



THE  
LEY HUNTER

# THE LEY HUNTER

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## E D I T O R I A L

Firstly, I want to thank you all for subscribing to the magazine. This issue is somewhat larger than the first one and I hope the next one will be larger still. I am sorry for the delay in publishing this second issue of The Ley Hunter, but we have had a little difficulty in finding articles, so that I would like to repeat the appeal that I made in the first issue. We have now got quite a few subscribers and I am sure that most of you have done some investigation into leys or are interested in particular aspects of the subject. If you want to help the magazine and communicate with others who are perhaps working in the same field please send in an article or a letter, even if you just write to say what you would like to see in the magazine. We are thinking of devoting an article in each issue to the alignments in a particular part of the country, so if you know of leys in any areas familiar to you, please send us the details.

I do hope you like this issue as we have two very interesting articles this time, as well as reports of ley hunts. If you go on similar excursions, we would be glad to report the details. I am leaving until the next issue a controversial article by Jimmy Goddard which connects the subject of leys with another mystery of the present time - flying saucers. The article gives an entirely new concept of the origin of leys. Research is going on at the present time, so I am leaving it until the October issue when we can devote more space to this important article.

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## W H O W E R E T H E L E Y M E N ?

By Christine Crosland Symms.

The testimony of the oldest writers and of modern scientific research bears witness that the "lost Continent" of Atlantis had existence. Tradition has it that there was an advanced civilisation in Atlantis (in particular see Plato in his "Critias").

The Kelts of Britain have a legend that part of their country once extended far into the Atlantic and was destroyed.

Then it is certain that the inhabitants of Atlantis possessed expert astronomical knowledge and if it is true that the pyramids of Egypt and those in Yucatan were built by emigrants from the "lost continent", then we have further food for thought, although we must bear in mind that

some authors, such as Colonel James Churchward (the famous American authority) have attributed the Yucatan pyramids as being built by the people of Mu, or Lemuria, the lost continent which lies beneath the Pacific Ocean.

To return to our subject. The first "Leymen" may have been Atlanteans, bringing with them their peculiar arts, teachings and methods to the inhabitants of Britain. In passing, let me say that in Adams Co., Ohio, there is a great serpent mound and there is a less perfect specimen at Avebury in Wiltshire and one somewhere in Argyllshire I believe. Has any member any knowledge of these? Is the one at Avebury upon a ley? I rather think it is. The Straight Track may be essentially Atlantean. The S.T. certainly has connection with early religions.

Religion has always used symbology to convey moral precepts. Reading Chapter XXV of The Old Straight Track (Alfred Watkins), one is struck by the frequency of reference to Tracks and the straight way in the Old Testament, not to speak of sacred stones. May not the priesthood have instituted the gigantic system of Straight Tracks to be a monument of symbolic teaching to the people?

"Lift up a standard for the people". Isaiah lXll. 10.

Certain Biblical happenings may be surmised to have taken place when Atlantis, or certainly parts of it, were still in existence and the sun by precession was in Taurus, the Bull. Bull worship in the Bible, which had to be eradicated to make way for the coming Precession of the Sun into Aries, the Lamb or Ram. What I am getting at is that our members should keep in mind that there may be clues in the orientation of stones as to where, possibly, the sun was by precession. It would afford important data as to the period when the "leymen" marked out the Straight Track.

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## NOTES ON COLD HARBOUR NAMES

By Miss Joan Hatton

1. In the year 1488 the Lady Margaret Beaufort writing from Cold Harbour House, Thames Street in the Parish of All-Hallows-the-Less concludes her letter thus - "Given under our signet at our place of Cold Harborowe".
2. On paying a short visit many years ago to the village of Wrotham, Kent, I discovered that an ancient track passed through the church tower beneath an archway specially constructed to allow its passage. It continued northward through the churchyard to a long stone (maen hir) at the entrance gate, followed a lane to the Pilgrims Way which it crossed and we climbed steeply as a footpath up the ridge to a lane passing Cold Harbour Farm and on to Stansted.

The path all the way up this slope was characteristic of a "rhiw" on the Welsh hills, which is pronounced in the same way as the first syllable in Wrotham.

I should be interested to know if this track could be traced northwards to the Thames shore or southwards through Borough Green to the coast. Would a study of the fabric of the church reveal ancient unworked stones, suggesting a pagan sacred site such as the coldrum Stones further east?

3. The intersection of so many alignments at Maidstone cross-roads bears out the suggestion that Maiden place-names in this country are derived from the Sanskrit 'maidan', meaning 'an open place of public meeting' like the 'Maidan' of Calcutta.

4. Sun alignments from a Herefordshire Coldharbour near Leominster.

a. CH - Lower Wintercott - Ivington Camp (549ft.) Samhain Sunrise.

b. CH - Upper Wintercott - Gattertop - Cold Oak (623ft.) Mid Winter Sunrise.

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### LEY HUNTS

Two of our members, Jimmy Goddard and Peter Furness have been looking at some leys in Sussex and Essex. Here are some extracts from their reports :

"After travelling to Bramber, Sussex, the first thing that we investigated was Bramber Castle. The actual castle is in ruins with very little of the stone structure left, but the mound in the centre, crowned with trees, is still intact and certainly prehistoric. From the top of this mound Chanctonbury Ring can be seen, which is another point on a ley running through the mound. Bramber Church, which dates back at least to 1073, is another point on the same ley. This is situated close to the castle.

After seeing these points we travelled to the church of St. Andrew, Steyning, which is extremely old, dating at least to 857, when Ethelwulf, father of King Alfred, was buried there. The dedication to St. Andrew is of interest, as important ley churches are often dedicated to either this saint or St. Michael. Also, evidence that the church is on the site of a more ancient mark stone, the name "Steyning" means "dwellers by some prominent stone".

Chanctonbury Ring is a very fine and prominent hill-top clump of trees inside an artificial earthen ring. Outside the Ring there are a mass of tiny tumuli."

Jimmy Goddard and Helen Rodwell also investigated a ley in Essex:

"The first point we made for on arriving at Ingatestone was Dodd's Farm, which has the significant "dod" name and is on the ley we intended to follow. We found it to be at least 450 years old (from information given to us), but we were advised to write to the archives in Chelmsford for further details. The next point on the line was Margaretting Church, which is predominantly 15th Century. On proceeding towards Margaretting Tye from the Church we noted that there was another

steeple on the skyline and on aligning the map we found that it was on the ley. However, we were unable to find it marked on the map. We travelled on from this point as far as we could, but were unable to reach our main objective, Margaretting Tye, because a field of oats had been planted over the trackway and by the time we had reached this barrier it was too late to circle round to find another way."

The ley referred to above does in fact extend from Somerset to Essex and in Jimmy Goddard's article in the next issue he will give more details about it.

The following account is of a straight track which was investigated many years ago by Miss Sheila L. Hutchinson in Devon, but it is probably still of interest:

North of Great Torrington - Loxdown Cross O.S. 127 (5th Ed.) B 10.

Walked SE to NW. Hit track easily where it crossed road by gap in low bank. Marshy Heath; sounding with stick revealed stone paving at 15" below. Passed corner of one wall standing, evidently part of a very old building with rounded corners. From here took electric pylons near Torrington as mark point - one stands just on line. Found series of gates. Twice a suspicion of track across grass ( marked on map as "? Stream bed" and "Cow Track" respectively.) Gaps and gates in apparently unnecessary positions. Stream winds about valley and is difficult to negotiate as it is very overgrown. Group of huge trunked oak trees in bow of stream, marked as "Oak Grove". Over top of hill, taking pylons, SE., and "Beaconside", NW, as marks, found that line passes through series of gates and stiles till main Bideford - Weare Gifford - Torrington road is reached, when gate is a little S. of right place. Bank shows signs of more recent work just where line should cross it. Main road; then gate. This field already has another lower down the road, making top one seem redundant. Through Beam Woods; very overgrown. Had to cross Mill Leat at bottom of wood. A sunk stream bed takes line from leat to river. Crossed Torridge; big oak trees on W. bank. Then railway line and main road, latter new - 19th Century. Here gave up, but from main road could see series of gates over undulating land between main road and lane to Monkleigh. I was here very struck by probable effectiveness of Beacon at Beaconside as track must have descended very steeply to the river; the road is cut from virgin rock and if the descent was both precipitous and wooded it must have been hard to follow at this point. The Beacon must also have been very plainly visible from several hill-top points further back on the line .

Beaconside - High Park O.S. 127 A8 and A9 Walked to NW.

Sunk track running down side of field, then very small semi-circular earthwork in top of copse. Sunk track down bank of wood. Cross the Yeo; gate in right place opposite, into main road. Cross and recross Littleham rectory drive; track through gate into field; series of gates. Drive becomes incorporated in track to church tower. "Oak Grove" surrounding

approach of track in large semi-circle. Past church is deep sunk track between 2 fields, heavily overgrown. Gate; school at filled up entrance to old lane. Series of gates; then actual track incorporated with lane. Some scattered pine trees on hill ridge prominent as mark. Distinct track down steep field; then as a cutting. Remains of stone stile in wall of Littleham Court - a very old farmhouse. Gate to correspond, in lane. Cross lane; smaller one at right angles a little N. of right point but much corroborative data. Line of oaks through marsh. Series of gates, and odd oak trees to High Park Lodge. (This section had more corroborative detail than any other bit of this line that I have explored.)

Miss Hutchinson gives many further accounts of leys that she has followed which are of great interest. I am hoping to study the Straight Track Club Postal Folios at Hereford City Library this summer and it may be possible to reprint summaries of the most interesting articles in them.

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## MONOLITHS AND STONE CIRCLES

By R.H.A. Merlin

I have no idea of the origin of this article, but I am reprinting extracts from it as there is a bit of space left and it may be of interest to members. The only clue I have is that I think it was published in a magazine in 1948 and is on page 216. I give here the main points of the article:

"In a previous article I remarked that a straight line running due north and south is demarcated for a distance of seventeen miles in Gloucestershire by a number of monoliths, Winstone, Elkstone, Tibblestone, and I went on to point out that this line produced northwards passes through Berwick, produced southwards cuts St. Albans Head near Swanage; also that the Tibblestone itself is roughly equidistant from St. David's Head and Harwich. In the present article I propose to develop a little further the theory which suggests itself sooner or later: that the monoliths and stone circles up and down the country may conceivably have been sited in connection with an early survey of the island.

The analytical approach to the "Prehistoric" remains in this country has, when applied to stone circles, been singularly unproductive of results. Painstaking surveys have been unable to reveal more than the diameters of the circles, the height, breadth and width of the stones, their intervals and so forth; and although in one particular instance the examination of the survey results has produced valuable information, in the vast majority of cases no advance has been made at all. In such a case there can at best be no harm in suggesting a synthetic approach: that is to consider the circles and monoliths not in the light of their component parts, but in relation to each other - to review the results they give when

