

The Dragon's Egg

Spring Equinox 2003 Newsletter of

The Geomancy Group



Engaku-ji Temple, Japan © Andy Murrell 2003

Spring Equinox, 2003

Greetings, friends!

It seems that somewhere along the way we've changed the cycle for Newsletter production from the Cross-Quarters to the Quarters but this feels quite appropriate as it means it now falls between two events, rather than coinciding with them, so all eight festivals are acknowledged in some way.

Our last gathering was with Ros in Wales for Imbolc and what a powerful experience it was for those of us who made it along. Our heartfelt thanks go to Ros for putting it all together. It was also Ros' first opportunity to sit in circle with us since she was accepted as a new year-and-a-day member and she expressed her appreciation at having the opportunity to join us in this way. Coincidentally, we also welcomed Oliver Perceval into the probationary programme that weekend. Many of you will already have met Oliver at EEG events etc but, for those of you who haven't had the opportunity to meet him yet, he is a "a self employed architect whose recent mission statement is to "Construct buildings which promote peace and health for all, with minimal adverse impact on life and the environment". An early encounter with Gordon opened Oliver's eyes and set him on his journey. Oliver's name was proposed by Paul, with whom he has done some site dowsing. Oliver managed to make himself quite at home within the first hour or so and we look forward to seeing both him and Ros again at Beltane.

Ann Harris, sponsored by Maryrose, had hoped to join us for Imbolc as well but unfortunately had to pull out at the last moment and, as there were no objections from other attending members, Irene, whom Grahame introduced, filled her place. Other than our visit to Dorset last summer, this was the first time that we had a non-member along on an *ad hoc* basis but it seemed to work quite well, especially as Ceremony and Sweat Lodge, the two main focal points of the weekend, were areas of expertise for Irene. Clearly this is a subject that needs to be treated with sensitivity but it is certainly an option that we would consider again in the future. As Grahame found out firsthand, it may well be the sponsoring member who finds the situation challenging as it really changes the dynamics in relation to both Group members and to the non-member.

Ann is not available for Beltane but would still welcome the opportunity to join us for a weekend later in the year perhaps. She is a registered Pharmacist with a Doctorate in Pharmacognosy (Drugs from plants) and has been developing her skills as a healer, teacher and channel over recent years. Ann says that she has "taken every opportunity to explore healing in its many forms" and has "attuned to many new frequencies of Light" that she is keen to share. Over the past year she has been "visiting many ancient sacred sites and exploring leyline and other earth energy phenomena." Ann is currently "studying a new expanded chakra series" which she is making available in bottled form.

We are very pleased to announce that Barry will complete his year-and-a day just in advance of the Beltane gathering. He is eager to enter the circle as a full member and we anticipate that his request will be agreed by consensus on Friday 25 April, followed by his Initiation that night. Please contact Maria by 16 April with any comments in this respect.

Since October, a number of us have become increasingly aware of the devic side of our work, partly because of the powerfulness of these processes and partly because of the ethical and permission-related issues that this throws up. It therefore seems appropriate that we have a forum/talking stick dedicated to these questions at Beltane. We really hope that everyone who's coming will take the next month to work out how we currently feel about this so that we can all participate fully in the discussions and develop in our understanding of the issues.

Finally, we would both like to express our appreciation to all those who have contributed to this edition of the Newsletter and indeed to the Winter Solstice edition. It feels so much more vibrant and in tune with the way that Group energy is developing. Although it was agreed at Samhain that the two of us should remain as editors, it feels that the time is approaching when the editorship needs to start moving around the circle, as indeed do other roles. If anyone feels ready to get more actively involved in supporting the Group in any way, please speak with Maria.

We look forward to seeing many of you at what promises to be a pivotal weekend for the Group at Beltane.

Love and blessings,

Maria and Grahame

Sig continues his series of articles looking at where we are in the cycle. Thank you, Sig.

Spring Equinox

by
Sig Lonegren

The seeds planted at Samhain, lying dormant at the Winter Solstice, having moved on their own at Imbolc, have now sprouted, and are above the surface of the Earth. In the cycle of manifestation of, say, an idea, it is at this point where the idea becomes manifest to others. Tender as it is, others can see it. It is up.

And the light at this time of year is doing the same - it is moving upwards - towards the summer. 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 Light.

The Spring Equinox was a critical time for the ancient astrologers. They started their astrological year then - as the Sun moves into Aries, This sign, bursting with initiating energy, like the seed bursting through the top soil, characterized this time of year. (You may be aware that astronomically, on the 21st of March, the Sun is no longer in Aries; it is much closer to the beginning of Pisces. Thus the dawning of the Age of Aquarius. This has to do with the Precession of the Equinoxes and the 26,000+ year wobble of the Earth.)

15 Ides of March - The term Ides comes from the earliest Roman calendar, which is said to have been devised by Romulus, the mythical founder of Rome. Whether it was Romulus or not, the inventor of this calendar had a penchant for complexity. The Roman calendar organized its months around three days, each of which served as a reference point for counting the other days:

Kalends (1st day of the month)

Nones (the 7th day in March, May, July, and October; the 5th in the other months)

Ides (the 15th day in March, May, July, and October; the 13th in the other months)

The remaining, unnamed days of the month were identified by counting backwards from the Kalends, Nones, or the Ides.

17 St. Patrick - everyone knows this one, but some sources also say that it is Joseph of Arimathea's day as well. Both of these Saints spent time in Glastonbury.

19 St Joseph - husband of Mary and father of Jesus, is the patron saint of carpentry, defender of the family and symbol of generosity and benevolent patriarchal protector. Why is his day just before the Spring Equinox?

20 St. Cuthbert of Lindesfarne - accepted the decrees of the Synod of Whitby in 663 (see below), which committed the English Church to following Roman customs that had been introduced into Canterbury by Augustine instead of their older indigenous Celtic Christian traditions.

21 - Equinox -equal day/equal night - anywhere on Earth. On this day, a line drawn from the centre of the Earth to the centre of the Sun crosses the Equator.

Easter -One of the Major decisions made at the Synod of Whitby in 644 CE was the way Easter was to be determined. The Celtic Church arrived at the date one way, and the Roman Church used the method that eventually won out. After Whitby, Easter was officially defined as the first Sunday after the first Full Moon after the Spring Equinox. What a pagan way to determine the most sacred moveable feast in the Christian Calendar! It was the Venerable Bede who set the rules of how to determine this date. Unfortunately, due to the precession of the Equinoxes, the use of the 21st of March as the date of the Equinox became more and more inaccurate. Even by the time of Charlemagne only several centuries later, the date of the Equinox, had already slipped back to the 17th or 18th rather than the 21st of March. By the end of the Middle Ages, Ptolemy had been rediscovered, and it was obvious that his interpretation of the Earth standing still and the Sun and other planets was the way to go. Anyone could see that was how it was. But then, along came the unfortunate Galileo who, based on the earlier work of Copernicus, claimed that the Earth rotated around the Sun! Heresy! Recant! Which he did.

But it was the Church's on-going need to be able to accurately predict when the Spring Equinox was that eventually proved Galileo correct. The answer lay in the use of meridian lines, a line drawn from north to south that goes directly over your head. The Sun is on the Meridian (the highest point in the sky on any given day) at noon. You need a box camera to make this work. Cathedrals, large dark chambers, fit the bill exactly. Prior to this time, the major entrances to sacred spaces were oriented towards a significant astronomical (usually horizontal) event (think of New Grange in Ireland which was oriented towards the Winter Solstice Sunrise, or Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem, which was oriented towards the Equinox Sunrises). But with this need to be able to accurately predict Easter, the astronomical uses of sacred space changed.

The ability to determine this date became of critical import to the Church as much of the yearly cycle of liturgy was based upon an accurate date for this moveable feast of Easter. (For example, Lent is forty days before, and Pentecost (Whitsunday) is fifty days after Easter. As the date of the Equinox shifted farther and farther away from the 21st of March, the Church became more and more frantic to be able to determine

it accurately. A universal Church should needed to ascertain this critical date accurately.

But the Church astronomers in cathedrals like the Duomo of Palermo or Toscanelli meridiana in S.M. del Fiore in Florence (completed in 1755) were able to put a small hole, high on the southern face of the church wall that allowed a dot of sun light to fall upon a line drawn on the floor. Each day, the astronomers could track the Sun at noon - from its low point in the winter to its high point in the summer. The dot created an analemma <<http://www.analemma.com/>>, a path through that looked like a lopsided eight. Observing this path showed the Church astronomers that Ptolemy was wrong and Galileo was correct.

So, in the cycle of growth,
the Spring Equinox is a time of sprouting,
that initial manifestation,
of the ideas
that you planted at last autumn at Samhain.
It is a time of balance,
a time of growth,
a time of equality.
What is at a balance point in your life?

May it grow
and flourish
as we move on towards Beltane.

Blessed Be!

(With thanks to Grahame for proofing and suggestions.)
- Sig Lonegren



Grahame is currently on tour in Japan and has taken the opportunity to provide us with a little local colour. The stunning pictures are courtesy of his colleague, Andy Murrell, and should not be reproduced without permission. Many thanks to both of them.

Neon Signs & Shinto Shrines

By
Grahame Gardner

Hello everyone, and greetings to you all from Tokyo, land of bright lights, noise and LOTS of people. It's pretty intense - like being inside the movie 'Blade Runner' on fast-forward. You begin to understand why the spiritual disciplines of Zen Buddhism and Shinto are so attractive; they are one of the few ways to achieve any peace in this madhouse of a place.

It has been a very hectic first week getting 'Swan Lake' up and running, although the local staff have been absolutely terrific. But for me the definite highlight of the week was the visit by a Shinto priest who had been engaged to bless the stage - apparently a great honour; even the local stage manager had never seen this done. Fortunately, I was privileged enough to watch the whole thing...The stage door office, in common with all major public buildings, has a shrine on the wall that is like a miniature wooden temple, complete with opening doors, cloth banners and so on. The priest was in full regalia - kimono, big clogs and a rather odd-looking black lacquered raffia hat. Offerings were laid out along the front edge of the shrine comprising small laurel branches, glass of liquid (water?) and some other

capped flasks with unknown contents but may have been sake – see picture.



All the heads of departments, the promoters, the local managers and other bigwigs assembled facing

the shrine before the priest began his ceremony with much bowing and incanting to the shrine (which is in the West), and also the North. His main implement was a lacquer spatula-type thing that he waved about a great deal, before producing a large folded bit of parchment covered in beautifully calligraphed Kanji characters, which he proceeded to chant aloud to the shrine. Jolly interesting, and I could see some auric stuff happening around the shrine when the priest was working. There was also some waving of a big laurel wreath with white ribbons on and lots of hand-clapping. I understand that you clap your hands twice to attract the attention of the spirits before making your appeal or supplication, and bow to show respect.

After the priest had bowed once more and backed away, all the heads of the various departments of the theatre and our visiting company (I wasn't asked to do this myself, much to my disappointment) had to go and make an offering to the shrine of a small laurel branch that was laid out on a bench underneath, bow twice, clap hands twice, bow again and back away. I'm sure I would have managed to do this with more intent than our technical manager, who seemed rather embarrassed by the whole thing, but then he is the head of department.

Having finished at the shrine, we all proceeded up to the stage where the priest, standing in the centre, blessed it with his laurel branch before doing the same to some of the dancers in the stalls who had come in to watch and were certainly not expecting to participate!

I had managed to do a brief bit of pendulum dowsing before the priest arrived; this was just before our dress rehearsal so I was a bit rushed and didn't have time to properly dowse the area; instead I just found a quiet corner and quickly dowsed through the 'checklist'. I wasn't picking up any geopathic stress or other nastiness in the stage area, but I did dowse that there were 3 human discarnates and 4 non-human entities in the building. I also asked if there was any beneficial energy 'units' that I could dowse for, and got yes, 98. After the priest had finished his ceremony I dowsed again. This time the beneficial energy dowsed at 318 units, and we were down to 1 non-human entity. The 3 human ones were still there, but I think that they are like the guardian spirits of the building, and subsequently dowsed that they 'live' in the shrine. So, not bad going for the priest; cleared three entities and a better than threefold increase in positive energies in half an hour's work.

A fascinating process to watch; I only wish I could find someone local who knows more about it and can explain what was going on!

I've managed one or two outings so far. The first day we had off I went to the Asakusa Senso-ji, which is the

main Buddhist temple in Tokyo, dedicated to Kannon, the goddess of mercy and compassion.

What strikes you about the temple is the sheer bustle of it all. The avenue leading in from the main gate is lined with stalls and shops selling everything from fried rice balls to Kimonos. It's like Camden market on a Saturday. But once you get in to the temple grounds proper, the atmosphere magically becomes quieter, despite being surrounded by concrete and large buildings. It feels a very powerful place. This temple dates back to around 682, when two fishermen pulled a gold statue of Kannon from the river. This is now housed in the main temple building that is the main focus of the place, although there are many other smaller shrines in the grounds, from tombs right down to small Shinto altars in front of rocks or pools. The Shinto shrines are all about spirit of place – rocks, pools, winds, mountains and so on, and have an almost pagan feel to them; whilst the Buddhist temples are more about dealing with elevating the self and ensuring a pure life (and afterlife). It is fascinating how the Japanese mix the Shinto and Buddhist traditions quite happily with no sense of conflict – nearest analogy I can think of would be building a stone circle inside a cathedral. They say that Shinto is for day-to-day life, and Buddhism is for the soul; and that really seems to sum it up.

The procedure for visiting the temple is of interest. First, you have to purify yourself by rinsing each hand separately using a ladle from a fountain, and then finally rinsing the mouth and spitting it out on the ground. Then you have to smudge using the incense smoke from a large censer in the centre of the temple plaza – you can buy little bunches of incense to put in this yourself. Then you approach the temple, clap your hands twice to summon the gods, make your request, and then throw some money into the offering box before bowing and backing away. That's the basic ritual. You can also buy prayer cards or sticks that you can write out your request on before posting them in the main temple, where one of the priests will hang it up in the central shrine. There are also fortune sticks where, for 100 Yen, you shake a can until a stick drops out. You match the characters on the stick with one of about a hundred little drawers, and take a piece of paper out with your fortune on (luckily with English translation on the back). After reading, you can tie this on a tree, or more likely a wire rack, where the gods can read it.

I managed to do a bit of dowsing around the temple precincts, although the aurameter did attract some attention from the locals. At the main temple, which is aligned N-S, I dowsed a fourteen-foot wide energy ley running through it!

This temple is a stark contrast to the Meiji-juku shrine, the main Shinto temple housed in a beautiful wooded park, a remnant of the Imperial estate right in the centre of town. This is altogether a more austere affair, although it covers more area. No bustling commercialism here, just beautifully kept paths and woodland walks leading to the main temple buildings, which seem completely at one with the landscape. It is impressive in its simplicity, and the surrounding gardens are a peaceful haven in the bustle of the city. Alignment is once again N-S, and the square outer courtyard can be entered from the east, west or south, with the main temple being to the north.

On our next official day off, a group of us went to Kamakura, which is about an hour on the train SW of Tokyo and just stuffed full of temples. We only saw about four in all, but that was more than plenty, as the first one, Engaku-ji (see front cover), blew me away completely and I had to do some serious grounding afterwards. It was one of the top five Zen Buddhist temples (I think they said number two), and is beautifully laid out. The large temple buildings are interspersed with ponds, gardens, waterfalls and trees and the whole place has a really powerful atmosphere of serenity, as you can see in the picture. Here again, there were lots of little rock, water and tree shrines that were positively jumping with nature spirits. My favourite was the "shrine of the white deer", a very small niche in a rock face where a trickle of water feeds a small pool, where a herd of white deer had emerged to listen to a sermon by the founding monk, or so the story goes. All I can say is that they must have been pretty small deer as it wasn't that big; but it did have a very powerful atmosphere, and it was here that I made a connection with the spirit of place, who appeared to me as a Japanese-style deva - kimono, black geisha-type hair and so forth, exuding a very welcoming aura.

I managed to dowse a few of the main temple buildings and again found very wide energy leys. I haven't had enough time to undertake other comparative dowsing yet, so can't comment on whether this is characteristic of energy leys in general here, or just because of the sanctity of the shrines.

On leaving this temple, we took a trek along a lovely woodland path that wound its way over lots of hills, passing some lovely little Shinto shrines on the way, including Zeniarai-Benten, which is entered through a



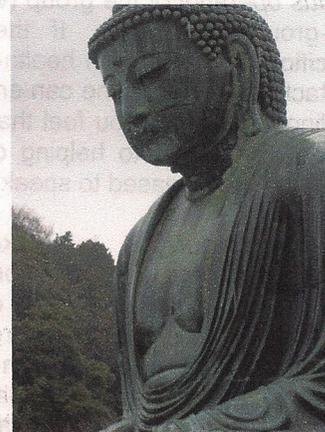
rock-cut tunnel into a clearing surrounded by cliffs. There is a large pool full of Koi carp and a little shrine set against the cliff face at the end of a little bridge (picture). Farther

back there is a cave containing a natural spring, with a tradition that washing your money in the spring would provide you with prosperity in future. The entire cave roof was festooned with paper and ribbon offerings, and the whole place had a very 'old' and comfortable feel.

Most of the shrines we visited seemed to be on a N-S alignment, but deep in the woods we came across an unmarked small shrine facing due east (hence an equinoctial sunrise). I was impressed to see that the bare earth all around the shrine had been swept clean for some distance, perhaps by the old lady who seemed to be the sole worshipper at the place.

The weather, which had been cloudy but dry until this point, started to close in and the path, already precarious in places, rapidly became a complete mudbath; we were glad to finally get back to the relative safety of the road, close to the famous Daibatsu Buddha (featured in You Only Live Twice if memory serves - the one where Sean Connery's Bond gets married in Japan). This is a very impressive metal cast

Buddha at least 40 feet tall, made in the 13th C. It used to be gilt covered and inside a temple, but that was apparently washed away by a tidal wave in 1498, leaving only the Buddha statue and the foundation stones of the temple. As the temple is over half a mile from the sea, this must have been a pretty impressive tidal wave.



The statue positively exudes calmness and tranquillity through its beatific expression and it was easy to feel the sanctity of the place. However the weather was by now approaching monsoon conditions, so reluctantly we decided to call it a day and head back to the train station. It was a rather bedraggled and absolutely soaked bunch of people who finally arrived back in Tokyo, to enjoy the luxury of a hot bath and a large drink in the hotel.

Love & blessings, and look forward to seeing you all at Beltane!
Grahame

Geomancy Group News

Personal news:

In case there's anyone out there who is still unaware of this, Jamie who has always been such a beloved, positive and supportive force at our gatherings, has recently embraced major change in his life by moving to Portugal. Jamie is eager to maintain his Group membership and hopes that he may be able to link into GG events on an irregular basis. (*The Geomancy Group Trip to the Algarve has already proposed once he has had some time to settle in!*) We will miss his presence but wish him much happiness with Sofia, his new partner, and blessings on his new-found shamanic path.

We recently received the following message:

"I am delighted to tell you of the birth of my second granddaughter, Freya Louise Price Smith, at 17:34 on Tuesday 11th March 2003. We are all very thrilled. Much love from Granny Maryrose". Joy and congratulations to Maryrose and to all concerned.

Professional news:

As expected, Patrick was duly confirmed as the new President and Sig as Vice-President of the BSD at the AGM. You will probably have gathered by now that Maria has been co-opted onto the EEG Committee and is taking on the role of Principal Organiser. News hot off the presses is that Grahame is to become the new EEG Publicity Manager.

Sally has been one of those actively involved in getting the new BSD Health sub-group off the ground. The inaugural meeting will take place on 18 May. This will be a business meeting to establish the focus and

modus operandi of the group (within the confines of the sub-group structure). If there is anyone who is specifically interested in health-related dowsing, please contact Sally so that she can ensure that you are on the mailing list. And if you feel that you have the time and energy to commit to helping organise the group, she would be very pleased to speak with you.

Barry has decided to make the move back to Glastonbury and to web working. He is currently looking at expanding his client base, especially amongst practitioners and organisations involved in geomancy, dowsing and health and would welcome any referrals that come his way. Barry has indicated that he is happy to offer a special rate to Geomancy Group members, so please contact him directly if you're thinking of getting a site up and running and he'll talk you through the process.

Geomancy Group Website www.geomancygroup.org

Many thanks to Barry and Grahame who have put in a considerable amount of work since our Imbolc gathering resulting in a much more energised site, with "page 2" finally making it online. The frames have been changed and, even though they're still boxed, the overall feeling is more open. We hope you like what you see. We would like to remind you that we are still low on content so please do think about making a contribution. Please send any comments or pieces to Grahame or Maria.

This seemed like an appropriate opportunity to formalise our business relationship with Barry. Not knowing which events Barry wanted to attend and which ones we were going to cover on his behalf was making it difficult to cost events, apart from which Barry's expenses should come out of the central fund. So we have reached a provisional agreement, subject to approval and a three-month review, that we pay Barry a monthly maintenance fee, as well as the hosting fee that we were already paying him. As agreed at the AGM, we have given Barry a Free of Charge subscription this year but as of Samhain, he will fund this himself.

Contact Barry at: support@toriffic.co.uk

Recent Geomancy Group Events

**Imbolc Gathering, Brithdir Mawr, Wales
25,26,27 January 2003**

by Sally Smith

Present: Ros (our teacher/leader for the weekend), Maria, Sara, Susie, Sally, Maryrose, Jamie, Grahame, Barry (probably final meet as probationer), Oliver (1st timer), Irene (visitor), Andi (cook for the weekend)

The snow and ice covering London disappeared as we headed west to the milder climate of Wales – just as promised by Maria. In fact the Worthing to London portion of the journey was the only bit that had thick

snowfall and that bizarre experience of driving amongst almost completely silent rush hour traffic. The Scottish contingent arrived saying, 'What snow?'. Most unfair.

Friday 31st Jan

We began with a quick circle of names (classic, slightly rectangular, Type B circle) and then dinner. The focus of the weekend was what we wanted to shed and renew in our lives making use of Saturday morning's New Moon and Saturday evening's sweat lodge to help us with this.

After dinner we thought about what we wanted to shed from our lives, considering this from the perspective of each of the 4 directions and elements. We then gathered into our sun sign element groups. Each group came up with a ceremony using their element to help the shedding process and the ceremony or blessing was then performed on everyone present. Earth was represented by what must be the closest it's possible to get to perfection – 4 Virgos (Barry, Grahame, Oliver and me). Fire was represented by Jamie, Maryrose and Ros, who all managed to keep all their clothes on for the whole of their ceremony. Water was represented by Irene, Maria and Sara and Air was represented by Susie, all alone, except for being a Gemini.

Afterwards, so many people talked about the same thing to me; Maryrose's pentagram, drawn in the air with a candle flame. Truly awesome. Done with great focus, gentleness and power.

After the ceremonies we sat down and each person lit a red candle from the altar candle and focussed into the flame all that we wanted to shed. Each candle was pressed into a communal sand 'cake' and left to burn down taking all we wanted to shed with it.

Time for cake and wine and bed.

Saturday 1st Feb

Straight down to Ros' stone circle. It was my first experience of a 'fresh' stone circle (new/reconstructed) and this is a beautiful stone circle. The energy of it felt very soft and balmy and it was very easy to be there. We did some dowsing and then gathered in a circle to join Ros in a group New Moon meditation/prayer. Then we played planets on a string. Ros has that vital astronomy teachers' tool: a couple of bits of string with the planets' relative distances from the sun marked by knots. You just have to remember which way up it goes. So we all stood where we were supposed to be (playing planets) and then shuffled or ran along our orbits and I understood planets going retrograde for the first time.

Back to the youth hostel for lunch.

Then time to consider alongside the shedding, what did we want to bring more of into our lives. In preparation for a mask making session we did a guided meditation. I think we were supposed to go and meet Bridie and be shown our mask but my guided meditation went racing off on its own.

After the guided meditation we got out the card and glue and feathers and sequins and coloured pens and set about making our masks or whatever had come to us. The masks, representing what we wanted to bring into our lives, were (optionally) for the build up to the sweat lodge and for meditating on after we went home.

A light dinner came before the sweat lodge which was in a wood with a stream, all a short walk from the youth hostel. We had a beautiful clear sky, no rain and not too

cold for February in Wales. Very lucky. It would somehow seem superficial to describe fire and drumming etc. but for me the experience was profound. One of the things that I wanted to shed was a reluctance to listen to and connect with my ancestors. During the following week, I established a powerful connection with my great grandmother. This link to my ancestral line is one that I look forward to strengthening and deepening, so a big personal "thank you" to Ros.

The Sweat Lodge was a very personal experience for everyone concerned but you might like to know the mechanics of it. Ros lit a beautifully constructed fire that had, in this instance, 13 stones in it. While the fire built to a point where the stones were heated, we drummed and danced around. When the stones were hot enough, they were carried in to the Lodge, a small bender. When everyone had undressed, we circled up and, singing, made our way down the hill to the Lodge where we circled in clockwise on our hands and knees and sat/knelt/squatted down around the stones.

Once the door-flap was in place, it was virtually impossible to see anything, even the stones. Water was sprinkled on the stones to release oxygen and everyone joined in singing and chanting. When someone felt the need to leave, a cry of "door" went up and anyone who wished to leave crept around clockwise between the stones and the rest of the circle. Outside there was the opportunity to plunge in the stream. Some people returned to the fire after the first round but quite a few returned for a second round. - Maria

Sunday 2nd Feb

Ros introduced the idea of a group ceremony for Spring Equinox. This is similar to the New Moon ceremony we had done on Saturday where Ros joins with other people, all at different locations, and at the time of the New Moon and they focus on a (fairly) set blessing/prayer. Ros talked about how this sort of thing can be used to build group energy. The format of the Spring Equinox (2003) ceremony was established and a time chosen that we hoped would make it possible for everyone to join in - all our far flung group as well as mums who have to get families up and out.

We went back out to the stone circle before lunch. Susie discovered that the stone she was drawn to was the Gemini stone. For me, the freezing cold wind was too much and I headed back to the warmth. After lunch we had a business meeting during which it was agreed that henceforth Group members would take personal responsibility for arranging accommodation. Then it was hugs all round, some people staying on for Sunday night, others heading home. Jamie, after a couple of weeks, heading for Portugal, his new home.



Other Recent Events

Earth Energies Group Southeast Regional Meeting

By **Susie Zgorska**

On Saturday, 22nd February, the E.E.G held its first Southeast Regional meeting in East Grinstead. Susie, Sally, Richard and Shaun showed up to what turned out to be a fun day!

The first speaker was Andy Thomas, author of 'Vital Signs.' He gave an enthusiastic lecture on crop circles. After a basic history and background to the subject, he

presented some great slides. One in particular was fascinating and showed an alien face formation (390ft by 232ft) holding a binary encoded disc (100ft). This code has been translated:

'Beware the bearers of false gifts and their broken promise....'

For more information and articles, look at - www.swirlednews.com (look at Archives- Sept 2002)

One comment during his talk certainly gave us food for thought. It seems that laboratory research has proved that the grains of corn flattened are genetically modified by some intense heat source. At harvest-time, the grain from the crop circle formations gets thrashed back into the rest of the crop and ultimately ends up on our breakfast table as 'Weetabix', So if some greater force wishes to interfere with our food chain, for whatever reason, then they have succeeded most successfully!

Unfortunately Guy Hudson was unable to attend the meeting due to illness so Billy Gawn took his place. He talked about stone circles and the idea that the circles may have been built to combat geopathic stress. He also suggested that ceremonies were carried out at the solstices to heal detrimental energies and that the energy could emanate out as far as 3 miles. He spent some time talking about 'lines of attraction' found in stones and how water springs are attracted to stone circles.

Billy chose a member of the audience to demonstrate how to divert negative energy by using a brick. He showed this through kinesiology and his unique way of dowsing.

The last speaker was Richard who talked about his stone circle He presented his excellent slides to tell the story of the building of this sacred space. The circle was built for human interaction and Richard used his intuition primarily as opposed to using astronomy. After the circle was completed he then looked at the alignments. Nine people started the circle and it ended with nine stones, which were all affectionately named. Richard uses the circle for ceremony, dance, singing and weather magic! It relates to moon and rhythm. Richard believes that he can access the ley network through a portal in the circle and indeed has ridden the leys in this way.

The order in which the nine stones were put in the circle follows the Lo Shu Grid, with the north stone being the final one to take its place.

The day before the meeting, Billy visited the circle and did some dowsing.

Richard mentioned to him that since the stone circle had completed, a cherry tree had not fruited for two years. Billy dowsed that there was an overhead loop of energy coming from the circle to the tree. He suggested that Richard created a cairn to divert this energy.

Richard's talk was fun especially with the help of his two daughters who were as enthusiastic as he was! Everybody was invited back to the circle, an opportunity that many took. There was the chance to do some dowsing and tune into the stones.



Upcoming Geomancy Group Events

The Geomancy Group – Beltane Gathering - Avebury

25, 26 & 27 Apr (Meeting at 12.30pm on Friday)

Venue: Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge

Leaders: Patrick and Grahame.

Theme: EMFs and Other Sick House issues. Astronomy and Celestial Mechanics (New Moon). We also expect to have some interesting discussions, a creative activity and two ceremonies as well as a guided tour of Avebury with Pete Glastonbury.

The Geomancy Group – Lughnasadh Gathering

11, 12 & 13 July Beech Hill.

Teachers: Palden Jenkins/Richard Creightmore.

Theme: Astrology and Ceremony. Creative Activity.

The Geomancy Group – Samhain Gathering

24, 25 and 26 October Venue: TBD

Theme: GG Annual Gathering and AGM, Retreat and Talking Stick

It seems like a long way off at the moment but if you have any ideas for venues for Samhain or indeed for next year, please contact Maria. Furthermore, while we have chosen 'Shamanic work' as our theme for 2004, any suggestions for specific topics or speakers should be sent to Maria as soon as possible. We will shortly begin to consider provisional dates for next year.

Other Upcoming Events of Interest

BSD London Lecture

8 April

Medical Society, 11 Chandos Street

Speakers:

Richard West & Elizabeth Brown

Theme:

Geo-pathic Stress – Ancient & Modern

Fresh from their siting of the new Kent White Horse on the chalk escarpments at Folkestone and numerous visits to the Greek island of Syri, Richard and Elizabeth tell of their exploration of ancient sites and their energies – and the application of their discoveries in their everyday work in the UK as geopathic stress consultants. Their company, Lifespace, specialises in identifying and solving the problems of geopathic stress and electromagnetic pollution and any accompanying negative forces. The talk will be illustrated by the many varied case studies encountered during their work.

During her working life both sides of the Atlantic, Elizabeth also trained as an astrologer; Richard also works as a healer with the National Federation of Spiritual Healers and a Reiki Master. They have both been trained in psychic work and have been members of the BSD for a sum total of 16 years.

Cost: £4 for BSD members, £5 for non-members. Starts 6.00 for 6.45pm

Earth Energies Group April Meet

11, 12 April, Millets Farm, Frilford & Vale of the White Horse

Saturday - Talks:

"Are You Breathing, Mother Earth?" – Anne Silk

"Growth and Form in Terms of Electrical Fields" – John Evans

Ancient Sites within Vale of the White Horse – Dave Sangwine

Sunday – Site Visits to:

Dragon Hill, White Horse of Uffington, Uffington Castle & Wayland's Smithy

Cost: £50 for EEG members, £55 for non-members.

Book via Jo Cartmale 01604-646472

BSD Health Group – Inaugural Meeting

18 May

Leverstock Green Village Hall, Hemel Hempstead

See "Professional news" or contact Sally on 01903-203 412.

Time: 11.00am to 4.00pm

BSD London Lecture

8 July

Medical Society, 11 Chandos Street

Speaker and theme TBA

BSD 70th Anniversary International Congress

28 August - 1 September 2003

Manchester Conference Centre & Weston Hotel

Contributors include:

Sergei Bondarchuk (Russia): *Dowsing of geopathic zones and anomalies in forecasting and preventing accidents and catastrophes*

Leroy Bull (America): Keynote lecture – *Alcohol, firearms, tobacco and healing in the USA*

Edward Bush (Canada): *New techniques for dowsing for oil and natural gas*

Nancy Clark (America): *Body dowsing as a tool for integrative medicine*

Beulah Garcin (Ireland): *Tutor for the Dowsing School*

Lea Kachadorian (America): *Tutor for the Dowsing School and A look at teaching in the USA*

Joey Korn (America): *Dowsing and the Kabbalah connection*

Ervin Laszlo (Italy): Keynote lecture – *Subtle connections: Jung, Grof and the dowsing phenomenon in a New Science perspective*

Vicki Lee (UK): *Heal thyself (and others) with the Bach flower remedies*

Sig Lonegren & Patrick MacManaway (UK): *Sacred sites coach tour to the Peak District*

Alanna Moore (Australia): *Dowsing in relation to esoteric agriculture*

Roy & Ann Procter (UK): *The healing of sick houses*

Pauline Roberts (Australia): *Tutor for the Dowsing School & Water. water everywhere – dowsing and you will find*

Jeff Saward (UK): *Labyrinths in the landscape*

Valerie Shalatonin (Belarus): *Electric properties of dowsable energy fields*

Gordon Wansborough White (UK): *Dowsing for health*

There will be a Dowsing School, BSD Special Interest Groups' events, Lectures, Workshops, Discussions, Gala dinner, Seminars and much more.

See BSD website or flyer in "Dowsing Today" for details or contact BSD Office on 01233-750253. Costs vary depending on events attended.

BSD Tutors Training Weekend

3, 4, 5 October

Edward King House, Lincoln

Tutors on this weekend are Sig, Michael Cook 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

11, 12 October (probably!)

TBD

Saturday – Talks and AGM

Sunday – Site Visit

Cost:

BSD London Lecture

30 October

Medical Society, 11 Chandos Street

Speaker and theme TBA

Please submit articles for Summer Solstice edition by 16 May.

Thanks and blessings,

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Grahame – grahame.gardner@btopenworld.com