

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

S U S S E X
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C I R C U L A R O

32



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"What comes into the world and disturbs nothing
deserves neither consideration nor patience"

RENE CHAR

No, this month's front cover is not a crop formation, but a parody of the ancient Sussex hill figure The Long Man of Wilmington. Designed by political cartoonist Steve Bell, 'The Grey Man of Ditchling' appeared next to the Tour de France bicycle route as a protest against the government's roadbuilding schemes, temporarily cut into the chalk downs (for our overseas readers, prime minister John Major is traditionally depicted as a colourless 'grey man!'). Not long after, Sussex's first rape formation (as apparently genuine as they come) appeared quarter of a mile away... Interestingly, a crop formation appeared alongside another stretch of the Tour de France elsewhere in the South, depicting a perfect representation of a bicycle..! For this alone, many laugh it off as man-made, but if the circlemakers can give us other recognisable symbols such as Mandelbrots and snails, why not bikes?

(Warning: this paragraph contains Wingfield/Bythorn references..!) The latest issue of The Cerealologist is still peddling the nonsensical claims that the Bythorn Mandala was made by a retarded teenager with a two-legged camera tripod, and SC is singled out, criticised for making "vituperative" (reach for your dictionaries) attacks on George Wingfield. Two entirely untrue statements then appear, which need correcting. Two of the "main grounds" the "Sussex Circular and others" are accused of basing their "scathing assaults" on are a) "that the claimed photographs showing the formation only partly completed didn't exist" and b) "that 'Bill Bailey' was merely a shadowy figure whose real name I did not know and who would never appear at the inquiry on January 29th". Not true. Barry Reynolds claimed once (and justifiably at the time as they had not been produced) in SC 23 that the photographs did not exist - in later issues, notably SC 26 & 27, we very clearly acknowledged that the photos did exist after all. Our main argument was that the photographs did not show the details still being claimed by George, and we stand by this. Amusingly, even the printers of The Cerealologist couldn't tell the difference and accidentally printed the same picture twice, side by side in the current issue! We have NEVER claimed that Bill Bailey was not known to George or that he wouldn't appear at the Bythorn Trial. This is fiction. Indeed, SC has always named Julian Richardson from the start as a real person and never used the pseudonym 'Bill Bailey'. One of our main criticisms was that Julian was known to George and that he did appear at the inquiry! As for a third point George raises against us, he once again chooses to ignore the affidavits signed by the farmers that the formation was found complete on the day Julian only claims to have started it... George mourns that he has "not heard the slightest expression of regret from those who saw fit to attack me". Is it any wonder?

Alert readers wondering why our coverage of Sussex crop formations has skipped from Sussex 94/04 to 94/06, rest easy. The report on 94/05 ('Kebab II') will appear next month along with details of 94/10 - yes, we've broken our Sussex record, with ten formations this year, counting Birling Gap as one. Incidentally, some are referring to the Birling Gap events as "the Eastdean formations". This is incorrect and misleading. The formations were definitely located at Birling Gap - Eastdean is the next village along, near Eastbourne in East Sussex. East Dean was the village near Chichester, West Sussex, where the large tailed crescent formation appeared! So please use the correct tag 'Birling Gap' to avoid confusion. In the meantime, some who have been pronouncing on the Birling Gap formations without ever having entered them or in some cases without even seeing photographs, should kerb their opinions until they have done some genuine research! (See also page 12) A.T.

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 Pardoe, 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.

REF: SUSSEX 1994/06

Location: South Harting, West Sussex

Crop: Wheat

Formed: Around 15/7/94

Spotted by Keith Parker, 18/7/94

Description: Double ringed circle

Crop laid clockwise.

Diameters: Central circle 25ft, rings & gaps 3ft, grapeshot 4ft, distance from ring to grapeshot 4ft.

Surveyed by: Keith Parker

DETAILS: Keith discovered this formation out walking one day. It was well hidden from any roads, tucked right into the corner of a field, near a stretch of the South Downs Way track. There is a small reservoir nearby. The lay was neat and the central swirl had a lovely flow to it. Some small shards of white plastic were scattered here and there. This was the first of three formations in this area of West Sussex, and the smallest...

REF: SUSSEX 1994/07

Location: East Dean, West Sussex

Crop: Wheat

Formed: 23/7/94 or 24/7/94

Spotted by: Robert Russell, 25/7/94

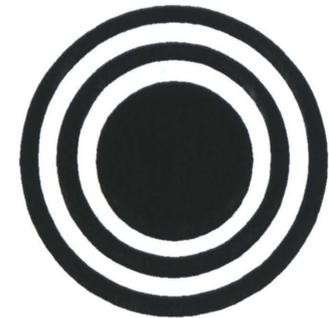
Description: Standing crescent with tail
Crop laid anticlockwise except second to last circle, which was clockwise.

Diameters: Crescent circle 185ft, 1st tail circle 68ft, second 50ft, third 24ft, fourth 20ft.

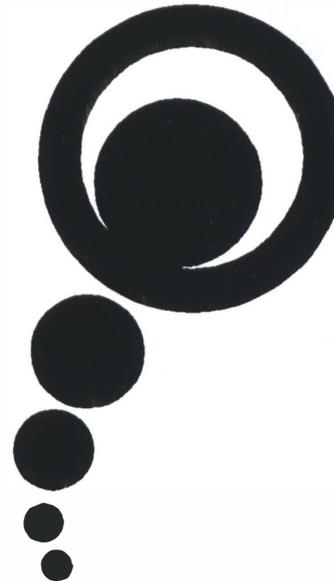
Surveyed by: Keith Parker

DETAILS: Not to be confused with Eastdean near Birling Gap, East Dean is a small village near Singleton, a few miles north of Chichester. The formation was very visible from the road. The largest and most impressive of this year's Sussex formations without a doubt, it received a lot of publicity in local newspapers and on TV. Allegedly visible from Goodwood Racecourse

a couple of miles to the south, it is far more likely that what was seen was Sussex 94/08 (see over) as this formation was in quite a low valley. The farmer, of strong Christian persuasion was VERY upset at getting the formation, describing it to one person as a product of "dangerous thinking"! When the inevitable sightseers turned up and started entering the field for a closer look, the farmer's wife took to patrolling the field at weekends to make sure no-one went in. Rumours have since been spread around the village that a man with a rope and pole was seen leaving the field very early in the morning the >>



*Gedditt?



date the formation appeared - however, since the date given was two days after it appeared it seems likely that this was Steve Alexander photographing it! On the real date of its formation, locals report hearing a commotion amongst the geese and cows in nearby fields. A number of interesting 'coincidences' surround the appearance of the crescent moon configuration: The woods which back on to the field are known on the Ordnance Survey map as 'Halfmoon Piece'... A lady who had never seen a crop formation before but had started incorporating their designs into her paintings over the last six months decided to paint a picture of East Dean by night, with a moon in the sky, a few days before the formation appeared - the first she had witnessed for herself... Inside East Dean church which overlooks the field with the formation, there is a memorial plate on the wall to, among others, one William Moon... Rumour has it that since the farmer was so outraged at the appearance of the formation in a field which was being grown for seeds, not standard crop, he has vowed never again to plant a cereal crop in the same location! Meridian Television erroneously reported this as Sussex's first formation of the year - instead of the seventh. Sussex 94/06 above, the formation at South Harting, appeared about 10 miles to the north-west. Sussex 94/08 below, appeared about two fields above it.

REF: SUSSEX 1994/08

Location: East Dean, West Sussex
 Crop: Barley
 Formed: 23/7/94 or 24/7/94
 Spotted by: "M.B." (wishes anonymity)
 Description: Standing ring with tail
 Crop laid anticlockwise.

Diameters: Standing ring circle 128ft,
 width of standing ring 8-10ft,
 1st tail circle 62ft, second
 38ft, third 20ft, lower
 grapeshot 1.9ft, middle 4ft,
 upper 2.6ft.

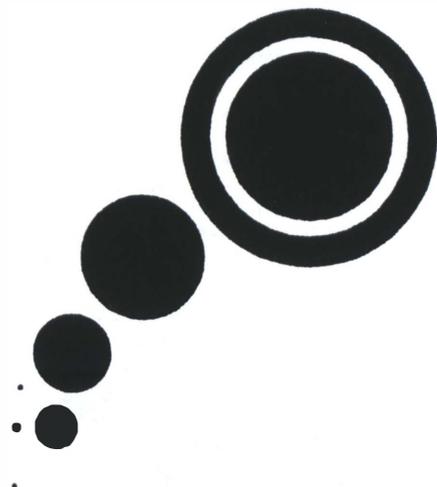
Surveyed by: "M.B."

DETAILS: As far as can be ascertained, this similar formation to its sister further down the same hill appeared simultaneously, but was far less accessible and virtually invisible from the ground. Unlike the crescent formation, which had a very neat crop lay, this was rougher inside but this could be attributable to it being in barley which tends to be messier. From the air this looks very precise. No roads run nearby. Situated on the side of Green Hill, site of an ancient settlement, the formation was about 200 metres south-west of an OS trig pillar. Two further grapeshot, not shown here, appeared later.

REF: SUSSEX 1994/09

Location: Nr Ditchling Beacon, East Sussex
 Crop: Rape
 Formed: 26/7/94?
 Spotted by: Jason Porthouse, 26/7/94
 Description: Single circle
 Crop laid clockwise.
 Diameter: 23.8ft
 Surveyed by: Andy Thomas

DETAILS: Though simple, this has the distinction of being the first recorded Sussex rape formation! No yellow flowers were left at the time of formation - very unusual. A neat swirl with perhaps 30% broken stems, but others had been in before. A 4ft rectangle was found 40ft east and a silver helium balloon in a bush nearby! The centre swirl was offset 3ft to the south.



"I call it the doctor" said Joeb, my channelled companion. "Look, all I want to do is sleep" I replied. But I knew I couldn't and wouldn't sleep until Joeb had explained what he meant. "Alright" I said, "why do you call comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 the DOCTOR?" Joeb explained that the comet had broken up into 22 pieces, or needles, as he referred to them, because they needed to hit Jupiter at various points on her energy grid. This in turn would alter the subtle radiations that continually visit Earth and the other planets in our solar system. These comet fragments act like acupuncture needles used on the human body. If the human body is sick, or out of balance, then health can be restored. It is the same with planets. Even our own Earth-grid has holy structures built on the main grid-nodes: stone circles, single standing stones, churches etc, which react with the inpouring of energy through ritual and prayer.

The reason Joeb decided to tell me all this was because I had been feeling so depressed. Also my home and work had undergone a subtle 'change' which I can only describe as an atmospheric change! Even our cat had begun to act strangely (even for a cat!). He would avoid certain points in our front room, so much so that he would run past them at great speed as if someone had kicked his furry bum! It is a known fact that cats and other animals react to certain earth-energies; cats even LIKE negative pools of energy! I just thought I was going through one of THOSE periods. But when I mentioned it to Andy Thomas and Jason Porthouse, they were also experiencing very similar traits.

Joeb mentioned the Jupiter-effect during his talk to the NASH Group at Steyning recently. Afterwards a rather large proportion of folk in the audience confirmed what we had been experiencing. Some had experienced the opposite: a feeling of elation! Joeb went on to say that this was part and parcel of the Earth Changes and Ascension process that would affect the minds of man and woman-kind. He also spoke of subtle weather changes increasing.

At this juncture I turned over to sleep... "Oh, and just one more thing..." said Joeb. "It's much too late, Joeb" I said, "tell me in the morning!"

PAUL BURA



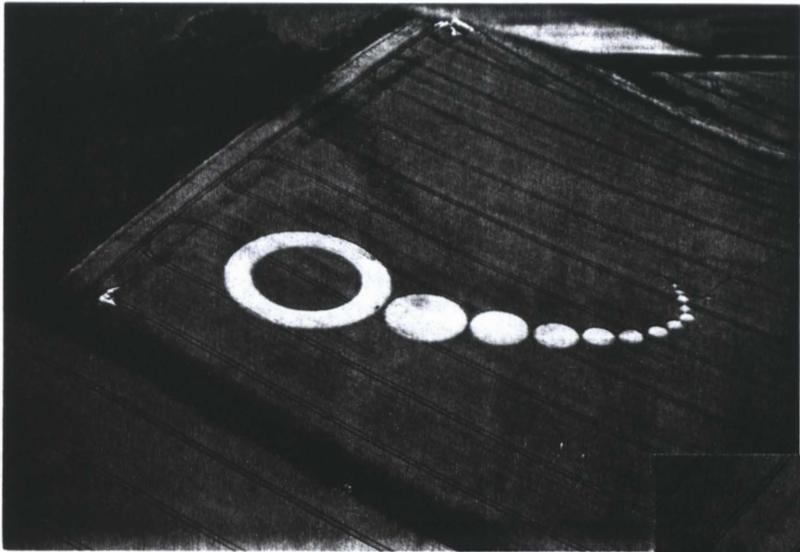
THE JUPITER BANG GOES OUT WITH A FIZZ... ANDY THOMAS REVIEWS BBC 2'S 'THE CRASH BASH'

The impacting of Shoemaker-Levy 9 into Jupiter may have provided the most spectacular astronomical event in our lifetime but it certainly didn't provide spectacular television viewing. A programme following the fortunes of Sister Sofia Richmond, clutching her Rosary and desperately trying to think up excuses as to why the gas giant hadn't blown up as prophesied might have been more rewarding but instead BBC 2 viewers were treated to a programme following the monitoring of the celestial collisions at the Hubble Space Telescope Centre, entitled 'The Crash Bash'.

This, the climax of a number of three minute short films about this historical event in the preceding week, was promised as the grand revelation of the photographs taken during the apocalyptic explosions; instead, we were treated to a compilation of what would normally be footage rejects of excited astronomers running around like headless chickens waiting for the transmissions to arrive. Once again we were subjected to further pointless interviews of the Shoemaker family after two weeks of their never being off the news, and let's face it beyond the fact they discovered a comet, the Shoemakers are hardly Mr & Mrs Interesting. Pete and Bert Boring of the Crayford Astronomy Group provided the token Brits, drinking tea in glum resignation as the clouds inevitably rolled in front of their telescope. There was a riveting five minutes of somebody trying to make a telephone call; tension really mounted as he grappled to get an outside line. The programme's only main point of interest was to learn that BBC Science correspondents stand on telephone directories to get the right angle for height when on camera. 25 minutes in, and still no photographs of the Jupiter wallop were forthcoming. At one point, so desperate for information as Hubble processed its images, Space Centre staff were reduced to tapping into a public Astronomy MODEM to find out what was going on! FINALLY, we got to see the pictures - jammed into about two minutes worth before the credits, with little or no comments about what was discovered.

A montage of offcuts masquerading as a programme. Jupiter 10, BBC 0. A total swizz.

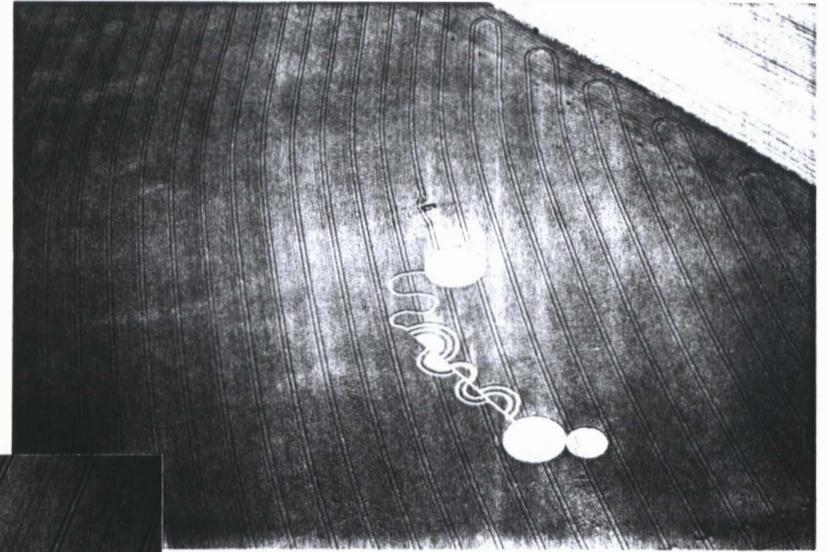
ANDY THOMAS



ABOVE: Wilsford, Rushall

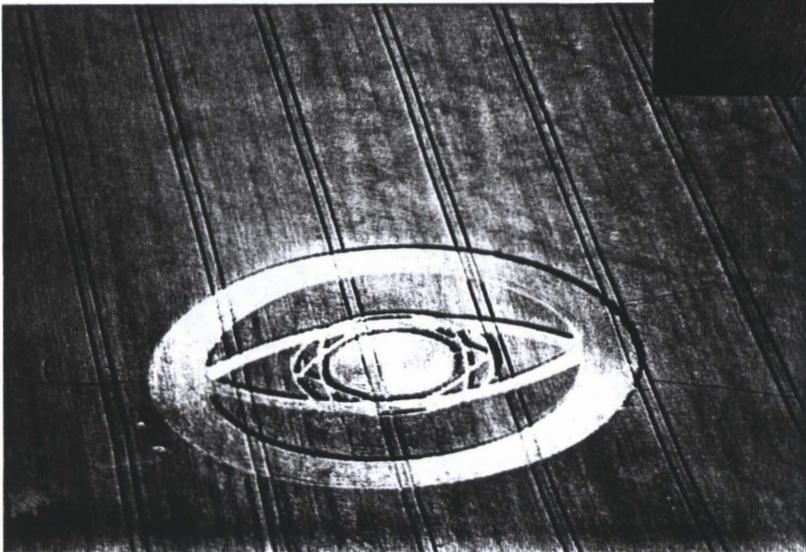
A VINTAGE YEAR...

Just a smattering of the weird
and very wonderful of 1994...
(all in wheat)



ABOVE: Danebury Ring, Andover

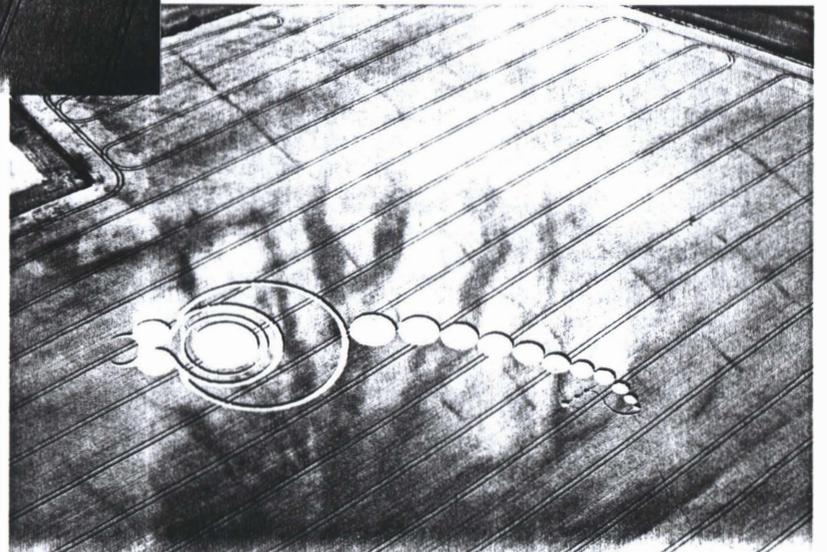
BELOW: East Field, Alton Barnes



BELOW: Bishops Cannings, Devizes

ABOVE: Avebury

Photographs by STEVE ALEXANDER



TALES FROM THE WESSEX TRIANGLE 1994... ANDY THOMAS REVIEWS THIS YEAR'S CIRCLE SCENE

As a year of crop formations, 1994 will be remembered as a fine vintage without any doubt, its fruits easily on a par with the beauties of '90 and '91. There seemed to be formations around every corner, some large and immaculate, others small and scrappy (although this isn't to necessarily cast aspersions on their genuineness), others just plain weird, but all most definitely demonstrating that the crop circles are most certainly back with a vengeance, putting paid to the "circles are dead" doomists of last year.

The 'Think Bubble' design is this year's fashion, large rings or 'Scorpion' heads with long tails of diminishing circles trailing out behind them. The very best example of this could be seen - indeed couldn't be missed - as one drove down the A361 to Devizes, a vast and stunning symbol which seemed to leap out at you from the field as it stared you in the face for half a mile's drive. One can only wonder what the unconverted made of it but surely nearly all passers must have been moved in some way by it. The farmer certainly was and let everyone know in no uncertain terms with bright yellow signs plastered all around the field warning us all that what we were witnessing was nothing more than criminal damage in a (vain) attempt to frighten off the curious. It'll be an interesting test case when the first unknown superior intelligence is taken to court by a farmer. The question is who will quake first? Probably the intelligence as any of us who have been confronted by angry farmers will testify.

Another excellent example of the Think Bubbles was at Rushall, this time minus the scorpion attachments. The accuracy and vastness of it only hit you once inside the formation and it rapidly became obvious if it wasn't in the first place just how pathetic the claims of the so-called hoaxing brigade are when it comes to explaining this sort of exquisiteness, never mind strange effects in the crop itself. The tail of circles decreased in size until the eighteenth - yes eighteenth - circle was no bigger than a foot across, a perfect little swirl. A New Swirled Order indeed.

This has also been the year of the standing tufts, first seen in the Furze Knoll rape formation back in May - little patches of crop exposed and unaffected, the flow of the floor lay swirling neatly around them. The best example of this was to be found in the 'galaxy' formations, two of which arrived this year. Unfortunately the first of these, at the Avebury Avenue, was not visible for very long as the farmer suddenly decided in a fit of strange anti-croppie fervour to take a threshing device and chop the standing tufts and the floor lay to bits, leaving an even more visible and unpleasant white patch in the field. Various stories abound that the farmer was put up to this by conspiratorial powers but then why didn't this happen in every formation this year? I can't help feeling that the farmer was simply feeling a little pissed-off one day and decided to take a personal revenge on the phenomenon plaguing him. Still, all was not lost, as a virtually identical formation turned up a few weeks later at West Stowell which looked rather like a spiral-armed tray with three Polo mints and a slice of lemon thrown on it. This is perhaps a rather irreverent description of what was inside a stunning piece of work - it was rather like walking across the surface of a huge pinball machine and the spiral arms were so accurately worked that their tips resolved into a trail of about one-stem's width.

Another stunner as far as I was concerned was the formation of interlocking crescent moons which appeared at Oliver's Castle while I was in the area. The view from the side of this ancient hillfort was staggeringly beautiful, directly overlooking the formation below, set in a landscape of gorgeous scenery. As this is a prime family picnic spot it was curious to hear the conversations sparked off in the kite-flying and sandwich-munching hordes, but perhaps telling too in how quickly the formation was forgotten about and the mundane returned to their exchanges.

Other notable formations around this summer saw pictograms returning to the Cheesefoot Head Punchbowl, the 'Infinity' symbol at West Overton, the 'Scarab Beetle' or 'Bee' at Barbury Castle and of course the 'Eye' at East Field, Alton Barnes, neglected by the circlenmakers in '93 (bar the contentious 'Keyhole') but back in favour for '94. Most people seemed happy about the Eye formation but somebody allegedly 'tampered' with the lay of the crop a day or so after it appeared to make it look more like a hoax! There is supposedly some reasonable evidence to show that another large formation in the East Field of rings and 'keys' was created by Rob Irving's bunch but it was so trodden down it was impossible to >>

tell anything by the time I got there. The story goes that one guy infiltrated Irving's group in an effort to expose them but wound up enjoying himself so much that he became a permanent member and helped create this formation as his 'initiation'... What I would say is that its design did seem a little anachronistic and old-fashioned compared to the rest of the 1994 pictograms, but who knows. In terms of size, I suppose the formation discovered near Uffington takes the biscuit as the most important of 1994. Premiered by Colin Andrews at the Glastonbury Symposium (report next issue), this pictogram is HALF A MILE LONG, covering an entire field's length. Aesthetically, I didn't actually find it that pleasing but its size is admittedly impressive and that alone probably rules out any skuldougandavery.

As you may have noticed above, many farmers reached the end of their tethers this year, plastering signs and guards on their fields instead of simply charging a pound to get into a formation. As the Sussex East Dean formation illustrates, where the farmer's wife had taken to monitoring the field all weekend in a camper van to ensure nobody entered, a lot of high blood pressure and stress is put into trying to prevent something which can't really be controlled, rightly or wrongly. I can't help thinking, for the relatively small loss of crop it would incur, that farmers would do better just to let people do what they're going to do anyway and cut out the stress factor, an attitude pioneered fairly successfully by the Carson's farm at East Field, where though not actually encouraged, visitors to the formations were just left to get on with it unchallenged. Most people behaved and little additional damage occurred.

So much for the formations. What about the people and the bizarre events that as ever surround this marvellous and enduring enigma? The first place anybody heads for these days to get a grip on what's been happening is The Barge pub at Honeystreet, just south of Alton Barnes. Any night of the summer, turn up here and you're guaranteed a ringside seat spotting just about anybody you've ever heard of in cerealogy. At any one time the pub's clientele is almost certainly made up of at least two-thirds crop circlers; big names, has-beens, wannabes, weirdos, good eggs, and er, Scottish pipe bands - they're all here. It's the one place bar perhaps the Waggon & Horses at Beckhampton where you won't feel stupid openly discussing the circles. Go ahead - say anything you want because anything goes here and any controversial comments are just grist to the mill of the whole caboodle. And you can say them in any language because there's bound to be at least one other fellow countryman of your own, wherever you come from, particularly if you're German or American! This is a truly cosmopolitan scene. They even have English people too.

The Barge is where you get to hear all the news, gossip and downright lies as they happen. It's also where the sceptics and debunkers hang out and inflate their egos. One night in particular saw Adrian Dexter (supposed hoaxer) surrounded by a gaggle of young croppies eager to press him on the true details of his activities. This is of course where the myths are born. A hoaxer no longer needs to set foot in the fields even once. You just turn up at The Barge and mouth off; wagging tongues do the rest, although for the record, the week I was there Dexter was claiming only to have ever created two circles. And you know what, I believe him. But the point is that it is we, the crop circle community if you like who do the work of the sceptics and the 'hoaxers' for them by building up the myths around them, spreading the rumours, masturbating their egos for them - when we shouldn't even be giving them the time of day. So just to spread another rumour, word has it that Dexter created a 'flower' formation for TV cameras of the 'Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious World' crew this year. It took over five hours to make and wasn't terribly good, convincing some of the production team that perhaps there was a genuine phenomenon after all, when they had set out to debunk it... be warned however, this won't stop them doing that anyway. Colin Andrews has also recently got wind of this and has pulled out of his involvement with the programme.

A few myths do need to be exploded however. One is that the East Field is always being monitored every night, in particular by the 'Dreads', the self-appointed guardians and saviours of the Alton Barnes cropfields. Not true. The only activity we saw from the Dreads was the hefty lifting of pint glasses at the bar while we were there, and according to sources, most of their cropwatches take place at all night parties in tents and caravans. Not that they should be criticised for that, but people should be aware that East Field is not the hotbed of serious monitoring that is so often talked about. Other groups who claim to mount all-night vigils appear to have a serious problem staying up much beyond 1.30am as some of us discovered while cropwatching ourselves at Milk Hill. >>

THE REG, COLIN AND TIM SHOW... MARCUS ALLEN ATTENDS THE ANDOVER LECTURES

We stuck around until about 4.30am each night and were guaranteed to be the only people left in the vicinity by then - from our vantage point you could watch all the other groups driving off to bed just as we were getting going. Again, this is not intended as criticism but just illustrates the point that talk of "we were there the night this formation appeared and we saw nothing..." may not be entirely reliable. The fact that I fell asleep one of the nights we were out simply reinforces the view that cropwatches can never be 100% effective! After our sightings last year (SC 20), major events of strange lights were thin on the ground as far as we were concerned although Martin Noakes and Griller Gilgannon did watch a light moving about over a field the night before I arrived. We did see what looked like a bright satellite moving erratically one night but no-one could decide if this was an optical illusion or not and then a strange flashing light apparently chasing an aeroplane was seen later in the week - but nothing that one could say for certain was anomalous. However, the phenomena of strange 'flashes' in the sky seen last year continued unabated and still unexplained.

This year did see the advent of the crop circle vigilante in the form of the 'Hoaxbusters', a converted Ford Capri complete with orange flashing roof light, searchlight beam and loudhailer, manned by members of the South Wales UFO group. These strange people have taken it upon themselves to spend their summer nights scouring the Beckhampton/Alton Barnes area in the hope of discouraging hoaxers by flashing beams of light on all and sundry, challenging them with amplified threats. Unfortunately this means that everyone, however legitimate their reason for being out cropwatching is open to accusation from the Hoaxbusters who have no more right than anyone else to be out there... By the time I got down there, by way of revenge many had taken to having fun and games by deliberately waving torches around in their direction in the hope of encouraging the Hoaxbusters down from their hideout at the top of Knap Hill...

In fact the whole Vale of Pewsey in summer is now one mass of winking lights as rival cropwatchers flash their torch beams at each other endlessly, each one bringing gasps of "Quick! - What's that light?" swiftly followed by the realisation that it's yet another jerk trying to get attention. There's so much of this going on that you probably wouldn't recognise a genuinely anomalous light if you saw one now! Hardly any of the groups are local, but like ourselves tend to be people on vacation from the provinces, each with their own favourite spot. We chose Milk Hill, the East Midlands CCCS branch preferred Knap Hill, others Silbury Hill, and Andy Collins' (in a series of fetching hats) orgone project seemed to have completely taken over Woodborough Hill for the season.

By and large, in The Barge and beyond, out in the fields, there has been a real family atmosphere of co-operation in 1994, with the enthusiasts and the debunkers somehow managing to co-exist in the same drinking holes and cropwatching areas with a sort of grudging respect for each other, almost as if the situation is accepted, each aware that the other isn't going to go away. Still out to get each other of course, but somehow without the malice of previous years (although Adrian Dexter was apparently none too pleased when Polly Carson placed a potato up his exhaust pipe one night).

An emotionally charged Colin Andrews took to the stage at this year's Glastonbury Symposium and expressed his deep dismay at the large amounts of negativity he had discovered on his return to England this summer. I failed to find any evidence for this during my time spent down in Wiltshire this year, the very heart of the phenomenon and the traditional meeting place for its disciples. My experience of the Wessex Triangle scene was of a very positive, enjoyable ambience, with real excitement at some of the fantastic circle events we've seen this year being felt. The only negativity I was aware of were tales of the endless squabbling amongst the CCCS Council but that's normal anyway. The negative side of crop circle research only has as much energy as one chooses to feed it - but then, hey, we Sussex types are an amiable bunch. Most of the time.

ANDY THOMAS



DAVID PERCY SPEAKS AT CCCS SUSSEX THURSDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 1994

It appeared out of the blue, an enduring and mystifying enigma. Still no-one understands it. Yes, I'm talking about the book 'Two-Thirds' of course (Sorry Mary) - but here's your chance to find out more, as it's co-author David Percy will be speaking on the above date at the CCCS Sussex branch meeting, usual time, usual place, 8.00pm... Don't miss it! 10

Organised and promoted by Reg Presley in his home town, this was always going to be successful - a talk by Colin Andrews on crop circles and by Timothy Good on UFOs, July 22.

A packed Cricklade Theatre was introduced to Colin, who launched into a 90 minute review of circles and their history. He was emphatic that the phenomenon was real. His evidence for this, undisputed and detailed. But for the irresponsible and puerile intervention of hoaxers, research could have moved much further forward, he said.

Colin was totally uncompromising in his attacks on the hoaxers, several of whom were in the audience, Doug Bower and the Wessex Sceptics among them. The hoaxers were publicly challenged to refute Colin's statements, and he made some provocative ones, but no word from the hoaxers was forthcoming. They are evidently as fascinated by the phenomenon as everyone else and their silence lends credence to the viewpoint now gaining ascendancy that the phenomenon is for real.

The first half ended with the first public showing of a TV interview with Professor Gerald Hawkins of 'Stonehenge Decoded' fame. The lucid and scholarly explanation Professor Hawkins gave of his discovery and proof of the presence in some circle formations of the diatonic scale in music (the white notes on a piano), coded in pictogram ratios, was further evidence of the importance of this subject. A short break then allowed the audience a brief chance to look over the books and magazines in the foyer while enjoying a quick drink.

The Tim Good lecture was, as always, very professionally presented. Showing documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act in the US, we were shown how the publicly stated position that sightings of UFOs can be explained away as Venus, weather balloons or tricks of the light, was a lie. From 1942 onwards, the US government were seen to be taking an increasingly concerned view that here was something which no-one fully understood.

The evidence is overwhelming that intelligently controlled craft are moving at will in our skies; pilots see them, radar sees them, millions of people see them, yet the fear that someone in a position of 'authority' feels in stating this 'on the record' is tangible. Tim put this point over very well without sensationalism or accusations of cowardice on the part of governments. But underlying the evidence of cover-up, is an irresistible desire from an increasing number to be told the truth - whatever it is.

MARCUS ALLEN



THE HOAX MEETING HOAX... MARCUS ALLEN ATTEMPTS TO ATTEND THE CIRCLE MAKERS CONVENTION

This supposed hoaxers conference was billed in The Cerealogist as "An invitation to Mowing Devils, Ancestor Spirits, Gaia, Hedgehogs, Orgone Bioforms, Shamans, Mediums, EBES, Cerealogical Magicians and Superior Intelligences".

No-one turned up, none of the above anyway. This probably wasn't helped by the relevant issue of The Cerealogist only coming out a day or so before. A few stompers and corn crushers in the shape of the Wessex Sceptics and Doug and Irene Bower arrived at the Waggon & Horses at Beckhampton at the appointed time only to be told the meeting had been cancelled by the organiser, Rob Irving.

A few German tourists, already confused by the warm beer, expressed no surprise at the inability of the English to get their act together and departed to The Barge.

Rumours of a team of 'Hoaxbusters' in the area and a few of Polly Carson's farm hands patrolling nearby was evidently enough to throw into disarray any public appearance of self-confessed hoaxers.

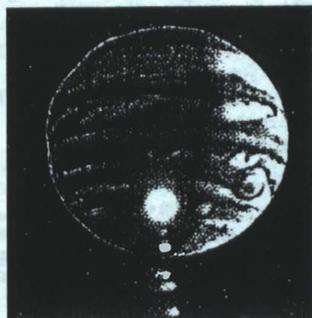
Or perhaps the whole event was a hoax.

MARCUS ALLEN

FACT: Rob Irving spent £110 advertising this event in The Cerealogist. Money for nothing?

Oahkoah strikes again

Jupiter Mystery Solved



In a stunning new development, the Sussex Circular can exclusively reveal that the recent collisions which caused vast explosions on Jupiter were not due to comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 as reported in the popular press. We now know that the string of objects that hit the large planet were in fact clusters of unsold copies of 'The Cerealogist'.

An inside source reports: "Since John Michell resigned as Editor, there has been a very big and dangerous build up of excess stock which is proving impossible to eradicate, clogging up conference stalls and warehouses causing serious pollution hazards, with dangerously high levels of noxious substances such as Hokum, Poppycock and Cobblers threatening the well-being, health and sanity of crop circle researchers. We tried taking out all the hoaxing articles to see if that would help shift them but all that was left was the cover".

"When Bythorn was debunked, we realised we had no choice: we booked a couple of payloads with the NASA shuttle Discovery and ejected the massive excess of useless magazines into space, the only safe place for them. Unfortunately, we soon realised that 'Cerealogist clumps' as we call them were heading directly towards Jupiter."

Our astronomy correspondent writes: "We have seen sales (surely 'Shoemaker-Levy 9'? - Ed) plummet into the lower reaches of circulation (surely 'Jupiter'? - Ed). This once great giant has been severely damaged by the impact of its current editor, causing huge explosions of anger and rising clouds of dismay. Only time will tell if the resulting storms last forever".

Prophetess and nun, Sister Sofia Ravinutter has decreed: "The Cerealogist in its current state is God's vengeance on the world. Repent and ban all pornography now".

Reporter: DANNY SOTHAM

TOO MANY ROOKS SPOIL THE BROTH... AN UPDATE ON THE BIRLING GAP FORMATIONS

The Birling Gap formations, as reported last issue, have caused an enormous stir amongst researchers (we've had phone calls from around the world) - and some controversy.

Colin Andrews has publicly written them off as nothing more than rook damage. Rooks have been known to create circular patches in crop and Richard Andrews actually mentions some of the effects they can create in his chapter of 'The Crop Circle Enigma' book.

However, if we consider that birds might have been responsible for these extraordinary formations, the following serious questions remain unanswered: How could rooks produce the very pronounced weaving effect which was so advanced that it was impossible to separate the plaited stems? Colin's attempts at explaining this at the Glastonbury Symposium were unconvincing, although he admitted there were details he could not explain. If rooks had bent the barley stalks over to get at the seeds, why were rape, poppies and other plants also affected whereas some stems of stray wheat were untouched? A gas-powered bird scarer was operating directly in amongst the oblong patches at the end of the field which would not have allowed the rooks time to create such an expanse. Could it really be coincidence that the flat side of the Tear formation fitted exactly the length of the 'Slice's' edge? And are birds really capable of producing elliptical shapes with such crisp edges? Why had the farmer never witnessed the same effect in previous years? Until these questions are satisfactorily answered, hasty rook-activity conclusions should remain on hold...