

CORNY OLD TWISTERS

Boffins are running round

HOAXES, UFOs, plasma vortices or a prophecy of doom — whatever they are, they're back!

The summer has barely started and the first corn circles have mysteriously appeared.

Last year, many were exposed as hoaxes.

Two pensioners from Southampton, Doug Bower and David Chorley, admitted creating circles using two wooden boards, a piece of string and a siting device.

But their ruse did not

By Jan Brierley

explain away hundreds of other circles in Britain and all over the world.

Now the experts are divided on whether the latest crop circles found in Hampshire and Wiltshire are genuine.

Instead of the elaborate patterns with intricate connecting loops, the latest circles are just plain circles.

As circles go they're pretty ordinary.

Film-maker John Macnish, who has produced a video called *Crop Circle Communicate*, said: "The

interesting thing since the Doug and Dave story is that the whole of the crop circles experts have been shaken up quite a bit.

"It indicates that most of them really can't tell a hoax from the real thing.

"Doug and Dave said they made 20 circles a year for 13 years, but just in 1990 there were 600 to 700 circles, so their hoaxes don't explain it all."

If the experts are baffled, Welsh comedian Owen Money isn't.

"It's Max Boyce," he says. "He is so bad at golf he keeps going round in circles looking for his golf balls!"