

# Touchstone

Surrey  
Earth  
Mysteries



No. 41

October 1994

## THE SCILLY ZODIAC The Temple of Lyonesse?

The Isles of Scilly, twenty-eight miles out into the Atlantic off the coast of Cornwall, have a dual nature. They are a place of storm-lashed rocks, where many ships have come to grief, but at the same time the kindly effects of the Gulf Stream give them a sub-tropical climate where many unusual and spectacular plants thrive.

That most of the islands were one land mass in the Bronze Age is generally accepted - there are the remains of houses on the tiny islet of Normour in the Eastern Isles that have now been partly destroyed by the sea.<sup>1</sup> Indeed, Scillonians usually refer to their land simply as "Scilly". Legend, however, goes further, and holds that a fertile land called Lyonesse stretched outwards from what is now Land's End, and that the islands are hilltops once part of this land. A map of this was drawn by Agnes Stickland in 1901, and published in *Lost England*, by Beccles Wilson.<sup>2</sup> There is a large copy of this map on display in the *Scillonian*, the ship which brings hundreds of holidaymakers to the islands each year. It is claimed that at the Seven Stones rocks, between Lands End and Scilly, where legend has it that there was a great town called the City of Lions, "small diamond-shaped panes set in lead and forming rude casements have been found, and the tops of buildings have been observed under the sea".<sup>3</sup> There is also evidence that the area of Scilly was considered a holy place in ancient times, for prehistoric sites are concentrated in their tiny area - in fact there are more chambered cairns than in the whole of Cornwall.

Lyonesse also figures in Arthurian legend; it figures in Tennyson's *Morte d'Arthur* and the Rev. Whitfield in *Scilly and its Legends* paints a Moses-like scenario of Arthur's followers fleeing Mordred over Lyonesse after Arthur's death. Merlin appeared, causing

**SURREY EARTH MYSTERIES GROUP MEETS ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH (EXCEPT AUGUST AND DECEMBER) AT ADDLESTONE**

the earth to quake and the land to sink engulfing the rebels, while the loyal followers of Arthur escaped safely to Scilly.<sup>3</sup>

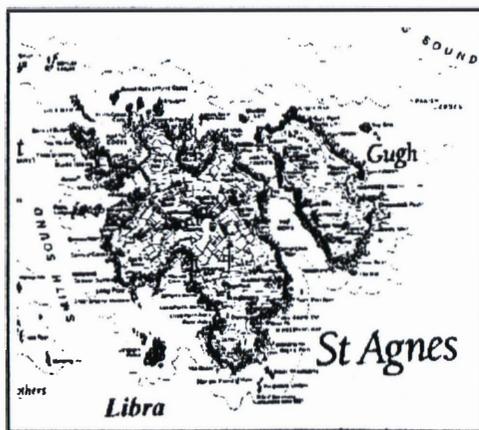
When visiting the islands recently, I noticed that there seemed something familiar about the local map. Suddenly I realised what it was - the outline of the islands bore a distinct similarity to the figures of the Glastonbury Zodiac found by Katherine Maltwood - but going in the opposite direction!<sup>4</sup> (In Somerset the figures go round anti-clockwise, while in Scilly their sequence is clockwise). When looking at the under-sea contours, this similarity became even more apparent. Most of the figures seem to be in their correct position, though there are some strange anomalies. Also, there are a number of significant place-names.

Cancer is a ship in this Zodiac, as it is in Somerset. It is the island of Bryher. The rear structure of the ship is clearly outlined by Stony Porth, and there is a Stoneship Porth just to the north. The ship appears to have a large figurehead called...Shipman Head!

Leo is a huge, bounding lion formed by St. Martin's, its head formed by White Island, one front paw being Lion Rock. One back leg is formed from the Eastern Isles, Great Ganilly and Great Innisvouls; Little Ganilly and Great and Little Arthur form the other. It is also the figure facing the Seven Stones, legendary site of the City of Lions, capital of Lyonesse.

St. Mary's is, of course, Virgo, the next figure in the Zodiac. I thought at first that the Hugh, on which the Garrison is built, was the head and Peninnis an arm, but a closer look shows that the latter is in fact the head (although not very obviously at the present time). Peninnis means "Island Head", and, although many headlands are called "head", in this case it is emphasised by the presence of "Inner Head" and "Outer Head". There is no obvious corn connection with The Hugh, but there is a Rat attacking it - Rat Island, by the quay, which seems to be somewhat rat shaped. John Leland, the antiquarian, who claimed to have visited Scilly in about 1540, wrote: "There is one isle of the Scilleys cawled Rat Isle, yn which there be so many rattes that yf horse, or any other lyving beast be brought thither they devore hym".<sup>3</sup>

Perhaps the most beautiful of the figures is the next - Libra - which is a dove as in Somerset. It is the island of St. Agnes. Its wings are outstretched, the southern one being formed by Wingletang Down! The under-sea contour shows the other, with



Great Smith and Halftide Ledges. Its beak is Long Point and the Troy Town labyrinth, formed of white pebbles, is in the right position to be its eye. The island of Gugh, joined to St. Agnes at high tide, is its great fan tail.

Scorpio is formed by the treacherous Western Rocks, and its outline is formed by the under-sea contour. The HMS Association was wrecked on the Gilstone, on the western claw of this fearsome figure.

Gemini is not clear, but the twin hills of Samson may be part of it. Tresco is also something of a mystery, being between Cancer and Leo. It could possibly be the other Twin - if so, it is a girl twin, from its general shape and Skirt Island to the south, but this is in no way as clear as with the other figures. Tresco also seems to have a twin nature which reflects the duality of Scilly as a whole. Its north is wild and rugged, while its south is lush and sub-tropical, with its famous Abbey Gardens.

Taurus is even more of a mystery, being seemingly completely misplaced. It would appear to be St. Helen's, looking very like the Somerset Taurus (just a head), with its horns being Golden Ball and Men-a-vaur. Its neck is Beef Neck! But it would not appear to be in the right place. Annet and its attendant islands, with the under-sea contours looks very like a fish, but is once again in the wrong position for Pisces. Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius and Aries would seem to have been claimed by the Atlantic, if they existed.

#### References:

- 1 *Scilly's Archaeological Heritage*, by Jeanette Ratcliffe, Cornwall Archaeological Unit.
- 2 *Lost Lands and Sunken Cities*, by Nigel Pennick.
- 3 *The Fortunate Islands*, by R.L. Bowley.
- 4 *A Guide to Somerset's Temple of the Stars*, by Katherine Maltwood.

#### MAIDSTONE AREA FIELDTRIP 10th September 1994

This field trip, to the area north of Maidstone in Kent, was planned to be an investigation in connection with the Pagan Project as detailed in an earlier issue of Touchstone. It turned out not to be successful in that, but nevertheless was interesting and enjoyable, and some interesting findings came from it. Also it was a day of some very spectacular skies, and was worthwhile to capture these on video. Four people took part; Lionel Beer, Reg Allum, Eileen Roche and myself.

We were to investigate two leys which meet at a point which was given to me by the Guild of

Pagans as a grid reference of a place where pagan worship had taken place. Both seemed to be reasonably good leys in a fairly small area; three churches, a castle and Kit's Coty dolmen occurred on them, as well as a number of minor points.

First we visited Lower Kit's Coty, a dolmen which had been demolished and then brought back on the orders of the landowner. The stones were simply piled back in a heap, but the site was original. Ironically as it turned out, there was evidence of pagan activity, as in a hollow between some of the stones there were tied bunches of grass. The tall trees have gone from this site, and only traces of them remain. It is still, however, seemingly a place to see unusual fungi; we saw some on a previous trip here, and there was more growing round the stones this time. The field around is full of oyster shells apparently dating from Roman times, and on this occasion we also found a scallop shell, plus flow-blue pottery fragments and pieces of nineteenth and twentieth century lemonade bottles. But neither of the two leys I was investigating go through this site.

We walked from here up the track to the other Kit's Coty - a dolmen in better state of repair, with huge capstone (seemingly very popular with large snails!), supports and blocking stone. Pagans had apparently been here too, for there were chalked symbols on the stones. Eileen and I both picked up the ley passing to the supposed pagan point, and I remembered picking it up when I was here before, as a line passing diagonally across the site. Using binoculars, we could see the churches on this line and the other in the distance. A ley goes through Burham Court church and Thurnham Castle.

We continued up the track until we found a sunny spot in an adjacent field for lunch. Then with little warning the sky darkened and we were hit by a gusting wet front. The track led back to the road again, and Eileen picked up a ley passing through a house there. On looking at my map, I found it was one of the two we were interested in.

After this we made our way to the Lower Bell pub, below Bluebell Hill, which also had one of the leys passing through it and its nearby junction adjacent to the dual carriageway flyover. In the car park, Eileen picked up the line, but weakly. On looking at the map again, I found the line actually goes through the pub diagonally in the other direction, not through the car park. Eileen must have been picking up an extreme edge - yet another independent confirmation. In the pub, she seemed to feel it stronger, and after this we left crossing the junction, where she registered the line again quite strongly. Bluebell Hill has been the scene of hauntings, one of which was described on television recently - a girl seemed to run into the path of a car, but could not be found when the driver stopped.

We drove under the dual carriageway and parked by the track which starts behind a petrol station on the A229 and which led to the crossing-point I had marked. The map showed

a stone called the White Horse Stone nearby, but did not make its location clear. We located it a quarter of a mile up the path, quite an impressive-looking block of sandstone or millstone grit, seemingly with a sighting hole, but Eileen found the place completely dead and Lionel wondered if it was originally the capstone of another dolmen moved here at some time. (The local geology is chalk and flints). There were smaller stones which could have supported this, so it might be the remains of a burial chamber. It was quite a way off the lines we were following.

The straight track as marked on the map turned out to be not quite so straight on the ground, but Eileen was puzzled to pick up what seemed to be a very wide line. In actual fact she was walking along the line - yet another confirmation of its authenticity. However, when we got beyond the power lines, towards the point marked on the map, she seemed to pick up very little, though found one spot when enquiring for the spot marked by the pencil dot. The actual spot seemed very unlikely - it was in a field of stubble. We wandered on to a nearby hill and climbed it. There was an excellent view but once again Eileen found it completely dead, and it was quite a way away from the marked point or either of the lines anyway.

Shortly after that there was an even fiercer downpour and we made our way with difficulty back down the track which had almost become a river. When the rain stopped we could still hear the noise - then realised it was coming from the high tension power lines above, crackling in the damp atmosphere. When we returned to the car I felt rather despondent as it seemed that the pagans had made a mistake in their grid reference, so the lines I had found had no significance in this matter. I even began to think that, as no doubt opponents to leys would say, that this shows one can "create" leys anywhere one wishes. So I did not bother to suggest going to the other sites, the castle and the churches, which I now regret.

Later we visited two other quite interesting sites. St. Leonard's Tower was a tall, gaunt eleventh century Norman castle near West Malling. An attempt to locate a nearby ruined chapel was thwarted by tall wet undergrowth, failing light and vagueness of the Ordnance Survey map. Allington Castle, on the River Medway opposite Maidstone, looked like a typical medieval castle. It is now occupied by a religious order. There was also a brilliant rainbow and a very unusual and beautiful orange sunset.

After returning home and thinking about the matter of the leys, I realised that, as it had been Eileen who had detected them and not myself, that there could be no subconscious wish fulfilment involved. She did not know the position of the lines when she picked them up on the rods. So, although the leys had been found from an erroneous reference, by chance I had hit on two genuine leys. Eileen had asked for the spot marked by the dot, not a pagan worship point, and the rods told her, but she did not get a feeling of significant energy. The fact that the site of the crossing seemed to be of no particular significance brings out an interesting matter - the distinction between sites where two leys cross and ley centres. Of course there are many places where two leys cross, but there is rarely anything to mark this and the sites do not seem to be of any great importance. Rarely does a third ley cross there. Centres, on the other hand, are nodal points and there are usually more than three leys crossing there and they often have a visible significant point. Despite several attempts, I was unable to find any other leys going from the grid reference point to any other significant point in the area, which surprised me at the time, but now the reason seems clear.

## NOTES AND NEWS



### TEMS

If you have an enquiring mind and your horizons extend beyond discs and witness to an interest in strange phenomena and areas of study loosely labelled 'earth mysteries', then TEMS could be for you!

TEMS is a social and study group for people living in South-west London, Surrey and Middlesex. A programme of speakers, social events and trips has been arranged covering such things as occult sites, crop circles, ley lines, haunted houses, healing, ley lines, old churches, sacred wells, unexplained animals, UFOs and much more. The programme has been designed to complement the meetings of national and night-working groups such as BUFOA, CCCS, SEMG and SIGAP.

TEMS (Travel & Earth Mysteries Society) was founded in January 1991, and incorporates the Surrey and Middlesex Branch of ASRAP\* (a national registered charity) and is affiliated to the Surrey Earth Mysteries Group. TEMS is non-political and non-sectarian.

For a copy of the programme and further information, please contact:

#### Local Base

Tel: 081-979 3148

#### Barbara

Tel: 081-948 3447

#### Ann

Tel: 081-548 3110

TEMS is a non-profit, non-political and non-sectarian, social and study group, run by its members. 1994 sub. is £4.00

Rob Stephenson will be organising a one day seminar on **Mystical and Legendary London** at the City Literary Institute, Stukeley Street, London WC2B. 5LJ, on Saturday, November 12th. It will be devoted to an alternative view of London and obscure and rarely-covered material concerning its sacred and esoteric nature will be sought out. Subjects covered will include early legends, ghosts, divination of holy places and leys as an energy matrix for the city. 10.30 to 16.30, £19 (£10 unwaged).

### Jerusalem Temple Solar Alignment

Rob Stephenson recently sent me an excerpt from *The Interpreter's Bible* which indicates that the Temple at Jerusalem may have had Newgrange-type alignment:

"The Temple at Jerusalem was so oriented that at the equinoxes the rays of the rising sun could shine directly across from the Mount of Olives, through the east gate of the temple area and into the temple to illumine the holy of holies. This was the entrance of the glory of Yahweh into the temple, the New Year enthronement of Yahweh, and it was accompanied by a complex ritual of the New Year at the autumnal equinox."

### TEMS meetings

**30th October** - Royston Cave and the Knights Templar, by Sylvia Beamon - ring 081-979-3148. **27th November** - Geneset Target Earth, by David Wood and Ian Campbell - ring 081-979-3148. **December 10th** - Christmas Party - ring 081-979-3148.

### London meetings

(London Earth Mysteries Circle meets at 7.00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in each month, at Maria Assumpta Centre, 23, Kensington Square, London, W.8.)

**November 8th**, THE ANCIENT LORE OF HIGH PLACES, by Phillip Shallcraft.

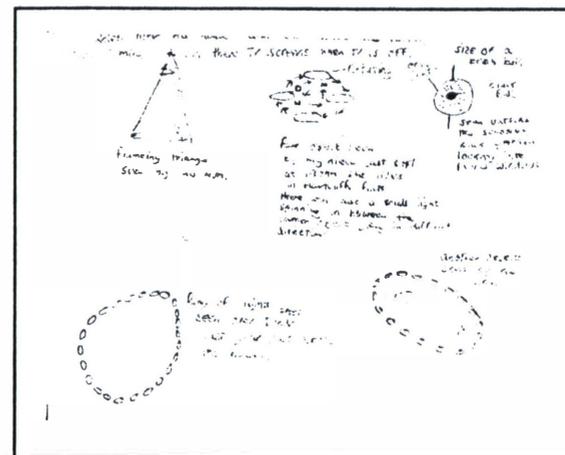
**November 22nd**, THE LONG CONTINUITY OF SHRINES, by Nigel Pennick. **December 13th**, GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND SOCIALEVENING.

## LETTERS

from Robert Fisher, Knowle, Bristol:

I am a member of the Avon Crop Circle Group, and one of the group is a schoolboy who has had a lot of UFO sightings last year near his home at Withywood near East Dundry. He said a lot of the the UFOs he has seen are appearing in a line, and he said the line goes out to Old Sarum. He asked me to write to you and ask if there are any more ley lines at Dundry or in the Bristol area, also are there any in the Coalpit Heath or Yate area, where another member of our group has had sightings.

We have been down at Alton Barnes a lot this year, and been in a lot of the formations, but I think a lot of them have



been hoaxed this year. There have also been a lot of formations in Dorset, one at Maiden Castle, one at the white horse near Weymouth and another at the Dorset-Weymouth road near the Tesco store. One woman I spoke to who lives near the white horse saw a white light shoot up into the air. It got really bright and split into two and shot off in different directions.

These are some of the objects seen by the schoolboy last year.

There are also a lot of water works and power cables near his house, and one nearby house has a poltergeist and voices coming on the TV screens when the TV is turned off.

There does seem to be quite a good ley going between Dundry and Old Sarum - the points are these:

Enclosure Walton-in-Gordano, Cadbury Camp (not the famous one), Flax Bourton church, Dundry centre (seems to be just west of the trig point), Hautville's Quoit (an outlier of the Stanton Drew circles), Chelwood church, skirts southern edge of fort on Tunley Hill, church Carlingcott (near Peasedown St. John), cross-roads Tuckers Grave Inn (interesting name), mean-following track north-east of Battlesbury, cross-roads/tracks Ansty Hill, west entrance and centre of Old Sarum, tumulus south of West Dean. I can't be absolutely sure of the accuracy though as I had to join three maps..

## BOOK REVIEW

***Time Travel - Fact, Fiction and Possibility*, by Jenny Randles, published by Blandford, £14.99**

This is an extremely thought-provoking book that in parts covers areas the human brain finds it very difficult to comprehend. The author's interest in time travel started when she was at school and she read a book called *An Experiment with Time* by J. W. Dunne, which made the astonishing assertion that half of all the dreams we have are premonitions, although we forget most of them and many are of a fairly trivial nature. But when she followed the advice of the book and started recording her dreams, she was astounded when one of the first came true. She dreamt of a paper factory on fire; while on a sponsored walk about a week later she and her companions suddenly noticed what they thought was a fire. On approaching it they found that it was only the furnaces reflecting on the clouds, so it was clearly the perception that had "rippled backwards in time" as she put it. This and other cases seemed to show that emotions were very much involved in such things, and also that there seemed to be a kind of timeless reality behind the universe that such things could travel in. In fact, she finally came to the conclusion that time is an illusion, but the brain, living in the world of time, has to impose a "doorman" to prevent such information coming in - otherwise it probably would not cope and sanity might be in danger.

She started by illustrating the fascination with time travel in fiction (though strangely omitting to mention Dr. Who!), then went on to describe evidence both for the travel of information through time and of actual time travel in the accepted sense. Dreams, as mentioned before, are gone into deeply, but also sudden strong feelings and seemingly inappropriate actions, such as when a mother for no good reason grabbed the child sleeping in the bottom of a pair of bunks minutes before the top one collapsed and an iron bar penetrated the pillow where the child's head had been; also another where a feeling of something bad happening in connection with her husband (outside mowing the grass) caused her to jump back seconds before a large stone was knocked through the window where she had been. It was also noted that passengers in aircraft and trains bound for disaster are usually smaller in number than would be expected.

The enigmatic phenomenon of timeslip was also covered, illustrating the number of cases where a person has suddenly found himself in an environment from a previous time, (such as a hotel or shop where information from the present time is not known and usually low prices are charged). Invariably the place cannot be found when searched for later.

The mysterious Oz factor, a timeless state often experienced by UFO witnesses when everything seems to happen in an unearthly silence, was shown not only to occur in connection with UFOs but also spontaneously, as in the case of the runner whose single-

minded desire to win a race seemed to put him in a different time environment which was like running down a long, silent tunnel in which he passed all the other competitors with ease. A similar effect occurred with someone in a seemingly desperate situation in World War 2.

The strange phenomenon of synchronicity is described, in which seemingly fantastic coincidences occur much more frequently than one would expect by chance. It is theorised that the "collective unconscious" postulated by Jung may reside in the same timeless universe in which quantum physics seems to operate. There was a fantastic series of events concerned with the author and the disaster of the space shuttle Challenger, that also included a premonitory dream by her of a shuttle exploding in flames. In the dream, this happened in darkness, but the actual disaster was in daylight. However, when witnessing the event on television it was against the background of a dark window - once again illustrating that perceptions and emotions are involved.

In a chapter entitled "To Build a Time Machine" the author describes the legendary "Philadelphia Experiment" - which has been the subject of a film but has never been confirmed. In an attempt to make a ship and crew invisible (which reputedly succeeded) the most terrible effects were inflicted on the crew, and one man claims to have escaped by jumping overboard, finding himself at a research base at Long Island in 1983. There is also an account of extreme electrical effects being experienced off Philadelphia by a ship about the same length of time before the experiment, as if the effect had travelled backwards as well as forward through time. Finally, in "Have Time Travellers Landed" , the author surveys UFO cases, including the well-known Roestenberg case and some others which are similar, presenting evidence for the existence of time craft, which, she holds, would have to be also flying craft or they would be in severe danger of materialising inside solid objects. Artefacts found in coal and old rock (including a fourteenth century coin) are also held up as evidence of time travel.

She does seem to fall into the usual trap of thinking that because of the evidence for time travelling UFOs, extraterrestrial ones cannot exist (even though she says that the phenomena lumped together under the title "UFO" may be many). In the television play *The Flipside of Dominick Hide*, which she mentions, in which a time traveller in a saucer-like craft is involved in historical research, there is the enigmatic statement by Dominick: "People from other planets come in other containers". Also she mentions, but does not dwell on, the idea from the 1950s in the enigmatic Allende letters that there are two types of extraterrestrial, "big men" and "little men" - the latter being not so well disposed towards us. This was well before the abduction syndrome of the present day.

## CD-ROM REVIEW

**Discover York, published by Geonex in conjunction with the Ordnance Survey, £90.**

Since describing the SCAMP CD-ROM in the last issue, I have come across one that is even more powerful in ley plotting, even though it covers a smaller area. It contains maps of a number of different scales, and a large aerial picture of the whole of York. Users can switch rapidly from the photo to a map of the same scale and place and back again, or go up or down the scales. A compass device allows free "flight" in any direction over the city, and there are "hotspots" which can be made visible (as red circles) when required. If clicked on with the mouse, these give information and ground level pictures of York.

But for the ley hunter the most useful feature is the drawing package, which allows lines (among many other things) to be drawn on the map or photograph. Once drawn, these lines remain in place no matter what scale, place, map or photo section is seen. Thus a line can be drawn on the 1:50000 map (which is reproduced on the screen), then seen where it runs on the larger scales, and as it runs over the actual features as seen on the photograph at various scales. A ley project on York could be undertaken - could any readers with knowledge of leys in York please send me the information? I remember walking the one that runs between the Minster and Clifford's Tower on a Northern Moot some years ago. We have obtained the disc at work and it will be available to me to use.

### *from the Straight Track Club folios...*

In my latest foray into our very full attic I found some notes I made on an all too short visit to the Straight Track Club folios in Hereford Central Library some years ago.

"It is a mere foundation for new knowledge that I offer, but I know that it has solid foundations, and that good wholesome field work done by others - for it may not be granted to me to do very much more - will fill in many gaps. That is why I write."

Alfred Watkins, 1922.

There is mention of the "Dole Stone" at Dundry, connected with "Christmas doles of bread".

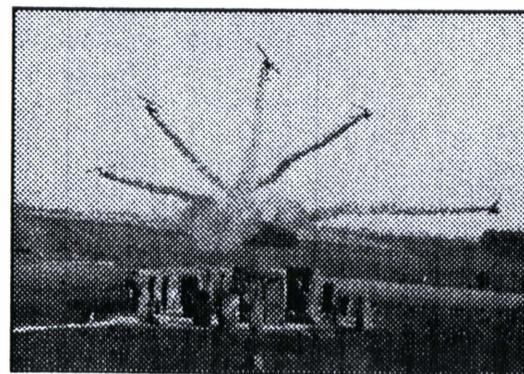
The Straight Track Club went on a five day field trip from 13th-17th July 1933 in the Hereford area with a "communal supply of cider"!

The Rev. Arthur Cross drew a diagram to show that Avebury, Stonehenge and Silchester

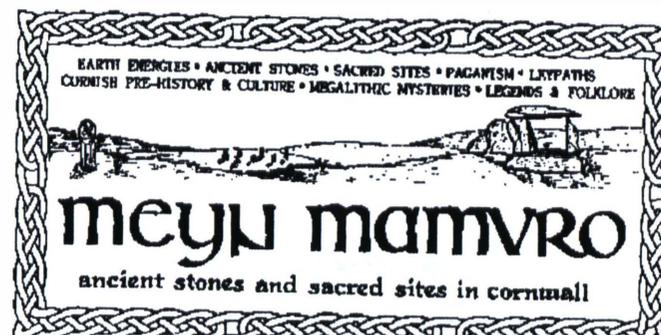
form a right angled triangle, and also showed a ley crossing this triangle obliquely that goes through Eastbury, Chisbury, the Bishop Stone, Badbury Ring and the Flower Barrow.

He also writes:

"There is an old Roman road to the west of Silbury on the Devizes side of Beckhampton. 150 yards west of the point where the Roman road crosses the Devizes road there is an unworked boulder. 100 yards further west is a posthole pillar with a bevelled head. These points align directly with the southern end of Silbury top."



*This picture of the Blue Eagles Army Air Corps display team apparently drawing out the leys over Stonehenge was sent to me by my wife Doris when she was at summer school in Salisbury this year.*



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## 3rd STONE

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# **THE HIDDEN UNITY and BEGINNINGS**

*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 40p p&p from the Touchstone address.

## **EARTH PEOPLE, SPACE PEOPLE**

In 1961, Tony Wedd produced a manuscript *Earth Men, Space Men*, detailing many claims of extraterrestrial contact. It was never published, and the MS is presumably lost. To try to make up for the loss in a much more modest size, this booklet has been prepared. As well as giving details of some of the more prominent contact claims, there are articles on the history of the STAR Fellowship and some of its personalities, evidence for life in the Solar System and investigation into extraterrestrial language. £2 plus 40p p&p from the Touchstone address.

### **EXCHANGELIST**

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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: