

# Touchstone

Surrey  
Earth  
Mysteries



No. 58

July 2002

## SUSSEX STONES

Bob Brown gave us yet another insight into the mysteries of Sussex at the TEMS field trip on June 23rd, and it was also a reacquaintance for me with a number of leys and the area around the University of Sussex visited in 1983 and described in *Campus Lines*. There were two main ley centres which seemed to have come out of it - the powerful hilltop church at Ditchling, and (strangely) the Meeting House on the University of Sussex campus, a very modern but striking building and prominent example of subconscious siting. A number of campus churches in modern universities have been found to be ley points.

The Meeting House is a cylindrical building set in lovely landscaped grounds, whose upper storey is the campus church and the lower floor is made up of meeting rooms. The windows are rectangular blocks of glass, all colours of the rainbow, with sometimes one colour predominating and sometimes another. The atmosphere was stunning and there was considerable head-hum felt when I visited it in 1983. I found two leys going through it then, one through nearby Falmer Church and the other through Ditchling Church and Beacon. On this trip the latter was found also to go through the Hangman's Rock at Rottingdean.



*The Meeting House*

We met at ASDA in Hollingbury, with an impressive view of Hollingbury Castle, found to be on an alignment with the Meeting House and the Goldstone at Hove, which we were to visit. Leaving the car park, we passed Falmer church, an ancient one near the University,

and on one of the original two leys found in the earlier study. This goes through Males Burgh tumulus near West Firle, Iford Church, Falmer Church, the Meeting House, a cross-tracks, the Devil's Dyke and a cross-roads/tracks at Small Dole.



*Rocky Clump*

Continuing on to Stanmer (Stone Pond) we visited the church (although it was not open) and the pond, surrounded by sarsen stones. Bob spoke on the geology of the area. The Downs were originally a chalk dome and the layers of sandstone and clays eroded. Above there was a layer of stones - these were the sarsens of the Sussex downs. Most have been removed

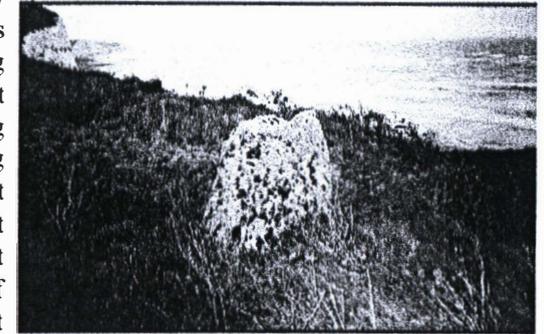
from farmland, and some have become modern stones with folklore. They are mainly in the valleys - how they got there no-one knows. Some were used for ritual - others were just a nuisance to farmers. Many were put round ponds - were these more sacred? There are traditions of dew ponds in the county. There is a ley from Stanmer Church to the Meeting House - going through East Blatchington Church, Piddinghoe Church, a clump at Whiteway Bottom, the Meeting House, Stanmer Church, Rocky Clump, Pyecombe Church, Partridge Green Church and West Grinstead Church. There is a yew tree in Stanmer churchyard which has a striking dragon-like simulacrum in its lower branches.

We travelled from here to Rottingdean, a coastal town with a church dedicated to St. Margaret, a dragon-killing saint, with windows by Edward Burne-Jones and William Morris. Rudyard Kipling also lived here, but moved to Burwash as he was bothered by day trippers looking over his wall. Mrs. Burne-Jones was Kipling's aunt. The town was a haunt of smugglers and Kipling's poem about "four and twenty ponies trotting through the dark" was written here. Parishioners taking refuge from French pirates in the church tower were burned here when the pirates set fire to the building.

The Wishing Stone is a small stone face set into a wall in the village. There is apparently a ritual which must be followed to the letter if a wish is required - or something more unpleasant could happen! Needless to say we all tried it! The stone had to be traversed clockwise three times with the finger, then the person must rotate three times, after which the wish is made, which must not be for money, nor must the stone be visited too often, and the ritual must not be carried out in a flippant manner. Unpleasant things like sprained ankles have apparently been the result of not abiding by the rules!

Out on the cliff-top we were introduced to the Hangman's Rock, a slab of conglomerate

apparently named after a sheep stealer who was strangled when putting the sheep onto it, or while tethering it. There are apparently many similar legends of the demise of sheep stealers attached to more than a dozen stones all over the country. I was very interested to find later that this stone is on the ley I found on my previous trip, that links Ditchling Church and the Meeting House. It goes through a church at Burgess Hill, a cross-roads, Ditchling Church, Ditchling Beacon, the Meeting House, the straight edge of a wood just south of the university, a cross-roads at Upper Bevendean, a church at Woodingdean, about one and a half miles of close mean-following road at Rottingdean, a cross-roads and Hangman's Rock.



*Hangman's Rock*



*The Dolphin Fountain*

Misfortune struck at this point as the car of one of our number failed to start, so we took the opportunity for a very pleasant lunch and chat on Rottingdean beach while waiting for the AA. (Everyone blamed the Wishing Stone of course!) After they arrived and saved the day we continued to the Brighton Marina for a trip on the Victorian Volks Railway with its howling klaxon to the Palace Pier, and then walked on to the Dolphin Fountain, surrounded with sarsens. This is in Old Steine, and is recognised as a centre of energy by the Fountain International group, who do rituals here for place healing. There is a ley from here to Ditchling Beacon, going through the fountain, a church in Brighton, skirting the west edge of Hollingbury Castle, coincident road and cross-roads, Ditchling Beacon, a cross-tracks at Haywards Heath and coincident road at Horsted Keynes.

After passing the Druid's Head pub, with sign saying there is tradition of a stone circle nearby, we visited St Nicholas' Church, which has an omphalos stone set in a memorial. This may be the site of the circle; there is a ley going to two other churches in the town, a mean-following half mile stretch of road, it skirts Wolstonbury Hillfort, goes through Hurstpierpoint church and a main cross-roads near Bolney.

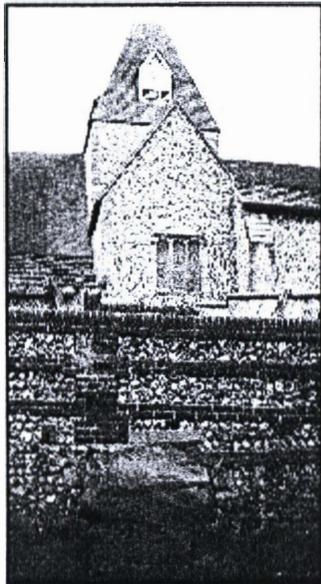
After the return trip to the Marina on the Volks Railway, we went on to Hove to see the impressive Goldstone in Hove Park. It is nine feet high and thirteen and a half feet long, but

it is not in its original position, and neither are the circle of smaller stones surrounding it. Originally buried by a farmer as visitors to it were damaging his crops, it was later dug up and re-erected three hundred yards away. An early reference calls it "The God Stone" which may be because it is said to resemble a face. Strangely, there is a ley going from its original position, through its present position to the Meeting House. It was re-erected on the same ley! This line goes through a church in Brighton, the two sites of the Goldstone, skirts the southern edge of Hollingbury Castle, goes through the Meeting House, then Offham Hill near Lewes and a peak with a triangulation point near Little Norrington.



*The Goldstone*

Another ley goes to the Meeting House from the believed original position of the smaller stones, some way to the north. This goes through a church at Goring-by-Sea, a coincident road with several crossroads at Broadwater, a crossroads at Sompting, the stones' position, the Meeting House, a church in Lewes and a long barrow to the east.



*Ditchling Church and Altar Stone*

We continued from here to Ditchling Beacon, with its impressive views of the Sussex Weald, and on to Ditchling Church, another powerful spot, also dedicated to St. Margaret, and one of the two main ley centres found. It has a large stone in its churchyard wall, called the Altar Stone though no-one knows its origins. The line from the church through this stone seems to go to the original position of the Goldstone. Coming northwards it passes through that spot, then a cross-roads near Patcham Place, a hill-peak cross-tracks spotmarked 233 on the edge of the downs, which is also passed through by the East Sussex/West Sussex boundary, Ditchling stone and church, a track multijunction south-east of Burgess Hill, a cross-roads in Westfield and two churches in Horsted Keynes.

While at the church, in true Alfred Watkins manner, we found another stone, rough and pockmarked, at the entrance to the grounds on the west of the church, complete with the presence of "Dod", a tiny snail on the top! There is another ley through the church going

through this stone - starting at a cross-roads/tracks at Glyndebourne, Hamsey Church, a cross-tracks where the Roman road crosses the county boundary, West Grinstead Church and Knepp Castle. This was a worthy rounding-off to a very pleasant and thought-provoking trip.



*Ditchling entrance stone*



*Ditchling "Dod"*

By this time it was too late to visit the modern stone circle that has in recent times been raised in

Ditchling - but this was nevertheless found to be subconsciously sited on another ley leading through the church. This goes through a large track multijunction north-east of Ditchling, the stone circle, the church, Wolstenbury Hillfort, a church north-west of Pyecombe, a cross-tracks north of Edburton, and a large cross-roads at the foot of Bramber Castle.

The system revealed from this field trip had many striking features, the first being the original alignment of Ditchling Church, Beacon and Meeting House, with Hangman's Rock on the same line, as found on this trip. Others were the alignment of the Goldstone original and present sites with the Meeting House, the alignment of Stanmer Church and Rocky Clump with the Meeting House, the alignment of Ditchling Church and the Altar Stone with the original site of the Goldstone, and the fact that the Goldstone-Meeting House alignment and the Dolphin Fountain-Ditchling Beacon one both skirt Hollingbury Castle.

**MEYN MAMVRO** £2.00 for current edition or £6 for a year's subscription from:-  
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**SURREY EARTH MYSTERIES GROUP** holds its meetings on the second Thursday of each month (except August and December) at 25, Albert Road, Addlestone at 8.00 p.m. We would be pleased to see you.

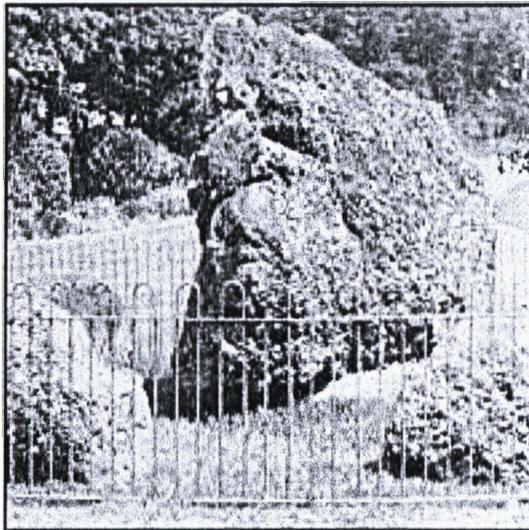
*The system of leys found from this year's field trip and the visit in 1983*

(The major places visited are shown, but each ley has a number of other points in addition to the ones marked.)

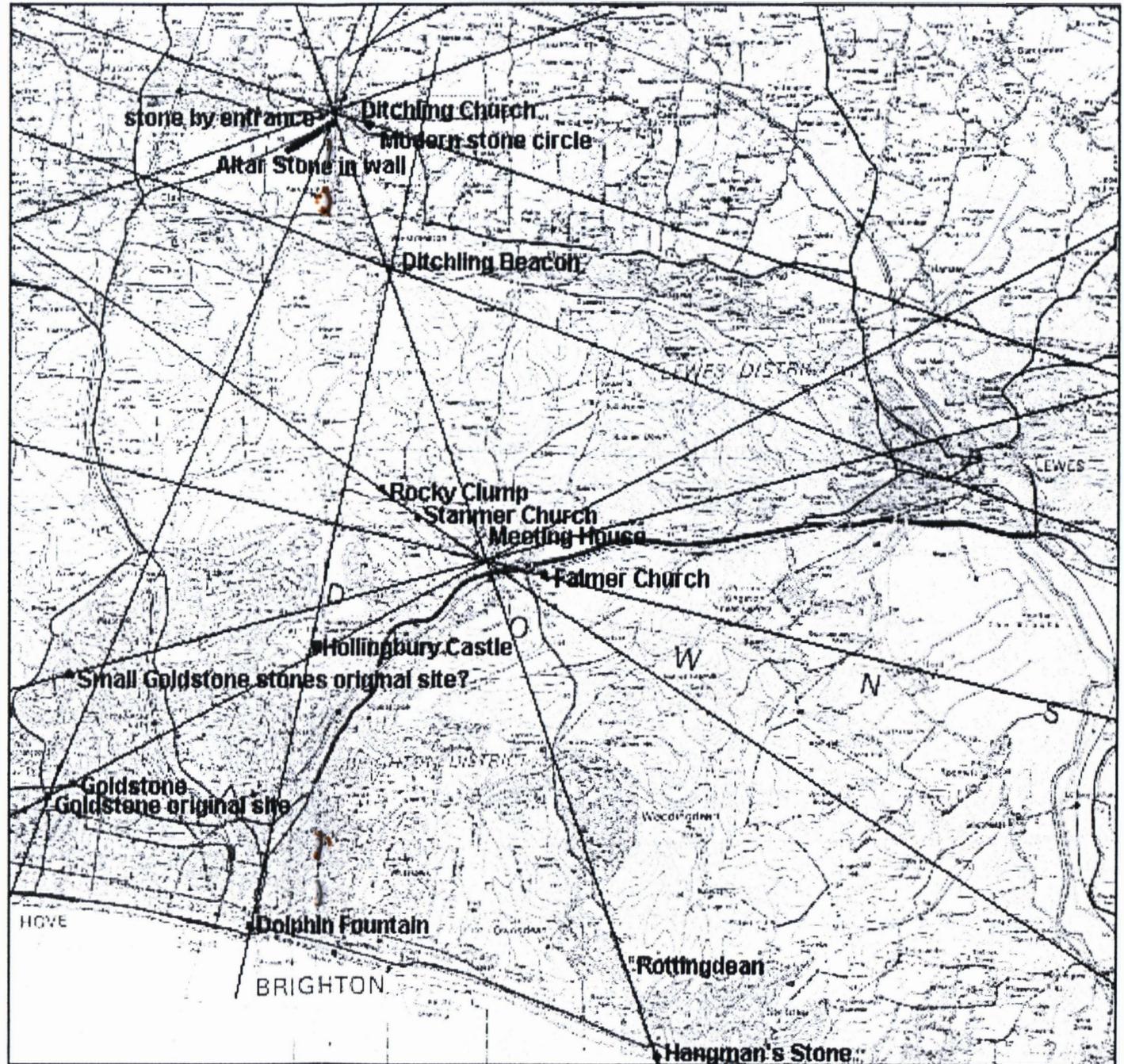
The grid references and some pictures are from "Sussex Archaeology and Folklore" web site at:

<http://www2.prestel.co.uk/aspen/sussex/index.html>

*It's well worth a visit!*



*The Goldstone in 1930, clearly showing the face*



## ***Something Understood - Sacred Stones***

There was a very evocative programme on June 9th in the *Something Understood* series on Radio 4, introduced by Mark Tully, which has thoughts and music related to a particular theme - this one was *Sacred Stones*.

It started by asking why stones should be sacred, and quotes Francis Hitching as saying that standing stones are a universal phenomenon, but we do not have the key. They are the rough remains of man's past, offering clues to the mind of megalithic man (though sometimes leading to false trails) - solid and lasting reminders of man's first efforts to solve the mystery of the universe. It is up to us to find meaning in their Sphinx-like ambiguities.

Natural rocks which have been held sacred of course bring Uluru or Ayres Rock in Australia to mind, and a composition inspired by that massive, sacred outcrop (which seems to be on the E-line) was played.

It was then mentioned that stone circles seem to exhibit anomalous natural energies. In Papua, New Guinea, they represented the ancestors, and have been incorporated into churches to represent the biblical analogy of the church being composed of "living stones". Coming on to Stonehenge, Janet and Colin Bord were quoted as saying that circles represent the Earth Mother, whereas individual stones can have male or female symbolism. Stonehenge has the phallic bluestones and the female trilithons.

Moving on to India, a devotee of Shiva (auspiciousness, creative god) spoke of the Shivlinga, stones representing Shiva in the temples, the uncut stone representing the creative potential of Shiva. In one ritual the stone would be dressed as a bridegroom for "Shiva's Wedding". There is a ritual the sculptor must perform; he worships the rock before it is extracted, asks forgiveness and prays to the earth to guide his hand and emphasises the sacred purpose to which it will be put. Finally, when completed, there is an "Opening of the Eyes" ceremony when the spirit enters it. She also mentioned stones sacred to other religions, such as the sacred stone in Mecca. All the stones of the temple are also sacred.

Archaeologists, anthropologists, sociologists, physicists, geologists, historians and theologians have all studied sacred stones. Scott Peck, author of *In Search of Stones*, describes himself as a "big picture thinker". The physical labour involved in quarrying, transportation and foundation of the stones must have involved thousands of millions of man hours. What caused the passion that made these worthwhile? There are many passions, but the one which springs to mind is religious passion. We heard a musical excerpt from *Petra - a Ritual Dream*.

The name of the apostle Peter means rock, and this probably indicates solidity, but the stone gargoyles and green men depicted on or in our churches seem to exhibit a lightness. One person describing Rouen Cathedral seemed to fear they might fly away, and said they have

a twittering but need no food but our prayers. Ayres Rock, megaliths and churches were then all brought together as places where people pray with those who have prayed before. The programme was rounded off with a piece from Sir Paul McCartney's *Standing Stone*, the Andante *Celebration*.

### **TEMSmeetings**

**Sunday 28th July** TEMS Garden Party, with **The Kingston Zodiac**, by Mary Caine. **Booking Essential**. Venue: Hampton. Ring Lionel: 020-8979-3148

**Sunday 18th August (Wimbledon)** **Strange Kingston**, by Barbara Russell. Venue: Wimbledon. Please ring Ann: 020-8542-3110

**Sunday 29th September** talk by the **Chairman of RILKO**. Venue: Hampton. Ring Lionel: 020-8979-3148

### **London Earth Mysteries Circle meetings**

**7.00 p.m. Tuesdays (2nd and 4th in the month) at the New Diorama Centre, 34, Osnauburgh Street, London, NW1.**

**23rd July - Open Forum and Social Evening**

**10th September - Legends of Stones**, by John Billingsley

**24th September - Folk Magic in Essex**, by Andrew Collins

**8th October - Earth Magic**, by Katrina Lee

**22nd October - Healing from a Pagan Perspective**, by Liz Gale

**12th November - A Walk through Avebury**, by Terry Dobney

**26th November - The Dragon's Place in Earth Mysteries**, by Janet Hoult

**10th December - Open Forum and Social Evening**

## ***THE MAJOR OAK***

**(Nottinghamshire County Council Community Services)**

Of all the ley markers mentioned in The Old Straight Track, trees are perhaps the least documented, but of all the trees in Britain, the Major Oak at the heart of Sherwood Forest is the best known. Away from the stream of tourists, the Forest still retains something of its primeval power, and although the Major Oak is visually incredibly impressive, there are other oaks which have grown into weird and wonderful shapes. Has the forest ever been investigated in depth by ley-hunters?

This little eight page booklet details the history of the tree and the forest, including a mention of the folklore associated with it. It looks at how the oak itself may have developed and details the care and management it has received over the years. For those interested in tree-lore, this is indispensable.

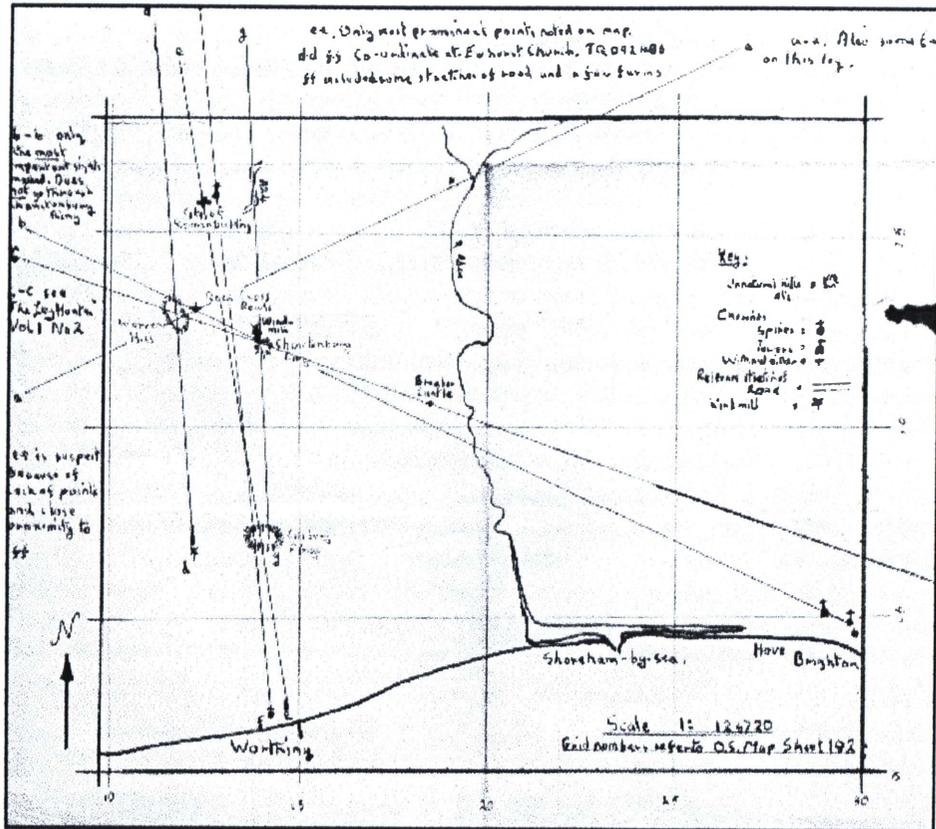
(Available for 50p plus p&p from: Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre, Edwinstowe, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, NG21. 9HN).

*Norman Darwen*

## A Sussex Ley-Hunt in 1965

by Geoffrey Forrester and Nick Odell

Last October we went from our homes respectively in Hertfordshire and Essex, to Ashington, a little village in Sussex. Our object was to pool our knowledge in leys and the surrounding countryside and try to locate, examine and if possible prove the existence of as many leys as possible in the short time available to us. Here follows a day-to-day account of our work.



### .Saturday 31st October

After having done extensive map work the previous evening, we went to the village of Rock. We did not find a rock, but we did find a very old symmetrical arrangement of Scots pines thus: xxx

xxx

These were in direct alignment with one road in the Rock Cross Roads, but since no other alignments were seen, this is most probably just coincidence. A few hundred yards further along the A24, is a piece of National Trust land, known as Warren Hill. Here we had a field day, for we found one long barrow, several groups of small tumuli, not to mention several

clumps of scotch pines in prominent places. The pines are interesting, since there are no others we know of within five miles of there. From many of these points, other aligning points could be seen. These are all shown on the accompanying map.

### Monday 1st November

We went on an exploratory trip in the region of the Cissbury Rings. This camp is one of the highest points in the region, and from here we sighted several leys. We managed to walk along one or two for a distance, and we are quite convinced about the existence of these.

### Tuesday 2nd November

On our return home, with an hour or so to spare, we visited the church of St. Mary the Virgin, Horsham. The road to the church was straight and remained so for nearly a quarter of a mile. It did not however align with the church tower or any external feature of this comparatively modern (C1700) church. It did, however, align with the font, which as well as being much older than the church, and positioned in a place where no font would normally be placed, was carved out of a solid block of sandstone not found in the area.

## MY SIXTEEN WEB SITES

My web sites, including the **Buckingham Palace Ley site**, the **Tony Wedd site** and the **Surrey Earth Mysteries Group site**, were originally hosted on the Netscape Online web server. When this was closed down at the end of June, 2002 I had to transfer them to another site - Freeserve. However, getting the search engines to realise that the original URL no longer exists but the sites still exist on another one has been no easy matter. All submissions seem to have been rejected, possibly by anti-spamming mechanisms, and getting the originals deleted so that new submissions can be made has still not been achieved. Google, for instance, seems to need a file inserted in the dead site so that its robot can classify it dead. This is hardly possible when the server no longer exists!

However, the sites seemed quite popular - particularly the Buckingham Palace Ley Line one, which generated over 8,000 hits in the time it was on Netscape. It still exists, and so do the others! I have created a new page, with links to all sixteen of my sites, and have submitted it to the engines in the hope that they will list this.

Please visit!

<http://www.ahsoc.fsnet.co.uk/jimsites.htm>

## **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. **£2 plus 30p p&p from the Touchstone address. Please make cheques payable to J. Goddard.**

*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. **£2 plus 30p p&p from the Touchstone address. Please make cheques payable to J. Goddard.**

### **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 I had thought it was lost, though it has recently been located. To try to make up for the loss in a much more modest size, this booklet was 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 30p p&p from the Touchstone address. Please make cheques payable to J. Goddard.**

### **THE LEGACY OF TONY WEDD**

This **CD-ROM** is an electronic form of the travelling exhibition Tony planned, using his voice, writing, photographs and drawings to illustrate his research and findings in the fields of flying saucers, landscape energies and lost technology.

**£12 from the Touchstone address. Please make cheques payable to J. Goddard.**

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**TOUCHSTONE** is the newsletter of the Surrey Earth Mysteries Group. **£2** for four quarterly issues from J. Goddard, 25, Albert Road, Addlestone, Weybridge, Surrey, KT15. 2PX. Please make cheques payable to J. Goddard. **IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE AN "X" WILL FOLLOW THIS SENTENCE:**