

**SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE**

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**16 WAYS TO CONTROL YOUR MIND  
TEST YOUR PSYCHIC ABILITIES**



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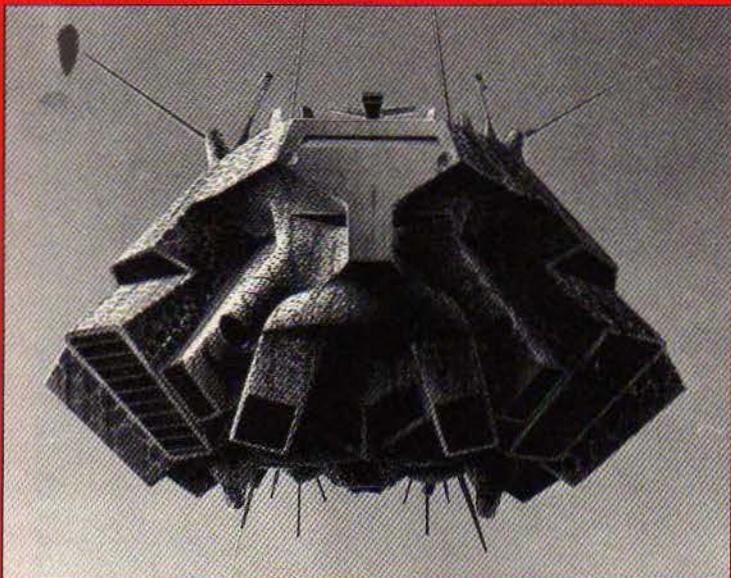


“People said the circles had been created by giant spaceships, but no one ever saw one.”

## ANTI MATTER

Ever since the summer of 1980 the cereal fields of southern England have been marked by strange, circular patterns of flattened corn, wheat, and barley. When people started attributing the circles to UFOs, Bristol-based UFO researcher Ian Mrzyglod decided to look into the unusual phenomenon.

“Everyone made the assumption that these circles were made by giant spaceships,” he explains. “But nobody ever saw one. And there were simpler solutions.” For instance, the circles might have been created by mere Earthlings trying to attract



## UFO UPDATE

tourists to the once popular region of Warminster, previously known as the Mecca of UFOlogy. The circles had, after all, rather conveniently revived Warminster's flagging fortunes.

But in 1982, just as people were starting to accept Mrzyglod's hypothesis, matters took a new turn. Three circles formed in a straight line at Cheesefoot Head, near Winchester. By 1984 and 1985 the circle patterns were taking the form of quintuplets—a large central ring and four attendant circles at compass points around the “parent.”

What had initially been a local curiosity now became international UFO news. So to get to the bottom of things once and for all, geographical statistician and BUFORA (British UFO Research Association) investigator Paul Fuller began a major study of the claims. “On one occasion I visited the Cheesefoot Head location a couple of hours after the circle appeared,” he says. “I spent the day measuring and photographing the phenomenon before sightseers arrived. Then my colleagues and I retired for some tea. We were gone for

no more than an hour, and the field itself was in plain view of a busy road. Yet when we returned, a second circle had manifested. Nobody we spoke to saw it being created.”

According to Fuller, this makes it difficult to accept that the circles are a hoax. Instead, he collaborated with meteorologist Terence Meaden, editor of the *Journal of Meteorology* and research scientist at the Tornado and Storm Research Organization, to develop yet another theory. Minivortexes, Fuller and Meaden suggest, are at the root of it all.

These whirlwinds, Fuller and Meaden

believe, form in leas and, given the right combination of crop, temperature (it must be high), and geology, can cut highly intricate patterns. “The effect is swift,” Meaden says, and can occur just about anytime of the day or night.

To prove their hypothesis, BUFORA and the Storm Research Bureau recently surveyed 365 cereal farms in the county of Hampshire. Working during the winter of 1986–1987, the off-season for circle formation, the study team learned that the appearance of circles strongly coincided with the British whirlwind season, which lasts from May to July. And they determined that the summer of 1983, which boasted more circles and whirlwinds than any other year, was Britain's hottest in three centuries.

But not even Fuller, Meaden, and BUFORA rule out a hoax entirely. For instance, in 1986 somebody carved out the words WE ARE NOT ALONE in giant letters by the circles at Cheesefoot Head. “I doubt,” Fuller says, “that the weather is capable of that.” —JENNY RANGLES