

Touchstone

Surrey
Earth
Mysteries



No. 36

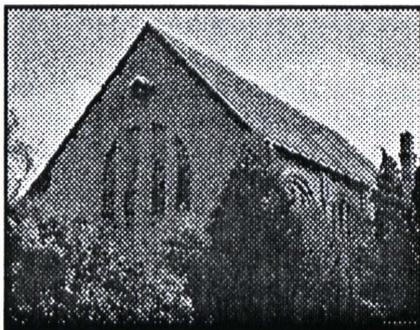
April 1993

A THOUGHT-PROVOKING AFTERNOON

One Sunday in March, I was interested to visit the site of a stone mentioned in a charter of 675. This is reproduced in the book *Chertsey Abbey*, by Lucy Wheeler, published 1905. The stone is described as "...an upright Stone (where Chobham, Frimley and Pirbright parishes join)". These three parishes meet at a cross-roads in Knaphill, and Doris drove me over to the site.

As I expected, there was no stone in evidence, but there did seem to be leys detected by the dowsing rod. I picked up one, not going along one of the roads, as might have been expected, but at a slight angle to it. When I asked the direction of the site of the stone, there seemed to be a definite time-lag before the rod changed direction, which interested me.

From readings at various points, the rod told me that the stone had been at a point, not at the centre of the cross-roads, but near it at a point now marked by a signpost and two hydrant stones. I have no way of verifying this, but the indications of the rod were verified shortly afterwards when I noticed a church on the map set back from the road, on the angled line I had detected. It is Holy Trinity, Knaphill, built in 1905 to a rather unusual brick-built design with a cylindrical ceiling. When I arrived there one of the parishioners noticed me and showed me round. There seemed to be quite a bit of energy present there.



Holy Trinity Church, Knaphill

When I drew the ley on the map, I had further surprises. The line goes directly through the ley centre on the Hog's Back where I felt impelled to go during the skywatch of June 1967, when I saw an orange hovering light also seen by the skywatchers on Pewley Down. It is interesting confirmation of the centre, which is marked by a copse, though not a very striking clump. The line also goes through Peper Harow church, which is also on the line through Byfleet church which the Surrey Earth Mysteries Group investigated many years ago now. This also was encouraging confirmation of my dowsing reaction.

A CIRCLE IN THE GRASS

When walking to work on Wednesday, April 21st I noticed what appeared to be a circle, or at least a part of one, in the grass verge near the Woburn Hill roundabout. Unlike corn circles, however, it did not appear to be flattened, but rather that the grass was growing longer in a narrow band which seemed to be an almost perfect half circle, which also seemed slightly darker in colour. There were none of the "fairy ring" toadstools in evidence.

When I looked around, however, I was interested to see that it aligned directly with the front wall of the Runnymede Centre where I work, which would make the alignment pass through the office, which is at the front of the building on the third floor. In the other direction it went directly through the middle of the roundabout, and over the hilltop near the big house on the summit.

I had always felt this end of the office to be more powerful, but for some reason had never tried to find a ley running along it. When I did look, I was very surprised to find it was an excellent ley, passing through St. Mary's Church, Byfleet (a very powerful building which I have used in the past to do energy experiments) as well as another church near it (I believe it is a nonconformist church), then Addlestone Methodist Church before reaching the roundabout. It then runs along a coincident stretch of track leading towards Chertsey, and a clump visible from the Runnymede Centre. Further north, it skirts a large fort near Gerrards Cross, then goes through Chalfont Grove and St. Leonard's Church, Chesham Bois (north of Amersham).

The fort is in the middle of a large private estate, but unlike St. George's Hill at Weybridge, the centre has been left untouched as a park, and there is public access. Most of the banks seem to be in private gardens, however. The ley could be detected skirting the bank, though it did enter the enclosure for part of its run (the banks were not entirely coincident). I did an interesting video dowsing experiment there; walking towards the bank I took video while commenting on the dowsing reaction I was getting at each point. When video dowsing the tape later I found there was a definite time lag between the boundary as

mentioned on the commentary and the point when the dowsing rods swung in while video dowsing.

St. Leonards is an interesting church; it looks Victorian but its chancel is a thirteenth century chapel. The ley goes through this. When filter dowsing I picked this up (asking for this line alone) but when I asked for any line I also found one running along the length of the church.

The grass circle could be some kind of natural phenomenon, but I took some video of it for posterity. It was mown two days later. Interestingly, nearer to the roundabout were two semicircles like a classic "Doug and Dave" symbol. The ley was found to be moderately wide - about 15 paces measured both at Gerrards Cross and the Runnymede Centre.

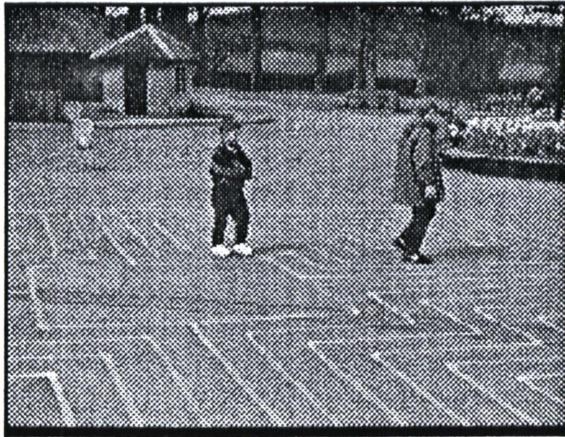
NOTES AND NEWS

Another chamber in the Great Pyramid

A previously undiscovered chamber has been found in the Great Pyramid recently - by accident. The Independent for April 16th reports how a scientific team sent a small robot with a video camera up a narrow passage from the Queen's Chamber assumed to be an air shaft, when doing research into the problem of how to cope with the breath of the hundreds of visitors to the monument. The robot found a miniature door at the end of the passage, complete with large copper handles, and some black dust scattered outside the door. It is thought that this must be organic remains blown from inside a chamber beyond the door, which would have to be large for such air currents to exist. Egyptologists believe that this chamber could have been undiscovered by tomb robbers and may contain the remains of the Pharaoh Cheops and his treasure. Plans are in hand to adapt the robot to carry optical fibre equipment which it could push through the gap in the door to illuminate the chamber and take pictures. To reach the chamber from the side of the Pyramid would mean penetrating 25 metres of masonry. George Hunt Williamson, a writer on ancient places and extraterrestrials, predicted in the 1950s that further chambers would be found in the monument, with important information contained in them. He said the original entrance was under the Sphinx, accessible through bronze doors. It is interesting that the door found has large copper handles.

New Stonehenge at Longleat?

The new Marquess of Bath is planning to build a replica of Stonehenge in the grounds of his ancestral home - if he can get planning permission. We visited the house recently, as



our son Peter is interested in Dr. Who and wanted to visit the exhibition and bookshop there. On enquiring about the site of the proposed Stonehenge copy I found it was to be in the field just under the hill known as "Heaven's Gate". On climbing this we found a stunning view of the house and surrounding countryside; if a monument is built in the field it can be viewed from a magnificent vantage point.

A number of labyrinths were to be found painted on the ground in a Longleat courtyard - with their usual attraction for children.

A picture in a pub

I saw an attractive picture in "The Paddock" in West Molesey recently, of a group of Scots pines on a hill entitled "Surrey's Pleasant Hills". It was done in 1904 and I took a picture of it for the local history CD-ROM that I am involved in making at work. I took a short sequence of video so that I could capture the best image to computer file, and when I video dowsed it thinking of myself in the pub looking at the picture, I obtained a very slight reaction. However, when I thought of myself actually at the location, I had a very much stronger reaction. This seems to show how much dowsing is dependent on the thoughts of the dowser, and why different dowsers often get different reactions at the same place.

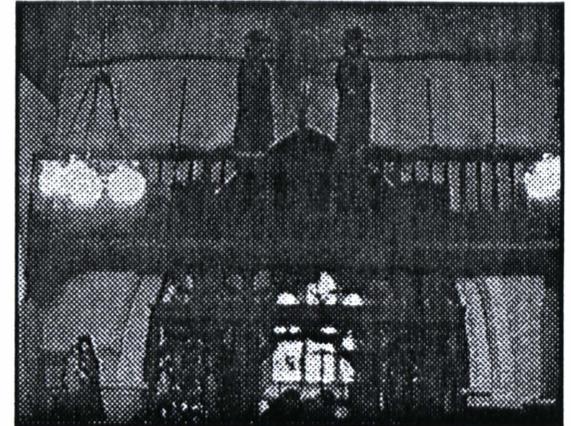
TEMS field trips

Lionel Beer has been organising some interesting field trips recently. In one to Kingston we followed a ley he had found through a number of churches. We began at Littleton, a very interesting ancient church with much fine carving and a Tudor gallery, quite a rarity.

We then continued to Norbiton church on the alignment, a much more recent building. Even more recent was the nearby church which appeared to have once been a nonconformist chapel but is now part of the University of Kingston. Despite its modernity, it is on the ley from the Victoria Monument, Chobham Common mentioned in the last issue (the

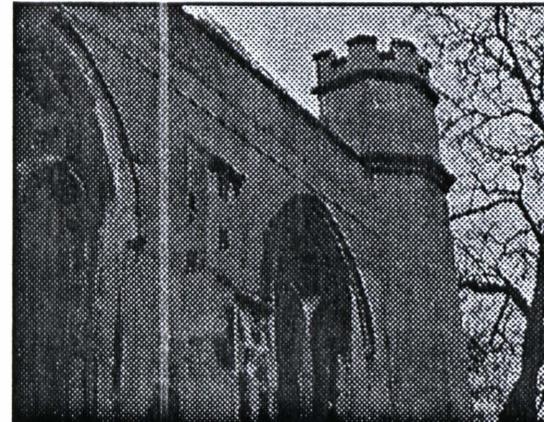
Chertsey ghost line), and I was able to detect the line there by dowsing. Another member of the group not particularly interested in the energy aspect of leys also seemed to pick it up.

The next was Kingston parish church, near the bridge, with the site of an ancient Saxon church adjacent to it, which apparently collapsed onto a sexton digging a grave too close to the wall, killing him. The vicar came and spoke to us about the church's history. The nearby Coronation Stone was also visited, although it has been moved several times.



The gallery, Littleton Church

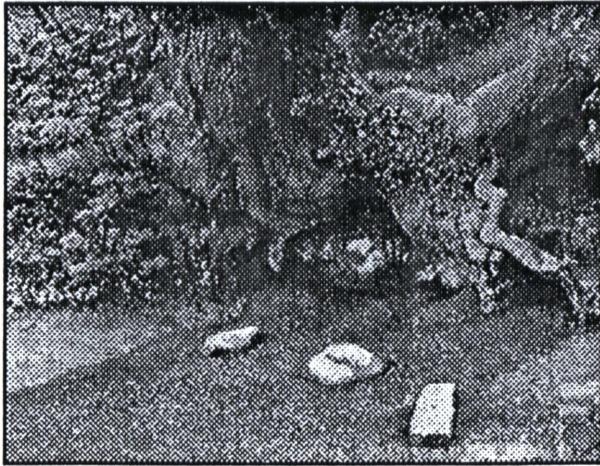
We then visited the Lovekyn Chapel, another rare survival, this time of a medieval chantry chapel. Nearby was a block of old almshouses, and we were very kindly shown the chapel of these by the warden, who was very welcoming to us. The ley passes through the almshouse chapel and the Lovekyn Chapel. An underground river flows through the grounds of the almshouses and near the Lovekyn Chapel; an arch in a brick wall near the latter was evidence of a former bridge.



The Lovekyn Chapel

Of course, no visit to Kingston's monuments would be complete without seeing the twentieth century's contribution to the landscape - the set of tumbling red telephone boxes in the middle of the town! Perhaps more evocative of the town's past was the mural relief illustrating the various kings who had been traditionally crowned on the Coronation Stone, with depictions of the town's various trades.

The second trip was to Royston and various other sites in Hertfordshire.



The spring at Ashwell

This is a county that often seems to get forgotten, but Lionel's tour showed us that it is indeed rich in ancient places, and some very beautiful villages. Our first stop was at Ashwell, near Royston, a very typical English village with much Tudor-style building and where the River Cam rises in a spring bubbling from the hillside in various places. I managed to fall into the water when trying to cross the stepping stones, but luckily only got my feet wet and not

my video camera! The church was very interesting (it is on a ley from Royston cross-roads that I found on my last trip there some years ago) - it has the highest spire in the county and some very early graffiti showing old St. Paul's Cathedral (the one destroyed in the Great Fire of London).

From here we went on to Royston, on the junction of two Roman roads, Ermine Street and the Icknield Way. The site is marked by the Royse Stone, although this has been moved

from its original site. Nearby is the small grating in the street which could be mistaken for a drain, but it is in fact the original entrance to a large bell-shaped cave in the chalk. This was rediscovered in the eighteenth century, when work was being done on the building of a shelter. A millstone covered it, and it was partly filled with rubble. When this was removed the chamber was found to have a great number of Christian religious symbols carved round its walls. A number of saints could be identified, such as St.



Carvings in the cave at Royston

Catherine with the spiked wheel she was martyred on, and similarly St. Laurence with his grid iron (he was roasted to death). The originators of the carvings are unknown, but the Knights Templar are possible candidates, as they are known to have used the town.

We were led down a more recently dug passage into the cave, and given an interesting talk about it. Video dowsing the cave sequence gave a strong reaction.

We next went to see the stone on its brick plinth by the cross-roads. It is a very large boulder, with a depression apparently cut into the top, very similar to the one in the stone near the Chiding Stone at Chiddingstone, which we theorised was for libations. It is not the only prehistoric site in the area by any means, however - nearby Therfield Heath has a number of tumuli, including a long barrow.

After this, and seeing the stone, we proceeded to Standon, another very attractive

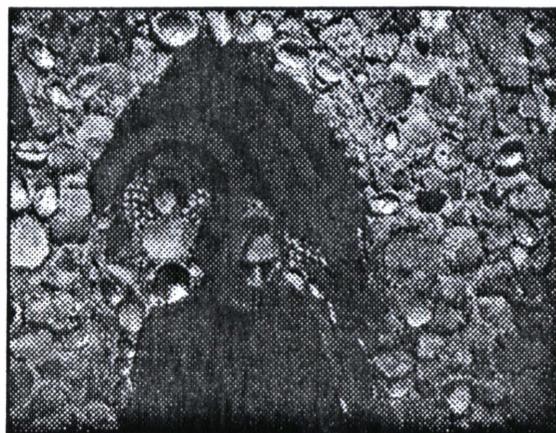


The Pudding Stone, Standon

Hertfordshire village with another stone, known as the Puddingstone as it is a conglomerate with a pebbly appearance. This was possibly the most significant visit of the trip from an earth mysteries point of view, as it was found to be extremely powerful and gave a tingle reaction in some places when touched.

Although said to be a natural stone, it had the appearance (as someone mentioned) of a Henry Moore sculpture,

reminiscent of a mother and child. It is not certain whether or not it is embedded in the ground as the bottom part is covered by a cairn. Eileen Roche noticed that there was a depression in one side the right size and shape to take an outstretched hand. She noticed tingling reactions on several points on the stone, but I could only feel it very slightly on the point she said was the strongest. This seems to corroborate my former theories about



The Council Room, Scott's Grotto

the flow of energy from higher to lower potential, and this is probably the reason my sandjar does not work for me now.

Both Eileen and I dowsed the most powerful ley going through the stone, which goes through the tree next to it and the church across the road. I seemed to find another going at an angle to it.

Our final visit was to Scott's Grotto, another man-made cave created by a Quaker who, afraid of smallpox, did not like to go to London, but in creating this folly

hoped that London society would come to him. It is one of the largest of such creations, a maze of tunnels being burrowed into the hillside and chambers made, all encrusted with shells and minerals like some mythical palace. Video dowsing did not produce a reaction here, except in the sequence taken in the summerhouse above the cave. There was a very unusual shaped yew tree there, with branches which, after going horizontally for a little way, ran straight upwards like trunks.

London Meetings

(London Earth Mysteries Circle - held on Tuesdays at the St. Andrew's Seminar Room, Maria Assumpta Centre, Kensington) **May 11th** - THE RAISING OF OSIRIS - QUESTING FOR ENLIGHTENMENT, by Dave Hunt. **May 25th** - PUTTING THE CASE FOR SPIRITUAL SCIENCES, by Martin Wacey. **June 8th** - WHAT IS A SACRED PLACE? by Joseph MacDermot. **June 22nd** - THE MYSTERIOUS CAVES OF EUROPE, by Clive Gardener. **July 13th** - SACRED GREENWICH, by Jack Gale. **July 27th** - Social Evening.

There will also be a minibus trip to Kent and Sussex on **Saturday 17th July**. Contact

LEMC at P.O. Box 1035, London, W2. 6ZX.

TEMS Meetings and trips

May 22nd - FIELDTRIP TO HAMPSHIRE, to follow the path of the mysterious Pitch Hill line beyond the Devil's Punchbowl into uninvestigated territory. What we may find is completely unpredictable - but the E-line usually manages to give us a surprise or two! Ring Lionel (081-979-3148) or Eileen (0483-69583) if you would like to come.

May 30th - BIG CAT SIGHTINGS, by Detective Constable Steve Ashcroft, who has been investigating the Surrey Puma and other mysterious animals since 1989. Venue: Greenwood Community Centre, Hampton, 2.45; ring Lionel on 081-979-3148.

TEMS MEETINGS

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

TEMS now produces a very interesting newsletter.

BOOK REVIEW

The Taking of the Stone of Destiny, by Ian Hamilton, Q.C., published by Corgi Books, London, 1992. 203 pp., illustrated. ISBN 0-552-13898-3

The Stone of Destiny has a very long mythical history, being regarded in legend as the stone on which the biblical Jacob had his dream of angels ascending and descending from Heaven (commemorated on the front of Wells Cathedral) and as the coronation stone carried by the Celtic peoples as they moved westward.

These legends are alluded to briefly in this book, but for the author, the stone was the symbol of Scottish independence from England, and its presence under the Coronation chair in Westminster Abbey since 1296 a symbol of Scottish humiliation. So in 1950 he had the main role in returning the stone to Scotland, by the covert means described in this fascinating paperback.

Although not an Earth Mysteries book by any stretch of the imagination, as a record of the feelings engendered by and of the symbolism attached to an ancient sacred stone (by virtually the whole population of a country it seems), this is certainly as valid (if not more so) as any "new age" text. If you are looking for a more mysterious aspect to the story

though, it would certainly seem to be "coincidence" that led to the stone being hidden (unknowingly) at a Gipsy encampment near Rochester, the area of Kent known for its megalithic remains - I wonder just exactly where it was - and then I recall reading that the real stone is still in Scotland, a claim denied in this book, although the claim I read postdated publication

The author has appended notes to each chapter, outlining his feelings forty years on, so that even those familiar with the story will find it of interest. Well worth reading.

Norman Darwen

LEY HUNTING IN WALES

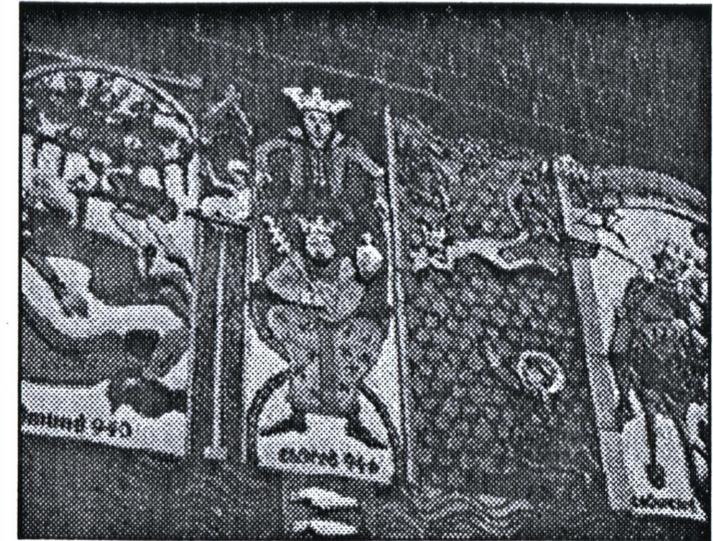
I recently came across an account I had written in the early seventies about some ley hunting during a holiday in Wales. It includes details of the most powerful site I have ever visited - the tiny isolated hilltop church of St. John's, Llanfair Talhaiarn.

Wales is a fascinating area for ley hunting, as my wife and I found during our week there in early September. We stayed in a caravan on the slopes of the Mynydd y Gaer (Mountain of the Camp) overlooking the village of Llanefydd across the valley. It was an idyllic setting with a beautiful view and very clear skies at night.

From the top of the mountain, where traces of the camp are still visible, one can see Snowdonia in one direction and Rhyl in the other, and even the Wirral peninsula, misty across the water. It is a ley centre with a peaceful atmosphere, and energy could be felt from our caravan position, though not so much at the top.

Llanefydd church, on a ley from the camp, is no longer used due to lack of congregation (the population are mainly nonconformist) but it is well maintained inside and a fairly strong energy could be felt.

About two miles west of Mynydd y Gaer is the tiny isolated hillside church of St. John's in the parish of Llanfair Talhaiarn. It is, however, no nearer that village than it is to Llanefydd - right out in the wilds, with only one service a month.. Nevertheless it is remarkable in the terrific energy felt there. I could feel it even sitting outside in the car - which has never happened anywhere else - and when I walked up the avenue of double trees leading to the door, it was like a band of numbness round my head. Unfortunately it is kept locked, so we could not go inside. It is, of course, a ley centre.



Part of the mural at Kingston

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ALL THESE PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE.

THE HIDDEN UNITY and BEGINNINGS

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

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

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

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

EXCHANGE LIST

FORTEAN TIMES, Box 2409, London NW5.4NP. NORTHERN EARTH MYSTERIES, 40b, Welby Place, Meersbrook Park, Sheffield, S8. 9DB. FOLKLORE FRONTIERS, 5, Egton Drive, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, Cleveland, TS25. 2AT. THE LEY HUNTER, P.O. Box 92, Penzance, Cornwall, TR18. 2XL. MAGONIA, John Dee Cottage, 5, James Terrace, Mortlake Churchyard, London, S.W.14. 8HB. GLOUCESTERSHIRE EARTH MYSTERIES, 49, Moorend Road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL53. 0ET. MEYN MAMVRO, 51, Cam Bosavern, St. Just, Penzance, Cornwall, TR19. 7QX. LONDON EARTH MYSTERIES, P.O. Box 1035, London W2. 6ZX. MARKSTONE, The Chimes, 17, St. Andrews Street, Kirton-in-Lindsey, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. Our thanks to all exchange publications, especially those who have mentioned us.

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