

MAGAZINE OF THE CENTRE FOR CROP CIRCLE STUDIES (Sussex Branch)

SUSSEX
30
CIRCULAR



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"Do not adjust your mind - there's a fault in reality"

ANON (graffiti)

They're back... Sussex has had its first two crop formations of the year, which you can read about opposite. As only about 40% (!) of SC readers now actually live in Sussex, as this magazine rapidly becomes truly universal (10% of our subscribers live overseas!), I trust all our non-local perusers will see the value of our reporting in detail the crop formations on our doorstep (our wider coverage continuing unabated of course). It's a good exercise because with England's other circle events scattered so far and wide, you don't often get to hear much more than the absolute basics, so focussing in on a narrow selection (ie. the Sussex formations) enables those not directly involved with field research to get a closer feel of what's going on in the great outdoors as Sussex formations seem good examples of the phenomenon as a whole. Talking of overseas readers, potential subscribers please note: besides our usual £10.00 UK rate, the European subscription rate is £13.00 and the general overseas rate (US etc.) is £18.00, the different levels simply covering the postage costs. There's been a bit of confusion about methods of international payment for the mag, so here's some clarification. The only acceptable methods of payment for SC subscriptions are: Eurocheques (in Europe); cheques made out in sterling which can be drawn from a bank with a British branch (check this out at your end); cash in sterling (at your own risk) or cash in dollars - but with the latter please ensure you have checked the exchange rate and include £4.00 extra to cover our transfer costs. International postal orders are no longer acceptable, sorry. Okay!

Meanwhile, at the newsdesk... Leonie Starr has quit the CCCS Council over certain 'differences' which occurred... Richard Andrews has happily recovered from a minor heart attack, our best wishes to him... Reg Presley of The Troggs fame (interview: SC 6) has appeared all over the media talking about this year's formations and promising to donate some of the royalties of the new Wet Wet Wet hit version of one of his old songs to further research, sparking a rush of begging letters from poverty-stricken circle researchers all over the country... And our thanks to Mary Bennett for her, shall we say unusual - and enjoyable - talk at May's CCCS Sussex branch meeting. Even if no-one still understands 'Two-Thirds'.

One expression which keeps popping up recently is the term 'expert', a word employed by others to deter the 'peasant rabble' from getting ideas above their station in the crop circle world. For instance, I received a letter the other month from someone regarding the Wingfield/Keen shenanigans a few issues back, hinting that we should leave things to the "experts" and that we should have more appreciation for "respected pioneers". The fact is that there are no experts in cerealogy. There are those who have done good work, yes. There are those who have laid down the basis for a style of research others have continued, yes. There are those who have pushed back our frontiers of thinking. All these people deserve our respect. But they are not experts. Surely with such a speculative and evolving phenomenon as the crop circles, there can never, by definition be true 'experts'. Can it really be said that the 'pioneering experts' are any nearer to a final answer than anyone else? There is as much, possibly more, valuable pioneering work going on amongst newer enthusiastic researchers 'on the fringes' as anywhere else. The day we begin to christen each other 'experts' is a sad one which supposes that others have all the answers, when all they have, like anyone else, are ideas, notions and databases. Right, must go, we experts lead busy lives... oops. (I'm fired - Ed.)

ANDY THOMAS

Sussex Circular: Edited and produced by Andy Thomas. Articles and contributions to the editorial address please. CCCS Sussex Branch Convenor: Barry Reynolds (Tel. 0444 232873). Subscription applications and queries: Debbie Pardee, 42 Croxden Way, Willingdon Trees, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN22 0UJ. Subscription £10.00 (12 copies), cheques payable to 'CCCS Sussex'. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual contributors and not the Sussex Circular or the CCCS as a whole, unless otherwise stated.

NEWS

SUSSEX CROP FORMATIONS 1994 - THE SAGA BEGINS...

REF: SUSSEX 1994/01

Location: Sompting, West Sussex

Crop: Wheat

Formed: 6/6/94?

Spotted by Paul Bura, 15/6/94

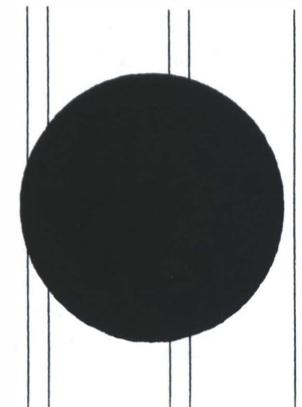
Description: Single circle

Crop laid anticlockwise.

Diameter of circle approximately 75ft.

Surveyed by: Andy Thomas & Barry Reynolds

DETAILS: A local resident reports first seeing the formation while out with his dog on the morning of 6th June. It had not been there the night before. The impression in the crop was very indistinct and when in the formation itself it was hard to see it at all. There was no obvious swirl in the crop, most of which was standing up almost as normal, but vague spiral paths were visible, with the centre offset to one side. This effect was more apparent at a distance. The formation was in the field opposite the back of the field containing Sussex 1994/02 (see below) and was clearly visible at certain times of the day (ie. evening and morning when the sun casts lower shadows) but almost invisible in a flat light.



(Shown with tramlines which were aligned approximately north)

REF: SUSSEX 1994/02

Location: Sompting, West Sussex

Crop: Wheat

Formed: Around 4/6/94

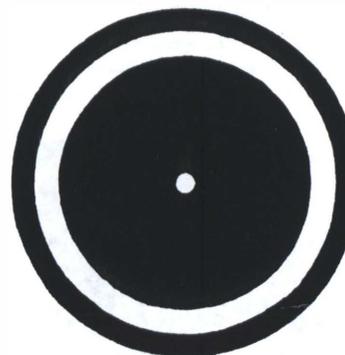
Spotted by Andy Thomas, 15/6/94

Description: Ringed circle with centre tuft

Circle laid anticlockwise, ring clockwise.

Diameters: Circle 15.7ft, Inner Ring 18.9ft, Outer Ring 20.10ft, Tuft 1.5ft

Surveyed by: Barry Reynolds, Andy Thomas & Jason Porthouse



DETAILS: On 17th June, the farmer claimed to have first seen the formation "a couple of weeks ago", hence the rather approximate date. Looking like nothing more than a vague patch from a distance, this was in fact a lovely formation which must have been exquisite when newly formed; the crop had grown up extensively when surveyed. Of particular note was the central tuft - a small area of standing crop, which was ringed with a fan of tightly-swirled wheat (see photo overleaf). There were no signs of anyone having entered the formation when surveyed and other than its age, it was in pristine condition. Initial dowsing revealed the formation to be on an energy line (feminine) from St Mary's church >> 3

further down in Sompting, which dowsers tell us was the major earth-energy sparking point for some of last year's formations, fed from Cissbury Ring. This appeared in the same field as the arched-dumbbell pictogram of 1990 and was aligned directly over a set of tractor tramlines which were at 50°. Photo by Andy Thomas.



IF YOU DISCOVER A CROP FORMATION in Sussex, please follow our standard reporting procedure: Even if you think someone else may have already reported it, please telephone either:

ANDY THOMAS - 0273 474711 BARRY REYNOLDS - 0444 232873 MARTIN NOAKES - 0342 718613

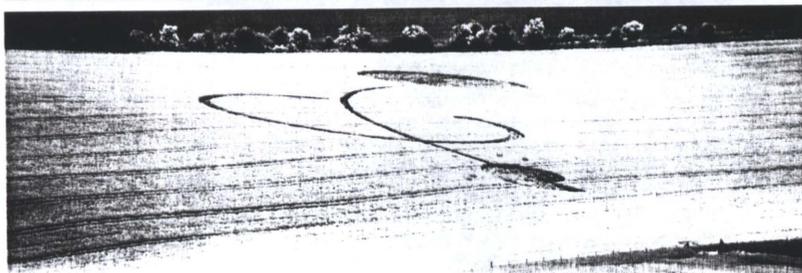
All have answering machines and Andy & Martin are sometimes available in the day. Please do NOT contact national CCCS as this may result in one formation being reported as two. CCCS Sussex passes all its information to main CCCS through official channels. Please do NOT enter a formation until the CCCS Sussex team can get there. We are in contact with all the local farmers and will immediately telephone for entry permission once a formation is reported. Unauthorised entry can destroy valuable evidence and make permission harder to gain. All those who entered the Shoreham snail formation last year, take note!

MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY... (Photos by Steve Alexander)

'The Scorpion'
(West Kennett
Barley)



Cherhill
(Barley)



PROJECT SKY: DATES AND DETAILS

To refresh your memories, Project Sky is an attempt to hold a mass tune-in to communicate with the circle makers, whoever they may be, by having synchronised groups up and down the country meditating at the same time in their own chosen locations. The thinking behind the project is outlined in SC 28.

CCCS Sussex has now decided on the location where its own group will meet. The original idea was to sit in an actual crop formation for the duration of the tune-in, but after some consideration we have decided to go for the Sacred Site option instead as the logistics of having lots of people traipsing through fields (as CCCS Sussex has lots of members) are rather daunting. With that in mind, we will all meet for Project Sky at the top of Cissbury Ring, the ancient hillfort on the downs above Sompting.

Many believe Cissbury is the key earth energy point from which the power to create the Sompting crop formations of last year was channelled. There is a terrific view of the surrounding area from here and the Ring is open to the public at all times.

There are two dates for Project Sky to take place: 1st July and 30th July 1994. CCCS Sussex will use the first date as its main organised gathering; the latter date we will leave open for people to do whatever they feel right, wherever seems appropriate, as many of us seem to be away for that date. Remember, DO NOT enter a crop formation without permission from the landowner.

So for 1st July, the routine will run as follows:

- 1) Park in the main car park for Cissbury (take the Nephote turning off the A24 to Findon).
- 2) Gather at the top of Cissbury Ring, following the clearly marked footpaths, by the Ordnance Survey trig-point pillar, NO LATER THAN 8.30pm. From there we will pick our site and settle down for the tune-in.
- 3) At 9.00pm, we will start the first 'Active Phase', meditating or just sitting quietly while focusing our thoughts on a) the crop circles b) our desire for communication with the circle makers c) our willingness to come together in a group for this purpose. You may concentrate on anything that ties in with these that feels right for you. We should balance, centre and protect ourselves in our own accustomed ways, acknowledge our connection with the Earth and tune into our Higher Selves and the 'universal mind'. Questions you may like to formulate to the circle makers are a) How can we understand your message more clearly b) How should we respond c) What is the next step. See what impressions you get.
- 4) At 9.30pm, there will be a half-hour break to chat, relax, exchange observances and watch for any phenomena that may result from the tune-in, although it should be stressed this is not the primary aim of Project Sky. Some may wish to leave at this point.
- 5) For the dedicated, there will be a second Active Phase from 10.00 to 10.30pm, following the same guidelines as the first.
- 6) From 10.30pm onwards, participants are encouraged to remain on site for at least another half an hour, or as long into the night as they feel right with!

People taking part should write down any impressions and experiences they have during the tune-in, which they may feel relevant. Intuitive feelings, strange energy effects or other sensory experiences, sightings of unusual phenomena, repetitive thoughts, dreams, sounds etc. - all these could be significant, no matter how slight they may seem to you.

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS: Even if it is a warm summer night, bring warm clothing! You'll be amazed how quickly you can get cold when outside sitting still. Also, bring something to sit on, ground sheets etc. If it is raining, we will carry out the meditation in our cars down in the car park. Please do not bring alcohol, smoke cigarettes or anything that might encourage antisocial behaviour! Cameras also, will not be allowed to be used while the tune-in is in progress. If you cannot make Cissbury Ring, please tune-in from wherever you are. FURTHER INFO: Call Andy on 0273 474711 or Barry on 0444 232873. See you there..? 5

THE DECEPTION DECEPTION...? DEBBIE PARDOE INVESTIGATES THE VIEWS OF WILLIAM H COOPER...

Way back in SC 16, we published a review of the 'Global Deception' conference held at Wembley Arena in 1993. With videotapes of this event now doing the rounds, Debbie Pardo takes issue with some of the views of speaker Bill Cooper, author of the conspiracy theorist's bible 'Behold A Pale Horse' which examines the role of the Illuminati and the New World Order...

*

It wouldn't surprise me at all to learn that Mr Cooper, ex-US Naval Intelligence Officer, had infiltrated the conference on behalf of the CIA as an agent of disinformation. Knowing that his audience was going to be made up of many 'New Agers', 'greens' and, I suspect, several pagan souls, he set out to demonstrate how many of the ancient religions, specifically the Mystery cults of Osiris and Isis, had been 'designed' and staged 6000 years ago to take over the whole world. According to his theory, these plans are coming to fruition now, at the Dawn of the New Aeon, and the ancient cults have evolved into powerful organisations such as the secret and sinister Order of the Illuminati, who are planning for the New World Order. Systematically, he debunked every occult order he could think of, since in his opinion they promote the worship of Lucifer.

Mr Cooper made a number of preposterous statements such as "...Earth Mother bullshit!" Most of us, if not all, who have become spellbound by the evolving crop circle phenomenon will inevitably nurture growing concerns about environmental issues and the majority of us I am sure will have come to see the planet in a new light - as Gaia, a living organism, just as our forefathers had done centuries before. Surely it is not 'bullshit' to regard the Earth as the Great Mother since she supports all life and respect for Her is possibly Man's only hope of salvation.

When Mr Cooper gave an account of the Osiris/Isis legend he made a serious and deliberate (?) error by implying that the Mystery cults of Osiris and Isis (in a new guise) were in control of planetary issues from international banking to warfare. This is not how the story goes since after killing Osiris, it is Set, the Dark Twin, who rules the Earth until such time that Horus can avenge his father's death, an event which will signal the arrival of the New Aeon. The armies of Set have been in control for the past 2000 years, for the duration of the Age of Pisces. Osiris becomes a spiritual being and subsequently rules in Khert Neter, the Land of the Dead, where in the Hall of Justice he judges the hearts of those who enter His realm by weighing the heart against a feather. The heart symbolizes a person's conscience and only those who have lived out their lives seeking beauty, wisdom, courage, pleasure and, at all times, justice can enter the eternal paradise. Anyone whose heart is weighed down by a guilty conscience will return to Earth to try again. Contrary to Mr Cooper's implications, this doctrine can hardly be considered as sinister since it urges an individual to become a better person, striving for virtue, love and compassion.

With the arrival of the New Age, secret occult societies, such as the Illuminati, Freemasons, The Round Table, even the Knights Templar, will apparently take control and dominate world affairs through money and political power - but ancient Egyptian prophecies tell a different story. After years of war, famine and global persecution by Set and his minions (ie. those in power) Horus, who meanwhile has been preparing for battle receiving instructions from his mother Isis, will call up his warriors and face a showdown with the forces of evil. Horus is the hawk-headed god, the Child, and the tearful Eye of Horus (a symbol which has been adopted by the Illuminati and various other occult societies - see front cover this issue) represents both the Sun and the Moon as well as all the sorrow that has befallen humanity during the years of Set's dominion of the Earth. The prophecy tells us that with the coming of the New Aeon the children shall answer his call (for Horus has an hundred eyes) and they shall rise up on the wings of a hawk, a new generation of people casting off material cares to rise up through the power of the will and newly awakened consciousness. No longer bothered by physical concerns nor the pursuit of wealth, the children will make a stand against corrupt leaders and "the meek shall inherit the Earth" - a completely different scenario to that given by William Cooper who stresses that it is those with money and power who will take over. Aren't they already in control? In the final battle, Horus is victorious over Set and becomes the Crowned and Conquering Child which is commemorated by the Coronation of the Sacred Falcon at the Winter Solstice when the Light (or the Sun) claims victory over the Dark. >>

According to Mr Cooper the legend of Osiris and Isis did not originate in Egypt but came instead from Babylon. The story is indeed echoed in Babylonian myth by the Quest of Ishtar who ventures down into the Underworld to recover her lover Tammuz, just as Isis sets out to recover Osiris (killed and dismembered by Set - Isis had to recover the pieces). But stories of the 'Quest' are to be found in numerous legends from around the world - the Quest of Orpheus, Dionysus, and closer to home, the Quest for the Grail. All of these stories represent Man's search for Truth and Wisdom and any claims that they are 'evil' are unsubstantiated no matter where they come from. During the discourse, the speaker argues that Plutarch was solely responsible for writing the Osirian legend. Plutarch, writing in the 1st Century, was a Greek occultist, a Priest of Apollo and Dionysus, well versed in magical tradition. Much of the Osiris/Isis story did indeed come from Plutarch but certainly not all of it and most historians agree that he culled his information from former fragments which are now lost. Plato (laying particular emphasis on the doctrine of reincarnation) and Philo also wrote a great deal about the Egyptian Mysteries and we mustn't forget Solomon's 'Lament of Isis'. Then there is the Hermes Trismegistus, a collection of ancient Egyptian occult writings of which the third part, 'The Excerpts From Strobaeus' numbering 27, were discovered and translated in the 5th Century. One of these excerpts, called 'The Virgin of the World' is a series of instructions from Isis to Horus in the art of magic and it is highly prophetic of the New Aeon. Many other writers and philosophers accorded credence to the Egyptian legends. So Mr Cooper is mistaken in thinking that the Osirian legend comes solely from Plutarch.

Another amazing assumption made by the speaker was that, on being initiated into the Inner Mysteries, neophytes were taught great secrets and on receiving them, renowned sages and mystics of the past became part of the 'Brotherhood', knowing all about the Great Work and plans for the New World Order. Where would we be, I wonder, without the great minds of philosophers such as Pythagoras and Aristotle? Was it really their intention to dominate the populace and, in years to come, the entire world? And the very idea that Egyptians embalmed the dead, thereby imprisoning the soul to the physical body is utter rubbish. Anyone who has studied the Egyptian Mysteries will know that the purpose of mummification was to help preserve the lower vehicle of man in order to ensure an easier transition between death and rebirth.

It wasn't only the ancient Egyptians who were part of the Great Plan for global domination since Mr Cooper also implicates several occult orders, saying that they were all one and the same, stemming originally from the Order of the Snake or Dragon. The Vatican was involved and so were the Knights Templar but he failed to explain why Pope Clement V disbanded the Templars in 1307 and proceeded to round them up, torture them and have them brutally murdered if they were both working towards the same goal. Later on in his lecture when he translates the ancient symbolism of the Great Seal on the dollar bill, he arrives at 1110, a date which he erroneously states was the year that the Templars established the Priory de Sion - in fact, the Knights Templar were not founded until 1118 and did not arrive in Jerusalem until 1119!

When he gets round to the events surrounding President Kennedy's assassination, Mr Cooper says that, in keeping with the requirements of magical tradition, the King must be sacrificed within the Temple. And sure enough the setting for this event was the Dealey Plaza, a vast Masonic Temple, complete with dragon motif peering down from the Old Court House and an obelisk, representing the phallus of Osiris. (An obelisk can almost certainly be deemed a phallic symbol representing, as it does, one aspect of the life-force, but this doesn't make it evil, nor does it signify a temple, otherwise the same must be said for every obelisk and memorial worldwide.) There have always been various conspiracy rumours but in this case, links with any magical or occult fraternity are spurious - CIA involvement seems much more likely. Cooper says that Kennedy was the only President not to have been a Mason and all the others, particularly Eisenhower, were obviously part of the great occult/Masonic takeover plot. However, according to James Dewar in his book 'The Unlocked Secret - Freemasonry Examined', "...only thirteen of the Nation's thirty-five Presidents have belonged to the Lodge. The American voter has been unable to cast a ballot for a presidential candidate who was a Mason since 1948. Eisenhower, Stevenson, Nixon and Kennedy are all non-Masons..."

As for the UFO - well apparently UFOs are not of Extra-Terrestrial origins after all. That's just what THEY want us to believe! Similarly, the hole in the ozone layer is a fiction, another one of THEIR stories (although there is a little evidence to support this - Ed). It was refreshing to hear protests from several people in the audience at this >>7

point with remarks like "You're wrong..." and "Who's manipulating who?", which is precisely the question I would ask.

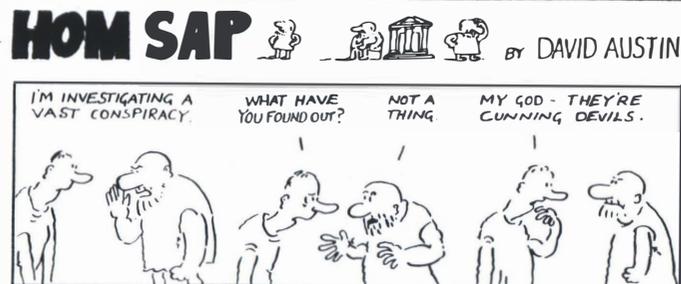
It seems perfectly logical to assume that 'those in control' are getting anxious now because of rising awareness worldwide. Everywhere there is change; people are making a stand, questioning governments and authority; the masses are turning away from the Church, resurrecting old 'pagan' and tribal ideals and, after many long years, we are learning to respect Mother Earth once again. The Global Deception Conference was an ideal venue to promote fear and inject doubts into the minds of those who care, to give them a skillfully prepared story of half-truths, the sum of which is nothing but a premeditated lie!

If we accept William Cooper's hypothesis then only the Jews and the Christian Church seem to be innocent bystanders but a quick glance at the history books is enough to tell us that this is not the case. Through the centuries both have endeavoured to control the masses by warfare, politics, finance, fear and brain-washing techniques and at the same time, occult orders and instigators of so-called heretical thought have been persecuted. It is thanks to these Mystery Cults, Templars and renowned philosophers that the Truth has been kept alive for so long, albeit underground and often clothed in Christian symbolism such as the Arthurian legends, for these Initiates were Guardians of the Old Wisdom and if Mr Cooper is right and the Illuminated ones mean to take control, then many will answer the call and rally to the Pendragon banner since the Eyes of Horus will certainly not rise through money, power and corruption but through kinship with Isis, or Mother Earth.

Ultimately, what makes me turn away from William Cooper's theories is the very nature of the doctrines he chooses to condemn as evil; anyone who looks into some of these ancient belief systems will realise, sooner rather than later, that the key to wisdom can only be obtained by becoming a better person, acting at all times in a selfless way for the benefit of Mankind. According to Mr Cooper, the Cult of the Dragon or Serpent lies at the heart of this evil occult movement bent on world domination. But didn't Jesus say "Be ye wise as serpents..." - a reference perhaps to the secret teaching which could save Mankind? And Buddha also; "...I view the holy path of the illuminated ones as flowers appearing in one's eyes... I look upon the judgement of right and wrong as the serpentine dance of a dragon, and the rise and fall of beliefs as but traces left by the four seasons."

One other thing that Mr Cooper neglected to tell his audience - as well as ex-Naval Intelligence, he is also ex-CIA... (ex?)

DEBBIE PARDOE



Cartoon:
'Private Eye'
22/4/94

FEATURES

STRETCHING REALITY... PAUL BURA TESTS THE ELASTICITY OF HIS OWN EXPERIENCE...

After settling down in my seat, stuffing myself with British Airways veggie fare, frantically re-reading the glossy brochure for perfumes and liquors that I would never need, and realising (unless I got really lucky) that I would never become a member of the Mile-High Club, I slithered down in my plane seat and dozed awhile, my head resting against the window. I slept for maybe half an hour. I came to staring out of the window. Ice was beginning to form on the outside. Then I saw it! The most exquisite cruciform I had ever seen. It was as if the rays of the sun had been frozen and superimposed over this simple but beautiful shape. It had the obvious features of a crucifix; the cross-bar set against a vertical pillar... but from this emerged an image the like of which I had never seen. >> 8

Even the cross itself was an abstract and yet it wasn't. I was transfixed! Who had constructed this? Was it just for me? I could not even begin to draw it though I did try. It enlarged my reality. I wanted to shout out to all the other dozing fliers that I had just discovered a work of art that was beyond price. But no, I kept it to myself. It was mine, at least for a while, and it stretched my reality!

The Turin Shroud has the ability to change people's lives, maybe even tear them apart, depending on where their reality is. If the Shroud is a fake, even the marks of the lash on Jesus' back are there for all to see, showing that pieces of lead were attached to each strand of the whip (as indeed they were 2000 years ago in the Holy Land), leaving their torturous marks etched into his back. Carbon-dating allegedly tells us it is a fake and even some have it that Leonardo da Vinci created it. Certainly he was an artist of rare genius. But why, I wonder did Leonardo (if indeed it was he) create the image of Jesus as still being alive when they took him from the cross? He was still bleeding, for Chri... God's sake! If the carbon-dating had proved the shroud as genuine then the whole course of Christian history and philosophy would have been built on a lie (Jesus not being dead when placed in the tomb)! That stretches my reality.

Recently I took my mother to see a psychic surgeon called Stephen Turroff. I asked whether I could accompany my mother into the surgery. After establishing that my mother needed surgery, he applied some ether to her stomach and before I could utter a word, plunged a scalpel into her belly, making a three inch incision! With no anaesthetic! He then inserted an instrument and took out a small piece of tissue which he tossed in a bin. He then pushed the flesh together leaving a thin red mark that vanished in a few days. I witnessed this at only three feet away. Yes, my mother felt some discomfort but nothing like the real pain of a knife entering living flesh without anaesthetic. This stretched my reality!

A few years ago I had just finished visiting an old friend in a village called Chislet in Kent. I walked down the path and got into my car. I was just about to turn the ignition when a familiar black Ford Anglia pulled up at a small junction just on the right in front of me. In the car were Colin (driving), Christine (sitting in the front) and Martin and Gary in the back. I waved to them. They didn't see me. They pulled round in front of me and drove past. Christine was leaning over the back seat talking to Gary and Martin. I waved again. Nothing. "Doesn't matter" I thought "I'm going to their house anyway, I'll follow." I started the car, turned round and hared off after them. I caught them up quite quickly. I could see Gary and Martin chatting through the back window. I flashed my lights, even beeped my horn. Still nothing. We came to a T-junction. Right at the junction was the road to Herne Bay, left was the road to their house. They turned right! As I was going to their house anyway, I turned left, still puzzled as to why they hadn't seen me. A few minutes later I arrived at the house and knocked at the door. The door opened and there stood... Colin! "What the hell are you doing here?" I said. "Well I do live here!" said Colin. I explained that I had just followed them for a couple of miles. Colin said that that was impossible as he and the lads were in all afternoon and that Christine was in Gibraltar - a fact that I already knew! That too stretched my reality.

My good friend Jason and my nephew Quenton pushed me in my wheelchair (reluctantly I sometimes have to use it) to my first crop circle at Sompting in 1992. They carried the wheelchair shoulder-high whilst I was led like a blind man to the circle's centre. There I sat in the wheelchair and experienced an incredible vortex of energy radiating from the ground. If this was a fake then please let me embrace they who made it, for this truly was a living work of art, and yes, it stretched my reality.

The stretching of our own personal realities occurs all the time. We just have to have the courage to acknowledge them or we stand still.

Standing still encourages a contraction of our reality, and who wants to step backward into the dark when the way forward, though scattered with pitfalls, is so blindingly bright!

PAUL BURA

PI IN THE SKY... Some of you more mathematical types out there may have been puzzled by the use of the term 'Pi' in Barry Reynolds' Astrogenetics article last month. This should of course have been Phi as in the 'Golden Number'. Error due to influx of cosmic radiation.

SELLING THE NEW AGE... ANDY THOMAS POPS DOWN TO THE FESTIVAL OF MIND, BODY & SPIRIT

Many were incensed last year when the Daily Telegraph ran a scathing attack on the whole concept of 'New Age' thinking via a vicious review of the 1993 Festival of Mind, Body and Spirit in London. Were their comments justified? Well, partly. I decided to go along to this year's Festival at the Royal Horticultural Halls to see for myself. 'Festival' is in fact a rather fancy term for what is basically a Trade Fair, a huge marketplace where both the genuine and the bandwagonists come together to ply their wares on unsuspecting seekers. I suppose to its credit, little secret is made that this is the main function of the week-long event; a place to pay extortionate amounts to find your 'chosen' crystal, sample new therapies, browse through new books to enlighten you, strain over the hall babble to hear music to soothe you... The tinkle of gingham money pockets is what counts and no camouflage of do-gooding is seriously attempted. The deal is quite clear: they get your money, you get enlightened. Everyone happy. Mind you, a fiver has to change hands before you even get in the door. Access to certain lectures costs between another £5 - £15 on top of that. But as I said, that's the deal. The New Age doesn't come cheap.

Once inside, one is at least treated to a 'free' rolling programme of musical events and lectures from lesser-league speakers the organisers obviously didn't feel they could charge extra for, echoing across the hall from a stage set up at one end. You know the sort of thing; everything ranging from steel band duos to a bearded American making long, low burping noises as a pathway to transformation and salvation. Elsewhere in the hall there is equal, if unintentional, entertainment to be had spotting figures in the crowd. Marvel! at the size of author Stuart Wilde's paunch! Gasp! at the realisation that flute-player Tim Wheeler resembles a skinhead thug! Drool! (men only) at the New Age Babes wandering around in force. Fall over! in amusement at some of the items on sale! Banana chairs anyone?

There's certainly a wide variety of species on show here in this predominantly female gathering of both punters and exhibitors, the latter of which seem to be American in large proportions. Indeed, many of the therapies and trinkets on show seem to have US origins, but then I suppose California in particular is very much the ancestral seat of the New Age movement. Specifically, the new scramble for 'political correctness' has ensured that Red Indians, sorry Native Americans, seem to have become the chosen archetype to represent the feeling of imminent world change and enlightenment, a development born partly I guess out of the need to repent for the guilt-trip Western Man has suddenly and rightfully acquired for the historical sins committed against these people and the planet.

There's something here for everyone of all New Age persuasions - but only if you can put aside your innate British cynicism at some of the wild and wackier therapies and concepts being displayed. Baldness cures, burning candles you stick in your ears, oil-drenched swimsuited ladies being walked on by bare-footed masseurs, 'revitalisation' processes that seem to involve you being wrapped around Black & Decker Workmates... It's all here, in amongst the classic Tarot readers, palmists, dream interpreters and the like. A word of warning though - stand still too long in any one place and you'll be accosted for sure, by some bright-eyed figure in a jump-suit wanting to inflict their life-enhancing healing methods on you at eight quid a throw. My advice - keep on the move. These people are offended easily. If you refuse their offers of 'Whole-Body Revitalisation' you are instantly ex-communicated by their manner in such a way which marks you out as a not-of-the-faith outsider, a sad failed character unwilling to move forward in life by trying new exciting things. When in fact all you want to do is save a tenner.

Something else which will instantly eat a £10 note is the old favourite, the body aura photograph booth, which supposedly takes your picture in such a way as to reveal the colour of your personal auric energy fields. Never mind that this isn't proper Kirlian photography. Don't worry that no-one explains properly what the colours actually mean. The fact is that you will have your very own Polaroid shot of yourself in a haze of light. Wow. Here's another tenner-saving tip for you: 1) Take a camera and get someone to take your photograph. 2) Before winding on, open the back of your camera a crack. 3) Presto! You have an instant picture of yourself in a glow of light. 4) Give yourself £10.

The UFO phenomenon is being reconstituted by some at this event as the new religion to redeem Mankind if some of the stalls are anything to go by, with all your favourite >>

Keep an eye on Harry's son...

characters from the old religions (Jesus, assorted Saints etc.) popping up as starship commanders and alien messiahs to save the world all over again. A huge mural of an idyllic landscape with beautiful, happy people waving at flying saucers in a seemingly Jehovah Witnesses-inspired style of artwork tells you all you need to know. Another exhibitor displays paintings of famous ancient sites (Stonehenge, the Pyramids etc.), all of which have flying saucers hovering god-like over incredulous primitives. Clearly, some cannot conceive of these places having ever been constructed or used without Extra-Terrestrial intervention, which is all very well, but every famous monument ever?

Crop circles themselves were surprisingly unrepresented bar the odd postcard and a dog-eared copy of 'Circular Evidence' on display, although Lucy Pringle was down as one of the weekend lecturers to make up for this. Even Richard Beaumont of 'Kindred Spirit' was reportedly reluctant to be drawn on whether his magazine would be covering crop circles again in the near future...

Last summer, Martyn Harris of the aforementioned Daily Telegraph described the New Age movement (and let's face it, the Festival of Mind, Body and Spirit is the public face of exactly that) as "brain-rot" swimming in "a sea of muddy relativism where every religion is equal and every ideology is worth respect". I can see his point to a degree, but is respect for all ideologies really such a bad thing? The fact is that all the therapies, ideas and concepts on display in books, demonstrations and leaflets here, must somewhere have a grain of truth to them - and equally, each probably has an aspect which is wrong or misconceived. The danger lies perhaps in going too far down the road in one blinkered chosen direction rather than the problem being respect for all viewpoints. I see no harm in being a part of all this as long as it isn't taken too seriously, same as anything else in life, no matter how strongly one may feel about something. Narcissism and navel contemplation is no good to anyone, particularly not to the 'New Age' which should be an outreach - and there is a worrying amount of this introspection on show at the Festival, which one should be cautious of.

But under it all, I like these people wandering around the Royal Horticultural Halls, getting off on their own chosen enlightenments. God, at least they're looking for something more in life, even if some of them do exchange one kind of materialism for another, albeit a beads, crystal and incense one. I feel more empathy for the man Om-ing his baby into quietness in the lunchroom than I do for someone moaning loudly in the aisles at Safeway. And I'm more at home with these folks than I dare say I would be with a journalist from the Daily Telegraph. Respect for all belief systems and ideologies sounds good to me.

Maybe, as far as its public face goes, the problem is that the New Age movement needs to decide whether it truly exists as such and then define exactly what it is, especially as it's something that was never consciously created but slowly grew up from the spliff ashes of the flower-power generation. So far it's got by without definition, but now it needs to solidify an self-image.

As the old orders and belief-merchants try increasingly to stamp out what they see as the threat posed by the 'New Age' and the increase in self-awareness and planetary conscience, the 'New Agers' themselves need to clarify whether they are just a loose conglomeration of passing fads and trinket pushers - or a serious front forum to support and encourage the proliferation of progressive thought and inner-soul searching that this changing time - the New Age itself - really needs right now. At the moment, the Festival of Mind, Body and Spirit appears to represent the former definition, but with just a little more thought and a little less emphasis on novelty, it could become a public stage for the latter. The question is: what means more to the organisers:- the mind, the body, the spirit - or the shekels?

I think I can guess, but I'll live in hope.

ANDY THOMAS



HAS THE WORLD GONE MAD? PART 953...

Believe it or not, a 'Hoaxers Conference' to be held at the Waggon & Horses, Beckhampton, has been organised for this summer, to exchange handy hoaxing tips amongst the brethren... A guest speaker has been arranged for this marvellous event - one George Wingfield... 11

THE BIGGEST BANG SINCE CAESAR'S LAST BIRTHDAY PARTY: BARRY REYNOLDS GOES TO JUPITER...

Depending on who you believe or what you read, the far side of Jupiter will be hit by "20 fragments of a comet around 23rd July" ('Planetary Connections'), "Halley's Comet between 15-20 July" (Sofia Richmond's advert in 'The Guardian'), "the remnants of Shoemaker-Levy 9" (Radio 4), "broken up asteroids" (Maria Ward) or a whole host of other things.

Basically, some enormous rock-type objects from somewhere will hit Jupiter during July causing the biggest bang in the solar system since Julius Caesar's last birthday party. "10,000 times the total nuclear output of the combined Soviet and American arsenals" (Maria Ward) or "16 million Hiroshima bombs ('Daily Express'), take your pick. According to all astronomers and scientists however, there will be no knock-on effect for us mere mortals here on Earth. But are they right? The following is pure speculation on my behalf but is based on facts which I feel no-one has yet aired.

This bang will allegedly release the equivalent energy of an awful lot of atomic explosions. Now you are not going to tell me that all that energy pouring out into our solar system will have no effect at all on anything. At a guess there will be trillions of sub-atomic particle-thingsies released to fly off everywhere. Surely an awful lot of those are going to end up here. What if the outpouring energy, in whatever form it may take, affects the solar wind that surrounds the planet Earth; not an inconceivable notion. The knock-on effect of this would be to alter the Earth's magnetic field, albeit on a temporary perhaps brief basis, as the two are intrinsically linked. "Variations in the solar wind produce changes in the (Earth's) magnetosphere that are reflected in the terrestrial magnetic field at ground level." ('The Sun' - I Nicholson)

Let us presume that the Earth's magnetic field is indirectly affected. What will that do? Well for a start it will disrupt terrestrial radio signals and cause disruption in the ionosphere. In her book 'Where Science and Magic Meet', Serena Ronay-Dougal states: "The pineal gland, and particularly its production of melatonin, is definitely affected by both magnetic and electric fields, such that decreased EMF (Earth's Magnetic Field) results in decreased melatonin production; a short-term intense change in MF in either direction inhibits melatonin production. It appears to be the sudden change in EMF that is the important factor and the changes in direction of intensity are correlated with different sorts of psi experience. Since melatonin affects a wide range of endocrinal and neuronal functions within the body, anything which affects the pineal gland will have wide-ranging effects. Thus this research suggests that through the pineal gland we have a physiological means by which the Earth's magnetic field can change our inherent sensitivity to psi awareness." (My emphasis)

When Barbara Hand Clow in 'The Liquid Light of Sex' investigated the theories of Dr Percy Seymour, they postulated that "astrology is based on magnetic influences on the body. Specifically, he (Dr Seymour) suggests that astrological influences are related to solar magnetic activity in relation to the planets of the Solar System." "It is suggested that the fetus is influenced by the Earth's magnetic field at the time of birth. According to Seymour, activation of the fetus' sensory system during the birth process causes the fetal nervous system to integrate a type of geomagnetic coding at the cellular level." According to an article in the 'Sunday Times' (22/4/84), very weak magnetic variations (less than the strength of the EMF) cause mutations in genes.

So what sort of effect could the Jupiter explosions have on the inhabitants of Earth? Following on from the review of Maurice Cotterell's 'Astrogenetics' book last issue: "Interstellar radiation bombards the fetus at conception. This radiation causes chemical reactions within the enzymes of the first living cells through the process of cellular radiobiology. Chromosomes are spliced and rearranged. The inherited genes are thus mutated. Such mutations cause the personality information carried in the inherited genes to reorganise in the receptor. The resulting offspring will have a unique personality which will be a function of the radiation that caused its mutation." "Excessive radiation from huge solar disturbances would travel to Earth in the solar wind. All living species would undergo a mutational leap as the Earth's geomagnetic field increased in intensity. This explains en-masse mutational evolution. If two radioactive comets were to collide above the Earth's atmosphere a localised 'footprint' of ionising radiation would impinge upon a localised area of the Earth."

Still, we will all know soon! And if nothing happens? Oh well... BARRY REYNOLDS

