

# Touchstone

Surrey  
Earth  
Mysteries



No. 76

January 2007

## LEY HUNTING IN GRAIL COUNTRY

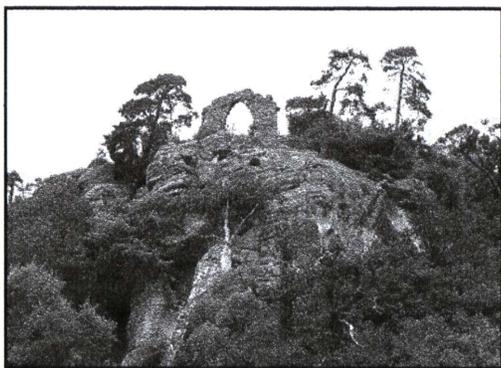
Just before going to stay in the Wem area of Shropshire in August last year, I came across



*The John/Mary window at Hodnet*

the fascinating research of Graham Phillips of ten years ago concerning an object which had been believed by its owners to be the Holy Grail, located in the very same area. Apparently Thomas Wright, a Shropshire historian in the nineteenth century, had claimed to have possessed the Grail, handed down to him from his ancestors the Peverel family, whose original ancestor, possibly a son of William the Conqueror, was given Whittington Castle after the conquest, having fought at the Battle of Hastings. The Peverels, who had a legendary connection with Sir Perceval of the Arthurian romances, became the FitzWarines through a female descent.

Wright said he hid the Grail in the 1850s and left a trail of cryptic clues from the "Shepherd's Songs" (the psalms of David) leading to a stained glass window of the four evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) in Hodnet parish church, which Wright had paid to be installed there. He also had four statues of the gospel writers' symbols - man, lion, bull and eagle - put in a cave in Grotto Hill in nearby Hawkstone Park. The figure of John in the window was the only one carrying a chalice, and was surmounted by an eagle, so Graham Phillips reasoned that this might mean the object was hidden in the eagle statue at Hawkstone.



*Grotto Hill, Hawkstone Park*

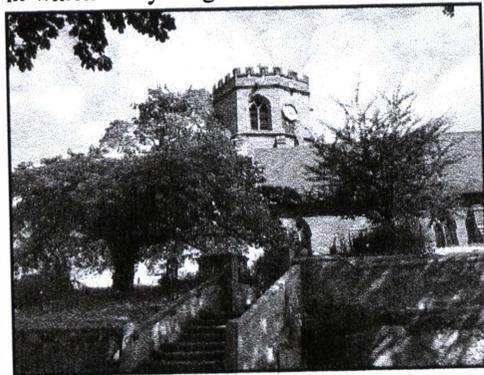
was hidden in the eagle statue at Hawkstone.

Only two of them are there now - the eagle and the lion - and the eagle is damaged from when it was attempted to be removed after local businessman Walter Langham bought it in 1920 for his garden. He found the statues too difficult to move, but apparently found a small green



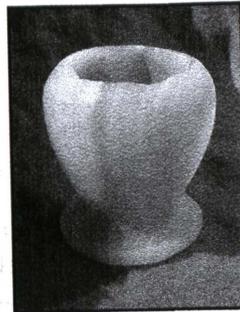
*The eagle statue in the cave*

green alabaster. This suggested the possibility that it was not the cup of the Last Supper, but rather another relic from that time, the ointment jar of Mary Magdalene. The figure supposedly of John in the window also had feminine features and was dressed in the colours in which Mary Magdalene is often depicted - red and green.



*Hodnet Church*

under the figure, and Graham Phillips surmised these could be the two Roman pillars that



*The alabaster jar - Mary Magdalene's ointment jar?*

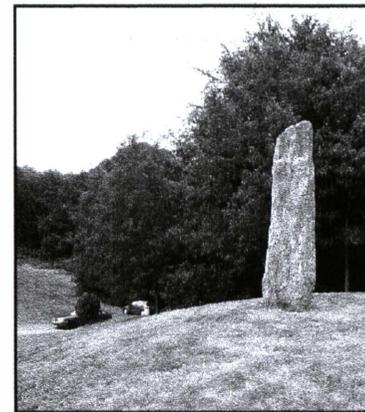
stone cup in the eagle pedestal, which had been kept by his descendants and Graham Phillips located it. The British Museum identified it as a Roman-style ointment or spice jar of the first century AD, made of

A book about the Peverel family by a descendant - Fulk FitzWarine - suggested there may also have been a second object, saying "So telleth us the Grail, the Book of the Holy Vessel". A medieval Grail story also refers to a sacred book which King Arthur came to possess, calling it the Book of the Holy Grail, and saying it was written by Jesus himself. The John figure in the window was holding not only a cup but a cylindrical object that could hold a scroll, pointing downwards. There are two pillars

Thomas Wright caused to be put at the gate of Wroxeter Church, in the site of a Roman town there. However, geophysical surveys found that nothing was hidden in or around them.

I was interested to find that St. Luke's Church, Hodnet, the site of the enigmatic John/Mary window, is the centre of a number of leys radiating out to the other places which figure in this Grail story - Whittington Castle, the home of the Peverel/FitzWarine family who claimed to possess the Holy Grail; Wroxeter, the Roman city site where Thomas Wright erected the Roman pillars as the church gateposts; and Hawkstone Park, where the first century green alabaster cup identified as Mary Magdalene's ointment jar was found.

Alfred Watkins, in *The Old Straight Track*, mentions Hod names as being significant on leys, linked with Dod: "Hod Hill probably recalls that box carried on the shoulder with the aid of



*The Hawkstone Monolith*

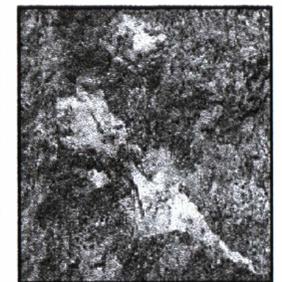
in other pictures, there is another which shows events in Mary's life.

Hawkstone Park, three miles away, was originally owned by the Hawkstones, but from the sixteenth century belonged to the Hill family, starting with Sir Rowland Hill, the first Protestant Lord Mayor of London, and continuing through the eighteenth century when the striking landscape (including the medieval Red Castle high on its crag) was made into an ornamental park, and the nineteenth with General Lord Hill, who was second in command to the Duke of Wellington. Later the estate was split due to bankruptcy, and eventually the park was restored in the 1990s.

When following one of the leys from Hodnet Church through Hawkstone Park, I found that it runs through a tall monolith evidently erected in recent times. I had suspected subconscious

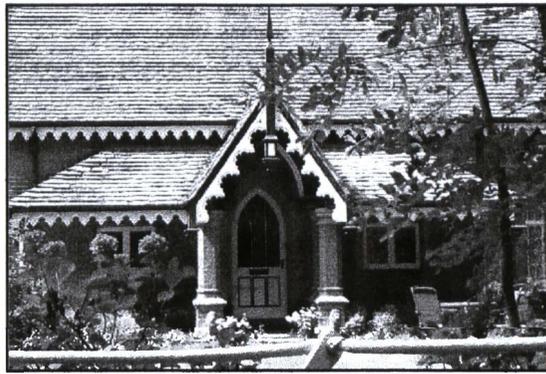
a rod which is still used by bricklayers' hodmen, and its connexion with the skilled mound builder has strange verification in the old word for a snail - hoddy-man dodd or hoddy-doddy...the sight of a snail out for a walk one warm, moist morning solved the problem. He carries on his head the dod-man's implements, the two sighting staves".

Hodnet Church is fourteenth century, but there are records of a church here from 1086. It has a large octagonal tower, unusual for Shropshire, and has an adjacent motte and bailey site. Each of the four Gospel writers in the east window is also standing on an octagonal platform. In addition to this window, where the John figure resembles depictions of Mary Magdalene



*Quartz in the Hawkstone Monolith*

siting, but when I later enquired I was told that it was put there because it was on a ley line to Chester. The map revealed that it is indeed; from the stone it runs northwards through the Red Castle and then on to a mile of Roman-based coincident road at Malpas, culminating in the Kidnal Hill clump. It continues through Hob Hill, a multijunction at Lower Carden, a moat at Lea Hall, a mound at Eccleston and Chester Castle.



*Paradise Lodge*

The ley I was following comes westwards from a cross-roads at Heathcote, through Hodnet Church to the Hawkstone stone. I diverted at this point to follow the cliffside walk round the Park to Grotto Hill, where the lion and eagle statues are still there in the cave - along with an electronic King Arthur who gives visitors a commentary!

Shortly after passing through the stone the line reaches a house called Paradise Lodge which seems, strangely, to have elements of the Shropshire Grail story. A very ornate house, it has intricate eaves and a porch with a church-like pointed front door and two brick-built columns each with the statue of a lion in front of it.

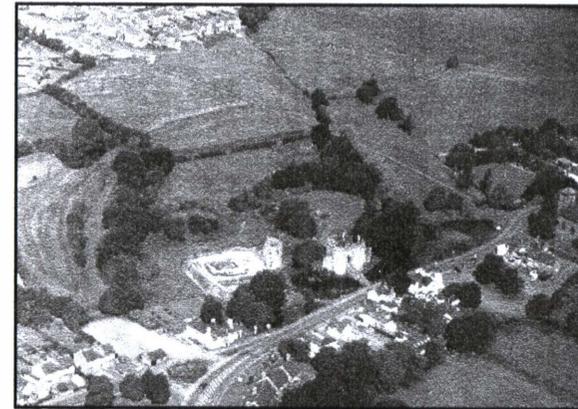
The ley comes from here to a small church which is marked on the one-inch O.S. map but not on the later 1:5000 map. I found just what appeared to be a concrete plinth; this subconsciously sited church was no more. The line continued through the church at Westbury-under-Redcastle, then to Wem Church and Cockshutt Church, a bridge over the River Perry at Rednal Mill, Bryn-y-plentyn clump and a church at Oswestry.



*The Red Castle*

Another ley from Hodnet through Hawkstone Park goes through the Red Castle. After going through the church and the castle, it runs south of Soulton Hall, where we stayed for the week. This is a Tudor house owned by descendants of a branch of the Hill family. It then passes through four moats and Lyneal Wood clump at Colemere (ley name), a stone southwest of Ellesmere, a multijunction at Maes-y-Graeg and a coincident road and multijunction at Weston Rhyn.

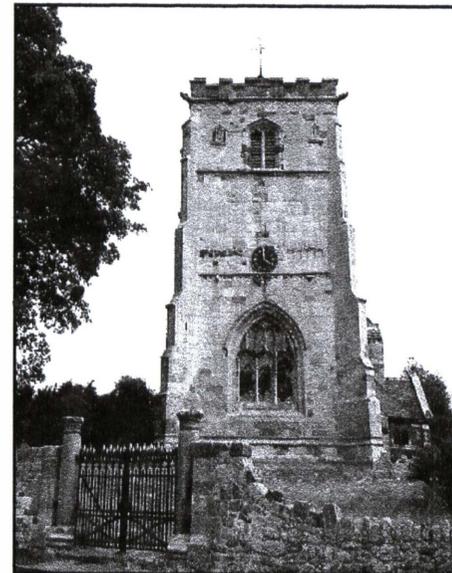
There is a ley from Hodnet to Whittington, whose castle was said to be the model of the



*Whittington Castle, surrounding hillfort and church (extreme right)*

Arthurian Grail Castle, and where the Holy Grail (now thought to be the Magdalene Chalice ointment jar) was claimed to be kept. This ley runs through Hodnet Church and the other hill at Hawkstone - Elysian Hill. Then it passes through "The Mount", a bailey mound at Weston, and then through a small church at Foxley (which could mean "old ley") north of Wem, a staggered cross-roads and bridge over the River Roden (Spenford Bridge - the name suggests it was once a ford),

Hordley Church and Whittington Church, skirting the Iron Age hillfort which surrounds the Castle.



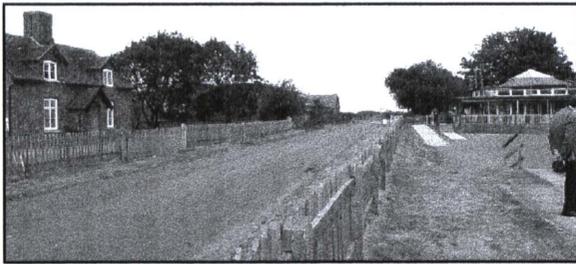
*Wroxeter Church and Roman columns*

particularly of the bathhouse. The line comes southwards through a cross-roads/tracks and then Lostford Coppice, both near Market Drayton. It then passes through Hodnet Church and the motte and bailey at Hodnet (Castle Hill) to a cross-roads/tracks at Green Lane (significant name), a cross-tracks and short coincident stretch at Muckleton, Hoo Coppice (a large clump) the coincident stretch of road at Wroxeter beside the baths ruins (Roman originally) and Wroxeter Church, now redundant. There is a stone like a small markstone



*Stone at east end of Wroxeter Church*

Finally, there is a ley from Hodnet to Wroxeter, the important Roman city site of Viroconium where Thomas Wright had the Roman columns set up as the church gateposts. The site is somewhat like Silchester, except that there are more Roman remains to be seen,



at the east end of it. Then it goes through a Roman fort to the south, and Wormwood Coppice. *The Roman road past Wroxeter bath house area - the Hodnet ley runs along it*  
**Graham Phillips site:**  
<http://www.grahamphillips.net>

## THE GEOLOGY OF THE E-LINE IN SURREY (2)

by Bob Shave

In *Touchstone* no. 75<sup>1</sup> I outlined some thoughts on how the E-line, the powerful ley running across Surrey and beyond, may be related to local geology. In particular I commented on how the ley seems to skirt sandstone ridges in various places and may be aligned on spring lines where there is a sandstone/clay boundary on the hillside.

Since *Touchstone* 75 I have done further research which confirms this and has revealed more detail on the geology and spring lines. Furthermore, a locality which I had overlooked in the first article, namely the Wormley area, has also emerged to be significant. But more of this later.

### Holmbury Hill

*Touchstone* 75 showed a sketch map in which the E-line is passing very close to the 200-metre contour on Pitch Hill and Holmbury Hill. Some more detailed research has confirmed that there is indeed a spring line along this hillside and that its location is very close to the 200-metre contour on Holmbury Hill. The British Regional Geology guide, *The Wealden District*, describes the hillside as follows.

*The profile of the scarp-slope consists of two parts, the upper very steep, and the lower more gently inclined, the change in slope taking place at the junction of sandy beds with clay. A line of springs runs round the hills at this junction, and forms a very striking marshy belt, a few yards wide, traceable for a number of miles along the face of the escarpment. After a wet season this belt is impassable except at a few spots. The spring line is formed by water which percolates through the sand, but is thrown out on reaching the impervious clay.<sup>2</sup>*

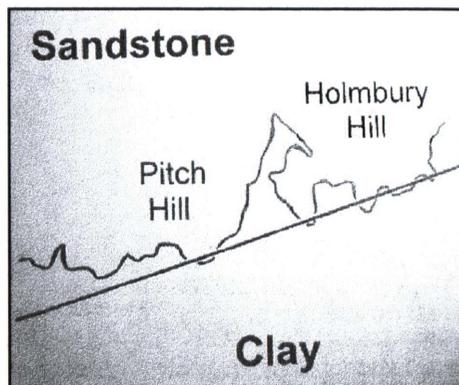


Figure 1

Figure 1 shows the E-line in relation to the sandstone/clay boundary on Pitch Hill and

Holmbury Hill. The boundary can be seen as the sinuous line snaking around the E-line which is straight.

### Wormley area

In the earlier *Touchstone* article I had omitted to mention this area, even though it is on the Greensand Way footpath which had originally got me interested in this research.

The sketch map in Figure 2 shows the E-line in the stretch between the Devil's Punchbowl and Hascombe. The ley is the straight line running WSW - ENE; the sinuous line is the sandstone/clay boundary. Along the bottom of the map are names of places on or near the ley. It can be seen that the ley runs close to the geological boundary for several miles, in fact in the Sandhills area between Brook and Wormley it is

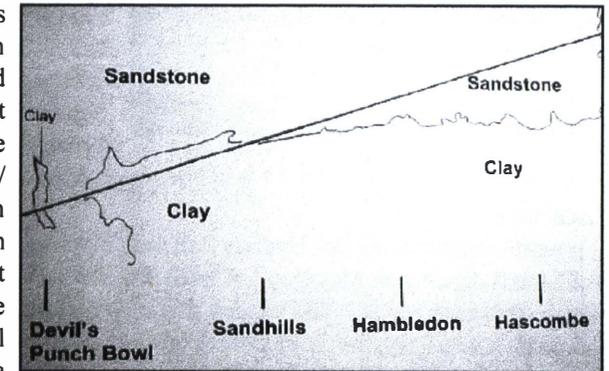


Figure 2

no more than 400 metres from the boundary. Also, just south-east of Hydon's Ball, the ley runs directly along a geological fault in the sandstone for about a mile (not marked on the sketch map).

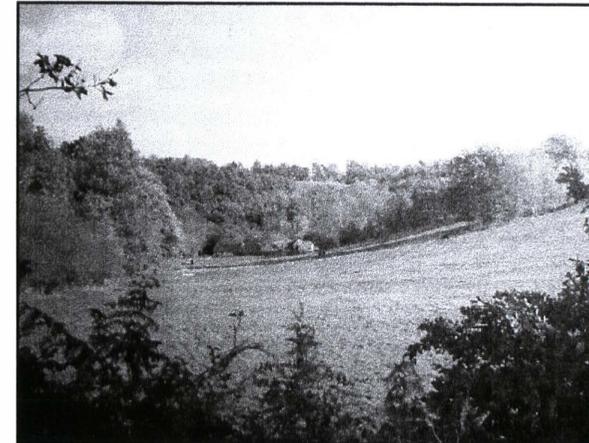


Figure 3

Figure 3 shows a photograph taken south-east of Hydon's Ball where the E-line runs along the fault which has formed the valley that we are standing in. By my reckoning the ley runs down the valley away from us and through Marepond Farm which is nestling in the valley bottom in the distance.

### Coldharbour

At Coldharbour the ley follows a sandstone/clay contact for 100-200 metres just to the north-west side of Coldharbour Lane near the Plough pub. Just east of here, near Anstiebury hillfort, the line plunges down the escarpment of the Greensand to cross the flat Surrey landscape south of Dorking and Reigate, to rejoin the sandstone ridge again at Coldharbour Farm near Tilburstow Hill.

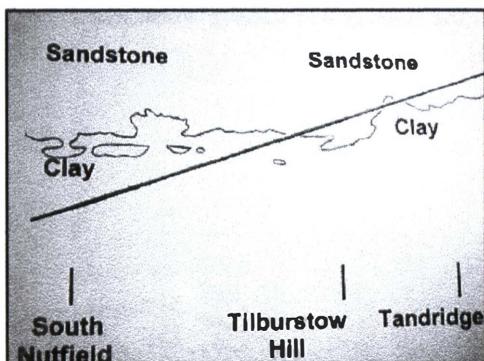


Figure 4

Figure 4 shows the sandstone/clay boundary and the E-line near Tilburstow Hill and Tandridge in East Surrey.

#### Conclusion

The E-line in Surrey is closely associated with a known and documented spring line in three distinct areas, namely Wormley, Holmbury Hill and Tilburstow Hill.

#### A question

When dowsing the E-line, are dowzers picking up the energy from the spring line?

#### Local lore

It is worth remembering that Hydon's Ball near Wormley is noteworthy for its worm legend and Morris dancing on May Day<sup>3</sup>. Also St. Peter's church, Hambledon, which is on the E-line nearby, has a stained glass window featuring St. Michael spearing a serpent, a common theme on another ley, the St. Michael Line<sup>4</sup>.

#### References

- [1] Bob Shave, "The E-Line: its Geography and Geology", *Touchstone* 75 (October 2006), pp. 3 - 5.
- [2] R. W. Gallois, British Regional Geology no.14, *The Wealden District*, 4th ed. (1965), pp. 69 - 70.
- [3] Jimmy Goddard, "The E-Line into Hampshire", *Touchstone* 72 (January 2006), pp. 1 - 2.
- [4] Paul Broadhurst and Hamish Miller, *The Sun and the Serpent* (1989). 1:50,000 geological maps - Sheet 285 (Guildford), Sheet 286 (Reigate), Sheet 301 (Haslemere), British Geological Survey.

### NOTES AND NEWS

#### TEMS meetings

2.30 p.m. at 10, Effra Road, Wimbledon. 0208-544-9478

Sunday 25th February The Apollo Moon Landings - Fact or Fiction, by Marcus Allen

Sunday 25th March Bring your Dreams, by Valerie Dunmore

Sunday 29th April "Healing with Sound" workshop, with Jas Dawson

Sunday 20th May To be advised

#### London Earth Mysteries Circle meetings

7.00pm Tuesdays (2nd & 4th in month) at the Diorama Centre, Triton Square, NW1 3JG

Feb 13 13 Moons - Conversations with the Goddess, by Peter Knight

Feb 27 The Buckingham Palace and Other Leys, by Jimmy Goddard

Mar 13 Austin Osman Spare: The Man behind the Magic, by Geraldine Beskine

Mar 27 Edric Rides - Folktales, Earth Mysteries and the Traditional Craft - A Shropshire Case Study, by Ken Rees

Apr 10 Open Forum and Social

#### E-line giant eats garlic

In a recent television programme a number of nutrition experiments were done, including one which posed the question of whether we would be healthier if we ate like an ape. Another tested whether eating garlic had a beneficial effect on male erections, and the interviews were done with a backdrop of the Cerne Giant, the well-endowed chalk figure in Dorset that is on the E-line. The results found it was true, that garlic caused an increase in blood flow, and the item was concluded with an animation done of the Giant showing him with lesser equipment, eating garlic and returning to his actual virile state as portrayed on the hill!

#### Iminster ley, Corfe and the St. Michael Line

When visiting Iminster recently, near where we live at weekends in Somerset, I was interested to see that the Minster parish church there and the two other churches in the town, along with a mile of coincident road, align with the church at Corfe below the Blackdown Hills, one of the churches where Doris is assistant priest. This makes five leys so far found going through Corfe, suggesting it is one of the most important centres in the area. It is relatively recent, though in Norman style, but on the site of an earlier genuinely Norman church. Because of this I was interested to realise that the church is on the serpentine St. Michael Line, dowsed by Hamish Miller and described in *The Sun and the Serpent*. It is in fact one of the furthest departures from the straight St. Michael Line, which runs through the south of Taunton through Creech St. Michael church to Burrow Mump. The meandering one crosses the straight one at Creech St. Michael Church, then goes north of the line until it meets it again at Burrow Mump. In the book it is described thus:

"The serpent hugged the northern slopes of the Black Down Hills as we tracked it down lanes resplendent in the deep golden colours of autumn. Sunlight struck glittering pools of metallic leaves hidden in the woodland twilight as we found ourselves sweeping round the southern flank of Blagdon Hill. This was a considerable departure from the rather gentle meanderings of late, and the curving route through Priors Park Farm and Wood seemed to indicate its connection with the existence of an influential Priory in Medieval times. At the tiny village of Corfe, the exquisite Neo-Norman church marks the flow. Inside a powerful, almost electrically charged atmosphere envelops the visitor. The nearby church of St. Michael at Orchard Portman is also situated on the current, which leads through Stoke St. Mary and Henlade to the ancient site of Creech St. Michael church.



"Here we found it running through the tower and porch, the most ancient parts of the building. The vicar was a bit vague about what precisely the St. Michael Line was. We had the impression that he may have thought it was something to do with the Great Western Railway. However, it was very interesting to hear that he often walked into the old part of the church to catch the distinctive smell of burning incense. Curious, he commented, as he never used it."

The Ilminster ley approaches the town from the south-east, first running along a stretch of coincident road at Allowenshay, then running closely parallel with the main street, and coincident with a mile of road running out of the town. On this road are two other churches. It then goes through a cross-roads/tracks north of Broadway, and Barrington Hill before reaching Corfe Church and running along the coincident road opposite. It then passes through a cross-roads on the A38 north-east of Wellington, and Spring Grove House (seemingly significant name) near Milverton.

#### Tracks above Long Man

Watkins is mentioned (though the name spelt wrongly!) in *Sussex Long Ago*, by Peggy Bunt, who mentions various tracks above the Long Man:

"Arthur Watkin, who wrote *The Old Straight Track*, has his own theory of the Long Man. That is, that the figure represents the lay-man, or surveyor, who plotted the first highway, and who would indeed have been an important and even mysterious figure to his contemporaries. His two staffs would then have been sighting-staves. Whoever he is, all the tracks meet above his head - the neolithic one, a later Bronze Age one from the south, and the Roman terraced way which curves round the south side of the barrow, while the others pass it on the north. From the summit of the barrow, we look across to the great whale-back of the Firlle ridge, with its own long barrows clearly visible. All the way along this ancient road, the barrows are mark-points from one height to the next.

"When the Bronze Age farmers succeeded the earlier inhabitants, coming westwards up the old highway which was already a thousand years old, the crests of these downs become quite populous. These amazingly civilised people, with their highly developed skills and culture, preferred to build their settlements on the gentle southern slopes, facing the sun. One of these was on Lullington Heath, near Devington, and another was at Steyning Park, Sussex. They had remarkably good taste in sites, for these upland pastures can be heavenly when the sun shines. They are sheltered from the north winds by being sited just below the crest, and they were watered by springs which have long since disappeared.

"As well as being marked all along their length by the barrows, another recurring feature on these hills is the number of Beacons. Most people have heard of the famous ones - Firlle and Ditchling. But the name is much more common - almost every downland village in this area has its own Beacon. We know that these highest points were used to warn the people

of invasion. We hear of them at the time of the Armada, and the beacons were built again in the war against Hitler. But the Beacons are part of our most ancient heritage. They were probably always used as warning signals. They may also have played a part in the old religious ceremonies, for fire was always of magical significance, and the midsummer solstice and the winter one were fire festivals.

"There must also have been times when these beacon points were used for more mundane signalling purposes. Most of them correspond to our modern triangulation points, and they are linked too with the place-name "black". The names Blackcap, Blackdown, Blackpatch, Blackstone recur constantly, and are all hill-top points, and all are on track routes. "Blac" is from a root-word meaning "light", which is an obvious link with beacons.

"Sussex is still a great county for "Bonfires", and every village has its Bonfire Committee. Lewes, of course, has long appropriated November 5th as its great night of the year - though its nearness to the old Beltane may have been as good a reason for burning the Pope. Throughout the county other towns and villages take it in turn, on Saturdays throughout late summer and early Autumn, to stage a carnival and light an enormous bonfire, in order to raise funds for charity."

#### WEB SITES

- Surrey Earth Mysteries Group - <http://www.goddardmultimedia.fsnet.co.uk/semg>
- The Old Stones of Staines - Rich prehistoric landscape and ley pattern around site of a stone circle near the present Staines Bridge. <http://www.ahsoc.fsnet.co.uk/staines>
- Flying Saucers, Leys and Lost Technology - the Tony Wedd site: <http://www.goddardmultimedia.fsnet.co.uk/tonywedd>
- The Great Isosceles Triangle of England - leys and orthoteny (UFO sighting lines): <http://www.egyouth.fsnet.co.uk/triangle>
- The Real Stonehenge and Avebury - Mollie Carey's photos of carvings at ancient sites. <http://www.egyouth.fsnet.co.uk>
- The Buckingham Palace Ley Line - alignment of the Mall connects three palaces and other royal places. <http://www.ahsoc.fsnet.co.uk/royal-ley>

<p><b>MEYN MAMVRO</b> Ancient stones &amp; 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: <a href="http://www.meynmamvro.co.uk">www.meynmamvro.co.uk</a> *****</p> <p>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 - 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.**

---

**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:**