

Touchstone

Surrey
Earth
Mysteries

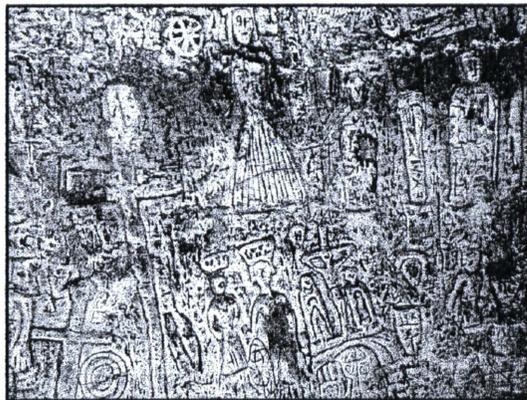


No. 69

April 2005

SPRING CONVENTION AT ROYSTON

The gathering of the Society of Ley Hunters near Royston, Hertfordshire on April 26th was a very enjoyable and thought-provoking weekend. The Roman road Ermine Street crosses the Icknield Way at the main cross-roads in the town, and there is a large stone there called the Roysse Stone as it was the base of a cross erected by Lady Roysia soon after 1066. The town that grew up around the Augustinian Priory became known as Crux Roheyes (Roysia's Cross) and later Roysia's Town and Royston. The stone has, however, been moved from its original position.



St. Catherine and others at Royston Cave

cave at the end, discovered in 1742 covered by a millstone, has many religious carvings round the wall, and has been associated with the Knights Templar. A number of saints have been identified, some bearing the means of their death, such as

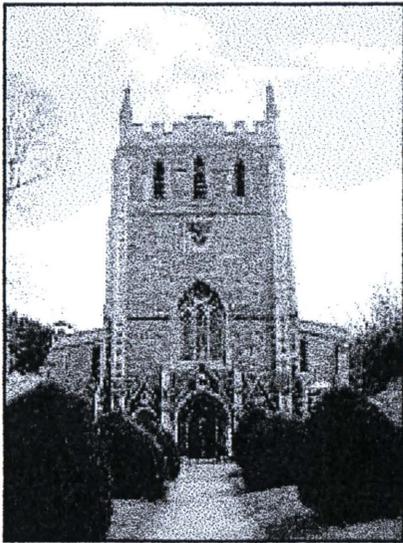
The weekend began with a visit to the enigmatic man-made cave under the main street at Royston, close to the crossing point of Icknield Way and Ermine Street. A door in the wall of a shop led surprisingly to a steep downward passage through the rock. The bottle-shaped



Sheila-na-gig

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE TOUCHSTONE ADDRESS HAS CHANGED:

Fostercourt Lodge, 192, St roud e Road, Egham, Surrey, TW20.9UT.



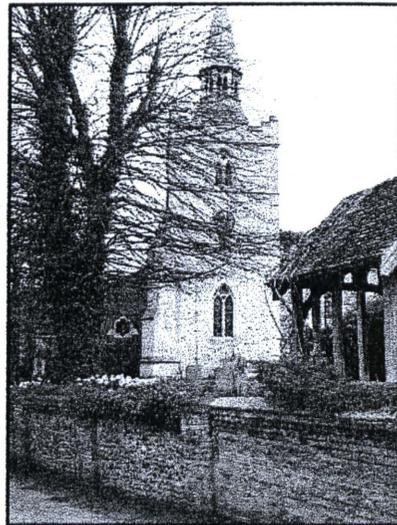
Royston Church

Catherine with her spiked wheel and Lawrence with his grid-iron, and even one which is thought to be the Grand Master of the Templars being burnt at the stake. There are also other figures, such as a Sheila-na-gig. A chimney apparently to take away smoke from a hanging lamp extends far above, and the original entrance, now blocked, can be seen. As well as being on the straight St. Michael ley, the guide told us that the serpentine Michael and Mary lines found by Hamish Miller cross at the cave, the Michael line emerging from the rock in the area of the St. Catherine figure, and the Mary line going up the new entrance built by Thomas Watson in 1790.

After visiting the cave, we went to the twelfth century church, originally the chancel of the Augustinian Priory Church. This part of the church survived the Dissolution of the Monasteries as the townspeople had come to look on it as their parish church, serving the parishes of Reed, Barkway, Therfield, Bassingbourn and Melbourn, and they bought it for £800 (which would be about £80,000 in today's money). In 1540 the new parish of Royston was created. There was a lot of restoration in the nineteenth century, but high on the wall and by the door fragments of the original building could be seen.

Barley Town House, adjacent to the church in the village of Barley, three miles from Royston, was the venue for the main meeting. Once visited by Daniel Defoe, the building is 500 years old and must be one of the oldest village halls in the country. Daniel apparently recommended it for the consummation of marriages!

The name of the village is thought to have come from Beora's Ley, describing a

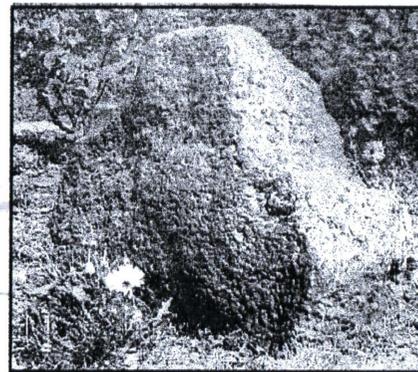


Barley Church

Saxon Lord's clearing in woodland. In the Domesday Book it is recorded as Berlei. Alfred Watkins mentions such clearings as possibly originating the leys system. This church is also twelfth century, but a more substantial building was erected in Norman times; the chancel arch still remains and was incorporated in a significant rebuilding to designs by William Butterfield in 1872.

Bob Brown was the first speaker, giving us details of the amazingly symmetrical pattern around the site of Sele Abbey in Sussex, extending to the coast in the area of Shoreham. Jonathan Harwood then also spoke on the relationship of church sites - this time in Dorset. These included squares and rectangles and showed a relationship with the Golden Section of proportion. After this Gordon Harris spoke on straight tracks and watercourses. He thought the straight tracks came first, and the alignments later. A number of nodal points were shown, where it could be seen that the later Roman roads also often fitted the system.

Paul Dunbavin then showed evidence for a major polar shift in the extent of the ice sheets in the Ice Age, which do not match the present position of the pole. He showed the coastline of Britain as it would have been, joined to Ireland in the north, where the Giant's Causeway exists on both sides of the sea. He gave evidence for the position of Atlantis being in the vicinity of the Isle of Man, as there is a



Puddingstone at Forge Cottage, White Notley

rectangular contour there that matches the descriptions given by Plato. I then spoke on the Negen Stones, whose former existence at Staines was shown by a charter of Chertsey Abbey, the alignments leading into the site and the rich prehistoric landscape of north-west Surrey.

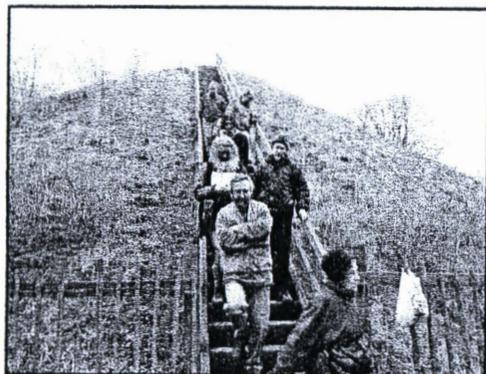
After the break, Adrian Hyde gave an evocative presentation with pictures and music of the landscape of Tibet. Eileen Roche concluded the day's events speaking on the E-line, a seemingly uniquely wide and powerful ley found crossing the Surrey countryside,

extending from the Isle of Sheppey to Cornwall via the Cerne Giant. The Surrey stretch was extensively researched on a series of field trips in 1990 and 1991.

The following morning at the Town House, after the AGM of the Society, Tony

Charlton showed pictures from his extensive cataloguing of the stones in Essex and Hertfordshire, including the "Puddingstone Track" marked by conglomerate stones, and many in the vicinity of churches. Laurence Main then indicated that the essence of the living planet was best perceived through walking, and spoke on his long-distance walk from Callanish to London. This had seemingly become a religious experience due to a number of apparently coincidental happenings, including the presence of the Prince of Wales one one occasion, which fitted

traditional or legendary events on a sacred journey. Adrian Hyde then described, with a diagram, the Golden Section proportion that had been spoken about by Jonathan Harwood. Laurence Main put forward the proposal for a Moot next year at Callanish on the Isle of Lewis, as it is the year of the Major Lunar Standstill.



One of the Bartlow Hills

After this we all made our way to the village of Bartlow, where there is a group of extremely large Romano-British tumuli, which early pictures show as having clumps of trees, although these are no longer there. The mounds are still very impressive, however, and one had a set of wooden steps in its side, so that people could climb it without causing erosion. The church with its round tower was also visited, and we found some early wall paintings had been revealed, one of them being originally of St. George and the dragon, but now only the dragon remains.



Bartlow Church

The places we visited all seem to be part of a ley system in the area. An alignment through Barley and Royston Churches also passes through the Ermine Street/Icknield Way cross-roads at Royston. It comes from a cross-roads/tracks on the A505, through the Royston cross-roads and church, Barley Church and Barley Chapel, a junction with the Hertfordshire-Essex border,



The dragon in Bartlow Church

a track multijunction at Clodmore Hill and a closely parallel road and cross-roads and cross-roads at Arkesden.

There seems to be another ley, which I found when I visited Royston in 1987, going through the crossroads at a very slight angle to this one, and which also seems to go through part of the church. It goes through five points

in about five miles; the cross-roads and stone, the church, a milestone at Barley, Little Chishill church and Duddenhoe Grange (significant name?) It also goes through a mill mound.

There was also another ley through the cross-roads found in 1987: "One of the best alignments through the cross-roads goes through a large clump outside the town, visible from the road, very near a triangulation point half a mile further on, to Goffer's Knoll, a tumulus on a ridge with a very large clump and an old double tree nearby on the alignment. It then goes through another clump, a cross-roads, a stretch of straight track near Duxford marked with a public footpath sign but now cultivated over, an unnamed earthwork near Balsham, Weston Colville church, a moat there and a church by a motte and bailey at Lidgate."

The alignment of the long straight stretch of Ermine Street (with a number of cross-roads) leading to the Royston cross-roads goes through a moat in a wood at Reed when extended. This is not on the Roman road, which veers off on to another straight section before it reaches it, so is another indication of the pre-existence and use of the ley system.

The ley joining Royston and Bartlow churches seems to be an Icknield Way alignment, and also goes through two of the tumuli on Therfield Heath, which I visited in 1987; it is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and one of the most extensive remaining areas of chalk grassland in eastern England; a 169 hectare nature reserve. The barrows are beautifully positioned overlooking the ancient Icknield Way and you can see for miles across the flat Cambridgeshire countryside. There are five Bronze Age barrows in a group right on the 'turn' of the slope, and some

way further back a Neolithic long barrow, which was apparently reused in Anglo-Saxon times. The impressive Grand Avenue of Wimpole Hall aligns on this hill; the house and a folly tower to the north have also been placed on this alignment.

The ley to Bartlow goes through the two tumuli, then Royston Church and mean-follows the Ickniel Way for about four miles (going through two of its cross-roads - this has been noted elsewhere). During its course along the Ickniel Way here it goes through Noon's Folly Farm, which Adrian Hyde informed me was mentioned by Alfred Watkins in his book *Archaic Tracks round Cambridge*. Watkins showed it to be on a north-running ley through another farm of the same name, and wondered if the name "noon" could indicate a cardinal point alignment. The ley from Royston then goes through Bartlow Church, a moat at Cardinals Green, a coincident road and cross-roads at Little Wratting and a triangulation point at Highfield Farm.

There is also a ley from Barley to Bartlow, passing through the mound with the steps. This goes through a moat at Reed End, Barley Church and closely parallel with the village road, a cross-roads at Lodge Farm, the Bartlow tumulus and the moat at Cardinals Green where it crosses the Royston-Bartlow ley.

When in Bartlow Church Eileen Roche dowsed a ley coming in through the north door; this north-south alignment goes through the western Bartlow Hill. It comes southwards through a church and moat at Wicken, a tumulus by the A1303, a cross-tracks north of Balsham, Bartlow Church, the western Bartlow Hill, and a cross-roads and coincident road at Ashdon.

Laurence Main seemed to find a north-easterly ley at the church. There is one which comes in this direction through Littlebury Church and cross-roads, a cross-roads/tracks then a short coincident stretch at Monks Hall, Bartlow Church, Horseheath Church and spotmarked junction 94 at East Green.

There also seems to be a north-westerly ley through the church going through Hempstead Church, a mean-following county boundary for several miles, the main Bartlow Hill, Bartlow Church, Rivey Hill (spotmarked 112), a tumulus by the A11, closely-parallel road (2 miles) and church at Teversham, cross-roads at New Close Farm, and skirts Giants Hill, Rampton. It was a very interesting and fruitful weekend in which the speakers' discoveries of order in the landscape were more than borne out by the findings in the area where we were.

A SPECTRE AT EPPING

I am currently in the process of moving house, and when clearing the loft I found this article I had written sometime in the mid-sixties, though I had completely forgotten it. It refers to Copped Hall in Essex, mentioned in a recent Touchstone in connection with a stone found by Tony Charlton and visited on a TEMS field trip.

Recently I received a very interesting report from Richard Barton, a Contact member in Dagenham who is also the secretary of the Dagenham Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation. It seems to tie together, to a certain extent, UFOs, ghost-hauntings, spirit communications and leys, and also adds weight to the theory that haunted houses often occur on leys.

On the evening of Sunday, July 21, Mr. Barton and some other members of his group went to Copped Hall in Epping, Essex, to hold a seance. The hall, which is now ruined, is famous for the royalty which once stayed there.

There were about fifteen members of the group there, and they went to the deepest cellar they could find and there set up an ouija board. After about a minute they seemed to contact an entity which introduced itself as "Jinni Haschi", which for a while spoke on nothing in particular, then told all the people present to leave, as "spectres" were coming at eleven o'clock. Seeing that the time was four minutes past eleven, they hurriedly made their exit.

When about three of the party were left, one of them suddenly shouted that he could see a spectre coming. At this there was some confusion and some equipment was dropped, but all of them eventually got out, which entailed climbing a six-foot wall and out through a window. As they left they saw several white lights floating across a nearby field towards the ruin.

The "spectre" was described by its witnesses as shaped like a cigarette vending machine with what looked like two magnifying glasses near the top, in the position one would expect eyes. It was about three feet high and two feet wide, and floated about six inches from the floor. The shape was not distinct, but was a misty grey, seeming less dense in the centre than at the outside. It seemed to approach in jerks. The entity seemed to bear some similarity to other strange beings which have been seen - Flatwoods, Winterfold and especially the recent Whitmoor Common sighting, described as being rectangular.

Both the Winterfold and Whitmoor Common encounters were experienced in areas connected with leys, so after receiving the information on the sighting I checked to see if any leys passed through Copped Hall, and found three quite good ones. One runs roughly eastward through Waltham Abbey, Copped Hall, Epping Church, Dodd's Farm near High Ongar (note the significant name "dodd"), and Writtle Church near Chelmsford. Another comes south-east through Stanstead Bury Church, Nazeing Church, Copped Hall, several cross-roads and a stretch of straight track south of Dartford, Kent. The third goes through Copped Hall, Coleman's Farm (note the significant name "cole"), near Theydon Mount, a church near Navestock Hall, two cross-roads, both containing parish boundaries, and a church north of Crays Hill, near Billericay. Mr. Barton has found other leys passing through Copped Hall.

Epping has been at the site of several strange encounters in the past, but this seems the most spectacular to date. The moving white lights seem to show there is a connection with UFOs, though it is the first case to my knowledge where the witnesses were warned of a "monster" in advance by an ouija board message.

LETTERS

from Norman Darwen, Bolton, Lancashire:

I was very interested to read Paul Screeton's article "When Railway Pioneers met Faery Mischief" in Touchstone 68 as it arrived the day before I was due to drive from Manchester to Carlisle, passing Shap. The Shap area seems to be little known to Earth Mysteries researchers, despite having a stone avenue, several stone circles and a corpse road from the now submerged village of Mardale. There is a stone circle right next to the M3 motorway - I seem to recall Aubrey Burl in *The Stone Circles of the British Isles* noting that the best way to view it is from the southbound carriageway, which I always do when possible. I wonder if there were any incidents when the motorway was being built?

from Adrian Hyde, Havering, Essex:

What drew me into the ley scene originally was deciding in August '96 to spend a spare week of holiday taking a walk along one of the alignments told of in Chapter 2 of *The Old Straight Track*; the one from Hundred House, Radnorshire to Sarnesfield, Herefordshire. I took colour photographs of all the sites on this ancient track-way (or "travel route") of the ancestors. Quite often, thinking back to it, I feel rather anxious that none of these sites has been damaged or ploughed, especially "The Camp", a low earthwork like an inverted tea saucer in a pasture in the parish

of Chickward. Something I think we ought to try to put across to people who care about ancient sites, is the virtue of writing to farmers who have vulnerable sites on their land, asking them to preserve the places. Sending them pictures, photocopied extracts of maps, photos of other sites which appear to make a straight line-up; all of these things could help. Farmers who had been shown there is an impressive ley line running right across their land would be almost certain to take notice.

NOTES AND NEWS

Possible Roman settlement at Chertsey

Chertsey is not known as a Roman place, most of its finds being medieval, in connection with its large and powerful Abbey. Yet the branch road off the main Silchester road from Egham (described in previous issues with the coincident leys on its stretches) that seems to lead to Thorpe with its probable Mithraeum, does seem to continue on towards Chertsey; there is a "long, narrow field called The Road" mentioned in Jill Williams' research (Thorpe historian) going in that direction, and "Monks' Walk" preserved as a public footpath over Thorpe Park theme park as a fenced path with bridges. Prior to the recent extension of Chertsey Museum, the land was excavated and this report is in the Museum archive:

"TQ041671 Chertsey Museum, Chertsey. Excavation by G. Hayman of Surrey County Archaeological Unit prior to the construction of an extension. The earliest material found consisted of a few small fragments of Roman brick and pottery. This was thought to be residual in origin, although its presence continues to support the supposition that a site of this date exists somewhere in the town. Late Saxon and early Norman material was also found in a reworked agricultural horizon. No evidence for activity between the 4th and 10th centuries was found, which is consistent with evidence from other sites nearby. An absence of activity relating to the later medieval period was also noted, although material from the 16th century onwards was recovered."

Also from St. Ann's Hill in 1978: "Roman fibula or cloak pin with trumpet head and originally with fantail foot (latter present, much corroded, but broken off and discarded by finder). 2nd century A.D." Mixnams Lane (reported in these pages as site of Gloria Hazell's UFO sighting and also on a ley going to a mound in the south of Richmond Park and skirting the north edge of Caesar's Camp, Wimbledon Common) has also yielded a good deal of Roman material in its gravel diggings, mainly greyware.

Former TLH editor on ley misuse

In the current issue of his magazine *Folklore Frontiers*, Paul Screeton writes: As former editor of *The Ley Hunter* magazine (1969-1976), it struck me that just as lazy journalists target trainspotters for a cheap laugh, ley-lines (an inaccuracy for 'ley' anyway, but now the general term) are now dropped into articles to denote the dippy. Here's a starter and let's see how many more imaginary leys are to be hunted down. "My mum rings with important news: did I see that Alan Titchmarsh geology programme the other week? I confess that I assumed he would not dig that deep. 'Well, he says that the Ice Age stopped precisely at Finchley Road station.' Now that is worth knowing, and confirms a growing hunch that the Finchley Road is not merely the centre of the my universe, but yours too. Perhaps strange ley lines meet under the cacophonous junction at Swiss Cottage, just down the road from Argos." (Kate Muir column, *The Times Magazine*, 6/11/04)

London Earth Mysteries Circle meetings

7.00 p.m. Tuesdays (2nd and 4th in the month) at the Diorama 2, in Triton Square, London, NW1.

May 24 London Alignments, a Secret Tradition, by Steve Ash

June 14 Aleister Crowley's London

June 28 Open Forum and Social

TEMS meetings

(TEMS now has a web site, <http://www.temsgroup.org.uk> Interesting articles from past TEMS News issues and pictorial reports of field trips).

Sunday 22nd May 10 Effra Road, Wimbledon SW19 8PP, Peter and Ann 0208-544-9478 Bob Brown: "Highly Strange - the Story of Chanctonbury Ring"

Sunday 26th June 50 Cranfield Crescent, Cuffley, Herts. Field trip: Hertfordshire Earth Mysteries and Curiosities (Camlet Moat Earthstars site, Hadley Highstone, Barnet Physic Well, Shenley "The Cage", St. Albans Roman Theatre, St. Albans Beech Bottom Dyke). Arrive at 11:00 for coffee. Dinner provided at 17:30. Bring packed lunch. **Please book in advance** - Joy, 01707-873761.

Sunday 31st July 115 Holly Bush Lane, Hampton TW12 . Lionel 0208-979-3148 Summer Garden Party: 12:30 start. Lunch and tea provided. **Must book in advance**. Speaker: Lynn Picknett

Sunday 21st August Weirside, Frimley Rd. Ash Vale, Surrey. Diana & Mike Speaker to be arranged

Sunday 25th September. Field trip on the famous E-Line by Eileen Roche & Jimmy Goddard

Sunday 30th October Wendy Allen, 3 Hocroft Road, London NW2 Jimmy Goddard: Leys - a Multi-faceted phenomenon.

Sunday 27th November Peter and Ann, 10 Effra Road, Wimbledon SW19. Rick Kingsley: Past Life Regression.

Sunday 11th December TBA Xmas meal in pub.

A Somerset Ley Hunt - July 1969

During our stay in Glastonbury in early July, Miss Barbara Crump very kindly took Doris and myself to see some of the interesting ley sites of the area. Proceeding from Glastonbury the Wells road runs straight for a mile; this was later found to align to the south with Dundon Hill (head of the Gemini or Orion figure of the Somerset Zodiac) and to the north with a tumulus near Priddy, a cross-roads in West Harptree and a piece of straight track near Bristol. In Glastonbury the line skirts the base of Chalice Hill.

We then visited Fenny Castle and took alignments on the Tor; there is a ley joining the two. We then found the base of an ancient cross near there. From here we went to St. Leonard's Church, Rodney Stoke, which dates from 1174 and has ancient yew trees near. In the Rodney Chapel here both Doris and I had strong humming in our heads as we do at some ley centres (though by no means all). As I expected, I found this to be a good ley centre. It is aligned slightly north of east, to align with two tumuli north of Wells. Strangely enough, the Rodney Chapel was only added in the 15th century. From here we continued to Nyland Hill, a main ley-orthotenic centre, but found it inaccessible; both Wedmore Church and the Tor were visible from the base though.

<p>MEYN MAMVRO Ancient stones & sacred sites in Cornwall</p>	<p>Sample £2.20 Annual Subscription £6.50 from:- 51 Carn Bosavern, St. Just, Penzance, Cornwall, TR19 7QX. Web site: www.meynmamvro.co.uk ***** Also available: EM Guides to ancient sites in Cornwall, 'Pagan Cornwall: Land of the Goddess' & 'In Search of Cornwall's Holy Wells' 'Megalithic Mysteries of Cornwall' Details from the above address</p>
<p><i>Earth Energies * Ancient Stones * Sacred Sites * Paganism * Leypaths Pre-history and culture * Megalithic Mysteries * Legends & Folklore</i></p>	

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.

TOUCHSTONE is the newsletter of the Surrey Earth Mysteries Group. **£2** for four quarterly issues from J. Goddard, Fostercourt Lodge, 192, Stroude Road, Egham, Surrey, TW20. 9UT. Please make cheques payable to J. Goddard. **IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE AN "X" WILL FOLLOW THIS SENTENCE:**