

Touchstone

Surrey
Earth
Mysteries



No. 72

January 2006

THE E-LINE INTO HAMPSHIRE

There are some interesting sites recently found in west Surrey and Hampshire on the E-line, the very wide and powerful ley discovered by Eileen Roche and Gordon Millington in 1990. Eileen recently mentioned to me that there seemed to be something like a henge on the ley near Bordon in Hampshire, and on investigating this stretch of the line we have discovered a number of other points, as well as an interesting "worm" legend commemorated each May Day by the local Morris dancers.



Hambleton Church

Hambleton Church had been visited in 1990, and the E-line dowsed going through it. Eileen had also picked it up, on a different trip, on a minor road near the adjacent hill known as Hydons Ball. The ley does not pass through the summit of this hill, but there was a sunken track skirting the hill where (picked up by dowsing) the line is coincident for some distance (and there was headhum

felt on it), although from the map it appears to be just off it. This has often been noticed with wide leys - points being off the theoretical line but on it in reality because of the width.



Hydons Ball

Hydons Ball has also been called Cup Hill as it originally had a crater in its top, possibly lime digging in ancient times, though it is now flat as there has been a water reservoir capped with concrete built there. There are Scots pines there, and a large stone seat in memory of



The mummers play The Worm of Wormley Hill on Hydons Ball on Mayday. The Queen of the Fairies with (left to right) Wee Jock of Enton Heights, the Worm, the narrator and the Lady of Hambledon.

Olivia Hill, one of the founders of the National Trust. It dowsed as a ley centre although the E-line does not pass through it. The Cuphill Morris gather there every year at sunrise on May 1st and perform the play called "The Worm of Wormley Hill, or the Luck of Hydons Ball". This has a similar theme to St. George and the Dragon. "Wee Jock of Enton Heights" challenges the worm that threatens "The Lady of Hambledon" and is wounded, when the (bearded!) Queen of the Fairies offers him the Cup and recites the poem:

*On Hydon top there is a cup,
And in that cup there is a drop,
Take the cup and drink the drop,
And set the cup on Hydon top.*

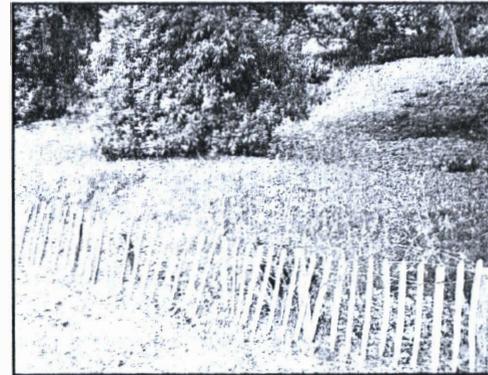
Grail-like, the cup revives him. There are a number of worm legends in different parts of the country, the most famous being the Lambton Worm in Yorkshire. *Mysterious Britain*



The Lambton Worm

The Worm of Wormley Hill website (http://www.mysteriousbritain.co.uk/legends/the_dragon.html) says of it:

"The most common dragon to appear in British folklore, and perhaps the earliest root of the dragon legend is the worm (wurm), which stems from Norse influences and the Anglo Saxon word Wurm or wurm. In appearance the worm is wingless and scaly with no arms or legs, very similar to a gigantic snake but with the added dread of poisonous breath, and the ability to rejoin after being cut into pieces. These great worms were



The earthworks on Wormley Hill
subterranean forces."

Coming westwards from Hambledon Church, the E-line goes through Wormley Hill. This is approached up Wormley Lane, off the A283 near Wormley. The road itself is a distance off the ley, but at its end is the hill, which, although now private and residential, can be seen to have earthwork terraces round it, like the ones the Lambton Worm made in the legend. It extends some way back from the road and the E-line goes through it. The house there is called "Findings", the name fixed to a tree. From the end of the road there is a footpath which curves round and becomes another sunken lane coincident with the ley for a while.

The line then goes through Wormley Church, near St. Edward's School, Witley, founded in 1553 (the church does not seem to be in use as the gate was locked with a padlock and chain which did not look as if it had been opened for some time) and then runs along half a mile of coincident or closely mean-following road at Brook. It then continues to the Devil's Punchbowl at Hindhead, where we picked it up in April 1991, then goes through The Beacon at Hindhead and over Grayshott Hill to go through Walldown Enclosure south of Bordon. This is a quite spectacular earthwork approached from a housing estate, and the E-line was picked up running along a path on one side of it. The information notice there says "These enclosures were used as fieldworks during the English Civil War (1642-1645). They may have been constructed as part of a line of defences south-east from Bentley in 1643, but the site may have earlier origins".



Wormley Church

often the metal to test the courage of aspiring heroes. The Lambton worm was one such creature as was the dragon of Loschy Hill. As well as being the making of young heroes, dragons often have other similarities within folklore. They are often associated with the guarding of treasure (or captive maidens), and with sacred wells, hillocks, springs and deep caves. This may have some relation to ancient religious beliefs and mythic patterns, and esoterically dragons have been linked with the belief in earth energies and chthonic

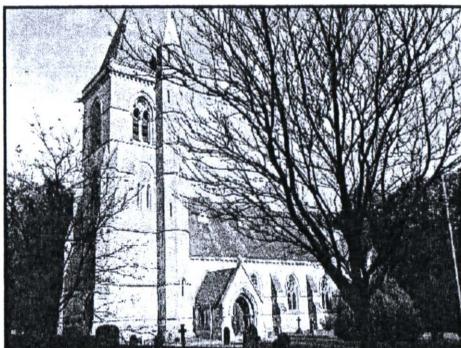


Walldown earthworks

From here the ley continues to Whitehill cross-roads, which has another track leading into it and a modern markstone with an Ordnance Survey mark (not a trig point). From here it goes to nearby Blackmoor Church - another one seemingly just off the theoretical line, but dowsing showed it is in fact on it, and powerful with considerable head-hum. It is nineteenth century; the guide says there was an earlier chapel nearby but does not give the exact whereabouts. There is, however, an impressive cloistered war memorial adjacent, the courtyard of which could be the

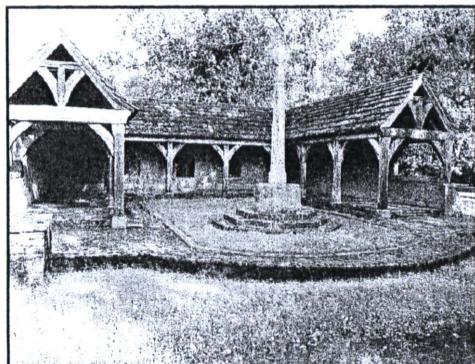
site of the earlier church as it is parallel to the church and so aligned to the east. The memorial is also on the E-line. A little way further down the road the line crosses the course of the Chichester-Silchester Roman road; there are banks on one side. Between Blackmoor and Whitehill there is a pine clump on the line at Birch Grove.

The web site for the area says that the area round Bordon and Whitehill "is historically a magnificent patchwork of rich assets. Ecological and archaeological assets, some of national importance, include sites of special scientific interest (nine in total), tumuli, Bronze and Roman age artefacts together with extensive areas of natural Heathland and a local Nature Reserve (Deadwater Valley). Indeed, during the early Bronze Age, around 2,000 BC the area was one of the most densely popu-



Blackmoor Church

lated in England. The Romans also left their mark on the area. They built a road, which can still be seen on Ordnance survey maps, to link the two important Roman towns of Chichester and Silchester and passing through Blackmoor. There have also been a number of important "finds" of Roman coins. The largest and most important find was recorded in the last century when 29,802 coins were found in the area."



Blackmoor War Memorial

Eileen led a field trip for TEMS on November 6th, in which we were hoping to visit these places, starting at South Holmwood Church near Dorking, one of the first places on the E-line that were visited after it was found. Seven TEMS members met in torrential rain at the church, and Eileen told us how the part crossing Surrey was investigated in depth in the early 1990s, using dowsing to detect its boundaries. It is usually found to be around 100 paces wide, and runs from the Isle of Sheppey to Cornwall.

Despite the weather, we dowsed for the line as it ran through this nineteenth century church (an interesting example of subconscious siting as someone seeing some boys playing cricket on the site suddenly had a strong feeling there should be a church here - and she had the resources to bring it about). We found, as noticed before, that the line seemed to be composed of a number of bands, and Eileen told us how it had been found on Pitch Hill by her and Gordon Millington of SIGAP, when investigating the location of a UFO sighting in 1990.



The "praying hands" Scots pines at South Holmwood Church

South Holmwood was one of the first sites on the ley to have been visited subsequent to that discovery, and it was also the place, some time later, that the ley was found to double in width at sunset (as all leys seem to, but in this case became a massive 200 paces wide). The members present also tried the sandjar ley power detector, a device I made in the 1970s, composed of quartz sand and copper wires, which gives a tingling feeling on the fingertip at powerful places.

From here we went to the Plough Inn near Anstiebury Camp for lunch, and to discuss the recent findings further west on the E-line, which we were hoping to visit on this trip. After this it was still raining hard, but we all walked to Anstiebury Camp and dowsed to pick up the E-line, which skirts its edge. We first picked up the energy that runs round the camp - as is often the case with such earthworks - the so-called "whirl of energy". Then we walked into the E-line, which skirts the camp. There was a surprise in store for Eileen - whereas normally there is a gap between the camp's energy stream and the E-line, now the line had grown to over twice its normal width, even though the time was only about three. But on thinking about it later, this should be expected. All previous testing of the sunset effect had been in summer - but at this time of year not only is the sun's zenith point lower, but its angle of descent is much shallower - so if the effect is due to the sun's nearness to the horizon, this will occur earlier (with relation to sunset) and last longer in winter. At this point we decided to call it a day because of the continuing rain, but planned to return on April 1st to do the other half of the trip, visiting the E-line's course through the Devil's Punchbowl at Hindhead, Wormley Hill, Walldown Enclosure and Blackmoor.

THE EFFRA ROAD LEY

At the November meeting of TEMS at Ann and Peter's house at Effra Road in Wimbledon, I was at Effra Road a bit early so walked around in the park opposite the top of the road, and found the group of trees just opposite seemed to dowse as a ley centre with rod spin, and leys leading out from it - all quite narrow, but one runs up Effra Road.

When looking at this ley on the map I find it goes through no less than 8 churches! Coming eastwards, it goes through two churches in Streatham, a cross-roads on Stane Street Roman road, then coincident with Effra Road and going through the trees which dowsed as a ley centre. Then it goes through a church in Wimbledon (on the junction of Worple Road and Malcolm Road), and another on the junction of Cope Road, Ridgeway, Woodhayes Road and Cottenham Park Road. After this it goes to Norbiton church (on Lionel's Ley Line - which links Littleton and Kingston churches, the chantry chapel there, Norbiton Church and Merton Priory). Then it runs along a coincident road and goes through a roundabout near Hampton Court Palace, and a church in Molesey (Park Road), then a cross-roads/tracks in Shepperton and is closely mean-following to a stretch of Chertsey Road. Finally it goes through the Catholic church in Chertsey, then Lyne Church (where Doris used to be assistant priest), and Staple Hill, Chobham Common, which is a prominent Scots pine clump which was cut down but now seems to be growing again. Queen Victoria reviewed 10,000 of her troops there just before the Crimean War.



The Effra Road dowsed ley centre, along the ley with the road leading off behind

Subsequent to finding these things, Ann told me that there is also a Hindu temple in Effra Road, dedicated to Ganesh, the elephant god. Originally the Churchill Halls, it was converted to a Hindu temple in 1979, and for certain festivals the deities are taken round the adjoining streets to meet their devotees and to spread blessings and boost positive energy to the local community. Another case of subconscious siting!

MORE LEYS TO THE BLACKDOWNS

When travelling between the Blackdown Hills and Wells recently I noticed what seemed to be a classic Watkinsian or Weddian mark point clump of Scots pines on Pedwell Hill, near the road running into Street. On looking at the map I found that it has several interesting leys running to points in the Blackdown Hills.

One of them links the church at Othery (on the Isle of Athelney near Burrow Mump, and

the western corner of Philip Heselton's Great Isosceles Triangle) with Churchstanton church (one of the group which my wife Doris has responsibility for). Another goes through Burrow Mump (the nose of Katherine Maltwood's Great Dog) and Orchard Portman Church. The third comes from St. Cuthbert's Church, Wells (the large parish church, often mistaken for the cathedral) to go through Pedwell Hill and Corfe Church, another in Doris's group.



Churchstanton Church

It also approaches closely to Stoke St. Mary and Thornfalcon churches, which seemed to indicate a wide ley.

These three leys, measured by dowsing in the vicinity of Churchstanton, are all moderately wide. The Othery-Churchstanton one is 20 paces, the Wells-Corfe one is 24 paces and the Burrow Mump-Orchard Portman one is 20 paces.

Churchstanton Church is another church far from any settlement today, but there is legend of one according to the Blackdown Handbook: "Legend

has it that there was a great City on the Blackdowns a thousand years before the time of Arthur Pendragon which survived and prospered for some 500 years. It held a secret as old as Atlantis, where ordinary iron could be made harder than the hardest stone yet would not splinter. Sadly, the secret was given away by a love struck chieftain as part of the dowry

for the hand of a beautiful Gaulish bride. One day her kinsmen attacked with equal steel and the walls were breached and the people of the great Blackdown City were all killed or enslaved. The great city gates were taken to Brussels as a token of victory. Only the great sword Excalibur was saved and several seemingly useless bronze cauldrons were hauled to the Welsh valleys by fanciful Druids. It is said that the Church at Churchstanton was built

on the holy site for the city and that no-one dared build houses here ever again. It is also said that the devil appears as a giant Calf in the fields opposite the church and that to touch any large stone in Churchstanton will bring ill luck".



Pedwell Hill

There was also an ancient trackway running close to the church, from Honiton to Pitminster and Taunton, and there is an earthwork in the form of a ringed mound east of the Old Rectory, as well as others on the hill. These could be on the Pedwell Hill ley.

The Pedwell-Churchstanton line comes through a small church at Haybridge near Wells, then runs along a coincident track skirting Hay Hill. From here it continues to Pedwell Hill and Othery Church, then a crossroads south-east of Stoke St. Mary, and two places marked on the map with the interesting names of Winter Well and Witch Lodge. It then goes through the cross-roads at Holman Clavel near Prior's Park Farm (could this be where the monk lived who was responsible for Otterford pilgrim chapel?) before reaching Churchstanton Church. It goes from here through the small hamlet of Stapley, which is interesting as Staple means a standing stone - Staple Fitzpaine nearby has a number of large stones near the village crossroads and a large recumbent monolith on the road leading to it.

The ley from Pedwell Hill to Corfe goes through St. Cuthbert's Church, Wells, then skirts the other side of Hay Hill and a mean-following track, then goes to the site of Glastonbury Lake Village. It continues from here to Pedwell Hill, then a multijunction at Knapp and goes close to the churches of Stoke St. Mary and Thornfalcon as mentioned. Finally it goes to a trig point at Ridgewood Hill and a cross-roads at Windsor Farm, near Hemyock. The Pedwell to Burrow Mump line runs closely parallel to a stretch of road in Coxley and a coincident stretch at Glastonbury Heath, then Pedwell Hill and Burrow Mump. It then runs along a coincident stretch of the A361 and goes to a cross-roads north of North Curry, Orchard Portman Church and a track/road multijunction at Poundisford Park. The Roman road ley runs south-west through Pawlett and Puriton Churches, then along a stretch of the Roman road which goes eventually to Ilchester. Then it goes through Pedwell Hill and closely parallel to a stretch of road, then through Wickham's Cross near Compton Dundon (the Gemini figure of the Somerset Zodiac).

LETTERS

from Norman Darwen, Bolton, Lancashire:

Here is just a little more information on St. Anne's Well in Buxton mentioned in Touchstone No. 71. I have frequently seen queues of people with containers at the well but I had not heard of its reputation for making the best tea in Britain. However, people I have spoken to have said that there is nothing to match the water, and one person even told me that it helps women to conceive!

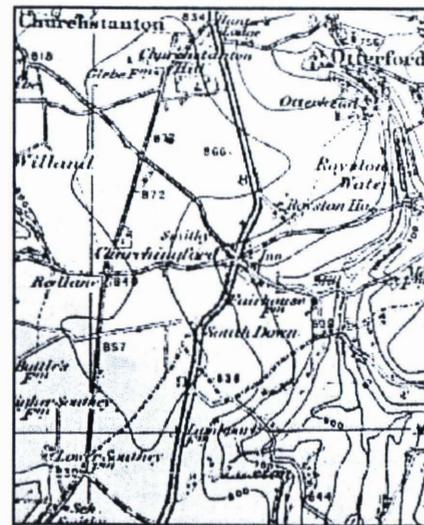
from Gordon Harris, Frodsham, Cheshire:

The piece about the wide ley at Churchinford reminded me of something I wrote for Northern Earth about twelve years ago (NE57, 1994):

"In NE 55 I expressed the unfashionable opinion that leys are the former courses of straight tracks, now typically found radiating from nodal points, many of which survive today as

junctions of roads, tracks and paths. Abroad they are a feature of the *ceques* of Cuzco, the lines of Nasca, the old roads of Chaco Canyon and La Quemada, the Roman roads and forest *laies* of Northern France and "death roads" of Holland. In this country they can be found at Arborfield Cross, Berks, Foxwist Green, Cheshire and Edington Birtle, Somerset to name but a few. I quote from Michell's *The View over Atlantis*, (1969, p.18) in which he describes the work of Major H Tyler, a contemporary of Alfred Watkins:

"As more leys were plotted, it became evident that many of them form a common point of intersection. Eight alignments cross at the old parish church of Woburn in Buckinghamshire; others at St. Michael's Church, Honiton, Brentor to the west of Dartmoor and Churchingford on the border of Devon and Somerset.



"Not insignificantly, I think, Churchingford is situated at the junction of six roads (see illustration, from 1919 map)".

(It is certainly interesting that Churchinford has been known as a ley centre since the early days. Since finding the wide ley through the junction, I have since found another even wider going through it - forty-three paces and eighty-three at sunset! This comes from a cross-roads called

Stones Cross at Midsomer Norton, skirts King's Castle at Wells, goes through Harter's Hill, Coxley and then through the two ancient churches in Glastonbury, St. John's and St. Benedict's. It crosses Wearyall Hill, the spot where Joseph of Arimathea by tradition planted his staff and it grew into the Holy Thorn. Then it goes near the spotmarked crossroads at Henley (probably through it due to its width), then across the Levels to Hatch Beauchamp Church, a coincident road south of Staple Fitzpaine, one of the Robin Hood's Butts tumuli on Brown Down, and the Churchinford cross-roads. It was here that I measured its width.

It was then that I went and looked at the multijunction more specifically, and noted some interesting earthworking lining the first part of Royston Road, one of the roads leading off it. There are many banked roads in this part of Somerset, cutting through hills, but this looked different. There was definite banking on each side; one side the level of the adjoining field was not much different to the road, but there was a substantial bank between. On the other side there is a hillside, but a drop between the bank and the start of the rise. In size and shape it looks very like a Neolithic cursus).

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.

14th February The Symmetry of Order - Further Geometry in London Churches, by Nigel Pennick

28th February Dowsing as a Path to Enlightenment, by Oliver Perceval.

14th March Guardians of the Land: How the Mythology of the Archetypes has Guided us for 1,000s of years, by Sue Sheridan.

28th March Sacred Waters: Their Myths & Legends, by Ian Dawson.

11 April Open Forum & 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). Venue: Peter and Ann, 10 Effra Road, Wimbledon SW19, except for the field trip.

Sunday 26th February "Mysterious Middlesex" by Mike Hall

Sunday 19th March "Hearing Voices: Comparing 'psychic' and 'psychotic' experiences", by Dr Goran Petronic.

Saturday 1st April (this is not a hoax!) Field Trip: "The E-line" Part 2 (widest & most powerful ley found so far). Organisers are Eileen & Jimmy. Meeting point to be advised.

Sunday 23rd April "Ghosts and Earth Bound Spirits", by Linda Williamson.

Time Team special at Durrington Walls

In this programme the large henge site of Durrington Walls, a mile from Stonehenge and adjacent to Woodhenge, was investigated and one of the wood circles reconstructed. A Neolithic road was discovered, leading to the river.

The sandjar lives!

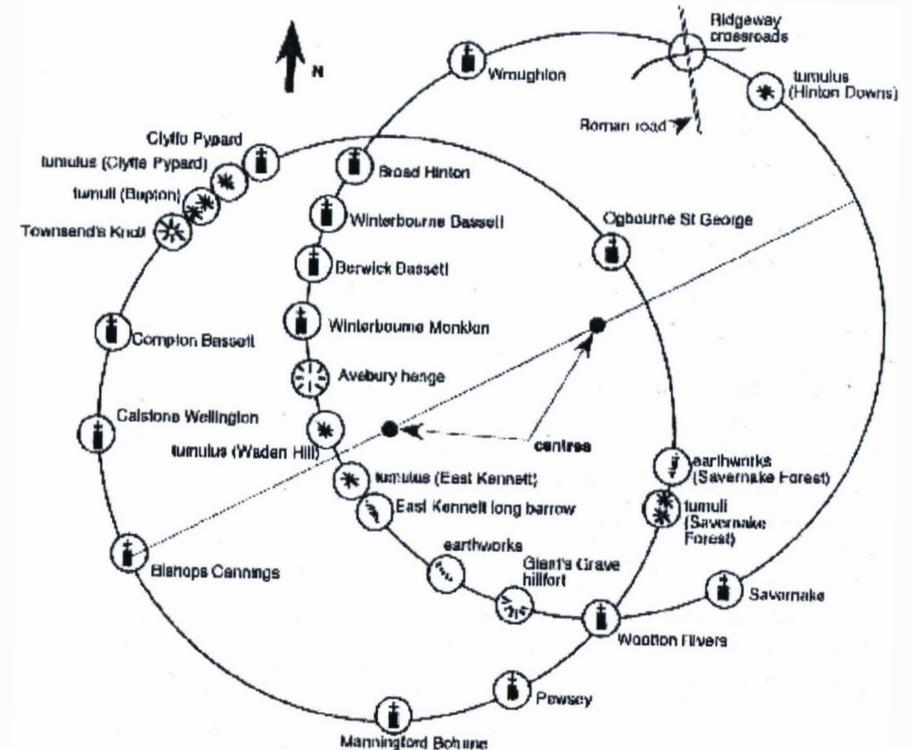
The ley power detector, described in *Beginnings*, which seemed to have stopped working in the 1980s, has been given a new lease of life when, at a TEMS meeting, Joy suggested that the sand be replaced with new sand. It now works again, and was used on the E-line field trip.

Roman road bank has flat top

The bank leading beside the field from Stroude Road, Egham towards Thorpe, which I had postulated was part of a Roman branch road off the main London-Silchester road, was found this winter (when most leaves were absent) to have a definite flat top as wide as the Egham Causeway (probably part of the main road). This seems to support the idea that the bank is part of a road. There is a ley running along this stretch (as there are along most straight Roman road stretches) linking Laleham and Littleton churches, and several others including two adjacent to Stane Street.

Circular leys

These amazing circles in Wiltshire, plotted by Tony Emery, were found on the Bournemouth Radio Society web site. These circles have precisely the same diameter and a line drawn through the centres of them runs slightly to the south of, but exactly parallel to, the St. Michael Line.



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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. **£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 - Tony had given it to Timothy Good. 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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