

OUR GUEST PHOTOGRAPHER STARTS A SPACE-AGE PUZZLE

Healey's Comet

Or are there UFOs at the bottom of Denis's garden?



Happy snapper Healey



Hillside view of the mysterious circles captured by Denis Healey with his trusty camera



Three young villagers spot The Shape

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THERE is something funny going on at the bottom of Denis Healey's garden.

So funny, in fact, that when the Shadow Foreign Secretary took out his camera and snapped this picture he declared: 'I am expecting now to come across little green men ...'

'Although I suppose it might be worse if they were members of the Cabinet who had landed or if the aliens turned out to be Press officers of the Chancellor.'

Flattened

As you can see, it looks as though a space ship might have landed in the cornfield beyond Mr Healey's garden.

That central disc of flattened corn is 30ft across and the four similar circles surrounding it measure 12ft. in diameter. Channels of flattened crop join the small circles to the big one. And there is no sign of footprints ...

The marks appeared overnight in Farmer John Mossop's field beside the Healey family home at Alfriston, Sussex. Many villagers are convinced they were made by the landing of an Unidentified Flying Object.



Close-up: Two children stand in one of the circles of flattened corn.

'I am the last person to believe in UFOs,' said the 66-year-old former Labour Chancellor, 'but trying to find a rational solution to this problem is a bit difficult. I'm totally baffled.'

Even before Mr Healey took out what he called his 'trusty Canon' to snap the discs from a nearby hill, local police knew about them.

They are clearly visible from the road and motorists stopping to see them have caused traffic jams. 'A couple of our lads have been down for an official look,' said an officer from neighbouring Seaford. 'It's a mystery to us.'

The marks are being investigated by the British UFO Research Association —along with similiary flattened fields in other parts of the country.

'One theory is they are caused by

freak whirlwinds begun because of the hot weather,' said Mr Kenneth Phillips, an Association spokesman. 'But so far, scientists have been unable to come up with a definitive solution.'

One man's mystery is another's misery. 'I don't know who's responsible for these circles, but whoever caused them are vandals,' said Farmer Mossop. 'A lot of valuable corn has been destroyed.'

'I have now got loads of people tramping over my land to look at the things. It's bad enough having them there without them being turned into a tourist attraction. I'd like to get those responsible and wring their necks—even if they did turn out to be people from another world.'