

# Gallery hosts pick of the crop circles

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Ho ho

ONE of the world's leading experts on crop circles is staging an exhibition at a gallery in Wales.

Lucy Pringle, who has spent years taking aerial photographs of the phenomenon all over the UK, says she believes an "intelligence" is involved in their formation and that the circles are an attempt to communicate.

Mrs Pringle, from Petersfield in Hampshire, whose work is being shown in Rhyl Library, Museum and Arts Centre, has compiled almost 600 personal reports describing the effects of crop circles on people and animals and how electrical and mechanical equipment has malfunctioned while inside the formations.

Responses range from nausea to a feeling of well-being, but Mrs Pringle says the circles have a largely benign influence.

People often talk of being overwhelmed by emotion after standing within the electromagnetic field of a crop circle, while others have even suggested they have helped them overcome health problems.

Mrs Pringle said, "People will actually be affected by looking at the formations, and they seem to have an extraordinary part to play on our inner conscience."

"We have done controlled tests measuring people's brain activity before they go into a crop circle and then measuring them again carrying out exactly the same exercises inside a crop circle."

"We see a very different pattern of brainwave activity."

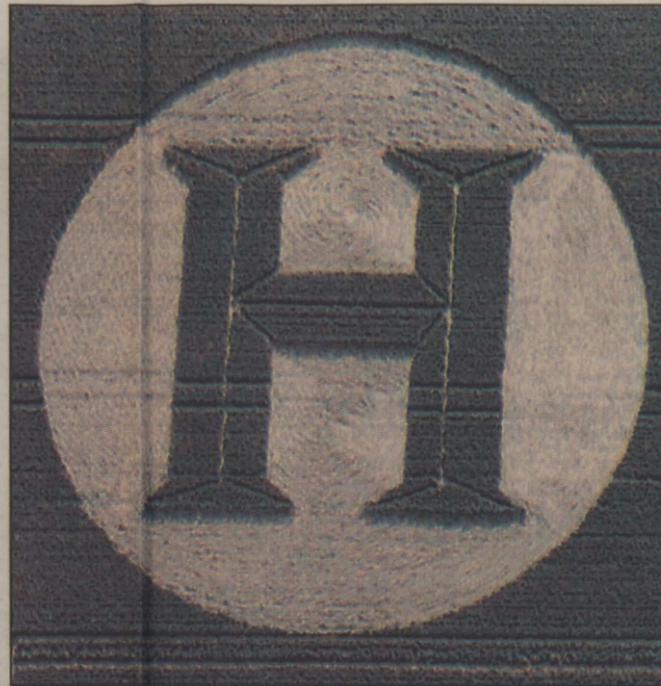
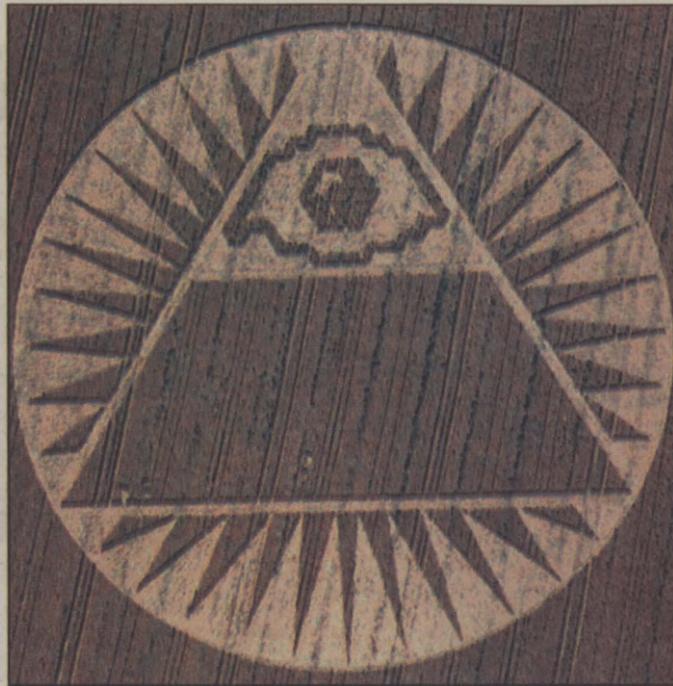
"One of the most notable aspects is that, particularly in men, there is a pull to the right cortex of the brain, which is the emotional side."

"Some of them find this quite hard to cope with because they get this terrific emotional release and men find it jolly difficult to burst into tears so it's an embarrassment for them, whereas women can."

"Another particularly interesting area are the changes in hormone levels, which are very noticeable."

"In this day and age we are all leading hectic and stressed lives and often you get stressed adrenals."

"All your hormones in your endocrine system can be slightly out of sync and we have found that when people go into crop circles these levels come back to normal."



RING MASTERS: Aerial photos and, right, researcher Lucy Pringle



"This would seem to indicate that they are largely beneficial."

Mrs Pringle, who has been researching the subject for 14 years, admits she cannot offer any precise explanation for crop circles and that some, but definitely not all, are man-made.

She said, "I haven't got an explanation. That is exactly why I'm still here investigating the phenomenon."

"If I had an explanation I think I would have probably moved on to something else which was still unexplained."

"I'm interested in mysteries, anything that is unexplained, and this has such enormous depth and breadth to it."

"You have to have an open mind in this subject."

"Your own opinions can shift from day to day and you have really got to be completely open-minded and move with whatever you feel at the time or what evidence you have."

Mrs Pringle said that when crop circles formed there was a burst of electrical discharge from the ionosphere containing hundreds of thousands of volts of energy.

"This allows the plants to soften at the base and they just fall quite naturally; there is no damage to the plants," she said.

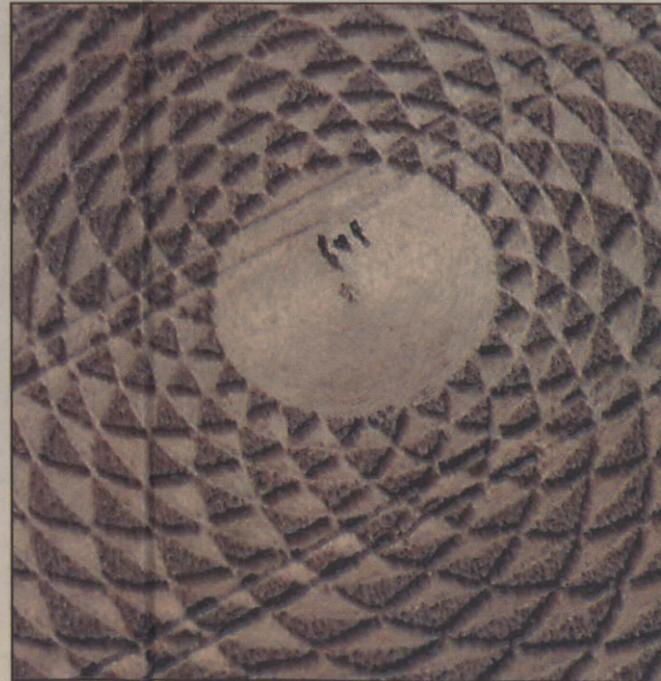
What is interesting is that as the force travels up the stems of the plants we see a change in the molecular structure.

"You see the expanding and stretching of the cells inside the stalk."

"This is, we know, physically pretty much how these occur."

"What we simply can't explain is the complexity of the shapes."

"My particular belief is that there has to be an intelligence behind the phenomenon which is using all the forces of nature available to it."



## Facts about crop circles

THE first known crop circle dates from around 800AD. ???

There are eye witness reports of the circles from more than 40 different countries.

Since records began in the late 1970s, between 4,000 and 5,000 crop

circles have been noted.

Not only have these events appeared in arable crops but in fields of potatoes and sugar cane, also in heather, sunflowers, rice paddies, snow, ice and sand.

Experts liken the shapes to celtic,

astrological and astronomical symbols, while others see medical, musical, engineering or biological forms.

Recently the shapes have progressed from five, six and sevenfold geometry to elevenfold in 2000 and

thirteenfold in 2001.

Seeds collected from inside a formation germinate faster.

Mel Gibson's film *Signs* deals with crop circles and whether they could be the product of a higher intelligence.