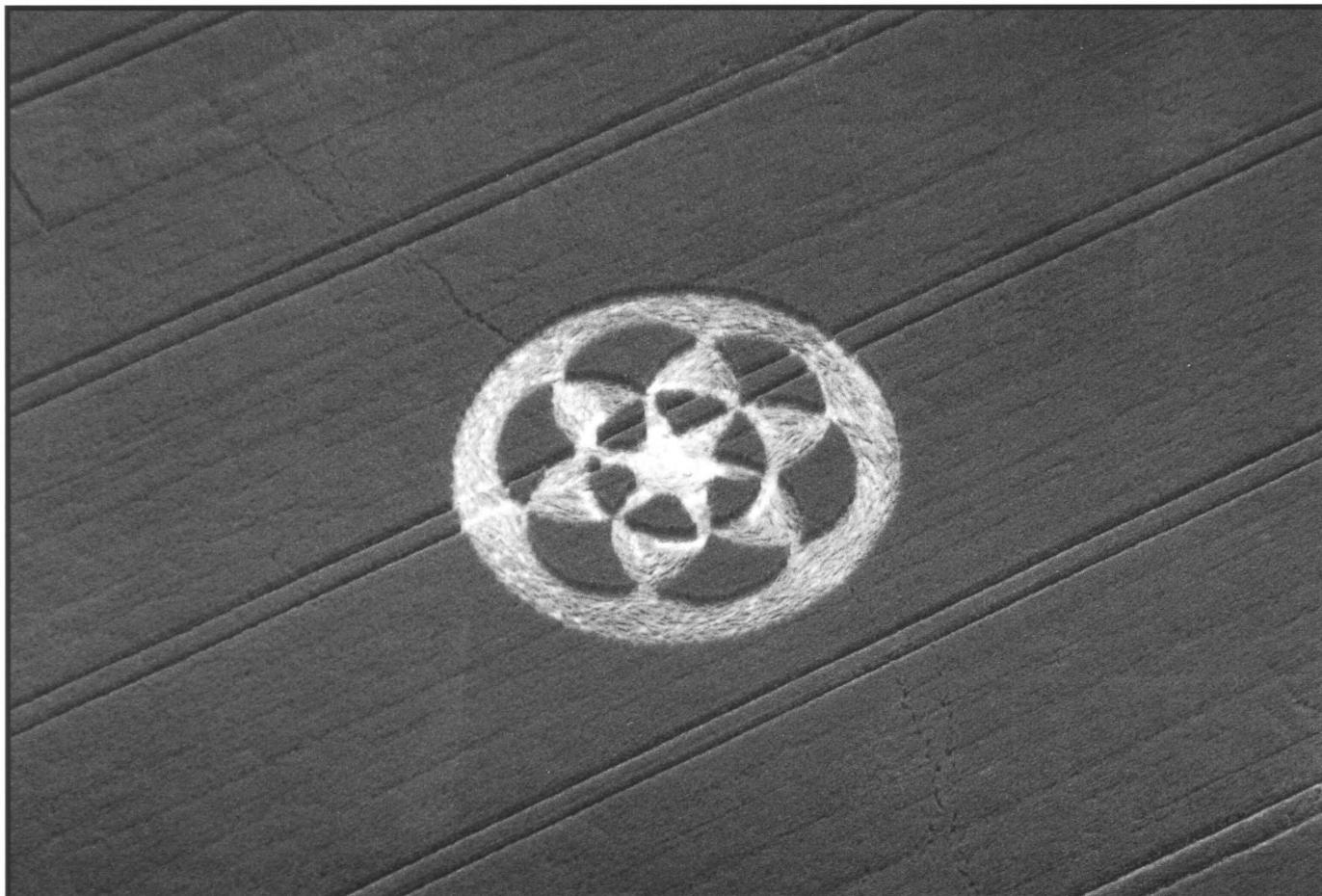

THE CIRCULAR

ISSUE 25

SUMMER 1996

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THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE CENTRE FOR CROP CIRCLE STUDIES - FREE TO MEMBERS



Tribute to Ron Baskerville
Early Reports/Photos of 1996
Special Meeting/AGM Motions
Chairman's Address
The FGK
The Milk Hill Script
Maryland Formations of 1995
Toroid Fields
Letters
More 1995 Photos
Reviews

CENTRE FOR CROP CIRCLE STUDIES

Chairman: Michael Green

TELEPHONE HOTLINE: 01264 - 350113

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THE CIRCULAR

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CHEERIO, MATEY

This issue of *The Circular* is dedicated to the memory of Ron Baskerville, a CCCS member - among many other things - and one of the funniest, warmest, wisest and caring human beings it has been my privilege to know. One of the very first contributions I received when I became editor of this magazine was a humorous, semi-graphical letter which completely took all the stress out of trying to get the issue together by the printer's deadline. It gave me renewed strength. His going is a loss, and I only wish I'd known him longer. Paul Whitehead has provided this tribute.

Ron Baskerville, who died suddenly at his home in Guildford, Surrey, on or around 14th. May 1996, was an artist of some renown who began studying crop circles in 1986; he liked them as much for their mystical elements as for their artistic qualities.

The last circle he visited was the multi-faceted configuration at Longwood Warren, near Cheesefoot Head, in July 1995. John Sayer and I were lying in the centre of this system under a blazing sun, imagining in a humorous way that we could tune into esoteric energies from the cosmos, when Ron stumbled across us and thought, perhaps, that he had come upon a weird and wonderful ancient ritual. He had a great sense of the ridiculous and of humour - something which he thought was lacking among many crop circle "researchers".

He thought "researchers" was not quite what we

should be, but chroniclers of a strange phenomenon.

Ron visited some of the large pictograms which appeared at Cheesefoot Head in the late 1980s/early 1990s, sometimes at night, when, along with Don and Peggy Tuersley, Ron Jones, Richard Andrews, Jeff Whitear and myself, he marvelled at the size and complexity of those configurations, which were especially striking late at night. He also joined the same group in a watch for Flying Saucers, which we hoped would land at Cheesefoot Head; ah well, they never did, but we had lots of coffee, cakes and buns, courtesy of Jeff Whitear. And it was a pleasant, starry night!

Ron was more than just a "croppie". He read *Flying Saucer Review* avidly for many years until his death; but even UFOs did not fill his mental horizons. He had retired from a paid job (using the visual arts as a catalyst to gain confidence and self-esteem for vulnerable people, including people with mental problems, drug and alcohol problems and those with special needs). He was a great believer that art could be used as therapy to help resolve problems and he continued to guide these people on a voluntary basis (at "Artventure" in Guildford, and "Creative Response" in Farnham, Surrey, both of which he helped to found), three days a week, until his death.

But Ron was also more than an artist, though his roots were in art. After serving in the Royal Navy



during the war (much of the time spent “going round in circles in the Pacific waiting for something to happen”, to paraphrase his words), he joined what became known as the Manchester Group of Artists, which included the famous L. S. Lowrie. When Ron was 21, Lowrie was 64, Ron told me.

Ron’s work is mentioned in a recently published book about this group, which compared the quality of his work very favourably to that of Lowrie’s, although Ron used different techniques and painted different subjects to those of Lowrie. He enjoyed painting close-up, humorous scenes of individuals or small groups of people. An exhibition of his work was held in Guildford in 1991. He had held exhibitions around the world in previous years, and sold his paintings in North America, Australia and Europe.

In 1990 he attended some rather mysterious and mystical meetings near Cheesefoot Head with nine other “Searchers into the Unknown”, including the mystic, Rita Goold. Ron later sketched one of those meetings, copies of which are still held by all or most of the ten.

But, as I say, Ron was more than an artist: he was also an accomplished musician, using Early English musical instruments. He took part in weekly, Saturday morning talks with a group of friends in Guildford; the general gist of these talks was to try

to sort out the world’s problems in a morning. Ron had a wide circle of friends in the theatre world (he spent several years painting scenery for Guildford’s Yvonne Arnaud Theatre), the local art world, and in the Guildford Metaphysical Society (GMS), of which he was a founder member in May 1991. He thought his “job” as treasurer of GMS was hilarious, as he had never been a treasurer before in his life, knew nothing about the job, and kept the money at home (and the accounts largely in his head). He also had friends in SIGAP (Surrey Investigation Group into Aerial Phenomena), of which he was a member. An admirer was the radionics healer and humorist, Maureen “Mo” Garner of Basingstoke.

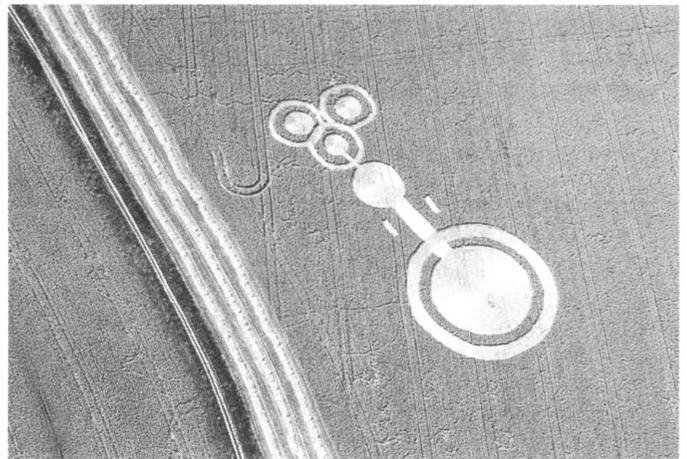
In recent years, Ron submitted humorous but not vindictive cartoons to *Flying Saucer Review* (including one which included the astronomer Patrick Moore) and to *Pegasus* (SIGAP’s UFO magazine).

Yes, Ron had a great sense of humour and of humanity; he was kind and thoughtful, and will be sorely missed. He would have liked what Jo Calvert of GMS said when she learned of his death and which she thought was part of Ron’s philosophy: “Look at everything that’s beautiful, and forget the rest.”

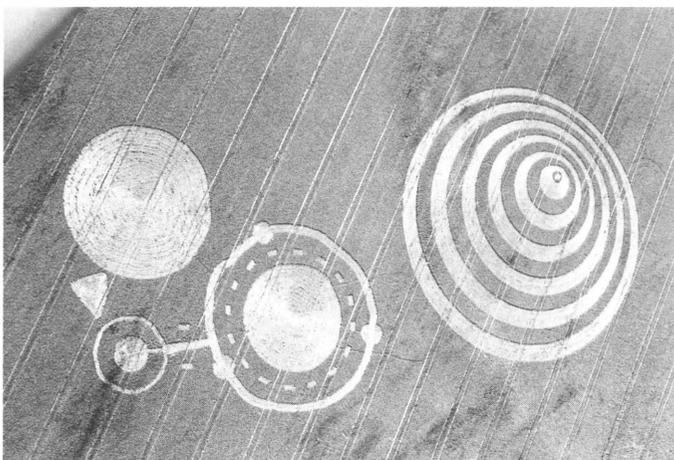
“Cheerio, matey,” is what he would have said; he didn’t, so I will.



Bretherton, Lancs. 1995 - Chris Kenworthy



Upper Beeding, Sussex 1995 - Jason Porthouse



Sompting, Sussex 1995 - Jason Porthouse



Loughborough, Leics. 1995 - Tony Caldicott

NOTICES & EDITORIAL

New Hotline Number for 1996:

01264 - 350113

Conference

This year's CCCS Conference will be held on Saturday, 14th. September at the Cricklade Theatre, Andover. The morning session will be devoted to the "scientific" aspect of CCCS work and in the afternoon we will have reports from the Branches, followed by an "open forum", which will be kept loose for the time being in order to accommodate overseas speakers, discussions and last-minute news from the season. Tickets for the day will be £15.00 to members and £20.00 to non-members. (£3.00 per head extra will cover light refreshments during the breaks and lunch.) Further details on the back cover.

Aerial Photographs

The CCCS is unable to fund coordinated flights this year and the appeal therefore goes out for donations of photographs. This will have to be a team effort: a worthwhile Formations Listing is impossible without either detailed surveys/notes or aerial photographs, and there seem to be more of the latter available each year. Please bear in mind that the vast majority of members can't even get to see the circles on the ground, let alone from the air.

Special Meeting/AGM

Those of you who get *SC* magazine will have read the recent write-up of the CCCS Special Meeting and AGM (incidentally, attended by only 11.5% of the membership), held on 20th. April in Cholderton. Unfortunately, the article is rather subjective. The minutes will be available eventually, but in the meantime I'm publishing the motions passed and presenting some of the implications, which will need to be addressed as soon as possible if the next Council isn't going to find itself in severe difficulties.

One of the motions passed at the AGM was, "*The Circular* not to publish any form of personal attacks whatsoever but to maintain a proper letters page which may cover constructive criticism." This was an amendment to the tabled motion, which read, "*The Circular* to immediately cease publishing any form of personal attacks whatsoever but to encourage a proper letters page which may cover constructive criticism." It is, of course, the phrase "immediately cease publishing" which offends, since it implies that this was already going on; and this journal already has a "proper" letters page. (The original proposal, incidentally, put on the agenda for the Review Body meeting of 25th. February by Barry Reynolds, the Review Body Coordinator, read, "*The Circular* to stop, immediately, publishing any form of personal attacks, slandering, back-stabbing, bitching, biting, scratching or general nastiness of any form whatsoever about anyone whether living, dead or fictitious." *Phew!*)

I will therefore ensure that I do not, in what I contribute myself to this issue of *The Circular*, "attack" anybody personally, but I will, as always, tell the truth as I know it to be.

Human Effects Research

The CCCS Human Effects questionnaires remain, at the time of writing, in the possession of Lucy Pringle, who has been the CCCS "collecting point" for the past few years. Mrs. Pringle resigned from Council at the AGM and in response to being asked whether the material could now go into in the Archives (since the questionnaires were paid for by the CCCS - i.e. with members' money), suggested that anyone who wished for their contributions to go into the CCCS Archives should contact her to let her know: 5 Town Lane, Sheet, Petersfield, Hants. GU32 2AF.

BLT

I recently received a letter from Nancy Talbott (of BLT) asking me to retract my comment in Issue *24 that "...it must also not be forgotten that all the work done by, for example, the Burke, Levengood, Talbott team in the States and ADAS here in Britain was the result of countless hours of back-breaking slog in the fields by dedicated members of the CCCS." No problem here, as I have since discovered - following up what Nancy tells me - that several people who it has been taken for granted are "prominent" members of the CCCS are (or throughout last summer were), in fact, *not* members. My comment was straightforward and sincere, based on the arrangements discussed at last year's AGM for the setting up of "hit squad" research teams to do the sampling for BLT and ADAS. I did not know, for example, that the team who produce *SC* (and who appear to be the Sussex research team) were not actually CCCS members during last season - although Barry Reynolds, Branch Convenor, did re-join in December 1995 and Andy Thomas (editor of *SC*) likewise in April 1996. Apparently others are either no longer members or "lapsed" during last summer. You could have knocked me down with a barley-stalk!

In the light of this, therefore, I have to qualify my comment in Issue *24 to read, "...back-breaking slog in the fields by, *amongst others*, dedicated members of the CCCS." (No offence was intended to those non-members of the CCCS who also participated in the sampling procedures for BLT and ADAS.) My other comment that "the surveying and sampling was coordinated through the CCCS" was likewise based on the discussions at the 1995 AGM, and not intended to ignore BLT's own coordination work. Obviously there were two agendas being followed last summer, and with overlapping of personnel - which explains why an expenses claim was submitted to the CCCS by one particular Branch research team, even though BLT were already meeting their costs. (The money claimed was immediately returned at Council's request, by the way.)

Calendar, Postcards & Events

The remaining stock of 1996 CCCS calendars is available at reduced cost. For details of these and postcards, please contact Ray Cox, 4 Lulworth Close, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 2UJ (01384 - 566383). A "Crop Formation Fun Day" is being held on Saturday 6th. July in the Coronation Hall, Alton Barnes, Wiltshire. For further details, please contact Barbara Matthews on 01672 - 516110. On Saturday, 2nd. November there will be "Cream Teas &

Crop Circles" in Withiel Village Hall, near Bodmin, Cornwall. Contact no: 01579 - 382519.

Elections

The recent election for Council was declared null and void at the Special Meeting/AGM after Barry Reynolds claimed that he had sent in bogus votes over a period of two weeks - in order, he explained, to demonstrate that it *could* be done. Ron Jones had in the meantime already designed a foolproof code-numbering system for preventing any future ballot fraud, which was explained to the meeting, so there will be no such games in the current Branch Convenor and Council elections. And as Busty Taylor has pointed out, the *surveys* weren't encoded - nor has anyone else seen them yet.

Council

I can't agree completely with Michael Green's view that the Council has "disintegrated from the weight of its own internal contradictions" (see "Chairman's Address"): there are two separate issues - that of the approach to the study of the phenomenon (which is stated in our constitution) and that of day-to-day administration of the affairs of the organisation. Individuals (on Council or otherwise) having differing views on the phenomenon has not been the real problem - but the antics of those who have been using their positions within the CCCS for their own personal promotion and gain most definitely have. And they have been aided and abetted by persistent attacks from the various parties who stand to gain the most from seeing the organisation collapse. Therein lies the real root of the recent "troubles" - for all the sanctimonious hypocrisy that has abounded since last October. And this is happening, as Michael points out, just when we had finally got an efficient and streamlined approach to data-gathering and analysis up and running. I don't believe this is mere coincidence. Nor have we seen the end of it. CCCS is still plagued by those whose apparent motivation for holding "office" within the organisation is to suck out what they can for their own purposes, riding on the back of the CCCS' name. Only the faces have changed. They are easy to spot: do they promote the CCCS (i.e. *all* the members), or themselves and their own enterprises? This is not a question of "politics" - but one of getting what we pay for, which should be of concern to every member. It is *our* money. One-third of our subscription goes to administration and research. It is *our* business how that money is spent. It's no good saying, "I'm not taking sides." *If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem.*

Patron and President

Our Patron, John Haddington, and our President, Archie Roy, wrote a letter last October delivering an ultimatum: unless certain conditions were met as a result of the meeting being held in Alton Barnes on 15th. October, they would not be able to continue in their respective roles in the CCCS. Those conditions were not met (they couldn't be anyway as the result of an informal meeting), and it has only been a matter of time before they formally resigned from office. They have done so, and their letters to Michael Green are reproduced in this issue. One of the main misgivings of both is that the CCCS has moved away from its primary purpose of recording data on crop circles. They are partly right and partly wrong. The work of recording and disseminating information has continued as always.

Analysis of the data also continues. Articles which appear in *The Circular* express the views of individuals only: there is no such thing as a "corporate" CCCS viewpoint. But what is also happening now is that more people with belief systems to push are in positions of influence within the organisation and thus changing its public image. There are a lot of naked emperors and empresses about these days. It is one thing to come to tentative conclusions about the phenomenon as a result of detailed study - but another matter entirely to promote a particular faith while being ignorant of/selective about the *facts*. Some are moving away from crop circle *studies* to crop circle "worship". This is not what the organisation was intended for.

Data Protection Act

No, we're not about to be arrested, but in order to comply with the criteria for exemption, members should be officially told that their names and addresses are held on computer and asked whether they object. (If you do, we can't post you anything!) The membership form is being changed to accommodate this. It will also ask whether you object to your details being passed on to anyone else (in our case, this would be Branch Convenors) for purposes other than the mailing out of *The Circular* or Council notices (e.g. election details). In the meantime, if you *do* object to your details being given to anyone for purposes other than the mailing out of *The Circular* or Council business, please state this in writing to the Acting Secretary, Hillview, Abbots Ann, Andover SP11 7BA. (Please note, this must be in writing.)

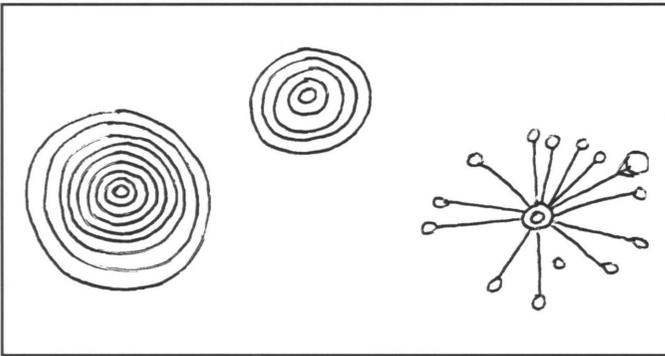
Thanks

Since, as a result of the Special Meeting, the current Council is required to stand down *en masse* on 31st. July, I would like to take this opportunity to record my personal thanks to all those, literally too many to name here, who have helped to make *The Circular* what it is by contributing to it (sharing their thoughts, experiences, research and findings with fellow members), and to Ute Weyer, Ron Jones, Ron Taylor and Busty Taylor for their assistance with its distribution - with special thanks to Ute for her support, both moral and practical, in helping to put the journal together during the last six months. Here's to a new season and a good summer. The truth is out there!



The earliest known photograph of the 1995 Brockwood Park formation - in its first stage - taken on 25th. July by Jeremy Kay. This was later photographed looking uncannily similar to the West Stowell formation apparently made by Steve Alexander, Karen Douglas and others for "Project Maxim".

EARLY REPORTS 1996



USA: The Laguna Canyon earth/weed formation was first noticed by Tom Ross, a local resident of Laguna Niguel on 9th. March. The width of the entire formation was 230' 10". The three glyphs appeared on a steep, weed-covered embankment, adjacent to the "toll road" overpass under construction. On our first visit we photographed the three main undisturbed centres and ring/spoke details, collected soil and plant samples that were sent to Dr. W. C. Levensgood for biochemical analysis, and started a survey of the formations.

A close look revealed that the rings and lines were made up of bare earth, with very few plants growing inside them. This was interesting because the embankment was evenly covered with weeds otherwise. There was also no sign of any plants having been removed. Numerous species of weed covered the hillside but only one, English Plantain (!), was found to be bent, inside and along some of the edges of the formation. Was the glyph-making agent being selective? It seemed more than coincidental. The plants themselves were clearly bent at 90° just above ground level without a break or crease. They were not pressed into the soil or damaged in any way, growing horizontally with their heads and delicate seeds intact. We noticed also that the bent plants found on the outer part of any ring were splayed outward as if by centrifugal force.

Dr. Levensgood made a preliminary statement after receiving the first sample package, saying that he was very impressed by the bending. He went on to say that English Plantain is a dicot, a species of plant that sends two initial shoots through the soil, a characteristic it shares with another plant - Canola, or Rapeseed, well known for hosting English crop circles early in the season.

Looking at the ringed centres we found that Glyph 1 had a bare earth elliptical centre with a raised ring of earth around it. Glyphs 2 and 3 had a flattened ring of earth around an elliptical centre of undisturbed standing weeds. The location of the formation was interesting also for its proximity to both above-ground and underground water sources. Within a few hundred feet was an artificial pond used by the construction company, and a marshy area known as a "vernal pool", or "spring pool", that extends for at least a mile in two directions. Also lying across the embankment and crossing Glyph 1 and 2 was an irrigation pipe for the hillside vegetation.

We are following up the reports of unusual activity in the Laguna Canyon area, and will include the results in a

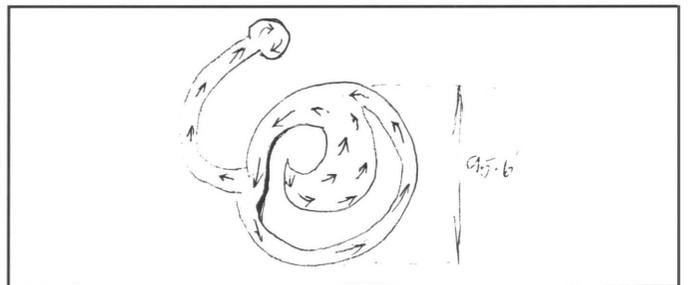
"Report Update" along with other information that has come to light since our second visit.

(Ed & Kris Sherwood)

Cambridgeshire: I followed up a call from Stuart Dike, the Avon CCCS Convenor, who told me about a new crop circle formation reported by Christine Saltmarshe (the Cambridgeshire Convenor). She had first seen the crop circle, on the west side of the M11 just before junction 14, on Tuesday 14th. May, in oilseed rape, close to the motorway. The area is a place called Girton, which is not far from Wandlebury (on the other side of Cambridge), where crop circles have appeared most years. *(Ed's note: we had a pictogram at Girton, but on the other side of the village, in 1994. Also that year were pictograms at Westwick and Sutton. A straight line joins this year's Girton formation with the aforementioned ones.)* On the OS map the position of the new crop circle did not have any ancient sites (which would hint at it being genuine) very close by. The only way was to check the formation myself on the ground.

On Wednesday, 22nd. May the rain was pouring down all the journey to Cambridge. I watched the fields each side of the A14 for signs of any crop circles and many fields were sown with oilseed rape, but all remained empty at this time. I drove along the M11 at the place where the formation had been reported and I could see the outline of it from the road. It looked a good size.

I found the farm manager and asked for permission to check out the circle. He had never seen a formation on his land before, but agreed to me having a look. The circle was some way into the field, so I had to walk through the oilseed rape, soaking wet, for some hundreds of yards. It was head-high in places. My waterproof leggings were good for about ten yards. after that I could feel the water filling my boots and it was still raining - not that you would notice now!



From the edge of the field the formation had dowsed well, with a spider's web of concentric and radial earth energy coming from it, so I was happy to get wet for this crop circle. The tractor line brought me right to the middle of the outer ring path. This was swept anti-clockwise round the outside of the formation. The path was 4'-4'5" wide for most of the circle, with the stalks laid very close to the soil and the odd one or two standing upright here and there. This outer ring path I measured 166'6" all the way round the crop circle (95"6" diam.), but the formation had a strange middle pattern, and it also had a 84'5" semicircular path coming off the south side terminating in an 8'5" diameter circle. All of the main crop circle had a well-



Girton, Cambs. - M. Newark

formed anticlockwise lay. The semicircular path was laid clockwise and was 5'6" wide. At the junction of the path and the ring, the ring was 8' wide, having widened from 4'-4'5".

The middle (standing) part is hard to describe, looking to me like an ultrasound scan of a very small human embryo: a sort of round "head" shape and tail-like "body". The natural earth energy force had pushed the crop lay away from the neck of the head shape and swept it round the entire crop circle in a spiral-type wave.

The radial earth energy in the outer ring contained 107 lines from the middle out, and 26 concentric earth energy lines. Its energy pattern only looked off-centre in the middle. Its concentric energy lines were mixed with the small circle's pattern. Both the concentric and radial earth energy force in these spider's webs were only a portion of the normal energy strength. It was only possible to dowse this formation from a short distance.

While the crop was well-laid and close to the ground in all parts of the formation, the natural earth energy was weak. About the same time last week when this formation was made, all of last summer's crop circle spider's webs were being removed from the fields. It's just possible that some of the formation's natural earth force was removed then. That's the only way I can account for its very weak natural earth power. The pattern is there and genuine, but very weak - unless this summer we are seeing yet another change in the crop circle phenomenon.

Something else I noticed in this crop circle which I have never seen before in an oilseed rape formation was a number of finger-thick stalks broken off with an uneven torn break about 18" up the stalk, which were bent at an angle with the head about 12-14" from the ground - just the odd stalk here and there, but broken in two pieces. Of the flat-laid stalks none were broken near the ground, yet the stalks were bent level to the ground. No burn marks were on the stalks broken at 18". Strange.

Both the small circle at the end of the long path and neck of the head-shaped pattern in the centre of this crop circle seemed to have absorbed much earth energy. In both places the crop lay was immaculate and you could dowse and feel the power strong at your feet. This is the first crop circle of the year for the CCCS and it dowsed genuine for me - a very good start.

I did an aura dowsing experiment on my next visit and got some very strong results from the heads. While the dowsing earth energy pattern is very weak in the centre of the entire formation, its absorbed aura power measurements in the crop heads are some of the strongest I have ever dowsed. The north of the country always produced the higher dowsing aura figures last summer in crop circles, but this first formation from Cambridgeshire has matched those levels right away. The amount of leys this summer has increased by a large number over last summer's, covering the country. Perhaps we shall see changes in the power levels of each crop circle now, both in aura absorption and earth energy patterns.

(Michael Newark)

Germany: A pilot discovered three circles between Schleswig and Kappeln on Thursday, 23rd. May. One of the circles was about 20m diameter, close to another of 9.5m diameter (both a/c) in barley, and the third lay on the other side of an adjacent concrete farm-track, in oilseed rape, being about 10m diameter. We await aerial photographs and a survey.

(Ute Weyer)

Hampshire: According to one of the farming supervisors, these two formations (see opposite) appeared on Saturday, 25th. May - just below the railway embankment on the west side of Basingstoke. The circle with standing crescent (very similar to the formation at Middle Wallop last year, also in rape) was 62' x 71', while the ringed version, 150 yards or so up the same tramline, was 84' in diameter.

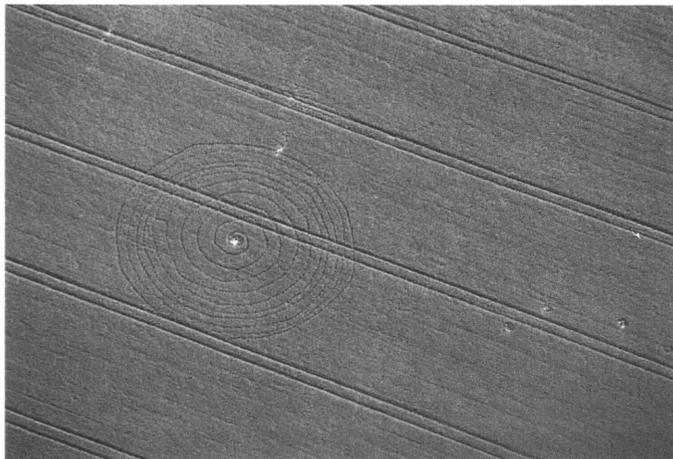
Busty Taylor and I carried out a preliminary inspection on 3rd. June and together with Richard Andrews carried out a full survey the next day. The stalks in both formations were virtually all broken, split, or snapped off completely. Scraping and bruising was evidenced everywhere (see photo below, showing just one example of horizontal scraping on the surrounding standing stalks). There were a few single standing stalks dotted about: all of these were either broken or kinked over. All crop, in both formations, was laid anticlockwise.

(John Sayer)

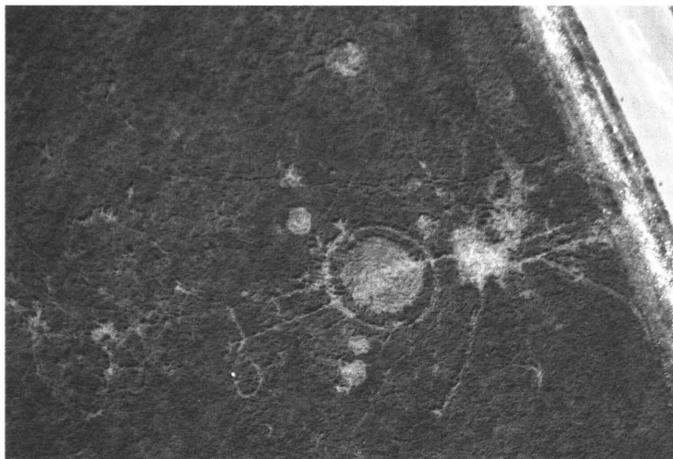


Basingstoke, Hants. - John Sayer

**Front cover photo by Busty Taylor:
Silbury Hill**



Silbury Hill *2 - Busty Taylor



Devizes, Wilts. (in grass) - Busty Taylor



Basingstoke, Hants. All photos - Busty Taylor. (Note mystery object found in centre of un-ringed standing crescent formation.)

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS 1996

Michael Green

It was Prof. Samuel Huntingdon who pointed out some time ago that the true antithesis of conservatism is not liberalism or socialism but radicalism, which is best defined as an uncritical approval of change. Conservatives like things to be done in settled, familiar ways, and where there has to be change it is incremental and consensual. Radicals, on the other hand, positively lust after divisive change and upheaval. They are impatient. They attach little or no value to continuity.

Reviewing the events which have gone close to destroying the CCCS in recent months, I feel that we are looking at the effects of rampant radicalism at work, even if there have been no other contributing factors. There has also been an anarchic element which goes beyond radicalism. Why should this have happened when, for the first time in its history, the CCCS is justifying its claim as a research organisation? Possibly for that very reason. There are forces (and not only human ones, in my perception) who might be very pleased to see the dissolution or, at the very least, the fragmentation of the CCCS at this time - the same forces that may equally have enjoyed the closure of the ADAS group who were carrying out research for us and providing the litmus test for genuineness which we have been seeking all these years.

Fortunately for the CCCS there is a bedrock of decent common sense amongst the membership and Convenors. I hope that by the time this address is presented this will have asserted itself at the Special Meeting on 20th. April. However, for now I want to concentrate on the positive, worthwhile work of the CCCS during the last year, and to pay a debt of thanks to those in the organisation who have contributed.

In my Chairman's Address last year I stated that "we enter 1995 with more grounds for real hope in the study of our subject than at any other time." This forecast was strikingly validated by events last summer.

In truth, last season was the most spectacularly successful since the CCCS was founded in 1990. The quality and quantity of the reports and drawings which the Database has received has been outstanding, and we owe a great debt of thanks to who have made contributions. The really hard work, however, was carried out by our dedicated field workers, who have gathered samples for scientific research purposes, often in gruelling heat.

A special word of thanks then to Barry Reynolds and the Sussex team, Peter and Judy Stammers of the Wiltshire team and Tony Caldicott (East Midlands) who produced thoroughly professional reports. Workmanlike reports were also produced by the West Midlands, Oxfordshire and the East Anglian groups. Richard Andrews, despite ill health, did sterling work with the Hampshire team.

The organisation continues to rely on aerial photography for both discovering and recording formations. Good aerial photos were provided by Mike Hubbard, Andrew King, Lucy Pringle, Busty Taylor, Steve Alexander, Jeremy Kay, Ken Seddington, Peter Stammers, Jason Porthouse, as well as others. Inevitably there was some overlap and Council has

consequently recommended that there should be one nominated flyer for photography. Alternatively, an entirely different system of acquiring good photos may have to be considered.

Relatively little surveying of formations was carried out. The hostility of the farming community to researchers and uncertainty about the genuineness of many formations may have been a factor here. However, drawings derived from photos and videos made up for the shortfall of measured drawings, notable contributions being made in this field by Peter Sorenson, Wolfgang Schindler and John Sayer (who produced from the Archive reports and photos the graphics for the Formations Listing).

Long-standing research areas such as Human/Animal Effects and Anomalous effects were noticeably quiet last season, although stunning photos of light anomalies from Cornwall have been acquired by the Archives. In the field of subtle energy investigation we continue to be indebted to Mike Newark for his indefatigable work on dowsing the formations each season.

In terms of collecting information the system worked well and I am grateful to all concerned. However, at the Hotline level (which was mainly people wanting information) there were a number of grumbles. I reluctantly undertook to take on this duty at the urgent request of Barbara Davies, there being (not for the first time) nobody else suitable to do the job. In retrospect it is clear that what was required was a telephonist continually on call day and night for cosy chats. Barbara was very good at the Hotline, I regretfully am not! I received scores of calls, and when not available there were substitutes - in particular Carol Cochrane, who did an excellent job at the height of the season.

Early in 1995 I made arrangements with the Cambridge-based Agricultural Development and Advisory Service (ADAS) for the examination of soil and crop samples from the UK formations of that summer. Jim Lyons, our Scientific Research Officer, has been putting together a "general theory" to account for the physical structure of crop formations based on what we know about the "subtle" energy fields of the planet. At an important meeting with ADAS in the spring of 1995 he asked their scientists to look for particular physical effects if his theory was correct. Some twenty formations have been tested.

Obviously it is too early at this stage to make anything other than a tentative statement, but preliminary findings suggest that there is a real difference between man-made formations (including our own test control exercise) and the non-human crop circles. In general terms, looking at a number of different effects, there are changes to certain soil constituents and the level of bacterial life in particular places in the formations. I have been most surprised at the results as they have begun to emerge in terms of at last having a litmus test for the genuineness of the phenomenon. Clearly the findings will need the most careful sifting by Jim Lyons and our specialist investigators, but I think we may need to brace ourselves to face the truth when the results are made fully public. Various farming papers have already got wind of these developments,

and BBC 1 and Radio 4 had news items in late 1995 stating that there is a genuine phenomenon. Jim Lyons' preliminary statement on these results was published in Issue *23 of *The Circular* (Winter 1995).

It should be emphasised that the soil tests represent only one line of evidence. They have, of course, to be balanced against the results of studies of the plant remains, whether by ADAS or BLT, and of course dowsing by various investigators. We have been fortunate that we have experienced field workers who have carefully examined formations for the tell-tale signs of electromagnetic anomalies which have been affecting equipment and, indeed, people.

In my innocence, I believed that the organisation would be pleased at last to have scientific results which would enable us to distinguish between genuine and man-made formations. Not a bit of it. Prof. Archie Roy has rejected the protocols involved as not being in line with traditional science and has, in consequence, resigned both as President of and from the organisation. Entirely different objections have come from those for whom the wholesale genuineness of the phenomenon is an article of faith, and who do not wish to know anything different. The casualty fall-out from this group is still continuing, but I regret it may include John Haddington, who has resigned as Patron.

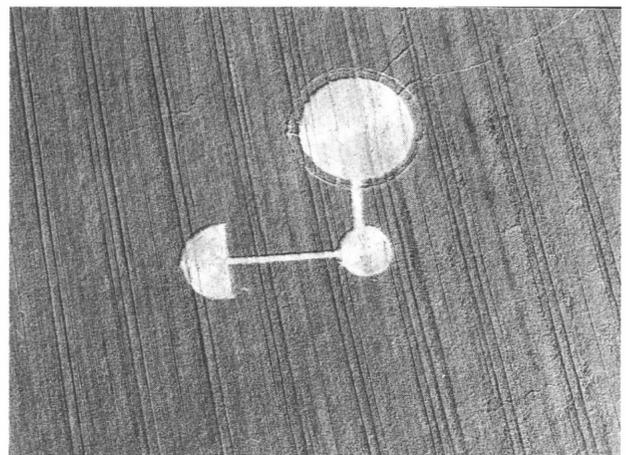
At Council level the disruptions of recent months have also taken their toll. Patrick Palgrave-Moore resigned at the end of 1995 for personal reasons. As Secretary he served the organisation well and I regret his going, as I do that of John Haddington and Archie Roy. The work of running the organisation has fallen on a small overworked nucleus. Ron Jones has been straightening out the Membership side; likewise John Sayer has transformed *The Circular*, which had been in difficulties at the beginning of 1995; Richard Smith has ably kept the financial situation under control as Treasurer and organised regular meetings of the Convenors as Branch Liaison Officer. I started the process of getting together the Formations List last summer and John Sayer has done a splendid job of completing a provisional list which went to the Convenors and which is now ready for publication. We produced a calendar for 1996 (which my wife sponsored) and a fine set of postcards. I am most grateful to Ray Cox for managing the merchandising side of these products. We also had a worthwhile Conference in Andover in July 1995 and a series of London meetings during the winter, organised by Carol Cochrane.

As I have said elsewhere, 1995 will be looked back on as a watershed in our perception of the phenomenon. From the outset, I and many others concerned with studying the crop circles have been convinced that we are dealing with a genuine, non-human creation - if only in terms of its geographical spread and historical development. Increasingly in recent years, however, I have been personally uncertain whether any particular formation is genuine except in a number of special cases. And this is particularly so in the "crop circle belt" of Wiltshire and Hampshire.

The ADAS scientific results have changed this situation. We are now beginning to have a genuine litmus test, and I hope this will be developed in years to come. 20% of the formations this year have been tested and sorted out. In future I hope that all accessible events will be examined

using the relatively simple procedures that are being developed. We have to be realistic in understanding that establishing the credibility of the subject can only go so far. The scientific community, by and large, will never accept a phenomenon which demonstrates a non-human intelligence. The implications for conventional science would be too awful to contemplate. The same outlook applies to vast sections of the general public. We are simply never going to convince these people - whatever we or the non-human circle makers do. There are, however, increasing numbers of intelligent, thoughtful people whose perceptions are being widened at this time to accept "other levels of reality" and the intelligences that occupy them. Genuine crop circles would be regarded by these people as a window into such realities. For the serious researcher, however, the ability to categorically distinguish between genuine and hoaxed formations is crucial. For instance, in my own field of sacred symbolism, I cannot build serious metaphysical arguments based on the phenomenon if I am uncertain whether any particular formation has been created by a "land artist" from North London.

For those, of course, who do not believe there is a hoax scenario, but only allegations of hoax, such agonising may seem irrelevant. However, intelligent assessment of the phenomenon over the years - not to mention the results from ADAS last year - simply does not (in my opinion) substantiate an uncritical belief in the wholesale genuineness of the phenomenon. This organisation was set up as a serious research body (however unusual some of our methods) to find the truth about what is going on. We do not fulfil this role by effectively operating a "belief system". Indeed, for a research organisation we do remarkably little research! We log raw data, and act as a forum for every conceivable theory and hypothesis, but this does not constitute research in the sense that a government or university department would view it. We now have, both corporately and individually, a vast body of information about the phenomenon. How exactly were they laid down, what are the distribution patterns in terms of geographical spread, crop type, geological features? Are there developing patterns over the years? Can formations be realistically classified in terms of their shapes, signatures or lay into different categories - and what does this mean? In many ways we need the acute visual sensitivity of an art critic: the ability to build sound hypotheses based on detailed assessment. Hardly any of these questions have ever been formulated, let alone pursued. There are literally years of work to be done over drawings, maps, photographs and reports, requiring dedicated, undramatic toil! Solid, lasting results are only likely to come from



Denton, Sussex 1995 - Mike Hubbard

such research, and certainly to those who seriously want to know where we go from here, this is one avenue that we should now be following *even if the phenomenon ended tomorrow*.

When the organisation was founded in 1990, Ralph Noyes and I brought together all those who were prepared to work as a team, to study the phenomenon. In those days there were relatively few activists and they were all swept in to form the new Council. There was guarded agreement that the phenomenon should be recorded and the results published, but consensus on practically nothing else.

Three polarised groups representing radically different approaches rapidly materialised. There were those like myself who regarded the phenomenon as having a spiritual origin; there were those like Ralph Noyes and Archie Roy who sought an explanation in terms of old-style mechanistic science; and lastly there was a group who could not

care less what caused crop circles but were ferociously determined to seek fame and (particularly) fortune from the phenomenon.

Consequently, from the outset the Council was bitterly divided and there were furious rows about every aspect of the organisation's work. As Chairman I have tried to hold the organisation together over the last five years but sadly have to recognise that the old-style Council (which until recently consisted of the founding group) has finally disintegrated from the weight of its own internal contradictions! In this sense a new start is necessary.

I sincerely hope that the new arrangements will ensure that our best features as an organisation are retained, necessary changes are brought in an orderly way, and that there is a healthy transfusion of new workers to carry on the good work.

HOW DO THEY DO THAT?

Jim Lyons

I was very pleased to see in Issue *24 of *The Circular* Busty Taylor's crop circle bamboozler (*see photograph on p.31*). Busty having threatened us with this one for some time, I have to confess on seeing it that it is indeed strange. I admit, however, to being totally ignorant about its location or date but feel nevertheless that it has features worthy of comment.

Although being totally unable to see how this could be created with a multitude of agricultural implements, I can point out that, for The Circlemakers, this is a straightforward job. I shall explain.

We all know that our atmosphere is in a continuous state of vorticular motion. One just has to watch the weather map each day to see the cyclones, anti-cyclones, hurricanes, tornadoes etc. which are ever-present and on the move. There is, below this visible structure of energetic columns of moving air, a much finer network of columnar vortices. These are associated with the Earth energy grid system and go under the names of the Hartmann and Curry grids - and also include the flux lines of the Earth's magnetic field. At specific points on the Earth's surface, these columns of spiralling energy are much wider and form what amount to acupuncture points on the Earth's surface. In certain places they have become stone circles or henges in Neolithic times. At these places, the Earth's magnetic field drops by measurable amounts and the structure of the vortices can be detected using dowsing methods. Here, the human brain can detect a curled-up version of the magnetic flux, termed the "magnetic vector potential". Regrettably, magnetometers are left out in the cold as regards an ability to detect this subtle version of the magnetic field. Many researchers are struggling to find a cheap detector to investigate these fields, with electrochemical methods looking most promising at the moment.

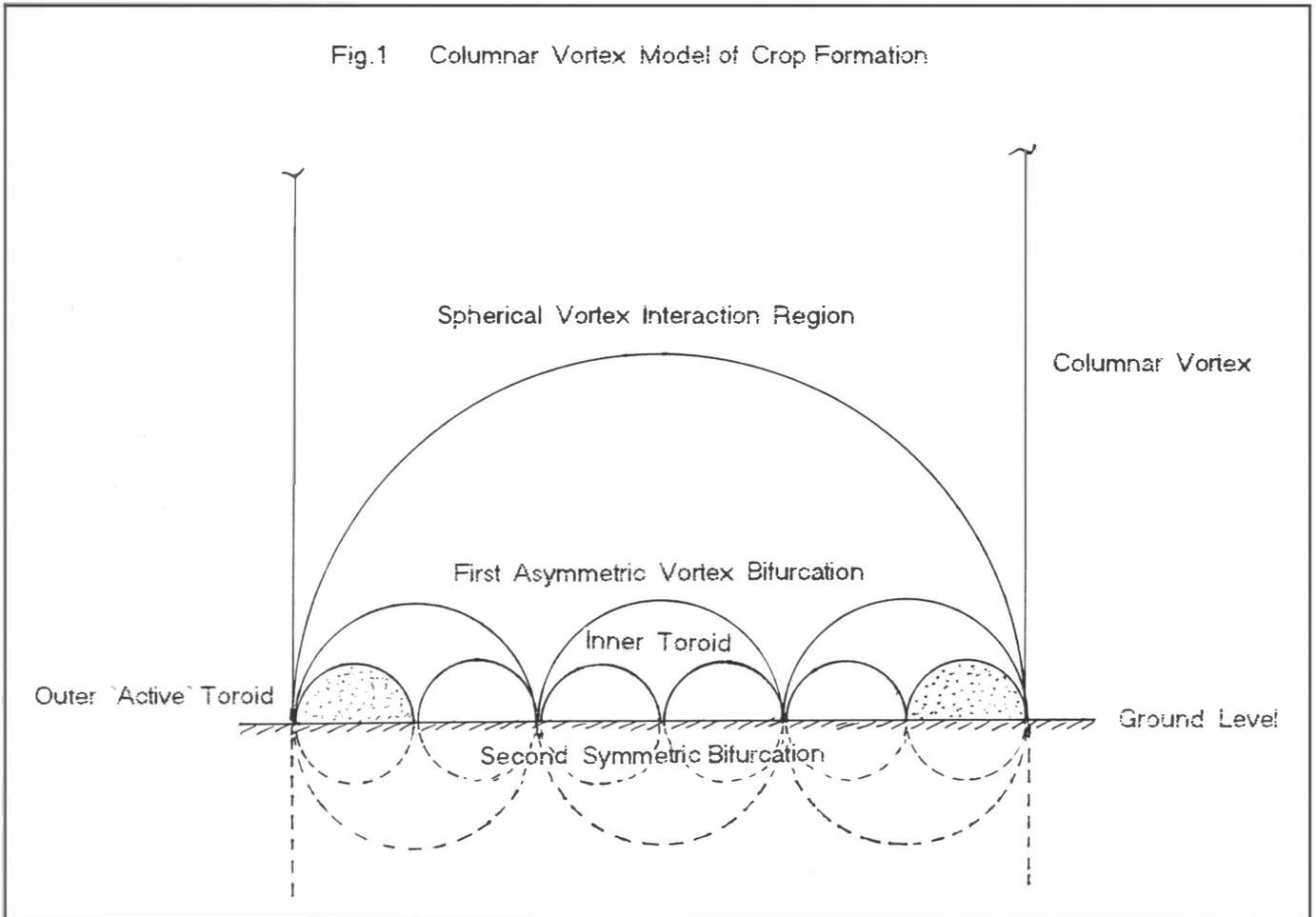
Now, Crop Circles are in principle no different from stone circles and, within them, we also have these skyward-oriented columnar vortices. These can carry wave motions, being one or a combination of three types - firstly up-and-down or longitudinal waves. These are no more than

sound waves, though their frequency is well below the audible range. Secondly, there are the shear waves corresponding to sideways motions and thirdly, torsional waves corresponding to a twisting of the column. All this was studied in the 1880s by Lord Kelvin and his analysis is just as applicable to subtle energy columns as to those of air or liquid.

The real interest is what happens at an Earth acupuncture point. Here, the column changes its magnetic flux structure to create a hemisphere over what will become the circle. In fact, there is a corresponding hemisphere below the ground level, making a horizontally split sphere in toto. When the Circlemakers wish to create a formation, what they do is to energise this vorticular column to create a strong vertical electric field which interacts with the magnetic flux lines to create helical patterns of flux. The real trick to create the shape you want is to supply sufficient energy to the vortex to split (bifurcate, to be technically correct) the hemispherical shape into toroidal shapes within this hemisphere. One can carry on bifurcating these toroids *ad infinitum* in principle, thus creating what is effectively akin to a nested set of soap bubbles. These toroidal fields are universal. If you take henges as an example, then the ditch at Avebury is there to permit the uninterrupted flow of subtle energy in a toroid surrounding the henge circle. For Crop Circles, if you wish to create a ring of flattened crop, then inducing a plasma state within the appropriate toroid locks the rotating local magnetic field lines solidly together with the ionised air flow to form the crop flattening force.

Applying these general principles to Busty's formation, *Fig. 1* shows the columnar vortex and surrounding hemispherical field lines. Inside this, the field bifurcates asymmetrically to form a central sphere surrounded by a toroid. This basic pattern is one of the two building blocks of crop circles and, in technical terms, corresponds to the lowest-order mode of propagation on the columnar vortex. If you prefer an esoteric description, this is a male or YANG field. Within these two forms, central and outer, a further bifurcation takes place - this time bifurcating symmetrically. This is a second-order even mode of vibration, tech-

Fig.1 Columnar Vortex Model of Crop Formation



Wave Motion for Crop Flattening

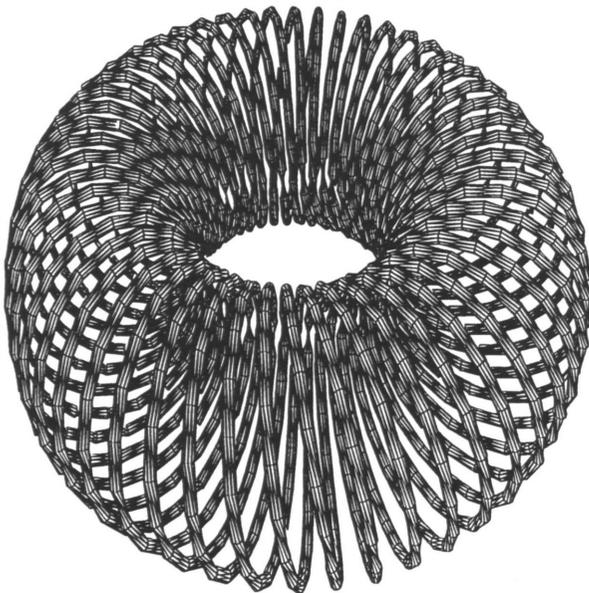


Fig.2 Generic Torus Knot

a generic torus ring like a curled-up Slinky toy, indicating the almost pure radial flow field which creates the crop-flattening shape. The crucial number here is the ratio of the number of revolutions around the toroidal axis to one revolution around the poloidal (i.e the vertical or formation circle) axis, termed the "winding ratio". Usually, this number is very low, of the order one for a simple circle, but Busty has found one with the highest number I have yet seen. I estimate it to be around 120! By contrast, the "Beckhampton Spiral" in 1995 had a very low number, around 1/50. It is this winding ratio which controls the flow of the crop lay.

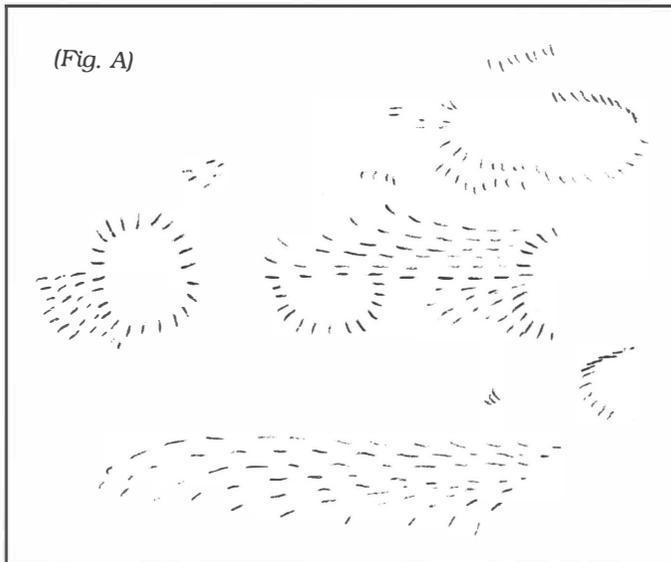
Thus to create Busty's formation, the logic of its shape is

- first bifurcation: asymmetric or the note G on the diatonic scale;
- second bifurcation: symmetric or the note C on the diatonic scale;
- choose a winding ratio;
- initiate "firing" of the outer toroid.

The final result is very pleasing, with a light touch of crop depression. It certainly has an air of delicacy about it. I have yet to see the equivalent from an "artist" demonstrating a similar light touch.

(Ed's note: exactly this type of formation is featured in *Circles From The Sky* (ed. Terence Meaden, Souvenir Press, 1991) in a paper by David J. Reynolds. The formation (with an estimated diameter of 70m) appeared in a field of oats close to the village of King's Bromley, near Rugeley, Staffordshire SK 111164), and was first noticed from the air by James Pickering on 24th. June 1989. The aerial

nically speaking, or a female or YIN field, if you are esoterically minded. The outer toroid is now the one that is adequately energised to create a field motion which spirals very rapidly in the toroidal axis (see Fig.2). This shows



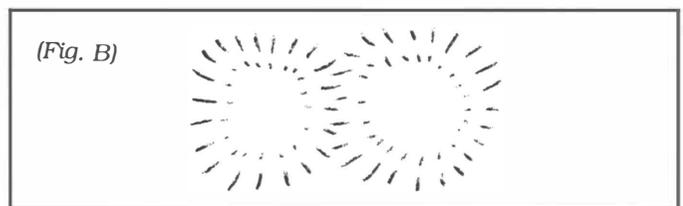
photograph featured on p. 74 is rather small, but it shows clearly the same kind of formation: a ring of short lines of depressed crop radiating from an imaginary central point.

The writer mentions that on the eastern side of the ring where these swathes crossed tramlines they bent round to follow them, which involved a turn of more than 90°. Further, on the south-east quadrant some swathes merged in places with their neighbours, with bands of stalks turning through between 85° and 95° in order to do so (while the rest of the swathe continued forward). Elsewhere in the field were “swarms” of parallel swathes which, like those in the ring, were also “reluctant” to cross tramlines. The following details are supplied: the stalks in the swathes

were bent within 10cm of the base, with those at the start of a swathe in a few cases being bent at ground level - though it could not be said that the crop was anywhere “powerfully flattened” to the ground. The oats were laid parallel to the standing walls either side, not “leaking” into them. Along the swathe they were angled progressively less, until at the end they leaned up against the standing crop.

Further examination of the aerial photographs revealed two other similar swathe-rings, in line with the first one noticed, the largest (in the middle) having an estimated diameter of 80m (fig. A). There were no track marks leading to any of the swathes.

David Reynolds also reports the subsequent discovery by Patricia Roger and Marilyn Beugg of two similar markings in sand on a beach between Louisa Gap and Dumpton Gap (TR 3966) at Broadstairs, Kent in either spring or autumn of 1980. These were between 4.5m and 6m in diameter and were intermeshed, like cog-wheels (fig. B). In this case every swathe had a smaller one on the inside of the ring. The marks were indented to a depth of at least 0.6m, the outer swathes being deeper than the inner. There was no disturbance of the sand either around or among the rings.)



FORSCHUNGSGESELLSCHAFT KORNKREISE (FGK)

Hans Herbert Beier, FGK Chairman

Introduction

Since the early 1970s areas of flattened crop were observed mainly in the southwest of England. In the beginning, basically circular areas in fields of cereal crops and oil-seed rape were affected, in which the plants were laid down overnight. In later years the appearance of these circular areas increased. By combination of a number of circles, rings and - later - rectangular shapes with paths, the shapes became more complex. Since then the shapes have been called “formations” and in even more complex cases “pictograms”.

While early circles and rings had a limited size of up to 30 metres in diameter, the size and complexity increased annually. Some formations reached dimensions of more than 100 metres. These “crop circles” began to attract worldwide attention in 1989 with the publication of the book *Circular Evidence* by Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews.

The attributes (see below) of the crop circles mentioned by these and other authors seemed exceptional, and this caused an annexation of the crop circles to New Age theories. Additionally, the geographic location of their appearance (mainly Wiltshire) was an area well known to UFO-believers. Thus a connection to UFOs was soon proposed.

The so-called unexplainable attributes were:

- in a radius of about 1 inch bent - not broken - stalks;
- spirally orientated areas of laid crop;
- anomalous compass behaviour;
- increased radioactivity in crop circles;
- biological changes of the cell structures in laid stalks;
- absence of entrance marks to formations;
- selected plants standing inside flattened patterns (e.g. weeds);
- small undamaged crumbs of soil underneath the flattened crop;
- multi-layered swirls with different orientations in every layer;
- striking effects on dowsing rods and pendulums;
- alleged malfunctions or distortion of electronic equipment;
- battery discharges;
- conspicuous behaviour of animals;
- migrating birds avoiding flying over crop circles;
- stranges noises in electronic devices and video-cameras;
- audible chirping noise at night;
- observed, photographed and filmed light phenomena (small objects) near crop circles.

In the years 1990 and '91 the first reports arose of “hoaxers” who mechanically made crop formations in silent foggy

nights and even fooled the "experts". At that time the phenomenon had already appeared worldwide. Reports on these "crop circles" came from the Netherlands, Germany, USA, Canada, Hungary and other countries. Even similar formations in snow were reported from Asiatic mountain regions.

During those years organisations of people interested in the phenomenon were founded and established, e.g. the Centre for Crop Circle Studies, with more than 1000 members, in England, and the FGK (Crop Circle Research Group) in Germany.

Following the Circlemaking Contest of 1992, the years 1994 and 1995 brought up a kind of contest among various groups: who might be able to create the most beautiful and difficult pattern? Since then the discussion of whether there ever was - or still is - a number of "genuine" formations has never ceased.

History of the FGK

The alleged attributes above were still unexplained in 1991 when a group of 23 members of the Ancient Astronaut Society (AAS, an Erich von Däniken - style organisation) decided to have a systematic, objective and serious look at these attributes.

A project was launched which enabled members to be in England for the summer season of 1991. About 20 formations which appeared during that time were meticulously documented. At the same time contacts with British circle-investigators were established. Subsequent to the presentation of their results, the group came to the conclusion that further methodical, organised research should be carried out.

It seemed appropriate to form a legally constituted organisation. A pre-foundation meeting was held in autumn 1991 and the official establishment of the association took place in October 1992 in Northeim, Germany. The Forschungsgesellschaft Kornkreise e.V. is registered (*695) at the Lower Court's Associations Record Office in Northeim and is certified as a public utility by the tax office. The constitution of the FGK can also be found here (German language only).

The number of members soon grew. At the height of the crop circles' popularity it reached almost 300. The association began to fulfill its aims of systematic research with sufficient finance and competent personnel. During the summers of 1992 and 1993 individual members of the FGK started several projects which had the aim of methodically investigating the above-mentioned anomalous attributes with technical equipment, so that results could be acknowledged scientifically. These activities were suitable to comparable projects launched by a science-orientated circle inside the CCCS as well as American groups. There was a limited exchange of results and information and as a result, the following attributes could be classified *non-significant* to the "genuine" crop circle phenomenon:

spirally-orientated areas of flattened crop;
anomalous compass effects;
increased radio-activity in crop circles;
biological changes of the cell structure in laid stalks;
absence of entrance marks to formations;

selected plants standing inside flattened formations (e.g. weeds);
small undamaged crumbs of soil underneath the flattened crop;
multi-layered swirls with different orientations in every layer.

Particulars

After simple newsletters to inform the membership in the beginning, individual members later worked to launch the association's journal, the *FGK Report*, which has been published four times a year since then.

In order to gather crop circle reports in Germany, the FGK, with its members all over Germany and beyond, established a reporting structure as well as a telephone hotline. Publications and reports on crop circles are collected in the FGK's Archives.

Most of the research is organised in "projects". Any member can propose a project and it will be launched if a coordinator for it can be approved at the association's General Meeting and if there is enough finance and manpower to support it.

Structure

The FGK is a registered public utility association. By the end of 1995 it had about 150 members. It is represented by a board of managers and assessors, elected for a two-year term.

General meetings take place twice a year, in the spring and autumn. Every member is invited by letter by the board. He/she is entitled to vote and to be elected. (General meetings do not necessarily take place in Northeim: they might also be held in other central areas of Germany.)

Generally, anyone can become a member of the FGK, but admission depends on the formal consent of two board members. Consent can be declined without specification of reason. (Not welcome, for example, are people known for unscientific publishing on crop circles and related topics.)

The statutory declared aim of the FGK is the incontestable and complete explanation of the crop circle phenomenon with scientifically justifiable methods. The FGK generally accepts - for the present - every tolerably tenable hypothesis, even if it does not represent the view of the majority of FGK members. But it does not deal with clearly refuted claims.

Recently the FGK widened its activities by making contact with groups of hoaxers with the aim of gaining an explanation of their motives.

The FGK is the largest competent organisation for crop circle research in Germany.

FGK Membership

To apply for membership of the Forschungsgesellschaft Kornkreise e.V. please contact our secretarial office:

FGK, Hans Herbert Beier, Udalrichstr. 5, 64653 Lorsch, Germany.

The annual membership fee of DM 45.- (German Marks) includes subscription to the four issues of the German-language *FGK-Report*. Because of administrative expenses, an additional admission fee of DM 20.- is required on initial subscription. (Concessions are possible for students, retired, unwaged: please write for further details.)

Examples of FGK projects - Jens Berkmann

Project Gamma

Measurements of Radio-Active Gamma Rays

Project leader: Sascha Jakoblew

Project Gamma is a collaboration between the FGK and Ancient Astronaut Society (AAS).

By using a specifically designed long-term measuring device built exclusively by Sascha Jakoblew, it is possible to measure radio-active gamma rays, without the need of any personal supervision, for several months. Inside the measuring device a highly efficient and sensitive Geiger counter is used to detect the gamma-quanta falling in. The device counts these gamma-quanta over periods of 20 seconds and digitally stores the measured value into an EPROM memory-chip which can be read by a computer that also allows evaluation of the data at a later date. It can be set up for long term measurements at any given location.

Within the scope of the FGK research its main use will be the measuring of radioactivity in crop formations. Here it is possible to keep the development of the natural (or possibly crop circle phenomenon-affected) gamma activity under surveillance. In the past, different groups reported on anomalous measurements of radio-activity but in all of those cases only a short period of time was involved and the device used was less sensitive, therefore it can't be excluded that only statistical variations were involved. Much more reliable results are now expected.

Within the scope of the research of the AAS the main use of the device will be measurements at prehistoric places such as stone circles. Earlier investigations in stone circles have shown anomalous measurements of radioactivity there too. These can be verified by the more sensitive long-term measurements.

Analysis by Waldemar Czarnetzki

Waldemar Czarnetzki is primarily engaged in evaluating and analysing pictures taken inside (or near to) crop formations that show - apart from the main photographed object - other objects that were not seen by the photographer at the time the shot was taken. These objects are usually just tiny bright spots often not noticed on the photos. Using enlargements and image-processing, much further information can be extracted from these tiny spots.

These "bright spots" were astonishingly found on several series of photos from English crop circle areas, taken at different times by different people and at different locations. They seem to be identical with those suspended, mostly spherical, objects video-filmed a few years ago. By image-analysis it is possible to find out more about these objects. If you own photos taken in crop circle areas, you should have a closer look at them. Perhaps you will find

some of these bright spots (not caused by dust particles on the negatives).

Detailed reports on Waldemar Czarnetzki's work are published in the *FGK Report*. Waldemar also gives regular lectures at the FGK meetings.

Project Sling

Measurements of low-frequency electromagnetic fields.

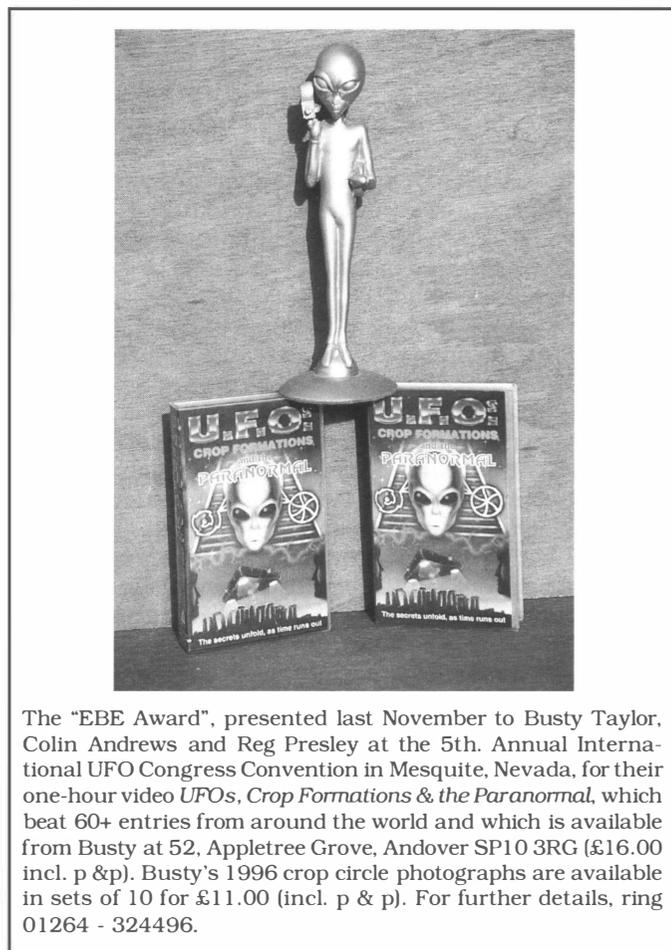
Project leader Kurt Diedrich.

Project Sling has already been run for a couple of years. It deals with investigation of electromagnetic fields near crop formations.

Using analogue and/or digital measuring methods, electromagnetic fields in qualified frequency ranges had been analysed for several weeks every year to ascertain whether there were anomalies in these fields in areas of increased crop circle accumulation. The corresponding electronic measurement equipment is specifically designed and built by the project leader for his special needs. The collected data can be compared with the dates of known crop circle activities and show correlations to them.

Apart from correlations to the crop circle phenomenon other signals were detected which might lead to other highly interesting fields of investigations - connected with meteorology, for instance.

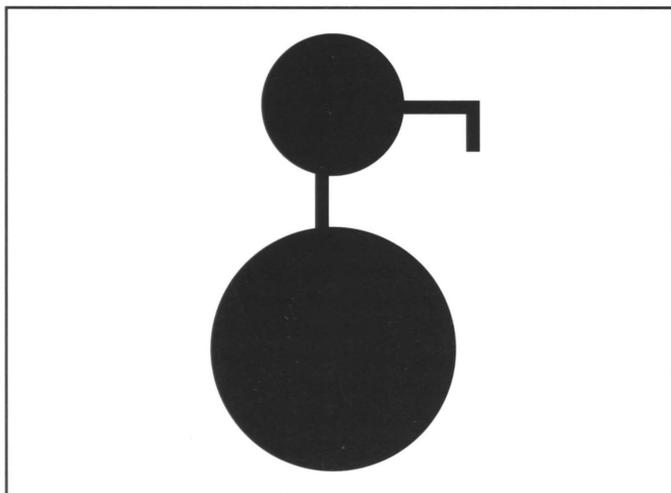
Detailed reports concerning project Sling are published in the *FGK Report* and lectures are held at the FGK meetings.



The "EBE Award", presented last November to Busty Taylor, Colin Andrews and Reg Presley at the 5th. Annual International UFO Congress Convention in Mesquite, Nevada, for their one-hour video *UFOs, Crop Formations & the Paranormal*, which beat 60+ entries from around the world and which is available from Busty at 52, Appletree Grove, Andover SP10 3RG (£16.00 incl. p & p). Busty's 1996 crop circle photographs are available in sets of 10 for £11.00 (incl. p & p). For further details, ring 01264 - 324496.

THE INMAN, KANSAS CROP CIRCLES

Stace Tussel



Prelude

On Friday night, 16th. June 1995, I was shown certain crop circle photos for the first time, including "Mr. Curlyman", Barbury Castle and the first double pictogram at Alton Barnes. Although I kept the pictures, I didn't give them much thought, for the circles appeared to me to be sourced by human beings. All I knew of crop circles I had learned in the wonderful, if dated, book *Circular Evidence* by Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews. But a crop circle of my own to investigate - now *that* might convince me.

Six days later I heard of the appearance of a crop formation less than an hour away from my mother's house, where I happened to be that Thursday morning. And so, before noon on the first day the crop circles were reported, my 7-year old daughter Sky and I were two of the first people to step into the beautiful double-circle formation at Inman, Kansas.

In the ecstasy of the moment, the crop circles photos I'd been given a few days earlier were forgotten. Only much later would I recognise that my wish Friday night for a crop circle "of my own" had apparently been granted immediately.

Circle Data

I found when first stepping into the formation that it was really much more grand than I could have anticipated. It was far beyond any scope of reference - simply beautiful! I was filled with an incredible, bursting-at-the-seams joy.

The weather had been perfectly hot and sunny for many days, so the wheat shone like spun gold. The eastern circle's stems were laid anticlockwise around a centre elongated a couple of feet in an E/W direction and slightly into the N/W quadrant. This circle was quite large, having a major axis of 20.7m (68') in a N/W-S/E alignment, and a minor axis 19.5m (64') in a N/E-S/W alignment.

The northern half of this circle was swept flat as though pushed over by running water and had an exceptionally smooth polish. The southern half, on the other hand,

showed obvious turmoil. It was composed mainly of oddly-angled bundles with a good deal of oppositional layering, and was rather tousled in appearance. At least one small but distinct corollary vortex was hidden beneath the top layer of this half.

The western circle measured 11.9m (39') in a N-S alignment through the centre and 11.3m (37') in an E-W alignment. Its even anticlockwise spiral gleamed with an air of artistic perfection. Like the larger circle, this one's starting swirl was in the northwest sector, but with the individual stalks feathering elegantly from a sharply-defined centre. and while the entire formation gave off a good bit of radiance and palpable energy, that at the centre of this smaller circle was especially strong.

Slightly south of centre, a metre-wide path of 4.4m (14.5') length connected the circles, apparently put down *after* the two, and originating from the larger. The path itself was in a perfect E-W alignment, but the wheat inside lay at a northwesterly angle, serrating the path's northern edge. When it reached the smaller circle, the path fanned out gracefully onto its perfect northerly flow.

Another path extended north out of the smaller circle for 5.8m (19') then angled directly east for another 3.3m (11'). In contrast to the connecting path, the wheat in the L-shaped extension was laid in perfect sympathy with the direction of the path, making it appear slightly narrower.

An aerial photo of this formation has not been found. Using my measurements and ground photos, I have tried to create the most accurate representation possible. If the two paths are visually extended by their lines to a meeting point near the centre of the small circle, then we have half of a rectangle. Flip this and the rectangle is completed, with the corollary vortex mentioned earlier located near its SE corner. The axes of the rectangle are proportionally similar to the ellipses, but the greater length lies in an E-W direction, as in the larger circle's stretched-out centre.

Many things indicate the formation was "genuine". Among these are various symptoms felt by my daughter and me and other visitors to the circles, unusual electronic disturbances, and the beautiful bent stalks in the affected wheat. Some form of telepathy or bio-communication also appears to have played a role in the formation's creation.

Also...

Anomalous lights

I interviewed a young farmer named Chad, who may have been a witness to the creation of the formation. At about 10.45 on the night of Friday, 16th. June 1995, Chad was cultivating a cornfield just a half-mile adjacent to the field in which the formation came about. He said he watched for about 10 minutes a sight so strange it made the hair on his arms stand on end.

A row of lights, "8 or 9 at least - probably more," appeared to be stationery about 10' off the ground, and "kicking up

a lot of dust." Chad described the lights as similar in spacing and intensity to car headlights on low beam. Confused by this odd configuration of lights, he watched them "for a couple of rounds" in the cornfield. Then after turning his tractor at the end of a row, he looked back to find only darkness; the lights had disappeared.

The farmer discovered the circles in his wheat Tuesday (21st. June), in the exact place where Chad had seen the strange row of lights.

Laboratory analysis of wheat

Through a serendipitous chain of events, I was soon linked up with Ron Russell, the Colorado & Mid West Regional Coordinator for CCCS, who directly routed me to Dr. Levensgood. Ron has been very generous in sharing his experiences with crop circles, and has become a dear friend of mine. I get a strong sense that our meeting was an intended part of the "cosmic package".

Dr. Levensgood tested the wheat samples from the Inman formation, and found increases in node length up to 26% among those from the edges of each of the formation's two circles. Germination of the wheat indicated the greatest effect at the centre of the smaller circle, which showed a higher growth rate and greatly reduced variance in the seedling heights compared with control samples.



(Sky in the small circle)

MOTHER EARTH

Reg Presley

In the Summer Nineteen Ninety, when the heat was quite intense,
I drew to your attention a chain of strange events.
Things have happened to me, and to some of my best friends,
A phenomenon is happening, and the mystery never ends.

I remember reading somewhere of a circle in the corn.
It appeared due west of where I live, and just before the dawn.
A compelling feeling told me that I really had to go,
So I left home fairly quickly and drove forty miles or so.

As I reached the Vale of Pewsey and the White Horse on the hill,
The sight I saw beneath me gave my bones a sudden chill:
There stretched out below me, sixty metres down the hill,
A pictogram of many shapes - what secrets would it yield?

Since then I've seen so many, and walked in quite a few,
And I've the strangest feeling that the patterns hold the clue.
I've heard so many answers from folks who think they know,
But the truth to this enigma unfolds very, very slow.

You must draw on all conclusions and don't laugh at anyone
'Cause the answer is in all of us who live beneath the sun.
Our Mother has a problem and a problem we have made,
And she tries to tell us slowly, in the corn She gently lays.

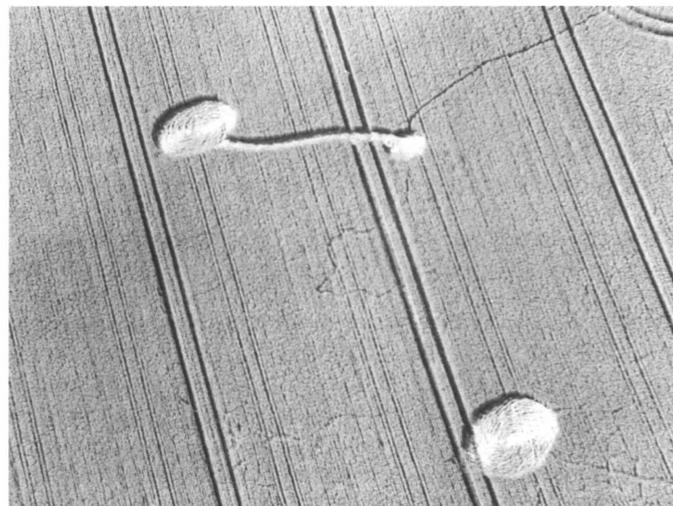
Younger brothers do not listen and the time is getting short,
So Mother has to frighten us, but as a last resort
She'll conjure up the evil winds that will move the Seven Seas

And move the molten mountains and bring countries to their knees.

Then we shall see a vision like the World has never seen,
Something will come with light and sound to end our night-mare dream.

From that day on the world will change in every way we know,
And those that come will help us all to make the whole World grow.

So little men of power, who never got things right,
And are probably laughing at this now, will get the biggest fright.
Your money will mean nothing and power's not the key.
The answer, simply balance - and perfect harmony.



Melton Mowbray, Leics. 1995 - Tony Caldicott

1995 NORTHEAST MARYLAND FORMATIONS

Larry Newnam

Locations and dates of events

(1) Churchville, MD - 17th. May 1995. Newspaper report and picture not investigated; exact date or dates of occurrences not known.

(2) Blueball, MD - two formations in adjacent fields (wheat); discovered around 29th. May 1995, first investigated 9th. June.

(3) Cherry Hill, MD - multiple rough formations over large field (rye - some reports said barley); discovered 1st. June 1995, first investigated 2nd. & 3rd. June, with additional formations occurring on those days. Linda Moulton Howe investigated on 5th. June.

Area description

Both Blueball and Cherry Hill are small towns within five miles of Elkton, Maryland, which is near Newark, Delaware in the northeast corner of Maryland. This area is at the very northernmost tip of the Chesapeake. It has both native American and colonial American associations. Two nuclear power plants are relatively close, as are Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore. The Churchville site is further west, almost halfway between Newark and Baltimore.

Investigations

The principle investigator was George Reynolds, an Elkton resident, and the Northeast Maryland Director of MUFON (Mutual UFO Network). Mr. Reynolds has over 40 years' experience with UFO investigations, but this was his first field experience with crop circle events. He was given technical assistance and direction by both Linda Moulton Howe (researcher, writer, documentary film-maker) and Nancy Talbott of the BLT (Burke, Levengood, Talbott) Research Team.

Samples sent to Dr. W. C. Levengood received quick response that the crop effects were noteworthy (i.e. strong energies), and both field measurements (compass deviations, size of exploded nodes, black markings on stalks) and physical effects (headaches, sore joints) corroborated the likely significance and authenticity of the formations.

Field sketches were done at the Blueball sites, but no photographs or sketches seem to clearly show the formations. Sketches indicate that Blueball *1 was a circle and Blueball *2 rectangular, with small shoots, or appendages and a stripe of standing crop at one end. No aerial photographs have surfaced of this site, although Linda Howe or the *Cecil Whig* (county newspaper) may have photos.

The Cherry Hill site was difficult to survey or photograph, given the scale of the events (i.e. many rough formations or depressions over a large area) and the researchers' desire to exercise restraint due to the field's proximity to a Catholic school. The *Cecil Whig* printed one aerial photograph taken at an oblique angle. Attempts have been, and are still being, made to obtain other aerial photographs from the newspaper.

In general, the investigations centre on four areas:

(1) extensive crop and soil sampling for BLT laboratories;

(2) other evidence of strong or unusual "energies" or electromagnetic anomalies (i.e. compass readings, physiological effects etc.);

(3) visual sightings of lights, UFOs and other anomalies;

(4) photographic anomalies.

The Churchville site was apparently not investigated by any qualified researcher.

Chronology of events

On Friday, 1st. June 1995 an acquaintance of George Reynolds ("John") contacted him to report a large U-shaped crop circle in a rye field behind a Catholic school in Cherry Hill. John previously had an impressive UFO sighting in the same field. According to the newspaper John is a "degreed agriculturalist". On 2nd. June George and John went to the field to investigate. After spending two hours in the field they returned to their car to discover a 25' formation that was not there when they arrived. The next afternoon George discovered several new formations which had arrived overnight or on Sunday morning, including one which was over 100' long with four "fingers" on one end.

Being a HAM radio enthusiast, George reported these events on the MUFON Amateur Radio Net. A New York state HAM operator gave George the referral to the BLT Research Team. While George was on the phone to Nancy Talbott, Linda Moulton Howe happened to call, and was told of the Maryland formations.

Linda Howe and an assistant came to Elkton on 5th. June to instruct and assist George on sampling the crops and investigating the events at Cherry Hill. Despite the fact that the formations were crudely shaped in general, George reports that Linda was very impressed with some of the details of how the rye stalks were affected. Several small grapeshot-like circles were like little energy explosions, according to Linda. In other areas the stalks were alternately bent right or left as if a swathe of energy had cut through. In all, five people spent a full day taking samples at the Cherry Hill rye field. Linda fedexed these first samples to Dr. Levengood's lab. She also contracted a plane for an aerial inspection of the site and presumably has aerial photographs. Part of her expenses were covered by the Bigelow Foundation of Las Vegas. These grants, which focus on anomalous phenomena, are most often associated with the Fund for UFO Research.

On 8th. June the *Cecil Whig* carried a large colour photograph and article about the "Cherry Hill crop patterns". The paper generally gave accurate descriptions of George and Linda's investigations (despite the focus on UFOs and UFO "landing areas"). As a result, George received 17 phone calls relating to the article on 9th. June. One call reported a large 48' x 42' formation near Blueball, Maryland. George

investigated immediately and found the two sites in adjacent fields. He identifies them as Blueball *1, which was circular, and Blueball *2, which was rectangular. Both formations were in wheat and the plants exhibited significant node explosions and expansions, along with other evidence of unusually strong energies. George also commented, "Some areas look like a part in your hair, created by the stalks laying parallel to each other having their nodes bent right, left, right, left." George also reported unusual magnetic anomalies in the Blueball sites. John Burke (of BLT Research Team) has expressed interest in further investigation.

On 14th. June George mailed Dr. Levengood samples from the Blueball site. Nancy Talbott travelled to Maryland around the first week of July to assist George in taking more samples. I spoke with Nancy a few days after she had returned home, and she stated that the evidence was showing energies stronger than what they were getting in England. She seemed quite impressed by both the Cherry Hill and Blueball formations. George (and Nancy, I believe) also witnessed a black substance on some of the plants in the rye field.

The crops were harvested in the middle of July. Prior to that time, George had been able to take other researchers and interested people to the site. Due to the proximity of these sites to George's house he was able to gather a great deal of anecdotal evidence relating to the crop formations - lights, UFO sightings and physical effects.

I visited George on 28th. July and went to both the Cherry Hill and Blueball sites. Both site visits required sensitivity to the nearby residents. The woman who initially reported the Blueball site (she is a tenant on the property) became upset with the subsequent activities and discussions about strong "energies". As a result, access to the site was limited, and George and I went there on a weekday, during working hours, while the woman was at work.

Similarly, the Cherry Hill site is off the road and behind a Catholic school. There is a nearby convent, which might own the fields in which the formations occurred. I couldn't tell if there was any type of summer school activity, but we did take steps to restrict our activities in the fields, so as not to disrupt or disturb the nuns.

However, I was able to get video interviews with George at the sites. At both sites the crops had been harvested and there were very minimal visual traces of the formations. There were, however, many places where dried stalks could be found to evidence the swollen and/or exploded nodes. As a beginning dowser, I found some evidence of energies at the Blueball site, but I don't feel qualified to comment on whether the dowsable energies were associated with the formations. I had also contracted for an aerial flight over the region on 29th. July but my pilot got sick and cancelled, and I didn't think it was important enough to pursue another pilot, given that all the cereal crops had been harvested.

The combination of the videotape discussion with George and the opportunity to view his photographs and slides made the investigation worthwhile. It will probably take a few months before all the crop and soil sample analyses are completed. Similarly, the photos may need to be analysed as well. Yet the events certainly seem to have all the qualities of legitimate crop circles as seen in England, and

there are obvious implications that the area will bear watching in the off-season, and the summer of 1996.

Physical effects

George also described several instances of physical effects from both formations. One of his friends, a woman who also reported seeing the "blue lights", claimed to have got an intense headache from the Cherry Hill site. She apparently never takes anything but homeopathic and natural remedies, but she resorted to aspirin (or similar painkillers) for the Cherry Hill headache. George himself felt pains in his knee while kneeling down in Blueball *2, and this was also felt by Nancy Talbott, as I understand it. Similarly, George felt strong arthritic-like pains and loss of movement in his right hand after working in the Blueball site. Anecdotal reports about the woman who lives next to Blueball *1 indicate that she suffered extreme psychological distress over the events (after she reported them to George), but there is no evidence of any direct, physical or psychological, effects from the formation. (George believes she was affected, in some way, by the strong energies which were evidenced in both Blueball sites.)

Earth lights? UFOs? Photographic anomalies

One of George's contacts who visited the Cherry Hill site is a woman who has some psychic abilities. As mentioned above, she had problems with headaches after visiting the site. She also told George that she saw "blue lights" over the rye field. The man who first discovered the Cherry Hill U-formation had also experienced a dramatic UFO sighting in the same location a few months prior. According to George, the UFO hovered over the site for several minutes, and two or more nuns at the Catholic school (quietly) confirmed their sighting of it as well. George is currently following up on yet another corroborative report of this event from a woman who lived nearby. Several other sightings of UFOs have occurred in this part of Maryland in recent months.

A third type of visual report related to the rye field came from a local university professor who told George of observing how the fireflies avoided hovering over a formation, and virtually formed a dome of avoidance over it, graphically demonstrating the 3 dimensions of the energy field. Even more bizarre reports of a hair or filament-like object in a tree are also connected with the anecdotal and physical evidence surrounding the Cherry Hill site. This filament was sent to Dr. Levengood, and may be forwarded to Linda Howe to arrange for lab analysis.

George took pictures with two cameras (slide and print) while in the fields. He also reported that one friend came to Blueball with a videocamera but experienced a malfunction. (My first attempt at videotaping in the Blueball site resulted in a videocamera battery failure, although I had recharged the battery the night before.)

George has some dramatic pictures of the "blue lights" showing up in the treeline around the rye field. These lights show up in different pictures and on different types of film. They show a glowing blue light which, upon closer examination, contains several smaller and more focused lights. In other shots, additional blue streaks show up at ground level, although these shots had not been thoroughly analysed at the time of this report. (I concur with George that the blue streak is in the picture, but I did not see a

large enough print to analyse.)

Also in one of the same pictures of the blue lights is a grey, blob-like anomaly in the sky. There are several other pictures that show amorphous grey or black cloud-like forms in the sky. Some pictures have at least two anomalies, and both the blue and the dark grey anomalies show up in multiple shots, on different films, and at different points on the horizon. These dark grey blotches are very similar to the (presumed) "energy-forms" that are often seen in English crop circle pictures. They also look like the photographs taken by Trevor James Constable in the 1950s, under orgone research that was carried on from Wilhelm Reich. These controversial stories and pictures are also reported in Andrew Collins' book *The Circlemakers* (1992, ABC Books, Essex, England).

The "earth lights" suggestion relates to a category of investigation that deals with lights that may have other natural causes related to geo-magnetic forces, underground faults and the like. Some evidence indicates a higher level of UFO sightings along fault lines and in areas which have earth lights sightings. This possible connection was discussed by earth mysteries expert Paul Devereux in *Earth Lights Revelation* (1990, Blandford Press, London).

Hopefully, George can get all of these photographs and slides properly analysed by a qualified expert. (Already, K-Mart has apparently lost one of the slides.) Also, additional information related to fault lines and other "energy lines" (i.e. ley lines) associated with the area would be useful in the investigation of these events. It should be noted that concepts of "ley lines" and the "earth grid" are currently being debated among dowsers and earth mysteries researchers, yet it does seem like the information is often related to crop circle formations and UFO sightings.

Alternative explanations

It would seem highly unlikely, if not completely implausi-

ble, for these formations to have been "hoaxed". Anyone with an idea about hoaxing a crop circle would probably try to mimic the shapes of the English designs. These formations looked much more like wind damage than crop circles. For another thing, both the Blueball and Cherry Hill sites were too close to residences to be good sites for hoaxing. There are many better alternatives in the area. Blueball *1 is roughly within 100 yards of a house. The Cherry Hill site is difficult to access without being spotted by someone at the school. It also seems implausible that a person would actually come into the field in broad daylight to create a formation while George and John were investigating. The physical layout of the fields makes this unlikely.

The wind damage (sometimes called "lodging") hypothesis is more likely, although there were many details of the formations that did have defined shapes and patterns that seemed to preclude this option. In the Cherry Hill site there were several grapeshot-like circles that had the rye stalks going in four directions, while in other formations a line split the crop down the middle with precision. The expanded and exploded nodes, along with black substance and the magnetic anomalies argue against wind damage. Similarly, fertiliser or chemical damage doesn't account for the symmetries and precision of parts of the formations, or the fact that certain formations appeared while George was in the field.

Conclusion

Enough evidence exists to conclude that a crop circle event, of some sort, occurred in both Blueball and Cherry Hill. Beyond that, it's too soon to draw conclusions. I have no idea what differences or similarities exist between the distinct shapes of other US formations and the many crude shapes and indentations of these events. Hopefully, additional research and the conclusions of lab analyses will tell us more.

LETTERS

Living in Old Winton Road on the southern edge of Andover, I am lucky to be very close to the fields around the hamlet of Cowdown. This area has attracted formations for the past few years. In 1995 the second of the two formations which turned up had a great attraction for me.

On one of my first visits, just a couple of days after its formation, the wheat was still green and mostly untrodden. On walking around and looking at what lay before me, I noticed a small stone right in the centre of the standing circle. The stone stood out from the chalk and flints around it as it was lighter in colour - and on further examination I found it was fractured all over its surface. I could not find any stones similar to this one in the vicinity, which made me curious as to why this one was different. I took the stone to Andover Museum for analysis. Roughly six weeks later the stone came back with a report, which suggested as possible causes:

(a) deliberate heating for use in cooking as a pot-boiler (practised at Danebury, just a few miles away);

(b) to facilitate crushing as temper for pottery manufacture;

(c) the result of accidental burning.

Whilst looking at the crop in the field I noticed that the "magic bend" occurred most frequently towards the centre and rarely, if at all, in the outer ring. I bring in this observation because if I had just found the stone at the side of the track the first two more probable causes would be sufficient enough explanation. but as the stone was right in the centre of the formation I suspect another cause: bearing in mind the microwave theory of imprinting a formation onto the field from a great height, a result of the microwave energy being at its strongest in the centre (i.e. placement of the "magic bends") could be the damage to the stone - maybe marking the point of entry for the energy?

I still have the stone if anyone interested would like to examine it for other possible causes. I would be pleased to cooperate.

Daniel Lobb
104, Old Winton Road
Andover SP10 2DS

On the possibility of circles being produced by laser, it is interesting to think that the cell deformation and charring could be caused this way, but it wouldn't account for swirling in either or both directions. A laser beam would give an impressive light display while it was being used - but we only hear of lights in the sky type phenomena, not the conventional laser beams that would be seen if these were being used. To overcome the possibility of any observers actually seeing a laser beam it would mean using them in daylight conditions - but the majority of formations occur after dark!

Unless, of course, the military have perfected a laser that works beyond the visible spectrum. Now there's a thought for conjecture!

Ron Hill

By this date you may have received several letters offering an explanation for the fascinating pictogram shown on your *Circular* *23 cover. If so, it will be of interest to tote up the numbers of analysts who think that this following scenario description has possibilities...

You are a visitor to our planet, far advanced in space travel technology, and you care to tell Earthlings about the procedure you have to go through to break away from *your* home planet. It is not an easy escape, requiring several stages of preparation, and you think this exercise in launch procedure might be of interest to those on planet Earth who are advancing toward space travel. The standing grain plants in a roadside field offer you just two dimensions to work with, but you can do a lot to tell your story in just length and width.

You have found an appropriate grainfield, and begin your work. The solid circle is your "home". From this point in your two-dimensional diagram you want to display time intervals, station levels, and a breakaway point. The track of your launch of a large, multi-element, space travelling assembly will be evident in your straight and curving lines. You launch straight up against your gravity, however severe that pull may be, and level off at "level one", a predetermined altitude where you must spend some time to acclimatise. The time interval is represented in the full 180° arc of the first concentric ring laid in the grain. With whatever adjustments, preparations or corrections necessary now behind you, you proceed to "level two" where further time must be spent to prepare for the eventual breakaway. Slightly less time is necessary for your chores at "level two", and the arc shown in the grainfield is down to 150°+/- . Since this is no small operation, and it involves the dispersal of several vehicles to various ports-of-call, many light years apart from home base, this launch procedure has to be precise and "by the numbers".

The rise to "level three" for a shorter stay is followed by vertical rises to levels four, five and six, each requiring a shorter time on station to make whatever adjustments are necessary before breakaway altitude, the five vehicles...assembled as a single launch unit...move out in the general direction of their appointed destinations. One by one, each vehicle peels off for its mission rendezvous.

O.K....Admittedly we're having some fun here. There may be dozens of other analyses for this intriguing 1995 Winterbourne Stoke formation...But there's one important, overall, theme displayed in this unusual design.

There's action here! Something's moving...at first in deliberate and precise steps, and then off in broad sweeping paths toward...something.

One observation skeptics might consider as they scoff at all of the above: what prankster or hoaxer would risk being caught and arrested for trespass and vandalism...right there close to a roadway...just for the fun of putting down a seemingly nonsensical 200' long design???

Doug Rogers

Antony Harding's article about the Stratford "Eye" formation (Issue *24 of *The Circular*) is a fascinating story. He told me about the possible connection with the Pitch Shifter group about the time we both surveyed the formation, after getting permission from the farmers, Mr. and Mrs. Smith.

The dowsing of the formation showed that it was 100% genuine, with its concentric and radial lines of natural earth energy within the central circle and both the small grapeshot moving out into the countryside around. The ley structure was very small for the size of this huge crop circle, but each formation is unique, both in earth energy structure and dowsing signature.

When Antony showed me the Pitch Shifters' CD logo some time later and told me how he'd come across it, bells rang in my head. I felt the graphic artist had found this picture in some old dusty book about our past, which could mean this formation had come before on the planet. Or the graphic people had thought to have this picture hoaxed in a field close to the group's gig, as a publicity thing, and The Circlemaker had beaten them to it (just as has happened before).

I sent off a letter to the group's office for some details about the logo, but got no answer for some time, so I approached Barry Reynolds of Sussex to ask Martin Noakes (ex-rocker) to contact the group for me. As it happened, both Martin and I got letters and details from different people in the group about the same time afterwards. My letter was from the group's graphic artist, JSC. He told me he drew the picture over five years ago and has been obsessed with eyes (the Egyptian type eye) for some time. He was not aware of the crop circle formation and was interested to know how it had come along. He told me no thoughts of having it hoaxed in the fields had crossed their minds when the logo was produced.

One last thing: the logo picture and the formation which came in the field *both* had the same faults - each corner of the eye has different widths where the lids meet. In the field the difference was 6'. This shows to me both the graphic artist and The Circlemaker are right-handed.

Both Antony and his mother are special people - what Michael Green calls "seed" people. In our West Midlands shape prediction test each year Pat wins along with Jacqui Eldridge with shapes which are so close, what else do I need to say?

Michael Newark

As one of the pioneers of anomaly photographs such as the example by Kris Weber in Issue *23 of *The Circular*, I must make some comments after sitting back and look-

ing at similar results to my own early efforts.

Trevor James Constable was, of course, the first to capture what he referred to as "critters" on infra red film. The Kris Weber item is typical of shots obtained by Constable and myself on many occasions. Note the bubbling energy field around the edge of the "blob" - quite a usual effect. Unlike Constable, I went on to obtain many paranormal images on ordinary black and white emulsions. Colour print and slide film were also reasonably productive of these entities of swirling energy.

However, I did find that certain anomalies did not transfer to B&W and colour film, seemingly entirely peculiar to the UV and IR spectrum. The point I intended to make is that I have photographed these invisibles at many locations, the results being unknown until I developed the negatives. Not once did I take shots near a cornfield, which indicates that their presence in that locality may or may not be relevant to crop circles.

Readers may be interested to know that many appear to be no more than a few inches across. This is evident because I have taken shots of them between myself and a wall, and perched in trees. Again these may be entirely different to larger ones at a distance. Perhaps they are as varied in form and appearance as the more physical forms of life on Earth?

Significantly, they do appear to exhibit a certain curiosity, as I have taken them close to aircraft at an air display and near to kites at a kite festival. Further, I have photographed a particular group at a number of locations, as if they were following me around.

On a different note - I tend to agree with the theory that many hoaxers are "impelled" to create crop circles as a catalyst for the paranormal progression that seems to be ongoing - just as I was impelled in the early 1970s to emulate the work of Trevor James Constable contained in his book *The Cosmic Pulse of Life*. Perhaps hoaxers as well as genuine researchers are being used/encouraged to stimulate unused brain cells and open new horizons of thought. Psychics may find it of interest that my wife could sometimes know where to point the camera in the sky as she spotted a tiny bright flash which was a giveaway to locality.

The fact remains - if you have experienced genuine paranormal phenomena, the impossible becomes the probable. The hoax can encapsulate a disguised reality.

Terry Cox

After lengthy consideration of my role as Patron of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies, and of my role as a member of Council, I have decided that I should now resign from this position. I have taken this decision for a variety of reasons which I will now outline. However, I would first like to wish well the future of the CCCS and hope that whatever shape the organisation should take in the future, that the main objectives of recording the occurrence of the phenomenon should continue to a high standard.

Lately I have been unable to attend the majority of the meetings of Council due to increasing pressures of work at home, and have therefore not been able to play a very active part. My joint letter with our President, Professor

Archie Roy, to Council and members of the CCCS was, in part, a signal of our frustration at the internal problems that beset Council, whatever the reasons. The main objectives of recording the phenomenon had evidently been superseded by quarrels motivated by internal political and personal prejudices. The rights and wrongs of this situation are essentially irrelevant to my resignation, and I have no wish to take sides in any of these issues. However, I do not wish to continue to be Patron of an organisation that is so deeply and publicly divided.

Some three years ago I voiced an opinion that the CCCS was in danger of destruction, due to the fact that we were trying to quantify a phenomenon that had no wish for this kind of approach to be made on it. It would surrender its secrets neither to scientific analysis nor to visual recording instruments. Our job was simply to record its presence wherever it was manifested and to measure and photograph the designs as accurately as possible. There is no doubt in my mind that these are the most important objectives to achieve, as eventually the answer to all our questions will be found by analysis of this information.

When the CCCS was first conceived there was a need for an umbrella organisation to collate all the occurrences of crop circles and to conduct research into the phenomenon from a centralised organisation. Now that we have a great many active branches throughout the country, and crop circles within these regions as well as Wessex, the game has changed somewhat, and there is a call for a much broader framework to be instituted. I feel that this is a healthy route to follow providing there is a central data base and a magazine common to all members of the CCCS.

Finally I would like to pay a tribute to our long-serving Chairman Michael Green, who has kept the CCCS going through some very difficult times. His energy and commitment to the CCCS is to be commended. I do not think that we could have had a better person to conduct meetings and get the job in hand done. His work load has been immense and the job of Chairman is a thankless task.

John Haddington

I have of late been giving a great deal of thought to my relationship to and membership of the CCCS and I have come to the conclusion that the time for me has come to resign from the Presidency and from the CCCS.

This, as you can imagine, is not an easy decision for me to make, for I have been interested in the crop circle phenomenon for even longer than I have been a member of the CCCS and, of course, being present at the very first meeting and being a founding member, I welcomed and supported the creation of the CCCS as the potentially best method of investigating in a scientific way and ultimately understanding what the phenomenon was all about.

Certainly in the first few years of its existence, many people put tremendous efforts into building it up as the foremost organisation for carrying out sustained scientific research into crop circles and related effects. A number of important investigations were carried out - such as Argus - but in the past few years I have been deeply dismayed at the directions the CCCS has taken.

I am a scientist, devoted to the methods of science and in

the investigation of any new field the major goal is to observe, collate and assess, no theory being presented unless it is based firmly on the collected data. All too often, however, publications of the CCCS have given space to non-scientific belief systems that have energetically tried to force the phenomenon into the Procrustean bed of their mindset. Serious observers outside the CCCS have had to reduce drastically their estimate of the CCCS as a body operated on scientific principles.

The evolution of the circles over the past few years to ever more complicated shapes surely exhibiting the work of intelligencies and the discovery that an unknown proportion of such events were the product of hoaxers created a crisis in CCCS affairs. In the failure of efforts to produce a scientifically acceptable "litmus test" that could distinguish clearly between man-made circles and circles otherwise produced, the CCCS found itself unable to come to any valid conclusions. The lack of a rigorous adherence to a scientific protocol will perpetuate this state of affairs.

Additionally, I have to say that the amount of bickering in Council and outside in recent years has gone far beyond what one might have expected in a serious organisation. Acrimony and accusations have pervaded too many Council meetings, eating up time that could more usefully have been employed.

Very recently a questionnaire was circulated to the membership dealing with most aspects of the CCCS' work. According to the coordinator of the Review Body (Barry Reynolds) the survey results were clear, the majority being happy with the way things are. That may be so but I am not among the majority.

And so, although I still find that the crop circle phenomenon deeply interests me, I cannot but feel that it would be inappropriate for me to continue as President or as a member. Someone more in sympathy with the present CCCS should replace me.

In resigning from both these categories, I pay tribute to the vast amount of work carried out by past and present members of Council and of the CCCS, particularly by you, Michael, and I wish the organisation all the best for the future.

Archie E. Roy

I have a copy of the book *The Crop Circle Enigma*. I found it interesting when I first read it, but now, after finishing another book, *The Fingerprints of the Gods*, by Graham Hancock, I feel the urge to write you. I think that there is a connection between Crop Circles and a shift in the Earth's magnetic field.

I believe that the Crop Circles are a message, from an ancient Earth civilisation. The Circles are being created as a shift in the Earth's magnetism occurs. In other words, the magnetic shift is causing some type of a device to become activated to produce the Circles. The Circles are a warning, and they are also instructions.

I know that this may sound crazy, but the connection was so strong that I had to write. I suggest that you contact Graham Hancock. His book deals with "Precession" and ancient cultures. It also mentions that a world-wide disaster is at hand, May 5, 2000.

Hancock's book was published by Crown Publishers, 201 East 50th Street, New York, 10022. It was also published in Great Britain by William Heinemann Ltd., an imprint of Reed Consumer Books Ltd., in 1995. Well, if I'm wrong then we all get a laugh out of this. But, if there's a connection....

(If interested, my phone number is 201-442-1136 or 201-366-3795.)

C.J. Gangemi

REVIEWS

CIRCULAR SUSSEX - Video, by Andy Thomas

This is a 27-minute video about crop formations in Sussex in 1993 and 1994, which, despite the lavish production, turns out to be rather thin on content: a few aerial photographs and bits of ground-level video padded out with what is now rather predictable camera-work (knee-level tracking shots through the crops, silhouettes of figures against the evening sky, telephoto views of combines at work etc. etc.), held together with a voice-over and music which sounds like something left over from *Crop Circle Communiqué*.

We do get to see a bit of video of the much-vaunted Birling Gap "formations" of 1994, which reveals them to be visually much less impressive than has been so far implied. The narration mentions that some prominent researchers have concluded this to be bird-damage, adding, "...if this was the case, many unanswered questions remain about the extraordinary effects discovered." Unfortunately, we are not told what these unanswered questions or "extraordinary effects" are.

Apparently Dr. Levensgood's analysis of samples revealed "very genuine crop formation properties", but we are not told what these are either. This puzzlement continues when we are shown an old and scruffy formation near Brighton which is said to have exhibited "all the properties researchers look for, including those sought by Dr. Levensgood" - again, with no explanation of what these "properties" are.

Similarly, the "Kebab 2" formation of 1994, it is revealed, contained in parts "strange red spots and a sprinkling of silvery dust" - but, with no mention of any testing or theories - "the origins of which remain unknown."

Granted, the tape is professionally produced, and if you're an avid collector of home videos of people dowsing, walking, sampling, measuring or looning about with paper bags on their heads in crop formations, then this is for you. If you expect, however, to learn anything significant about Sussex crop formations or add to your knowledge of the phenomenon in general, then you'll probably be rather disappointed.

We Are Definitely Not Alone (Part One) - Video, by Roy Dutton

Refreshingly, this is one of those productions which actually lives up to expectations. Roy Dutton, with the credentials of being a professional aerospace engineer (who trained with A. V. Roe & Co. Ltd. during its Blue Steel cruise missile development years in the 1950s), suggests in the introduction to this video that the viewer "will find it extremely difficult not to accept as a fact that this planet is under constant astronomical surveillance by devices which are not humanly contrived."

During his time with A. V. Roe Roy transferred to the weapons division because of his interest in rocketry and space travel, which led to his being invited to join the Special Projects department. From 1959-63 he was a member of the British Interplanetary Society, engaged in fulltime feasibility studies on space travel, and has spent the last 27 years in private scientific research into worldwide UFO sightings and encounters and presents here (not for the first time, I might add) his theory that there are specific "parking orbits" around the Earth used by spacecraft which release and retrieve smaller aerial devices. As he convincingly demonstrates in this video, he has compiled charts and produced a computer programme against which he can not only test his hypothesis but also, in doing so, predict where and when a UFO sighting should occur.

As a result of rigorous analysis of sightings, during which he looked for possible "commonalities", Roy discovered that 77% of incidents occurred within one mile of ancient sites. A close second on the list of possible links were transport systems (motorways, railways etc.), and Roy concluded that there was a predominance of new developments in the vicinity of ancient sites (especially from the Roman occupation period) and that it seemed that human activity was being monitored over a long period of time, with ancient sites being used for navigational purposes.

Last summer I had the privilege of participating in a "test" of Roy's calculations in the company of Ron Jones and Peter Sorenson: following Roy's talk at the Cricklade Theatre, Andover, Peter had asked him for a date on which we could expect to see something in the Alton Barnes/East Field area. Thus we found ourselves on a cold, moonlit but cloudy night between the car park overlooking East Field and Knapp Hill. Ron was resting in the car while Peter and I, armed with our camcorders, scanned the skies.

We had been trying to figure out some erratically moving red lights a long way off to the south, and once they had been gone for a while Peter wandered over to the summit of Knapp Hill while I paced, shivering, up and down the public footpath. The silence was suddenly shattered by a helicopter tearing westwards along East Field from behind the hill, below where I stood and close to the surface of the crop. Half-way along the field it veered sharply to its right and up, over the road and directly over Ron's car. Ron awoke in shock just in time to see the darkened craft "bristling with antennae", it's cockpit dimly illuminated, thundering by only yards above him. By now I was frantically videoing. By the time Ron had joined me, the helicopter was describing figure-of-eight circuits above the Knapp Hill/Adam's Grave/East Field area. (We eventually

realised there must be two or three more doing the same thing.)

The helicopters finally moved off westwards and calm descended once more. We then noticed down below, towards Alton Barnes, a small orange light, which I first took to be a streetlight in Alton Priors. But it began moving almost imperceptibly towards us, casting a glow on the crop, and we suspected it was a torch being held by someone in the field. Peter finally returned from his wandering and the three of us studied the light as best we could. I caught it on video, but the result is not too spectacular: a small point of light against the surrounding blackness. We might have dismissed it as probably being something mundane, except that it gradually dimmed, became a glowing mist which spread out over the crop, and slowly dissipated. It was only later that I remembered that we had gone to

"...this planet is under constant astronomical surveillance by devices which are not humanly contrived..."

East Field in the first place precisely because of Roy's calculation!"

But back to the video. Having plotted the "parking orbits" and where and when sightings were likely to be made in relation to them, Roy was able to superimpose data from Arthur Shuttlewood's *UFO Magic in Action* and Terence Meaden's *The Circles Effect & Its Mysteries* and discover that his calculations worked. Subsequent sightings were indeed made where they "should" have been according to his predictions. This should be of interest to croppies, since Terence Meaden had suggested that UFO sightings were possibly explained by plasma balls and, of course, crop circles produced by plasma vortex breakdown. When Roy checked out information from outside the UK, he discovered that data from Michael Hervey's *UFOs Over the Southern Hemisphere* also fitted his charts (for an example of this chart-matching see *The Circular* *24, Spring 1996, where Roy demonstrates the predictability of the UFO/ring formations in Japan in 1991). One particular event familiar to ufologists which fitted the charts is the unexplained disappearance of Frederick Valentich, who, along with the plane he was flying, vanished on contact with a UFO over Australia.

Of his intricate calculations of "parking orbits" and ground sightings/encounters, Roy says, "...these discoveries add up to a perfectly programmed and precisely executed ongoing surveillance and exploration activity, which is being carried out by fully-automated spacecraft and aerospace vehicles with built-in artificial intelligence." He adds, "The time has now come for the tittering about the UFO topic to stop."

Part 2 of the three-part series will deal with abductions and memory-loss, as well as the connection with crop circles, including some of the 1990-91 pictograms, which Roy suggests were attempts to alert us to the significance of planetary alignments as navigational aids. If Part 1 is anything to go by, then this set of videos should turn out to be one of the most important contributions ever on both the UFO and crop circle phenomena, and one which no seriously interested person can ignore.

(*We Are Definitely Not Alone* is available from T. R. Dutton, Sunways, Kingsgate Close, Torquay, Devon TQ2 8QA - £15.00 incl. p&p.)

John Sayer

The GIFT; The Crop Circle Deciphered by Doug Ruby (published by Blue Note Books - Florida; 1995 (\$32.95))

To see a new book on Crop Circles which is not so often these days, raises the hopes that someone has finally cracked the enigma. This is particularly so when the title itself contains claims of decipherment. The book follows the format laid out by earlier books, namely *Circular Evidence* and *The Crop Circle Enigma*. The publisher is, however, quite new to me. What is newer still is the name of the author, for to my knowledge, Doug Ruby has not been in print on this topic previously. More astounding still is his open admission that he has never been in a crop formation. Perhaps the most significant factor, therefore, is that he has been hooked by the topic, purely on the basis of material presented largely by the above publications.

The theme of the book is single minded - how Crop Circles can teach us all about the design of UFOs! This is not quite my own scene but, nevertheless, one cannot help but be intrigued by the methodology adopted. The approach taken is greatly influenced by those formations having multiple circles, nested or otherwise. The unique feature is the way the individual (circular) elements of the formations are turned through 90 deg. and promptly skewered, kebab style, on a common rotational axis. Even more astonishing is the way wooden models are made of these nested circles, then spun and photographed to create a whirling impression of clearly something that mimicks our supposed knowledge of these flying machines. The procedures adopted to construct these evolving forms are clearly and enthusiastically described. What is difficult to follow is, however, the thought processes used in gradually building up the final craft. Why pick a particular for-

mation to engineer one bit of the craft? Are we sure the formations used are "real" or created by an array of man-powered agricultural implements?

When it comes to the powerplant, I was hoping for some great revelation of the secret of magneto-gravitic forces or some other breakthrough technology. I regret that vague allusion to positive and negative energy fields does not quite live up to expectation. The only real reference to existing physics is an honourable mention of Richard Feynman, who, despite his remarkable work on quantum electrodynamics, the theory of superfluidity and the cracking of the Mayan calendar, is probably best known for solving the "O" ring problem on the Space Shuttle. That, to my knowledge, was the nearest he ever got to a UFO. The book mentions those great formations of 1991, Barbury Castle and the Mandelbrot. The latter looks quite splendid in graphic form and when spun as a model. It should be adopted as the shape for a pavilion to mark the new millenium.

In summary, it is an intriguing book which is certainly unique. I can see it appealing to a fairly small part of the Crop Circle community - just those who are convinced of some UFO connection. The book is well presented with beautiful coloured pictures and excellent graphics. However, as an attempt at a definitive answer to the real question, I feel it leaves a lot to be desired. It sadly lacks any recognition of the true physics involved. Nevertheless, for those who feel this is but a minor part of the story and formation geometry is the key to the future, then this book could be for you.

Jim Lyons

SPECIAL MEETING & AGM MOTIONS

The following motions were passed at the Special Meeting:

Item A) This meeting amends the Centre's constitution by discarding certain paragraphs and clauses of the Centre's constitution and replacing them with revised versions as follows:

4. COUNCIL

a) The day-to-day management and administration of the affairs of the Centre shall be in the hands of a Council of members.

b) The Council shall determine the rules and procedures to govern its meetings and activities. These rules shall be approved by the membership at an AGM and be binding upon members of the said Council. Amendments to such rules and procedures shall be submitted for approval by the membership at the next AGM.

c) The Council shall consist of the following, all of whom shall have full voting rights, and hold office for one year (and thereafter be eligible for re-election or re-selection):

6 members elected by secret ballot by the membership of the Centre at the AGM immediately preceding their year of office. Such members to be resident in the United Kingdom - and

6 members from the regions selected from and by the

elected officers of the Branches who are individually elected by paid-up members of the CCCS within their jurisdiction and subject to annual election by secret ballot within each Region, such members to be resident in the United Kingdom. The Branches and Regions to be defined as in Paragraph 10 of this Constitution. Any such member, if unable to attend a meeting, must appoint a substitute (who shall be entitled to vote) from amongst the eligible Branch officers within their region - in addition

Up to 3 members who may be co-opted by the Council to enhance its performance by bringing in special skills or knowledge - and

Up to 2 members who may be appointed by the Council as Patron or President as provided for in Paragraph 8 of this Constitution. Members so selected must be reconfirmed annually by the membership at the AGM, and be resident in the United Kingdom.

d) The Council shall select from amongst its members a Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. The position of Chairperson may be either appointed to one person for the full year, or to two or several members who perform the task in rotation during the Council's period of office.

e) Nominations for election to the Council shall be received by the Secretary not later than one week before the AGM. Regional representatives must be selected and their names

passed to the Secretary by the beginning of the AGM.

f) The Council shall be empowered to establish advisory sub-committees as desirable, to each of which it may co-opt from outside its membership up to three individuals. The proceedings of such sub-committees shall be reported back to the next AGM of the Centre.

g) The Council shall meet at least four times annually.

h) Resolutions at Council meetings shall be determined by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote, and in the event of a tied decision, by the use of the casting vote of whoever is on that occasion acting as Chairperson.

i) The quorum for a Council meeting shall be eight members.

j) In the event of three or more vacancies of directly elected members arising during the course of a year, and more than four months remaining before the next AGM of the Centre, by-elections shall be held by postal ballot of members to fill the vacant positions. Vacancies amongst co-opted members and Patron or President may be made good by further co-options up to the permitted maxima in those categories of membership. Vacancies among Regional Representatives shall be made good by a new appointment by the elected officers of the Branches in that Region.

k) The Council shall minute its meetings, and copies of the minutes (including any Treasurer's reports submitted to the meeting) shall be circulated to all members of Council and all Branch Convenors/Representatives as soon as practicable after each Council meeting.

l) Members of the Council, excepting any President or Patron, shall be required to submit a written report to the Centre's membership at the AGM at the end of their year of office giving details of work they have undertaken on behalf of the Centre during the previous twelve months.

5. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Centre shall be held within four months of the end of the financial year. Twenty eight days clear notice of the meeting shall be given to each member. Items for inclusion on the agenda must reach the Secretary at least seven days before the date of the meeting. The business of the meeting shall include:

- a) Receiving and approving the Treasurer's report and accounts.
- b) Receiving reports on the activities of the Centre.
- c) Adopting the members of the Council elected by ballot, and those selected as Regional Representatives.
- d) Appointing an auditor.
- e) Determining the subscription rates for the following year.
- f) Dealing with other such matters as have been formally proposed and seconded and properly submitted by the Council or by any member. No vote on any matter not placed on the agenda for decision at the meeting may be taken.
- g) Adopting the dates of the four compulsory Council meetings and two compulsory Branch Convenor/Representative meetings for the following year. The AGM shall be minuted, and the minutes circulated to all members of the Council and Branch Convenors/Representatives as soon

as practicable after the AGM.

8. PATRONAGE

Council shall be empowered to seek patronage from up to two distinguished persons who are actively interested in the affairs of the Centre and who would be willing to serve as the Centre's Patron or President.

10. BRANCHES OF THE CENTRE

a) Branches of the Centre shall be constituted in accordance with the constitution of the Centre and shall require approval of the Council for their acceptance as a Branch.

b) Subject to 10a, each Branch of the Centre shall determine its own method of administration and shall be empowered to administer its own funds, but shall include a Branch Convenor or Branch Representative.

c) Branches shall be known by the name(s) of the geographical county(ies) in which they are formed or by any other such name as the local committee may decide.

d) For the purpose of representation on the Council, Branches shall be grouped into six regions designed to reflect the distribution of the membership. The boundaries of the regions shall be initially approved by the membership at an AGM or Special Meeting (EGM), and thereafter reviewed by the Council annually, any proposed changes to be approved by the next AGM.

e) Representatives from Branches shall meet together not less than twice per year.

Item B) Notwithstanding the fact that members of the Centre's existing Council were elected for three years and that some are not due to retire under the existing rules, this meeting, having passed a revised constitution reducing tenure of Council membership to one year only, requires all existing Council members to stand down from Council and any posts they hold on 31st. July 1996, inviting them to stand for re-election if they so wish: posts held by non-members of Council to be subject to review by the new Council after the 1996 elections.

The following motions were passed at the AGM:

(1) Motion consisting of 11 points:

- The Council will consist of six directly elected members with voting rights.
- The Council will also consist of six directly elected Regional Representatives with voting rights. If a Regional Representative cannot attend a Council meeting they will nominate a substitute to take their place from within the Region who will also have voting rights.
- The Council will also consist of a Patron and President who will also have voting rights.
- The Council will have the ability to co-opt up to a further three members who will also have voting rights.
- The Chairman will be elected by the Council from one of the twelve directly elected members. If no Council member is prepared to take on the position of Chairman for a period of twelve months then the Chairman's position will rotate between the Council members during the year.
- All elections will be for a period of twelve months.
- The existing Council will be dissolved on 31st. July 1996.

Existing Council members are invited to stand for possible re-election alongside new candidates.

- A quorum will consist of eight Council members.
- There will be a minimum of four Council meetings per year.
- Directly elected Council members must be resident in the United Kingdom.
- Initially the regions will be:

South West (Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset)

Central (Hampshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Northants.)

South East (West Sussex, East Sussex, Surrey, Kent, London, Essex)

East (Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Norfolk)

West (Wiltshire, Avon, Gloucestershire, Hereford & Worcestershire, Wales)

North (Shropshire, West Midlands, Warwickshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, all remaining English counties north of this line, Scotland)

Overseas Branches to be attached to UK Regions, e.g. USA with South West.

(2) Council and Branch Convenor meeting minutes are to be sent automatically to all Council members and Branch Convenors who may distribute them to members if requested.

(3) There will be two Branch Convenor meetings per year.

(4) The dates of the following twelve months Council and Branch Convenor meetings will be issued with the minutes of the AGM which will be circulated with the next issue of *The Circular*.

(5) The Treasurer to produce a financial statement at both the AGM and also mid-term with the minutes of the Council meetings.

(6) Council members to supply a written report at each AGM detailing the work they have undertaken on behalf of the CCCS during the previous twelve months.

(7) Subscription to *The Circular* should be made available

separately from membership and will carry no voting rights.

(8) The Council, after the 1996 elections, to set up a working committee to produce a CCCS code of conduct.

(9) The issue of CCCS Branches, Branch Convenors, Branch constitutions and Branch elections will be looked into after the 1996 elections.

(10) The Council, after the 1996 elections, to clarify 'family' membership and investigate reduced rates for OAPs and the un-waged.

(11) *The Circular*, where possible and appropriate, to include more information about crop formations outside of the Hampshire/Wiltshire area, to include more contributions from local Branches, to include more information about CCCS research and to include more surveys.

(12) *The Circular* not to publish any form of personal attacks whatsoever but to maintain a proper letters page which may cover constructive criticism.

(13) The (interim) Council are to set up and run an efficient hot line for members.

(14) The Council to ensure that adequate photographs are available from CCCS for anyone requiring them.

(15) The Council to ensure that mid-season and end-of-season crop formation data-lists are provided for members.

(16) The Council to ensure that all CCCS publications are produced to a high standard and timely, with as much use as possible being made of good quality photographs.

(17) The Membership Secretary to issue a definitive and complete membership list to all Branch Convenors as a matter of urgency.

(18) The Council to set up a working committee to thoroughly overhaul the rest of the Constitution ready for presentation at the 1997 AGM.

THE MILK HILL SCRIPT

Almost five years on, the glyph-like formation which appeared below Milk Hill at Stanton St. Bernard, Wiltshire in August 1991 continues to puzzle, intrigue and fascinate. Varying theories are still being offered. Here are two more comments, from Simon Burton and Wallace Binns respectively:

The Smaragdina Protocol (A Translation By The Rules of Alchemy)

Simon Burton

"Conceal the secret in plain view," says the alchemical aphorism.

"As Above, So Below," says another.

"All things can be perfected," says a third.

These three pearls of alchemical wisdom provide the protocol necessary to read the "Milk Hill Script". I have called this protocol the "Smaragdina Protocol" after the Tabula Smaragdina, the archetypal alchemical Emerald Tablet.

CONCEAL THE SECRET IN PLAIN VIEW

Applying the first element of the Protocol to the "Milk Hill Script", what does one do? Do we start by looking for a code, applying the principles of cryptography? No, we just look. We look for the obvious. We look for the secret concealed in plain view. We look through the eyes of a Fool.

Don't try to be clever. Just look at the script. Blur your eyes. Don't think - that comes later. What you see is something that looks like two words, made up of markings that look like letters. Nothing radical there. But what are the

letters? Surely they must be cryptic symbols of some sort, or some obscure or even made-up mystical language?

No - they are just what they seem. They are letters displayed in plain view. Certainly, the message is delimited by circles and the words are divided up by pairs of beat marks, exactly as the Hawkins team claimed in '93. But the symbols do not represent letters: they *are* letters. They are a series of C's and U's and N's and L's written in an angular script exactly as if displayed on a primitive LCD display.

AS ABOVE SO BELOW

But they don't make any sense. We don't know which way up they are, as is proven by the fact that photos of the script are sometimes printed back to front or upside down. Nobody notices because it doesn't matter. There is no up and down. This is the CIRCLEMAKER we are talking to. A Circlemaker, by its very nature, writes in all directions. It knows no left or right or top or bottom. It writes its script "in the round".

Anyone who has manipulated the squares on a Rubic Cube or played with one of those infuriating children's grid puzzles knows what to do next. We spin the letters round and round in endless combinations until they start to line up in a sensible form, like the cherries aligning themselves for a jackpot payout on a fruit machine. The words of the script can be read top-to-bottom, or back to front, or inside out. *Crucially, neither the letters, nor the two words will necessarily read in the same direction.* Remember, this is the Circle Maker talking.

OK. So it helps to know the language, I admit. It's not English, the current international language, but it is a *lingua franca*, a term which the dictionary defines most appropriately for Cerealogy as "a language chosen as the medium of communication between speakers of different languages". The international language that preceded English was of course Latin. Latin is also the traditional language of alchemy. Perhaps only those few with a classical education know it nowadays, but I feel that the Circlemaker might have last been around a long time ago and can still remember the Latin it learnt as a boy! So here again I am on common ground with the language of the Hawkins team's translation of the script as "Oppono Astos" - "I am against acts of cunning".

By forcing ourselves to abandon preconceptions about top and bottom, back and front, we read the script "as above, so below". One word from left to right, or top to bottom, the second in reverse, from right to left or bottom to top. The two words run in reverse towards each other as if reflected in a mirror. As above, so below, we have just one letter in the "above" and "below" words rotated out of alignment with the others. It is the L in the left-to-right word and an N in the right-to-left word. Clicking these back into an alignment that suits our anti-dyslexic prejudices, and correcting the mirroring we now read:

O II UCCULUI II NUNC II O

Unfortunately it still doesn't make sense, but:

ALL THINGS CAN BE PERFECTED!

Making perfect the imperfect is the essence of alchemy,

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and using deliberate imperfection to hide the meaning of plain script and make us develop our intellects by working is true to the alchemical nature of the Circlemaker. By the simple addition of a single line to the top of the first U we perfect the message and now read:

OII OCCULUI II NUNC IIO

(Occului Nunc)

"Talk To Us!" trumps out Erick Bekjord. But the Circlemaker simply declines to engage, explaining:

"I have hidden, at present".

The Final Solution?

Wallace Binns

In Issue *19 of *The Circular*, pp. 33-34, Gerald Hawkins reaffirmed that OPPONO ASTOS is absolutely correct in post-Augustin Latin. The Latin dictionaries consulted did not give the 12 declensions of the nouns. I pointed out that there are only 5 declensions and that there was an apparent confusion between the 2nd. and 4th. declensions and the fact that "oppono" (from "opponere") takes the dative (see Issue *22, pp 14-15).

The word "Latin" usually means Classical Latin (C.L.) unless otherwise stated, although there are other forms known as Vulgar Latin (V.L.) and Low Latin - by which I mean Late Latin, Church Latin and Law Latin.

C.L. is the *written and spoken language* of the writers of Rome. V.L. is the spoken tongue of the Roman soldiers, colonists, merchants and administrators, as opposed to the *literary language* (C.L.).

V.L. offers from the beginning a striking contrast with C.L.

C.L. alone was the official language used for public purposes throughout the length and breadth of the Empire. With the recognition of Christianity as the state religion, the Church employed Latin, at first in the form of V.L. and subsequently in the form of Low Latin.

The V.L. period ended about 500 A.D. and V.L. disintegrated when the Roman culture was destroyed, metamorphosing gradually into Gallo-Roman and Old French etc. On the other hand, the history of Western Civilisation is in fact written in Latin (C.L.). Until the middle of the 18th. Century A.D. and even beyond, nearly all important writing in science, medicine, philosophy, logic, law, history and geography etc. is in Latin. European scholars could converse and communicate in Latin irrespective of their different vernacular tongues.

Languages do indeed change as Prof. Hawkins states on p. 19, Issue *24 of *The Circular*; but what he does not point out is that Prof. C. H. Grandgent is writing about *Vulgar Latin*, the *spoken tongue*, and that the quote is from his book *An Introduction to Vulgar Latin* (Boston, 1907). The C.L. noun case system was early reduced in V.L. In Gaul, the genitive, dative, ablative and vocative disappeared in the V.L. period, leaving the nominative (which took over the functions of the vocative) and the accusative (which was sometimes used as a *dative* or *genitive*). The

different declensions underwent a series of changes. The 4th. declension nouns were assimilated to those of the 2nd. declension. Those of the 5th. were absorbed by the 1st. declension. In contrast to these changes, Classical Latin retained the six cases and five declensions *and still does*. The V.L. changes took place in the pre-Augustin period. Why refer to them as being absolutely correct in post-Augustin Latin which directs attention to the C.L. literature after A.D. 14?

A good Latin dictionary usually associates "opponere" with the dative and the 1st. Century B.C. writers Cicero (the most eloquent Latin orator), Vergil (the most celebrated Latin poet) and Horace (a celebrated, learned, meticulous poet). The fact that Horace *sometimes* used the accusative for reasons of style, or that the 3rd. century A.D. writer Tertullianus *preferred* the accusative case merely proves my point. "ASTUS" (not ASTOS) is the accusative singular and plural of the nominative singular ASTUS.

There have been many acts of cunning and deceit in connection with the crop circle phenomenon. Some intelligence wished to write this in crops, but knew that if in English, it would be dismissed as a hoax. Recourse was had to a Templar-based script which someone would eventually decode satisfactorily.

The language to be encoded was to be Latin, a difficult language which, even when decoded, would cause even more controversy. The most successful attempt would appear to be a mixture of Latin and Greek. But this would not make sense. The "Greek" was discarded and Classical Latin was tried. This seemed promising but it was not accurate Latin. There appeared to be a confusion of de-

clensions mixed up with a confusion of cases. The sense of this inaccurate Latin certainly seemed to be "I oppose acts of cunning or deceit"; it fitted in with the activities of certain individuals, organisations and groups and the disapproval of the circle maker.

The reference to Prof. C. H. Grandgent enabled me to look at the problem from the Vulgar Latin angle. It was then obvious that OPPONO ASTOS was the correct *spoken form* and had nothing to do with post-Augustin Classical Latin. Phonology also played its part in changing certain Classical Latin 'U's into 'O's; but this had already been effected by "streamlining" the declensions and absorbing the 4th. declension into the 2nd.

Who the circle maker is who inscribed in the wheat on Milk Hill is more important than what is enscribed. What entity knows the Templar-based script, plus the Latin within the Latin, and the meaning of this Vulgar Latin in English? Is it a he, or a she, or an It?

I am not at all sure that the Milk Hill writer would feel happy to be in Horace's company. "Odi profanum vulgus et arceo," he wrote in his Odes ("I hate the vulgar mob and keep it at a distance"). The Christian writer Tertullianus might have been more charitable. Rather the soldiers, farmers and colonists, I think.

As no hoaxers have yet come forward, and no further messages have been written in this script, perhaps the writer is satisfied that his/her/Its message has been correctly decoded.

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

or A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the AGM

John Sayer

The manipulators create the circumstances in which public opinion says: Something must be done! Once that stage has been achieved...the manipulators step forward in the guise of standing up for the people and offer "solutions" to the problems they themselves have created in the first place. Those "solutions" will be precisely the measures the manipulators wanted to happen all along...

(David Icke - "And the Truth Shall Set You Free")

At the Convenors' meeting on 12th. November 1995 it was accepted that the call for a Special Meeting "arising" from an informal meeting in Alton Barnes the previous month was neither desirable nor necessary. A motion by Barry Reynolds (incidentally not a member of CCCS at the time), based on a suggestion by Simon Lackford, was therefore passed to the effect that the Branch Convenors would constitute a Review Body, who would canvass past, present and future members of the CCCS for their views on how the CCCS should proceed, and present their findings and make recommendations to the 1996 AGM.

But things didn't quite turn out that way somehow. A Special Meeting was instigated after all - by the Review Body itself. Not only that, but it called in part for the same measures which already been rejected by the November meeting of Convenors - i.e. the Review Body! So what happened?

Why was the calling of a Special Meeting made by the very people who said that a Special Meeting wasn't necessary? Just how did this Monty Python-like situation come about?

The sequence of events which unfolded shows how those acting with the best intentions can be led into supporting something they are not fully aware of, and also indicates who stood to gain the most from what might have left the CCCS in complete disarray.

The first major mistake was that the Review Body should not have gone ahead with its own agenda, but reported back with its findings to Council - the people who had actually been elected by the membership to handle the affairs of the CCCS in the first place (or at least to the AGM, as intended). This is the normal practice in any organisation when a working party or sub-committee is set up. The second mistake was to have the same people who had tried to call a Special Meeting already take part in designing the questions for the survey (why not the entire membership?). The third mistake was to have such a long and expensive survey: printing costs were just under £400.00, including an extra 200 or so copies (i.e. more than 50% on top of the membership numbers) being sent out with SC magazine - although it is still a mystery who "asked for" this, as claimed in one editorial. The fourth mistake was not to have made any arrangements for the results of the survey to be made known to the member-

ship. (In fact Council was only given the results by Barry Reynolds, Review Body Coordinator, at its 18th. February meeting because, as he said, he'd just sent copies to the Branch Convenors - otherwise he would have told Council nothing before the Review Body meeting scheduled for 25th. February.)

The Review Body, on 25th. February, had difficulty in "interpreting" the results. For example, in answer to the question, "Are you satisfied with the existing Council?" 41 answered "Yes", 29 "No" and 31 "Don't know". Given the numbers, you might think that this was a vote of confidence in the existing Council. But, it was suggested with results like this, it could be argued that although the highest number answered "Yes", when you add together the "No" and "Don't know" responses, they outnumber the "Yes" answers - i.e. only 41 said "Yes" as opposed to a total of 60 who didn't. Of course, this could just as well be looked at the *opposite* way: when you add together the "Yes" and "Don't know" answers, you get 72 as opposed to 29 who *didn't* answer "No" to the question.

Since results can be "interpreted" both ways if the "Don't know" answers are brought into the picture, that isn't normally done. What is normal is to go by the answer with the highest "score", which is precisely how I reported the main results. And as Barry Reynolds himself wrote to Council and Convenors on 16th. February: "The survey results are clear. The majority are happy with the way things are." Nevertheless, I was subsequently accused in a letter from him of misleading the membership! (Members can make up their own minds if and when the survey results are ever published. The questionnaires themselves are still in the hands of Barry Reynolds, apparently.)

The outcome of the 25th. February Review Body meeting (attended by 13 of the 24 UK Convenors, of whom only 11 were members of the CCCS) was that a total of 27 motions were passed (they were numbered i - xviii, but the first motion on the list consisted of 10 separate parts). What must be noted at this point is that, according to the minutes, *no motion was passed calling for a Special Meeting*. So how did this, in fact, come about?

Barry Reynolds wrote (to "All CCCS Council Members and CCCS Branch Convenors around the world") on 27th. February, including the minutes of the Review Body meeting "...as well as the agreed proposals which we would like to put to an Extraordinary General Meeting which will be called prior to the 1996 AGM. The relevant Constitutional changes required to carry out these proposals will be ready in time for this EGM but for now we require a minimum of 30 signatures to call the EGM at which the following proposals and relevant Constitutional changes will be put..." (the list of motions passed two days earlier follows).

The letter ends, "I would be extremely grateful if on receipt of this letter you would each canvass the opinion of a handful of your local members and then telephone me with the names of people supporting the above call for an EGM...Presuming that more than thirty people put their names forward for an EGM, the call and proposals will be issued immediately for an EGM..."

The list of names of those calling for a Special Meeting subsequently submitted by Barry Reynolds on 3rd. March included the 13 Convenors who had attended the Review Body meeting of 25th. February, plus 26 others (not all of

whom could be verified as members). Interestingly, apart from two co-Convenors (i.e. from one Branch), none of the Branch Convenors who had *not* attended the 25th. February Review Body meeting actually put their names to the call for a Special Meeting, nor did they appear to have responded to the request to "canvass a handful" of their local members for support either. Also of interest is that of the 26 calling for a Special Meeting (other than members of the Review Body who met on 25th. February) originally notified by Barry Reynolds, only 7 actually attended the meeting on the day.

The CCCS constitution confers the right to call a Special Meeting by "any thirty ordinary members acting jointly". The above train of events can hardly be described as "acting jointly": 11 CCCS members pass a set of motions at a Review Body meeting, then afterwards one of them writes to all Convenors asking them to get their local members to support a call for a Special Meeting so they can change the constitution in order to be able to propose some of their motions (not to mention dissolve the current elected Council). And all this is coordinated by the person who later confesses at the Special Meeting/AGM to sabotaging the Council elections. Democracy at work?

It has always been a source of mystery to me why people should claim that the CCCS has "a bad reputation", when as a member, then Branch Convenor and now sitting on Council, I have found the organisation to have continually fulfilled its role as regards both the phenomenon and its members more than adequately. When this claim has been made, either in informal conversation or at meetings, I have always asked, "Who says we have a bad reputation and why?"

The only answer I have ever received has been along the lines of, "Well, that's just what people are saying," which, of course, has left me none the wiser. However, in the past year or so I have heard myself certain people bad-mouthing the CCCS and I have seen a substantial amount of damaging comment in print. The former I cannot quote, since I have no evidence to offer without having to call witnesses (except in the case of tape-recorded meetings), but the latter, because it has been published, is there for anyone to see and judge for themselves.

For example, when, earlier this year, I ordered and received the 1995 back-issues of SC magazine, I was astonished at the negativity contained therein:

"Somewhere good humour seems to be lacking somewhat at the moment is on the CCCS Council. It's currently engaged with bitter in-fighting and bickering...it does potentially threaten the flow of information concerning the circles that CCCS provides..." (No. 37, Jan. '95)

Where does SC get the idea there is a threat to "the flow of information" concerning crop circles? Observant readers of *The Circular* will recognise this phrase: it appeared in one of the last issues of *The Circle Hunter* (now amalgamated with *Circular Review*), when it was claimed (wrongly) that "certain bigwigs in CCCS have tried, and succeeded, to block the flow of information and photos to Barbara Davies" in order to make her last issue of *The Circular* look bad. Indeed, the editor of SC himself was one of those who made much of this at the Branch Convenors' meeting at Alton Barnes in July last year. Although the facts of the matter were made clear to the meeting, nothing by



Various attendees of the Special Meeting/AGM - Richard Shaw

way of explanation appeared in SC.

"Forget any summer conferences, the real fun takes place at the CCCS Annual General Meeting. ANDY THOMAS reports from the front line...Personally I'm rather fond of the yearly CCCS AGM with all its usual amusing pettiness and utter irrelevance to anything actually going on in the fields...Such is the clamour to be on the CCCS Council only one new candidate came forward this year." (No. 40, April '95)

"A new document illustrates the dangers of rushing into 'litmus tests'...such paranoia is beginning to affect the Centre for Crop Circle Studies in some areas and the dangers of falling into this paranoia have been graphically illustrated by recent developments which could yet threaten the smooth flow of new information regarding crop circles...a policy which, if implemented in full, could have seriously debilitating effects on the effectiveness and credibility of CCCS." (No. 42, June '95)

The document referred to is a letter sent to CCCS Branch Convenors by Michael Green, outlining an idea for dowsing crop heads. As indicated in the article, this was not an official document, nor did it reflect CCCS policy, but despite this, SC saw fit to risk spreading misgivings about "the effectiveness and credibility of CCCS" by devoting two pages of criticism to something which was only one person's suggestion and not for general public consumption in the first place.

On the 1995 CCCS Conference: "The Cricklade Theatre...seems to be the perfect conditions for the CCCS to work in, somehow reflecting its own inner state - huge possibilities given the right team effort and the willingness to put aside huge personal ego agendas." (No. 44, Aug. '95)

"Next to *The Circular* (but possibly not for long, given the current disparity with the CCCS membership database, which seems to have lost track of who is a member and who isn't) we now have the largest regular subscription base of any circles publication. So if you have an article or photograph you would like to share with other croppies, SC is the place to do it...Incidentally, on the subject of the main CCCS, we have so far held back (sic) from reporting any of the current shenanigans (see page 8). However, we would be doing our readers a disservice not to convey recent developments, but have tried to be as fair as possible. For the record, SC believes CCCS still has the poten-

tial to be a worthwhile organisation and is not going to take sides in any of the current mud-slinging..." (No. 46, Nov. '95)

Again, needless alarm-raising: CCCS had not lost track of who was or was not a member (although there were individual queries, as with any large mailing list). A serious problem had been created by the fact that two issues in a row of *The Circular* (Winter '94 and Spring '95) had both been about three months overdue. This had resulted in some people's membership running out before they had received the journals they were entitled to. This problem was rectified with due efficiency and generosity, resulting in some people having extended memberships and an extra *Circular* (all explained quite clearly in Issue *24). This did not prevent Barry Reynolds (of the SC team), however, writing to Branch Convenors, "...John Sayer states that he has changed the entire membership renewal process to one that suits him best...I am therefore in the process of informing all members that I can, whose membership has been illegally terminated by John Sayer, that they are in fact still members..." - this just before the Special Meeting/AGM in April 1996, despite the fact that I had already, in January, sent to all Convenors (including Barry Reynolds) a preview of what was to be in the editorial of Issue *24 of *The Circular*. Of course, having been given the impression that the CCCS is in organisational disarray, one might be tempted to respond to the subsequent implied suggestion that material be sent to SC instead of *The Circular* ("SC is the place to do it"). It is also interesting to note that SC clearly considers it to be part of its "service" to readers for the magazine to "convey recent developments" within the CCCS - an example of which is the apparent "current mud-slinging" subsequently mentioned. We then read on page 8, referred to in this editorial:

"DISHARMONIC CONVERGENCE. All is not well within the ranks of the main CCCS; revolution is in the air, although there's hope for the empire yet. ANDY THOMAS examines an organisation on trial...the central body of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies has never been the most harmonious of organisations...it seems very prone to personal squabbles and in-fighting...things have come to a head somewhat in recent months...The flashpoint came this summer when Lucy Pringle...either resigned her post as Hampshire Branch Convenor or was removed, depending on who you listen to. A stream of volatile accusation and denial consequently went back and forth between members of the CCCS Council, covering such subjects as to whether Barbara Davies was coerced into resigning as editor of *The Circular*, the potential misappropriation of funds, misuse of Council authority, objections to alleged secret meetings being held, that sort of thing. Where the truth lies in all this is *debatable and irrelevant* (my emphasis). What it has done is stir up questions about the validity of the organisation in its current state and what it stands for, i.e. does its current structure perform enough of a role to justify its existence?"

Now this is very revealing of both what was apparently going on behind the scenes and how irresponsible, slipshod, inefficient and plain bad journalism can be. First of all - for the record - Lucy Pringle resigned as Hampshire Branch Convenor. This is not "debatable": the documentation speaks for itself. Before implying that a Convenor was "removed", and instead of relying on "who you listen to", the very least SC could have done before propagating

rumours in print was to check the evidence. Likewise, Barbara Davies resigned as editor of *The Circular*. Again, the evidence is there for all to see in the minutes of meetings. "...the potential misappropriation of funds" is precisely what those of us on Council who have been so persistently attacked lately have been campaigning against all this time (which explains why we have been attacked, of course) - and the key word here is "potential". I have no idea what is meant by "misuse of Council authority" and no knowledge of "alleged secret meetings", presumably because, if they have taken place, they were secret. But this is all tacky sensationalist tabloid journalism at its worst, and the dismissive comment that the truth in all this is "debatable and irrelevant" is ominous, to say the least. This is then followed by the unconnected question of whether the CCCS' current structure should continue. None of the above has anything to do with the organisation's *structure*, but is clear indication of the manipulators at work. Here, in a nutshell, we have evidence of the creation of "the circumstances in which public opinion says: Something must be done!" The article continues, "...there is a general lack of confidence in the CCCS' abilities from both members and outsiders alike." If this is the case, then it must be in large part due to what has been published in SC.

"The main Centre for Crop Circle Studies really seems to have sunk to the lowest level of awfulness. Accusations and counterclaims. Letters and resignations. Worst of all, hatreds and terrible insults... And imagine the nightmare if the tabloids got hold of it. 'Crop Circle Cranks Squabble', 'Crop Circle Club Splits'. CCCS. I offer a prize for the best tabloid-style screamer." (Michael Glickman's "Cornography" column, No. 47, Dec. '95)

And how would the tabloids get hold of it? If it was *publicised*, of course. And mixed into a "review" of the CCCS 1996 calendar in the same issue, we read, "...CCCS (sic) have been openly defiant that the selection was made from only those formations which, in their minds, they could be sure of as being 'genuine'...If no pronouncements are ever made with regard to the status of individual formations," (*remember this phrase*) "there can never be a problem. CCCS is showing an unhealthy tendency towards pronouncing and the calendar selection could be construed as just such an endorsement process and the beginning of CCCS censorship; we only get to see what we are allowed to see...The CCCS, in its current state of flux, should be aware that such a high-profile piece of merchandise invariably reflects the condition and aspirations of the entire organisation behind it: if the calendar is seen to fit



Early 1996 "mystery circle" - see p. 34

this model, people may not like what they find."

So now it is being hinted that the CCCS might be in the business of censoring information about crop circles...But to the CCCS' rescue (or is it?) comes Anthony Cheke, Oxford Branch Convenor, in the letters page of SC No. 49, Feb. '96, where he says that the calendar project was "hijacked". Actually, it was *rescued*: CCCS didn't have the spare cash to risk financing another calendar. (It is the members' - *our* - money involved, it should be remembered.) Christine Green generously offered to pay for the printing of the calendar. Anthony Cheke lists the members of the Publications Committee, but omits my own; Lucy Pringle was *invited* to sit on the committee for the calendar project *only*. In the event, because of the circumstances, the calendar was no longer a matter for the Publications Committee to deal with, and for it to go ahead with Christine's sponsorship was approved by four of the five committee members (the fifth being Anthony Cheke). His letter ends, "The publications committee is now defunct." As a member of both the Publications Committee and Council, this is news to me.

Meanwhile back in the same issue of SC containing the comments on the calendar and the business of the CCCS "pronouncing" on the genuineness or otherwise of formations (remember the phrase?), we find on page 7 a photograph of the West Stowell "quintuplet" formation, with the comment "...which is now known to be a hoax! Those responsible deny any connection to the Brockwood Park formations" - with no further explanation of this "pronouncement". This mystery is possibly clarified, however, in SC No. 52, May '96, in an article by Karen Douglas, editor of *Circular Review* (incorporating *The Circle Hunter* - remember *The Circle Hunter?*), which explains why she and Steve Alexander "took part in...an experiment to construct and examine a man-made crop circle", and which is accompanied by a photograph by Steve Alexander taken from inside the formation which shows, to the discerning croppie, the landscape of the Pewsey Vale beyond the West Stowell formation.

In the introduction to an article contributed by Michael Green in No. 50, March '96, we read, "His intense interest in the metaphysical aspects of the circle phenomenon has inspired both individuals and *the CCCS as a whole* (my emphasis) to explore the possibilities of communicating with the circlemaking forces in addition to simply admiring their handiwork..."

Whatever individual members may be doing, it is not the policy of the CCCS "as a whole" to either attempt communication with the circlemaking forces or simply admire their handiwork. As stated in our constitution, the main object of the Centre is "*to study the occurrence of crop circle and related phenomena and to disseminate its findings.*"

"IN THE BLEAK MID-WINTER. As the Centre for Crop Circle Studies appeared to be disintegrating in the provinces around it...given the disastrous internal squabbles which the main organisation found itself embroiled in during this winter period...At the Winter Lectures, all ego and power struggles were put aside..." (No. 52, May '96)

On the 1996 AGM: "THE BRINK OF DISASTER. The Centre for Crop Circle Studies had its hand on the red button to self-destruct, after months of bitter in-fighting. But somewhere it slipped off the path to destruction...saving

itself in the nick of time...No-one should be denied the chance to celebrate the reclamation of CCCS from the jaws of disaster...the once proud edifice of the CCCS has been pulled back from the brink of squabble-induced self-destruction..." (No. 52, May '96)

Of course there have been differences of opinion, arguments even, among CCCS members (on Council or otherwise) - but so what? Throughout, the research has continued, the logging of data has continued, the dissemination of information has continued, *The Circular* has continued, all the *work* of the organisation has continued - in short, the CCCS has continued to function and improve despite what transpires between individuals in it - because the CCCS is all about studying the phenomenon of crop circles and disseminating its findings, not creating a mutual-admiration society of self-perpetuating "crop circle celebrities" touting their commercial products.

Does any of this really matter? one might ask. Well, yes, it does - because although most of what was agreed at the Special Meeting and AGM on 20th. April was common sense and not disputed anyway, there will be repercussions of certain aspects of what was voted for which were not realised by those who thought they were involved in an honest exercise in improving the running of the CCCS,

and because all this scare-mongering about "the brink of disaster", "the path to destruction", "disintegrating", "bit-ter in-fighting and bickering which potentially threaten the flow of information" etc. etc. etc. has done nothing to assist or support the CCCS in its work, but has helped to "create the circumstances in which public opinion says: Something must be done!" And, of course, "Once that stage has been achieved...the manipulators step forward in the guise of standing up for the people and offer 'solutions' to the problems they themselves have created in the first place. Those 'solutions' will be precisely the measures the manipulators wanted to happen all along..."

And now? Presumably SC will continue regardless to denigrate the CCCS or individual members of it - possibly with renewed vigour now that someone has dared to respond. After all, no one has passed a motion forbidding "personal attacks" by anyone, even members of the CCCS, in their own private publications (nor, it should be noted, in Branch newsletters) - the gagging order applies only to *The Circular*. It will be interesting to see what "solutions" are on offer in the wake of the Special Meeting and AGM - and who it is who is offering them.

A funny thing happened on the way to this year's AGM, but I don't think we'll be hearing a lot of laughter.

POSTSCRIPT

COUNCIL & BRANCH CONVENOR ELECTIONS 1996

Since there were 6 vacancies and 6 candidates, the following have been returned unopposed as members of Council as of 1st. August 1996:

Richard Andrews
George Bishop
Peter Henden
Simon Lackford
Margaret Novakovic
Busty Taylor

14 candidates stood for Branch Convenorships, and are likewise returned unopposed as follows:

Cornwall - Simon Lackford
Devon - George Bishop
Dorset - David Kingston
East Midlands - Tony Caldicott
Essex - Peter Henden
Gloucester - Jim Waring
Hampshire - Leonie Starr
Hereford - Andrew Waddington
Kent - Joyce Galley
Oxford - Jeremy Kay
Scotland - John Plowman
Somerset - Roland Pargeter
Sussex - Barry Reynolds
Wiltshire - Francine Blake

(No candidates stood for any other county/Branch.)

UPDATE ON GERMAN CIRCLES

Further information has been provided by Clemens Richter of the FGK, concerning three more circles discovered about five miles east of the first three - in rye, a/c, 19m, 6m, and 4m diameter. All six are near Schleswig, south of the Danish border. The photo below, from Clemens, shows the two barley circles reported first.



The competition in Issue *24 was won by Jennifer Kay - who doesn't have to subscribe to *The Cerealogist*, but wins a year's subscription to a Mystery Magazine! The winning answer remains a secret...

This issue's competition is to identify the circle on page 33, which epitomises what it's all about - intrigue, fascination, wonder - and mystery in the fields! Answers on a postcard, please.

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EDITOR OF THE MONTHLY
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