



THE

# CIRCULAR

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## Return of the Circles in '92

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**Discovering the Froxfield Brain**

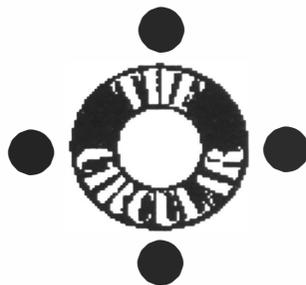
**The Trilling Noise Debate**

**Characteristics of *The Force***

THE JOURNAL OF THE CENTRE FOR CROP CIRCLE STUDIES

Volume 3

Number 2



July

1992

## The Quarterly Crop Circle Magazine

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**COVER PHOTO : TRIPLET AT OVERTOWN FARM (4/6/92). © BUSTY TAYLOR**

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# INTRODUCTION

by  
George Wingfield

The snide and cynical face of British tabloid journalism currently promises to deliver a further assault on the serious study of crop circles in the tradition of TODAY's Doug & Dave scam. The Mail on Sunday recently cut its name in a cornfield at Baltic Farm (having paid farmer David Shepherd a sum not unadjacent to £500) and will feature, tongue-in-cheek, this only too recognisable glyph as the work of UFO-borne aliens. It may also claim that credulous fools like CCCS members accept this absurd proposition and crow about the gullibility of those who maintain that there is a genuine phenomenon.

Whether or not anything like this materialises in the press, I think that we can expect claims to be made sooner or later that hoaxing has taken place in the Beckhampton area and mid-Wiltshire and some proof of this will be offered. Both sceptics and plasma vorticists alike will seize this scenario in an attempt to discredit the major pictograms of 1991 (including the Barbury Castle triangle) and 1992. But the fallacy that "some hoaxing means everything is a hoax" and the equal fallacy "that pictograms are hoaxes and only simple and ringed circles are 'genuine'" is being disproved by the phenomenon itself. People who cannot comprehend this, and the evolving nature of the circles, fail to grasp the very essence of what we are dealing with, and the ways in which the designs develop.

Of course there are hoaxed crop circles; that we all know. It is also acknowledged that it is no easy matter, without scientific testing, to confirm the validity of any particular formation. As regards assessing visually whether a crop circle is genuine or not, one really has to be the first to enter it in order to form any useful judgement. Virgin circles are often disfigured within hours by visitors however careful they are and very soon no sort of assessment is possible. However, if one finds an unopened can of Tennent's Lager (Sell by date=29/5/93) under the laid crop, as

in Warminster's "Eagle" pictogram, one should draw the necessary conclusions.

The dismay engendered by such discovery, and the possibility of being deceived by such hoaxes, is most disheartening for serious researchers. It is for these reasons that CCCS is concentrating this year on achieving positive scientific results from *Project Argus*. We are giving full support to eight of our American colleagues who will arrive shortly to undertake extensive crop and soil sampling in Wiltshire during July and August. Basically we seek to determine whether there are any features of crop circles which are demonstrably not caused by simple physical trampling. If we can conclusively show this is the case, as many believe from last year's results, the project will have succeeded.

Dr W.C.(Lefty) Levengood of Grass Lake, Michigan, was prominent in the preliminary testing for organic changes in circles-affected crop which was carried out last year. He noted a variety of organic effects consistent with the presence of a very high temperature (say 300-500 deg F) having acted for very short duration, perhaps a few microseconds only. These effects, such as enlargement of the plant's nodes and expansion of the cell wall pits were apparent using microscopy and they were further confirmed by Cassandra McDonough using electron microscopy in Texas. Some carbon blackening of plants was also noted.

When in Chicago during April, I drove to Grass Lake to meet Dr Levengood and discuss his results. One reads of many claims about the circles in newspapers and "scientific" journals which one cannot feel happy about until one has met the person making such a claim. In this country my misgivings have sometimes been confirmed by such a meeting, and in Levengood's case I felt I must talk to him.

However any misgivings I may have had were soon dispelled and I was delighted to find a hard-headed and meticulous scientist of many years standing. There was no question about the organic effects which he had observed in the many samples and controls which he had tested. The effects were there, plain as a pikestaff, and I was shown many photographs of plant sections displaying these indications. There was no doubt that we were witnessing very real effects which could not possibly be reproduced by any known mechanical

method of trampling or flattening.

Despite all this, there are people in this country familiar with the circles, and who should know better, who choose to disregard the scientific evidence. Why? It can only be that, in the aftermath of the Doug and Dave scam, the suspicion and paranoia which has been sown in some sections of the cereological community has even overshadowed common sense.

For all the vast number of circle formations which appeared in 1990, 1991, and which are currently appearing this year, it would require an army of hypothetical unseen hoaxers (HUHs) to be operating night after night. Where are these people? Can they perform tirelessly year after year, unseen and unacknowledged? I think we should be told!

The circles are once again in full swing and the first article in this issue is devoted to the 1992 formations. As yet there has been nothing as fine as the Barbury Castle Triangle or the Mandelbrot but there is plenty of time yet. Barbara Davies has sagely remarked that, in view of the fact that the circles appear to be mind-related, *what we receive depends on what we give*. So, if some of the formations which we are finding in Wiltshire and Hampshire this year appear scruffy, misshapen and altogether hoax-like --so different from the magnificent pictograms of '91 -- this may be due to the suspicion and doubt which now prevails. Meanwhile fine formations have been reported from Sussex, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall.

CCCS's first international conference, *Crop Circles, The Enigma for the Ninties* is to be held at King Alfred's College, Winchester, from July 17th to 19th. This promises to be an exceptional event and we anticipate good attendance and a very high level of interest. Many foreign participants will be attending, in particular from the United States, and the occasion seems set to provide the world's premier forum on the subject of cereology.

It is now for CCCS to get down to a very careful inspection of what is actually happening in the cornfields of England and see whether we can lay for once and for all the totally absurd suggestion that all crop circles are human-made by conventional means. After all, the very use of that much hackneyed word *hoax* implies, does it not, the existence of the genuine article?

# THE RETURN OF THE CIRCLES IN '92 by George Wingfield

Despite the gloomy forecasts and the winter of cereological doubt and suspicion, the circles have now returned to Wessex and, circlewise, it is business as usual. Whatever "usual" may mean -- since the circles evolve and develop each year in their own distinctive and unpredictable manner. Aware of their fickle nature I have long since given up attempts to predict what forms we may expect, but it still looks as if one can say that people whose theories only allow simple circles, and exclude complex shapes, are most likely to be confounded yet again. Nevertheless the season has started mainly with plain circles and groups of circles.

First reported formation of 1992 was a 72 ft diameter circle in oil-seed rape at Sutton Scotney, Hants. This displayed a curious and distinctive pattern in the laid crop, similar to that seen in August 1989 in a circle at Winterbourne Stoke, precursor of the "swastika" circle shown on the cover of the hardback version of *Crop Circle Enigma*. At Sutton Scotney the central part was concentrically swirled clockwise whereas in the outer part of the circle the flow of the plants changed abruptly to radial with only a slight clockwise twist. A 2 ft peripheral band, evidently laid first, was again concentrically swirled. Two small satellite circles lay close together on one side.

Assessment of this circle was entirely predictable in view of the atmosphere of suspicion and doubt which had been engendered by a widely publicised but fraudulent claim of hoaxing in 1991. Almost all the experts who examined this first circle pronounced it a hoax principally on the basis that there was much apparent breakage of the crop, but perhaps also because it has become traditional to pronounce the first circles of the year a hoax. In fact someone who entered the formation at a

very early stage has said there was very little breakage at all, if any.

Throughout May each new formation received much the same sort of unenthusiastic assessment from leading cereologists, most notably from those who had been publicly deceived in 1991. Such caution is certainly justifiable and some of these early circles were likely to have been human-made, but these assessments told us more about the prevailing atmosphere of suspicion than about the circles themselves. Very often circles in a rapidly growing crop are rough and this lack of sharpness is accentuated by the crop picking itself up again within hours of being flattened. Also those less familiar with the phenomenon come to expect the geometric precision and excellence of late summer circles with which these early ones simply do not compare. One can hardly expect the perfection of an Ickleton Mandelbrot to manifest in rape or in early May barley. And buckled stalks are, despite popular myth, not unknown in genuine circles. This does not mean that poorly laid circles are necessarily "genuine"; it is simply that they could well be genuine though assessment is difficult, if not impossible, unless one gets to a formation that is fresh.

One characteristic of the new formations was that some exhibited a proliferation of add-ons which appeared within days of the original event. A ringed circle at Chilbolton found on May 22 gained extra features apace over the next two weeks. Some of these were probably human-made but most were not. Likewise a line of ten grapeshot circles at Lockeridge multiplied and extended over the following week. A pictogram at Urchfont Hill in rape, initially labelled a "hoax" like so much else, similarly acquired extra circles, arcs and a trident. This was strange to say the least, given the jungle-like nature of the crop, and the fact that it lay in a remote field not visible from public roads; assessment of its legitimacy was correspondingly difficult.

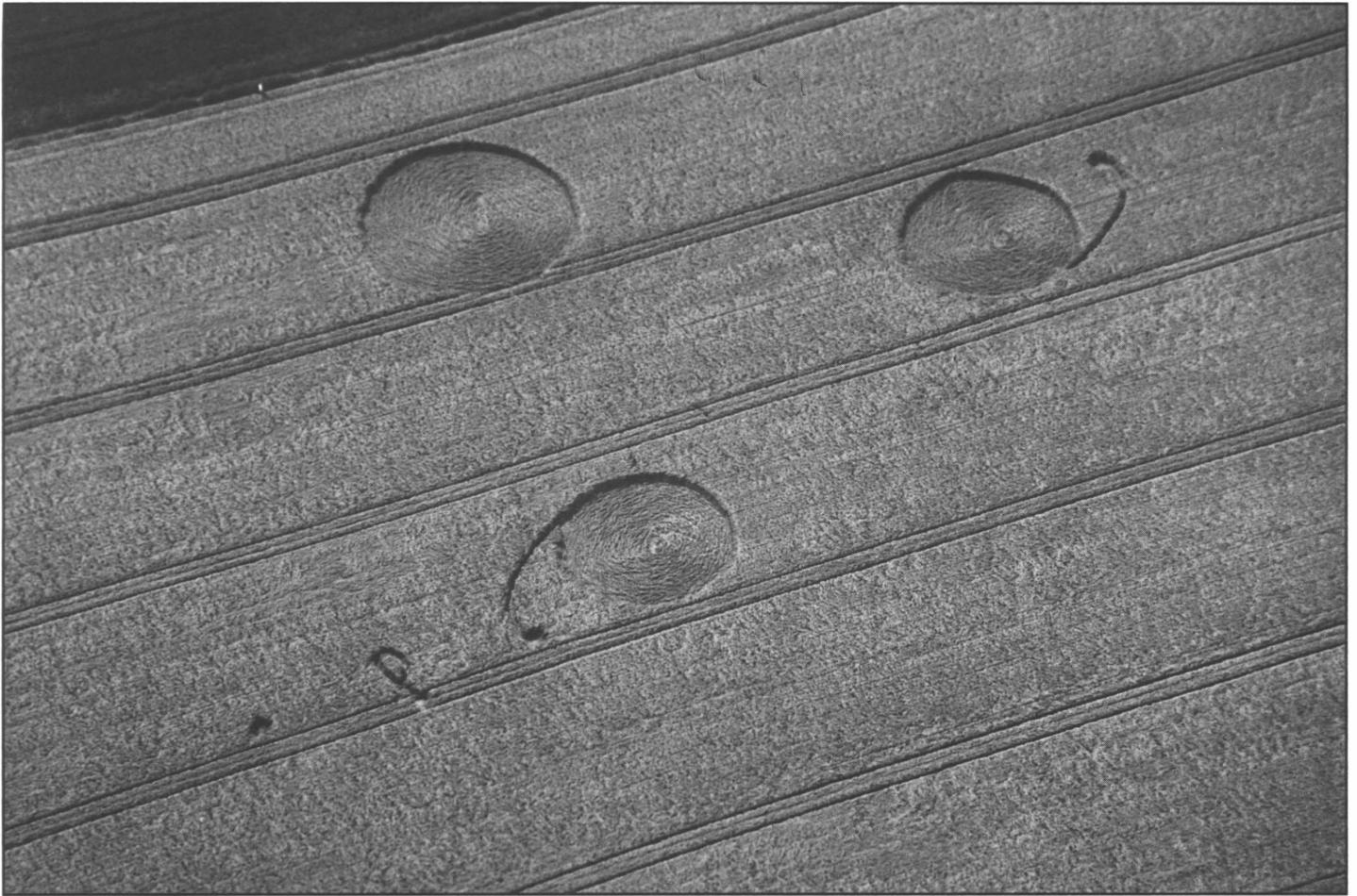
The first really impressive circles of 1992 were at Lockeridge where there appeared a pair of circles, one with a long tail terminating scroll-like in a smaller circle. Beside this was seen a new "signature", the fish symbol similar to that used by the early Christians. Despite the stunning

perfection of the lay of the barley in this formation, there were inevitably sceptics who soon arrived to pronounce it a "hoax" since it had underlying swaths which seemed to them suspicious. These underlays have been observed for two years now and are capable of completely different interpretation. They were present in the 1991 "fishes", samples from which yielded scientific results totally inconsistent with human-made effects, and have been present in many of the pictograms. In the same field as the tailed circle and its companion there was also a double-ringer which appeared during the same night, May 24/25, but seemed rough and of very poor quality. Could the same field produce "genuine" circles and a "hoax" all in the same night?

## OVERTOWN TRIANGLE

By the first week of June reports of new circles were becoming so frequent that even the sceptics must have begun to wonder at the seemingly tireless endeavours of that great invisible army of HUHs. At Overtown Farm near Wroughton Airfield a quite magnificent set of circles appeared in a large barleyfield on June 4. Found by farmworker Maurice Lowes at 4.30 a.m. it was most definitely not there the previous evening yet the scope of this formation was prodigious. Three circles, measuring about 60 ft, 47 ft and 46 ft, are arranged in a triangle with their centres about 130 ft apart. Two of these have long tails, two feet wide, which emerge from the circles at a narrow angle and sweep outwards for about 50 ft terminating in small 5 ft circles. They are similar to the scroll shape, seen previously, but with a much greater discrepancy in size between the end circles. All three circles were swept anticlockwise as were the spiralling tails. In this, and the triangular format, there is a clear reflection of the format of the great Barbury Triangle of 1991. But the most striking feature of the 1992 formation is the "fish" signature, about 14 ft long. The implication of intelligent design is, of course, unmistakable.

Sceptics will naturally say such design is human and will claim to have found footprints and the like in these circles. There will of course be footprints since myself and others walked in them at an early stage, but the sheer perfection of the



**Three large circles, of which two are tailed, in a barleyfield at Overtown.  
Beside the nearest circle is the "fish" signature. (Photo by Busty Taylor)**

Overtown formation belied such claims. A favourite suspicious sign which is often cited is the "footprint under the laid crop". That can indeed be suspicious, especially where the ribbing on the shoe's sole is imprinted in the soil, but it should be quite clearly distinguished from a foot impression under the crop which is sometimes produced a heavy visitor standing on the laid crop when the ground is soft or moist. These are inevitably made within hours of a new circle's discovery since that will usually signal the arrival of an constant stream of visitors.

Throughout May and early June we received a steady flow of reports of new circles throughout southern Britain and especially reports from habitual circle areas like that around Silbury Hill. Most of these formations were plain circles, ringed circles, tailed circles, sets of circles or grapeshot. What had become of the pictograms? Elaborate pictograms have never appeared early in the circle season so this was not unexpected. There were in fact a few dumb-bells, some with

ringed or tailed end circles. One near Wherwell, Hants, appeared in a field of rye and was so lightly imprinted that it could only be seen from the air and was hardly visible at all at ground level. Two other dumb-bells were found in Devon, at Berry Pomeroy and near Brixham.

Undoubtedly some of the 1992 circles have been human-made and the sixty-four thousand dollar question is, of course, "What proportion?" If one fails to catch one's circle when it is fresh, one's chances of even making an educated guess to this vexing question are limited. And by virtue of the circles' mysterious provenance and hoax-like nature one can usually find suspicious factors of some kind or other. Perhaps the story of the outbreak of crop circles at Baltic Farm near Devizes on June 11/12 will illustrate this.

## BALTIC FARM

I went to Baltic Farm on Friday June 12 to examine circles which had appeared that

day. From the main road one could see a large flattened oval in a barleyfield near the farmhouse. Also in the field were several lesser circles. Inspection was discouraging since there were already some tracks through the crop and the whole formation was rough and straggly; there was also some rough damage in the field. Yet farmer David Shepherd was quite sure that there had been no circles there the previous evening.

In the next field, a few hundred yards to the north-east, there were more circles which I had spotted earlier from the A361 road. These, in crisp green wheat, looked much more promising. There was a line of eight circles, each 10 to 12 ft diameter apart from the last which was smaller, going obliquely across the field. These were separated from each other by perhaps 50 ft and half of them were completely isolated from the tramlines which on this farm are widely spaced, about 72 ft apart. Where the line of circles did cross one tramline it changed direction by a few degrees and there were two equal circles

just touching. Together with Robert Irving I walked along the tramlines and peered through binoculars at the isolated circles from various angles.

There was absolutely no indication that these circles had been entered by anyone on foot and we were agreed that we had found what certainly appeared to be virgin circles. Later in the day we returned to take samples and carefully made our way into separate isolated circles causing as little damage as possible by stepping as much as we could along the gaps between adjoining seed lines. The next day a well known circle debunker spotted the slight tracks through the crop left by Rob Irving and at once queried the authenticity of these circles on this basis.

The bent line of circles, all swirled clockwise and of similar size, certainly looked as if they had been imprinted by something from above which had skipped across the field. Could this have been Terence Meaden's elusive snark-like plasma vortex? In fact these circles were so like what I imagined Terence would wish to see that I telephoned him as soon as I could and suggested that he came to Baltic Farm.

Meanwhile in the next field to the north-west were at least eight more circles of varying sizes, bringing the total at Baltic Farm to about 20. Again in green wheat these included a large oval, unlike any crop circle I had ever seen before, measuring approximately 95 ft by 56 ft. In all of these wheat circles the majority of the plants were not flat to the ground but were bent at about 40 deg. at the first and second nodes, each noticeably swollen, so that in regaining the vertical the plant curved upward like a three-sided segment of a polygon. Since the line of eight circles, at any rate, were less than 24 hours old, it was hard to reconcile this bending with the normal phototropic recovery that occurs in plants flattened by the weather or by trampling. This unnatural bending at the nodes is held to be characteristic of true circles.

Farm manager Jim Ball was born in Baltic Farm and had lived there for 46 years. He told us that there had never been any circles before 1987 when their first circle (a quincunx) had been found in a crop of beans. Since then they had had circles of various types every year except 1991.

From what he said there was a strong impression that something unseen had taken root on the farm and manifested itself each summer when the crops were of sufficient height. We talked to farmworker Roger Marsh who had been on his tractor in the wheatfield where the oval was now laid. He had only been in one corner of the field where he had seen a small circle, but insisted that the oval and other circles were not there in the morning. Later while spraying another field on rising ground nearby, he spotted the large oval which he said must have appeared at about 3.30 p.m. that afternoon. We found this very surprising as confirmed instances of circles arriving during the day are extremely rare, but with this veritable circles explosion at Baltic Farm anything seemed possible.

Later this daylight origin was disproved by Busty Taylor who told us that he had flown over and photographed the oval crop circle and its companions the previous evening (Thursday). But the bent line of eight circles in the other field was not there at that time. That we had a number of virgin circles less than 24 hours old was encouraging but another puzzling aspect was not.

## SIGNS OF HOAX

Busty's photos showed what looked like the partly drawn outline of an oval some two hundred yards from the other oval in the same field. When we examined this a few days later one could only say that it looked as if someone had trodden out a part ring in the wheat and then another part ring on the other side of the tramline. Together these might have formed the outline of an oval but the two rings were somewhat skew and the project looked to have been abandoned. This was evidently done before most of the circles appeared.

Suspicion of hoaxing immediately leapt to mind but where did this leave the other circles which looked to be genuine? Had the tractor driver merely been unobservant or could some other construction be put on what he told us (an unworthy thought!)? If the isolated circles were faked how on earth was this done --was a small accomplice or child lowered into the standing crop on the end of a very long pole? Was the Baltic Farm annual barn dance the next day in some way relevant

to the advent of the circles? Had a band of hoaxers really gone to such amazing trouble to produce an archipelago of impressive circles? And how could they produce such remarkable bending of the plants at the nodes in well under 24 hours? The total hoaxing scenario seemed the most far-fetched of all interpretations.

Such is the nature of the crop circle enigma. Curiouser and curiouser it becomes and still no one is anywhere near producing a solution to the problem. The format of the phenomena changes every year and indeed almost every month. We all know how we like our crop circles to be and they are almost invariably different. Complaints have been heard that the 1992 circles lack the symmetry and artistry of those masterpieces of 1991. Does this make them false? Who is to say? Perhaps we should employ aesthetes rather than scientists to judge whether a crop circle is "genuine" or otherwise.

For the moment all we can do is observe closely, keep an open mind, and collect samples for scientific examination. The circles have certainly not abandoned us but their present teasing unpredictability gives us more cause for self-examination than anything else. They are lurking waiting to play their trump card. There are no easy solutions and it seems doubtful whether they will ever present us with scientific certainty. But the 1992 circles will continue to tantalise and torment us.



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**PROGRESS WITH  
CCCS CIRCLES  
RESEARCH  
PREPARATIONS  
FOR 1992  
by  
Montague Keen**

*Montague Keen, Crop and Soil Research Coordinator for CCCS, reviews the arrangements which have been made for CCCS's forthcoming scientific programme of circles research in 1992. It is hoped that *The Cereologist's* Circle-making Contest, to be held before the research programme begins, will provide lessons which may save valuable resources and effort being wasted on fake circles.*

I don't know how Cadmus learnt the trick. He's the chap who sowed dragon's teeth, now difficult to get even in the St Petersburg black market, and next day there were armed men prepared for battle. The CCCS might get some useful tips from him on how best to cope with a flurry of formations before all the biologists, physicists, soil scientists and their myriad helpmates are there, with vulpine anticipation ready to swoop, and laden with geiger counters, scalpels, plastic bags, measuring tapes, scrapers, soil borers, mallets, pickling jars, compasses, notepads, questionnaire forms and dowsing rods.

If we hadn't got our act together in time for the first circular invasions of the season, it was partly because we were still hunting for the script. Even the long-awaited Field Guide, ready by the end of May after Herculean exertions, had to be delayed a little longer to incorporate yet more late information and ideas. But warts and all, it should prove an essential

guide to all serious researchers. Some have raised eyebrows at the price (to CCCS members, £7.50). True, it's absurdly cheap considering what a commercial publication would command, but it is meant to cover only bare production costs. Hence the astounding bargain.

## DETECTING HOAXES

Two sections in particular created difficulties, and caused delays. One deals with ways to distinguish the genuine from the false. Even the idea of offering such guidance, let alone the twenty odd yardsticks themselves, was controversial. Many felt it unwise to the point of stupidity to reveal well-kept secrets of the signs by which fraudulent activities could be detected. Others (happily the majority) argued that it was both wrong and shortsighted to fancy that a few initiates should, or could, cling to clues that only they believed to be sure signs of the genuine article; that it was contrary to the rules of



**Barley delicately laid in concentric swaths within the largest of  
3 circles at Overtown Farm, 4/6/92. Photo: G. Wingfield.**

open scientific investigation to try to hush up these features. Indeed, thus relegated to an inferior order of initiates, most CCCS members might well feel insulted to be given guidance but have the important bits left out.

There are more practical reasons to commend openness. Everyone knows that sceptics have been busy infiltrating investigatory groups to learn the tricks of the trade. And no-one can produce a sure-fire, unarguable feature which is inherently impossible to fabricate. Secrecy simply generates mistrust and rows. It certainly does not help to convince either sceptics or waverers, let alone the scientific community.

## CIRCLE-MAKING CONTEST

Besides, we have a major problem this year and perhaps for the future also. We can make little real progress until the hoax hypothesis has been squarely faced and disposed of. We are hoping to get, but have yet to find, a reliable litmus test. (Here I must apologise to readers who noted with proper indignation a false claim in the blurb advertising the 1991 CCCS booklet, *Scientific Evidence for the Crop Circle Phenomenon*. It was said that "the lessons for the 1992 season are clear: We have a litmus-test way of determining hoax from genuine". Accidentally the vital prefix "may" was omitted before "have" !).

The circle-making contest, arranged by *The Cerealogist*, due to take place in mid-July is certainly not going to prove anything; but, if successful, it should provide a useful guide to the size of the gap, if any, between what skilled human circle-makers can do and what has been seen, and recorded, in what are believed to be genuine crop circles.

This should provide information enabling us to update and modify the guidelines on hoax recognition. That, incidentally, is one reason why the Guide is a punched-hole loose leaf production: so that it can be updated. Anyway, the results of the competition should be to reduce the risk of crop samples and soil being taken from fake formations, so wasting time and valuable resource allocated to Project Argus.

## THE SAMPLING PROBLEM

Does this matter? Yes it does! In pursuing the scientific investigation into the effect on soil and crops of the flattening energies our biggest single problem is the virtual absence of suitable volunteers in this country who can examine samples. That means people, not only with appropriate qualifications in botany, with some knowledge of soil science and plant pathology, --but with the laboratory equipment to store and handle possibly large numbers of fresh and dry samples of crops from perhaps scores of formations, and with the time and availability to do it at short notice, and ones who are conveniently located.

At present they don't exist. Absorbed in their examinations throughout June, the Universities scatter their inhabitants asunder throughout the high summer circle-formation season, and can't help: or where they can they need up to a year's notice to organise themselves and find the people to undertake (mainly) vacation work; also they are obliged, thanks to Thatcherite edicts, to charge for their services.

I write not of peanuts. One University department, quoting a non-commercial, non-profit rate to carry out a series of fairly simple tests on lodged crops, estimated the cost at around 6,400. I have felt obliged to decline this offer. Anyone naively believing that Universities are there to undertake pure, disinterested and uncommercially motivated scientific work to discover the secrets of the Universe should apply to me for an ambulance to drag them out of the nineteenth century into the present.

## OPERATION ARGUS

As the Field Guide, Section G, makes painfully clear, sampling is only the first part of a complex and expensive business; and is not to be undertaken lightly. We are fortunate that a number of independent organisations this summer are jointly sponsoring the first scientific investigation into the effects of crop circles on soil and plants ever to be conducted. CCCS is devoting much of its hard-pressed resources in cash and hard labour towards ensuring that this partnership of exploration succeeds.

There will doubtless be outrage at this claim to be the first. It is made with no sense of pride: on the contrary it is a lamentable reflection on the years spent fruitlessly in private research, hoarded data and unpublished findings. Our aim is to make our methodology known, open to expert assessment and critical scrutiny, and to make the results universally available. If this procedure has indeed been previously applied to crop circle investigation, then I am unaware of it, and I shall don sackcloth, anoint same with ashes and munch through a diet of humble pies in penitential recantation when given the evidence.

Details of *Operation Argus*, to be co-ordinated by Michael Chorost, were thrashed out at a special scientific get-together in Las Vegas in May at which I represented CCCS. A four hour discussion with five professors from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas helped to fine-tune the sampling procedures. (Remarkable that no university or technical college in the UK has evinced the same interest, isn't it?). A substantial part of the funding is being provided by an American businessman, Bob Bigelow. A major target, although by no means the only function, will be the sampling of soils inside and outside formations so that they can be evaluated for radio-activity.

It is by now well known that one of the chief defects of the soil sampling system last year, apart from the inadequate number of samples, was the long period elapsing between formation and analysis (which was done in Tennessee). This made it very difficult to detect and identify short-lived radio-active isotopes. Since the publication of my booklet on last year's research findings, and of the last issue of *The Circular*, further investigation has shown that three of the originally suspected 13 isotopes (radionuclides) have been pretty firmly identified. And "pretty firmly" can be mathematically evaluated at a 99.6% probability level.

So on-the-spot facilities are being provided this time round. There are very few places in the UK where machines to measure alpha and beta particle emission rates at very low levels are available; and certainly none that I know of where the cost would be bearable. There are quite a number of machines designed to deter-

mine which isotopes are emitting radioactivity, however. It is planned to use both types during *Operation Argus*, thanks to the help of Oxford Instruments Ltd, which is allowing the machines to be brought over specially from the USA, where they are manufactured. In the weeks before mid-July, when the scientists start work from their Wiltshire base, we hope to undertake some isotope identification checks.

The last thing we or any sane person wants is to burden the scientists and gum up their expensive equipment with samples taken from spurious formations. This is no longer a matter of making experts look silly, or having innocent nocturnal larks to lead the earnest astray. Deliberate fabrication of formations is now a serious, wasteful and wholly pointless impediment to our understanding of what many believe to be among the most puzzling and challenging mysteries of our time.

A final note of caution on sampling. The procedures for soil sampling are fairly clearly set out in the Guide, and so far require no amendment - although it is possible that further advice on the advisability of blind sampling may be considered desirable. The biggest headache has arisen from the handling of plants; and here it is likely that we shall be producing a revised guide (there is a prescient warning of this in a footnote to Section H) relating to the formula of the preservative/ fixative to be used instead of formaldehyde where the fresh plant (as distinct from the plant when dried) is to be examined, and to the precise parts of the plants to be pickled for later examination.

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- Fri 24 July **Latest Events.** John Macnish will show his latest produce -- film followed by discussion.
- Wed 29 July **Open Evening.** Montague Keen will host this opportunity to share new theories. Anyone is welcome to present their ideas in up to 10 minutes. Projectors and video available.
- Wed 12 Aug **Scientific developments in Project Argus.** Michael Chorost will present the results of his team's work to date followed by discussion.
- Wed 19 Aug **Surveillance.** Each year various groups set up surveillance operations using a variety of equipment from infra-red photography to radar.
- Fri 21 Aug **Latest Events.** John Macnish will show recent film followed by discussion.
- Wed 26 Aug **Revue of the season.** John will show his most interesting shots of the season and compare the year's events to previous years.

**John Macnish**, freelance TV producer specialising in crop circle investigation, will show video of the most recent interesting events.

**Dr Terence Meaden**, the foremost scientist in this country investigating circles, will present his latest theories after 12 years of study in collaboration with scientists from Japan and the USA.

**Michael Chorost**, of North American Circle and Mutual UFO Network, is leading Project Argus, an international effort to examine the physical characteristics of crop circles. Samples of plants and soil from circles will be analysed by laboratories who will compare radioactivity, cell structure etc. with samples taken from outside circles.

**Rupert Sheldrake**, initiator of the Cereologist Crop Circle Making competition, will hold a post mortem on the result. This is a major event (to be held in darkness on the night of July 11th) designed to test whether hoaxers can replicate features which the experts regard as the hallmark of 'genuine' circles.

**Montague Keen** will use his wide-ranging knowledge to host the open evening and comment on any new theories which are presented.

*Each evening will include news of the latest events and discussion. Free refreshments will be served.*

**THE BRAIN,  
OR SERPENT,  
AT FROXFIELD  
AUGUST 1991  
by  
Jurgen Kronig**

*CCCS Member Jurgen Kronig, who is London correspondent of the German newspaper Die Zeit, was discoverer of the remarkable Brain (or Serpent) circle formation about 1 mile S. of Froxfield, last August. Here, in an excerpt from the book Ciphers in the Crops, shortly to be published by Gateway Books, he describes his impression on that memorable occasion.*

The first time I saw the "Brain" it was only a dark, shadowy spot on the golden carpet of an over-ripe wheat field near Froxfield, just a mile from the border of Berkshire and Wiltshire. In fact, it was Nick Bailey who was the first to spot this extraordinary formation. Nick was the pilot of a small two-seater helicopter, with whom I had flown many times during the summer of 1991.

We were just at the end of a flight over parts of North Wiltshire, and Nick circled the helicopter over the huge dolphin formation near Froxfield. Out of the corner of his eye, he had spotted a dark marking in a field approximately three-quarters of a mile away, while I was busy photographing the dolphin. We decided to have a closer look and flew over the fields and woodlands.

When we arrived we were both stunned. Never before had we seen anything like this: a free-flowing form of passageways, evolving from small circles, some of them running precisely on a parallel course to each other. We hovered above the formation for a time, while I took a lot of photographs. We were both fascinated by this completely new and exciting pictogram. Nick brought the helicopter down to a height of not more than 15-20 feet,



**The sinuous "Brain" formation discovered by Jurgen Kronig. Note the discontinuities in the curving "pathway" which is just over 1000 ft long and exhibited strong dowsable energy counterflows.**

just high enough not to damage the fragile structure of the pictogram, but low enough to see how completely untouched this crop formation looked.

We couldn't detect any marks or footprints in the surrounding fields, but discovered another small circle just at the edge of the field. We then flew along the edges of the wheatfield to look for anything unusual. All we found was another pair of circles, half a mile away, just beside a small country lane. The bigger of these circles just touched the edge of the

field in which two days later, another pictogram appeared in the shape of a turtle, an oval "body" with four short "legs".

Approximately one hour later I was back at the scene. Having returned from the flight, I asked my wife Katharina and a friend from Germany, Rainer Traube, to join me and have a closer look at the new pictogram near Froxfield. I had marked the location on an Ordnance Survey map, so knew where we had to go to look for it. Nevertheless, it proved difficult to find.

Whoever was responsible for this formation, they had obviously not intended it to be a showpiece for the wider public. A wise decision perhaps, because its fragile structure would not have withstood hundreds of trampling feet as easily as some of the more accessible circles.

We parked the car on an earth track at the edge of a woodland, but were not able to find an obvious entrance to the wheatfield which contained the circle. Nor was it possible, looking over the field, to see any indication that, somewhere, there was a labyrinth of curved pathways. We walked carefully through the surrounding corn, trying to cause as little damage as possible.

The circle had all of the features that are so well known by now, and are regarded to be the hallmark of the "genuine article". The swirled centre was slightly off-centre, and the stems of corn were not broken. I moved out of the circle along one of the tramlines, which ran unusually far apart from one another. The farmer obviously uses very large spraying machinery. The tramlines were overgrown with secondary growth. No foot had trodden them for quite a while. Walking further into the field, I suddenly saw something that looked like wind damage. Then at last I realised that we had found the pattern we had been looking for. I gave a sign to Katharina and Rainer, who had stayed behind in the small circle.

Together we entered the first circle from which the network of pathways emerged. We were impressed by the complexity and accuracy. We noticed that the pathways sometimes ended abruptly, just a few inches before reaching a tramline, leaving only a thin row of standing wheat. There were no indications that anybody had entered this pictogram before. Everything seemed completely untouched. Parts of the network of pathways were lying totally separated from tramlines. We checked to see if somebody, however carefully, had managed to enter these pathways by walking through the surrounding crop - we were unable to detect even the slightest indication of human entry. Not one stem of wheat was even slightly out of place. We decided not to enter the more inaccessible parts of the pictogram.

Slowly we managed to explore the whole formation. We noticed that some of the wheat stems in the pathways were still standing: it looked as if they had been cut off at a height of approximately 22 inches, and the surface of the cut was blackened. All three of us agreed that this was not only one of the most remarkable formations we had seen, but also we were certain that it was virtually impossible to imagine even an extremely sophisticated ground-based hoaxer could have done this. All tramlines were considerably overgrown, some of the circles and a few of the pathways were inaccessible, and in some places the bent wheat stems of the pathways were "flowing" around single, completely untouched stems.

We spent nearly two hours in this formation. The daylight was fading. Sitting in the largest of the circles we discussed our impressions and observations. What did it resemble most? Was it a symbol? And if so, what was the meaning? The name that sprang to my mind was "brain". Maybe "serpent" is also an adequate, if not a better name. On the other hand, if the circles are directed at our human consciousness, "brain" doesn't seem too far off the mark.

The following day, Katharina and I returned to the "Brain". We had invited Pat Delgado to come along and inspect this extraordinary formation. Pat, who certainly has seen many beautiful circles before, was impressed. He too noticed the strange black marks on some of the wheat stems, and collected a few samples. Two young men and two students from

Germany, who had discovered the formation while flying a microlight, had arrived shortly before we did. It was interesting to notice that these visitors too had decided not to enter the inaccessible parts of the formation, for fear of damaging it. Only very few people had a chance to see this amazing pictogram. The field was harvested four days after we had had the luck to discover the "brain".



"Sussex Circular" is the official newsletter of CCCS Sussex Branch, free to all of its members, with an emphasis on Sussex crop circles and local activities. However, it also contains many articles of a more general appeal on circle-related matters, that other members of CCCS may like to read. *Sussex Circular* is an A5, 12 page booklet published monthly, and is available for £1.50 per copy (inc P&P) for anyone interested. Back issues (from Feb '92) are available also. Write to:

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**A REPLY TO  
PAUL FULLER'S  
REVIEW OF  
"THE SUMMER  
OF 1991 CROP  
CIRCLES"  
by  
Michael Chorost**

*Michael Chorost's article "The Summer of 1991 Crop Circles" was published in the October 1991 edition of MUFON UFO Journal. The article summarised the preliminary results of his intensive scientific investigation of the circles with particular regard to crop and soil sampling which had never previously been seriously attempted. This evoked a scathing review in Cropwatcher, written by editor Paul Fuller who has for some years been the leading apostle of Dr Terence Meaden's highly questionable "Plasma Vortex" theory of crop circle creation. Having offered Chorost the "full right of reply" to this review of his, Fuller then proposed publishing an emasculated version of Chorost's reply to which the latter did not agree. He wrote back to Fuller saying: "Unless I'm seriously mistaken about the English language, "full right of reply" includes the right to reply without having one's language watered down and one's supporting data removed. No, Paul, you may not publish your bowdlerization of my reply." Although Fuller has now published Chorost's reply in Cropwatcher, he excludes the section shown here in bold type and the attached table (this page) which clearly illustrates the enhanced radiation effects within that formation. I believe that it is important to publish this reply in full since it is of considerable general interest (besides showing the "political" attitude of Cropwatcher when scientific results conflict with the CERES party line). Fuller's attitude is further emphasised by the magazine's recent promotion of the completely untrue assertion, in order to imply hoax, that at Barbury Castle "virtually every stem -- millions of them--was broken or snapped", which was simply not the case.--Editor.*

Negative reviews are family quarrels by another name. We cereologists form a classic dysfunctional family: we hate each others' guts, but we can't avoid each other. Strangely enough, we often teach each other a great deal. In short: thanks for the nasty review, Paul; I love you too.

It's decent of you to offer the opportunity to reply, though. Some of your criticisms (the lesser ones, mostly) I'll agree are valid and well taken. As for the rest, I'll sorrowfully explain to you just how wrong you are.

But first, I want to make a simple point. Your review was a historic moment in cereology. It marked the first time one cereologist engaged at length, in print, with raw figures published by a rival cereologist. That marked the beginning of a community which talks about openly available data, rather than unverifiable anecdotes and unsupported theories. Communal analysis brings the self-correcting properties of science into play, since errors are discovered faster by groups than by individuals. You found several typos: I thank you for alerting me to that problem, and I am tightening up my editing procedures. (The corrections are listed at the end of this article.) Thus my study and your review together constitute a new and positive direction for the field. In the long run, that will outweigh the fact that your review happened to be written in attack-dog mode.

There is one other point I want to make. It has escaped no one's notice that, faults and all, we North Americans are publishing considerably more usable data than you are. My report also included a catalog of 200 crop circles, scientifically

critical information which CERES presumably has, but has never bothered to make available. Canada's Chris Rutkowski has published tables of North American crop circles which still have no counterpart on the English scene. My colleagues and I should be able to publish more and better data based on the 1992 season, as we're working our way up the learning curve. I'll have a few things to say about where this will leave you (and CERES) in the long run, but let that wait; let's turn to your review.

Let's start with its centerpiece, its pride and joy, the statistics. You reshaped Marshall Dudley's data into two grand Ionic columns of counts and Z-scores, followed by a third column almost entirely of "Not Significant's." Let's probe the foundation of those columns to see how solid it really is.

The foundation of those columns is, literally, beneath them: it's the "mean control reading" you printed below them on the page. Your Z-scores are based on each sample's deviation from the mean of the control readings. You are wrong in thinking that that mean is a meaningful number. One expects fairly wide radiological variations between controls from different areas, since soils are composed of different mixtures of elements. Natural emitters such as potassium-40 and radon vary widely. Deposits from Chernobyl vary, depending on the vagaries of the weather when the cloud reached various parts of England. The soil's moisture levels make a considerable difference, since water absorbs alpha and beta particles. And recent rains can wash away or add radioactive particles. Thus there is not "mean"

**SCINTILLATION COUNTS FROM A CROP CIRCLE NEAR CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.**

Estimated formation date: End Sept. 1991. Table below shows Counts 1 & 2 (with larger vol soil from same batch), perf'd 20/11/91.

Batch 1 (inside)	211	
Batch 2 (inside)	397	470
Batch 3 (inside)	298	415
Batch 4 (outside)	45	
Batch 5 (outside)	85	78
Batch 6 (outside)	59	71

level of soil radioactivity across England to which all the samples can meaningfully be compared. The variations from area to area are in fact quite wide, as a perusal of the controls will show. Thus you compared the samples to a "mean control" that doesn't exist. So much for your Z-scores.

But it is meaningful to compare soil samples from the same general area, e.g. the crop circle and the field around it. That's what we have to do next year, by taking a large number of samples from a crop circle and its environs. In 1991, we didn't take enough samples from any crop circle to permit a true statistical analysis, though we dismissed variations below 10-12% as likely to be due to differences in the amount of soil in the counter. Marshall Dudley and I said on page 31 that the variations were "statistically significant", which we acknowledge was overly hasty, given that we didn't have enough data to do actual statistics. Better simply to say that we were very intrigued by the fact that soil from two crop circles showed emissions up to 198% higher than their control(s). We hypothesized - and it's a reasonable hypothesis - that soil radioactivity is relatively uniform within an individual field. You'll notice that the time we took two controls, their levels were extremely close to each other (3.43 dpm and 3.49 dpm), whereas the two samples from the respective formation were several tens of percent higher (4.41 dpm and 5.09 dpm). Does that mean something? It could. More data will surely tell.

**We already have some more data. Let me present some recent findings made by Kevin Folta, a graduate student in molecular biology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Kevin took twenty soil samples from a walk around DeKalb, Illinois, and tested their radioactive emissions in a liquid scintillation**

**counter. (All soils have small amounts of radioactivity, both from natural and manmade isotopes). The counts displayed a relative homogeneity: all twenty samples fell within a range of 50 to 78 counts per minute, a 28-count spread. Now compare that to scintillation counts he made on samples from a crop circle near Chicago (see box opposite).**

**You don't have to do heavy-duty statistics to see that the samples from inside**



**The Barbury Castle Triangle  
(17/7/91)**

**the circle were way more active than the ones from outside. And the variation is well outside the 28-count range of variation exhibited by the 20 samples taken around DeKalb. Those 20 samples go a long way toward establishing the rela-**

**tive homogeneity of local areas. Of course, we have to do this kind of testing in England, and you can be sure we will.**

You criticize me for not taking samples from single circles. That's a reasonable requirement; we should try to cover as many formation types as we can. But it seems to me that if you find genuine anomalies in even one complex formation, then you've got enough to show that

complex formations are not automatically dismissible as hoaxes - which would be a real find. Thus, given limited resources, we focus on such. But it's peculiar that in the same section you say that our results "could not have been inferred to "all" crop circles that appeared in Britain in 1991 let alone "all" crop circles that have appeared throughout the world". You are perfectly right in saying that our results would not support such an inference. What's odd is that we didn't make such an inference. We restricted our conclusions to the formations we sampled. I'd like to see you point to the specific sentences where we made such a sweeping claim, particularly using the word "all", which, interestingly enough, you "quote" twice, without citing a page number.

Statistics and sampling are important methodological issues, which you are quite right to insist on. Now let us discuss another methodological issue, that of hoax identification. You try to dismiss some of our readings by saying that they were taken from "provably hoaxed" formations. It is amazing to see any cereologist claiming, especially now, to have an

infallible method of telling the real thing from the fakes. Where are your controlled studies of the differences between plants you've flattened yourself and plants in "good" crop circles? - to name one thing you haven't published. You claim

that the Barbury Castle formation was "exposed" by CERES as "displaying severely damaged crop". Where's the article in J. Met displaying detailed photographic comparisons of Barbury Castle with believed "good" circles, believed "good" but trampled circles, and test formation you've made yourself? As a matter of fact, I visited Barbury Castle three times, and inspected the plants very carefully. They looked just like the plants in most other crop circles I've seen. That doesn't mean it's "genuine" of course. As far as I'm concerned, barring well-defined tests, the status of Barbury Castle is still up in the air. What we need for hoax identification is a characteristic signature which can't be made by physical trampling. Which is just what we're trying to find.

Incidentally, Terence Meaden led that CERES team at Barbury Castle. You're perfectly aware that he was filmed later in the summer claiming that a known hoax was genuine. Given that, it's incredible that you're relying on his visual inspections. You shouldn't be relying on anyone's visual inspections, not even yours.

One more thing about Barbury Castle. My dear Paul, you completely misread what I wrote about it. Here's what you said I wrote:-

*Even in his own report (page 8) Chorost states that Barbury "lacked the ribs and complex layering usually present in complex formations" yet despite his own reservations Chorost went on to include Barbury in his analysis. Perhaps this somewhat curious decision is a prime example of what Chorost somewhat ironically terms "political motives."...*

You use the quotation to imply that I had deep reservations about the formation's genuineness, and that I subsequently brushed aside those reservations. In fact, I presented both sides of the debate and refused to commit myself to either one. Here's the paragraph where the quoted sentence appeared:-

*The Barbury Castle formation was also new, but it was anything but oval. It promptly sparked a gigantic debate over its genuineness. On the minus side, it lacked the ribs and complex layering usually present in complex formations. Terence Meaden argued in a letter to*

*Sheldon Wernikoff that an early reconnaissance of the formation showed that it looked like "a thousand people had trampled it". One could suspect the army itself of carrying out a hoax, using rollers, the dolites, compasses, and night-vision goggles. But on the plus side, the plants looked the way they do in most formations a few days old, still crisply laid and accurately directed. The ratched spiral was especially impressive, since the plants were laid in numerous arcs and right angles without a single mess or miscalculation. Its overall precision was extraordinary. Many experts, including Busty Taylor and George Wingfield of the CCCS, believed it genuine. I myself thought that if it was a hoax, it was a very skilled one.*

The last sentence sums up my judgment: whatever made it, did it well. That's it. The absence of complex layering may be important, but it does not necessarily mean it was fake, since the phenomenon is extremely heterogeneous and changes on us routinely. Barbury Castle was altogether different from any crop circle we've ever seen and it's quite possible that it had to be made in a different way. Con-

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## ISSUE 1

Who Me? A Member of the Media?

JOHN MACNISH

The Crop Circles are Real -

And They are Ancient

TERENCE MEADEN

Reviews: Crop Circle Communique,

Crop Circles -

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## ISSUE 2

OUT IN AUGUST

Complete run down of the crop circle season to date.

Sounding Off

BOB KINGSLEY

The Northampton Down Tumult,

Stonehenge

ANTHONY HORN

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versely, the presence of neatly flattened plants (as I saw them) does not mean it was genuine. My point was precisely that such features are not adequate for hoax identification.

Of course Marshall and I "included the formation in (our) analysis", since the analysis discussed the radiation readings from all of the formations we sampled. Pardon me for quoting myself again, but given your reading strategies, it seems to be warranted. Here's our analysis of Barbury Castle's alpha/beta counts:

The second set of samples is from the controversial Barbury Castle formation. The first time Dudley counted them, the differences were not significant. However, Dudley recounted the samples two weeks later, and got strangely anomalous results. The total emission levels were higher, but expectedly so, since as samples dry out there is less water to block alpha and beta particles. However, one sample, previously 3% lower in alpha count than the control, was now 31% lower. The other sample, previously 10% higher in alpha count, was now 17% higher. These disparities - one sample higher, one sample lower- present a perplexing challenge to anyone trying to decide if the Barbury Castle formation is genuine. The disparities from the control appear to be significant, but they are significant in opposite directions. To put it another way, the anomalies are themselves anomalous. Further analysis may show how they fit into the general pattern, or fail to. Later, when we have more complete data, we may be able to return to this set and settle the issue for good(12).

To summarise. The readings presented "a perplexing challenge to anyone trying to decide if the Barbury Castle formation is genuine." We were not able to "settle the issue for good." Further analysis in the light of future data seemed necessary. That's a long way from uncritically saying it's the real McCoy. To be sure, I have my predilections and biases, as does Marshall, but we submit those biases to the evidence. Better yet, we publish that evidence, so it can be examined by people with other biases.

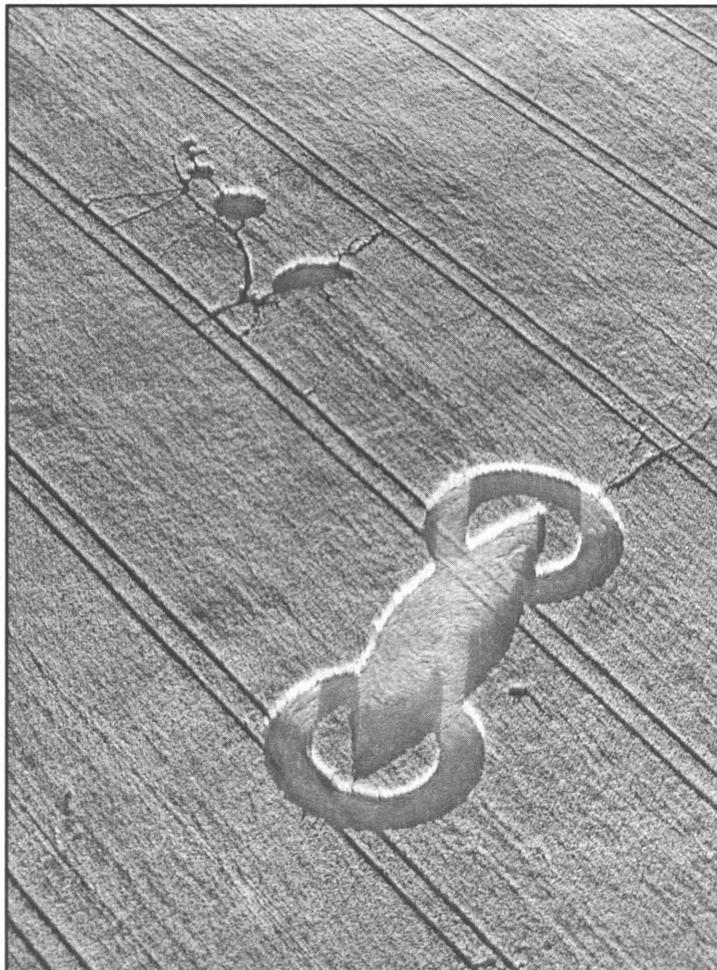
And what did CERES do with Barbury Castle? It declared uncompromisingly that it was a hoax, citing vaguely speci-

fied observations available to no one but themselves. That doesn't impress me.

You do publish some of your "observations" though, which is to say, other people's observations. You rely heavily on eyewitness testimony to buttress the hoax theory. I have in mind the report by "JAD" in the Nov/Dec '91 Crop Watcher (p.28) claiming to have seen hoaxers make the formation at SU 114687. In fact, the formation is at SU 0850 6855, but never mind that. And never mind that this JAD seems to want to remain anonymous. Even if he's right, it doesn't affect our analysis of the two "fish" formations I sampled in the area (numbers 4 and 5 on page 30 of my report - neither of which are the one JAD talks about). You yourself point out in your review that it's invalid to generalize from one crop circle to all of them. Curiously enough, you made this very error when you claimed that JAD's tale "implicate(s) most of the 1991 Wiltshire formations" (28). It sure doesn't. It implicates one formation. And that rather dubiously.

Dubiously, because eyewitness testimony presents certain methodological difficulties. Obviously we have no idea how well these eyewitnesses interpreted what they saw. As you fail to point out, it is possible that the eyewitnesses accidentally confused cropwatchers or visitors with hoaxers, worse still, deliberately falsified stories in order to produce misleading results, although I made no suggestion that this actually occurred.

Another problem with eyewitness testi-



**"Fish" at Firs Farm, Beckhampton  
—among those sampled by Chorost.**

mony is that it convinces no one except the already convinced. Take an example. There are umpteen thousands of eyewitness reports specifically describing alien spacecraft and abductions, but they clearly haven't convinced you that aliens are visiting the earth. (They haven't convinced me either; I'd have to see them myself). No matter what eyewitness reports say, they can't transcend their status as "just stories". Since you rely so heavily on them, you're vulnerable to any shmo who scribbles a complete fabrication and mails it to you for laughs. Hoaxers can manipulate paper just as well as wheat. To ground cereology as a science you need to work with physical things, things which other people can examine independently.

Which Mrzyglod did. You say that I "diplomatically ignored" his negative radiological findings in 1981. I did indeed, for a very sneaky and devious reason: I didn't know about them. Kindly send me a copy. Some of our own samples didn't show radiological anomalies either, a fact

which I most undiplomatically pointed out (p.12). A great deal depends, of course, on the specific conditions under which samples are taken and analysed, and also on the processes used to make crop circles. Their energies may vary; soils may vary; weather may vary; and so on. We have enormous areas of ignorance which can be filled in only by large-scale sampling.

You suggest that future findings may just be artifacts of Chernobyl's fallout. That's a possibility which needs to be taken seriously, and we certainly shall. That's one reason why we're using a gamma spectroscope, since it'll be able to identify specific isotopes as Chernobyl-produced or not. However, it seems to us that such fallout would be reasonably uniform over areas as small as an individual field. In that case it would merely add to the background noise level, being equally present in all samples.

I think my colleagues and I have got a pretty good grip on the challenges we face and the problems we need to solve. We freely acknowledge that we haven't been error-free, but we autopsy our mistakes and learn from them. The fact remains that we're accumulating a great deal of useful information. (I would like to record here that the labours of Marshall Dudley, W.C. Levengood, and Kevin Folta have been nothing short of heroic). Thus I feel entitled to ask you: where have you been for the last fourteen years? Where are your studies of the soil and plants? Where is your basic positional data for other researchers to examine and analyze? Where are your figures of how many crop circles there are, with clear indications of what you consider crop circles and how you count them? Where are your climate charts showing a correlation between circle formation and the weather? Where are your controlled experiments in the feasibility of hoaxing? Where, in short, is your usable data? It seems ridiculous that a few lone Americans should be able to publish more tangible, usable, manipulable data than all the Englishmen in CERES. You're within your rights to criticise us for errors with our data; but it's an infinitely greater error not to publish real data at all.

In closing, I want to return to my discussion of where CERES will be left in the

long run if it continues to hoard its data. Science is a gift economy; data accumulates around people who give their data away. Those who hoard it risk being left out of the scientific economy altogether. As long as most of its key figures are data-hoarders, cereology will not lift itself out of the muck of proto-and pseudo-science.

I invite you to respond to our implicit challenge by publishing some raw data. Without prejudice; until you've got some real criterion of genuineness, you have to include any shape that's made of flattened plants. Giving the weather on formation dates would be a nice start, since CERES is presumably well-equipped to provide it. If you left off the relentlessly negative criticism and started publishing some tables, then you might assist cereology rather more in its progress toward true knowledge.

I thank Marshall Dudley for valuable advice in writing this response.

Corrections: Sample P's "26.70" should be 36.70, and sample R's "23582" should be 19652. We should have said that sample V's alpha figure (2nd count) is 17% above the control, not 17% below; and that 1B's alpha count is 102% above the control not 45% above. Consequently, the two graphs based on these percentages were erroneous as well.



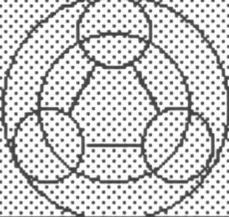
This has been in operation since May 1st. It is already proving very popular, particularly with branch conveners and members who for one reason or another have felt out of touch in the past. I have already made a number of new telephone-friends! In view of fears originally that a hot-line would threaten farmers' and researchers' work, it's heartening that the most usual need expressed is simply to know roughly what is going on - or just to be reassured that something is rather than to demand the exact location of formations. If you ring the hot-line, and I'm not there in time to grab the receiver, don't be put off by the answerphone asking you to leave your number; I will ring you back as soon as I can, and share our latest information on numbers, general locations, shapes, etc. (seeds, roots-and-shoots, and clusters and

lines of circles appear to be a current theme; there is a general sense of a "seeding" have taken place in several parts of the country). Some circles are visible without entering the fields, and some farmers are willing to offer reasonable access. This is information I can usually pass on. Increasingly farmers wish for a low profile though; several have closed their fields since last season - apart from crop-damage, visitations by hordes of strangers (even dedicated researchers) is not easy for them to cope with, particularly as there is a deep and natural need in most people who become interested in the phenomenon to visit at least one formation and this urgency has caused some most unlikely people to commit trespass as of right! I too believe at heart "the circles are for everyone", in one sense, but realise fields are to farmers what our back-gardens are to us - only a lot more difficult to protect. I strongly believe that there are and will be enough of them "open" each season for us all to have the amazing experience of visiting them without incurring negative karma. So first check locally that any formation you are thinking of visiting is accessible.

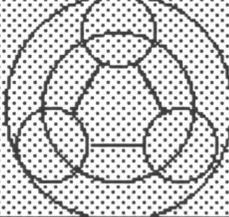
If you have information or comments for us, you have the option of passing them on via this hotline as well as via the data-base (George) and Wessex air surveillance (Busty). We try to keep each other well-informed, and between us, with the help of local branches can help to get them promptly recorded, etc. (I usually have time to chat, too if you want to share ideas or feelings).

## LOCAL BRANCHES

These are becoming increasingly active. It is only through good local PR that farmers' co-operation can be achieved and maintained, and a lot of the ground-work (taking of fresh samples, etc) can be done. There is still a need for local specialist facilities. A list of branch conveners was printed on pages 19 & 20 of the last Circular (Vol. 3 No. 1). Do consult this and join your local branch, if you haven't already, or offer to set one up (consult Pat Palgrave-Moore) if there isn't one; you thus get to chat with like-minded people, form links of mutual trust with local farmers and find support in following up your own particular interest / re-



# CCCS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN WINCHESTER, JULY 1992



On July 17 the CCCS First International Conference, entitled *Crop Circles, The Enigma for the Nineties*, will open at King Alfred's College in Winchester. This will be an intensive two day programme of events with international speakers and many different aspects of the circles phenomenon will be addressed.

Accommodation is mainly available in modern single rooms. For reservations and detailed information about the conference, contact Beth Davis, Conference Secretary, 11B Fitzwilliam Road, Cambridge CB2 2BN. (Tel: 0223 - 328209).

The conference begins on Friday July 17 with registration of attendees at King Alfred's College between 15.00 and 17.00. There will follow an introduction by Michael Green, Chairman of CCCS, who will also chair the evening session. This includes talks by Dr Rupert Sheldrake and Professor Archie Roy. Dinner will be in the Guildhall, Winchester, and the Earl of Haddington is the after-dinner speaker.

On Saturday July 18 the morning session is chaired by Ralph Noyes and will include reports on the circle formations which have been appearing in various parts of England, in the U.S.A., and in Europe. The afternoon session will concentrate on the scientific evidence for the authenticity of the phenomenon with papers by Montague Keen and Michael Chorost. Also covered will be the structure of the formations (Stanley Morcom), physiological and psychological effects (Diana Clift and Lucy Pringle) and physical properties of the formations (Roger Taylor). This is followed by open forum.

The evening session on Saturday is chaired by George Wingfield and features presentations by Colin Andrews, Jurgen Kronig and John Macnish. This session ends with video film of the 1992 crop formations taken by John Macnish.

On Sunday July 19 the morning sessions are chaired by Richard Andrews and the Earl of Haddington. These include

presentations by Stanley Morcom, Busty Taylor, Barbara Davies, Pat Palgrave-Moore, Richard Andrews and Leonie Starr and will cover CCCS fieldwork, the CCCS database, and human and other effects in the formations. The afternoon session, chaired by Michael Green, addresses the metaphysical dimension of the phenomenon. A presentation on the UFO connection will be given by Ralph Noyes and one entitled "*The Nature of the Intelligence behind the Phenomenon*" will be given by John Michell. This is followed by further discussion and feedback in open forum.

The conference closes at 18.00 on the Sunday. On the first day it is hoped that it will be possible to make an excursion by bus and car to visit local crop formations in the Winchester area. This, of course, depends on the accessibility of such formations (if any), farmers' goodwill, the weather and other imponderable factors. If feasible, the expedition will be led by Richard Andrews and Busty Taylor.

(continued from previous column)

search. Each branch has its own flavour: for instance, down here in the far South West, we don't only have thoughtful indoor meetings and peer through microscopes; some of the Devon Group met the Cornish Group on the summer solstice at a pub on the banks of the Tamar. After scanning the countryside from the vantage point of Kit Hill, and dowsing some of its many tumuli, we visited the Callington barley and wheat circles in a (free) minibus tour provided by a Devon member, and a coffee-break in the Devon convenor's comfortable camper van was followed by a lively chase in convoy of an interesting looking dark patch visible in deep farmland across the river. Those of you who were not present at the denouement in the dewpond at Chaddlehanger don't know what you missed! As well as bringing friends together, branches, I'm convinced, are an essential part of our crop

circle work. The unique new looseleaf CCCS Field Guide, available free to all branch conveners, is a mine of information, and also contains copies of our questionnaires and forms. Ask to see it, think of buying it, and please encourage as many people to use the questionnaires and send them in to the research panels. Pat Palgrave-Moore, too, needs regular material sent in to him from branch conveners for the branches' newsletter.

## PHOTOGRAPHS

We are seeking good circles photographs for our archives. If you think you have taken some useful ones, it is usually possible to get an extra set of prints at a nominal rate when they are developed. Remember us - a donation of a print would be wonderful. But we are aware that these cost money. If you have gone to some considerable expense (e.g. flying) to ob-

tain them, are not particularly well off, or are a professional photographer, we feel it would be appropriate to offer you reasonable payment for copies of useful prints. Please negotiate with myself, Michael, George Wingfield, or a research panel leader. In all cases the copyright remains yours.

Offers of voluntary help of other kinds, as requested in the last Circular are still much needed - e.g. from pilots (especially of microlights, to whom branch conveners might perhaps lend loaded cameras if they don't fancy the thermals themselves!) and from scientists. Our limited funds must be carefully budgeted!

Barbara Davies is the CCCS secretary. Her phone/fax is 0726 - 83 3465. The number to call for the members hotline is: **0726 - 83 2367.**

**BOOK REVIEW**  
**Crop Circles.**  
**Conclusive**  
**Evidence?**  
**by Pat Delgado**

*Brian Grist looks at the latest in the 'Evidence' series.*

Keen observers of books on crop circles will have already noticed that a number of them have appeared in the same "squared" format. Why, we may wonder, are some books on circles published as squares? Is there a subliminal message here? Do they symbolise our attempts to square up to the phenomenon? Well, perhaps. Actually, publishers are said to prefer this format for titles in which the photographic or illustrative content is worthy of emphasis. The first of this particular species was, of course, *Circular Evidence* by Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews - a fine

production by any standards. That was back in 1989 and the title reviewed here is the fifth "square" book on crop circles to have appeared to date. Whether or not its appearance is justified is, however, a matter of opinion.

I must admit to having been intrigued by the prospect of Pat's debut as a solo author. I had hoped that he might tell us more of some of the episodes in which he has been involved since he first set eyes on the Cheesefoot Head triplet in 1981. Would he, for example, finally reveal precisely why he was virtually alone among his fellow researchers not to express grave reservations about the "WEARENOTALONE" hoax at Cheesefoot Head in 1986? Would he reveal more about *Operation Blackbird* at Westbury in 1990? And what about the "Doug & Dave" saga? Would he be giving his version of the events surrounding the manner in which he was targeted for ridicule in a certain newspaper's promotion of Bower and Chorley?

The answer to the above questions is, alas, no. Doug & Dave are mentioned, true, but little if anything is said which

adds to our knowledge either of the incident or hoaxing in general. What we are offered here, in fact, is a brief guide to the 1991 circles and pictograms, with Pat supplying captions (many of which are alarmingly short) to photographs of variable quality. To tell the truth, I find the book profoundly disappointing on more counts than available space permits me to list.

Top of the list, however, is Error. The Barbury Castle formation, for example, is said to have been reported on July 27th - 10 days after it was discovered and 9 days after its picture was published in the press. In at least one case (Kimbridge), Pat locates an event in a completely different place to that where it was allegedly found. Disturbingly, a number of featured formations are either suspected or proven hoaxes and yet he fails to indicate them as such. This aspect of the book is deeply worrying since it constitutes a withholding of vital evidence. In this respect I feel that Pat has let his readers down. Hoaxes will not go away if we decline to point them out. On the contrary the culprits are likely to be encouraged in the belief that they can still get away with

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- The CIRCLES EFFECT AND ITS MYSTERIES by George Terence Meaden -as 1st edition but with larger pages. New colour plates on dust jacket. Includes a three-page addendum. 116 pages. £ 8.00
- CIRCLES FROM THE SKY edited by George Terence Meaden-Proceedings of the First International Conference on The Circles Effect, Oxford, with interesting additions. 1991. Some 16 contributors provide good reading. Very well illustrated with B/W photographs. 210 pages. £ 16.00
- The GODDESS OF THE STONES by George Terence Meaden. 1991. Subtitle. The Language of the Megaliths. Author links "crop" with "stone" circles. V well illus. Good. 200 pages. £ 21.00
- CIRCULAR EVIDENCE by Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews. Aerial colour photos. Very well illustrated. Speculative ideas. No index. 1990 softcover edition-no changes. 190 pages. £12.00
- CROP CIRCLES-HARBINGERS OF WORLD CHANGE edited by Alick Bartholomew. 1991. New insights and review of 1991 with superb colour photos. Good coverage. 102 pages. £16.00
- CROP CIRCLES THE LATEST EVIDENCE by Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews. 1990. Colour photos inc aerial shots of circles and 1990 pictograms. Softcover. Good value! 90 pages £ 6.60
- THE CROP CIRCLE ENIGMA edited by Ralph Noyes. Eight well-known contributors. 1990. Covers the subject from the scientific to the metaphysical! 68 colour photos. 192 pages. £16.25
- THE CROP CIRCLE ENIGMA (as above with minor revisions) 1991 softcover. Well Illus. £11.00
- CROP CIRCLE SECRETS edited by Donald Cyr (USA) plus five contributors. 1991. Wide ranging, includes stuff on "whistlers". Approx A4 size softcover. Well illustrated. 80 pages. £ 6.00
- CROP CIRCLES-A Mystery Solved by Jenny Randles and Paul Fuller. 1990. The authors objected to the title! History, cases, vortex theory. 8 B/W plates. Index. 250 pages. £13.00
- CROP CIRCLES-A Mystery Solved (as above) 1991 softcover edition. No changes. £ 7.00

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it, at least as far as Pat Delgado is concerned.

Such clumsy attention to detail borders on irresponsibility and reinforces the overall impression of a book hastily assembled in order to meet a publishing deadline. Sadly, the further one ventures into these pages the more obvious it is that the author frequently has next to nothing of real interest to say on the subject. Not here, at any rate. The most contentious part of the book is the 8 page section devoted to the odd shenanigans that took place at Highland, Kansas, in which Pat presents "evidence" which is by no means "conclusive" at all (it is, rather, highly questionable - see the assessment by Rosemary Guiley in this issue of *The Circular*).

If you enjoy looking at pictures of crop circles then the book will probably appeal to you, but at £14.99 I'm inclined to question whether you're getting value for money. I mean, do we really want to know how Pat succeeded in getting lost in his attempt to find the Newton St. Loe pictogram? "I managed to take the wrong turning once", he writes, "and found I was heading in the wrong direction". Interesting? Hardly. As it happens, I find the statement quite apt, for this is a book with too many dead-ends for comfort and one which offers Conclusive Evidence of the author's urgent need of direction where the production of a book worth purchasing is concerned.

**Crop Circles. Conclusive Evidence?** by Pat Delgado. (Bloomsbury, £14.99)

## **ENIGMAS**

Enigmas is published five times a year by Strange Phenomena Investigation (SPI). This magazine regularly features articles on all aspects of the paranormal including UFOs, poltergeists, hauntings, spiritualism, life after death, etc, etc.

To obtain subscription details please send a large SAE to:

**Strange Phenomena  
Investigations Researcher  
Malcolm Robinson, 41 The Braes,  
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Scotland FK10 2TT**

## **ENIGMAS**

## **CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH NETWORK CONTRIBUTORS by Bob Kingsley**

### **END TIMES ?**

Another round-up of your letters begins with this from Chris Green, of 6 Whadden Chase, Ingatestone, Essex CM4 9HF:

"As I am only in my early twenties I am perhaps unqualified to write in detail on such a subject; however, we can make the mistake of not seeing the wood for the trees, so allow me to cover some basic points as a layman and novice.

"Some circles are a hoax, some of these encouraged by national newspapers in order to spread misinformation and disinformation, the objective being to deflect attention from the subject in general. Given the size and complexity, let alone the remote location of some circles home and abroad, we must not lose heart as a result of the propaganda directed at us. (Who, I wonder, is in the background pulling the strings?)

"Is it significant that the circles started here, grew in complexity and migrated to foreign lands? I feel perhaps it is. UFOs have been with us many years and yet it is only in the last fifty years that the phenomenon has manifested itself into the complex structure we have today - are the two connected, I wonder? Without appearing apocalyptic, could these be a sign of the "End Times" we may be entering (or indeed already in?)

"What answers do we get from science? Few, if any, given the fact they tend to ignore anything outside the accepted norm. Unless nature has a sense of humour and has enjoyed creating pretty pictures in

farmers' fields over the past decade, we can rule out the so-called plasma vortex theory. Next comes the whirlwind theory. Yes! Perhaps this is the answer, for although it is outside the scope of this short essay let us look at the Old Testament, in particular 2 Kings Chapter 2:

"Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven". (2 Kings 2:11, New King James version of the Bible)

"Try exchanging whirlwind for spacecraft and you may be on the right lines.

"I do not feel the true explanation falls under the realm of established science or equally is the result of a huge hoax, but the future is an exciting one with many discoveries waiting to be made, a true journey of discovery.

"If anyone would like to discuss any of the points I have outlined, then feel free to write to me at my home address." (Dated 21st April 1992.)

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

The issues raised in this next letter, dated 27th May 1992, might have been resolved by the time this edition of *The Circular* is published - but it's still worth including. Andy Thomas, Newsletter Editor for the Sussex CCCS Branch, writes:

"Regarding the flow of information on crop circle locations within CCCS, 1992 has so far been a big improvement on last year even if the regular bulletins sent out to branches and the details given out on the hotline are somewhat deliberately vague at times in helping those who actually wish to see the formations for themselves.

"However some leading CCCS members, as was quite clear from the Annual General Meeting in March, still firmly believe that the less said about circle events in general, the better, leaving the locations free for continuing 'serious' research, and lessening farmer-antagonisation -- the latter is obviously of

concern, but other reasons for restricting information I would question.

"The desire for secrecy seems to imply that members of CCCS cannot be trusted to observe the code of conduct set down for entering fields that contain crop formations; this surely undermines the spirit of our organisation -- I would like to think that our membership takes cerealogy seriously enough to follow basic regulations.

"No-one, besides the landowner or farmer, has the right to deny formation access to another. Who do the agriglyphs belong to? By their very nature they are thrown very much into the public domain for all to see. To hide them, and keep all knowledge of them for the select few is to block their purpose and to cloud their intention.

"Scientific research is clearly essential in attempting to prove the authenticity of the phenomenon, but it shouldn't override other reasons and motives for visiting and entering the circles. Of equal worth to cerealogy have been the experiences and impressions reported by a variety of people with different backgrounds to their interest, which have proved invaluable in forming views as to the circles' purpose. Denying knowledge of current formations to people on the grounds that their presence obstructs 'serious' research immediately creates an 'us and them' situation that is really not on. The more human beings that experience the crop circles in the flesh for themselves, the nearer we will get to formulating an answer.

"Fears of would-be circle spotters getting "blown away" by trigger-happy farmers are surely unfounded, or at least a not very good reason for withholding location information; after all, it's actually illegal to shoot at people, even on private land, and as I said, I hope that CCCS members always respect landowners' rights -- beyond that, any risks that they take are their own.

"There must be enough isolated formations on friendly-farmer land that can be kept from public knowledge so as to allow research into developing effects weeks after formation. Not telling of the majority of circle events would simply lead to people seeking them out for themselves in the expected areas of appearance, probably causing more harm than if they knew exactly where to look. I believe that CCCS has taken a step in the right direction by agreeing to release details (if somewhat skimpy ones) of the latest formations. There are too many secret societies (particularly among circles researchers) as it is.

"If the phenomenon is significant, it will surely reveal itself in time, with or without our "research". It's human nature to be possessive, and perhaps it's hard for some to accept

that the agriglyphs may be here for everyone and not just for the chosen few. We should allow ourselves - and others- the pleasure of physically experiencing the circles now, while we still have them, and while the enigma is exactly that, before the whole thing is either explained away, reveals itself in a stunning revelation, or simply vanishes; leaving squabbles about the need-to-know looking somewhat quaint and rather petty in retrospect."

## BISHOP'S SAY

Some very good points raised by Andy there - and it's a theme taken up by George Bishop of Cornwall, in this letter (dated 8th June):

"It is with some disquiet that I write this letter to your journal. As a non-member of the CCCS I have often submitted reports of circle activity in Cornwall to your database. The first in 1990 appears to be still filtering its way through your filing system. No doubt it will surface someday soon. However, the point that I wish to make is that a lot of valuable material ought to now lie in your records. Why do I get the impression that this is not so?

"Blinkers off, chaps (and chapesse!) You may be losing a lot of valuable material in your short-sighted, tunnel-visioned approach to the problem. I appreciate that you are probably following your own line of enquiry and that you feel on the ONLY TRUE path, but just think for a moment... What if you are wrong? I know that this might be a blow to your self-esteem. It might blow holes in the BOOK you are going to write with the exclusive material that only YOU are privy to, but think what a fool you will look when your book is blown wide open. Shades of George Adamski!!

"Yes, you have invested a lot of time and trouble and money into YOUR research, but is that any reason to keep it to yourself?

"I know of at least one group that are sitting on really dramatic evidence of things that have appeared in corn circles. By the time they decide to publish, it will be outdated and superseded by later events. I know of at least one person who is keeping back information that might be vital, if somewhat disconcerting, to circle researchers.

"Time to pull together, forget the self-aggrandizement and get cracking eliminating as many of the red herrings as possible.

"I personally think that the growth "irregularities" found in samples will turn out to be a perfectly natural response by the injured plant. The strange crystalline structure of the grain that is often shown as proof is the same picture as the first I saw. If it is genuine, it is repeatable. The "reaping demon" must be worn out by now; talking of other earlier events ought to be demonstrable by producing the evidence. It's no good saying these circles

have been appearing for generations based upon one picture.

"Stone circles erected in neolithic corn circles? Most surviving stone circles around here are in the middle of some moorland that is hard-pressed to produce grass, let alone corn. Yes, I know the climate was different then, but so was the grain they grew. More research needed. If circles were common then, Britain ought to be awash with standing stones by now.

"Enough of this non-productive, negative activity. How about a plea by a non-member, for a little sanity and co-operation? Well, I'll settle for a little co-operation. Broaden your horizons, make allowances for all theories, and more particularly CO-OPERATE with one another. Try to come up with a formula that will allow recognition for the discoverer without depriving the rest of the information. I know that some people have made a lot of money from their research or from their "expertise" but just think how difficult it will be for them to blend into the background if they are WRONG!

"As a starter for ten, how about asking your members if any of them have had "black dots" appear on negatives taken in or around circles? How many of them have had lights appear in photos - often looking as if there is a reflection in the lens from the sun? (Not too surprising, perhaps, but how about by night?) We have eight or so in Cornish photographs.

"I know that you had a questionnaire/report form. How many were requested but not returned? Was the recipient too embarrassed to return them? How about some statistical evidence? Is it there or has it been lost?

"Here's another example of what I mean: I noticed that in an article on "Shafts and Other Linear Features", Stanley Morcom expresses an interest in circles overlaying shaft extensions. There is such a record from July 1991 in your database, yet he suggests that such events have not yet been recorded. No point in recording information if it is not going to be used!"

Well, Mr Bishop, I can't directly answer the questions you raise about what's in the database because that's George Wingfield's province (and I don't know the article by Stanley Morcom you've cited), but I will say this: for someone who is a non-member of the CCCS, you seem to expect a lot from the organisation in return for the subscription fee you haven't paid - although, of course, all cerealogists will be grateful that you are supplying information for the database.

One of the functions of the CCCS is to be a focal point for everyone interested in crop circles, no matter what their own viewpoint may be. The membership fee of every sub-

scriber is vitally important; the money goes towards funding research, as well as purchasing the hardware necessary to process the information gathered. It's an expensive business, involving many thousand of pounds - and as research becomes more sophisticated, more money for support structures is required. Those running the CCCS give their time voluntarily; and yes, compiling the database is incredibly time-consuming, especially now that many hundreds of crop-watchers are providing information for processing.

On a more positive note, the point about people hoarding information that they hope will feature in their own books is well made; some folk act as though all they have to do is telephone a publisher, and - hey presto! - editors will fall over themselves to publish the work. But it doesn't work like that, and if I'm not mistaken this is the point you're trying to make, although there are two sides to this coin: there's little to be gained by hoarding information in the hope of getting published, but at the same time it has to be recognised that there are precious few outlets through which aspiring crop circle writers can hope to be published. It's a Catch-22. The chances of a first-time writer being published by one of the big publishing houses are just about zilch; and the smaller publishers are increasingly being swallowed up by the big ones. Crop circles are pretty low on many publishers' lists of sure-fire winners (with the notable exception of Gateway Books, run by the indefatigable, trend-bucking Alick Bartholomew); there are only three or four magazines dedicated to crop circles, and heaven knows how many experts submitting manuscripts for consideration. It's obviously not possible for everything to be published all at once - but if we had more money from membership fees, we might be able to expand *The Circular* and provide more column inches - so how about it, Mr Bishop? Can we look forward to your membership subscription in future? (And it's worth remembering that, whatever their origin, many stone circles were probably destroyed in the search for building materials as society expanded)

[Dear George, What's this "short-sighted, tunnel-visioned approach" which you talk of? CCCS embraces all sorts of views as you know. Admittedly our filing system and database are far from perfect, but it is not our fault if we are snowed under with circles data which we simply do not have the resources to make generally available. No one is hoarding the data and no one in CCCS is making any money out of it. Our work is almost entirely voluntary and many of us have spent far more on circles research than we can ever hope to regain from the meagre royalties on publications. As for withholding data, you will find that nothing has been kept secret and that we make data available on request as best we can. However, with limited resources, many let-

ters do not receive prompt replies and this process may take a very long time. We greatly appreciate your contributions of data on the Cornish circles and also those of many others who have sent us written details, photographs and diagrams of formations in other parts of the country. --George Wingfield.]

## MILK HILL UFO

Next: can anyone help Stephen Alexander of 27 St. Francis Road, Alverstoke, Gosport, Hampshire PO12 2UG? He writes: "On the 26th July 1990 I filmed a small UFO near Milk Hill; you may have seen the footage yourself. The UFO (small disc or light) manoeuvred through the crop before taking off."

Stephen wants to know whether his UFO was anywhere near the location of the Milk Hill inscription. Do you have accurate O.S. coordinates? Perhaps you could contact him and pass them on. He'd also like to hear from anyone who is interested in UFOs and crop circles in my area, so that perhaps we can meet and discuss these subjects. His telephone number is 0705 502560.

Stephen wrote again more recently, saying: "Last year I sent a copy of my video to Richard F. Haines, an aviation psychologist. He has investigated UFO sightings, reports and other evidence for over 20 years. At the moment he is examining my video, frame by frame. Mr Haines requested some further information. I need to contact the tractor driver Leon Bassent. The UFO flew over him at one stage in its flight. I need to ask him various questions which relate to the UFO, which he saw too, so if Mr Bassent could contact me - or if anyone knows Mr Bassent or how I could get in touch with him, could they contact me?" (I believe that the correct name of the tractor driver is Leon **Besant** and that he lives in Stanton St Bernard; if you need to contact him try asking in the local pub or maybe the post office--Ed.)

People may like to know that Jon Erik Beckjord has a video out called *Crop Circles & UFOs*, which contains my footage of the UFO at Milk Hill. (This is the only video that contains the full footage.) The video costs \$24.95 postage paid (US funds). It can be obtained from: Jon Erik Beckjord, Box 2534, Malibu, California 90265, USA.

## D & D ENCOUNTER

Finally, here's a letter from Julie Varden (now Julie Wakefield), written in March, in reply to an enquiry from George Wingfield; Julie was with a small group of people who bumped into our old friends Doug 'n' Dave at Cheesefoot Head last year. Julie writes:

"Here is what we [Julie and John, her boyfriend, now her husband, and friend Nick] could remember about Doug's statements on

hoaxing. John asked them both what they thought caused the circles. Dave said he thought it was all to do with earth energy and tumuli. Doug, on the other hand, stated it was all a glorified hoax and that he thought someone would come forward soon. He said the hoaxers stood to make a lot of money out of it. Doug continued saying that he even thought the circles abroad were hoaxes.

"We said, "Well, how do you explain how circles appear in rice paddy fields?" Doug replied adamantly "They drain the water out!" At this point we all burst into laughter and said we really couldn't imagine that lots of Japanese peasants would want to destroy their crop fields for fun. Dave retorted: "They're probably told to do it by people higher up".

"It appeared to us that Doug was the engineer of the whole scam and that Dave wasn't fully involved until after that night of the 20th August. Dave never once mentioned hoaxing and even enthused to me about some of the beauties of 1990. Doug, on the other hand, was much more determined that it was all a hoax and had an air of indifference about him. Doug tended to monopolize the conversation and even interrupted Dave at times; it was almost as though Dave hadn't yet been briefed!

"Regarding the petal formations and their authenticity, we'd just like to say again that Nick is convinced that the first petal formation, which he discovered, was 100% genuine. Though being an artist he is meticulous about detail and he scoured the formation and field for signs of human entry. The only footprints in the field were his, and although it was drizzling he decided to remove his footwear upon entering the formation so as not to damage the pristine floor pattern."

Last word goes to Lucy Pringle, who would like to hear from anyone who has observed, photographed or documented secondary growth - or stunted growth, at sites where circles have previously been seen. Write to her at: 5, Town Lane, Sheet, Nr Petersfield, GU32 2AF.

And that's it for another issue. Thanks for all your letters - keep them coming! The address is:- **Bob Kingsley, 58 Kings Road, West End, Woking, Surrey GU24 9LW.** I look forward to hearing from you.

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# THE TRILLING NOISE

## The Circles Sound: The Whole Story by Colin Andrews

Colin Andrews replies to suggestions by a CCCS member Mr Ken Brown in *The Cereologist* that the sound heard in June 1989 during Operation White Crow was nothing more than that of a small bird – the grasshopper warbler. Since I was present myself during these events I can confirm that such an explanation can hardly be entertained seriously and is totally at variance with the facts. Mr Brown has ignored almost all of what has previously been written in books describing this episode \*and either failed to question the six people present and the three who joined them later, or he has disregarded their evidence. Yet we must consider the possibility that the sound recorded on that night some time after these events may include, or be similar to, that of the grasshopper warbler though I myself would say that recordings of the bird, to which I've listened, are different.. --Editor.

Before writing this article at the new CPR office in Branford, CT, USA, I have discussed by telephone with Maria Ward, a researcher in England, the contents of a piece written by Ken Brown which was recently printed in the *Cereologist* Magazine. His article concerned the source of peculiar sounds which have been heard and recorded at least twice in the vicinity of the crop circles.

Ken Brown sat in on many of the meetings held by the *Cheesefoot Head Circle Group*, (a small circles research group based near Winchester, Hampshire) and made clear by his attitude and manner that he was not an unbiased researcher but was determined to prove the whole thing a hoax (and at the earliest possible opportunity). Shortly before Christmas last year he asked me personally for copies

of all the sound material in my possession. I refused simply because of his obviously dismissive attitude. I had then the distinct impression that I was talking to a man who could become one big bag of nails at some point in the future. Although I have always been willing to promote all possible scientific avenues of investigation into this mystery, and on some occasions, the not-so-scientific, I see no advantage in spending valuable time with someone whose mind is already made up. Brown talks as if there is some deliberate attempt to cover up the true facts.

After graphic sound analysis at several laboratories, he believes that he has identified the source of the sound which was recorded at Operation White Crow as being that of the *Grasshopper Warbler* bird. In his article (*Cereologist* No. 6, Summer 1992), Brown seems intent not only on casting aspersions on the legitimacy of the sound but also on my own personal integrity. He correctly states that the original sound which was recorded at Operation White Crow was subjected at my request to extensive graphic analysis and sound enhancement, producing an altered sound to the listener's ear. He then incorrectly states that: "This changed sound is what Colin Andrews introduces at his lectures with the words: 'This is the sound heard', though in fact the graphic analysis has made the true originally recorded trilling noise unrecognisable."

**"It is interesting to note that very similar sounds have been reported and sometimes recorded during UFO activity".**

Anyone who has ever attended my lectures knows that I always introduce the tape by saying that the audience will first hear a segment of the sound as recorded, followed by a segment played at 50% reduction of the recording speed after graphic analysis. The sound before and after analysis, is broadcast in each lecture. I take great

exception to this smear and Mr Brown's untruthful questioning of my integrity but even more to his attempt to distort the actual facts. Most of us want only to get at the truth of this mystery, and it is one which seems to make skeptics such as Ken Brown react in a mysterious way themselves. However, since it is important to try to understand all the facts of the situation, let us consider the whole story before jumping to the derisory conclusion that it is all explained by a small bird.

Those who have read my book *Circular Evidence* will know that it was in a field near the village of Kimpton, Hampshire, England in June 1987 where I first heard *The Sound*. While the circumstances were bizarre to say the least, I think we could be missing important knowledge if we ignore what happened.

I was alone and had walked several metres into the cereal crop from a nearby ring which had been spotted by light aircraft pilot Busty Taylor. I placed my hands together and thought "God, if only you could give me a clue as to how the circles are formed". Immediately, and only about two metres in front of me, *The Sound* began to be emitted. At first, this electrostatic, or crackling, cricket-like sound was at a low level, but within seconds had become so loud (approx. 200 decibels) as to frighten me. Having had no other witness to that experience, it left me for two years hoping that others would believe my version. Then, in 1989, within weeks of each other, there were two more occurrences of very similar sounds, starting with events at *Operation White Crow*.

During the closing hours of the operation, which I planned, *The Sound* was witnessed by more than six researchers. It arrived close to a crop circle in which we were sitting 350 metres east of the observation cameras and control vehicles. It was shortly after midnight, the sound moved around us with linear and non-random movements which suggested purposive behaviour. It left the area several minutes later, going towards the east from which direction it had come. At first light, a Hampshire Police vehicle stopped at our



Colin Andrews and Dr Terence Meaden in discussion during the planning of *Operation White Crow*.

control point and reported a new ringed circle on the brow of the hill from which direction the sound had approached and then returned.

Several hours had elapsed since the sound had first been heard, and dawn was just breaking, when George Wingfield, who was one of the surveillance group, suggested that we drive back from the control point to the circle. I agreed, taking my tape recorder with me. We jumped out of my car, having driven off the now quiet A272 major highway and

up a farm track, when we heard again what seemed to be the same sound. We walked towards it, recording as we went. It is this recording which Ken Brown has analysed and believes to be a *Grasshopper Warbler*.

The third appearance of the sound occurred two weeks later during an interview of Pat Delgado and myself by BBC Television in a crop circle at Beckhampton, Wiltshire. The mysterious sound recorded was received as a radio signal from the radio-microphone which Pat was holding as he

stood in the middle of the circle. (*Does Pat Delgado perhaps keep a pocketful of Grasshopper Warblers ? --Ed.*) Simultaneous with the signal being received, all the fault lights flashed on on their new computer-controlled television camera. The camera had to be rebuilt following this recording.

So, the sound that we've experienced appears to exhibit a quality of purposive behaviour, has a component of psychic interaction and has the ability to transmit on radio frequencies, interfering with electronic equipment. None of this is consistent with the abilities of birds. The BBC graphic sound analysis of the Beckhampton recording concluded that it was a radio signal from an unknown source with a harmonic component of 5.2 kHz (identical to the frequency recorded at *Operation White Crow*). Further analysis done by the Jet Propulsion Laboratories and by Dr Robert Weiss, who analysed the Watergate Tapes, concluded that it was an "artificial" sound resembling signals from weather detection instruments, most certainly not that of a bird.

It is interesting to note that very similar sounds have been reported and sometimes recorded during UFO activity. I was recently given a tape by Lindy Tucker and Dr Steven Greer, head of the CSETI § project, of a recording which compares favourably with these sounds which appear to be associated with the crop circle phenomenon. Also, an Aboriginal Elder whom I met recently in Australia was quick to point out that they too are familiar with this sound. It is in fact very similar to the sound the Aborigines make as they attempt contact with the sky spirits by whirling round the *bora* device over their heads. I think it is important that we are willing to stretch the imaginative capacity of our minds so as to consider all possibilities when searching for a truth that may lie outside our present limited base of knowledge.

\* *The Crop Circle Enigma*, edited by Ralph Noyes (*Gateway Books, 1990*); *The Latest Evidence* by Pat Delgado & Colin Andrews (*Bloomsbury, 1990*); *The UFO Report 1991*, edited by Timothy Good, (*Sidgwick & Jackson, 1990*).

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**One Gropper  
Does not a  
Circle Make...**  
*by Maria Ward*

The crop circle phenomenon has, during the last thirteen years of patient investigation, raised many more questions than it has provided answers. A plethora of new aspects have arisen from its manifestation that have hitherto become the topic for a mountain of controversy, quite apart from any which engulfs the subject of the circle's themselves. Two of these aspects which merit investigation in their own right, are the aerial phenomena and the acoustic phenomenon, which have in many cases, either preceded or accompanied known circle events. However, it is the latter "unknown" which concerns us here - the acoustic effect.

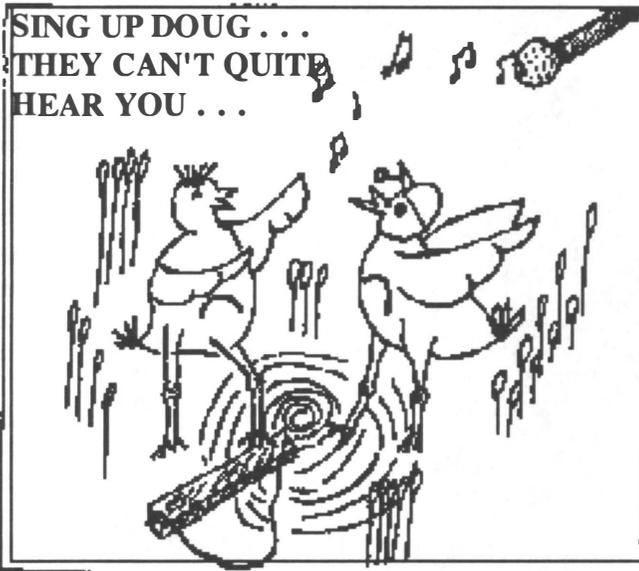
The "trilling" noise, "cricket" noise, or "electrostatic crackling" noise, as some researchers prefer to call it, has now become synonymous with the crop circle phenomenon. Especially since its impromptu recording by the BBC at Beckhampton during 1989. The first experiential evidence for the noises presence however, came from Colin Andrews, who witnessed its effect whilst visiting a field at Kimpton in Hampshire on June 30th 1987. Since that time many others, circle and non-circle people alike, have been on the receiving end of this pulsed clicking, for themselves.

Evaluation of the clicking or trilling by researchers has subsequently proved difficult, due largely to its seemingly transient and discriminatory nature, and also one suspects, because of a "trickster God" type of quality which seems to know when one is without the necessary recording device. This makes in-depth analysis extremely difficult, as only a few genuine recordings of the circle "noise" exist at this time.

Explanations have of course been offered by a multitude of "experts", who believe they have cracked the circle egg, so to

speak. These explanations have so far included the incessant chirruping of European crickets, the presence of "anti-gravity" mechanisms (UFO's), and the high voltage buzz of overhead power lines. The latest in this cascade of guesswork, point a shaky, accusing finger at a feathery culprit - the Grasshopper Warbler (*locustella naevia*) - better known within ornithological circles as the "Gropper".

This particular bird migrates to England from Africa during April and vacations here until September. It's preferred habitats are weedy fields, wet or dry fens and marshes, heathlands, moorlands and other dense vegetative areas. Groppers can inhabit dense hedge-rows which surround cereal crops, but only occasionally have



they been found nesting in the crops themselves. Mainly because field crops do not grow in sufficient densities for the birds' purpose of ground nesting. However, in recent studies some Groppers have been discovered nesting within oil-seed rape, which grows in a suitably tangled fashion perfect for the birds' breeding requirements. Of primary importance to us, is the song of the warbler and how it compares with the circle trilling.

Groppers actually possess two quite differing songs. The first known as "sub-song" is maintained by birds which have not established a breeding territory. This sub-song consists of between five to six bursts, each lasting one second. The bursts are sung together in groupings of two or three. The sound of this particu-

lar song is best phonetically described as "tchick" and is also used, in an accelerated form as an alarm call. However, it is the "full-song" of the Grasshopper Warbler which is the subject of this more recent attempt at trying to explain the so far, inexplicable.

The full-song can be likened to a mechanical clicking sound, indeed most ornithologists describe this song as like the reeling sound of a fishing line. The song itself consists of a unique one minute "in" breath. The high pitched reeling quality of the full-song creates the illusion of ventriloquistic abilities on behalf of the singer. However, the Gropper cannot actually throw its voice, as has so often been stated within recent months.

No doubt, some have heard this same reeling whilst present in or near circle sites. Given its unusual tonal quality, one could be forgiven for believing it to be something which originates from an unnatural source. Many individuals have probably even recorded this song, in the belief that they have captured the mysterious circle noise itself. There is some confusion at present, because it is clear from the many "ear" witness reports and recordings, that researchers are faced with two conflicting acoustic effects. On the one hand, there are reports of a pulsed trilling, low-pitched in quality, sometimes continuous, sometimes appearing in rapid bursts.

This effect is more usually physically "heard" by any witness to it. On the other hand, there are reports of an electrical effect, that can only be heard by radio receivers, but which is "felt" by witnesses, as was the case with the Beckhampton noise in 1989.

The latter effect can in no way be confused with the song of a little bird. The former effect, however, can be and probably has been misinterpreted as such. Some recordings are undoubtedly that of a Grasshopper Warbler in full-song -and very nice they are too. This does not prove that all such recordings of the circle clicking are one and the same. We are still faced with an anomaly: that anomaly being the nature of the initial effect. The trilling, clicking or electronic sparrow, whatever

one wishes to label it, can be heard at any time both during day and night hours. Groppers however, more usually sing at dusk and dawn, although unpaired males can sometimes provide the exception to this rule.

The trilling effect sometimes appears to encircle a witness to it, sometimes appearing to be overhead at its climax and then ceasing abruptly. Groppers never sing during flight - neither are they invisible.

Both circle acoustic effects are seemingly directional. That is to say, that one can move out of range by walking a few feet in one direction, thereby ceasing to feel or hear the effect. To my knowledge, birdsong does not exhibit this discriminatory behaviour. A sound, is a sound, is a sound, after all and can be heard within an overall range from its point of origin. This is not the case with the circle trilling or electrical effects.

Quite apart from these behavioural differ-

ences, which I may say, seem conclusive enough in their own right, there are scientific aspects which need to be considered.

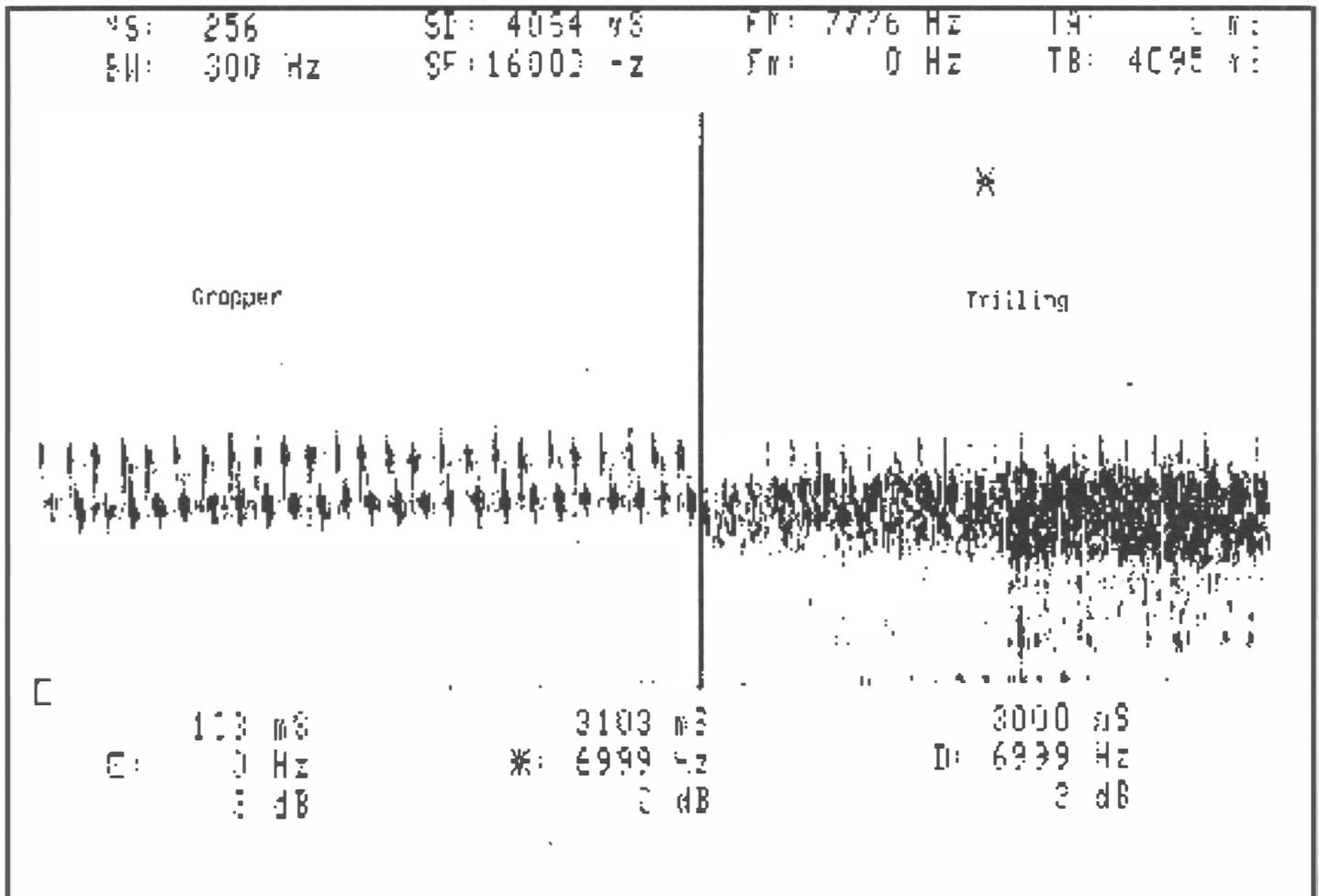
Recent analysis undertaken at the British Library of Wildlife Sound, has shown a difference between the two acoustic effects, that is bird and circle. When both sounds were slowed down to half speed, there was an incompatibility of 300 hertz. This divergence obviously becomes greater when slowed to one quarter speed (600 hertz), and so on. Slowing down any sound will provide a fingerprint of it, suitable for comparison. Similarity was evident - but the results were not identical. Perhaps a case of similarity breeding contempt.

Richard Ranft, who carried out the analysis could not explain the nature of the circle noises, when compared with that of the Grasshopper Warbler. He readily admitted that a certain bias towards a natural origin for the noise, would be

evident in his appraisal, but that - and I quote: "I cannot say one hundred per cent, that this sample (the circle noise) is a Grasshopper Warbler. But in my opinion, they are similar". There's that word again.

It could be of course, that both of the circle noises originate from the same source. It may even be possible that the ability to "hear" the electrical effect (as recorded at Beckhampton) is only present in some individuals. It has recently been suggested that when we witness the "trilling", we are not actually hearing it, but that we are receiving it via a direct route into the brain. This could create momentary confusion, whilst the brain decides whether or not we are actually hearing a noise at all. Put another way, we could become the receivers ourselves of this electrical effect: human radios. This suggestion could resolve the differences between the two circle acoustic effects. It could also account for the sense of panic

**Comparison of the Gropper full-song with the circle trilling noise, at half speed. Note the lack of tones in the upper band of the circles trilling noise, when compared to the Gropper. Also the density of lower frequency noise in the trilling which is absent in the Gropper's analysis.**



that many witnesses describe. What we can be certain of, at this point, is that a tiny warbler cannot have this effect.

It would seem then that the trilling and electrical noises, so often associated with the crop circles, have not been satisfactorily explained at all. And that the poor Gropper received the blame for something that it could not do. This was not a Gropper in the dark - but perhaps it was more a grope in the dark that gave rise to Ken Brown's claim.

Finally, the trilling noise is not restricted to crop circle locations. I, myself, have witnessed this same acoustic effect during two separate UFO sightings. Many others too, it would seem, have also had this privilege, as both written and recorded evidence exists. Indeed, one such recording has been simultaneously analysed using spectroscopic displays and oscillators. Both proved to be identical.

Personally, I never felt inclined to frame a little bird for the dirty deed in the first place. Why can't we just accept for the moment, that there are many things between heaven and earth that we cannot explain? Must we tread the same self-deluding paths as a group of eight French scientists who declared to the world and BUFORA in 1990 that all crop formations had been created with a garden roller.....?

One should, after all, base any final assessment of unusual phenomena not upon theory, but upon experience. Was it not Francis Bacon who uttered the sceptic's credo. "for what a man would like to be true, that he more readily believes...."

What do you believe.....?

## RITA GOOLD SAYS...

"Having heard that Ken Brown claims the trilling noise which we all heard at *White Crow* in 1989 was a Grasshopper Warbler, I can only say that I find this typical of the attitude of certain people decrying the crop circle scene. To make such an outrageous claim that a tiny bird could have been responsible for this extraordinary event can only mean that he did not research it in full or else he failed to interview any of the people present. Why doesn't Ken Brown interview those who were there or debate the matter with them? Whatever this was could not possibly have been a bird and those of us who were there are in total agreement on this point."

**Maria's Postscript** : Shortly after completing this article, several things occurred which I felt necessitated further comment on the subject of the Grasshopper Warbler and the circles sound. Firstly, I received two independent analyses (one from within Britain and one from the USA) which compared the circle sound as recorded at White Crow in 1989, and that recorded by myself over the last 2 years, with the warbler's full-song. One of the tapes used during analysis was provided by Ken Brown. It was said to be a recording of the Grasshopper Warbler "just for comparison". The analysis, however, quickly showed that this same tape had been edited. That is, the song of the warbler had been placed over other sounds already present on the tape. Two reasons were given for this conclusion:-

1. There is no echo or decay to the warbler song and there is no depth to it, which would indicate a sound source very close to the microphone, say 2 in., at the time of recording --unlike the other sounds on the tape, which include singing birds, a barking dog and a mysterious second low-pitched "buzzing" noise.

2. At the end of the warbler's song and before the second noise is heard, there is a noticeable "click" which would point to a piece of audio equipment being turned off.

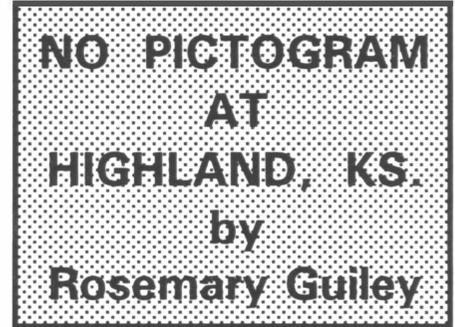
One now has to ask - if this recording was for comparison only, why was it necessary to edit over other sounds with the warbler song? A blank tape, surely would be better? And what of the second sound source - why is it there? What is it? It most definitely is not a bird.

If -- and I do say "if"-- this same tape has been used in analysis as "circle noise" and then later identified as the song of a Grasshopper Warbler, it would be shameful. As it is, of course, the song of the warbler and could be nothing else. If however, this tape was just for comparison purposes, then it would be nice to know why it was edited? Either way, questions remain that require clarification.

My own in-depth analysis has proved, much to my consternation and yet satisfaction, that the *White Crow recorded* noise is probably the song of the Gropper. I will give credit where good research credit is due, to Mr Brown, for reaching the same conclusion. However, there are factors remaining which need careful consideration - the other side of the story..... It is possible that at the time of recording the *White Crow* noise, a Grasshopper Warbler was also recorded. The circle trilling as I know from experience, is of a lower pitch than the warbler song. It could have been "drowned out" by the latter. The analysis at Sussex University may have filtered out the wrong sound source - the stronger one, because of its higher pitch and proximity to the microphone. Also because the birdsong has a tonal quality that is more direct. Whereas, the circle noise tends to be more of a "sound around", which makes recording it extremely difficult.

Furthermore, if this analysis does prove that the *White Crow* noise (or perhaps just one of them) is the song of a tiny bird - with lungs the size of balloons - this only verifies this one incidence. It does not negate the reality of an acoustic effect associated with the circles phenomenon. Mr Brown it would seem, in his recent article for *The Cereologist* has lumped all of the circle noise recording together, including I might add, the Kimpton personal experience of Colin Andrews and the Beckhampton crackling noise. Although he later admits, via the Earl of Haddington, that he cannot explain this particular effect (the Beckhampton sound). While I applaud good research, I must take exception to the labelling of all of these effects as being the song of a bird. They most definitely are not. I myself have recordings taped at East Kennett in 1991 and earlier at Alton Barnes in 1990. Neither of these recordings, following analysis, have proven to be the song of any known bird, cricket, etc. They are for the moment UNKNOWN and will probably remain so. Mr Brown would seem to have forgotten, that the issue at stake is the validity of the *White Crow recorded* noise and not the reality of any other acoustic effect. If this validity is conceded, his further belief that us "so called experts" work from a "poorly researched base" - is also quite wrong. We have sought the aid of science and in this one instance, science has provided us with an answer; we do not have to like it, but it is right that we publish these findings and accept them. Denying any relevant scientific research, would be providing circle sceptics like Mr Brown, with a stick to beat us with. Personally, I would rather have my teeth pulled!

At the end of the day, the circles phenomenon is real and so are various acoustic phenomena associated with it. Both remain - unsolved.



In his new book, *Crop Circles: Conclusive Evidence ?* (reviewed on page 18), Mr Pat Delgado describes an alleged U.S. government cover-up of a pictogram at Highland, Kansas (population approximately 1,000), said to have taken place in September 1991. Mr Delgado says he learned of the case from an American informant who claimed to find what appeared to be a partially destroyed pictogram measuring one-quarter-mile long by forty feet wide in a farmer's field on the morning of September 26th. Government "men in dark suits" and unmarked tankers and vehicles were on the scene. According to Mr Delgado, the men and vehicles were from the CIA. The pictogram allegedly was preceded the night before by a display of anomalous coloured lights over the field.

Subsequently, various individuals in the U.S. have attempted to verify the story, but without success. Recently, an investigation was undertaken by Mr Maurice Schwalm, the Midwest Coordinator for the Centre for North American Crop Circle Studies, and who is based in Kansas City. He found no evidence to support either the occurrence of a pictogram, or of an attempt by the U.S. government or anyone else to obliterate a crop circle formation.

Mr Schwalm spoke with numerous individuals, including Mr Delgado's informant, "C.M.", a woman from Lee Summit, Missouri, a suburb of Kansas City; Linda Garvin, a truck driver who is based in Highland; Dr W.C. Levensgood of Pinelandia Biophysical Laboratories in Grass Lake, Michigan; Scott Corder; "L.S.", a psychic from Kansas City; the editor of the local newspaper, *The Highland Vidette*; a spokesperson from the Doniphan County sheriff's office; "W.C.", a farmer in Highland; and a reporter for the *Kansas City Star* who had covered crop circle activity in the vicin-

ity. None of the individuals could confirm the existence of an actual pictogram.

What can be verified is this: a large area approximately the size and shape of the alleged pictogram was ploughed by local law enforcement authorities in farmer W.C.'s corn field northeast of Highland in October 1991. This activity was conducted during the daytime over the course of about one week, and was part of a murder investigation. The field had been first bulldozed in 1990 when a search began for the bodies of the victims of a mass murder suspect, Marvin Irvin. Irvin grew up near farmer W.C.'s field. Bodies had been found there. The authorities returned to the site to dig again in 1991, but found no additional bodies.

Mr Delgado reported that the alleged pictogram featured "partly recognisable letters, figures and other shapes". In the shapes were seedless corn husks that were almost white. Much of the crop forming the shapes was flattened and swirled in the manner that C.M. "had seen in crop circles elsewhere".

According to farmer W.C. his field is often used by youths as a night-time party site. Satanic and occult rituals have been reported to take place in the area. Thus, it is possible that youths may have been attracted to the murder investigation activity, and conducted rituals which involved tracing letters and shapes on the ground - an intrinsic part of ritual magic. It is also possible that some of the parts of the alleged pictograms were merely the swirled turn-arounds of a combine. Turn-arounds leave some crop standing, and the husks of this standing crop do turn white.

Farmer W.C. said he saw no anomalous lights in the sky during the time period in question. (The area is not far from the Missouri River, and natural "river lights" are reported from time to time, although such lights might not be visible from his farm. There is a link, however, between a possible UFO sighting and the story of the pictogram. In the spring of 1991, truck driver Linda Garvin was driving along Interstate 80 near Reno, Nevada, during the daytime, and saw what appeared to be six unexplained lenticular cloud-like shapes in formation in the sky. She relayed this to her friend, C.C., who

is also a friend of Mr Delgado's informant, C.M. Ms Garvin stayed in Highland on September 23rd 1991.

C.M. confirmed to Mr Schwalm that she and C.C. had visited a farmer's field where they saw a large ploughed area about one-half mile long (contrary to the previous report of one-quarter-mile long). They took photographs and made diagrams without interference. C.M. took a soil sample from the ploughed area and sent it, along with some photographs, to Dr Levengood. There was no control sample. According to Levengood, tests on the sample were inconclusive. He showed the photographs to an agronomist colleague, who opined that the swirled areas, alleged to be "grapeshot" circles, were merely combine turn-arounds.

Highland is the hometown of Scott Corder, a physician whose involvement in the UFO field has been controversial. Mr Corder no longer lives in Highland. He told Mr Schwalm that he knew nothing about an alleged pictogram, but had received a phone call from L.S., the Kansas City psychic, who told him that something strange had taken place on September 29th in a field near Corder Hall, part of the community college at Highland.

L.S. relayed to Mr Schwalm a second-hand story about three friends of hers from Kansas City who were instructed by precognition to visit this field during the night (it is unclear whether it is the night of September 25 or September 26) to witness a UFO display. The purpose of the display was to send a message from "the sky people" to Mr Corder that he was on the right track concerning UFOs, and was also to provide a "cosmic reply" to the Doug and Dave crop circle hoax scandal, a message intended to comfort Mr Delgado. Six "vehicles of light" supposedly appeared and shot beams of light to the earth. The next morning, FBI agents allegedly were swarming over a pictogram that included letters and numbers.

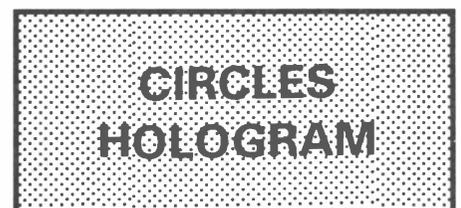
This story can be laid to rest by the fact that there is no field adjacent to Corder Hall. The community college is in the middle of town across the street from a gas station.

The conclusion that the "men in dark

suits" and the tankers and vehicles are from the CIA reportedly is based upon a computer check of licence plate numbers recorded by C.M. and C.C. at the scene. Mr Delgado told a colleague in England that a computer check had shown the numbers to be untraceable. C.M. said nothing to Mr Schwalm about a computer check, but said she "knew" the numbers were untraceable.

Presuming that a pictogram were to occur, and the CIA were to attempt to cover it up, it is unlikely that the effort would be so untidy as to permit witnesses to take photographs and jot down untraceable licence plate numbers. According to an ex-Pentagon source known to Mr Schwalm, it would be more characteristic of the CIA to use local authorities as a blind, and have such obvious things as licence plate numbers traceable to logical identities. The source further said that he and a group of ex-Pentagon associates have investigated similar rumours of crop circles covered up by the U.S. government, and none have been substantiated.

It appears that the fictitious pictogram story arose from various diverse factual elements. On February 21 I telephoned Mr Delgado, but he declined to discuss the Highland case since details were due to be published in his forthcoming book. Indeed, there may be evidence to support the pictogram story which is yet to come to light, but at present the evidence to hand does not support the existence of any sort of crop formation and its subsequent cover-up by government agents.



A hologram of crop circle formations commissioned from artist Caius Hawkins by Warwick University will be on display at the Science Museum in South Kensington, London, from late July for three months. It features a large globe covered with some of the more striking 1991 agriglyphs designed by CCCS member John Martineau. The work of art is entitled "Cyclops" and is the largest laser-viewable hologram in Europe.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CROP FLATTENING FORCE by Stanley Morcom

*Stanley Morcom is CCCS's expert on crop formation survey and analysis. He describes here details of the crop flattening force which he has observed during the last two years. -- Editor.*

The following is an abridged account of the mechanics involved in creating a crop formation. The observations are mainly based on events in the Wiltshire area during the past two seasons and published information on the subject.

In order to create boxes with square ends, it would appear that the crop flattening force has a flat front and back, possibly chisel shaped. The so-called "Brain" or "Serpent" formation which appeared near Froxfield in August 1991 (see pages 10-11), also had square-ended stops and starts in the breaks of the snaking passageway. There are many other examples of square-ended linear components, the fingers of "keys" for instance.

If there is only one flattening force operating for a given formation, then the above would indicate that the force must be capable of either being suppressed or switched on and off in order to move from one isolated component to another.

I believe there is ample evidence which shows that circles are constructed from a series of concentric rings of equal width. This ring structure has been noticed and commented upon by other researchers. Also, close examination of aerial photographs reveals many instances which support this theory. I also believe that this ring structure almost always starts at the perimeter and progresses towards the centre. A reversal of this order is not consistent with the visual evidence of inner stems overlaying the outer flattened crop.

In order to operate this system of construction, the flattening force must be capable of switching off after completing each ring, reducing the diameter by a predetermined amount, then switching on and laying down the next ring in the series until the circle is completed. There is

visual evidence that this in fact happens.

As the flattening force starts to lay down a ring of crop, the stems are swirled around tightly. The swirl gradually opens out and the lay becomes more radial as the ring is completed, producing a visual change in the direction of the crop lay between the starting point and the centre of the circle. This asymmetrical effect is more apparent in small circles and grape-shot, though, to a lesser extent, it is still visible in larger circles. I believe this circular change in the lay direction, which is only slight in some circles, is brought about by a small amount of acceleration in the speed of the flattening force during the laying down of each ring. This effect is also apparent in radially laid crops. Reducing the number of turns in a spirally-swirled crop will eventually produce a radial lay, though the lay will never be truly radial as it will contain a small amount of the clockwise or anticlockwise rotational element. In a spirally-swirled circle, the swirl turns become progressively smaller in radius towards the centre. This progression also occurs in the slight curvature of a radial lay, the curvature becoming more pronounced at the centre, rather like the shape of a French curve. The circle maker, who appears to be a perfectionist, sometimes masks this central defect by covering the area with a swirled circle. The so-called "Swastika" formation and its nearby precursor which appeared towards the end of the 1989 season, both had this central feature. This desire for neatness is again shown in these two events, rather than project the radial stems into the standing crop wall, the circle maker first laid down a perimeter ring, forming a flat bed for the radial stems to rest on.

### WIDTH OF THE FLATTENING FORCE

The width appears to vary between 0.6 and 0.8 metres (2ft to 2ft 9 ins). The three formations of similar design which appeared last season at Lockeridge, Alton Barnes and Ogbourne Maizey, were all formed from 0.65 m widths. However, the 1990 event at Bishops Cannings, a 3- (and later 4-) ringed circle 61 metres diameter, was constructed from rings more than double this size, they were approximately 1.5 metres (5ft) wide. Assuming that the same force is responsible for the

narrow overlaid construction strips (0.15 to 0.2 m wide), then the flattening force must be capable of reducing its width to this size. At the end of the 1990 season, a formation appeared at Beckhampton consisting of an equilateral triangle flanked by boxes which in turn were flanked by isosceles triangles. These two triangles were linearly laid from the base to the apex, which would imply that the flattening force is capable of reducing its width to zero during the laying process.

There is strong visual evidence to support the theory that the flattening force is "pulsed". In immature green crops, these pulse marks often show up as equally-spaced radial lines. Irrespective of the diameter of a ring in the ring structure, these marks (shadow lines) have a constant pitch, suggesting that the flattening force operates at a constant speed for a given circle. These radial lines have been referred to as "dartboard" or "cartwheel". They are not. Geometrically, these marks should produce a circle divided into eight equal segments, the marks diminishing in number in each segment. However, because of the small amount of acceleration which occurs during the creation of each ring, this segmented alignment tends to be distorted. Pages 40-41 of *Crop Circles - the Latest Evidence*, illustrates these pulse marks. The 1988 Corhampton event, three equilaterally spaced circles, and a similar event the same year at Cheesefoot Head, both showed this pulsed ring construction. These pulse marks are also visible in some of the aerial photographs of the early 1991 pictograms, appearing as transverse lines in passages and boxes, where the pitch appears to be identical to that of the associated circles. These lines are not apparent in more mature crops. I assume that this is due to the fact that the stems are less pliable and as such do not record the imprint.

As the radius of the rings decreases in a spirally swirled circle, the lay of the crop changes from rotational to radial. This change in lay direction follows a geometrical progression. I see this progressive transfer between the two forces (rotational to radial) as a constant, as one increases the other proportionally decreases. I cannot explain how this radial force is generated; it might be an automatic product, related to the flattening speed and the ring diameter. As the radius is reduced so the time taken to complete

each ring is reduced.

According to Colin Andrews in *Circular Evidence*: "The tightness of the spiral-whirl whorls varies from 4 turns to straight radial swathes". If my assumption is correct that the small change in the lay direction which occurs during the laying down of a ring is caused by a slight acceleration of the flattening speed, then it would appear that the flattening speed could be responsible for the range of floor lays referred to by Colin Andrews. The slower the speed the more spiral swirl turns, and, conversely, the faster the speed the less turns until the lay becomes almost radial. A calculation shows that the speed range could be as high as 500 to 1. Theoretically, the speed would have to be infinite in order to produce a perfectly straight lay.

Except for the slight amount of acceleration which appears to be inherent in the laying down of each ring, I have assumed that the rotational speed of the flattening force is constant for a given circle. If, however, the speed is varied appreciably during the flattening of a ring, then the lay would change from circular to radial, or vice versa. Now, if this speed change was synchronised for each ring, then it would be possible to create a floor pattern with one area laid in a spiral swirl and another in a radial lay. This, I believe, is the explanation for the floor pattern illustrated on page 127 of *Circular Evidence*. The perimeter, however, as clearly shown in the illustration, was laid at a constant speed, possibly another example of the circlemaker's desire for neatness. In a confrontation between Colin Andrews and Doug and Dave, the pair were asked how they created the ring of a ringed circle with a sinusoidal lay. "We didn't do that one", was their reply. If my theory is correct, then this effect, the variation between a rotational and a radial lay, could be produced by decelerating or accelerating the flattening speed.

Another feature of crop circles, which I don't intend to speculate about, is the twist of the whorls. According to Colin Andrews, these twists start at the centre and grow less as they extend out to the wall. Apparently, they are missing from radially laid crops. This added feature is yet another complication which might again be an automatic product generated by the flattening force. It is, nevertheless,

part of the equation which needs to be accounted for when trying to produce a unifying theory for the operation of the flattening force.

In order to function effectively, the flattening force requires the uniform density of a crop wall. Any defect, especially the gaps of the tractor lines, will cause the energy to be dissipated. This dissipation shows itself as inefficient flattening, and, in extreme cases, as a malformation of the intended shape. However, once the defect is passed, the force quickly recovers its strength and direction.

The energy responsible for flattening the various components of a formation seems to remain for a sufficient length of time to influence the lay of other components. The overlaid stems, where components abut each other, are invariably swept around in the direction of the underlying crop. This feature is particularly apparent where the stems of a passage overlay the perimeter of a circle.

The above would suggest that I support a non-hoax hypothesis. This is not necessarily so. Just because I find it difficult to explain how these features



could be created by a manually operated device, does not mean that I rule out direct human involvement. If, when I described the flattening force as "pulsed", I had substituted the letter "h" for the letter "l" and reversed the middle letters, then the word "pushed" might have given a suspicious overtone. "Equally Spaced"? Oh dear! To continue, until we have more positive evidence, I believe it is prudent to adopt a neutral, low key approach; premature announcements, like the Cold Fusion fiasco, are counter-productive and discourage serious research. As we might be dealing with an ephemeral phenomenon, time could be of the essence. Let us not, therefore, waste yet another season only to find that this brief magical moment in history is relegated to the realms of mythology.

The interpretations of these observations are highly speculative, and are intended to prompt further research into the nature and operation of the crop flattening force.

**MORE  
HEADACHES !  
by  
Lucy Pringle**

*Lucy Pringle, CCCS Treasurer, describes a visit to two of the early 1991 insectograms in Hampshire and some of the interesting dowsing results which she obtained.*

It was a cold, wet and windy day in mid July when David and Barbara Russell, Hamish Miller and I set out for Cheesefoot Head. Had Hamish not come all the way from Cornwall, I feel sure we would not have braved the elements. However, being stout hearted and not a little mad, we set forth, dressed in copious layers of winter woollies, muffled up in scarves and woolly hats and shod with wellies.

As this was my patch I was to act as pathfinder. Hamish cheerfully came with me not knowing that to my close friends and relatives, this would have been regarded as a great misfortune for him. I am regarded as the most unreliable navigator ever known to man. Even my children

discovered my failing at a very early age, having on many occasions noticed that we were passing the same tree, pond, church, field or other landmark not just once but several times... However, Hamish did not know this nor did the Russells and being a proverbial optimist I am always hopeful of improvement and so set forth full of confidence without first revealing my weakness!

Having telephoned the farmer beforehand, our first port of call was to be the Upham Insectogram, near Bishops Waltham. We reached our destination with only one very minor deviation. Having been into this formation 3 times already with various friends and having had the only severely unpleasant experience to date, I decided to sit in the car. The formation had been badly damaged by wind and rain, but its remarkable jointed sections were still clearly visible.

It was the first insectogram of the season and contained a type of energy I had never previously experienced and quite unlike the energy found in the other formations. It is an energy with which I feel we will need to become familiar.

Our next destination was Cheesefoot Head. Easy, I said, I have done this 100 times before, it will only take us 20 minutes at the most, being not more than 6 miles away! The mists fell and the lanes started to look horribly unfamiliar; Hamish and I chatted and chatted as I tried to disguise the fact that I was not altogether sure of where I was. The Russells were doing a marvellous job of driving round in circles behind us! Hampshire has a habit of pulling faces and changing shape as it does so! But my mercurial bump of location at last decided it had had enough fun and we found ourselves safely on the A 272.

We looked at the 2nd insectogram from a distance and moved onto the 3 circle formation opposite the car park (this I found to be a healing formation and took Margaret Randell here for her yearly "booster", again with quite remarkably good results). Hamish and I both independently confirmed each other's dowsing in a most interesting way. Where I had found to be the most powerful Yang energy area, Hamish had already dowsed that as being the energy point of entry

from nearby tumuli.

There was still one formation we had not seen. This was a circle David had seen from the air some 4-5 weeks previously. He had realised that it would be difficult to find and had visited it immediately after landing. He found it had some very interesting dowsing patterns and had asked me to see what I could detect with my pendulum. Needless to say I never did find it, so it seemed a heaven sent opportunity to visit it then and there. We made our way to the field which was close by. There was a path running the length of the field down one side. It soon became clear to us that we were going to have difficulty locating the circle for as far as our eyes could reach was an endless sea of barley.

How I regretted leaving my pendulum in the car and I had not even brought my rods either. As we were walking down the path suddenly I felt a tight band around my head. "Stop", I called to David, who had gone ahead. "The circle is here", I said, pointing into the field. David felt sure it was further on but as the band around my head seemed to be tightening still more, he obligingly went into the field but went off at an angle and soon was lost to sight in the waves of pale golden stalks of barley. In despair I borrowed Barbara's dowsing rods and asked them to indicate where the circle was. They pointed straight into the field and I entered where David had, but instead of going off at an oblique angle, I followed the rods at 90 degrees to the path for some 50-60 yards until I saw the circle literally 2 steps in front of me. It was a beautiful double ringer, which clearly had had few if any other visitors apart from David and now us. The moment I stepped into it the band of steel was lifted from my poor aching head. I have spoken to several people and I am told that it is a well known fact that we may use our bodies as dowsing instruments. In fact since then Barbara Russell and I have used our rods to locate circles in this way as so many of them are not visible from the ground. I am sure most dowers do the same. However, bands of steel do not appeal to me but I suppose it is a useful means if all else fails! And to end on an encouraging note, ever since that wet and soggy day, my bump of location has improved quite dramatically. Maybe something was unblocked as a result of our intrepid expedition !

## CIRCLEMANIA by Gloria Wingfield

The crop circle season is here again with a vengeance! Members of the CCCS who during the long winter months were filled with gloom and despondency, and were convinced that circles would never reappear in 1992 can smile again and ready themselves for another busy summer of crop watching and circle visiting. The atmosphere of excitement is palpable as the news of new formations spreads rapidly and the likelihood of them being hoaxed is discussed interminably.

But amidst all this excitement spare a thought for those of us who have to try to live a normal life in a household which has been taken over by the circles. The day inevitably starts with the telephone ringing at 7 a.m. if not before. Something terrible has happened I fear as I rush to answer this early call - but no, its usually someone from the West Coast of America who has to have the latest circle update before he goes to bed or perhaps Erik Beckjord with further forceful suggestions as to what we should be doing about the circles. It never occurs to anyone that we might still be asleep. This sets the tone for the day, thereafter the telephone rings constantly, sometimes with the average time between calls being 30 seconds. Mercifully modern technology in the shape of a cordless phone allows one to wash, have a bath, cook, eat, wash up, and even garden while carrying on a telephone conversation. Finally we take it off the hook. Then the postman arrives, or rather staggers in with the mail. A simple bill in a brown envelope would almost be a relief! Most of the envelopes bulge with circle diagrams, photographs, videos, crop samples with roots still caked in earth, articles for the Circular, new theories about circles/UFOs, etc. Family and friends have long given up writing - they know their letters will go unread.

Mid morning and time to get to grips with the correspondence - but perhaps we ought to turn the telephone on again. Disaster! Ten seconds and it rings immediately, but this time it's an 8 page fax complete with diagrams and drawings and an answer is required immediately. Abandon all hope

for today's mail. (One hopes that correspondents will show appropriate patience when they appreciate just how impossible it has become to answer letters.)

What about lunch? Sorry, a new pictogram/circle has just appeared and it must be checked out before the corn is badly trampled, so the intrepid editor of the Circular sets forth armed with binoculars, cameras, tape recorder, spade, measuring tape and notepad with the firm intention of being home by tea time. Your editor is delighted to find on arrival that at least 10 colleagues are already at this latest circle and have all the information on when the circle was first seen, the swelling of the nodes, direction of swirl and the location of other circles that have appeared overnight. The afternoon passes in animated discussion, interviews with farmers and farmworkers and visits to all the other circles in a 20 mile radius. After such an exhausting day what else is there to do but repair to the Waggon and Horses for the evening? Oh dear,-- what about getting home for supper?-- it's now 9.30 and those left behind might be worrying, but a quick telephone call allays their fears and hearth and home are finally reached just after closing time.

And now to start the days work. The messages on the telephone answering machine (which may total 200 units after just a few hours absence) have to be listened to but on a good day this will only take half an hour, so by midnight the decks are cleared and a start can be made on reading and answering the mail, updating the data base and perhaps reading one of the many circles articles that have arrived from all over the world. At least no one is going to telephone so late at night. Wrong! The East Coast of America now has to have its circle update and in the excitement the five hour time difference is often forgotten. And other callers often call at midnight and later which sometimes produces a rather harassed sounding response at this end of the telephone.

By two a.m. total peace has descended since the telephone has now been switched to fax and only the gentle snoring of your editor can be heard as he sleeps slumped over his computer, a half written article for **The Circular** still on the screen. Sometime just before dawn the peace will be shattered by a terrible crash as he stumbles over the dog trying to find his way up to bed in the dark. So ends another day in the life of a manic cereologist.

## SURREY CCCS: 'TEMS' GROUP

A private meeting was held in Hampton on 6th October 1991 which proved very instructive. Stanley Morcom was amongst those attending and gave details of the underlying patterns he had found in some of the formations. In January 1992 a group called "TEMS" was founded, covering mainly the Middlesex and Surrey areas. TEMS maintains close links with the Essex Branch of the CCCS, the Crop Watcher, the Cerealogist, Contact, ASSAP and BUFORA, besides the CCCS itself. It has agreed to act as the Surrey Branch of the CCCS and a crop circle afternoon was held on 31 May with a talk and videos. TEMS may be able to arrange shared light-aircraft flights at cost price for members who can fit in with flying conditions. A field-trip to crop circle country is scheduled for 27th June. As the season progresses it is anticipated that members will co-operate informally on further expeditions. TEMS will of course advise on whether or not formations are in "sensitive" areas. At the time of writing a rumoured first circle of the year had appeared in oil-seed rape in the Sutton Scotney area in late April. Described as 72 feet across with two satellites controversy immediately started over whether it was natural or hoaxed. (See page 4 --Ed) Lionel Beer. Contact Tel. 081 979 3148

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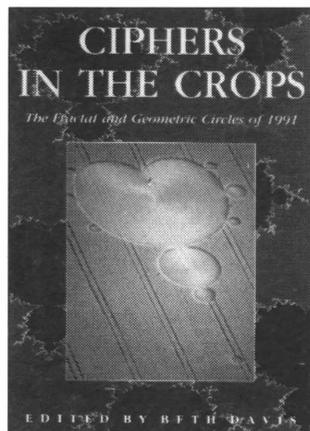
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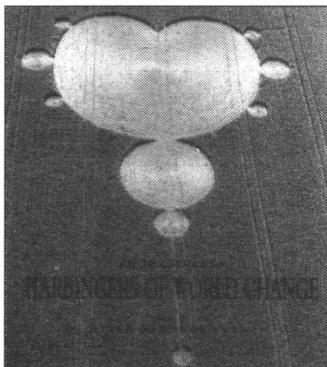
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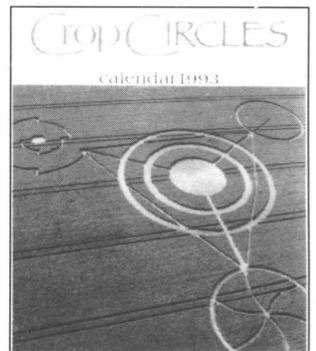
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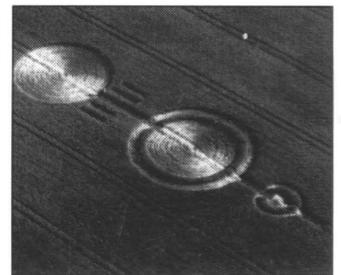
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