

Touchstone

Surrey
Earth
Mysteries



No. 81

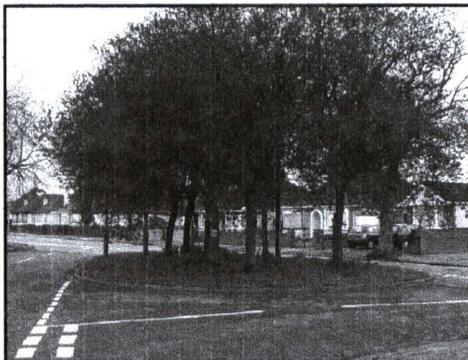
April 2008

SOME LOCAL CLUMPS

Clump on Stanwell Cursus Ley

I happened to notice recently, on the street map covering the area of Staines and Ashford, a farm called Hengrove Farm adjacent to the Roman stretch of the A30 between the two towns. There is also an estate road nearby called Hengrove. Hen is the Celtic word for old, and visiting the area I found that there is a clump of cherry trees almost adjacent to the entrance to the cul-de-sac. A number of the trees had spiral trunks, something noticed before at powerful ley places.

Looking at the map, it was found that this clump was on a ley previously found when investigating the prehistoric landscape round Staines - it runs along the northern stretch of the Stanwell Cursus to St. George's Hill, Weybridge - an Iron Age hillfort which now has an estate on it well known as the home of some of the rich and famous.



Hengrove clump, Ashford

The cursus was originally thought to be a Roman road, but was found to be much older - one of the enigmatic linear structures built in Neolithic times of which the most famous is the one near Stonehenge. In fact, this one could have a similar relationship to the Negen Stones site near Staines Bridge (described in earlier issues) as the Stonehenge one has to that circle. It has two straight stretches, at a slight angle to each other, and crosses the area now occupied by Terminal 5 at Heathrow Airport - it was excavated during the extensive archaeological dig there prior to the building of the terminal. The ley to the Hengrove clump runs along the northern stretch.

Coming in an approximately northerly direction from St. George's Hill, the ley goes through the Hengrove clump, then the cemetery chapel at Stanwell which seems to be subconsciously sited on it, before reaching the cursus stretch. It then goes through a cross-roads north of Uxbridge and Mopes Farm moat near Chalfont St. Peter and a mile of mean-following



The Stanwell Cursus, during the excavation of the Terminal 5 area

road south of Little Chalfont.

There is a Neolithic/Bronze Age/Iron Age/Roman site nearby, mentioned in the Surrey Historic Environment Record: "Neolithic features and Neolithic pit containing an Ebbsfleet bowl. Hengrove Farm, Staines. Watching brief followed by excavation by SCAU in advance of mineral extraction. An isolated Neolithic feature was revealed, together with a variety of waterholes, pits and postholes of the middle Bronze Age, and evidence for a field system of Roman or earlier date." This is not on the line,

but seems to be at the centre of an equilateral triangle formed by it and two other leys - one of which links Thorpe Church with the henge where Heathrow's north runway now is, and the other the one mentioned in a previous issue, which links the churches in Ashford and a pond which seems to have features which may indicate a previous prehistoric site.

The Thorpe Lea Clump

This is a clump of pines that I have passed innumerable times cycling to work at Thorpe Lea Primary School, but have only just noticed as a mark point. It is on a small hill adjacent to the road entering Thorpe Lea from Egham; the hill stretches back from the road and a ley runs along the length of it to St. Anne's Hill hillfort in Chertsey. Coming northwards from the hillfort the line grazes the east end of Thorpe Church, where the crypt which could have been a Mithraeum was found, then goes through an unmarked centre at Thorpe Trading Estate (which nevertheless seemed to dowse strongly), and through the end of an estate road called The Lea where there is a very large Scots pine. It then goes through the Thorpe Lea clump and on to a small church and short coincident track at Wraysbury, an unmarked centre near Sunnymeads, and Hedgerley Church.



The Thorpe Lea Clump

THE E-LINE NEAR REDHILL

by Bob Shave

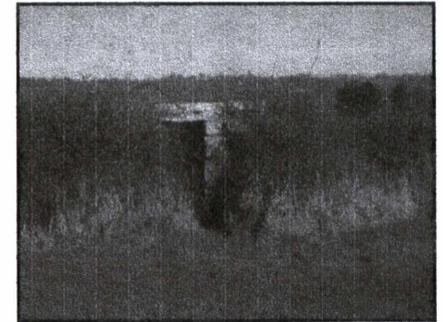
The ley known as the E-line ("energy line"), so called because of its powerful dowsing signature, was dowsed at South Nutfield near Redhill by Eileen Roche and Jimmy Goddard in 1991¹. Recently I took a walk in the area and looked at the landscape around the ley just west of South Nutfield. I found the course of the ley from the map rather than dowsing.



Looking along the ley near South Nutfield

The first photo was taken at grid reference TQ 296 486, looking along the ley, and shows South Nutfield church spire gleaming in the sunshine with Tilburstow Hill in the distance beyond. The white dot on the hillside in the distance is a house about 150 metres north of the ley. Also the tall

On the west side of Kings Mill Lane the ley enters a large grassy field on high ground. Along the northern edge of the field, where the Greensand Way footpath runs parallel with the ley, there is boggy ground along the bottom of the slope, which I found still wet after a couple of weeks of dry weather. This is almost certainly a spring line, consistent with previous observations of the ley^{2,3}.



One of the World War II pillboxes

poplar tree just to the right of the church seems to be on the ley. Barely visible in the foreground is a World War II pillbox - curiously there are two of these in line with the ley in this field.

The second picture shows a close-up of the pillbox, so overgrown that it has almost been reclaimed by nature, like a kind of cave. From a



Sheep grazing on the ley

distance the two pillboxes look just like tumuli, under their cover of vegetation.

The third photo taken at TQ 288 483 shows sheep grazing on the ley which is running down the slope roughly parallel with the hedgerow opposite.



East Surrey Hospital

The last picture is looking along the ley beside the entrance to East Surrey Hospital, the main general

hospital for the locality. The ley passes through the hospital buildings, which we see in the background, and through a stand of oak trees on a grass verge right beside the entrance road. The grid reference here is TQ 282 481.

References

- 1 Jimmy Goddard on the Surrey Earth Mysteries Group website, <http://www.goddardmultimedia.fsnet.co.uk/semg/snutch.htm>
- 2 Bob Shave, *The E-line: its Geography and Geology*, Touchstone 75, October 2006.
- 3 Bob Shave, *The Geology of the E-line in Surrey (2)*, Touchstone 76, January 2007.

THE ST. MICHAEL LINE IN TAUNTON

Following the straight St. Michael Line in its course through the southern part of Taunton, county town of Somerset, I came across a number of things with very interesting implications. The line goes through All Saints' Church, Trull and continues to St. Bartholomew's, East Lyng, travelling along a long stretch of coincident and mean-following road before arriving there. It then continues to Burrow Mump with its prominent hilltop ruined church, Glastonbury Tor with another, and on to the other points found by John Michell.

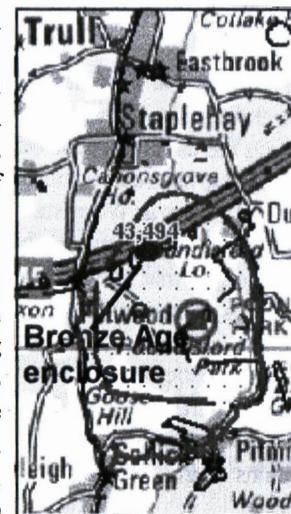
Cycling from my part-time home in Churchinford to the south, I came across a large conifer clump in Blagdon, and then a large monolith in Sellicks Green, adjacent to the road in the public park there. There is a smaller stone beside it carrying a plaque which reads "Monolith, erratic, found 1972 near Bronze Age site at Fulwood, possibly a standing stone". This was apparently put there by Edward du Cann, who was MP for Taunton at the time.¹



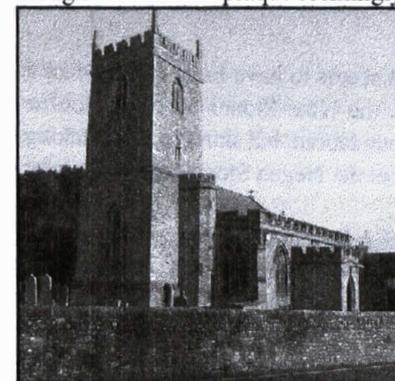
Sellicks Green clump and monolith

On lining the clump and the stone, they were found to be aligned with Trull Church to the north. Going southward, the line goes through several cross-roads, Monkton Church and two tumuli near Roncombe Gate. The hamlet of Fulwood lies to the north, adjacent to the M5, and seems to be off the line, but when checking with the Somerset Historic Environment Record, the map showed the oval Bronze Age enclosure to be where the motorway carriageways are now, and right on the alignment. So the stone from it was placed on the same alignment! This has been noticed before, with the present and former churches at Mereworth in Kent. The enclosure is in the parish of Trull, the original name of which was Trendle, which is Old English for a circle.²

The Historic Environment Record records the enclosure as "a c1.5 m deep V shaped ditch enclosing an elliptical area c60m x 45m. It contained Bronze Age pottery at its lowest levels and Iron Age pottery in its upper fill. In the enclosed area were a 9m diameter Iron Age hut gully and a series of pits and gullies which also contained materials from this period, but none of these features could be stratigraphically related to the enclosure ditch."³



Coming up to the St. Michael Line, this seems to pass through an unmarked centre on or adjacent to the road before coming to Trull Church, where it crosses the Sellicks Green line. This is the place where Gatchell House is marked on the map. There is a milestone on the road here, which looks as if it is quite old, though with a metal plaque seemingly put on it more recently,



Trull Church

giving the mileage to Taunton. This is within the area which dowsed as the ley centre.

Approaching Trull Church, where the Sellicks Green ley and the St. Michael Line cross, it could be seen that there was an oak tree across the road, also on the line, with many globular clusters of mistletoe among the branches. Inside the building there was considerable head-hum, and the St.



St. Michael and the dragon

Michael Line, which ran obliquely across it, measured at 15 paces here on this occasion.

The church is full of foliate carving, on the rood screen and the pew ends (along with other subjects) much of it done by the famous Somerset wood carver Simon Warman in the sixteenth century.¹ He has carvings in other churches in the Taunton area; he is said to have liked to carve the Green Man, but I could not find this in Trull.

Although the church is not dedicated to St. Michael, it has a dragon window in the south of the sanctuary; there are three parts to it, each depicting one of the famous dragon saints - Michael, Margaret and George. A dragon was

supposedly slain on Castleman's Hill near Trull, but no details remain of it.⁴

The website that gave details of this dragon legend mentions several others in Somerset: Churchstanton - A dragon once resided in the place where Stapley Farm now stands. After causing the usual havoc it was slain by an anonymous knight. The lashing of the dragons tail is said to have carved out a hollow in a field known as Wormstall. Wells - Bishop Jocelyn supposedly drove out a dragon that had been terrorizing locals around seven holy springs. A cathedral was built next to the springs. Castle Neroche (Blackdown Hills) - A treasure-guarding dragon once lived here, but that is all that remains of this legend.



A modern stone circle on the St. Michael Line in Taunton

Continuing on through the southern part of Taunton, the line comes to a roundabout which seems to have been laid out like a stone circle, with four stones about the same size as the Nine Stones at Winterbourne Abbas. The line does not go through the centre of the roundabout, but skirts its edge (taking in one of the stones) in much the same way as the leys at the Negen Stones site in Staines.

The line carries on from here to St. Bartholomew's Church in East Lyng, with its closely-meaning approach road of about a mile. There was also strong head-hum here. This church, high above the street, is strongly connected with King Alfred; there is a picture of him in one of the windows, and his base at Athelney (Saxon for "prince's island") was nearby.⁵ He founded an abbey here in thanks for deliverance from the Danes, and the monks built this church.

¹ Browsing in the Blackdowns, by Sheila Eckhart, published by White Tree Books, 1991
² Brewer's Britain and Ireland, by John Ayho and Ian Crofton, published by Weidenfield and Nicholson, 2005

³ Somerset HER 43494

⁴ http://www.foolishpeople.com/foolishpeople/2005/11/british_dragon_.html

⁵ East Lyng church history



from Caroline Gentinetta, Oakhill, Somerset:

Regarding Ticklebelly Cottage, I received an e-mail from Alan Stone, Chairman of Beacon Wood, who writes:

"I am afraid I cannot be certain about this though have discussed with a number of people. I think the cottage is named after Ticklebelly Lane, which runs behind it. One expert did say

it derives from Saxon English and he then sounded as if he were choking himself as he said it in a Saxon accent! The meaning was probably named after some Saxon chieftain - but I am very unsure. Most people seem to think it is something to do with the woollen industry. Teasels, which it is claimed were grown locally, seem to crop up as an origin - though it could have been more to do with the process of raising the knap than the actual thing you did it with. Hope this extremely confused non-explanation helps!"

I am generating quite an excitement down here with the thought that Roman surveyors may have used prehistoric ley line roads as the basis for more modern road making activities.

from Norman Darwen, Bolton, Lancashire:

Tony Charlton's comments on "glacial erratics" in Touchstone 80 were extremely interesting. I grew up in Leyland, Lancashire, far away from the south-eastern area of England that Tony describes. In Worden Park in Leyland, about a mile south of the parish church (which has a "mysteriously moved stones" foundation legend) there is a well-known (in the area) glacial erratic, which bears an inscription to that effect.

It did not seem to fit in with Tony's criteria at all until I read his comment about them being found "close to notable manor houses", as this particular stone is about 100 yards from the now partially restored Worden Hall. Also it stands next to a curious mound, which some years ago was revealed to be an ice house for the manor, and although it may not be a churchyard, adjacent is a pets' cemetery, also associated with the manor house. The stone's location is very close to the spot where the ornamental gardens and parkland give way to rough pasture and woodland.

The Six Templars vanquish Jane Wenham

by Lionel Beer

At the end of the last century, J.D. Wetherspoon Plc, the pub chain based in Watford planned to rebuild the old Working Men's Unionist Club in The Wash near the centre of Hertford. Most of their pubs are large with iconic names. In my home town of Paignton, they have a pub called *The Isaac Merritt* named after Isaac Merritt Singer, who built a grand mansion in Paignton funded by sewing machines. Oldway Mansion, modelled on Versailles with garden Sphinxes is still free and worth a visit!

Anyway, Wetherspoons acquired the property in Hertford, which they announced would be called *The Last Witch*. Recycling local history, Hertford was the last town to condemn a witch to death. Following local objections, the name was changed to *The Jane Wenham*. The churchyard at Walkern holds the tomb of Jane Wenham, who died in 1730. She was condemned for witchcraft in 1711. Thanks to the magistrate himself, Jane was eventually granted the Queen's pardon. She was too fearful to return to Walkern and was given a cottage in Hertingfordbury where she lived under the protection of Earl Cowper. Her case initiated changes to the witchcraft laws. The Witchcraft Act of 1735 abolished the death

penalty.

LAST WITCH CURSED...

Now whether Jane's phantom had anything to do with the delays can only be speculation. However the *Herts Mercury* of April 18 2003 carried the headline: LAST WITCH CURSED BY FURTHER DELAYS.

The reality is that the project was beset with problems, embodying legal issues, changes of builders and delays by East Herts Council over the resiting of public toilets. Architect and project manager, Andrew Lashley was clearly frustrated, when he told the local press that a revised opening date was Christmas 2003!

Well I can now reveal that the pub opened five years later on 3 March 2008 as *The Six Templars*. Jane Wenham had been replaced by six members of the Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Jesus Christ and the Temple of Solomon. The Templars had several 'houses' in Hertfordshire including Temple Dinsley near Hitchin.

In 1309 six templars from Dinsley were arrested. Four were brought to Hertford where they were imprisoned in Hertford Castle for six months. Local folklore suggests that there is a network of Templar tunnels under the town focused on Hertford Castle. Since five rivers come together at Hertford, one has to wonder about flooding?

Incidentally Royston Cave is attributed to the Templars. This bottle-shaped hole lies under the Michael ley line and is one of the strangest underground chambers in the country. It may have been used as a Templar chapel and strong-room.

Nearby Baldock was established in 1145 by the Knights Templar using the French name for Baghdad. The new pub in Hertford sits very close to the Norman motte. The motte has one side to the river but lies within the castle walls of Hertford Castle.

In *The Six Templars* we talked to team leader, Steve Smith, who was born in Cuffley (where the first giant airship was shot down in WW1.) He had come from the *Bo Jangles* pub in Hoddesden. 800 people had applied for jobs, 400 were interviewed, and 50 core staff were appointed to operate the pub from 9am to 11pm daily.

A side area has a mini-library effect and there is an upstairs gallery with a view towards the Lea bridge, otherwise it is open plan. Steve said Wetherspoons had designed it to be a 'Flagship' pub. The food looked appetising and we were told that the chefs were the best.

NB: (I founded TEMS in 1992) I have no association with Wetherspoons other than being an occasional customer!

NOTES AND NEWS

London Earth Mysteries Circle Meetings

7.00 p.m. at the Theosophical Society, 50, Gloucester Place, London, W1U 8EA.

Tuesday May 13th - Elen, Goddess of the Leys, by Caroline Wise.

Tuesday May 27th - Psychometry: A Demonstration, by Muriel Renard (bring objects to be read)

Tuesday June 10th - The Quest for Knowledge in the Ancient World, by Simon Michell

Tuesday June 24th - The Origins of Freemasonry, by David Barrett.

Tuesday July 8th - Reincarnation - Lost Western Teaching and Connections, by Robert Slater.

Tuesday July 22nd - Social and Forum.

TEMS Meetings

Sundays at 2.30 p.m. 020-8544-9478

Sunday 18th May - China: Beyond the Great Wall, by Paul Whittle (at Wimbledon)

Sunday 22nd June - Field trip to Mere, Wiltshire visiting Amesbury (Stonehenge avenue), Yarnbury Castle and hill fort, and Mere village, with Lionel Beer. Contact Ann & Peter if you're interested, 020-8544-9478.

Sunday 29th June - Crop Circle Update, by Andy Thomas (at Wimbledon)

Sunday 27th July - Summer garden party at 115 Holly Bush Lane, Hampton Speaker TBA. Please contact Lionel on 020 8979 3148

Sunday 24th August - TBA. (At 'Weirside', off Frimley Road, Ash Vale, Surrey).

Sunday 28th September - MoD X-Files: Now on General Release, by Nick Pope (at Wimbledon).

Sunday 26th October - The Colossus of Rhodes, by Lionel Beer (at Wimbledon).

Sunday 30th November - TBA (at Wimbledon)

Sunday 14th December - Christmas Party at 115 Holly Bush Lane, Hampton. Please contact Lionel on 020 8979 3148

Ramblings

On 4th April the Ramblings programme on Radio 4 featured Laurence Main and a group from the Society of Ley Hunters on a walk in the area of Llanthony Priory on the Welsh Borders. The presenter, Claire Balding, set the scene by describing the priory as a vast, open room in the Brecon Beacons National Park, under a blue sky with wispy clouds.

She then introduced Laurence, who said that the priory is a powerful and spiritual place - in fact it was St. David's first abode. The living essence of the land is what attracts ley hunters, and this walk was to be about four and a half miles along a ley found by Alfred Watkins.

When asked what he thought a ley is, (is it just a connection of points?) he said that in the 1920s the intellectual climate



Alfred Watkins' picture of Llanthony Priory from The Old Straight Track

was different - orthodoxies were stronger and so Watkins put the discovery forward as one of ancient tracks or routemarkings. But it was found from the beginning that not all of them could be tracks - some go up steep gradients or over obstacles that would not be a chosen path to tread - so they must have other implications too.

Claire then introduced Phil Rickman, an author, who said that leys are largely what people make them. He said he admired Alfred Watkins as he altered the way whole generations looked at the countryside, searching for humps and steeples. Things were never the same again.

Claire then suggested it might be like a work of art, and we are looking for the brushstrokes. She said that at that moment the landscape was all lit up as if on show. Phil said that perhaps it was too nice - the experience on days in November with fog and strange silhouettes appearing can be fantastic. He thought Watkins had stumbled on something, but the archaeological establishment are self-protective and hide behind terms like "loony". There is a poetic sense that was rediscovered - and out of the 1967 culture of auras and "tuning in" came the energy line or spirit line.

Helena from Stroud then said she had joined the Society recently after being interested for a number of years. Her mother had bought a house in Scotland which had a ley passing through it which seemed to cause depression and headaches. An iron stake was put in the ground and things improved - it was still powerful, but the energy now seemed to be positive, and there was a "farmhouse kitchen" atmosphere.

Gaynor, who was there with her boxer dog, said she always enjoyed moots, and thought the important thing was connection with the sacred earth, which she felt had been wiped out in modern times.

The path travelled steeply, and the Black Mountains could be seen silhouetted against the sun. They headed for Sharple, now a ruin but originally palatial and built by Walter Savage Lander, a contemporary of Wordsworth and Coleridge, in 1808. The line of the ley was dowsed and the notch on the ridge, mentioned by Alfred Watkins, was pointed out.

They continued up the hill to the Offa's Dyke Path on the border of England and Wales, at 1500 feet. It was hard work, but gratifying. Then they went along the top of the wall which was the monks' boundary, and the abbey ruins could still be seen, with the view of six peaks receding into the distance. The ridgeway path was then followed to the trig point at 1810 feet, and they descended from there through a little pass.

Adam Stout then said that Alfred Watkins had come up with the idea of leys after a near-death experience - three weeks before he had had a heart attack, but rallied and shortly afterwards the ley theory was born. Adam felt that his being close to death had brought him closer to the spiritual. Although he put forward the image of them as traders' tracks, almost immediately the wilder and more romantic understanding started to emerge.

Claire said the effort was well worthwhile for the view of the Black Mountains fading into nothingness, and the shadow across the valley. As they continued over the velvety grass of the valley floor, she said there was certainly a sense of place not to be had from books - one must breathe it and see it. Laurence said it was a small road well worth travelling.

BOOK REVIEW

MEET THE SASQUATCH

Christopher Murphy with John Green and Thomas Steenburg Publisher: Hancock House, Surrey, B.C., Canada. 2004 Large (9~ x11") softcover, Can.\$39.95 ISBN: 088839 5736

In recent years books about the Sasquatch - the American peer of the Yeti - have tended towards repetition. MEET THE SASQUATCH might make your hair stand up, or put another way, stands head and shoulders above similar books. The authors are all dedicated Bigfoot researchers and this tome was produced in support of an exhibit held at Vancouver Museum, Canada in 2004.

A few native American artifacts hint at early encounters with Bigfoot primates. However the substance of this book deals with evidence in the form of witness reports in wild and scenic sites. Sightings focus on the West coast of America - British Columbia, Washington State and Northern California. Photos of footprints and footprint casts enable to reader to become an armchair expert! Possible Bigfoot Nests" are illustrated. Some discussion is given to the lilely anatomy of these primate(s). Statistics suggest creatures ranging from 8 to 12 feet tall with 14 to 24 inch footprints!

The Roger Patterson/Robert Gimlin film of 20 October 1967 of a female bigfoot is explored at length. The colour film frames are of sufficient quality to enable the reader to reach an opinion.

The authors admit, that until a sasquatch body is produced many in the scientific community will remain sceptical. In these untamed places even the bodies of known animals are quickly scavenged.

Since the book's pages are of art paper, the colour illustrations throughout are excellent, plus there is a list of picture sources and copyright holders. The latter is next to a good bibliography of related books and a general index. Not cheap at £26 but well worth the money!



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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.

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: