

# Touchstone

Surrey  
Earth  
Mysteries



No. 27

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## SOME INTERESTING TRIPS

Our holidays once again provided much of earth mysteries interest. We spent two weeks exploring two areas which have a number of striking similarities. Tenterden in Kent is traditionally one of the Cinque Ports, but is now a very long way from the sea. The old coastline can clearly be seen from the contours on the Ordnance Survey map, however, and the area even has its equivalent of Glastonbury Tor - a hill called Chapel Bank that was once an island, once had a church on its summit and to which there are still church pilgrimages.

The region is almost devoid of prehistoric sites, possibly because it is such a rich agricultural area, but I found to my surprise that in spite of this it is an extremely powerful one. Places such as churches where one might expect energy seemed more powerful than usual, while head-hum was also felt in surprising places such as Ellen Terry's house in Smallhythe, Tenterden museum and the cottage where we stayed. Also, there is a much greater wealth of direction-following roads and tracks than most other places I've visited.

The area round Glastonbury in Somerset, where we spent our second week, is much better known of course. Our main find here was a lovely visual alignment of two pine clumps with our cottage. The line seemed to be a ley when plotted on the map, and there was also interesting evidence of "microlandscape" in the immediate area of the cottage. On the ley, in the garden of the cottage, was a small mound with a ring of rose bushes on it - obviously not ancient but still placed directly on the alignment. The line continued through the spiral staircase, where head-hum seemed to be particularly felt, and continued along the line of a path leading out of the property. A little beyond it, another track curved round to meet the ley and followed it for some distance. These things could be coincidence, but a lot of such coincidences have been noticed on other holidays and field trips.



## BOOK REVIEWS

*The Archaeology of Surrey*, edited by Joanna and D.G. Bird; published by Surrey Archaeological Society, Guildford; 261 pages, maps, illustrations, detailed bibliography; £15.

As a work of reference, this up-to-date study of Surrey's archaeology is indispensable. It covers the period up to 1540, with chapters on the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British period, Saxon and Medieval. There is also a long and useful discussion of the evolution of landscape and vegetation, which contains some very modern thinking. Each chapter is contributed by an expert in the period, with the obvious shortcoming that styles and depth of presentation vary markedly; some tighter editing might have smoothed this over. Reviewing the state of our knowledge for each period in around 30 pages obviously leads to summary, but the wealth of information packed into these pages is impressive, while the fully referenced 18 pages of bibliography ensures the researcher can trace more detailed accounts if required. The book may seem expensive, but it is well worth the money. My one major grumble is that the index is both confusing in layout (site names are listed under nearby towns, for instance), and woefully inadequate. When will publishers learn that works of reference require a detailed index; my copy is littered with added references which are important to my research, many of which are omitted from the index entirely!

Chris Hall.

*Hampshire Curiosities*, by Jo Draper; Dovecote Press (Wimborne); 116 pages, many photographs, £5.95.

There is a fashion for books like this, and all seem to share a common fault. They are commissioned by publishers, who use writers and journalists with an incomplete knowledge of the region about which they write. Therefore the accounts are usually frustratingly brief, and many curiosities known to people with local knowledge are omitted, because the commissioned writer has had time for only limited research. *Hampshire Curiosities* turns out to be just another general survey of this kind, with a distinct bias towards architectural curiosities and follies. The title is, therefore, to some extent misleading: Hampshire has many curious tales worth a retelling, not to mention some serious research instead of mere journalistic recycling. Which reminds me of another fault: these books never give references. Hidden amongst the folios of follies are a few snippets of interest to our subject, but don't expect much detail. There is a little folklore relating to ancient oaks. The "Druid Stones" turn out to be sarsen boulders strewn on the downs by Ice Age glaciers. The mizmaze near Fordingbridge also gets a mention, interpreted here as a medieval Christian creation. Probably, though, most of

the information given here will already be well known to serious researchers.

Chris Hall

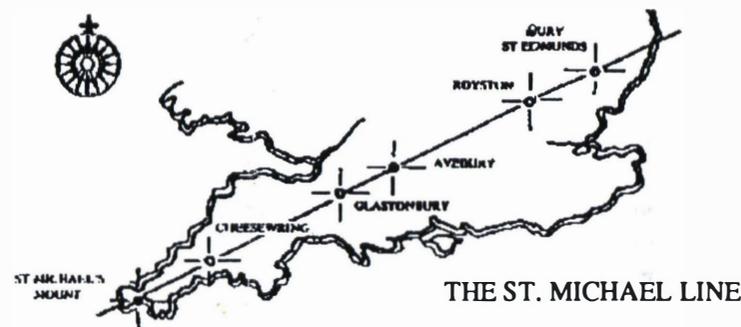
*The Sun and the Serpent*, by Paul Broadhurst and Hamish Miller, published by Pendragon Press, Launceston, Cornwall. Illustrated with photographs, maps, diagrams and engravings. £10.95.

This is the story of a remarkable research project in which the St. Michael Line, a ley crossing the country from East Anglia to Cornwall, was investigated in depth using dowsing. The first discovery was that the straight line was entwined with a serpentine one which passed through many of the sites the other missed. Ley sceptics will no doubt say that we are now bending leys so we can link up everything! I feel there is a great deal more than this here, however, as the investigators were not expecting this when they started out - nor were they expecting to find a *second* serpentine line in the middle of their investigations, which forced them to go back to the beginning! What they finished up with was an amazing system - a straight ley twined round with two curving ones of apparently opposite polarity, similar in pattern to the caduceus. The other surprising discovery was the complex "grail" pattern that the two lines made around Glastonbury Tor.

I still feel, however, that the straight ley is a reality (as with all the other straight leys, which may or may not have their accompanying "serpents") - there are too many leys for them to be just a kind of "averaging" phenomenon formed by twisting lines that follow general directions. I wrote to Paul Broadhurst about this, and his reply is published elsewhere in this issue.

The book is thoroughly recommended to all ley hunters; at today's book prices it is very good value in terms of information conveyed.

J.G.



**Some leys round Hurt Wood**

The ley that Richard Colborne mentioned in his letter looks like a good one - and does not even have to be drawn, as it is marked by a grid line on the map! It comes south through a cross-roads in Byfleet, the summit of Hungry Hill south of Ripley, East Clandon church and a one-mile mean-following road, a church at Albury (I think it is the "Catholic Apostolic" one with the strange history), a track leading to the end of the Hurt Wood track, Cranleigh church, two short coincident stretches of road and a moat at Drungewick Manor. Another ley was, interestingly, discovered from dowsing reactions by Eileen Grimshaw and Gordon Millington at Pitch Hill, where the UFO was seen two years ago. A powerful line was found, and when I drew this on the map after being told about the discovery at our last meeting, a quite striking ley emerged. It skirts the southern tip of Holmbury Hill hillfort, goes through a multijunction at High Ashes Farm, then through South Holmwood church. It then reaches a prominent map feature - a mile of straight track with a triangulation point at one end. It continues through a cross-roads/tracks south of Reigate, a cross-roads south of Godstone, finally reaching a pine clump which I saw in the distance (on another alignment) when visiting Oxted recently. I hope to investigate this ley in the not too distant future.

**London Meetings** (London E.M. Circle, Maria Assumpta Centre, Kensington, 7.00 p.m.)

October 23rd - Earth Mysteries Research, by John Glover. November 13th - Mystical Experiences, by Joan Andrews. November 27th - Balls of Light, by Hilary Evans. December 11th - The Visual Artist's Response to Earth Mysteries.

**Build your own stone circle!**

I couldn't resist getting this booklet, (described as a D.I.Y. guide to stone circle construction, and a booklet promoting the return of stone circles to the landscape), when I saw it on sale in Glastonbury recently. Its chatty style makes it a very entertaining read as well as giving information on a quite wide range of subjects including the dates of the Celtic festivals, bonfires, the lunar effect and crop circles. The author, John Harrison (who has built his own stone circle in his garden) says he originally wrote the booklet as a bit of a joke, and much of it is written in a light-hearted way, but he assures us that behind the humour there is a serious message. Paul Screeton once told me that he thought we should not try to recreate ley points as we don't have the qualifications, but I feel that if subconscious siting exists, we can tune in to this and build significant sites even if we don't have full knowledge of the system and its workings.

From Paul Broadhurst, Launceston, Cornwall.

(I had written asking his opinions on the relationship of the straight St. Michael line with the curving one he recently discovered and published details of in *The Sun and the Serpent*).

We are scraping the surface of these matters in the book. It could be that the straight line is part of the system which energises the Earth, the solar force travelling in a direct way across the land at Beltane. The only time we have been able to detect energy running along the "straight" St. Michael Line is just after Beltane. Otherwise, we have recorded none. The serpentine currents may be the way the Earth responds to this, in its "natural" organic manner. Much work remains to be done. We are engaged upon the question of the alignments at the moment. Slowly, painfully, we may begin to understand...

From Richard Colborne, Pershore Worcestershire (on a short holiday from his job in the Middle East):

I managed a trip to Hurtwood last Friday - what a beautiful day! I didn't actually look at the Hurtwood track, as you've done such a good job on that already; I'm sure you're right and I'm personally sure it's at least Roman if not earlier. I was looking for its origin! No doubt you have noticed the other track which runs W-E and seems to cross the Hurtwood track slightly less than 1cm from the edge of the 1:50000 map. Well, if you take a right angle from that track - that is, due south - you'll see an alignment of churches. Do all three tracks originate at the same spot? I have found the spot where I think they start/cross, but it's overgrown and there's nothing to see.

I have enclosed a photo I thought you might like, of a pine clump and a rainbow. I took it on the slopes of Breedon Hill, Worcestershire in April when I was last home.



## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM JIMMY GODDARD

SKYWAYS AND LANDMARKS REVISITED. A re-examination of Tony Wedd's work in leys and flying saucers. £1.20

CAMPUSLINES. Results of a nine year project investigating leys around six university campuses. £1.20

COSMIC FRIENDS. An account of communication with extraterrestrials over the course of many years, and information derived from it. 70p.

THE INHABITED SOLAR SYSTEM. Evidence that our system is not as dead as current opinion holds. 70p

ENIGMAS OF THE PLAIN. Booklet on Salisbury Plain mysteries, originally printed in 1966, now reprinted A5 size. 70p.

SKYWAYS AND LANDMARKS, PINE CLUMPS ROUND ADDLESTONE, BALLOON OVER GLOUCESTERSHIRE, COLDRUM FIELD TRIP, ECOLOGY FIELD TRIP, BUTSER FIELD TRIP. These videos are available to anyone who sends me a blank 3 hour tape and postage.

TOUCHSTONE. Newsletter of the Surrey Earth Mysteries Group. Quarterly, £2 for four issues.

AMSKAYA. Newsletter of the STAR Fellowship, concerned with extraterrestrial communication. Quarterly, £2 for four issues.

ALL THESE PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE.

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### EXCHANGE LIST

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TOUCHSTONE is published by Surrey Earth Mysteries Group, 25, Albert Road, Addlestone, Weybridge, Surrey. Sub TWO POUNDS for four issues, please make cheques payable to J. Goddard. All articles are welcome and all are welcome at our monthly meetings in Addlestone. IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE AN "X" WILL FOLLOW THIS SENTENCE: