

# Touchstone

Surrey  
Earth  
Mysteries



No. 71

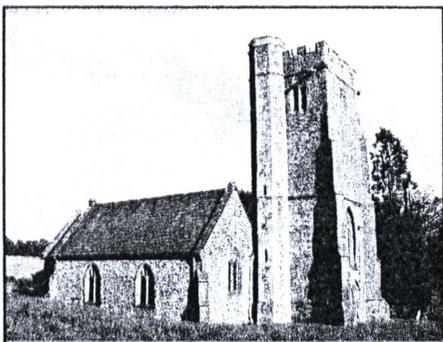
October 2005

## WIDELEY AT CHURCHINFORD

My wife Doris recently became assistant priest in a group of six churches in the Blackdown Hills in Somerset. The Blackdowns straddle the Somerset/Devon border south of Taunton but are not generally well-known - most of the routes bypass them and even in Laurence Main's *Walks in Mysterious Somerset* they are only represented by a void on the map between the better-known areas of the Levels, Athelney and Exmoor.

Churchinford, where we live, is a village on a multijunction of five roads - despite its name, it does not have a church now - although it once had a chapel of ease, this is now a barn, and even the ford is now a concrete bridge over the stream. The nearest church now is Churchstanton, a mile away to the north-east.

Our house is at Fairfield Green, where fairs were held in former times. I noticed some headhum standing by the side wall of the house, usually found at powerful ley points, and found there is a ley running from Otterford Church (one of Doris's churches, and the centre of a number of leys), through the Churchinford multijunction and along the stretch of road at Fairfield Green which now points towards the new doctors' surgery. But the ley on the map seemed to just miss the house, so I dowsed to try to find its position, and found to my surprise that it is particularly wide, 28 paces in its normal state (which takes in part of the house) and 56 at sunset (which takes in all of it). Apart from the E-line, this is the widest ley I have so far found (some, including the Buckingham Palace Ley



*Otterford Church*

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE TOUCHSTONE ADDRESS HAS CHANGED:  
Fostercourt Lodge, 192, Stroude Road, Egham, Surrey, TW20.9UT.**

[see <http://www.ahsoc.fsnet.co.uk/royal-ley>], have been 23 paces).

Otterford is a church in the middle of rolling farmland, with no associated village. The present church is thirteenth century, but there was an earlier church on the site, mentioned as the "chapel of Otriforde", a daughter church of Taunton Priory. It is halfway between Exeter and Glastonbury and was a pilgrim church, run originally by two monks who lived in what is now Holman Clavel, a mile away. It was enlarged by the addition of a north aisle in 1861, so the sculpture of a queen's head there is likely to have been Victoria, but strangely the identity does not seem to be known. It is in an area where there are a lot of barrows, particularly along the nearby ridge called Brown Down, where they are known as Robin Hood's Butts. When one was excavated in the nineteenth century it was found to have a circle of large stones in its base, and the top in layers of brown soil and sand, suggesting the previously surmised hypothesis that some monuments acted as the accumulators built by Wilhelm Reich, and were thus part of an ancient technology associated with ley energy. The church is approached by several converging tracks.

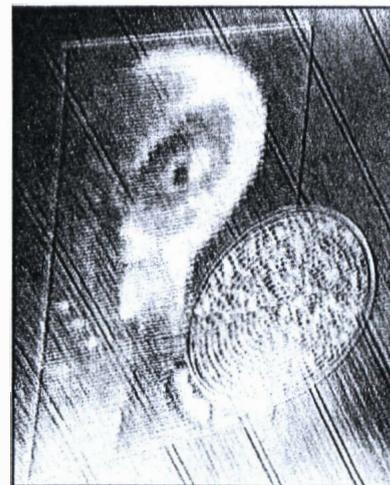
Coming southwards, the ley passes through Stoke St. Mary Church, again built in the thirteenth century, but with more than usual restoration in the nineteenth century, due to a fire. It goes through two mile posts on the B3170 before reaching Otterford Church, then continues through the Churchinford multijunction before crossing into Devon at a point where the border makes a surprising V-shaped incursion into Somerset. There are Scots pines at this point, which is also a junction of tracks. The line then goes through a cross-roads and mean-follows the ridgeway road at Hartridge, then goes through another cross-roads at Hillside and runs along a coincident track at Combe Raleigh. It then goes through a cross-roads on one of the Roman roads leading into Honiton, then close to the church at Gittisham (it may possibly take it in, being very wide), and a cross-roads/tracks at Wiggaton.

#### MOOT AT BUXTON

The Society of Ley Hunters Moot at Buxton was once again a very interesting occasion with a variety of speakers. John Hall spoke first, on folklore sites of the Isle of Man. From ghosts at Peel and the wild hunt at Sulby and Ramsey, we were taken to Neckerson's Pool near Ramsey, the haunt of the shape-shifting kelpie that attracts people with its music. A ghostly procession goes round it on moonlit nights, and there is a legend of a white lady. Strangely, the waterfall came out in the picture in the shape of a white lady.

The saddle stone at Bradda has cup and ring marks and a legend of being turned to stone when ghostly figures were seen saddling a horse, and at Fairy Stone the fairies will push a car uphill till it stops by the stone. Many other strange creatures came to light as we had a tour of the island.

Lucy Pringle has researched over 600 crop circles and their effects on living systems and inanimate objects for 15 years. Although her final conclusion was that it is an ongoing



*"Alien" crop formation shown by Lucy Pringle. The disc contains a message in ASCII code in English: "Beware the bearers of false gifts and broken promises. Much pain but still time. There is good out there. We oppose deception. Conduit closing".*

particularly dolmens - one snow scene with a dolmen has been likened to Turner's work. Born in 1774, the son of a candlemaker, he lost his mother young and a brother lost in ice. Many of his pictures seem to show the immensity and power of nature - a monk by the sea, a soldier in a huge forest, and a shipwreck in ice.

Thornborough Henges in Yorkshire was the subject of George Chaplin's talk - three huge circular earthworks with associated sites around, threatened by quarrying operations. He is chairman of Timewatch, which campaigns against threats to heritage sites. Henges, with other structures such as cursuses, are part of the origins of communal religious awareness - part of the cultural change around 4000 BC when people became farmers. Thornborough is the largest henge site - the second is Avebury - most others are much smaller. North Yorkshire has the largest concentration of large henges - we saw alignments with some and other ancient sites in the area, as well as Roman roads nearby. One henge was originally thought to be a Roman amphitheatre because of the proximity of a road. Thornborough henges have also got the arrangement of the stars in Orion's belt, as the three pyramids in Egypt, but are very much older. The henges have now been given protection, but the surrounding sites have not and there has been an application for further quarrying. People present were invited to add signatures to a petition to stop quarrying within a mile of them.

Gabriel Blamires then spoke about the trade in stone axes and their routes of distribution to their eventual destinations, which seem to be where the henges are. Langdale Pike in the Lake District seems to be a major source and place where they were chipped, but the polishing was probably done elsewhere. He identified key routes, and found many apparent guidestones on them. He found stones on the four main valleys from the "factory" site and showed a large number from a wide area around, as well as rock art which seemed to be associated. He finished with the impressive stone circle at Castlerigg and said it was necessary to check other areas.

The following day we met at Arbor Low stone circle and henge, where John Barnatt, an archaeologist who has written a lot for Northern Earth, showed us round the monument. The stones, now all recumbent, were originally standing, and we were shown stumps of ones that had apparently been broken off. Some of the fallen stones were in pieces that would fit together. There are two entrances, but one is narrower - this also has a later tumulus by it.



*John Barnatt at Arbor Low*

He felt that when the stones were standing there would be no view of the inside sacred area for those outside. A mound and the site of a cist outside the circle seemed to align with the centre.

On the way to nearby Gib Hill tumulus, a round barrow on top of a long barrow, we were shown a bank that was apparently a later boundary. A stone on the top was the capstone of an internal cist which had collapsed after a tunnel had been dug into the side of the mound, and then replaced on the top.

Buxton is an eighteenth century spa town, (though its waters were known to the Romans) with a Crescent terrace that was modelled on the Royal Crescent at Bath. In the curve of the Crescent are St. Anne's Well and the Pump Room. The water is still sought after as there was a queue at the well of people filling water containers when I was there - though whether for its health-giving qualities or its reputation for making the



*St. Anne's Well*

best tea in Britain I can't be certain! The well has a statue of St. Anne (Jesus's grandmother) with the young Mary, and the water issues from a lion's head beneath.

There is a ley running from the well to Gib Hill. It goes through Corbar Hill, then the well, a cross-tracks on a Roman road and Gib Hill. Near Gib Hill there is about half a mile of coincident track, then the line goes through a tumulus on Long Dale and runs along the ridge there. Then there is a cross-roads/tracks at Mouldridge Grange, and "Old Knoll" (seemingly a clump), a milestone and coincident track at Hopton. It then goes through a moat and some nearly coincident road and cross-roads at Shottlegate.

There are some other leys going through the sites, as described in the "Ley Width" chapter of *Beginnings*:

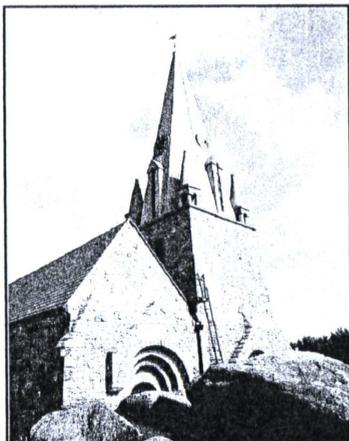
"Arbor Low seems to have two quite wide energy lines running through it. A twenty-pace one seems to pass through the two entrances, aligning on a wood on a hill to the south-east. There is also a twenty-five pace line to a large deciduous clump two fields away from the henge. Strangely, there is no discernable line going from the circle to Gib Hill, although this does seem to have three passing through it in other directions. These are, however, much narrower than the henge lines - it is interesting, however, that each seems to be marked by a stone at the base of the tumulus. One of them also goes to the deciduous clump where it meets the line from the circle.

"Both these lines seem to pass through a stretch of coincident track about a mile long. In the case of the entrances line it is the track from Burbage to Edgemoor at Buxton. From here the line goes through Fox Low at Harpur Hill and a large cross-roads on the A515 before coming to Arbor Low. The ley continues through two tumuli at Kenslow Knoll and one north of Aldwark.

"The coincident track on the other line is about a mile south of Shawfield (south-west of Longnor). The line continues through a tumulus a mile north-west of Sheen, through Carder Low (though seemingly just missing the cairn) and another cairn before arriving at the deciduous clump and Arbor Low. It then goes through a multijunction at Haddon Fields, two churches at Holymoorside and a church near Chesterfield".

#### THE LEYS OF GUERNSEY

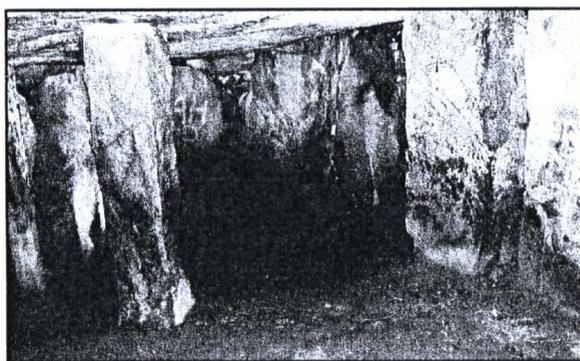
The island of Guernsey in the Channel Islands, where Doris and I went on holiday this year, has a very rich prehistoric landscape and an interesting pattern of leys. Several of its ancient parish churches seem to be ley centres, and Castel and St. Martin's Churches have Neolithic "statue menhirs", the one at the latter being called "La Gran'mere du Chimquiere" (The Grandmother of the Cemetery). There are also a number of cases of subconscious siting, where later churches have been placed on the leys.



*Vale Church*

St. Michel, and is dedicated to St. Michael. There has been a church on the site since at least 1117, and it seemed powerful with head-hum. It is also the centre of at least six leys. It is in a semicircular churchyard. I noticed that the previous entry in the visitor's book was the Bishop of Blackburn, who had visited earlier that day!

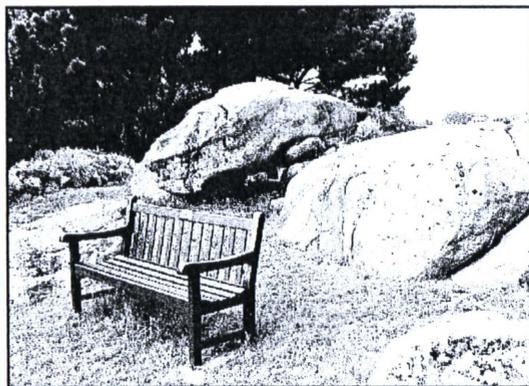
La Varde chambered tomb and the



*The massive stones inside La Varde tomb*

One of these seems to be Vale Church, on a small hill overlooking the Vale Parish. This I found seemed to have a dolmen by the west door, which was not mentioned in the literature I had but I later found it is recognised as such on a Channel Islands archaeological web site. The ley through this and the church runs along the church entrance path through the cross-roads at its end (which has a stone by it), then is coincident with Ville Baudu Road with two more cross-roads, then goes through La Maison Church and Vale Methodist Church before reaching a multijunction at Bordeaux Harbour.

The church was originally owned by the Abbey of Mont

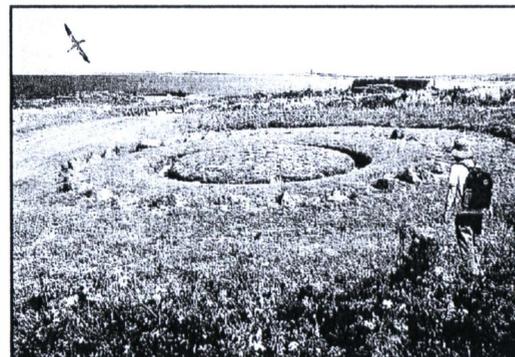


*The Vale Church dolmen*

more recently discovered Les Fouillages align with the church, and the line continues through three coincident road stretches and a crossroads. Another line goes through the church and La Platte Mare cist and continues southwards to go through St. Andrew's parish church and three crossroads. A line through La Varde and La Platte Mare cist goes to the Town Church in St. Peter Port, and the modern menhir the Millennium Stone seems to have

been placed on this line. La Varde seems powerful inside.

Another interesting ley comes from La Table des Pions (Fairy Ring, or Table of Footmen) on the extreme south-west of the island, crosses Portelet Harbour and goes through La Longue Pierre standing stone, then a cross-roads and an unmarked centre, to pass through Castel parish church (which has a Neolithic statue menhir found under the floor in the nineteenth century) and two more cross-roads.



*La Table des Pions*

Yet another links three parish churches; it comes from L'Angle Tower to pass through Torteval parish church, three cross-roads and St. Andrew's Church, and finally the Town Church at St. Peter Port. The road crossing this part of the island, although serpentine, follows this line's direction for most of its way.

## LETTERS

### **From Norman Darwen, Bolton, Lancashire:**

I recently visited North Berwick in East Lothian, Scotland; the town is dominated by the 617 feet of the steep-sided, volcanic North Berwick Law, an even more imposing and striking sight than Glastonbury Tor. It is impossible to miss and many of the local roads seem to be aligned on it - there are prehistoric hut circles on its slopes and a camp on the summit. (The better known Traprain Law is a few miles to the south and easily visible from the summit). Also worth mentioning is the A198 where it leaves the A1; near to the junction is a large standing stone in a field but the road itself, some fifty yards away, runs dead straight for some considerable distance. I hope to investigate the area further in the near future.

Incidentally, even before my visit the name sounded familiar though I was unable to think why. However, the tiny, ancient St. Andrew's Old Kirk next to the sea-shore provided the answer - it was here that the witches were supposed to have danced to raise a storm to drown King James VI of Scotland (later also known as James I of England), and it was this that reputedly inspired him to write 'Malleus Maleficarum' which began the witch persecutions of the seventeenth century.

### **From Rienk Noordhuis, Wageningen, The Netherlands:**

Recently I have been pondering over the question as to how static the ley system is. In 2000 years for instance there has been some movement of the continental shelves of let's say 10

metres relative to each other. Therefore the leys could have moved over several metres or should I say the monuments. This year I was with my father and brother in Scotland and think to have measured a movement of 40 to 30 metres towards roughly the southeast. The monuments (stone circles in the Hebrides and cairns at Kilmartin) we supposed to be 6000 to 5000 years old.

With the acceptance of the ley system and the assumption that the monuments were purposely built on ley centres, this combination could give us an extra relative dating system within an area.

## BOOK REVIEWS

***Our Alien Planet - This Eerie Earth*, by Sean Casteel, with Timothy Green Beckley. Published by Inner Light/Global Communications, Box 753, New Brunswick, NJ 08903, USA.**

This book (and the accompanying CD of interviews with the people involved) is a compendium of the strange from all over the world, with regard to the Earth's more unusual properties. It includes leys, and reproduces my page from the "A Life of Ley Hunting" web site, as well as the late Doug Chaundy's White Horse Triangles, along with the experiences of a number of others of the terrestrial energy network.

As the authors say, "lurking beneath the surface of all that surrounds us are dimensions and realms that historically have been the stuff of fables, fantasy and folklore". It is strange how all these diverse elements of the "patchwork quilt of ideas and possibilities" seem to draw themselves together into the inescapable conclusion of the Earth as a living, conscious being - something seemingly "alien" but in reality an essential part of our existence. An exciting trip through the world of the strange and some thought-provoking conclusions.

***The Stane Street*, by Hilaire Belloc. Published by Constable, 1913  
Probably out of print.**

This is a book about the Roman road from London to Chichester, predating Watkins' work by more than ten years, but strangely putting forward a very similar theory of the production of an aligned track, and which was repeated recently on TV by Adam Hart-Davis in *What the Romans Did for Us*, despite official historical authorities virtual outlawing of the ley system. (This also seems to apply at local level, as the historical society whose journal I edit have banned me from mentioning leys in the magazine!) The only difference seems to be that Belloc is supposing huge wheeled structures for the aligning, as people on their own would not be visible over the necessary distances between sighting mark points.

Despite this, Belloc is (as is Hart-Davis) putting the alignment practice forward as an exclusively Roman thing, and even goes so far as to hold that Stane Street is unique among Roman roads in not using any sections of earlier routes (assuming that no such routes would

be straight - which is the current view too). In actual fact, every stretch of Stane Street that I have looked at, as with those of every other Roman road (previously known, or the ones I have found), has been found to be also a ley.

**Map of the Ancient Landscape around Glastonbury - Energy Centres, Ancient Remains, Ley Alignments, Coasts and Islands, by Palden Jenkins. Published by Gothic Image Publications.**

This is a huge wall map showing the vast number of leys researched and plotted by the author in the Somerset area, as well as the Somerset zodiac figures and even great circle lines, and certainly shows the ley system to be just that - a unified and real system that is and always has been of great significance.

As well as the map itself, there is comprehensive information on the area covered - its history, prehistory and traditions. The Tor itself, the Glastonbury Zodiac, trackways and Lake Villages, the nature of leys, holy hills and neighbouring sacred sites are all covered. The author has lived and worked in Glastonbury since the 1980s and is also the author of *Healing the Hurts of Nations*, *Living in Time*, and *The Only Planet of Choice*.

## NOTES AND NEWS

### 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.**

**25th October** Your Greatest Fear - Being Buried Alive, by "Doctor Death".

**8th November** Children of Aradia - the Witchcraft Revival, by Gareth Medway.

**22nd November** Crowley - the Man behind the Myth, by Geraldine Beskine.

**13th December** 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 27th November** Peter and Ann, 10 Effra Road, Wimbledon SW19. Rick Kingsley: Past Life Regression.

**Sunday 11th December** Hampton - Christmas meal - bring and share. Please contact Lionel, 0208-979-3148.

### Europe's oldest civilisation

The Independent newspaper for Saturday, June 11th reported that a network of dozens of temples about 7,000 years old have been found in Germany, Austria and Slovakia. The temples were made of earth and wood and had ramparts and palisades that stretched for

up to half a mile. They were built by a religious people who lived in communal long houses grouped round substantial villages. But the civilisation seems to have died out after 200 years, and monuments of this scale were not built again for 3,000 years.

One found in Dresden consisted of an internal space surrounded by two palisades, three earthen banks and four ditches. Another near Leipzig covers an area of 25 hectares. Two hundred longhouses were found there.

The temples varied in size, but they made sure that the same amount of earth was removed from each one by reducing the depth of the larger ones. Each complex was only used for a limited time, then ritually decommissioned - the ditches, each dug successively, were filled in. No-one knows why the civilisation died out.

### Cornwall is mystery centre

Two articles in July, one in the *Daily Express* and the other in the *Daily Mail* (the latter entitled "Clotted Scream"!), reveal that Cornwall, particularly the western part, is the paranormal centre of Britain. This was reported by Lionel Fanthorpe, famous for his *Fortean TV* programmes, who had conducted a study, collating all documented sightings of UFOs, ghosts, crop circles and strange creatures. It was commissioned by the Sky Travel TV channel for a *Mysterious World* series. In "the Penzance triangle", an area of 240 square miles, one is twice as likely to see a UFO and three times as likely to see a ghost.

Colin Wilson, who wrote the second article in the *Mail*, thought it was due to radioactivity from the area's granite interacting with energy from leys. He felt that this energy could power the recording of historical events on the scenery, which can later be replayed. He described the work of Tom Lethbridge in seeking a comprehensive theory of the paranormal.

A similar triangular area of Yorkshire, between York, Harrogate and Leeds seems to be the second most haunted area.

### Landscape figures round the Earthstars

Chris Street, whose book *Earthstars - the Visionary Landscape*, describes the complex landscape geometry on which London seems to be based, spoke at the TEMS meeting in September and reported the finding of landscape figures, similar to the zodiacones, around the Earthstars circle which contains London. There is a lion and a unicorn each side of the circle, each facing outwards, and a dove apparently flying into the Barnet Triangle. It was mentioned that dove and triangle are both Holy Spirit symbols.

The Barnet Triangle was the figure from which the London axis ley and from that the Earthstars geometry was found. One of its points is Camlet Moat, visited on a recent TEMS field trip and described in *Touchstone*.

### Was Atlantis where Plato said it was?

The fabled island and city of Atlantis, site of an advanced civilisation in the Atlantic before the Pillars of Hercules according to the Greek philosopher Plato, has long been written off by scientists and many have come up with alternative locations for the origin of the story, from the cataclasmic destruction at Santorini in the Mediterranean that destroyed the Minoan civilisation, to Bimini as predicted by Edgar Cayce. Even a location in Brazil has been put forward as a possibility. But now the science magazine *Focus* reports in its Autumn 2005 issue that the island may really have been where Plato said it was:

"In 2001, Dr. Jacques Collina-Girard of the University of the Mediterranean, France, pointed out a fact apparently overlooked by everyone else: that there had indeed been an island right in front of the Pillars of Hercules around 12,000 years ago.

"Named Spartel, it is now completely submerged, having vanished beneath the rising seas that followed the last Ice Age. Dr. Collina-Girard then pointed out another curiosity: that Spartel lies in an area susceptible to extremely violent earthquakes and tsunamis - just the kind of events said to have destroyed Atlantis. Could it be that Plato's long-derided account may have been right after all? The most recent studies of the area are tantalising. According to Marc Andre-Gutcher seabed deposits suggest a huge earthquake struck the region around 12,000 years ago, and the resulting tsunami could have been up to 20 metres high. On the other hand, early signs are that Spartel may also have been less than 500 metres across. According to geologist Prof. Floyd McCoy of the University of Hawaii, analysis of rocks from the area are needed to resolve such issues. 'Notice I said rocks', jokes Prof. McCoy. 'Dinner is on me if any cultural artefacts are found there'.

"No-one seriously expects Plato's story - with its description of vast harbours, temples and a land ruled by the sons of Poseidon - to be vindicated in every detail. But there is now a real possibility that his tale describes a human catastrophe that took place in prehistoric times".

<p><b>MEYN MAMVRO</b>  <b>Ancient stones &amp; sacred sites</b>  <b>in Cornwall</b></p>	<p>Sample £2.20  Annual Subscription £6.50  from:- 51 Carn Bosavern, St. Just,  Penzance, Cornwall, TR197QX.  Web site: <a href="http://www.meynmamvro.co.uk">www.meynmamvro.co.uk</a>  *****  Also available: EM Guides to  ancient sites in Cornwall, 'Pagan  Cornwall: Land of the Goddess' &amp;  '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 &amp; 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.**

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**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:**