



THE BIMONTHLY
JOURNAL OF
CROP CIRCLES
AND BEYOND

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'Dark
Moon'
Reviewed

Squiggle
Formations

The
'Desert Man'
of Adelaide

Human
Geometry
At Silbury

Reinterpreting
ET 'Evidence'

"People don't give lectures - they share their consciousness"
STANLEY MESSENGER

Anyone who hasn't already seen our advance publicity will certainly have noticed the back page advertisement this issue for the *SC Bonanza III*, SC's own live get-together, to take place on May 8th in the main hall of our headquarters at Burgess Hill, West Sussex. Those who attended our previous events in 1995 and 1997 will know what an enjoyable event this should be and we've got a terrific line-up of speakers. Your ticket entitles you to a vegetarian lunch (sorry, you carnivores) and refreshments will be served throughout the day. Please note the additional guest name of Mary Hykel Hunt since our initial flyers went out. Mary's an expert in sacred labyrinths and hopes to actually construct one on the floor of the hall for people to walk.

All the names on the 'bill' are more than worth their salt but one speaker whose presentation will no doubt be crucial listening is Dr Mae-Wan Ho, one of the most active and outspoken critics of the genetically modified food movement which seems to be invading our lives without our consent or understanding. You may remember Sue Livingston's excellent article in *SC 76/77* which provoked the most reaction to any piece we've yet run and has been reproduced in other journals since. The whole issue of genetic tampering in our food chain has been big news in the media recently but already it's slipping from general attention and the public, despite the outcry, seems all too eager to be reassured by the nonsensical and glib claims from our government and the GM food manufacturers that nothing can go wrong. Everyone is desperate to be reassured because the consequences of a worst-case scenario are too frightening to contemplate. So, if for no other reason (but there are many others!), come along to the SCB not to be frightened but to find out the real science and the real issues involved in the GM debate and to discover what you can do to empower yourself and others to balance this potential threat from those putting greed before common sense.

Don't leave it too late to book your tickets for the SCB though. Tickets are limited and on both previous occasions we have had to turn late applicants away to much weeping and grinding of teeth, etc. Ticket-holders only will be admitted and there will be no bartering/bribing at the door! Please DON'T write to the editorial address for tickets, however, but to the address shown on the flyer/info page.

Amongst our many articles of interest this issue is Michael Clickman's piece about human interaction with agriglyph geometry. We should point out that this has already appeared on Michael's *Crop Circle Radius* web site and - for the one and only time due to restrictions in Michael's schedule this month - part of his *Cornography* column is also derived from a web piece. This is something we try in general to avoid and readers should be assured that it's not a habit we intend to get into. Our intention is always to run home-grown pieces or original articles which have not previously appeared elsewhere, when possible, so if you're thinking of submitting a piece to all crop circle journals/web sites at the same time, don't send it to us! Other sources, printed or Net-based, may reproduce SC articles later, as with Sue Livingston's piece, but we always try to have 'firsts'. However, sometimes we feel there are subjects which deserve to reach those not on the Internet, hence the occasional reproduction in SC.

Lastly, look out sometime in April for BBC 2's *Esther* programme, which should feature (if briefly) myself, Marcus Allen and Reg Presley versus 'circlemaker' Will Russell...
ANDY THOMAS

SC

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A few issues back we reported that Jason Porthouse was up for a prestigious 'Emmy' award for video editing. We thought you might like to know that... he WON! Here's the photo to prove it, taken at the LA Awards ceremony...

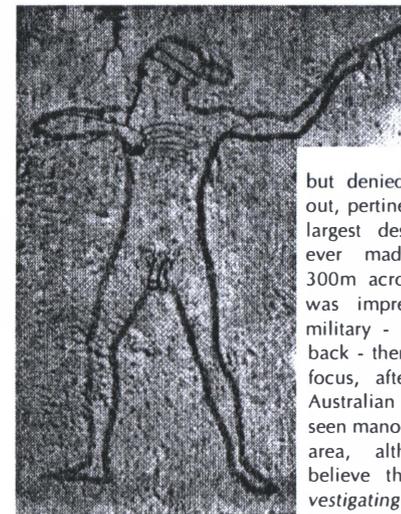


Front cover: Cheriton, Hampshire, August 1998. Photograph by STEVE ALEXANDER

Way, way back in SC 18 (June 1993), we reported the saga of the huge 'sriyantra' - a kind of complex Indian mandala - found etched into a dry lake bed in Oregon. Its dimensions were immense (about a mile across) and its accuracy astonishing. After a big fuss in the local US media, in a scenario depressingly familiar to crop circle aficionados, a local 'artist' and his mates eventually laid claim to it. The demonstration 'art' they then made using a mechanical cultivator bore no resemblance whatsoever to the quality of the original but the media accepted their story anyway and so the mystery was conveniently buried in the time-honoured fashion.

In the summer of 1998, a similar situation presented itself in southern Australia. As some of you may have seen in the British media, which has sporadically reported on the unfolding saga, a colossal 4km-long figure of a naked Aboriginal human figure was discovered ploughed into a plateau in the desert 600km north of Adelaide. The design was fluid, accomplished and rather beautiful. Each line which made up the pattern was around 90' wide and the total circumference of the figure was a staggering 28km..! Whatever or whoever made it, it wasn't just mucking about. Indeed, it has been claimed as the largest single piece of art ever found.

Named 'Marree Man' after the local area, the accusations began to fly pretty quickly. Chris Headley, an Australian



The Marree Man - 4km long!

artist who has created several pieces of land art, was first suspected

but denied it, pointing out, pertinently, that the largest design he had ever made was just 300m across - and he was impressed. The military - that old fall-back - then became the focus, after reports of Australian army vehicles seen manoeuvring in the area, although some believe they were investigating the mysteri-

ous appearance. The US military also fell under scrutiny as American servicemen stationed at Woomera had been considering the preparation of a commemorative desert etching before pulling their forces out within the next two years but again there was a categorical denial (for what that's worth from the military).

- NEWS -

The World is Full of MARREE MAN

The largest representation of a human figure ever found appeared in the Adelaide desert last year. The subsequent intrigue, accusations and mysterious faxes sent around the globe have led to its inevitable dismissal as a publicity 'prank'. ANDY THOMAS reports on the background to the 'Marree Man' and its depressing routine trivialisation...

In time, everyone from Aboriginal protestors to workers from the Western Mining Corporation (also in the area) became suspects, with little evidence in any direction. Incredibly - or perhaps deliberately - with all the accusations flying, barely anyone stopped to consider how Marree Man might have been created. Such a feat would be a Herculean task and on such a scale would almost certainly require serious surveying techniques and possibly satellite-linked global positioning systems to ensure the accuracy displayed. Close-up photos show each line is made up of a number of strips, which suggests some kind of ploughing instrument may have been pulled in successive relays, but to know just where to manoeuvre to such a detailed degree, when on that scale any element of the design would be completely indiscernible on the ground, would be a major challenge to say the least.

At last, as if to fill the uncomfortable vacuum of uncertainty surrounding the whole business, inevitably the easy answer came and allowed everyone to relax into disinterested ignorance again. A series of cryptic faxes began to be made to the Australian media, giving mysterious and elusive clues to the purpose, if not the origins, of Marree Man. And then the mystery touched our shores with the arrival of similar faxes to pubs and hotels surrounding the famous chalk hill figures of England. First the village of Cerne Abbas, Dorset, home to the beclubbed and rather well-endowed 'giant', was contacted and then, closer to SC's home (and a well-known crop circle site) hostellers around the 'Long Man of Wilmington' received instructions directing them to a site near the Long Man himself. Local newspapers and TV crews had already been alerted and were waiting for them. Digging unearthed a container with three laminated cards within, giving clues as to the whys of Marree Man, but again with no reference to the hows. On the cards were the following:

"The Maala Hunt (their apparent name for Marree Man) and the concept of a large-scale mystery were created for two reasons only: As a potentially permanent benefit to the state of South Australia through increased tourism and international profile, and also to honor the proud way of life and inherently athletic pursuits of the indigenous

people for the Sydney Olympiad."

And so Marree Man - the largest representation of a human being found in history - has been written off as a cheap advert for Australian tourism and a plug for the forthcoming Sydney Olympics. This, like Doug and Dave's circular exploits and the Oregon sriyantra claims, has been accepted without a single shred of evidence nor a rational explanation of how it might have been achieved. The faxes' unknown authors only imply creatorship of the figure but most seem happy not to question further. The faxes have worked perfectly as a trivial distraction from other issues and stranger potential explanations which might have arrived otherwise and people seem eager to sweep the whole matter under the carpet. Those one might think would be impressed have simply carped. Early reports that used toilet paper was found in the area soon after were enough for some to dismiss it. (Find a 4km square area of English countryside that doesn't have loo paper, a discarded tampon or used condom somewhere and you'd be doing well.) Most Australians (reportedly, anyway) have

Thirty years ago Man landed on the Moon. Given public focus by the then US president John Kennedy in May 1961, he challenged his nation to "...achieving the goal, before the decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to Earth". The race was on.

A great nation mobilised its industry, its talent and its energies to fulfil their, by then, dead President's dream. Not just once, but six times men landed on, walked and drove across, photographed, measured and returned with bits of the Moon.

The greatest scientific achievement of this or maybe any other century had been accomplished; and the astronauts had 'gone in peace for all Mankind.' The whole world acknowledged and applauded the bravery of those men, the scale of their project and the thrill of being included in each step of their mission. Because we saw the photographs, watched the films and videos, listened to the interviews, read the books, we knew it happened just the way we had been told.

No! It did not happen that way at all.

When we young we are taught to tell the truth. We should not tell lies because we will eventually get found out. *Dark Moon* is about being found out. It is a brave, timely and inevitable book. It is the book some will dread reading but

condemned the figure as crass "vandalism", and even local Aboriginal tribes, who one might have thought would feel complimented, have branded it "offensive" and consider it an inflammatory intervention (from whoever) into local ongoing tribal land rights disagreements.

There well may be a mundane explanation for Marree Man's appearance but the wider moral of the story is what's of interest to crop circle enthusiasts. Isn't it telling how quickly people at large are prepared to accept the flimsiest of explanations - if they can be called that - to make their world seem cosily explicable again? Those wanting to claim crop circle hoaxes need never bother with demonstrations again. As has recently been seen, courtesy of Matthew Williams, just fax or e-mail a few claims and insinuations around and many will simply give in without even a whimper of questioning. **AT**

With thanks to Grace Blaker for sending Australian press cuttings (inevitably more substantial than British reports) and to David Stott of the Crossways Hotel, Wilmington, who I personally interviewed after reading local press reports.

one which many more will welcome: it exposes a monumental deception perpetrated on us all. We have been systematically lied to, deceived and misled by those who by their position and knowledge we expect to trust - scientists. Where are the astronomers, astrophysicists, biologists, chemists, cosmologists, designers, engineers,

photographers, physicists and the editors and reporters who failed to speak out? If they really were all blind we are in deep trouble.

That it took the determined and meticulous research of David Percy, and the eloquent and lucid writing of Mary Bennett to produce this magnificent book is testament to their integrity.

From the small boy who points out that 'The Emperor isn't wearing any clothes', to the disintegration of the Kingdom is but a small step. So it is

with the Apollo Moon landings. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi "An error can never become true however many times you repeat it. The truth can never be wrong, even if no one ever hears about it".

Dark Moon tells of the truth discovered in a journey which began by looking at one of the most famous photographs ever taken: Man on the Moon, allegedly shot by Neil Armstrong showing 'Buzz' Aldrin on the Lunar surface. Knowing the equipment used and the extreme conditions of

temperature and radiation present on the Moon, scientific analysis is used to demonstrate conclusively that this picture was taken on Earth with controlled, artificial lighting. Once you know what to look for all the Apollo photographs are suspect. With over 400 pictures in *Dark Moon* the numerous flaws and inconsistencies soon become obvious. And you start to become angry, initially with the authors - this is understandable, they are the people who have darkened the dream - then with yourself for having been hoodwinked for so long. Eventually this too passes and your energy is redirected to ensuring that never again will you allow such a travesty to occur.

In our modern world of visual communications we have a right not to be misled. Those who go out to record our world and its activities have a responsibility to ensure we will see what they saw. When we are asked to look at a photograph, or a film taken on the Moon, then that is where we must assume it was taken. Anything else is propaganda. *Dark Moon*, with over 500 pages, is in three parts. First is *Foreground Action* - the 'how' of the Apollo records; interviews with Hasselblad and Kodak, whose products were used on the Apollo project, unwittingly revealing the inadequacies of their equipment to operate in space; details, clearly explained, about the 'show stopper' of Man's exploration of space - radiation. Earth is protected, space is not, so a man on the Moon, as unprotected as the astronauts were, should be dead; and the extremes of temperature: as hot as an oven (+250 F) in sunlight and colder than anywhere on Earth in the shade (-250F). With no atmosphere in space to retain heat, the switch from hot to cold is immediate.

The account of who was really behind the great rockets of both the American and Soviet space programmes is as surprising as it is comprehensive. In mid 1945 the Allies divided the spoils of war. Personnel, research and equipment at Peenemunde, from where the V1 and V2 were launched against England, were selected and transferred to the USA and USSR. That they were Nazis did not matter, they were needed for their knowledge. So began the German influence on both sides of the Iron Curtain. There never was a 'space race'. How could there have been when everything was being carefully planned in advance? Part Two of *Dark Moon* - *Middle Distance*, looks at this planning, such as Project Horizon and the establishment of NASA. A strange hybrid is NASA, officially a civilian agency but financed by the US government and acting as the public face of the Department of Defence's own extensive but secret space programme. Is it any wonder that it often lives up to its reputation of giving 'Never A Straight Answer'?

As the authors found during their research, there was a great deal more going on behind the scenes than had previously been thought likely: "If it is of any consolation to the reader, we too at first could not believe what we were uncovering as our investigation proceeded. Yet as each new stone was turned over, it revealed a conspiracy of labyrinthine proportions".

Dark Moon is not a conspiracy theory book. When the

evidence is presented so clinically, with every fact doubled checked and confirmed, in some cases by initially sceptical specialists, then it is facts on which we can now base our decisions. Not propaganda.

We may choose to ignore the facts because they may lead us to a conclusion with which we are still uncomfortable. It is natural to want Mankind to reach for the stars and to explore beyond each new frontier. So if we accept the evidence of *Dark Moon*, do those dreams die too? No. Quite the reverse.

The first two sections of *Dark Moon* and their evidence stand alone in their own right. It is the third section - *Background Exploration* - which carries the story into the future where, in the words of the authors, "We come to other related subjects which some will find, yes, even harder to accept". At this point one should recall the involvement of Mary Bennett in editing the second edition of *The Only Planet of Choice* and of David Percy in co-writing the book *Two Thirds* and his work with Richard Hoagland in explaining the significance of the Cydonia Complex on Mars and its counterpart on Earth.

That crop circles are a part of this story (with several photographs of formations) should not be a surprise. The authors take us on a journey of possibilities, one where the view is unfamiliar and many may feel it safer to remain behind. But persevere and you will be involved in a voyage of discovery to which our future may well be leading us anyway. It is far from the brute force of rockets and the politics of winner-takes-all. It is the new world of consciousness and our place in the far greater universe in which energy is abundant, free and powerful, and in which our potential as individuals and as a race can be fulfilled.

That is the strength of *Dark Moon*, despite it being in effect two books, one a detailed and sober account of a dream turned nightmare, balanced and complemented by a vision of the future as exciting as it is unexpected. These two books have to exist together. They are two sides of the same coin.

If you have ever wondered about the Apollo moon landings and whether the stories about them being somehow faked or a hoax may be true, then *Dark Moon* has the answers. Just one example: if Apollo 13 had not had its accident, it was scheduled to land at a site called Fra Mauro on April 13 1970. On this date, the location would have been in total darkness! Not much good for photography (hence the cryptic diagram on the cover and the double meaning of the title). It is such an obvious mistake and so easily checked, one wonders why it took so long to spot it. Perhaps we were just not ready for the implications.

This is an essential book for anyone who has ever wondered how a conspiracy is created and how the 'knowledge filter' works to keep it in place. Now we can move on. The future will not only be more exciting than we can imagine, but far, far more dramatic. For showing us a part of that future, we should thank the two authors of *Dark Moon*. **MA**

Dark Moon: Apollo and the Whistleblowers, 568pp, Aulis Publishers 1999, ISBN 1 898541 108. £16.99 Available from all good bookshops or through Nexus Magazine, 55 Queens Road, East Grinstead, RH19 1BC.

- REVIEWS -
**DARK SIDE OF THE
MOON**

Mary Bennett and David Percy's new and weighty book is an ambitious - and pretty convincing - attempt to demonstrate that the NASA Moon photos were faked and that the truth of the Apollo missions has not been told. Throw in crop circles, Nazi scientists, Martian monuments and free energy and you have *Dark Moon*. MARCUS ALLEN delves in...

To one degree or another, crop circles and UFOs have always been considered bedfellows. But where does the notion come from? Is there any evidence for a link? Before investigation into crop circles began in the early 1980s, 'UFO nests' were a common component of ufological lore. But are UFO nests and crop circles the same thing? Compare the UFO literature of the 1950s to 1970s with what we now know of crop circles. Many nest incidents featured rings or circles, with the flattening and swirl now deemed agriglyph characteristics, and were often reported in conjunction with UFO sightings and encounters (see Terry Wilson's *Secret History of Crop Circles* for details of individual cases). Such events are today classified as crop circles.

It is therefore unsurprising that many early crop circle researchers were ufologists, often of the 'nuts and bolts' school. Throughout the 1980s it still seemed possible that the circles could be the result of an as yet unclassified meteorological phenomenon, though by the advent of the pictograms in 1990, most researchers had dismissed the idea entirely. For many, pictograms displayed evidence of intelligent design. To some, this intelligence could only be extraterrestrial. Coupled with an increased media interest (ET being more newsworthy than freak weather) and the evolving complexity of the formations, the notion seems to have stuck. Even today, many outside - and sometimes inside - the croppie fraternity deem that there can only be two explanations; that the circles are the creations either of jolly pranksters or of aliens.

What evidence is there to support this assumption? Unidentified aerial phenomena have many times been reported in and around crop circles, before and after formation; I know of few circles investigators who have not seen them. Reports vary from strange luminosities to balls or tubes of light, to airborne objects of differing shapes and sizes to 'structured craft'. One reportee tells of beings leaving a craft which had been seen to land near Silbury Hill. Others describe these unknown objects making crop circles. Many UFO nest stories also include lights, aerial anomalies and 'structured' or 'metallic' 'craft' (see - amongst others - Michael Hesemann's *The Cosmic Connection* for both circle and UFO nest reports). The problem is that a nuts and bolts ufological interpretation does not sit neatly with all the data. This does not mean we should doubt that many of those relating

tales of UFO sightings and extraterrestrial encounters are describing actual incidents, but whether one reads such accounts as literal meetings with physical beings from another planet is a different matter.

Such stories are not new. Throughout human history and from all continents one finds reports of people having contact with exotic beings of one form or another. These entities are variously referred to as faeries, elves, manikins, sylphs, demons, angels, incubi, succubi, and gentry, amongst other names. From our cosy 20th Century viewpoint it is easy to dismiss such stories as delusion or primitive folly, but a longer look reveals a number of similarities with contemporary extraterrestrial and UFO reports (such evidence is too weighty to include here; the curious are referred to the work of Jacques Vallee, in particular *Passport To Magonia* and *Dimensions*). Anomalous lights and aerial phenomena including disc and other-shaped craft, abduction, transit to alien realms, missing time, bodily paralysis and trace-marks, the stealing of human babies for cross-breeding and a host of other parallels are all found in such 'folk tales'. It is also worth remembering that before this century circular damage in fields and grass was attributed to faeries, devils, and similar entities. One could argue that extraterrestrials have been visiting us (and making crop circles) for a very long time, but further analysis suggests something quite different.

An increasing number of ufologists are beginning to suspect that UFOs and their occupants might not be extraterrestrial at all. It seems that this phenomenon - whatever its nature - has always been with us but adapts to the cultures and myth systems in which it occurs. To put it in simplified terms, when people lived close to the land such entities were defined as faeries and nature-spirits. Within Christianity's dominion they were angels and demons. To a scientifically literate age, questioning its place in the cosmos, they are extraterrestrials. Characteristically mischievous and sometimes blatant liars, it is imperative to remember that such entities may well not be what they manifest as, or what they claim to be. They also do not behave as physical objects. Both UFOs and their occupants are seen to change shape, size and colour, appear and disappear, and move in fashions that defy physics. To excuse this as advanced technology is too easy an escape route.

- FEATURES -

The MYTH of the ET CIRCLEMAKERS?!

Barry Reynolds' review of *The Secret History of Crop Circles* last issue took the ET-biased perspective of the book to task to the approval of some and the annoyance of others. What is the evidence to support the case that crop circles are alien communications and can it not be interpreted differently, asks DARREN FRANCIS..?

Several options present themselves; either the source of these events is something outside of us and can take shape however it chooses, or it stems from within the human brain, or a combination of the two.

How do we choose which scenario to favour? The difficulty is that our interpretations are inevitably coloured by our paradigms. Take for example those pesky balls of light (BOLs), seen so often around crop formations. I recently read an article describing them as alien probes. It's a pity that proponents of differing fields don't get together more often. Paul Devereux describes glowing BOLs, termed 'earth lights', which can be generated under conditions of tectonic stress at certain points on Earth. Such lights have also been replicated in the laboratory (as has ball lightning). Devereux's earth lights may or may not be what were previously called fairy lights. Wilhelm Reich categorised similar objects as orgone bioforms. Mystics have described being able to conjure and interact with BOLs whilst in meditative states. Andrew Collins also reports on the capability of mustering and guiding BOLs. And just as the previously mentioned entities are variously interpreted in different periods and cultures, so are the BOLs; as spirits, faeries, gateways to other realms, UFOs. Proximity to sacred sites has also been documented (Collins, Devereux).

The behaviour of BOLs indicates that, whether or not they are intelligent in and of themselves, they are sensitive to consciousness. Earth lights are described as being able to flash 'on' and 'off' at will, be visible from some angles but not from others, appear to be flat yet simultaneously have depth, react to observers, 'seem to hover on the very edge of normal physical reality' (Devereux), and have a playful curiosity with humans, sometimes 'monitoring' or playing tag with them (and perhaps also with helicopters).

Devereux, Michael Persinger, and other writers report that proximity to these BOLs can have a startling effect on the temporal lobe region of the brain, inducing altered states, and - on occasion - 'instant trips' to Magonia / Land of Summer's Twilight / belly of the mothership / (insert preferred destination). Jenny Randles terms this type of experience the 'Oz Factor'. Time loss, sensations of floating, the presence of exotic beings etc, are characteristic features of such experiences. Laboratory experiments involving electromagnetic stimulation of the same brain regions have produced similar results, causing some to bracket these events as hallucinations. Albert Budden writes that propinquity to electromagnetic 'hot spots', both natural and artificial (radio-wave antennae, television transmitter masts, high-tension cables etc) can induce the same effects. It may also be the case that individuals with a higher electromagnetic sensitivity are more prone to such experiences, which would explain why some people have them and others don't.

Does this mean that all entity encounters are hallucinations, caused by proximity to exotic lights or electromagnetic hot spots? The consistency and volume of reports throughout the ages suggests that something very

real is happening, whether it is an actual encounter or a set of symptoms which the brain consistently interprets as such, filtered invariably by the culture of the participant. The ethnopsychologist Holger Kalweit reminds us that virtually all of the world's shamanic traditions describe access to boundless extradimensional realms, peopled by beings of one nature or another. It is the shaman's role to enter these realms and return, bringing back the knowledge of what is found there. Descriptions of such journeys are similar not only to tales of faerie and other lands but also to contemporary extraterrestrial reports (as is the fact that shamanic voyages are often 'for the good of the tribe', that the extradimensional dwellers can provide healing or assistance; ie, the conviction that ET / angels will come down and save you). This indicates a common worldwide stem to these experiences, whether within or without the mind of the participant. In such circumstances words like 'hallucination' do not hold much relevance. It seems that while such phenomena are not purely creations of the human brain, nor do they have an objective reality. It is a mutual process, the naming games we play being distractions.

What has all this to do with crop circles? Much investigation needs to be undertaken into how these many areas may or may not overlap. The parallels are intriguing and suggestive. There is evidence to suggest that the human mind - individually and collectively - may (or may be able to) play a part in the creation of crop circles, that it can tap into the circle-making method and even 'will' crop circles into being (see Collins, Thomas). This process could work both ways and at a conscious and unconscious level. How it nests with the BOLs and their effect upon the human mind is still open to conjecture. A clue may perhaps be found in the considerable research by Lucy Pringle into electromagnetic and other anomalies recorded within crop circles.

If we are ever going to understand what is actually going on in the fields of England and beyond, we have to take a far wider view, incorporating many diverse areas of study. We must learn to retain multiple paradigms - and to switch between paradigms - if we are to fathom these mysteries, which may only be the by-product of a process that goes far deeper. Our involvement may well be the key, with a final solution far more curious than extraterrestrials zipping around our airspace and on occasion etching communiqués into our crop fields. **DF**

Sources: UFOs: *Psychic Close Encounters*, Albert Budden, Blandford 1995 / *The Circlemakers*, Andrew Collins, ABC Books 1992 / *Earthmind*, Paul Devereux, Destiny Books 1992 / *The Cosmic Connection*, Michael Hesemann, Gateway 1996 / *Flying Saucers: A Modern Myth of Things Seen in the Sky*, C J Jung, 1959 / *Chaotopia!*, Dave Lee, Attractor 1997 / *The Holographic Universe*, Michael Talbot, HarperCollins 1991 / *Quest for Contact*, Andy Thomas & Paul Bura, SB Publications 1997 / *Passport to Magonia*, Jacques Vallee, 1970 / *Dimensions*, Jacques Vallee, Souvenir Press 1988 / *The Cosmic Trigger*, Robert Anton Wilson, 1977 / *The Secret History of Crop Circles*, Terry Wilson, CCCS 1998.

Thank you Vivienne Francis for additional research.

Over the years, there have been a number of reports concerning long, thin winding pathways found in fields, which look as if someone has driven round and round in a motor mower but actually display crop circle lay features. One problem is that the mower/prank assumption has led people to simply ignore such patterns

when they might demand more attention. In SC 80, we reported such a formation at Furze Hill, Wiltshire, a long zigzag in a very late crop of oilseed rape which arrived in mid-August. The criss-crossing lines reached from one end of a thin field strip to the other, somewhat resembling a sound-wave (which might be worth checking out sometime) - see photo opposite. First spotted from the air by

Debbi Sprinkle while microlighting, tracking it down on the ground was more difficult. Debbi and I set out one misty morning, aerial photo and ordnance survey map in hand, and trekked from the car park at Knap Hill (overlooking the East Field) to search for it. After uncertainty and a fair bit of walking along the Wansdyke path - the field was only accessible from farm tracks - we finally spotted a dash of yellow in amongst the grey and made our way to the bizarre pathways. The floor of the pattern certainly looked like circle lay flow in places, but we couldn't be sure. Although it changed as it flowed, on average the path width was around 7' to 9'. Grouse feeder troughs lined the edge of the strip. We began to suspect that maybe this was some kind of farmer's test site, and that maybe the paths were for the birds, confirmed further when we found a parked tractor nearby attached to a large roller, the width of which could have accounted for the paths at some points of it at least. On the other hand, the flow was not continuous - sometimes the lay would change direction in the middle of a path or where the lines crossed in a manner which seemed inconsistent with an implement being towed - how could a tractor turn around on the spot? The rape stems didn't seem overtly crushed either, although the formation must have been a week or so old by then. (Why was such an isolated small crop of rape being grown so late in the year?) A Land Rover pulled up while we were at the edge of the field and the farmer spoke to us. He was polite and didn't seem to know anything about the lines. So the mystery remained.

Recently, we received the photo of this formation

shown opposite from Kevin Constant, after he read our brief report in SC 80. He also found it and spoke to the farmer at the time, who "declared that he had no idea of how it actually got there". Kevin then sent us a further photograph (also opposite), taken by Russell Stannard, of another squiggle-type formation at Sharnbrook, near

Bedford, either from 1994 or 1995 (no-one seems quite sure). This looks more like a classic motor-mower attempt but who can say? Maybe further light can be thrown on these types of formations by Barry Reynolds, who, in 1997 filed the following, hitherto unpublished, report on an event at Broadway Farm, Berkhamstead, near Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire:

- FEATURES -

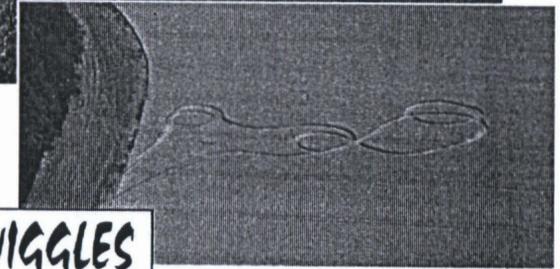
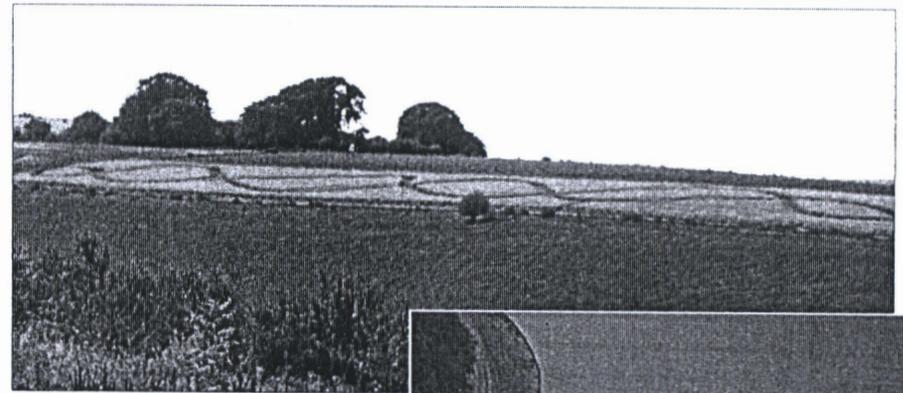
SQUIGGLES

Each year, a handful of squiggle-like markings appear in the fields and are either ignored or dismissed as the work of mad mower fiends. But should we be taking more notice of these strange, and in some cases very large, formations? **ANDY THOMAS, with the help of BARRY REYNOLDS & KEVIN CONSTANT, looks a little deeper into a few examples...**

This formation was first seen on 2nd August 1997 while on a narrow boat holiday on the Grand Union Canal. Whilst negotiating the lock at TL 010 070 to the east of Hemel Hempstead, I noticed some strange lines in a field to the south-west (at TL 008 068). Although the lines did not at first appear to be the typical geometric patterns that we have come to expect I thought they were worth checking out so later on cycled back to the field.

I was astonished to find a series of lines and semicircles covering between one and two miles across the field underneath high-voltage electricity transmission cables. The lines were of an extremely standard width (between five and six feet) and showed the best flowing I had ever seen. The 'standing curtain' effect (a line of upright stems) was visible on the crossing point of every single tramline across the entire field. As the photographs and diagram (opposite) show, this was one of the longest and most bizarre crop formations to date. Sadly, the farmer thought it had been done by "gypsies". Presumably, either the axles had broken on their caravans or they were using quaint sledges...

We may never know what made this and other long meandering pathways like them but considering that, as Barry states, the Hemel Hempstead ones continued for the equivalent of a mile to two miles in length, that's a fair amount of effort for a joke. Whatever, further investigation is needed. **AT**



SQUIGGLES

ABOVE: The Furze Hill zigzag. Photo: KEVIN CONSTANT

ABOVE RIGHT: Sharnbrook, '94-95. Photo: RUSSELL STANNARD

LEFT & RIGHT: The Berkhamstead pathways. Photos: BARRY REYNOLDS

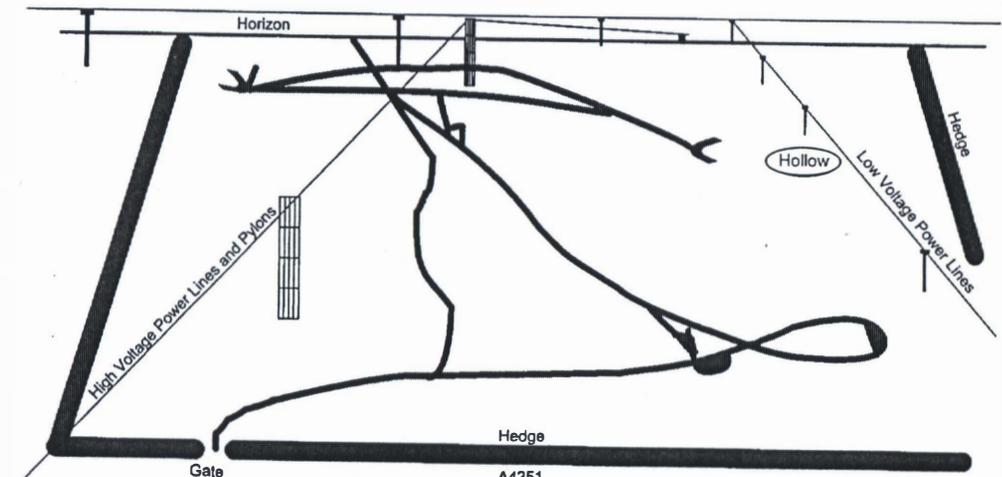
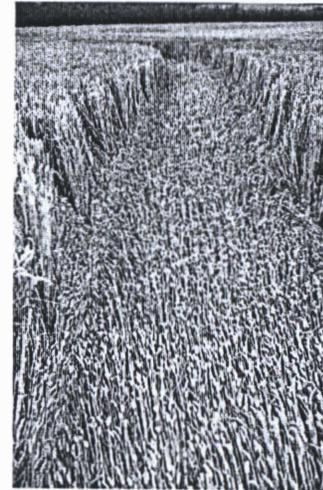
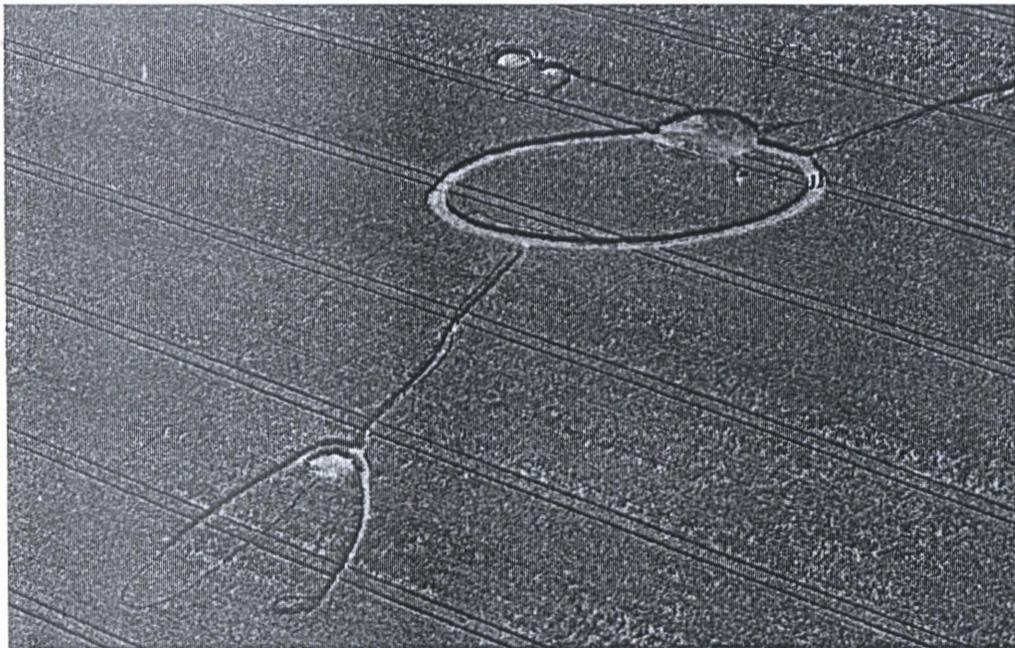
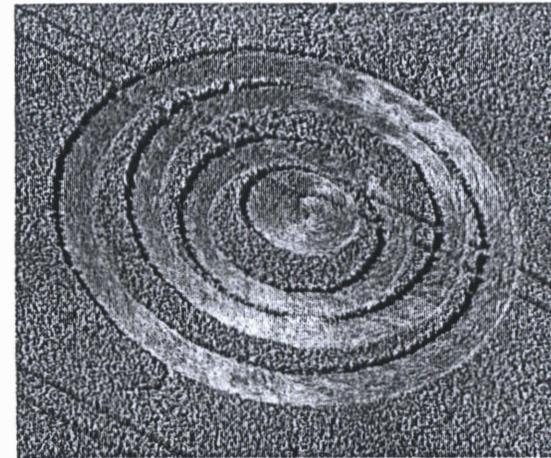
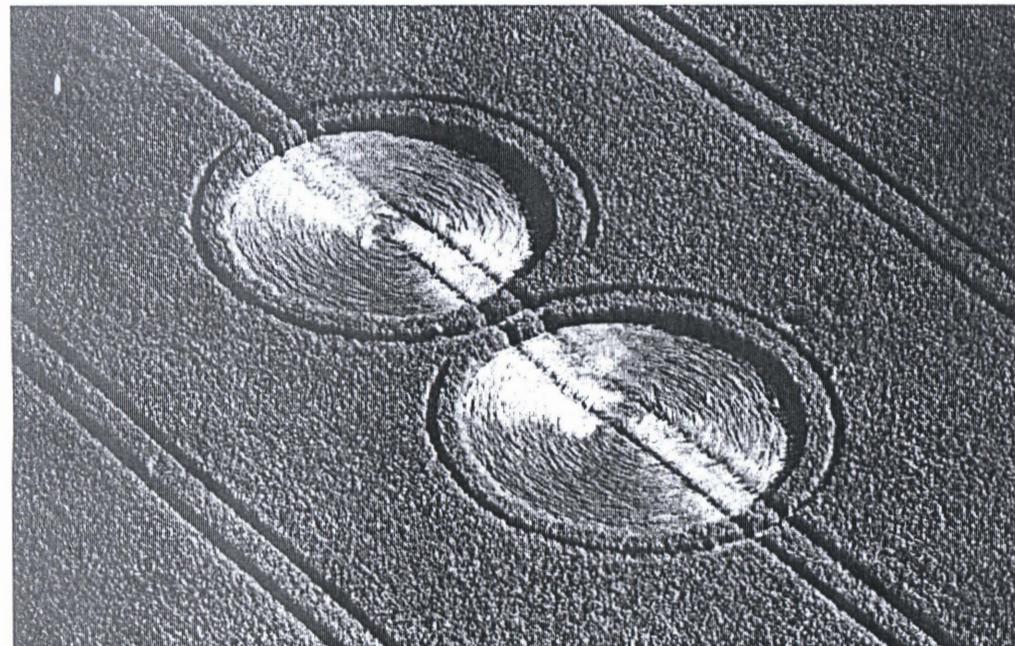


Diagram showing the layout of the Berkhamstead pathways by BARRY REYNOLDS



ABOVE: Lockeridge, Wiltshire, 15th June. Here's one for doom-mongers... an asteroid or comet appears to be approaching a planet and a moon in orbit. It's been nicknamed the 'Colliding Comet' formation but who's to say the object depicted is on an impact trajectory once orbital gravity is taken into account? Worrying though! The many unsightly lines connecting the design components were added by visitors. **BELOW:** Cheriton, Hampshire, 2nd August. One of many formations to appear that date. Photos: STEVE ALEXANDER

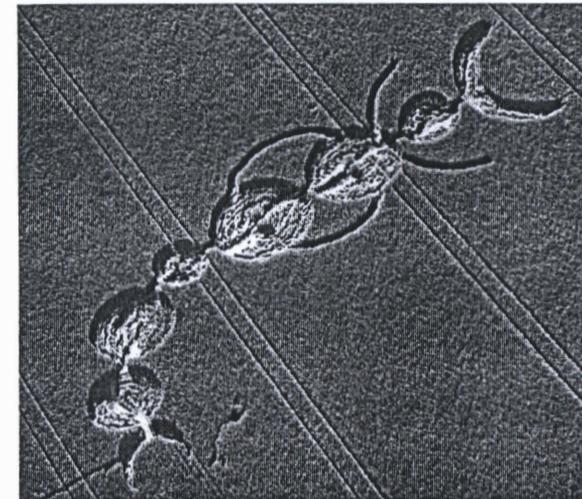


#7 '98 CIRCLES GALLERY

As the run-up to 1999's events begins, more photos of crop formations from 1998 with photographs by STEVE ALEXANDER and LUCY PRINGLE.

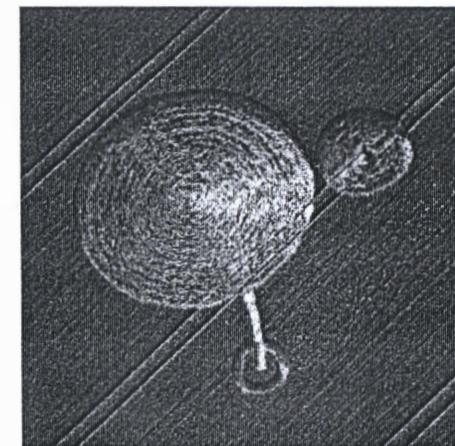
Full colour original copies of their pictures can be obtained from LUCY at: 5 Town Lane, Sheet, Petersfield, Hants, GU32 2AF, tel/fax: 01730 263454, e-mail: Lucy.Pringle@compuserve.com, and from STEVE at: 27 St Francis Road, Gosport, Hants, PO12 2UG, tel/fax: 01705 352867.

ABOVE: Danebury, Hampshire, 1st August. One of several designs to appear there around the same time. Photo: LUCY PRINGLE



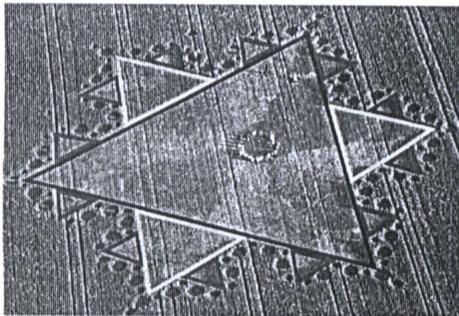
MIDDLE: Lockeridge, Wiltshire, 25th May. This shared the same field as the 'Comet' formation on page 10, which arrived later. Nicknamed the 'Dragon Larvae', if there can be such a thing. Photo: STEVE ALEXANDER

BELOW LEFT: Beckhampton, Wiltshire, 5th May. This appeared behind the Waggon & Horses pub. Photo: STEVE ALEXANDER

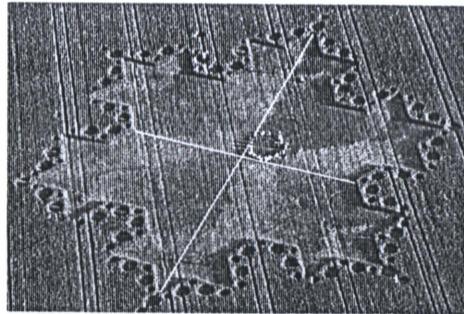


BELOW RIGHT: Beckhampton, Wiltshire, 2nd July. Some suspect this might have been added to... Photo: MICHAEL HUBBARD

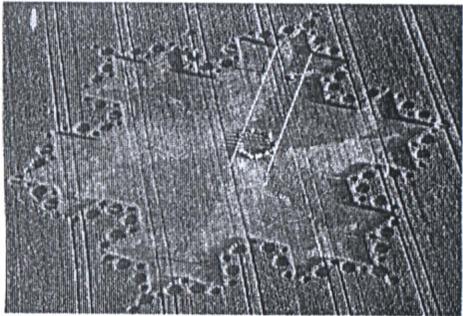




(1)



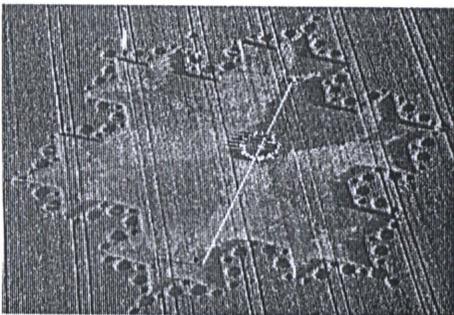
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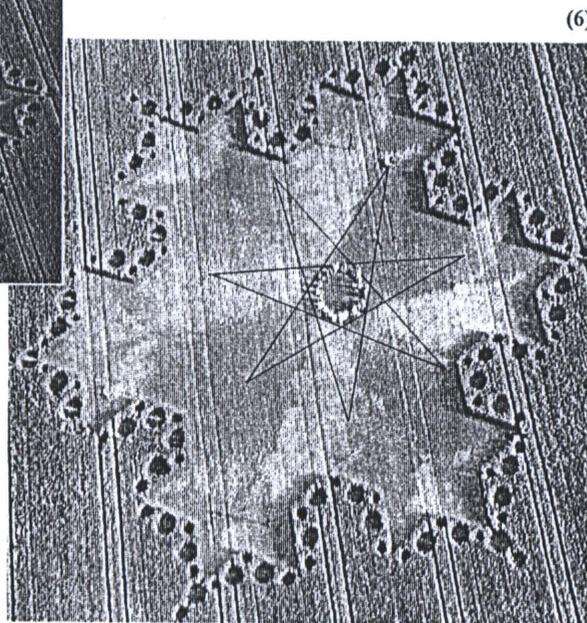
(3)



(4)



(5)



(6)

The Silbury fractal formation, shown with geometrical alignments to the ring of meditating figures within it. See article for details.

Photograph(s) by PATRICIA MURRAY, with geometrical additions by MICHAEL GLICKMAN.

Introduction

The apparently random positioning of visitors photographed in a crop circle in July 1998 now reveals a set of geometric characteristics too precise to be glibly written off as coincidental. It is my view that these discoveries are momentous. They demonstrate inarguably what researchers have suspected for many years: the crop circle phenomenon demonstrates an as yet inexplicable, but now undeniable, interactive connection with people.

The background

On the 23rd of July 1997 an enormous and elaborate formation was found in a wheatfield close to Silbury Hill in Wiltshire. The hill is a striking conical mound, the largest man-made earthwork in

Europe which is one of the centres of English crop circle activity. The crop circle, almost 250 feet in size, had the largest ever single area of laid crop (approx. 0.85 acres), a record it was to hold until the arrival of the huge 1.6 acre heptagram in East Field in July 1998. Popularly called the Silbury Star, the formation was in fact an accurate rendering of the Koch fractal, a mathematical protocol discovered early in the century by mathematician Heiga von Koch.

The Koch Fractal

The Koch fractal is constructed according to a formula of great simplicity. An equilateral triangle (3 sides of length L) has each of its sides divided by three. A second, smaller triangle of size $U/3$ is placed at the centre of each side of the first triangle. Each of the sides now has four surfaces of length $L/3$, making a total length of $12 \times L/3$. Each of the twelve surfaces is then divided into three and a third, yet smaller triangle is placed at the centre of each surface. The size of the third triangle is $U/9$ and there are now 48 surfaces of the smaller length.

The interest of this early fractal system is that it can increase infinitely by this iteration. The perimeter length will grow without limit (in tiny increments)

but the area will never extend much beyond the initially established boundaries. We are presented here with a mathematical paradox which shows the way that infinity may be contained within a limited area.

The Koch system has been overlaid on the aerial photograph (1). It is clear that, in this crop formation, only three triangular iterations were carried out, shown here. At the fourth level, the triangles become circles! While I have no explanation for this, it should be noted that the circle diameter is $1/3$ the size of the third series of triangles. That is, while the shape has been abandoned, the sequence of dimension has been

- FEATURES -

THE HUMAN COMPONENT

The geometry of crop formations is often spoken about but what about the correlating geometry of human movement within them? A unique photograph may give clues to a hitherto unrealised interactive quality of the phenomenon, according to MICHAEL GLICKMAN...

respected.

The photography

Some days after the arrival of the Silbury formation, Patricia Murray went on a photography flight. She covered several formations and then flew towards Silbury. As she approached, she was delighted to find a ring of people, presumably meditating, in the formation. This is a rare circumstance. There are many photographs of people in formations but, to my knowledge, a formal ring has rarely - if ever - been recorded. The brief time the group spends together has never coincided with the brief aerial passage of a photographer.

When Patricia landed, she was in a state of great excitement. She had noticed the ring as she approached Silbury and was certain that the energy of the meditating group was tangible in the plane. "Crop circles - the designs - are amplifiers in a sense. From many hundreds of feet up, you could feel that group of people", she said later. When the slides were developed it was clear that she had recorded a unique moment. The ring of meditators in the Silbury Fractal was included as the November image in our 1998 calendar.

A hunch

I have lived close to this image since it appeared and it remains for me one of the great crop circle photographs. It is on the wall of our office, beautifully enlarged.

Patricia and I do a series of intensive workshops on crop circles, sacred geometry and the interactive nature of the phenomenon. In early December I had an intuition of enormous clarity. The geometric information in the circles is so dense and the interactivity of the phenomenon so profound that I suddenly knew that the ring of people must be precisely positioned.

The position of the ring

In the early '90s John Martineau's work demonstrated, among other things, the importance of the tangent, the straight line which touches the curve. I had no idea what I was to look for. Clearly the ring was not in the centre of the formation but I was certain that I would discover other geometric constraints and the tangent was the key. If the two central cross axes of the formation are drawn (2) the ring is seen to sit precisely into one of the angles, thus tangented by both lines. I have enlarged the ring and I have stretch-adjusted the photograph to bring it to an approximation of a vertical shot and thus to bring measured dimensions into parity. I have allowed for perspective. The axis lines are drawn at ground level, not crop height which is about thirty inches. Thus the ring is read where people are sitting, ground level, and not shoulder height. The accuracy of positioning is extraordinary. Please note that though everything was checked by me on a computer-stretched image, most of the images included here are normal photographs. Image (6) is the only adjusted figure included here.

The size of the ring

The majority of the visitors to the formation have gathered and seated themselves in a circle of surprisingly accurate roundness. There are a few others in various positions not sitting in the ring. Remarkably, the diameter of the ring is the dimension of the third, or smallest triangles (3 & 4) approximately 26'6". Once again, though this is clearly discernible from the untouched photograph, the computer adjusted image allows direct measurement. This confirms that the diameter size and the triangle size are substantially equal.

Positioning of visitors

There are several individuals in the formation who are standing or sitting individually and not a part of the ring group. (5) shows a line drawn between two of them, Visitors A & B. It passes precisely through the centre of the ring. Though the precision of the line's positioning was rewarding I went further to hope that the line between would be divided by the ring into lengths which respected the Golden Section proportion, that is 1:0.618. My wish was optimistic! When measured on the corrected photograph the proportion was about 1:0.55, far from the Golden Section.

Coincidentally, Patricia Murray was to meet Visitor B when she went to the formation the day after the flight to take ground shots. He approached her saying that he had forgotten his camera and would like her to photograph him in the formation. He gave his name and address in Brazil and asked her to send him a print. We would like to hear from any other people in the photograph and to investigate the circumstances further.

A seven pointed star

The significance of the line between A and B is dwarfed by another discovery. This is shown on corrected photograph (6). Visitor A sits precisely at the point of a sevenfold star (or alternatively on the circumference of the circle which contains a sevenfold star). The sevenfold star contains the ring of people exactly. Sevenfold geometry has been awaited for some years and though it was hinted at (in the 1996 Oliver's Castle formation for example) it was not to appear until the summer of 1998 when we had four sevenfold formations. Seven represents the geometry of spirit and revelation.

If we assume that the circle containing the star has a diameter of 1 then the contained ring of people will have a diameter of 0.222. For comparison, a six-pointed star seated in a diameter 1 circle will contain a circle of diameter 0.5 while an eight pointed star will contain a circle of 0.387.

A list of curious 'coincidences'

- 1) The ring is positioned at a precise tangent to the two lines which bisect the formation.
- 2) The diameter of the ring is the size of the third, smallest triangles.
- 3) A line between A & B passes directly through the centre of the ring.
- 4) Visitor A's position defines the perimeter of a circle, concentric to the ring of people. A sevenfold star constructed in that circle precisely contains the ring.

Several hypotheses

I can think of four hypotheses, the first two of which will be immediately seized on by scoffers. They are as follows:

A) Coincidence

Those who wish to avoid looking at this will immediately dismiss it as coincidence. There are, however, too many synchronicities to allow us so easily to dodge the implications. To use Professor Hawkins' phrase "the impartial mathematics of probability" are stretched here beyond reason. Even if one of the items is seen as coincidence - or two - then how do we explain the remainder?

B) Hoax

A second explanation would be that the whole event was orchestrated and directed by us or indeed by others. While this notion is almost too ludicrous to address, I would make the following points. First, I remained in the clubhouse at the airfield (which is one hour's drive from the location) throughout the flight. Second, neither Patricia nor I knew the order in which the formations were to be approached and photographed. Third, had it been hoaxed, why would we wait eighteen months to reveal it? If it was carried out by others, why have they kept silent? Fourth, given the nature of the circles and their tendency to be randomly visited by diverse people, the idea that this level of organisation could be achieved and kept secret is untenable.

C) 'Swarming'

Work has been carried out in architectural academic

circles which looks at patterns of crowd behaviour in large spaces. They contend that architectural form tends, in some as yet incomprehensible way, to influence the conduct of groups of people in built space. I will be sending my information to the authors of this work to see if they can shed any light on the subject in relation to crop circles.

D) Interaction

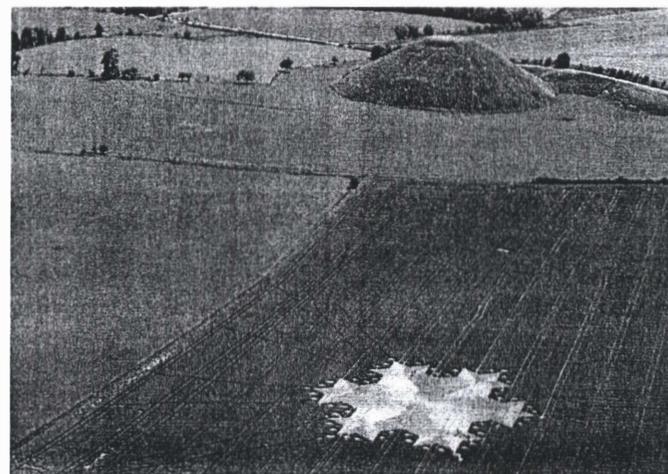
The visitors to the crop circle were in some way inspired, moved, motivated or encouraged to take specific positions in the formation at the very moment of the plane's passage.

Conclusion

I clearly favour hypothesis D, Interaction. In many years of research I have been made increasingly aware of the interactive nature of this phenomenon. It is a widely accepted part of the lives of researchers that they feel in some way led or guided towards something, given information or helped in some way. Our free will is never compromised.

The idea of co-operative participation with the circles seems appropriate to me as does the idea that the phenomenon is developing so tangibly and specifically through shape and geometry and indeed time. As always, it seems to proceed - like a good teacher - at the pace that we can comfortably digest and, as always, the possibility of denial is constantly available to those who do not wish to deal with the challenging or inexplicable.

I would welcome any responses or suggestions for further studies. I am also anxious to hear from any of the individuals in the photograph. **MG**



LETTERS

COUNTRY DEFILE

As mentioned in the last issue, various letters were fired off to those responsible for the ludicrous resurrection of the Doug Bower myth. Just one reply has been forthcoming so far, as follows...

Many thanks for your letter.

The brief for our programme was to make a profile of Doug Bower. His story was an interesting one and, we felt, one worth telling. I've no doubt that if we had featured (which we might) the work of a crop circle researcher, we would have been inundated with letters from crop circle 'hoaxers'. It is a controversial subject that angers and excites people. I felt that while the 'hoaxer' element was clearly represented throughout the programme, the crop circle researcher point of view was also represented; ie. the demonstration where filming is interrupted by crop circle enthusiasts. It was clear that Doug Bower was not popular and the reasons for this were aired.

The other element of the programme was to prove that it was possible to make a complex crop circle at night with no lights and film the process. I appreciate that the formation made by the lads from London was not as complicated as, say, the (seven-fold mandala) snowflake design, but it did prove that complex designs can be made at night with no more than a board and string and three 'dedicated' makers.

I agree that "one counterfeit coin does not mean all coins are counterfeit" but the hoaxers are part of the story. Next time maybe we can do the crop circle researcher point of view!

I do appreciate that it must be frustrating that one particular angle is taken by a programme but I am very glad to receive your letter, and found it stimulating. Thanks for writing.

Kate Dillon, producer: 'The Great Hoaxer', BBC Countryfile, Pebble Mill, Birmingham.

It's nice to get a reply, so we should be grateful for that, but this hardly answers any of the points raised in our letter. The fact that Ms Dillon seems to think the views expressed in the programme were perfectly balanced tells you all you need to know about the chances of fairness in television presentations. The sequence of the field confrontation did nothing to give the viewers any opposing facts or observations to counter the total hoax scenario. Note that the reportedly untrue assertion that no lights were used in the making of the formations is again made

and no reference is made to the quality of the final result or the time taken. Note also that no answer has been made to the point that the programme encouraged criminal damage. Will this production team - or anyone! - really ever make a programme putting the researchers' point of view, as suggested here..? Don't hold your breath.

In addition to our letter, Marcus Allen has recently written not only to the Countryfile production office but also to the Director General of the BBC! Marcus recommends that anyone else concerned about the imbalance and injustice of the programme should also do the same and not rely on others to do the work for them. So, if you want to help make a difference, write to:

- a) Kate Dillon or Jane Fletcher, *Countryfile*, BBC, Pebble Mill Road, Birmingham, B5 7QQ.
- b) Director General, VLC Department, BBC Television Centre, Room 220, Design Buildings, Wood Lane, London, W12 7RJ.

MALIGN ALIGNMENTS

I've just read Sam Goodwin's article (*A Structured Landscape*, SC 82 - see *article for details*), which was very enjoyable, but I didn't agree with all the alignments when I checked on the Pathfinder map.

He's right about the golden section but the circle on which the four points (of the pentacle) are set would have to be drawn with a very thick pen representing 30 metres. Wilmington and Folkington lie on the inner circle; Jevington and the OSS-sited tumulus lie on the outer circle.

Even with the tumulus re-sited on the inner circle, Jevington church is still on the outer one. (There might be something buried up the bridleway opposite the church which corresponds.)

Anyway, all fascinating stuff!

Geoff Stray, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex

SAM GOODWIN REPLIES: First I must say that I am pleased to see that someone has gone out of their way to follow up my findings. The tumulus in question actually lies 20-30 yards further to the east than marked upon the map, in a virtually identical piece of woodland (Martin Brown, the assistant county archaeologist assures me that Ordnance Survey are aware of this map error). It is essential that the relocation of this tumulus should be taken into account when inscribing the circle. And, as it is the smallest target, it would make absolute sense that the inscribed circle should be based upon the tumulus' exact location. The second point queried is the siting of St Andrews church, Jevington. Upon my own maps the perimeter line passes clean through the tower, but admittedly, upon redrawing on a fresh map with care, my new line passes through the western portion of the

graveyard narrowly missing the tower. The western portion of the graveyard is upon slightly higher ground than the church. However, very slight variations in the circle centre can bring the perimeter through or further from St. Andrews' tower, and yet still pass through the other three points. I use a sharp 3H pencil, a plastic straight edge and a high quality precision compass with a very sharp lead. So that I might achieve as much accuracy as possible, the width of each line drawn lightly would only correspond to a few yards.

For those who are interested in circular alignments I would suggest they read a book entitled *The Keys to the Temple* by David Furlong, 1997. Furlong discovered upon a map in 1976 two circular alignments in the Avebury district. The first has a total of fifteen sites (churches, tumuli and camps, including an edge alignment with the henge) arranged in a vast ring, and the second circle has fourteen sites arranged in a ring of identical proportions. Both of these circles interlock in a variation of the Vesica Pisces design. By coincidence, the line connecting the two circles' centres runs parallel to a section of John Michell's 'St Michael Line'. So many sites arranged in this way is statistically an impossible occurrence. Interestingly the area enclosed by these circles is an extremely active area for crop formations; a feature mimicked by Alfriston's encircled pentacle - SG. (*John Michell and Jude Stammers, partner and colleague of David Furlong, will be speaking at the SC Bonanza on 8th May 1999 - see info this issue.*)

SHARE ALIKE

I wish to draw your attention to two illustrations featured in a fascinating article in the July/August 1997 issue of *Share International* magazine about Gnostic Christianity and its links with esoteric philosophy.

The first illustration is a depiction of 'Mithras, the Sun, the Light, the Truth'. The face of the Sun God is framed by a circular design made up of 24 tongues of flame. This reminds me of the 'Beltane Wheel' formation which appeared at West Kennett, Wiltshire on 4th May 1998. Interpreting this formation as a depiction of Mithras does not necessarily contradict the Beltane Wheel connection. There is, of course, a link between the Sun God, Mithras and the festival of Beltane. I think J G Frazer says something about this in his book *The Golden Bough*.

The second illustration is the 'Symbol of Duality - Abraxas'. The larger legs or tails made up of a number of circles with a larger circle and crescent at the end of each remind me of the so-called 'Scorpion' crop formations which began appearing in 1994.

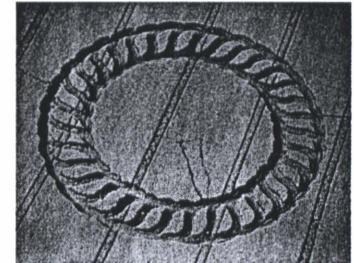
I don't know if you agree with me about the similarity of these Mithraic/Gnostic symbols with the crop formations but having noticed it I was prompted to pass them on.

I would certainly recommend the article about Gnosticism and its links with the esoteric philosophy espoused by Helena Blavatsky, Alice A Bailey and Benjamin

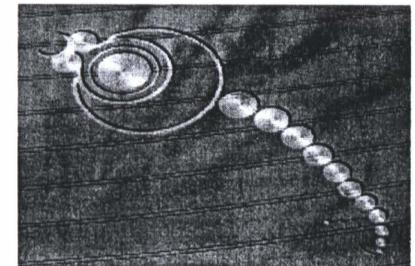
Crete. It throws a new light on the meaning of Christ's life and how orthodox Christianity is not an entirely accurate reflection of its message.

Thanks for publishing Jack Sullivan's *Galaxy Revelation* and *Further Revelations* articles. I found them fascinating and convincing.

Rupert Knapman, Weybridge, Surrey



Mithras/The Beltane Wheel formation (photo: STEVE ALEXANDER)



Abraxas/Scorpion formation (photo: STEVE ALEXANDER)



DARK SKIES: The only TV series ever to feature crop circles as a major part of its storyline (in which a golden plate is dug from a Barbury-like pictogram and used in a man-made formation to attract flying saucers down, or something). This *X-Files*-like slice of paranoia was supposed to cover a thirty year period of history and would have got around to the circles again in a big way, no doubt, if it hadn't been unceremoniously yanked from the schedules by ratings-worried Hollywood executives at the end of its first season. It's a bloody conspiracy! See also DUCHOVNY, DAVID

DIJDERIDDOOS: Pick any summer's evening to find a crop circle in the Avebury area and chances are you won't need directions but simply need to listen for Rolf Harris-type sounds (with the possible exception of Stylophones) wafting on the breeze towards you. Doing any real work in formations these days is now pretty much impossible for falling over New Agers parping on said Aboriginal gadgets or tapping on those cheap tom-toms tourists seem intent on bringing back from Tunisia and the suchlike, while the smell of dodgy substances (unwashed skin in several cases) drifts around. And while we're about it, why is it every time you want to get a clear look at a circle centre there'll either be someone cross-legged and gaga plonked right on top of it or a couple on the verge of copulation. On the other hand, perhaps they've got the right idea.

DOCTOR WHO: Sadly, this much-loved cult sci-fi show was taken off the air just before the crop circles came to media prominence. A great shame because one can well imagine the possibilities of their inclusion in a script such as *'The Death Crops of Silbury'*: THE MASTER: "So Doctor, I have lured you into my trap by creating this massive pictogram which will now destroy you with its deadly radiation emissions at the touch of a button... (pauses and leers) ...but no, that would be too easy. Instead I will gloat at you for another ten minutes, giving you time to escape." THE DOCTOR: (activates sonic screwdriver) "Ha! - I escape again!" THE MASTER: "Curses! You will suffer for this Doctor!" (activates pictogram too late as field erupts in dodgy BBC visual effect. Cut to TARDIS dematerialising. Cue music sting. Fade to credits.)

DOGS: There's been much said about the alleged strange behaviour of canines in the middle of formations over the years, a large part of which seems to revolve around their depositing strange dollops of an unusual smelly substance which then gets smeared on the writhing couples' and meditation brigade's bottoms. Curiously, such a deposit was once paranormally left on the carpet of *The Barge* by an SCR member's dog. For a fiver, their name won't be revealed in the next column.

DOWSING: Fun pastime for those who enjoy twiddling their rods or swinging their dangly things. Also known to like a "good ley" from time to time.

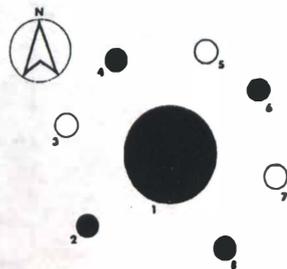
DOUG 'N' DAVE: Vaudeville comedy duo who keep making unexpected comebacks despite one of them being dead. Some people think they invented crop circles. See also SAD OLD MEN WHO REALLY OUGHT TO GET A LIFE.

DRIVING: Any croppie worth their salt will by now have developed the talent of driving a vehicle with their head turned in a 90 degree angle to either side, on the look out for new wonders of the crop fields. Astonishingly, miles can be covered, bends negotiated and junctions taken without even realising one hasn't so much as glanced at the actual road in front. And no harm seems to result! Well, apart from the odd fifty car pile-up here and there.

DUCHOVNY, DAVID: We seem to be talking a lot about TV here, don't we? Master of the deadpan smoulder, pin-up hunk Duchovny's *X-Files* character Agent Mulder is another of the few cult heroes to have anything to do with crop circles. Famously the only show ever to refer to the CCCS 1992 *Project Argus* report on scientific effects in circles, Mulder is dismissive of its findings when a UFO enthusiast (usual babbling-hippie-nerd TV archetype) mentions the phenomenon in a very early episode. Presumably he's forced to eat his words later when, after chasing a bunch of shape-shifting, sex-changing puritans (honest) into a field, a light shoots upwards and Mulder and the ever-lusted-after Scully find themselves wandering around a large but rather messy single circle... Actually, as even in the crop circle 'community' only about three people understood what *Project Argus* really did find (and one of those is dead now) through all the jargon and scientific terminology, the reference was lost on 99.9% of viewers anyway but it was a nice touch for the really alert. Copies of the *Argus* report may still be available for those who enjoy reading telephone directories and the suchlike. Some have suggested the deliberately obscure presentation of the final report was a - hey! - conspiratorial attempt to conceal its true findings, but as we know, *The Truth is Out There*. On the other hand, *Trust No-one*. DS



Last season, the long awaited (for me, at least) arrival of sevenfold geometry brought up the question of the 1990 Bickington, Devon, formation. This had seven satellites and seemed to challenge Danebury for the First Sevenfold Cup. I dug deep into my archive and found a very accurate survey by Barbara Davies, who was for many years one of the true stalwarts of crop circle research. The survey is a meticulous study which takes compass bearings to every



point and so I now have 'conclusive evidence' (as others are fond of saying) that this was not a sevenfold. In the diagram I have numbered the central circle as 1 and the satellites as 2-8. Satellites 2, 4, 6 & 8 have been shown as solid black as I believe they conformed to classic quintuplet geometry. These four circles are disposed on a substantially right-angle grid, the angles between them being: 2 to 4 - 98 degrees, 4 to 6 - 85 degrees, 6 to 8 - 95 degrees and 8 to 2 - 82 degrees. Satellites 3, 5 and 7, shown as rings, were additions to the classic quintuplet design. Thus, though the formation had seven satellites it was clearly not sevenfold as they were not evenly placed around the formation at a series of 51.4 etc. angles.

The following section has already been seen, slightly amended, on the *Crop Circle Connector* web site. Every *Cornography* is written exclusively for SC and will continue to be so. However, I felt that there were some useful points in this piece and so I include it here:

In the real world, confessions carry a great weight. They are often interpreted as moments of epiphany, of cleansing, of squaring of accounts. This, of course, must take into account the fact that a confession, in the real world, is not to

be taken lightly. The confessor will face sanctions, ranging from social discomfort for slight infractions to imprisonment for crimes. Confessions do not come easy. The reward for truth is often outweighed by the gravity of the punishment.

But we are not in that real world. Around the crop circles everything is reversed. Crop circle confessors are not liable for punishment; they are more likely to receive rewards, even if those rewards are the satisfactions of their own nature. They have learned that the farmers, despite their protestations, will never press criminal charges and the National Farmers Union, despite their offer of a £10,000 reward, will never follow leads.

There has been much noise on the net about a supposed confession from the self-proclaimed maker of the Oliver's Castle video.

Without wishing to enter the bog of Conspiracy (from which return is impossible) it is true - on examination - that several crop circle confessions have been paid for. The rumours are that Doug and Dave's initial payment was £10,000, but we cannot be certain. It would be a fruitless area of research. However, we can be sure that, whether paid or not, these confessors' true reward is the satisfaction they get from knowing they have duped others, even though (and here is the parallel with the real world) the victim is so often desperate to be duped.

I remember two telling moments. The Centre for Crop Circle Studies held a hearing in 1993 about Julian Richardson's claim to have made the majestic Bythorn Mandala. This rather unappetising young man, while claiming the authorship of one of the most important formations ever, did not even know the difference between the pi formulas for Circumference and Area. I had never met him and when I arrived he held his hand out and said "Hello, I am the perpetrator". The delight, the simple glee with which he pronounced the word *perpetrator* was memorable and, I believe, pathological. It was clear to me that, despite his elaborately wrought claims, the idea that he could have conceived, let alone made, Bythorn was high surrealism. Even clearer was the observation that many senior researchers actively *wanted* to believe him.

The second moment, also around '93 or '94, was the occasion on which Adrian Dexter, another hoax claimant, let slip to a group of us that the major satisfaction he got from his activity was the embarrassment and discomfiture of those he misled. Ah, history! Tragically, we have learned nothing.

Was there ever a single crop circle confession which was shown to be true? Well, no. Were there confessions that were clearly false? Yes, the majority. Have we learned to exercise our experience, judgement and discernment in this area? Clearly not.

We are told that an unknown and dubious character has produced a confession video regarding Oliver's Castle. The rights to the video apparently belong to producers with an infamous record of debunking. They "fly it to the offices" of a hoax-obsessed researcher and, predictably, he loudly characterises it as "conclusive evidence". We seem to have made little progress. MG

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