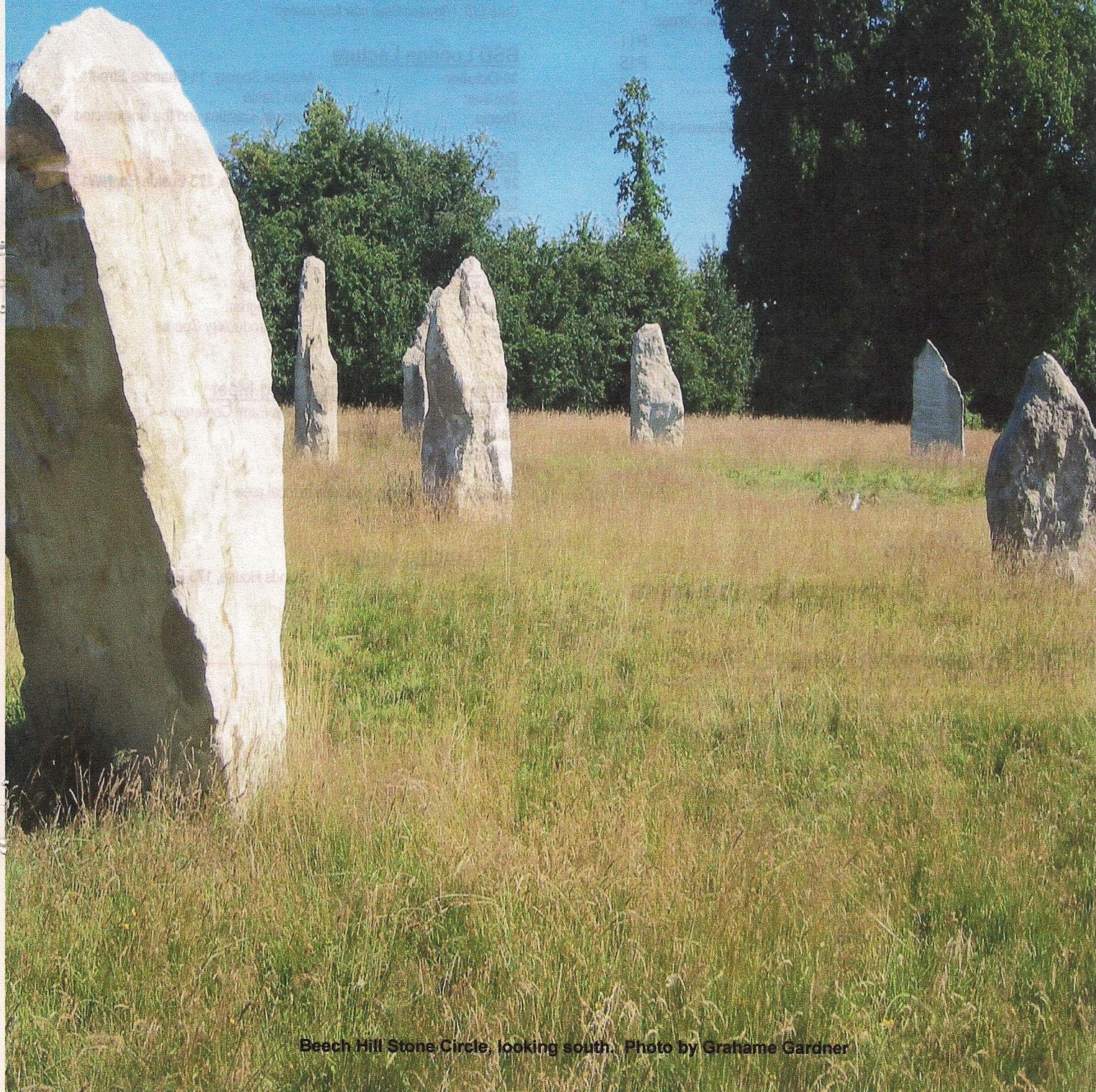
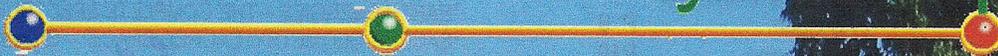


The Dragon's Egg

Autumn Equinox 2003 Newsletter of

The Geomancy Group



Beech Hill Stone Circle, looking south. Photo by Grahame Gardner

The Dragon's Egg

Autumn Equinox 2003

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Contact the Editorial Team:

Commissioning Editor:

Sally Smith

Tel: 01903-203 412

Email: saiann@hotmail.com

Sub-Editor:

Karin Lonegren

Tel: 01458-835 818

Email: karin@kesl2000.com

Editors:

Maria Hayden

Tel: 020-8241 4645

Email: mariahayden@blueyonder.co.uk

Grahame Gardner

Tel: 0141-339 3554

Email: grahame.gardner@bopenworld.com

Please submit articles for the Winter Solstice edition by:
Monday 17 November 2003

Upcoming Geomancy Group Events

The Geomancy Group – Samhain Gathering

24, 25 and 26 October Venue: Glastonbury
Theme: GG Annual Gathering and AGM, Retreat and Talking Stick
Please note that this is a full three-day meeting. We open the Circle at 10.00am on Friday.

The Geomancy Group – Imbolc Gathering

30, 31 Jan & 1 Feb Venue: TBA
Theme: TBA

Other Upcoming Events of Interest

BSD Tutors Training Weekend

3,4,5 October Edward King House, Lincoln
Tutors on this weekend are Sig and Patrick and Julia Fotheringham. Topics covered include classroom management, course materials preparation and presentation as well as legal and ethical issues. Contact BSD office for details. Cost £245

Earth Energies Group October Meet and AGM

18 Oct Churchill College, Cambridge
Saturday - Talks:
"EARTH ENERGIES – THE COMPLETE SPECTRUM?" – Billy Gawn
"SACRED GEOMETRY: SACRED SPACE" – Grahame Gardner
"KINESIOLOGY AND DOWSING" – Sally Smith
Cost: £25 for EEG members, £30 for non-members.
Book via Jo Cartmale 01604-646472

Sunday 19 Oct – Optional extra - Site Visits to:
Royston Caves, Hilton and Saffron Walden Labyrinth and Maze – with Jeff Saward and Sig Lonegren
Cost: £10 - Royston Cave now fully booked

BSD London Lecture

30 October Medical Society, 11 Chandos Street
Speaker: Beth Davie
Theme: Tunnels, Cavities and the Unexpected

BSD London Lecture & AGM

28 January Friends House, 173 Euston Rd, NW1 2BJ
Speaker: TBA
Theme: TBA

BSD Core Curriculum

28-29 February Venue: TBA
Teacher: Sig Lonegren
Topic: EEG Introductory Course

Earth Energies Group Spring Meet

27 March Millets Farm Conference Centre, Oxon
Saturday – Talks
Speakers and topics TBA

Sunday 28 – Probable field trips in local area

BSD London Lecture

20 April Friends House, 173 Euston Rd, NW1 2BJ
Speaker: TBA
Theme: TBA

Autumn Equinox 2003

Welcome friends,

Autumn Equinox colours and cools the air again, presaging the downward spiral towards darkness, decay and the introspective part of the cycle. Soon Samhain will be upon us, when we gather for our annual review of our progress and the opportunity to look at future possibilities and plans. It seems fitting that the Samhain Gathering this year will see us return to our place of birth, Glastonbury.

It's going to be an interesting weekend in a number of different ways. Firstly there really isn't a programme *per se* so we have plenty of time for talking and energy-building, which is the main focus of the weekend. Given that there now seems to be a body of opinion with concerns over the Group's direction and *raison d'être*, we need to find consensus on the areas as we can and work on those where we can't.

Any Full Member of the Group who has not received an information pack for the event but who is interested in attending, kindly contact me as soon as possible.

This meeting is also the time when the officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer) are elected. Sara, John, Grahame and I are the current incumbents. Could anyone in the Group, serving officers included, who wishes to be considered for any of these roles, please submit a note to this effect, to me by 10 October. Thank you.

Please also take this opportunity to send in written comments that you would like taken into account if you cannot attend the Samhain weekend.

We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Love and blessings,

María



Autumn Equinox

by

Sig Lonegren

The seeds planted at Samhain, laid dormant at the Winter Solstice, moved on their own at Imbolc, sprouted the Spring Equinox, fertilized at Beltane, grew vigorously under the Sun of Summer Solstice, and ripened at Lughnasad, are in the middle of the harvest season as the days, now once again are of equal light and darkness. In the cycle of manifestation of, say, an idea, the Autumn Equinox is point where the idea has become manifest, has grown through fertilization and the nurturing of Mother Nature, and is now more than ready for harvest. The end of the cycle (at Samhain) is in sight.

And the light at this time of year while at a point of equality has the momentum of moving towards the darkness. Just the opposite of the Spring Equinox, which has a similar evenness of day and night, but the momentum is toward the light. Equinox means "equal night," and anywhere on the Earth, given a level horizon, the Sun rises due East, and sets due West. Equal day and night. But, while equal and balanced, in the northern hemisphere, the momentum is definitely towards the darkness of Winter.

The Autumnal Equinox happens once a year. At this time, because of the motion of the Earth around the

Sun and because the Earth is tilted, the Sun crosses over the Earth's equator on its way South.

Table of Autumnal Equinoxes

Year	Date	Time (GMT)
2003	23 September	10:46
2004	22 September	16:29
2005	22 September	22:22
2006	23 September	04:02
2007	23 September	09:50
2008	22 September	15:43
2009	22 September	21:18
2010	23 September	03:08

The Autumn Equinox is one of the Four Quarter Days of the year. It marks a major mid-point of two of the seasons - even though Autumn officially starts on this day, in the Celtic Calendar, it marks the mid-point of the season of harvest which began at Lughnasad and ends at Samhain. Gathering in the fruits of our labours. The Holi/Holy days around this time reflect this reality. In the United States, **Labor Day** - the first Tuesday after the first Monday in September - marks the beginning of the Autumn Equinox season. Labor Day recognizes the value of those who labour, and it gives them a final fling at the end of Summer.

September 10 - Dagobert, Frankish king c.612-c.639. The last of the Merovingians to exercise personal rule in France was said to be of the blood line of Christ (see "Holy Blood, Holy Grail").

September 11 2001 - The destruction of the Twin Towers in New York. A grim harvest by the Grim Reaper. A blatant attack on the hegemony of the United States.

September 15 - Octave of the Nativity of Mary [PCP (Paris); WTS (Bruges)] This feast was established by Pope Innocent XI in 1683. What gave occasion to the institution of this feast was the desire of all Christendom for a solemn thanksgiving which would commemorate the deliverance of Vienna, obtained through the intercession of Our Lady, when the city was besieged by the Turks in 1683. An army of 550,000 invaders had reached the city walls and was threatening all of Europe. It marked the greatest incursion of a Moslem army into Europe. John Sobieski, King of Poland, came with a much smaller army to assist the besieged city during the octave of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, and made ready for a great battle. Some say that Al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden chose the 11th of September 2001 to revenge the defeat of the Moslem armies at Vienna in 1683 on that same date.

September 21 - Matthew, apostle, evangelist. On this usual day for the Autumn Equinox, the Church chose to celebrate Matthew, the tax collector, who gave up everything to follow Jesus. His name in Hebrew means (according to the "Metaphysical Bible Dictionary") Gift of Jehovah; gratuity of Jah: given wholly unto Jehovah. Of the four evangelists, he is represented by the man, or water bearer, which is in the sign of Aquarius which symbolizes the taking of the message out in to society.

September 24 - John the Baptist (Conception) - This man figures greatly in our yearly cycle. As the precursor to Jesus, the man whose job it is to say that the Light is coming, celebrates his birth day (appropriately) nine months later on the 24th of June, the first day after the Summer Solstice, when one might be able to see that the light is going away. Incidentally, the Annunciation to Mary is on March 25th - nine months before Christ's birth.

September 29 - Michaelmas Day - Michael, the archangel, and All Angels (Hebrew "Who is like God?"). St. Michael is one of the principal angels; his name was the war cry of the good angels in the battle fought in heaven against He-who-has-no-name and his followers. In Normandy St. Michael is the patron of mariners in his famous sanctuary at Mont-Saint-Michel in the diocese of Coutances. In Germany, after its evangelisation, St. Michael replaced for the Christians the pagan god Wotan, to whom many mountains were sacred, hence the numerous mountain chapels of St. Michael all over Germany. There are Michael hills all along the Michael Line in England including the Glastonbury Tor, which is dedicated to St. Michael. Michaelmas Day, in England and other countries, is one of the regular quarter-days for settling rents and accounts; but it is no longer remarkable for the hospitality with which it was formerly celebrated.



Stubble-geese being esteemed in perfection about this time, most families had one dressed on Michaelmas Day. In some parishes (Isle of Skye) they had a

procession on this day and baked a cake, called St. Michael's bannock.

Archangel Michael spears the Dragon

It is appropriate to mention Archangel Michael here as he pinned down the Earth Energies dragon with his spear, and marks the final turning point towards Samhain, and the death of the Celtic Year.

A Little Exercise in Balance - The Equinox is the time to try egg balancing. Take a raw egg out of the fridge the night before so it warms up to room temperature. On the Equinox, you will find that you can balance the egg on a flat surface, on its fat end. It doesn't work right away (I think it takes time for the yolk to settle), but keep at it, and suddenly, it will feel like it locks, and you can remove your fingers, and it stays there - balanced on its fat end. Honest.

So, in the cycle of decline,
the Autumn Equinox is at harvest
time,
of those ideas
that you first planted
last Autumn at Samhain.
It is a time of balance,
a time of reaping,
a time of equality.
What is at that balance point in
your life?

May the fruits of your labours
of this cycle
serve you well
as the light turns
towards the dark half of the year,
and the death and rebirth of a
new cycle
at Samhain.

Blessed Be!

- © Sig Lonegren
- Proofed by G Gardner

Book Review

by
Grahame Gardner

'Chartres – Sacred Geometry, Sacred Space'
by Gordon Strachan.

This is a little gem of a book from Gordon, with some wonderful architectural drawings by Oliver. It's a distillation of his theory that Islamic ideas of sacred geometry were brought back to the West by the Templars, making possible the rise of Gothic architecture. Some of this material will be familiar to

those who remember Gordon's talk at our Roslin weekend, exploring the history of the Islamic one-fifth *mukhammas* arch, and its incorporation into the Gothic style.

The book also looks at the development of the 1:√3 ratio in Western sacred geometry, again tracing that back to Islam, with links to the mystical Christian theology of Dionysius the Aeropagite, and demonstrates the use of the ratio in determining the *ad triangulum* geometry of Chartres.

I found it very readable, much more approachable perhaps than some of Gordon's other books, although I did get the feeling that it had been heavily edited and that a lot of material had been omitted. Having seen the original exhibition, I know that there are more of Oliver's drawings that have been left out of the book. Talking to Gordon recently confirmed this impression as he told me the publisher was keen to keep the size of the book down to maximise sales. So hopefully there is more to come at some point!

Highly recommended.

Rainbow blessings

By
Maryrose Price

The day after our Avebury Beltane weekend I was on the plane to Peru, for a wonderful three weeks there and in Bolivia, welcomed by the mountain spirits of the Andes and the colourful people.

Our group is called 'The Singing Stones' - we communicate with the stones and the land through silence and sound.

Cusco and the Temple of the Sun, the Rainbow Feathered Serpent, Machu Picchu and the Temple of the Moon, condors flying overhead as we gather in the Temple of the Condor. Coca tea offered to welcome us at each stop - helping to rebalance us at the high altitude.

So many sun, moon, star alignments! The ancient civilisation of Tiabuanaco and the rock formations of the landing places of the old space travellers.

A week on the Island of the Sun opposite the red rock of the Island of the Moon in Lake Titicaca; known to the local people as Kotamama, Grandmother Lake - watching the eclipse of the moon.

Humming birds of every hue, orchids of delicate beauty. The rushing, powerful Urubamba River.

I delighted in swimming in the cool waters of this Grandmother Lake - feeling very blessed.

Haiku

Lake Titicaca
Kotamama Grandmother
blessings of water.

Thank you, Peru and Bolivia.

Maryrose

Geomancy Group News

Personal news:

I am very pleased to tell you that I was speaking with our much-loved Jamie the other day. He has had quite a year, settling into his new life in Portugal. He is now based in the Algarve most of the time, at the property that he and Sofia have purchased, though Sofia is still commuting back and forth to Lisbon. Much of his time up to now has been spent renovating a cottage on their land for rental purposes. The setting sounds idyllic - on a hill away from everyone and everything, with its own well and lots of trees.

While it is unlikely that Jamie will be able to make the Samhain gathering, he will look at the possibilities for Imbolc and we may also see him later next year. In the meantime, he is thinking of everyone and sends you all his love. He is also busy on possibilities for the Geomancy Group trip to the Algarve!

Another piece of news that I am personally very happy to relate is that Susie has finally sold her house! She and the girls have, for the moment at least, moved to a flat quite close to me. Although it is taking them a while to settle into their new life, the energy there is really lovely. Bushy Park is effectively their back garden and they are very happy in their new home.

Professional news:

It was with a sense of shock and deep personal regret that I heard from Patrick of the death of Sergey Bondarchuk. Sergey and his wife, and interpreter, Elena, were the Russian representatives at the BSD Congress in Manchester at the end of August. He apparently died in his sleep on 7/8 September. For me, he was the star of the show and made such an impression that, not only did I attend his lecture, but both runnings of his workshop. In fact, Sergey amended the afternoon's programme because he didn't want me to waste my time by hearing the same material a second time!

On the surface, Sergey was very much a dowser in from the Russian scientific school but it was clear to me that this only touched the surface of who this man really was. Before I had even left Manchester, my mind was at work on figuring out how to get him over here again to share some of the wealth of his experience and perceptions. I will try and get some of his titbits down on paper in time for the next Newsletter.

My thoughts go to Elena who was clearly devoted to him. To Sergey, I give thanks for what he shared and hope that he may have found his rightful place in the Universe. ~ Maria

HIGHWAYS OF THE STONE AGE

By

Ros Briagha Foskett

(This text is the subject of a talk that Ros gave, that was originally supported by slides.)

There is a tendency to see history as an upward moving line called progress, and to assume that our ancestors in the dim and distant past were pretty far back down that line, lacking nearly all of our modern abilities and creations. This includes the whole notion of travel, yet in fact, our ancestors did a lot of travelling, across continents and oceans, and were probably a lot more aware of the terrain they had to cross than we are nowadays. It is likely that they used the stars as a major navigational aid, on land as well as sea, but as the time went by, certain routes would have proved particularly relevant and useful, and so additional markers and features began to be placed along them.

My attention was first drawn to all this when I moved to Wales, and wanted to visit my parents back in Buckinghamshire, at a place called Gerrards Cross. This is on the A40, about 20 miles west of Hyde Park, and I found that this same road led me all the way to Carmarthen, nearly 200 miles away! As I drive slowly and dislike the motorway mania, I have travelled this route many times since then, especially when my daughter went to college, first in Gloucester and then in Oxford. Two ancient towns, and both on the A40! Oxford has long held a powerful reputation as a place of higher learning, and is thought to have been a major Druidic teaching centre long before the Romans came. Gloucester is the first place that it was possible to build a bridge to span the mighty Severn river till the 1960s, and was a important port for vessels bringing both travellers and goods.

Sadly, not many ancient remains are left on the English part of the journey, though the cross roads at Gerrards Cross is very old, and one arm leads off to Windsor, ancient seat of power and royalty. The next two towns going west also have traces left of their past. Beaconsfield, as its name suggests, was obviously part of the line of beacon fires by which news was sent in the pre BT ages! And High Wycombe has both high hills, suitable for beacon fires, and also a fantastic cave system, made notorious as the Hellfire Caves by Sir Francis Dashwood in the 18th century. Our ancestors were very appreciative of the solidity and security of caves, and no doubt used these ones.

As soon as one passes Gloucester, though, the landscape is much less built up and the ancient markers start to appear. The A40 now runs up to Ross and then down to Monmouth, but on the old road through the Forest of Dean, there is a lovely 10ft menhir, at a meeting of three roads, often important points to mark clearly. From Monmouth to Y-Fenni there is now a modern dual carriageway, so no ancient remains, though Raglan Castle is still very impressive and may well stand on a much older site, guarding the junction off to Newport and the coast.

From here on the route becomes rich in markers dating back to Neolithic times. A magnificent menhir

stands beside the road by the army camp, which is situated, to the east of Crickhowell, keeping company with a large and venerable oak tree. I wonder if they have always used these flat fields as a training ground for the young warriors? At Crickhowell, Or Crug Hywel, there is an astonishing mound, looming above the modern town, where the settlement was in past times, safe from attack. This mound is very like the Sugarloaf mountain in appearance, like a smaller version...one wonders why? There is another earthwork north of the town, and two more stones placed at ford points on the river. Just west of the town is the first of the still extant "burial chambers" along the route, with some upright slabs showing one chamber, and markers to show the extent of the surrounding mound. The road then divides, and the old road goes along the river where the Fish Stone still stands; another stone is a bit further on showing the point at which to head up to Bwlch, which means Pass, and marks the lowest point between the Black Mountains and the Brecon Beacons. There are two stones here, one sadly fallen, but the other still up and proudly marking the way for weary travellers. Standing by it one can see the Sugarloaf, thus getting the correct direction to travel eastwards as well. The fallen stone is right by a spring, very useful to quench thirst after a long walk uphill.

This whole area is rich in monuments, and was obviously popular in ancient times, both for living and as a through route, and perhaps for tribal meetings. One of my favourite sites comes next, Scethrog, such a great name!! There are two sites of interest here, and the most interesting in some ways is the crannog, which as far as I know is the only one in Wales. This is a dwelling in a lake, created by rowing out boats full of rocks and dropping them in the water until a platform of sufficient size is made, just above water level. They also made a causeway joining it to the shore that is just UNDER the water, which is then invisible to pursuers, human or animal. An excellent way station in troubled times, as well as a living space. The other site is a beautiful "burial chamber" high above the road and the river Usk, with stunning views south to the Brecon Beacons, and at the juncture of several small river valleys coming out of them. It feels as if this was an important meeting place as well as a place of burial, and there are some fascinating carvings on one of the upright stones, 14 in all, of a diamond shape with a cross of lines joining the four points. What does this mean? It seems to have been very important to have been carved so many times, either [with difficulty] in the present situation, or before the slab was put in place.

Moving on from here we go through Brecon, another very old settlement, with several hillforts and a Roman camp, and on to Sennibridge, where again the road splits. One branch goes off to the south, past the lovely stone circle at Cerrig Duon, and on to the caves at Dan-yr-Ogof, the source of gold for thousands of years. The A40 moves on west and soon comes to Trecastle, where there is a lovely tree-covered mound, possibly iron age rather than Norman. To the south, looming over the modern road is the bulk of the Black Mountain, a major strategic high point for thousands of years. There are six stone circles up here, and three large Roman camps, plus numerous tumuli and

standing stones. From the top you can see the Sugarloaf still, now 26 miles away! A Stone Age Metropolis!

On to Llandovery, another ancient market town, and an important junction point for the road coming down from the north, and Builth Wells. There is another mound here, like the one at Trecastle, with a castle to guard the river access. A few miles on there is Careg Fawr a mighty stone indeed, at least 10x4x4, and marking both a modern rest stop lay-by and also the point to cross the river at Llangadog. I wonder if 4,000 years ago this was also considered a good rest stop, before the last haul up to Garn Goch, the 11 hectare fortified village above Llandeilo. This was the largest hillfort in Dyfed, and its name means Red Carn, and indeed its redness can be seen from miles away, in several directions. Llandeilo was apparently a royal seat during mediaveal times, maybe a memory of its powerful position during those earlier times. The road now heads west again, on to Carmarthen, and Merlins Hill, another hillfort, standing proudly by the River Towy. The road runs beside the river here, and our ancestors certainly would have used the river as much, if not more, than the road to transport goods and people. Along the way to Carmarthen there are several more little forts, and some standing stones near to the bridge, and potential ford, at Nantgaredig. Carmarthen itself is a very old place, and probably lived in for the last 2,500 years, once the hillfort was abandoned in favour of the lower site.

My researches have not yet gone beyond Carmarthen, though I am looking into the old road followed by the drovers, with dolmens on it, and standing stones, that heads off west. This will be part of my next article on this subject, and I look forward to the research process with keen anticipation!

Recent Geomancy Group Events

**Lughnasadh Gathering,
Beech Hill, W. Sussex
11,12,13 July 2003**

The Lughnasadh Gathering took place on 11th to 13th July at Beech Hill, where our hosts were Richard Creightmore and Julie Rocka. Our weekend teachers were Richard, and unexpectedly Julie, and Palden Jenkins. Jon Appleton introduced us to the Great Goddess in the Stars. Sally supervised the provision of food.

(It seemed that we were not going to have a write-up on any of the actual teaching sessions from this weekend, but the printing delays have allowed Brannie's piece on Palden's talk to manifest. What follows this are tales of some of the blurry bits round the edge. MH)

PALDEN JENKINS' ASTROLOGY LECTURE

Written up by Branwen Edwards

Palden started by telling us that there were various systems in astronomy/astrology. The earliest is associated with stone circles and is an 8 fold system. It seems that this system developed when farmers had spare time to look up into the stars from their place on the earth. This eventually developed into a 16 and 32 fold system.

The 12 fold system developed from ancient Sumer to the Altai Mountains via Persia (the Chaldeans), Egypt, Greece and Rome. It is connected to urban living when people were no longer tied to agriculture and the eightfold system and consequently devised a system on archetypes.

The Lunar system is a 28 fold system. By the Middle Ages, things had developed. People were interested in fate and fortune. Royalty had their Court Advisors. Townspeople went to the market place to consult with the soothsayer and systems became a little more complicated both mathematically and conceptually. Palden suggested that it was Sir Isaac Newton (Founder of the Bank of England) who is credited with the creation of a more modern mindset although he does acknowledge that it did originate with the Greeks around 600B.C.

There are two types of Zodiacs. These are the Sidereal (Stellar) and the Tropical Zodiac. The Tropical Zodiac is the original zodiac. The **Sidereal Zodiac** is based on patterns of stars and ascribing symbolic meanings to them. There are two problems with the Sidereal zodiac. Firstly that different cultures see these patterns of stars differently and secondly that whilst astrology is a measuring system, the star patterns don't have boundaries and are therefore difficult to measure. Also the space they take up in the sky varies considerably the longest being 48 degrees the shortest being 17 degrees. Individual stars were important.

The **Tropical Zodiac** is much simpler. Its measurement of 360 degrees means that it's "nice and regular" and can be divided up into 2/4/6 etc. This system was identified by the Sumerians which means that it is at least 6,000 years old. It is based upon earthly experience and the cycle of orbit of the earth around the sun. These are rooted in the four major points (solstices) which are Aries/Libra/Cancer/Capricorn and also rooted in the four seasons or, as Palden put it "anchored on the same cross in time".

Palden pointed out that whilst ancient people could only see Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn they actually seemed to know about both Uranus (which would be "discovered" in the 18th century and Neptune (which would be "discovered" in the 19th century).

TIME CYCLES

Palden went on to talk about time cycles, the fastest being the 24 hour cycle. This is based on the rotation of the earth on its own axis. Sunrise and sunset are times of transition between two different worlds of perception – during the day we are largely outwardly focused whilst between sunset and sunrise we are internally focused.

Palden commented that the **12th house** is the “left over” house. It is the house of sunrise and so strictly speaking it should really be the first house. The timing of the **11th house** is midmorning and the **10th house** is before lunch. Palden commented that it is an objective house – “calibrating our own achievements to what the world out there is expecting of us”. In the **9th house** there is a growth of perspective and the **8th house** is where we must get things sorted out. When we get to the **7th house** in the late afternoon we can relax more. It’s not so much of “a business kind of thing; you can appreciate your friends” and get a more subjective view of life.

The **6th house** is the first sign of the evening. You can do your hobbies and organise your food and do your emails. The **5th house** is the house of late evening – time of “more smoochy relationships”. Apparently 9.00pm is the time of maximum creativity. The fourth house is our own subjective place. The **3rd house** (just after midnight) is a major time of dreaming and the witching hour. The **2nd house** is deep night and about personal resources and the time you get your deepest rest. The **1st house** is the period before dawn. This is when you can get your most profound thoughts because you’re going from subjective to objective.

We live on a twin planet. The cycle of the moon is 27 and one third days. Palden gave us an *aide de memoire* to remind us what Perigee and Apogee are i.e. **perigee** is when the moon is furthest from earth (think “perimeter”) and **apogee** is when the moon is closest to earth. The Moon spends 2 and a half days in each sign. It moves approximately 1 degree every two hours. There was intense interest in the concept of **THE VOID OF COURSE MOON**. Palden suggested that it was not a good idea to start an activity during this void of course moon as everything will become void – indeed, things just don’t seem to happen/work out. When does a moon become void of course? When the moon has made its last major aspect in one sign before it moves into (ingresses) into the next. Usually this only last a few hours but if all the major planets are early in their signs (10 to 15 degrees, for example), voids can last as long as days. Palden stressed that it was O.K. to continue an activity started before the void, just don’t start anything new.

The Moon and Mars meet up every month but their interactions move fast. Palden suggested that we start monitoring their meeting. Focus on the conjunction (when they meet up together) and the opposition (when the moon is exactly opposite Mars). He suggested that we look out for the Moon/Mars conjunction in August.

THE NEXT CYCLE IS A YEARLY CYCLE

Palden suggested that we look at the sun’s cycle (the sun takes one year to work round the twelve signs) and in particular when Mars is square to and in opposition to the Sun.

The planets represent energies and the signs represent filters as in a spotlight in the theatre. The signs don’t pump out energy themselves but are activated or energised by their interaction with the planets. At the moment there are four planets in Cancer. Saturn is our sense of identity and how we define who we are – lots of people are feeling tired at the moment as Cancer is a resting/nesting energy. It’s situated between Gemini and Leo which are energy pumpers. There is a lot of staying at home at this very Cancerian time. Look at how Fedderer reacted when he won Wimbledon – he was very emotional and very “internal”. The United States of America and Iraq are both Cancerian Countries. With Cancer there is often an issue about space and safety. The U.S. is often about “their own people” – Momma’s Apple Pie; Thanksgiving is a time when a tremendous number of people travel cross country to eat their meal with family members. The American Constitution is about safe space– no unknowns and everything should be mapped out.

When you look at the moon in the sky, you are looking at it covering about half a degree, i.e. the moon’s width is about half a degree. An Annular eclipse is when the Moon is at its perigee and smaller than the area of the sun. A sextile is when a planet is 60 degrees (or two signs) away from the Moon (or other planet). A trine is when the Moon is 120 degrees away from another planet. A sesquiquadrate is 135 degrees (think 90 degrees plus 45 degrees). A square is a 90 degree angle between planets.

WHOLE CYCLE.

The conjunction is at the beginning of the cycle. Planets at the same degree of the same sign. Don’t necessarily expect things to happen – this is where things are at. **The Conjunction** is a state of being. Things can come up on a subjective level. Palden described the time of the Uranus/Pluto conjunction in the sixties and suggested that we mark in our 2012 diaries the square of Uranus to Pluto. A conjunction necessitates the planets being at the same degree (or very close) and so the planets are almost always in the same sign.

The semi sextile (planets 30 degrees apart). This is when the planets are usually one sign apart. This is an aspect of emergence – “stuff is coming up”.

Semi square (Planets 45 degrees apart) – the first crunch when you wake up and think “we’ve got to DO something”) – it’s long term intent and will come to fruition at the opposition

The sextile (Planets 60 degrees apart). This is a time of energy and movement.

The square (Planets 90 degrees apart) – you’ve got to focus. Palden gave us examples of the car breaking

down or the telephone bill needing to be paid – he said that it was not an exciting or inspiring time but that things had to be DONE.

The trine (Planets 120 degrees apart) – generally not good for Ceremonial work but a good flowing aspect.

The sesquiquadrate (Planets 135 degrees apart) “you’re on the right path” – it’s adjustment time.

Quincunx (Planets 150 degrees apart) – either it’s happening OR you’re losing it OR it’s unfolding in a different way. Can be a time of bewilderment.

The build-up to the opposition is a time when arguments can happen or people get stressed. Ceremonially it’s a poignant time although you can’t be assured of what will happen.

The opposition (Planets 180 degrees apart). Whatever you started moving towards at the conjunction – the facts happen. There is a possibility of tension.

BORN ON FULL MOON

This is a very Karmic placement.

If you start a dynamic ceremony after the full moon, you may find that it is a bit flat – you’ve missed the moment.

THE WANING CYCLE

The waning trine - “if you’ve achieved – groovy”. If you have not achieved, then there is a feeling of emptiness

The waning square - in order to make something meaningful, you’ve got to have done something to put into practice, e.g. the sales figures/Paul’s book having been written

The waning sextile - this is consequence energy not causal energy – the results of what has been done before.

The waning semi-square - let go/clarify. “what have I learnt from the path/let go of/what do I need to take into the future”.

The waning semi-sextile - don’t start anything. Deal with the consequences of past actions.

PLAN WEEKENDS AT DIFFERENT PHASES OF THE MOON

If you want to be creative, then “do sextile”.

When the moon is in Sagittarius (which is ruled by Jupiter), then it is party time! If you want to do something with a group consciousness, then go for Moon in Aquarius but definitely not when the Moon is in Leo or Aries because there is too much individualism – people are interested in their personal rights. The Moon in Libra is a good time for relationship activity because Libra is very much about balance and the

exchange of energy. Good time for the talking stick because people will speak on other people’s behalf. There can be a time of splitting hairs when the Moon is in Virgo and Moon in Gemini can get too busy. The Moon in earth signs “might be good for staying on the case”.

Many thanks to Palden for his insights and to Brannie for recording them in bite-size pieces.

FRIDAY EVENING

Walk on the Wild Side – and getting lost in the wilderness

by Barry Hoon

I love coming to the Geomancy Group weekends. What a great bunch of folks you all are.

So many memorable things happened that it’s difficult for me to know where to start... Firstly, I must say that Richard has created a real “Geo-Disney” wonderland. I don’t mean that in a disrespectful way, it’s absolutely fabulous and a lot of hard work has gone into creating it, well done Richard. It is heaving with nature spirits and cosmic toys of all kinds and it was a real treat to stay there for a few days.

Palden has inspired me with his talks to incorporate more astrology in my daily life and I’m really watching out for the moon being void of course. It was also great to see Jon Appleton again and his wide-eyed goddess talk was really interesting. His labyrinth walk is brilliant and I’m looking out for the chance to try it out when the time is right.

I must also apologise to the group for getting lost, or should I say, “letting myself get lost”. It’s a very rare thing for me and I loved it. It was only later that it was pointed out to me that we were on a group walk and I should have stayed in tow. It was just too tempting to play and I got totally absorbed in the reality of the situation.

On the walk we were presented with one magical place after another and by the time I got to the clump of trees up on top of the hill I just couldn’t resist it any more. Clover did find me at that point but I sent her back saying I was ok. I took the chance to rewire my brain and I jumped in with both feet and when I was finished you were all gone... There was no panic, I just dowsed my way back to the campsite and at one point I came to the edge of the board (“the main road”).

That was an interesting moment for me. Should I continue on to the site or turn back? I turned around and got lost again – it was so good I can’t describe the feeling. It was a relief to just wander around being lead by my intuition without a care in the world. So, I’m really sorry if my absence caused anyone any anxiety and spoiled your magical walk, it won’t happen again...

On Saturday night sitting in Richards stone circle I also realised it’s how you use the space that’s really important – not how you built it. I’m all for getting the stones in as quickly and painlessly as possible and I

have plans to arrange a demonstration sometime where I hope to show that using modern machines in a respectful way can enhance the process and not wreck it.

The down side? – Well there were some things that happened during the weekend that raised a few heckles – nothing that can't be sorted though, and I'm looking forward to the Glastonbury weekend where we can all talk things through. I think we have to realise that consensus is very important for our group if we want it to grow. We have to recognise that we're all coming from different paths and we have the unique chance to develop the group workings into something that will be much bigger and better than anything we could do as individuals.

There's cosmic work out there and we can do it – if we can get our act together!

We must recognise that we are not all complete novices. We've been there, done that, we have the t-shirts and the medals to prove it. So where ever we go and whatever we do it should start with the realisation that we all bring something special to these events. Sheepishly following along behind someone else's way of doing things is not for us. We can create something on the day which will prove much more valuable by just doing it using whatever tools are at hand.

I feel that the group's worth comes from the culmination of all our experience.

And when you look at it that way, boy... we really have something special...

Hot Stones and Hot Chocolate

by Maria Hayden

Friday night was when we had agreed to have the Sweat Lodge. In the event, circumstances on the evening were such that many felt unable to participate which was exceedingly unfortunate. However the fire had already been lit and the stones were cooking so, after the walk through the magical hinterland, a number of us gathered around the fire-pit.

The atmosphere was subdued and as time went by and the embers burned lower and lower, it seemed as though the night held the promise of nothing more than sleep. Oliver won himself some brownie points by trotting back to Dragon Cottage to make hot chocolate (getting a Susie rating of 'good first try') for those still keeping watch. Suddenly, unexpectedly, we had reached a defining moment, the watershed, when we either went ahead with the sweat or made our way to bed. The inertia of the previous hours were immediately swept aside as everyone who was there was totally up for it. In went the stones; off came the clothes; in we circled.

It felt very different to any of the other sweats that I personally have done; much more room to spread out; much less heat; silence and stillness except for the occasional nipping of a mouse! Familiar distortions in space, time and perception. Some came out almost immediately; others were there so long that there was concern for safety. The stones cooled inside; wood was added outside as we dressed and re-hydrated. A few, final, lingering moments together before the fire-keepers curled up and the campers headed for the tents and Richard trailed back to the house.

SATURDAY EVENING

Jon Appleton's Great Sky Goddess

by Grahame Gardner

Those of you at our Beltane weekend at Avebury will remember Jon Appleton turning up unexpectedly at the Sanctuary on our Sunday site visit. He mentioned something of this story to me then, and I thought it worthwhile inviting him along to the Lughnasadh weekend at Beech Hill to share it with the Group.

This was something that 'came' to him whilst spending some winter nights stargazing at Avebury. One evening in the Circle, he watched Orion setting into Silbury Hill, the bright lower right star Rigel appearing to briefly 'stand' on the summit of the hill. Looking up, he saw that Gemini was placed vertically over this, with the main stars of Castor and Pollux looking like a pair of eyes. And the vision came to him of a great mega-constellation of a Goddess looking down on her child. I can't really do justice to the full story of his discovery



here; suffice to say that there were a number of synchronous events that lent weight to the theory. But a

picture is worth a thousand words, so if you look at the picture of Jon holding the tapestry rug he made to commemorate the event, you can easily see the significant markers. The eyes are Castor and Pollux in Gemini, the hands marked by the bright stars Procyon and Cappelia, and the breasts by the two lower stars of Gemini, Alhena and (I think) Wazad; the latter is an old Arabic name that Jon found out translates as 'milk'(!). This latter star is also placed not only on the Ecliptic, but also in the centre of the Milky Way, which flows across both her 'breasts'; a very appropriate image for the Goddess.

Her dress is contained between Aldebaran in Taurus and Sirius, and Orion now appears as a Child in her lap, in the manner of Isis/Horus, Virgin and Christ, and any other Goddess mother/child depictions you can think of.

All in all, a fascinating piece of conjecture with just enough evidence to support it to make it worthy of further study. I am certainly looking forward to the winter months when Orion is visible in our skies to look for her myself.

A Quiet Evening Round the Fire and a bit of Women's Business by Maria Hayden

Saturday evening, I hit my personal low-point and had to disappear off to the tent for some sleep therapy. Sally woke me to come and join the Ceremony in the circle, where the fire was already burning brightly.

Despite the work that Patrick did on me, I'm afraid that I recall very little of the evening on a conscious level; there remain instead partially glimpsed or dreamt wisps of memory. Silence; half-hearted chanting; bottles of Scotch nectar passing round the circle; hosts in ingenious and befitting hats and cloaks brewing up a potion for those who wished to partake. The almost-Full Moon climbed through the clear, star-bedecked skies; we were keenly aware of how lucky we were to be in such a landscape on such an evening. Earlier dramas seemed to have taken their toll, though, and most people made their way to bed long before midnight. The usual suspects kept watch by the fire.

About 12.20am, Julie came to me and asked if I and any of the other women who were still up would care to join her in howling at the moon. It was a simple and personal gesture, woman-to-woman, and I eagerly accepted, as did Susie. Maiden, mother, crone.

At the appointed time, we made our way to a quiet part of the site, near the horses. Having found a spot where we were bathed in moonlight and had a clear view of her over the trees, each of us drew down the Moon as we prepared to howl. I have no idea how it sounded to anyone who was awake, but to us it seemed that the howl that arose from within us was completely primeval, a living thing in its own right. We were totally enveloped by it though we couldn't hear it in the normal

way or, indeed, control it. There was a real sense afterwards that it had needed to be done. Holding each other tightly, tears were shed. "Women's Business", Julie mentioned. It may have been Low Magic, but it was a powerful, personal experience.

Thank you, Julie, for sharing it with us.



THE MYSTERIOUS UNDERGROUND ENERGIES –

GEOPATHIC STRESS AND EARTH ACUPUNCTURE

By
Richard Creightmore

Chen Ssu-Hsiao (d.1332 AD): "In the subterranean regions there are alternate layers of earth and rock and flowing spring waters. These strata rest upon thousands of vapours which are distributed in tens of thousands of branches, veins and threadlike openings...The body of the earth is like that of a human being...Ordinary people, not being able to see the veins and vessels which are disposed in order within the body of man, think that it is no more than a lump of solid flesh. Likewise, not being able to see the veins and vessels which are disposed in order under the ground, they think that the earth is just an homogenous mass".

Christopher Bird, THE DIVINING HAND, 1979: "It was believed by the ancient Chinese that water flowed in subterranean courses called 'veins of the Dragon' (Lung Mai). Passing to and fro out of sight, the hidden veins of water served, like the bloodstream of animals, to remove impurities from the body of the earth... and to deposit curative minerals within it. The earth's circulatory system was matched by an ever-undulating network of currents in the atmosphere. The currents, running through Mai or channels, carried the Qi or vapours"

Knowledge of the mysterious underground energies and the ability to dowse their precise location is as integral to the Chinese Feng Shui tradition as it is to other geomantic traditions of the world. The personification of the telluric currents as the consciousness of the subterranean Dragon, Serpent, or Crocodile spirit is a global image. Whether named Lung, Naga, Wyvern or Wonambi, these beings are variously respected, feared, appeased, tamed and honoured the world over.

The aim of Feng Shui is to seek the healthy Qi (Sheng Qi) and avoid the unhealthy Qi (Sha Qi). As the Ming Dynasty text "Shui Peng Ba Zhen Fa" or "The Eight Needles of The Water Compass Method" reveals, classical Chinese understanding of the nature of the unhealthy Qi that rises from within the earth accords very closely with the modern western dowsing tradition's knowledge of the dangers of Geopathic stress.

The wet compass needle method was superceded by the dry compass needle, which was invented in the Ming Dynasty. Since that time the dipping and trembling movements, as opposed to the rotation, of the delicately balanced needle in the central Heaven Pool of the Luo Pan have been used to divine the nature of the underground Qi of a site.

The vertical movements of the Heaven Pool needle are thus used in the same way as are divining rods and the pendulum in the Western geomantic traditions.

GEOPATHIC STRESS

Modern understanding of Geopathic stress recognises a number of different sources. Generally the most dangerous are the harmful underground water veins known to European dowzers as black streams, and to the Chinese as channels of underground Sha Qi. Also important are geological faults, radon gas, mineral deposits, ley line crossings, and global geomagnetic grid crossings. Latterly, the entire spectrum of AC pulsed electromagnetic fields and industrial and medical ionising radiation sources have also to be considered, as well as DC field disruptions caused by metal objects.

SHA STREAMS

Sha streams can be defined as underground water veins that give off noxious radiations which can be harmful to life above them. They can be seen as earth meridians (Mai) whose flow has become stagnant or polluted, giving rise to Sha Qi. This Sha Qi includes radon gas as well as subtler elements.

Harmful radiation rises in a vertical plane from the underground stream to the earth's surface and above. The stream may be anything from 1ft - 900ft deep and from 1ft - 300ft wide (the widest corresponding to a major ley line). The two edge lines and the centre line dowse as the strongest, sharpest Qi and are potentially the most dangerous places on the stream for habitual exposure. Where the underground water vein is rising the edge lines are the more dangerous, while on the descending veins it is the centre line that is the strongest (and over which standing stones are sited in ancient British geomancy).

The streams may display tributaries and convergences, and dowseable echoes parallel to the main stream. They may display course changes, especially after earthquakes and droughts. They are known to be stronger at midday, mid-summer, full moon, and during periods of heightened solar flare (sunspot) activity. They are also known to be associated with higher levels of ionising radiation, and with lightning strikes and other atmospheric phenomena.

SHA STREAMS: CAUSES

A Sha stream is a sick Lung Mai or earth meridian. There is a well-established link between Sha streams and traumas to the earth's etheric web that have

caused the flow of Qi to stagnate in the channels. Typical examples of such traumas include the building of railway and motorway cuttings, tunnels and embankments, quarries and mines, and building foundations, especially those with steel footings. Also implicated are heavy industry sites, power stations and electricity sub-stations, military bases, steel pilings, poles and road signs. Old battlegrounds and historical sites of trauma such as witch-burnings and executions can also retain much Sha Qi, as can certain natural topography.

On a subtler level, a modern housing estate developed without any traditional foundation-stone laying ceremony, without offerings made in good faith to the nature spirits whose land has been taken for development, will display signs of stagnant Qi in the channels and a traumatised Elemental life.

SHA STREAMS: SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

There are many well-documented medical effects of prolonged exposure to Sha streams, arising principally as a result of the position of the bed. Chinese and Western experience is identical in this respect. Most notorious of these medical effects is cancer.

The German dowser, Baron von Pohl, was asked to dowse the small town of Vilsbiburg in 1929, having then the highest per capita cancer death rate in Bavaria. He discovered a 100 per cent correlation between the beds of cancer victims and the paths of Sha streams passing through the town. He repeated the procedure in Grafenau in 1930, with the lowest cancer incidence in the province, and again found a 100 per cent correlation. He developed a scale to rate Geopathic stress of 1 to 16, where a combined tally of 9 or above from streams crossing gives rise to cancer.

Modern experience is that cancers of all types can grow where Geopathic stress is lower than this, as we have many more opportunities for exposure to ionising radiation (for example through modern medicine), and other assaults on the immune system.

Other diseases in which Geopathic stress is almost always implicated include: Multiple sclerosis, motor neurone disease, Parkinson's disease and many other wasting and paralysing diseases; endocrine disorders of all types; Crohn's disease; candidiasis; Down's syndrome and other congenital genetic disorders; schizophrenia and a host of mental disorders including obsessions, addictions, psycho-sexual disorders, suicides and location specific depressions and anxieties.

Disorders which very commonly have a Geopathic stress component include insomnia and nightmares, sudden infant death syndrome, infertility, myalgic encephalomyelitis (post viral fatigue syndrome), migraine, asthma, eczema, arthritis and rheumatic disorders, and many other chronically depleted immune system conditions. Baron von Pohl even came to the conclusion that every single disease of humanity could

be linked to black streams with the single exception of gout!

In the acupuncture tradition a point on the hand just distal to the fourth and fifth metacarpal junction (Triple Heater 3-1/3rd) is a prime Geopathic stress test point, for both diagnosis and treatment.

In the animal realm, most mammals instinctively avoid spending time over Sha streams, gravitating instead to Sheng Qi streams i.e. the healthy, free-flowing earth meridians. Birds are reckoned to be most sensitive, and horses most resilient, though many injury-prone horses are stabled on Sha streams.

Cats, owls, snakes, slugs and snails are however attracted to Sha streams, and a cat's favourite sleeping place (in the absence of an obvious source of warmth) is very often a sure clue to the location of a Sha stream crossing. Insects, parasites, bacteria and viruses also thrive on Sha streams, and ant and wasp nests invariably provide a similar clue: thus a Sha stream is the right location for a beehive.

Clues to the path of a Sha stream in the vegetable world include lightning-struck trees, dead or stunted gaps in hedges and avenues of trees, infertile fruit trees, cankers, and strangely twisted trees (usually in the direction of current flow). Fruit trees are the most sensitive, while oaks, redwoods and ashes are more resilient, and elders seem to be positively attracted.

Lawns will often betray bare patches, moss, silver weed and fungi, while vegetable gardens will reveal stunted or mutated growth, especially along the edge lines of the Sha streams. Ivy, bindweed, nettles, docks, thistles, foxgloves, ferns and nightshades are naturally attracted, and indeed the appropriate medicinal herbs for a sick person are usually to be found in the garden along the path of a Sha stream running through their bed.

The path of a Sha stream can often be traced within the home by following the piles of chronically unresolved clutter across a house. Other clues include piles of rubbish, cracks in glass, brick and plasterwork, recurring mechanical and electrical breakdowns, derelict areas, and accident blackspots both within the home and outside. Fruit and vegetables, grain, ale, cheese, jam, wine and photographic film will all spoil quickly when stored in the wrong place.

Sick building syndrome is generally rooted in the presence of Sha streams under the property. Sha Qi can be spread from the path of the streams throughout a building by the steel construction frame, wiring loom and pipework, just as it is spread along railway tracks. Thus a steel-framed cattle shed with black streams running through it will usually feel much more unhappy than a brick and wood barn.

Bad neighbour syndrome can frequently be traced to a Sha stream flowing from aggressor to victim. Hauntings of earth-bound human ghosts and other entities, including poltergeist activity are invariably tied

to negative earth energies. Similarly nature spirits and landscape entities can hold trauma to the earth's etheric web within the landscape.

OTHER GEOMAGNETIC DISTURBANCES

Geological faults, underground caverns and natural mineral concentrations all exhibit effects similar to Sha streams. They are all associated with geomagnetic anomalies and higher levels of radon gas.

RADON GAS

The earth's natural background radioactivity is concentrated along certain geological faults, mineral veins, and water-bearing fissures. Radioactive radon gas rises to the surface and emits harmful alpha radiation which builds up to dangerous levels in poorly ventilated places such as buildings.

The ultimate source of radioactivity on earth is uranium-238, created from lighter atoms inside supernovae billions of years ago. The uranium-238 atoms, with 146 neutrons, are constantly reverting to more stable configurations with fewer neutrons by emitting an alpha particle from the nucleus quickly followed by two electrons. Once they have started to decay, uranium-238 atoms produce a chain of 'daughters', including radium-226, the 'parent' of radon-222.

Geopathic stress theory is centrally concerned with radon-222 which has 86 protons, 136 neutrons, a half-life of 3.8 days, and decays to polonium-218 by shooting off an alpha particle, a process which may occur within our lungs. The newly formed polonium atoms quickly decay to other 'daughters': as these decay each atom first ejects another alpha particle, and then a series of high-speed electrons, high-energy gamma rays and fast neutrons.

The alpha particles bombard cells directly; most gamma rays and fast neutrons pass right through our bodies though some score bull's-eye hits on atomic nuclei within us.

Since the mid 1980's the US Environmental Protection Agency and the UK National Radiological Protection Board have conducted new national surveys of radon levels in houses. Before the survey most specialists thought the problem was confined to small areas of uranium-rich rocks, such as granite. The new surveys suggested that in one in eight American homes, people were breathing air dangerously contaminated by radon; in the UK, 90,000 homes contained air contaminated to a level of 200 becquerels per cubic metre or more and were therefore receiving yearly radiation doses of at least 10 millisieverts. The current BNFL maximum permitted dose is 15 millisieverts per year; the NRPB's work suggests that at least 100,000 British people receive more than this.

The accumulation of Radon gas is accentuated by inadequate ventilation in modern houses; the more so with under-floor service conduits, central heating, draught-proofing and double-glazing, causing the air pressure within the house to be slightly lower than outside.

The provision of adequate ventilation within a building is one answer to the problem. This can be achieved by positive ventilation fans blowing air from the loft or outside into the house, to raise internal air pressure; by sealing floorboards and installing under-floor airbricks; or by installing a radon sump system to draw air from the soil beneath the house and redirect it outside.

The natural background radioactivity of the earth need not be feared per se, for it is the very stuff of evolution. The question is more one of appropriate dosage and personal adaptability, in conjunction with sensible siting of buildings.

LEY LINES

Ley lines are properly defined as straight over-ground energy lines that echo the sinuous paths of larger underground rivers. They carry Yang Qi relative to the Yin Qi of underground water, and are associated with Heavenly consciousness and human spiritual ceremonial sites. These straight (at least over dozens of miles) spirit paths are found equally in China as elsewhere in the world, and frequently define the processional routes to major palaces, temples and cathedrals. Appropriate for sacred sites, these energy pathways are less comfortable for secular living, and houses built on them are generally a thoroughfare for all manner of spirits.

CURES

There is much that can be done to ameliorate or remove Geopathic stress, and protocols can be divided into two types: shielding and curative.

To shield a residence from the path and effects of a Sha stream, traditional Chinese devices include the building of a Dragon wall (a screen wall with an undulating ridge), the digging of a ditch or the burying of a protective talisman at an appropriate point on the path of the stream. Modern Western methods include the careful placing of crystals, copper rods, coils and ankhs, or the installation of radionic devices such as the Raditech machine.

To cure a Sha stream the Sha Qi has to be transformed into Sheng Qi by the practice of Earth Acupuncture. This can be performed using wood, metal, stone or crystal "needles" applied to the appropriate earth acupuncture points (Xue) for a variable time. This could be a few seconds or a few hours, or could be a permanent placement according to the size and nature of the underground stream. The Sha streams are thus transformed into Sheng Qi streams. With larger meridians, or with geological faults, a needle may need to be left in place permanently.

Fire, in the form of candles, incense, moxa, sage or a 'bon'-fire may also be employed - the old Beacon hills of Britain are moxibustion points in the landscape for the purification of the land. They are fired at the appropriate moments in the cycle of the seasons - the fire festivals.

Permanent needles may take the form of moving water features, sculptures and statues, standing stones, or a specially planted tree. A grave stone may be seen as a style of earth acupuncture needle, balancing the Yin Qi of the corpse with a Yang form to reunite the Qi of Heaven and Earth. On a larger scale, pagodas, temples, churches and cathedrals all function as earth acupuncture needles to the same effect.

Traditional earth acupuncture techniques to promote the flow of Qi in a blocked meridian under a house will generally have an instantaneous effect in dispelling an accumulation of radon. Where the radon concentration derives from Sha streams the effect is usually permanent as long as the streams remain healthy and free-flowing. Where radon derives from geological faults it will generally build up again, and more permanent physical remedial action (i.e. building work) is necessary.

What all these cures have in common is a therapeutic intention, often in a sacred ceremonial context. Usually the spirit world will need to be addressed directly, in Heaven as well as Underground.

CASE HISTORY 1. Solsbury Hill, Bath.

Following the cutting of a by-pass, through the shoulder of Solsbury Hill, to the north-east of Bath in 1995, the city experienced a dramatic economic decline, with many shops and small businesses closing down. The suburb of Larkhall had its first ever outbreak of burglary and vandalism.

Dowsing revealed that two major Dragon veins had been severed on their course from Solsbury Hill, through Larkhall, to Bath Abbey and the Circus respectively. In May 1996 sandstone Cairns were raised on either side of the road cutting, on the mid-lines of the earth meridians, restoring the flow of Qi across the road cutting. Local feedback, later that year, confirmed that Larkhall's crime outbreak had ended and Bath's economy had picked up.

CASE HISTORY 2. A dairy farm near Airdrie, Scotland

The entire herd had been twice slaughtered in the previous two years as a result of brucellosis. Fertility was very low with few female calves born. Dowsing revealed four strong Sha streams passing through the cattle barns.

A small Sha stream, 3ft wide, passed directly through a calf pen in which a 3-week old calf was on death's door, unable to stand or feed. This was pointed out to the farmer who exclaimed that the last calf kept in that pen had died a few weeks before. On carrying the calf into the next door pen, free of noxious earth radiation, it immediately drank an entire bucket of milk, and six months later was reported as completely healthy. The farmhouse was haunted. There stood an almost dead oak tree, in a poorly-drained corner of the field. Earth acupuncture was performed at six points for a total of four hours, and the problem traced to a quarry a couple of miles away. At a dramatic moment of

energetic release at the close of this four hours, the entire herd started mooing loudly, a chorus which they kept up for several hours.

Feedback the following year reported no more major health problems in the herd, and a big increase in fertility. The ghost in the farmhouse had gone, the dying oak tree was now thriving, and the corner of the field in which it stood was even draining well.

© Richard Creightmore



The New Zealand Dowser

by
Branwen Edwards

Whilst I know that most of the Geomancy Group is aware that I spent my winter in New Zealand, you may not be aware of the climactic conditions of the area.

Basically, in the spring/ summer months of November, December, January and February it is dry, warm and sunny. The operative word here is "dry" which is one of the reasons that not 20 minutes drive away are the major New Zealand wineries.

Being nine kilometres out of Picton we are classed as rural and have no mains water - our water is delivered from the sky, captured on the roof and contained in two large tanks. If we haven't got enough, we have to have it delivered by tanker at £100 a time. Being a Bed and Breakfast establishment (www.aseaview.co.nz - it pays to advertise!) we cannot exactly monitor what happens to all the water we use as we have three "units" and guests have been known to check out with the tap still running....so, after the fifth delivery of water we decided to see if we had any underground water which would be suitable for building a well.

Everyone told us that there was just one water dowser or to be more EEG P.C. "diviner" and yes, he could come in about five weeks' time. Sorry but he was very very busy as everyone was short of water and this was the earliest he could make. Five weeks later, the Dowser appeared, hazel rod in hand.

Ironically, he arrived on a wet day and was dressed in a Dryasabone and large hat (sans corks!) We explained the situation and he then explained the limiting logistics of where the well could be sited in New Zealand. Not too near the road and not too far inside the property as it would have to be easily accessible by the digger.etc.

Just as he was about to walk down the drive to initiate his search, I stopped him and explained that I "had done a little dowsing" and would appreciate being able to check out my dowsing after he had finished. If you could have seen the look he gave me - a sort of cross between "you cannot be serious" and "let's humour this poor middle aged woman" but he did agree.

Consequently, after a little while he returned to say water had been found and I followed him back down the drive.

To say that he was surprised when I immediately found his first location is putting it mildly and when I

accurately dowsed the depth which he confirmed after his initially being two meters out and his having to repace, he was now looking at me with different eyes.

"So shall we dowse for the flow of the water now?" I asked. "What do you mean "flow"?" he asked "Well, to see how fast the water's flowing - there's no point in our putting a well down unless we know there's enough water going through" I replied. He shuffled on his feet, "I don't know how to do that" he said "How do YOU do it?"

"With the Pendulum, like this" and I proceeded to show him. I can safely say he was astounded. It appears that he has never done this or thought that it was necessary. To cut a long story short, whilst the depth was accessible, the flow was just not enough to cope with the needs of Bed and Breakfast accommodation.

To give him his due, he was extremely gracious. As I tucked his \$100 note in his band, he said "You didn't really need me, you could have done it yourself" "well, yes", I agreed, "But I didn't want to be responsible for digging a \$2000 well in the wrong place". "Quite so, Quite so" he agreed and cheerfully moved on to his next job.



Vipassana

by
Oliver Perceval

10 days of not thinking, speaking, reading or writing is most people's idea of hell, but perhaps it is the route to heaven? Add to this cocktail the ingredients of virtuous living no stealing, killing, lying, sexual misconduct, wrong speech or intoxicants and the stakes are raised yet further. Nearly 80 people at a time indulge, for free, in this (in)activity at the Vipassana centre near Hereford every ten days, and at least half have been before. So what can the attraction possibly be? Perhaps it can be glimpsed in the concept.

The Buddha famously declared that life is suffering. This would have been pessimistic had he not followed up with a solution. He observed that unhappiness is something experienced by any human being no matter what race, age, class etc. may be his earthly label. He figured that since this is a universal problem it would have a universal non-sectarian solution. The fundamental problem that he identified was our ignorance of Universal Law, or God. This ignorance leads us to react to events with either aversion or craving, leading to anguish. The theory is that first we need to perceive the true nature of all earthly events as passing phenomena, and then we need to experience ourselves as an integral and eternal part of the system. With this wider perspective on the context of all things it becomes much easier and more sensible to react to events with objectivity. This is not about non-reaction but positive action, instead of wasting energy re-acting to a situation we accept it for what it is and step forward constructively. Following this minor sort of realisation (which nonetheless needs lots of practice since our

minds instinctively re-act prior to equanimous observation) comes the experience of what is eternal in ourselves.

The aim is to experience the source of happiness as a conscious indwelling of eternal love, a space beyond the mind. If salvation is found in money then only the rich would be happy, if it is found in perfect health then only the healthy would be happy, if it is found in youth then only young people would be happy, if it is found through sexual satisfaction then only the sexually active would be happy, if happiness is to be found in awareness of the eternal soul and embodiment of eternal love then all beings can be happy. And this is the way it is.

The Buddha stated that only two things are eternal, the Soul and Divine Love. Once these have been glimpsed, even slightly, then the sheer indulgence of re-acting to transitory sense phenomena for more than a respectful moment becomes clear. Being miles from this true experience of course I will now divert back to the teacher who assures us that once we attain the state of being where mind-matter duality ceases to exist then all we are is Eternal Love. He said that after being this it is impossible to Hate, Judge or sin in any way. In the face of this truth the egos gather for a final desperate charge and experience mass extinction against a wall of light. Some will get through perhaps, no-one said that liberation was easy, but persistent works brings consistent progress.

I suppose the easy bit is observing Sila (ingredients of virtuous living) for 10 days. The first three days then involve training in Samadhi (concentration of the mind). We sat for 10 hours a day breathing onto the top lip through whichever nostril was working. Freedom to crave at last!

Minor indulgences such as standing up became prized desires, the mind could roam through its dusty corridors without external distraction. Lots of doors probably stayed firmly shut but oftentimes bizarre images and ideas would creep out of hiding, usually shocking but surely very positive. Slowly we would learn to keep the monkey mind on its leash above the top lip. This is all very useful as an Art of Living discipline since success in any domain depends upon focused application of the mind.

By the 4th day we had worked out that 3 helpings of lunch at 11.15am did not make a positive contribution to surviving through to breakfast. We learnt that meditating in bed was also a flawed idea. The nest of 3 house martin chicks in the dormitory provided good nature lessons however. The next 6 days were about developing Panna (wisdom through experience). I felt like a Ferrari let loose from traffic when instructed that the concentrated point of mind could leave the top lip and scan the body, part by part. The excitement soon wore off as 7 hrs passed and profound boredom and doubt about the usefulness of my existence crept in. Each evening we watched a 1 hour discourse video by S.N.Goenka (the founder), with unerring accuracy he would identify the day's problems and waft them away with meticulous grace.

Boredom etc is of course an aversion. For as long as you are clock watching or thinking of something better

to do then you are not in the moment. The key is in the Present Moment. How many times have we heard this, and perhaps even intellectually accepted it? It is not until one is driven into that experience that it finally makes sense.

Grave apprehension managed to strike on day 6 as we saw a plan on the notice board for Sittings of Strong Determination. These were bad (therefore good). The rules were simply not to budge for a complete hour. I was so determined to ignore the searing pain in my knee during my first sitting that tears of relief ended the longest hour of my life, spot the equanimity there! The pain was indeed temporary however. In reality it would be foolish not to avoid extreme pain if one could of course, but these exercises in gradually learning not to react to something so transient were invaluable. I learnt to rather like these hour long journeys.

Days 6 and 7 are cold turkey for most, when everyone is silently wanting to run away. The pain barrier can be crossed however, and has to be, to break the mould of our re-active and ill-disciplined minds. We have millions of thoughts a day, but if we were really honest we could award only a handful of them the status of 'any good'. Even if we cannot bring ourselves to believe that we can lift ourselves clear of negativity a Course such as this makes an invaluable contribution to living effectively. If we cannot live consciously we don't have a hope of dying consciously. It seems to be an awesome universe in which we have our home and it is only in stillness that it is finally able to communicate with us. For as long as there are ripples on the pond of the mind we cannot see the perfect reflection of the soul beyond it. Even the modicum of deeper experience of Truth that I gained was immensely reassuring and inspiring. Queer to say so, but I think 10 days of doing nothing is probably the most constructive summer holiday I have had!

Thanks to everyone who made a contribution to this edition of the Newsletter, especially Sally for keeping on the case. ~
Maria and Grahame



The Geomancy Group and guests at the Lughnasadh Gathering, Beech Hill

Rear (l to r): Sig, Palden Jenkins, Grahame, Barry, Patrick, Oliver, Sara, Brannie, Sally, Jon Appleton and Richard
Front (l to r): Susie, Maryrose, Karin and Ann Harris. Picture - Maria