

**THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF  
CROP CIRCLES AND BEYOND**

**SC**

**41**

**MAY 1995**

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**Sussex Cerealogical Bonanza - John Martineau - Circles 95 -  
Roswell: The Evidence? - SC: Now With Added Glickman!**

"In the extreme case of the detection of an alien message, the likely effects on Mankind would be awesome..." PAUL DAVIES

As we go to print, reports of new crop formations are coming in thick and fast, with several having been discovered since the report opposite was written, the best of which seems to be a rape formation of three flattened circles with standing rings and crescents at Overton, near Kings Clere at Basingstoke. Another rape circle with a standing crescent has appeared at Danebury Ring and a rough circle with grapeshot has arrived at Southfield, near Woodborough Hill. Notably, the distribution of crop formations for these early months of the year is far more widespread than usual, with even our own Sussex having been visited by the phenomenon - we usually have to wait for June! We hope readers will forgive us the indulgence of devoting a fair amount of this issue to the *Sussex Cereological Bonanza*. A really good time was had by pretty much all and I think we can safely say the event was a resounding success. Incredibly, one regular reader of *SC* accidentally missed the event, claiming not to have known about it.! We'll make the ads even bigger next time.

The *Bonanza* certainly had its fair share of media coverage, in local papers, radio and television. The ITV Meridian report went out in various edited formats and included extracts from my new video *Circular Sussex* (hint, hint, plug, plug) and interviews with Glickman and Icke. The interviewer, Richard Brock, started out looking a bit bored at his assignment when filming, but found his interest growing as the afternoon went on and seemed quite keen by the end, surprised to find that we weren't all nutcases after all. Only some of us.

This issue welcomes Michael Glickman on board as a regular contributor to *SC*. Those with fond memories of his *New Swirled Order* column in the golden age of *The Cereologist* before its downfall should find solace in our new bi-monthly feature *Comography* in which Glickers will be casting his probing eye over the circle phenomenon and the strange creatures called cropies which surround it. This month is a short introductory piece; Michael will be granted a full page in future issues... And if you don't know who Michael is by now, I have no intention of explaining!

ANDY THOMAS



The Monthly Magazine of  
Crop Circles and Beyond

Editor: **ANDY THOMAS**

14 Bishops Drive  
Lewes  
East Sussex  
BN7 1HA

Tel: 01273 474711

*SC*: Edited and produced by ANDY THOMAS. Articles, letters and contributions to the editorial address please. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual contributors and not *SC* as a whole, unless otherwise stated.

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Front cover: Olivers Castle, Devizes, July  
1994. Photograph by Steve Alexander.

As scooped last issue, the crop formations are back once again, surprising everyone by not appearing in the expected place, ie. Wiltshire, and somewhat later than last year - or so it seemed at first. The first formations to be reported were the ones at Preston, Lancashire, which were in oilseed rape, not rye as our original source had it, and consisted of a small four circle 'thought bubble' and, two fields away, an oval with a grapeshot. These were discovered on the weekend of the 22nd April and were fairly

rough in appearance, probably due to the lowness of the crop.

Last year saw a spate of formations in rape at the Sanctuary near Avebury early in the first weeks of April, so expectations were high that the circles would arrive similarly early this year. Never ones to do what is expected of them, the formations appeared to hold off a little longer in 1995, but reports have now emerged that a pictogram *did* appear at Stockbridge, Kings Somborne, in Hampshire on 9th April, again in rape. The first anyone knew of this was a photograph posted through the letterbox of The Barge pub near Alton Barnes. The formation was subsequently located and found to be two connected circles, one with a ring and a line through

On Friday 5th May 1995, about 150 people were present at the London Museum Theatre. They were mostly media representatives of TV companies and newspapers from the UK, Europe and USA. The event was organised by Ray Santilli of 'International Exploitation Management', Balcombe Street, London, and along with drinks and sandwiches, each person was given a small pack containing seven pages of the MJ-12 documents. These appeared about ten years ago, sent anonymously to William Moore, Jamie Shandera and Stanton Friedman, and apparently record the establishment of a committee in 1947 of 12 senior

it, the other with a crescent moon perched on top. By the time it was surveyed, much of the crop had grown up again but the shape was still clearly visible.

- NEWS -

## THE CIRCLES RETURN

The 1995 circle season begins to hot up nationally and Sussex gets its earliest formation yet. ANDY THOMAS reports...

Two formations then appeared on 8th May - VE Day - one at West Overton in Wiltshire, and most excitingly for us, the other at Southeast near Newhaven in *SC*'s home county of Sussex. The West Overton formation is not dissimilar to the 'spectacles' formation found last year at the West Kennett barrow, consisting of two joined circles of flat-

tened crop with three standing crescents inside, again in rape. Initial reports suggest the inside of this formation was messy, with many broken stalks. The Sussex formation, in rape, was immaculately laid when discovered, and is being regarded as the highest quality formation of the year so far. A circle with two rings, each of a different width, this is the earliest a crop formation has been officially recorded in Sussex yet - and only a few miles from my own home! A full survey of this formation will appear next issue.

New reports are coming in every day now, and we'll attempt to keep you up to date with the latest developments throughout the year... AT

politicians and academics to supervise contact with UFOs and their occupants, following the Roswell incident.

- REPORTS -

## BODY OF EVIDENCE?

There's been much rumour recently about a film which may show an ET body from the alleged Roswell 1947 UFO crash. The film was shown this month in London to an invited audience. MARCUS ALLEN was there...

Shortly after 1.00pm, and without introduction or explanation from anyone as to what was about to be shown, the film started. A preamble stated it was compiled from several segments of 16mm black and white film of three minutes each with no soundtrack, and owned by 'Merlin Communications Limited'. The only scene shown was of an autopsy in which two people, completely covered in white protective clothing with gloves and head

masks, examined and dissected a body. The room was equipped with two lights, a telephone, clock and various instruments on a side table. In the centre of the room was an autopsy table on which lay a naked, hairless body of human-like appearance; two arms, two legs, head and torso, about four and a half feet long. The body was similarly proportioned to that of a stocky ten year old child. The torso appeared distended. No external genitalia was evident. The head was round with forward facing eyes, slightly larger than human, and a small nose and mouth, the only obviously unusual feature being the position of the ears. On humans they are level with the eyes, when viewed from the side. These were level with the mouth and small in relation to the head.

The body had a large wound on the right leg stretching from mid-thigh to mid-calf, with flesh missing. No other injury was evident. Each hand and foot had five fingers or toes of similar proportion to human. These were closely observed by the two people conducting the autopsy.

After examination of the body an incision was made from ear to ear across the throat and then down the centre of the chest to the groin. The chest skin covering was then folded back. No ribcage was evident. Detail of organs was hard to see because although placed near to the chest area, the camera could not be focused closer than about two feet. Several pieces of internal matter were cut out and placed in metal bowls.

For part of the time, a third person wearing a white coat and a face mask observed the proceedings from behind a glass partition outside the autopsy room.

A piece was then removed from below each eye. It appeared to be the lower eyelid. The piece was dark and revealed a light area underneath which, if it was the eyeball, would be about twice the size of a human eye. A cut was then made across the top of the scalp. The skin covering was folded forward to reveal a dark mass. Some of this was removed using what looked like a small hand saw. The detached part was placed in a chipped enamel tray. Notes were then written by one of the examiners at the side table.

The film time was about 20 minutes and assuming the wall clock to be accurate, the 'real' time of the examination was 90 minutes (10.05 - 11.35). The camera was hand-held throughout, but given the focusing problems, as a record of the event it could only be considered superficial. The film would be

inadequate as a detailed record of this autopsy.

Because there was no explanation as to where the film came from, when it was shot or what it showed, everyone had to make their own assumptions. It appears to have some connection to the Roswell incident, but then it could all have been a special effects production. The body shown was in no way similar to those described as being 'aliens', though it was sufficiently different from a typical human body to be noticeable.

The actual examination and removal of body parts appeared to be done in a manner suggesting this was not the only time it had been carried out, but possibly the first time it had been filmed. Several of the actions were done for the benefit of the camera. There are only two options available: 1) This film is a genuine record of an autopsy carried out on a non-human body and is part of a larger record of the recovery of the body from a crashed craft. 2) The film has been deliberately created to deceive.

Without further evidence of the provenance of the film and its origins, a decision is hard to reach as to its authenticity, even having seen this segment. Assuming it to be authentic; ie. it is a copy of the original film shot a few days after the recovery of the body from a crashed craft, photographed by a US military cameraman known as 'JB', who, having hidden it for nearly 48 years has now decided to sell it to a German entrepreneur for \$100,000 cash; then it is a remarkable document. As such, it has far-reaching implications for everyone on this planet. It means that most of the evidence uncovered about Roswell in particular, UFOs in general, and conspiracies to cover up the truth, is true and 'JB', wherever he is, deserves our thanks for his integrity.

However, the film could be a complete fabrication produced to cash in on the rising worldwide interest in Roswell. Technically, it would be easy to create such a film. Until the actual filmstock is examined by Kodak and the complete film seen by observers who can authenticate its content, the implications of its existence must remain on hold.

Despite the secrecy surrounding how the film was obtained from 'JB' and who actually now owns it, the best protection 'JB' has would be to make a public statement to dispel any doubts as to his own involvement. Should the US authorities then try to reclaim their 'property', they would simultaneously authenticate the film beyond doubt and change the world forever. **MA**

It's 6.50 in the morning. Damn. The alarm is bleeping and I only got to bed three hours ago, after a night spent setting up the Venture Scout Hall in Burgess Hill for the colossus known as the *Sussex Cerealogical Bonanza*.

The SCB was born of a conversation between Barry Reynolds and myself driving back from last year's CCCS Clapham conference. We'd had an enjoyable enough day, but could such a gathering of croppies be done better, we asked ourselves? And most importantly, could it actually turn enough profit to cover its costs, unlike the Clapham do which actually lost money? (Answer - yes.) There seemed little point trying to emulate the flavour of previous circle confer-

ences so we decided it might be nice to try something a little different. Thus the slightly eccentric title of our little venture was divined, providing a starting point for how it would develop. Sadly, some of our immediate ideas had to be left on the shelf (one of which included rounding up unpopular croppies, sitting them on chairs in the centre of the stage and hurling insults at them) but others began to take shape so we vowed to get together with the inner sanctum of CCCS Sussex and thrash out a plan. Eventually, a two-day event was mooted, one day for speakers and acts, another for hands-on workshops and scientific information. Months of preparation ensued and the line up for the bill came together fairly naturally. A BIG guest speaker amongst the other gems seemed necessary to put the cherry on the top and David Icke was an immediate suggestion. His confirmed presence came about after a chat had with him before his Brighton lecture in the autumn; bearing in mind our limited budget, it was good of him to agree to appear. He doesn't live to regret it.

Now, after blood, sweat and beers from everyone involved and many a nervous stomach ache on my part, the day has finally arrived. I get to the hall first while Barry does radio interview duties and the two guys who are making the official video of the SCB are asleep in their car outside having driven all night from Wales to be here on time. Last night saw a

frenzy of activity from half a dozen of us, setting up the hall, stage, lighting and PA, blacking out windows with bin liners, putting signs and stalls up and preparing food. In fact food preparation is one of the major tasks of the *Bonanza*, having decided to provide a full vegetarian buffet as part of the ticket price (most of us organisers are veggies so we

thought everyone else could suffer too). Major nods to Linda Reynolds and Debbie Pardoe here, amongst others, who work themselves silly all weekend.

The stage looks great. Michael Glickman has donated a huge mural of the Barbury Castle triangle formation to use as a backdrop, but we're not sure how to light it. Debbie's son

Jimi has a brainwave - light it from behind. Genius. The mural subsequently glows an unearthly gold all weekend, creating quite an atmosphere, a central focus for the entire room. Martin Noakes provides proper lighting and sound equipment and this makes a big difference to the event. Every speaker can be seen and heard perfectly all weekend. Stan Reynolds provides a radio microphone so roving around the auditorium is the order of the day.

The event is a complete sellout. All week, Jean and Stan Reynolds, with the unenviable task of actually flogging tickets for the SCB, have been turning people away over the telephone. Some have known about the event for months (it was advertised widely in croppie circles) so there's no excuses. Much weeping and grinding of teeth ensues. And rightly so - the *Bonanza* turns out to be a marvellous event. Conceit? No, just the opinion of nearly everyone who speaks to us... Thanks folks.

150 people are by now packed into the hall in a buzzed state of expectancy. But what do they expect? A low rumble answers this - the opening strains of Strauss' *Thus Spake Zarathustra* - or the music from *2001: A Space Odyssey* for novices. Barry has suffered disquiet over my chosen choice of opening music for weeks... but all is well. A little laugh from the audience and a ripple of applause confirms that they've picked up on our light-hearted vibe. Barry and I step on to the stage to

- REPORTS -

## THE SUSSEX CEREALOGICAL BONANZA

Okay, maybe it's a bit much to review your own event, so ANDY THOMAS reports his personal experience of the crop circle event of the century... well, in Sussex anyway.



**ABOVE:** Barry Reynolds does his best Hitler Youth impression



**ABOVE:** Jim Lyons gives it some serious rod-tiddling



**LEFT:** Paul Bura: culture, for 10 minutes only



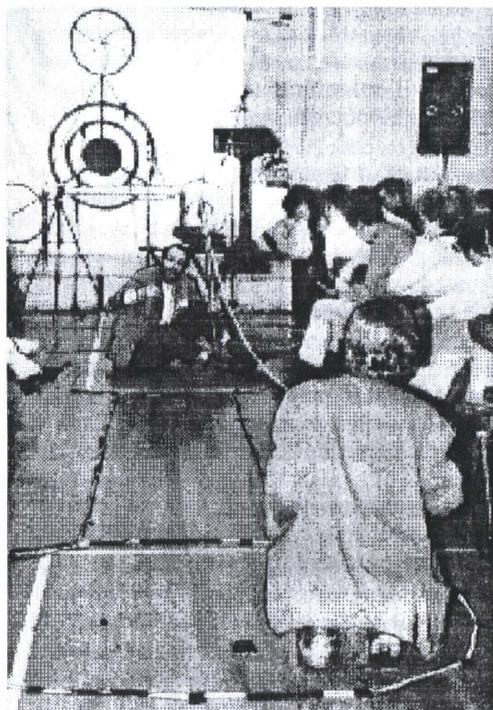
**ABOVE:** Andy Thomas, looking distressingly like Hughie Green, in Quiz-master mode



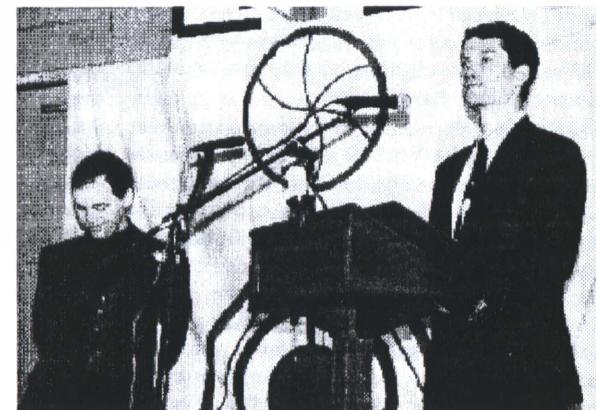
**ABOVE:** Michael Glickman has something to smile about, despite his quiz team losing miserably. The Sussex team look on: left to right, Barry, Nigel Tomsett and Marcus Allen.



**ABOVE:** David Icke accosted with birthday cake by Reynolds' offspring



**ABOVE:** John Martineau and Michael Glickman loiter in the aisles to survey rope circle



**ABOVE:** Andy Thomas and Barry Reynolds; new double act for the 90's? Probably not.

## SCB '95 - THE EVIDENCE

A selection of photographs from the Sussex Cereological Bonanza which give a flavour of the weekend for those who missed out. A video of the event is planned for release later in the year.

Results of the dowsing competition, held on the Sussex stall at the event, will be examined next month...

Photographs by STEVE ALEXANDER, except 'Glickers dowsing' which is by BARRY REYNOLDS.



**ABOVE:** "Mein Fuhrer, I can dowse!"; Glickers gets a dowsing lesson from Michael Green, Lucy Pringle and Jim Lyons.

give the opening introduction as the music crescendos. (Everyone else gets the theme from *The X Files* as their intro music.)

We're assured later by fans that we make a great double act, racing through the entire history of crop circles in 15 minutes - or something that felt like that anyway. With the scene set for the weekend, it's over to the other turns. Stan Reynolds is first up, performing so-called 'paranormal experiments', the idea being that Stan uses his Magic Circle skills to give the appearance of a telepathic demonstration, only to blow his own cover afterwards, the moral being that we should always be discerning about what is truly paranormal. This idea is only semi-successful - Stan can't hide his obvious skills as a magic entertainer from everyone and some of the audience twig fairly quickly (perhaps the card table and the crystal ball are a bit of a giveaway). It doesn't matter though, we've already bamboozled their expectations, which is what we wanted to achieve, and faces light up as they are treated to unexpected live entertainment.

Marcus Allen brings things to a more serious level, with the history of CSICOP and other paranormal debunking organisations, and the thinking behind the promotion of hoaxing as the answer to the circles phenomenon. The trouble with being an organiser of an event is that you actually get to see less of the speakers than the audience. While Marcus uncovers deep conspiracy, Barry has to deal with a more immediate problem - a malfunctioning cistern in the ladies' loos and a psychotic plumber threatening hellfire for calling him out without following proper procedure...

Paul Bura brings a lighter touch to end the morning session, with some readings of his poetry. Paul has come armed with a stack of books, thinking he has half-an hour... when in fact he has ten minutes on the schedule. He vows not to let us forget this unfortunate transgression. Bloody prima donnas. Suddenly it's lunchtime and a huge snake of people crowd the corridors of the hall queuing for their fill of grub. We organisers treat ourselves to ready-served food in the 'dressing-room', a much-needed haven from the clamour outside. Our apologies to all those good souls we had half-conversations with over the weekend, as we rushed off in mid-sentence to attend to something pressing. It really was nothing personal.

David Icke is here and so are the camera crew from Meridian TV, who line up suspects and mow them

down with questions. (In the end, only Messrs Icke, Glickman and Jim Lyons make it into the final, fairly positive, report shown the following Monday.)

Then the noshing has to stop as the longest session of the weekend begins - two hours of David Icke, the 'goalkeeper-turned-guru' and 'self-proclaimed visionary' (the stock media phrases reserved for David). Love him or loathe him, you can't ignore what he has to say and this afternoon he is on top-form. As soon as he mentions that today is his birthday, a spontaneous chorus of 'Happy Birthday To You' breaks out in the auditorium... nice touch. In the course of the next 120 minutes, the world is seriously put to rights in a blisteringly convincing fashion (SC hopes to examine the Icke phenomenon more closely in a future issue). Barry and Linda Reynolds' boys Mark and Peter appear at the end with a tiny birthday cake, the candle of which goes out as they reach the stage. David wryly wonders what the media would read into that...

After a break for tea, I don a silver lurex jacket and flashing bow tie and destroy any credibility I might have retained to present *Have I Got Circles For You*, the first ever crop circle quiz show, another attempt to make this a "circles conference with a difference" as our blurb has it. Luckily, the team members also find their own credibility severely challenged as they rack their memories to answer torturously easy circle-trivia questions and fail miserably. It's Sussex (Barry, Nigel Tomsett and Marcus Allen) versus the Rest Of The World (Michael Glickman, Michael Green and Karen Douglas). Michael Green fails to answer a guess-the-quote round question correctly... when the quote is his own. George Wingfield (in the crowd, no less) takes sweet revenge on me by calling out the answers from the auditorium. Final result? Sussex 28, Rest Of The World 23. And a lot of fun.

Things calm down a little for Paul Bura's return to the stage, this time to channel his spirit-friend Joeb. Joeb gives some words of wisdom. For some this is the first ever experience with live channelling they have ever had - Joeb is received warmly and positively by most.

Michael Glickman rounds the day off nicely. A smattering of important circle-geometry and some heartfelt thoughts on where the circles are taking us and how we are responding is completely appropriate. My socks even get a mention at one point (wait for the video if you want that explained). Michael almost forgets to mention a vital point of his talk. A reminder during question time saves the

day. All's swell that ends swell.

Day One of SCB is over. Everyone seems to have nothing but praise and leaves the venue with a warm glow from the homely atmosphere that has been created over the day. A group of us collapse into a nearby curry house for much-needed sustenance (mainly alcoholic) and relaxation, a chance to loudly review the day's events and annoy the other customers. Then to bed. Sweet oblivion. Day two begins with a change-around of the hall. Chairs are cleared away from the centre aisle and a hoaxed crop formation appears on the floor, courtesy of some bits of rope and gaffer tape. Some of yesterday's crowd are back, but there's a few new faces and a slightly different feel to the day, perhaps not quite so energetically charged. Various 'Skeptics'/'hoaxers' are also in and take copious notes and photographs. Why?

Glickman and John Martineau kick off today's proceedings, except for one slight omission; John hasn't turned up. He finally does so (to applause) twenty minutes into Glickman's valiant attempt to continue without him. The dynamic duo take us through the logistics of surveying crop formations, using our floor hoax as a guide. Who said theatre in the round was dead? Time runs just a little short for the intended purposes, as some members of the audience insist on grabbing the radio mike for discourses of their own. Next time we'll have longer, promise.

Michael Green and friends Lucy Pringle, David Russell, Paul Bura and Jim Lyons then take the floor for a highly entertaining romp around the hall, if bordering on anarchy at times. Joeb channels some information through, rods twiddle, pendulums swing, and Lucy gets her various bodies (oo-er) thoroughly checked out in the name of providing a basic course in the art of dowsing. Whether anyone new to the subject is likely to be convinced by all this is another matter, as the dowsing team get buoyed up on waves of euphoria into their own little world, but it's certainly an enjoyable spectacle.

Another day, another lunchtime. People eat. Talk. Go to the lavatory. Then they sit down again to witness Barry Reynolds giving perhaps the most coherent talk of the day, relaying in sober but friendly tones various scientific results from the examination of crop samples undertaken by Dr Levensgood.

John Martineau reappears to explain the signifi-

cance of sacred geometry to life, the universe and everything (on similar lines to his Winter Lecture - see elsewhere this issue) and then joins the panel of today's speakers for the final open forum. Karen Douglas chooses a most excellent question to end the weekend by asking each speaker in turn to describe where they see the crop circle phenomenon and our research going. Everyone answers from the heart. And then there's nothing more to say, as the day, six months of preparation, and the *Sussex Cereological Bonanza* ends at last. Within the next hour, the hall is cleared and the stage dismantled with frightening speed. Where such a deep atmosphere has resided only minutes before, there lies only an empty basketball hall, the previous two days already nothing but the memory of some distant dream.

Huge thanks must be offered to everyone without whom SCB could never have happened, in particular Barry and Linda Reynolds, Debbie Pardoe, Nigel Tomsett, Jean and Stan Reynolds, Martin Noakes, er, myself, and everyone else, too many to mention, who chipped in their valuable contributions. Thanks also to all the speakers of the weekend for making it the event it was, especially those who were such good sports in the quiz show, and to everyone who attended for being such warm-hearted audiences.

And the big question EVERYONE is asking is - when's the next one..? Hold onto your seats everyone; next *projected* date, *maybe*, for *SCB II* is 1997... After all, you wouldn't want it to become run-of-the-mill would you? **AT**

**ADDITIONAL NOTE FROM THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE:** Wow, what a weekend! Isn't it amazing how much you can fit into two days? And it wouldn't have been anywhere near as good if YOU (those of you who did) hadn't come. So thanks. Our thanks also go out to ALL those involved in the setting up, organising and running of the SCB no matter how large or small a part they played. You know who you are and we are grateful for your help. Barry adds: At seven o'clock on Sunday evening, as a weary young head was hitting the pillow, I was asked for the umpteenth time when the next SCB would be. "You'll have to ask Mum" I replied, "Don't forget all that cooking she had to do". "I really enjoyed this weekend" he added. Didn't we all? Peter's only five, but they start young in the Reynolds household. **BR**

The SC survey last year appeared to reveal the average age of your average croppie as being surprisingly high and certainly this is borne out by the wrinkle credentials of the majority of speakers and lecturers in the crop circle world. One prominent figure at the younger end of the field however is John Martineau, a lanky, friendly sort of

chap who looks like he'd be quite at home with a gentle bunch of New Age travellers; indeed, John has long been associated with the 'Dreads', the sort of live-in commune who inhabit the Alton Barnes area, and the 'Dongas Tribe', the community of road protesters who made life difficult for the Twyford Down highway construction team.

John is, frankly, a genius when it comes to the subject

of geometry, and his mathematical surveys of various crop formations a couple of years ago are possibly some of the most important work yet carried out on the agriglyphs. Using the analogy of the 'blind man's elephant', in which several individuals touch one part of something - an elephant for example - without being aware of the nature of the whole, John's presentation at the March London Winter Lecture was entitled *The Elephants of Geometry*, taking us through the many different facets of geometry he has discovered in his studies of the subject.

His work proves, beyond doubt, that the placing and construction of crop circle designs cannot possibly be accidental. The work that goes into the alignments and tangents that can be found and extracted by applying geometrical scrutiny is shown to be miraculously meticulous to the nearest inch. Even apparently haphazard grapeshot circles usually conform to some sort of accurate placing in relation to their neighbours.

John finds most mathematical bliss in the earlier, simpler formations of rings and circles, on which most of his work has been carried out, although this is not to cast aspersions on the properties of later pictograms. He has taken a sabbatical from the circle scene of late, to work on his degree thesis - the geometry of the solar system. No mean feat! His discoveries are potentially shattering, although John was coy here, preferring to play down the significance of his findings for the time being.

Perhaps he's waiting for further evidence or doesn't want to face potential ridicule. His application of mathematical theory and geometry to the orbits and diameters of the planets in our solar system has shown there to be so many hugely unlikely coincidences and correlations between seemingly unrelated aspects, that one is forced towards the

conclusion that the placing of the planets and their orbital positions cannot possibly be random. These examples in turn appear to relate to certain crop formations which have appeared and which apparently demonstrate aspects of this solar geometry. What are we saying here - that the solar system was designed by some sort of stellar engineer? God? This

elephant of geometry is pink some will say - which is probably why John refuses to be drawn as to conclusions about his own work. He is content to see it all as happy coincidence. Michael Glickman for one, voiced the opinion that John surely couldn't really believe that in the light of the evidence, but John is keeping mum on any personal feelings that may lurk buried inside.

Once again, the so-called hoaxing fraternity turned up for the meeting, Irving, Bower, *et al.* Doug Bower's new strategy - although the 'hoaxers' all seem to hang out together now - seems to be to sit quietly at the back of circle lectures, let the speaker have his say and then attempt to shoot all that has gone before down in flames by announcing that he made all the crop formations that have been shown that night. Guaranteed to get audience members' blood boiling, he believes his presence alone is enough to achieve his aim of keeping his profile of the creator of "all the crop circles since 1978" alive for the uncertain. To his credit, John handled the inevitable outburst from the floor expertly, taking the line that if Bower had made the formations, then he was a genius himself, who deserved his respect. This is ironic, because there is a secret belief amongst many of the 'hoaxers' that John Martineau is 'The A Team', the mysterious group (which doesn't really exist of course) they claim is behind most of the major pictograms and he is thus revered by them as some kind of saint. It was this belief that led to the erroneous Martineau-as-

hoaxer rumours that did the rounds a few years back. If John was a master-hoaxer (which he isn't), he would certainly have the academic credentials to carry out such geometrical masterpieces - which Doug Bower most definitely hasn't as was painfully obvious by his total non-comprehension of the significance of any of John's findings. As usual, when challenged by Glickman to say whether he

had created the quintuplet at Upton Scudamore which John had featured prominently in his talk, Bower was eventually forced to admit that he hadn't. Some in the audience got heated in their resistance to Doug - this is precisely the reaction the debunkers seek. Best thing is to sit back, let Bower mumble himself off into obscurity, and have a good chuckle. **AT**

- REPORTS -

## ELEPHANTS ON PARADE

John Martineau packed his trunk and said hello to the London Winter Lectures. ANDY THOMAS was there...

Reaction from the USA: SC continues its gradual trip into humour and

- LETTERS -

another helio. End of mystery.

We told Colin several times last summer that he was becoming a *de-facto* ufologist rather than a crop circles investigator/lecturer. Perhaps the recent difficulties as above will push Colin to complete the process. More and more info re. UFOs and abductions are creeping into his lectures and one day the content will be mostly that, with circles taking a back seat. This could be the year. We found this route far more rewarding last year in Wiltshire, seeing two UFOs, collecting a number of UFO and anomalies photos, and hearing many UFO sighting and even abduction stories. Circles are just a backdrop for a larger game. Pretty, though.

We predict (*who's "we"?* - Ed) that this year will bring smaller circles, in a very intricate pattern, based on a single theme, perhaps astrology or moon changes. If, of course, we are right, then we will be accused of masterminding some sort of long-distance satellite laser corn-bending scheme costing millions of dollars to impress a few tourists and croppies.

The Colin Andrews conference has been cancelled (see SC 39), but in most such cases, the actual cause is rarely announced in favour of what seems least critical to the organizers. We doubt that if the conference had garnered enough advance ticket sales it would have been cancelled, regardless of what Wingfield may have been up to or what other conferences might have been happening hundreds and thousands of miles from New Hampshire. The simple truth is that most conferences take place in convenient locations near major cities. This one was placed poorly. Next time try NYC or Boston.

An American, Margaret, a friend of ilyes and I did a test of Colin Andrews' mini UFO being-chased-by-evil-MOD-helicopters bit. We located the site and found it full of bleach bottles hung on strings to scare off rooks from a garden. One had gotten loose and was being blown about by a helicopter that was playing cat and mouse with

ERIK BECKJORD, California, USA.

*Readers shouldn't be deceived by SC's sense of humour into thinking we don't take the crop circle phenomenon seriously. If we didn't, this publication wouldn't exist at all. We just think a light-hearted approach is sometimes necessary to put things in perspective, whatever the ultimate implications of the circles may be, rather than it being a distraction to cover everyone's ignorance!*

*The circles certainly appear to be a 'backdrop' for something much bigger, but not everyone would make a connection with abductions and structured craft UFOs etc, as inferred here. So far, the connection between crop circles and such reported phenomena as above is largely circumstantial, despite many attempts by some researchers to link the two definitively. Why then does SC have occasional coverage of abductions, UFOs etc, as with this month's Roswell film report? Answer; because some people do see a link and even the ones that don't still tend to share an interest in potential other-wordly phenomena from other sources - Ed.*

# Cornography

with Michael Glekman

Well, as I was saying before I was so rudely interrupted...

I think a ship's officer has a duty to be honest with the passengers if he aspires (as I do) to their trust. Where have I been, and why did I stay on dry land for so long?

I must confess that I was still attached to my dear old ship, the *SS Cereologist* (even though Captain Thomas had repeatedly offered me a posting on the *SS SC*). I admit that, in my nostalgic grief, I hoped the rusty old hulk of *The Cereologist* might be repaired and that I might again have the opportunity of serving under a new (or cured) Captain.

Reality and common sense must eventually prevail! It is too painful to watch the inexorable rudderless drift towards the rocks, under the Skull & Crossbones banner of Cap'n George. I must sign on with a new vessel and avert my eyes as the old lady founders.

Shiver me Timbers! Yo Ho Ho and a Bottle of Rum! Off we cast! Goodbye, forever, *New Swirled Order*. Hello and welcome *Cornography*.

The enthusiasm for the work of Dr Levengood is entirely appropriate and the good Doctor must be applauded for his courage and persistence. For the first time, 'science' applied to the circles has been published in a peer review journal.

This raises several issues. First, who are the 'peers'

who review this work? Levengood is - I believe - almost alone in the scientific community in taking this subject seriously. I hope that he will be neither pilloried nor ignored; sadly, it is safe to predict that his work will not be widely celebrated and circulated.

Second, there is a tendency among croppies to see this kind of scientific work as some kind of talisman. If only we had scientific (or media) approval, they would not think we were crackpots anymore. This is dangerous ground. To pursue knowledge for its own value is unquestionably noble; to pursue it for some kind of social approval or redemption will only end in tears.

Third, Levengood's work, like that of all scientists, engages the tiniest (and, to me, least interesting) piece of the puzzle. Having seen Barbury Castle, Bythorn and the Avebury Spider's Web, I must confess that, though they overwhelm me with curiosity and awe, the mechanism by which the crop lies down is fairly low on my personal list of questions.

I spent much of yesterday with our Editor and Patricia Murray in what was, we believe, one of the first circles of the season in the South of England. A small circle with two unusually wide rings in oilseed rape on a hillside within sight of the English Channel. No doubt the formation will be reported in some detail soon. For my part, though I had been in rape formations before, I had never been in one on such a beautiful day when the crop was so high and so stridently yellow. We spent some time there; it was a delight.

Each of us took many photographs of the circle. The cameras all worked perfectly... Here we go again! **MG**

Remember last year's 'hoaxing conference' wind-up, where an advert was expensively paid for

in *The Cereologist* stating that the world's greatest circle 'hoaxers' would be meeting for a convention in the Waggon & Horses at Beckhampton? In fact, as Marcus Allen reported in *SC 32*, the event was a spoof - the few 'hoaxers' in the

area that night actually bunked off to the Who'd a Thought It pub up the road for a meal instead.

Look out this year then, for a follow-up gag. Word has it that this time, the 'conference' will be an-

nounced to take place at the Who'd a Thought It - but will actually take place at yet another different pub! This event was originally scheduled to be advertised for April 1st, up against the CCCS conference, but never materialised. After this giveaway column maybe it never will - but if it does, remember, you read it here first - turn up for

any advertised 'hoaxing conferences' at your peril. Unless the joke this year is that we'll all think it's a spoof but it will really happen after all!

- TRIVIA -  
**WHO'D A  
THOUGHT IT?**  
Hoax conference II? Ha!