



# THE CEREOLOGIST

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# EDITORIAL NOTES

## How do you spell it?

RARELY HAVE WE been tortured by such a mind-rending decision as that which we have brought upon ourselves by the stupid idea of putting the question of our title to a popular vote. The spirit of egalitarianism has been let loose, and we have been frowning at letters from Merrily Harpur and others with demands for further concessions, such as popular control over our design, editorial content and advertising policy. Critics have arisen to accuse us of anti-scientism and anti-occultism, of holding an unbalanced racial and sexual polity and of printing far too much or far too little from John Erik Beckjord.

To this we reply that the only balance we try to maintain is mental. The impression of the crop circle phenomenon upon our minds is more lasting than its temporary marks upon the cornfields, and we are chiefly concerned with its mental products - the thoughts, writing and forms of art inspired by it. We receive with gratitude many fine examples of these, and in making our synthesis we draw without discrimination from the entire spectrum of mental health and from different levels of perception. The intended result is a fair picture of what is happening in the fields in the minds of those involved with the phenomenon.

As to the result of the poll, when the ballot box was opened at the beginning of March the count was:

CereOlogist, 52;  
CereAlogist, 16;  
deviants, 4.

Clearly the great majority of you would like to be called cerealogists. You are in the good company of many notable men and women of the cornfields, including George Wingfield, Mike Chorost, Barbara Davies, Beth Davies, Ralph Noyes, Una Dawood and Roland Pargeter - cerealogists all.

Among the declared cerealogists are the Perth oracle, Mr Robert Robertson, Mr Kevin Green (see their letters), the erudite Francis Huxley and several known schoolmasters including Mr Richard Carder and the Earl Baldwin. With the voice of authority, before which we are accustomed to quail, they instruct us to uphold what is right and not pander to the uninformed.

Who has the right to decide what we should all call ourselves? The answer, surely, is no one. The As and the Os are not likely to give way to each other, so we shall print whatever form our writers care to use. 'Cereology' will remain the usual spelling, and we shall probably use it ourselves, but we defer to the pedants in keeping our present title. Thus we shall become the eighth -alogist, the others (according to our Reverse Dictionary) being genealogist, dialogist, mammalogist, analogist, paralogist, mineralo-

gist and catalogist. What is a catalogist? A person who makes catalogues, of course.

What then has happened to our promise to abide by the popular vote? Yes, that is a good question. The result of the poll, we said, will show in our next masthead. So it must, therefore, and we dedicate this present issue to the spirit of democracy under the title of *The Cereologist*.

## That's funny

A hair-raising coincidence has been noticed by Mr Brian Grist.

In *The New Scientist* for 11-17 August 1990, this letter was printed.

## Corn and chaos

The formations of corn circles are growing in complexity each summer.

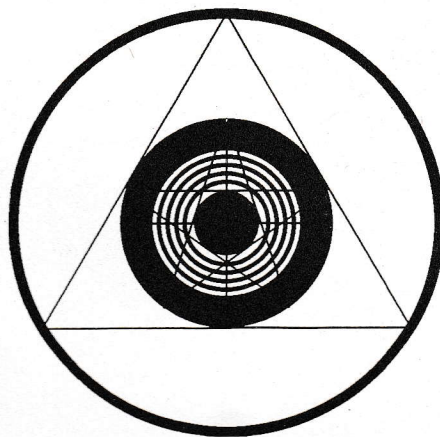
How long before we see a complete Mandelbrot set?  
Martyn Hughes  
Highworth  
Wiltshire

Exactly a year later, 12 August 1991, the Mandelbrot set cropmark appeared near Cambridge. Who or what is reading *The New Scientist*?

## The Woodford mystery

THE MARVELLOUS RINGED formation at Woodford, Northants last summer was featured in our No. 4 (page 3) as one of the beauties of 1991. It gave much pleasure, aesthetic and intellectual, to many people. George Wingfield surveyed it, finding its overall diameter to measure about 350 feet, and John Martineau was the first to analyze its geometry. See his diagram below.

John Walbridge, who lives at Woodford and was the first person to enter the rings the morning after they were formed, also surveyed and analyzed the figure. With



added refinements, his geometric conclusions are similar to Martineau's, and he has linked the design of the Woodford rings with that of Barbury Castle, the other geometric wonder of '91. For a copy of his detailed report send £1 or so in stamps with an A4 s.a.e. to J.W. 1 Highfield, Woodford, Kettering, Northants NN14 4HD.

At the beginning of April this year we heard from Michael Inns of Hitchin that he had made investigations which showed the Woodford rings to have been constructed over two nights by 'youths'. For various good reasons he could not reveal their identity. All that he can say at this stage is contained in his letter below.

"I am able to give you the following information regarding the Woodford hoax.

The first time I became aware of the hoax was on the evening of August 21st 1991 when visiting the formation with Veronique Chown.

*Continued on page 27.*

Cover: with help from George Snow's computer, the enigmatic Green Man (roof boss in Norwich Cathedral) appears within a corn circle (photo Busty Taylor).



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# WHITE CROW & GRASSHOPPER WARBLER

Known up to now as the shyest of England's feathered visitors, the Grasshopper Warbler has emerged from obscurity to play a leading part in the crop circle debate. *Ken Brown* shows that this small bird was responsible for the weird sounds recorded at the 1989 White Crow cropwatch and other circle events.

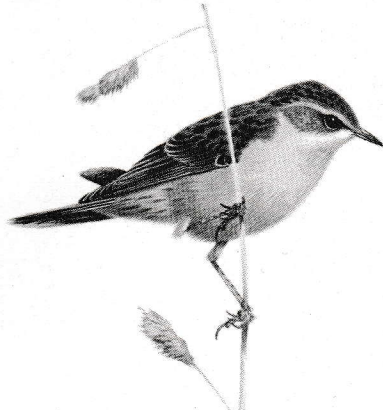
**Colin and George get the Bird.** The 'trilling' sound is famous. There are at least six occasions on which it is claimed to have been heard. It had both a frightening and spiritual effect on Colin Andrews at Kimpton in June 1987. It was recorded on tape by Colin and George Wingfield at the end of the White Crow crop-watch in June 1989, and it appeared on Daytime Live for BBC Television viewers in a recording from Beckhampton in August 1989. Pat Delgado had previously recorded a "nebulous little trilling noise" near Winchester in June 1987, and John Haddington's crop-watch near the Wansdyke during June 1990 also taped the "trilling sound". Again, at the 1991 MUFON Conference in Chicago Colin Andrews, after captivating the audience with his recording from White Crow, was introduced to a lady who "claims to have had several close encounters (with UFOs) and on each occasion has heard the same noise". She explained that "as she accepted contact with the source of the light in the sky, the pitch and frequency would change. This could be heard clearly". Colin was intending to play the tape again at yet another UFO conference last October; unknown to him it recorded the trilling song of a bird - the GRASSHOPPER WARBLER.

**Linking the events.** The 'trilling' sound has become established in Circle folklore as a major repetitive feature amongst the multitude of paranormal phenomena which fringe the study of the actual Crop Circles themselves. Colin Andrews in particular writes and lectures extensively about the sound and enthuses, "We should not need telling how important a part it is playing. This is an energy and a power like nothing I have experienced before". He links together his own personal experiences at Kimpton, White Crow and Beckhampton. About the trilling sound tape, recorded at the White Crow cropwatch, he says, "This is the very same noise... I recognised that noise. It was the one I heard at Kimpton". Speaking to Alan Titchmarsh on TV at Pebble Mill Studios he commented about the Beckhampton sound, "We are currently having a sound, (the trilling sound of White Crow) identical to it in every way, analysed at Sussex University, and recorded inside a circle at Winchester...".

**Failed early warning.** George Wingfield, the other close witness to the recording of the trilling sound at White Crow, was given a startling early warning of the true origin of the noise. George writes in the last issue of the *Cerealologist* that, at the end of a lecture he gave at Winchester in July last year, Doug Bower (yes, the very one!) came up to tell him that the mysterious trilling sound "...was a Grasshopper Warbler", but George, amazed,

replied "No it wasn't. If this was a bird we'd have seen it", and apparently George left the meeting "puzzled and somewhat disturbed by the unpleasant tone of this odd assertion".

**Analysis made easy.** I managed to obtain one of the many copies of the actual tape recorded by Colin and George at White Crow. As my very first move I thought it only common sense to check whether the trilling sound heard in the countryside was a natural noise of the countryside. Consequently, I sent copy tapes to a wildlife sound recordist and lecturer recommended to me by The National Sound Archive, and also to the British Library



*The grasshopper warbler is 'skulking', says the Handbook of British Birds (the twitchers' bible) disapprovingly. Its song is "a rapid and uniform high-pitched trill, sustained for sometimes as much as 2 mins. or longer, unlike the note of any other British breeding bird, of peculiarly mechanical effect... Audible as much as 550 yards... delivered sometimes in flight. Sings at all hours, including night, but chiefly in early morning or late evening". It visits England in the crop circle season, from late April to the beginning of August. The song of the grasshopper warbler can be heard on a cassette which comes with a book, Song Birds by Chris Harbard (Kingfisher Books, £14.95), from which the above illustration is taken.*

of Wildlife Sounds. After listening to the tapes both have sent me written confirmation that the trilling sound recorded at White Crow was the trilling song of a bird, the Grasshopper Warbler.

My local library provided many standard bird books and some observations stood out as particularly revealing. "The song... likened to an angler's reel... a free-wheeling bicycle... mechanical noise. Sings at all hours... some sing all through the night. The far-carrying sound is a poor guide to the bird's whereabouts, for the bird can produce a voice-throwing effect... ventriloquial effect obtained by turning head. A secretive skulking bird...

will often go undetected... sings from dense cover... they move through vegetation rather like mice. It is reluctant to fly... when driven usually flits only a few yards before diving into cover again".

**Intrepid at White Crow.** Back in 1989 towards the end of the White Crow crop-watch, either 6 or 9 committed investigators (the number depends on whether you read Colin's or George's account) sought one last experience, and gathered together inside a three-week-old circular formation at Cheesefoot Head near Winchester. A suggestion had previously been made that a medium amongst them might help to relax their minds in an attempt to establish contact with the 'intelligence' behind the circle-making phenomenon.

A short time later and just after midnight, a strange trilling noise was heard and the medium tried to talk with it saying, "If you understand us, stop!", and it did - but only for a second or two. The trilling sound approached the circle and encircled it twice before moving back a quarter distance. The group "huddled together because the stereophonic effect was quite frightening". One or two of them walked slowly towards the source of the noise and George said aloud, "Please will you make us a circle?" The trilling sound backed away at this plea, withdrawing to a hedge some 50 yards away. Despite valiant attempts to entice the noise back to them, the experience was over, and they retired back to their headquarters caravan.

George's request to the trilling sound was granted because a new circle was found some 500 yards away to the East next morning. However, Doug Bower claims this one, and we have not yet received any counter-claim from the Grasshopper Warbler, even though he apparently lived in the same general vicinity.

**Strange behaviour?** But all was not yet finished. Colin and George returned to the same field about an hour later, this time armed with a tape-recorder with microphone, and a flash camera. They closed in on the hedge from where the noise came, but as they progressed further and further along the tractor lines the trilling "appeared to be flirting with them" and "always kept a short distance in front". However, Colin was successful in recording the trilling noise and, as George flashed his camera into the night, "at the very second the flash left the lens, the noise stopped immediately, and then... built back up immediately afterwards".

Other interpretations of the night's events are just as revealing. Colin: "This could be the beginning of very big things... The noise was demonstrating a behaviour. It knew what it

was doing. It most certainly was under some form of control... manoeuvred... in a most unnatural manner... It is a constituent part of this phenomenon. ...It seemed as though we had virtually shaken the hand of an invisible entity". George: "The trilling noise... intense... seemed to penetrate one's head like no noise ever heard before. ...it is possible that this was the noise of the actual forcefield, which appears responsible for laying the corn in the circles... None... had the lightest doubt that it was behaving as though it emanated from some animate and, indeed, intelligent entity". Another investigator present "...saw a luminous object, as bright as the moon. ...shaped like a pair of horns. ...he got the impression he was being herded!"

And all because they heard the song of a Grasshopper Warbler.

**Analysed soundings.** Some time afterwards the tape recording was 'professionally analyzed' at Sussex University. They confirmed, "...it is unlike any known insect noise". Surprisingly, the boffins must not have checked out the possibility of bird songs either with wildlife personnel or against other sound recordings taken of birds in the countryside. The White Crow recording was then put through a graphic analyser, particularly to clear away the distraction of background noises and also to enhance the trilling sound under investigation. This process has taken the very narrow-frequency sound band recorded at a distance and enhanced this to produce a strong but very 'tight' sound to the listener, quite unlike the true sound which is faintly heard on the original tape. The difference is clearly illustrated when both the original and analysed sounds are compared by a computerised Sonagram printout. In each case the major frequency (note pitch) levels are the same, and so are the number of repeated notes produced each second. However, whilst the original sounds from White Crow exhibits a particularly clear delineation between each of these notes, the graphically analysed sound has been so enhanced as to 'fill in' the gaps by bringing in the second note of the trill, thus producing an altered sound to the listener's ear.

This changed sound is the one which Colin Andrews introduces at his lectures as "This is the sound as heard", but, in fact, the graphic analysing has made the true originally recorded 'trilling' noise now unrecognisable. This 'new' sound is then played at speed reductions in 50% increments down to a final eighth of the true speed and, whilst this is playing, Colin exclaims "I think that the chap is talking but nobody at the moment knows quite what he's saying". Undoubtedly, if any noise is reduced to an eighth of its original speed, it would sound unearthly and mysterious. Conversely, if the 'true' tape-recorded trilling sounds from White Crow were to be played in public instead of the 'analysed' version, then it would be instantly recognisable to any wildlife or bird expert as the trilling song, tone and pitch of the Grasshopper Warbler. My own two wildlife contacts did just that, but a lecture audience does not get the same chance.

**White Crow shot down.** Computer-printed Sonagrams show that the trill recorded at White Crow exhibits *exactly the same kHz frequency and the same number of notes per second* as a Grasshopper Warbler previously recorded at Hoylake in the Wirral. Whilst bird song varies somewhat even within the same species, in this case these two different birds recorded in entirely different locations have produced exactly the same song. So the famous 'trilling' sound at White Crow was definitely a Grasshopper Warbler. I have the computer printouts to prove it, and they are available for viewing to any interested researcher.

**What of the rest?** As we have seen Colin Andrews links many of the trilling sound events wherever they occur, but again, he is not correct. It is likely, however, that Kimpton 1987, Winchester 1987 and White Crow 1989 at least were from the same bird source, the Grasshopper Warbler. When close by the unsuspecting listener as at Kimpton, the trill can be very sharp, loud, clear and unnerving, particularly if the bird uses its voice-throwing technique and the listeners are in a susceptible frame of mind. One wildlife sound recordist writes of the trill, "Anybody listening for 'something', can, with a bit of imagination, read all sorts of things into this sound".

The Beckhampton noise is entirely different, and was caused possibly by electromagnetic interference of some sort. The Sonagram prints out a 2 second move from silence to full intensity, then a further 2 second burst before an abrupt finis. The main band of sound exhibits a frequency between 5.2 and 7.0 kHz.

The Wansdyke tape recording from 1990, at least the copy available for analysis, shows two currently unidentified sounds, neither of which is a trill. A shrill whistle appears three times at around 6.5 kHz frequency and it has the beautiful tone of a natural wildlife creature. More mysterious is a crackling noise recorded along a fence. This builds up in intensity and lasts for some time. The

## Warbler or Will o' the Wisp

*An assessment of Ken Brown's evidence by the Earl of Haddington, Patron of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies.*

KEN BROWN OF Liphook, Hants, has come forward with some evidence that the trilling noise heard on the Saturday night of the White Crow watch in 1989 by a group of some six persons is the song of the Grasshopper Warbler. This small olive coloured bird, a summer visitor to this country, sings both by day and by night. It can throw its voice quite a distance and the song has an somewhat eerie quality to it.

The evidence that Ken Brown has produced to prove that the two sounds are one and the same carry a lot of weight. He has computer print-outs of the analysis of the two sounds which are in every respect identical and a professionally recorded tape of the song of the warbler, which to my ear is fairly similar; and yet there are differences.

strongest sounds like within the range 3.0 to 4.0 kHz frequency. But these noises have yet to be sent to wildlife recording experts for their opinions.

As for the American UFO episode, the lady in question told Colin that the noises she had heard during her 'close encounter' was the same noise that he had played to the UFO Conference, and we know that was the song of the Grasshopper Warbler, albeit graphically analysed and slowed down.

**And the moral?** This report attempts to present a rational analysis of factual findings, and carries little opinion apart from the self-evident conclusions. We all claim to be researching the same phenomenon, but it appears there are very few people attempting to establish the true facts at the heart of the Circle mystery, or if indeed there is a so-called mystery at all. Many of our leading so-called experts claim to be carrying out a careful analytical programme of investigation, but in this particular case they were not able even to identify the song of a bird. They make effusive statements and draw sweeping inferences from a poorly researched base, examining only how any new occurrence might reinforce their own-preconceived position. Hearing the trilling sound in the middle of the night may have seemed a mystical experience for those directly involved, but they were too ready to jump to the wrong conclusion and turn fact into fantasy.

On the original White Crow tape-recording Colin Andrews is heard to exclaim to George Wingfield "!!\* bat nearly hit me then". I think the bat was trying to tell him something, but he wouldn't listen, don't you?

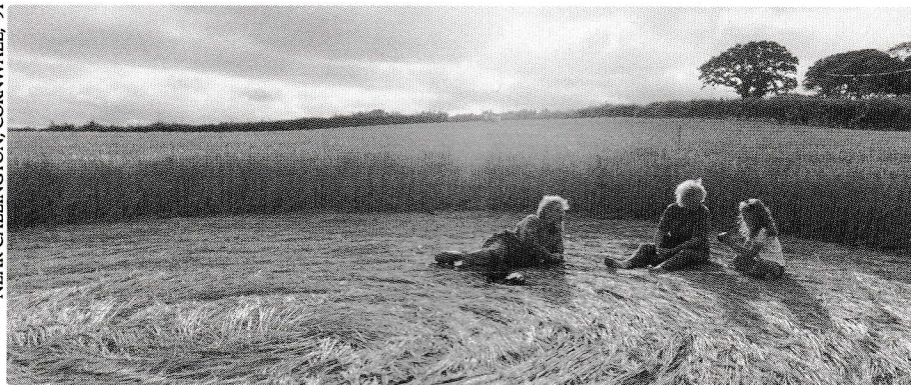
Acknowledgements: *The Crop Circle Enigma; Circular Evidence; The Latest Evidence*; magazines: *The Cerealogist; The CPR Newsletter*; videos: *Crop circle Communiqué, Undeniable Evidence*; personal audio and video tapes. Grateful thanks to certain helpful researchers and not least to Doug Bower, who put the truth exactly where it belongs, but found even the truth rejected.

For a start, I can actually hear the warbler clearly but Colin Andrew's sound seems to be at a different pitch; secondly, the bird song was clearly recorded in day time as one can hear a whole range of other birds as well as the warbler. Ken Brown's explanation for the difference in audibility is that the microphone that Colin Andrews was using to tape the sound was not of good enough quality to reproduce the fidelity of the warbler's song. Well, one could argue till one was blue in the face over this detail and never reach a satisfactory conclusion as to what really is on the White Crow tape. Does it matter? Not a jot, but there are other recordings of noises from the Beckhampton area that even Ken Brown admits cannot be explained away as Grasshopper Warblers, and which are also famously attached to the Circles Phenomenon. Finally of course no one is suggesting that a Grasshopper Warbler created the Barbury Castle triangle or any other Crop Circle come to that.

# LAMB, TIGER AND CATLING

In the minefields of cerealogy, warns *Merrily Harpur*, we should never underestimate the imaginative powers of the artist.

NEAR CALLINGTON, CORNWALL, '91



PAUL BROADHURST

WITH TYPICAL INGRATITUDE we aesthetes are already lamenting the Golden Age of corn circles, when only innocent ringed circles and their satellites marked out fields with divine simplicity. There was no question of ciphers and symbols then - the circles used the colour, crispness and shine of the corn stalks in a exploration of the medium which was its own message. Its apotheosis was the quartered "swastika" circles, where the pattern was formed by the sunlight reflecting on the different angles of the corn stalks.

But then, alas, the brush was snatched from the hand of that early artist, and appropriated by those who seemed to have a diagrammatic use for the technique. "What immortal hand or eye" we aesthetes inquired fruitlessly of the elaborate pictograms, "dare frame thy fearful symmetry?"

Why some of the pictograms should indeed strike people as fearful, as the tyger struck Blake, is an interesting question. It is strange than humans should, aesthetically speaking, recoil from the harmless spider but embrace the lethal cheetah: but the fact is we are all born art critics, instinctively judging the world on style as well as content. The most satisfying relationships between shapes and sizes have been expressed mathematically, for instance as the Golden Mean, but no-one feels it necessary to apply the tape measure to interpret the pictograms in this way. A well proportioned pattern simply pleases the eye as stroking a cat pleases the hand; while others, some insectograms for example, Ralph Noyes has uncompromisingly described as "repugnant".

This approach has been rather neglected in the search for the genesis of the corn circles; but since Colin Andrews, Pat Delgado, Terence Meaden, Busty Taylor, Uncle Tom Copley and all have now been successfully "hoaxed", it might prove a more illuminating method of attributing authorship to the corn designs. Indeed, in a caption to a photo of the famous Bratton Castle hoax (in *The Cerealogist* No.2), an artist memorably noted "its Mickey Mouse banality distinguishes it aesthetically

from... the 1990 pictograms." Away with the dowsing rods and geiger counters! Let artists now be rushed first into newly-formed circles to authenticate them.

But to authenticate them as what? Eric Hebborn, the celebrated faker of Old Masters' drawings, might ask. Art is Art he proclaimed, regardless of who has perpetrated it. A lifetime's study and practice has enabled him to turn out drawings so beautiful that critics attribute them to Leonardo. He is a credit to the hoaxing profession, just as Doug and Dave might have been tailor-made to discredit it. They present an image of the hoaxer as being the traditionally bucolic combination of sly and daft. While they seem to prove that all circles are hoaxes for those who wish to believe it, they also prove that all hoaxes must be inept and of Mickey Mouse banality for those who do not. But hoaxes hold a mirror up to belief just as art holds a mirror up to nature, and the greatest hoaxes are as illuminating: the Piltdown skull is one example, Eric Hebborn is another, and the Hitler diaries were very nearly a third.

In his criticism of the hoax theory Michael Glickman (in his talk at the Cerealogist Conference in September) postulated a preposterous secret society of chess grand master. Fellows of the Royal Society, as fit and efficient as the SAS, as close-knit as Royalty, as ingenious as Colditz escapers etc... etc... as being the only group capable of convincingly replicating corn circles in any numbers. However he overlooks what I shall call, at the risk of sounding like a UFOlogist, the Catling factor.

When Brian Catling was a youth, he used to make exquisitely wrought and strong caskets, elaborately lined with velvet, say, or sweet wrappers, and filled with bizarre items: teeth stuck to the fingers of kid gloves for instance, hairpins arranged with the legs and wings of daddy-long-legs, grasses delicately woven through cinema tickets etc... These he would wrap up and send to perfect strangers whose names and addresses he would spot, on a luggage label perhaps, on a suitcase on a train. He never knew how these packets were

received, and the recipients never knew who had sent them. He merely sent an impenetrable mystery into the lives of these people. In giving strangers a personal experience of an unknowable mind at work, Brian was fulfilling in microcosm the duty of art to enchant the conceptual landscape. One can imagine (as he imagined) the unidentifiable emotions with which such a package might be received, and the novel ideas it might engender. But in the end not knowing either (whether it went into mythology or into the bin) was for Brian the reciprocal enchantment. John Michell has written definitively about the sciences used by past civilizations to enchant the landscape; but without knowledge hitherto of those traditional ways, modern artists, like Brian, have relied on shock tactics to do the trick. Or, shamanistically, they use a form of sympathetic magic (see John McEwan on landscape artists in *The Cerealogist* No.3) in the traditional belief that Nature inclines to imitate a hoax.

Brian Catling is now a famous performance artist, and is currently invoking the forests of the night in a blind lighthouse in the London Docks. Michael Glickman could go along and enjoy the performances, and ponder the Catling factor - which is, that it is impossible to overestimate peoples' powers of imagination, or their capacity for taking pains, or the inscrutability of their motives. In answer to Michael's team of 40 Masonic trapeze artists who are Fellows of All Souls, I postulate 40 Brian Catlings.

Of course I do not really believe that 40 Brian Catlings could exist. But I can imagine them, as disciplined as they are anarchic, who, as true artists, equally represent Order, as manifested in the Barbury Castle design, and Chaos, as symbolized by the Cambridgeshire 'Mandelbrot'. In between these two poles are all the bits and pieces, pictograms, curlygrams, whalograms, insect parts and all, beautiful, sinister, ugly, funny, but only *apparently* meaningful, that they put into the casket to frighten, amuse and amaze us.

They are, of course, tricksters not hoaxers; and what they produce are not fakes but a light in the darkness of solipsism. In Alan Bennett's play *A Question of Attribution* the Queen asks Sir Anthony Blunt if she has any fakes in her art collection. Blunt replies that he does not like that word 'fake'. What would you call, she asks, something that pretends to be what it is not? "An enigma?" suggests Blunt.

It is an enigma that bedevils not just the attribution of corn circles, but all of Creation. In the end, to determine provenance, all we art critics, poets, theologians, mystics and cerealogists can do is to compare styles: "Did he who made the lamb make thee?"

# WHAT HAPPENED TO THE 'RADIONUCLIDES PAPER'?

At the end of the '91 season the crop circle world was excited by a paper, written by *Marshall Dudley* and *Michael Chorost*, with the results of their scientific analysis of circle-affected crops and soil. Soon afterwards the paper was withdrawn. The authors explain what happened, identify the parts of their researches which remain valid and point the direction of future studies.

IN THE WINTER of 1991 we circulated a paper in manuscript claiming to have discovered thirteen unusual radioactive isotopes in soil samples from an English crop circle. This claim was based on computer-processed data furnished to us by a government lab. It turned out that the computer had been improperly programmed, so we had to re-analyze the data ourselves. Based on that re-analysis, we are revising our claim: we think the number of radioactive isotopes is properly four.

Before going on with our discussion, we want to reassure readers that the radiological anomalies did not appear to present any health threat. Even though the samples emitted higher percentages of radiation than the control, their total emissions were far below the danger threshold. We are dealing with very slight effects which are detectable only by extremely sensitive instruments. It is likely that a hand-held Geiger counter would not be sensitive enough to detect them.

In this article, we will explain our re-analysis. We explain it in some detail, since it may help the readers of this article to help us in our sampling and testing efforts this year.

The soil samples were taken from a "fish" formation formed on July 31/August 1, 1991 at SU 0865 6810 (near Beckhampton.) (1) On August 5th, we took two samples (named "1A" and "1B") from inside, and took a control several dozen feet away ("1C"). These samples were airmailed to Tennelec/Nucleus Instruments (now renamed Oxford Instruments) of Oak Ridge, Tennessee. There, they were placed in a Tennelec/Nucleus LB-4000-8 gas flow low background counter to measure their emissions of alpha and beta particles. (Alpha and beta particles make up two types of radiation.) This testing, performed on August 18th, yielded the following data:

Formation 910801: The Firs, Beckhampton, July 31/August 1, SU 0865 6810. Samples taken August 5, 1A, 1B from inside; 1C is control

Sample	Minutes analyzed	Alphas detected	Betas detected	Alphas/minute	Betas/minute
1A	900	3110	17348	3.46	19.28
1B	900	2119	18440	2.35	20.49
1C	900	1042	11732	1.15	13.04

Sample 1A yielded alpha emissions 198% above the control, and beta emissions 48% above the control. Sample 1B yielded alpha emissions 103% above the control, and beta emissions 57% above the control. While we could not submit these figures to statistical analysis for significance (that requires more data), they seemed to us to be strikingly elevated. The soil in the samples was two and three times as radioactive as that of the control. We wished we had taken a second control to compare to the first, but nevertheless, the disparity seemed striking. We had taken two controls from another formation, made August 9/10, 1991, at SU 076 679. The controls' emissions were quite close to each other, whereas the two samples from inside registered considerably higher.

Formation 910810: Firs Farm, Beckhampton, August 9/10, SU 076 679 Samples taken August 10. 4A, 4B from inside; 4C, 4D are controls.

Sample	Minutes analyzed	Alphas detected	Betas detected	Alphas/minute	Betas/minute
4A	900	4512	28246	5.01	31.38
4B	900	3974	27689	4.41	30.77
4C	900	3145	23073	3.49	25.63
4D	900	3090	22158	3.43	24.62

The two controls yielded alpha and beta counts within 2% and 4% of each other. By contrast, the two samples from within the formation yielded alpha and beta counts 22% to 45% higher than the averaged controls. But perhaps the soil was more variable than we knew. Perhaps it was just a fluke that the controls were lower. In two other

formations we had tested, the controls were actually somewhat higher than the samples. (2) Thus, to test soil homogeneity, one of our colleagues, Kevin Folta (a graduate student in molecular biology at the University of Illinois at Chica- go), tested twenty soil samples collected around DeKalb, Illinois. The tests were made with a liquid scintillation counter, which works differently from a gas flow counter, but it is relative counts that matter here. All twenty samples fell within a range of 50 to 78 counts per minute, a 28-count spread. Does that 28-count spread show that the soil is homogeneous or heterogeneous? Consider how it stacks up against soil samples which Folta took from inside and outside a crop circle near Argonne, Illinois:

SCINTILLATION COUNTS FROM A CROP CIRCLE NEAR ARGONNE, ILLINOIS All figures are counts per minute. Estimated formation date: End of Sept. 1991. Counts performed November 20, 1991.

	Count 1	Count 2 (done with larger volume of soil from same batch)
Batch 1 (inside)	211	
Batch 2 (inside)	397	470
Batch 3 (inside)	298	415
Batch 4 (outside)	45	
Batch 5 (outside)	85	78
Batch 6 (outside)	59	71

The variation between samples and controls in the Argonne circle was much larger than the 28-count range of variation exhibited by the 20 samples taken around DeKalb. Folta's measurements gave us more confidence that the radiological anomalies seen in the English circles was not a fluke. But what was causing these anomalies? If the high emissions were "smoke", what was the "fire"? To answer that question, we sent samples 1A, 1B, and 1C to a government laboratory for testing with a gamma spectroscopy. Unlike a gas flow counter or a liquid scintillation counter, a gamma spectroscopy does not measure levels of radioactivity. Rather, it finds out what is causing radioactivity. It identifies the specific radioactive isotopes within a given substance. Gamma spectroscopy is a critically important tool, because it can distinguish between natural and non-natural radioactivity. It can also tell if non-natural radioactivity is due to human causes such as atomic fallout and Chernobyl. The gamma spectroscopy was performed on August 26th, 1991. The results were supplied to us in the form of a computer-processed table of "peaks." (Each radioactive isotope has a characteristic signature composed of several peaks.)

Using the peak tables, we identified a number of natural and manmade isotopes in all three samples, such as uranium-238, radium-226, and cesium-137. But we also identified 13 highly unusual radioactive isotopes in sample 1A, and one (possibly two) in 1B. None of these were in the control. But just before we published our findings, we got the opportunity to view the lab's raw data. We were dismayed to find that many of the peaks were so close to the noise level that we could not be confident they really existed. The lab's computer had been programmed to hunt for peaks quite aggressively, identifying many of them on statistically inadequate grounds. Furthermore, the lab had made errors in handling the samples. Sample 1B had been counted on a different detector, and with a different system, than samples 1A and 1C. We therefore had no choice but to throw 1B's data out, since there was no similarly analyzed control to which it could be compared. This was dismaying but not fatal, since our analysis had focused almost entirely on sample 1A.

We also found that the lab's computer had used different sensitivity levels to analyze the raw data for sample 1A and the control, making the analysis (the table of peaks) supplied to us useless. The raw data itself, however, was intact and usable.

By the way, we do not suspect foul play. It was straightforward

human error, which is far more of a problem in this field than the oft-blamed obstacles of conspiracy or malice.

Since the raw data itself was valid, we re-analyzed it using proper sensitivity levels, to pick out the peaks which were statistically valid. Once this was done, 53 peaks were left in sample 1A, and 40 were left in 1C, the control. All of these peaks were three standard deviations removed from the noise level, which meant that there was a 99.9% chance that they were not due to noise or statistical variation. The simple numerical disparity of peaks - 53 versus 40 - suggested that something was in 1A which was not in 1C. Based on these peaks, we now tentatively argue that four unusual radioactive isotopes were in 1A but not in 1C: vanadium-48 (half-life: 16.1 days), europium-146 (4.6 days), tellurium-119m (4.7 days), and ytterbium-169 (32 days). Gold-192 (4.9 hours) was present in both samples, so we think its presence was due to contamination from the government lab.

These isotopes are not known to be produced in nature, nor are they known to be emissions from atomic tests, nuclear power plants, or Chernobyl. We carefully considered a variety of other mundane causes: natural radionuclides, cosmogenic radionuclides, sample jar contamination, airport X-ray detectors, thermal neutron activators, and contamination with hospital waste by hoaxers. None of them held up as valid sources. Many of these possible sources were ruled out by the fact that many of the isotopes had half-lives of about two weeks, which indicated that they had not been in existence for very long. It seemed reasonable to guess that they had been formed when the crop circle itself was.

We are still not totally satisfied with the identification of these four isotopes, since in each case we had to use one or more peaks which were less than three standard deviations from the noise. It's rather like identifying an automobile in a snowstorm. Parts of it may be blurred, but enough of it is visible to rule out its being anything else. Parts of the isotopes were "blurred" - i.e., some of their peaks were at 95% confidence rather than 99.9% - but the total combination of peaks spoke for positive identification. We would be happy to copy the raw spectroscopic data to investigators who wish to check our conclusions; please contact us at North American Circle, P.O. Box 61144, Durham, NC 27715-1144, USA.

More testing is required, of course, to confirm these highly prelimi-

nary findings. We have arranged to borrow a gas flow counter and a gamma spectroscope from an English lab, so we will be able to do round-the-clock testing in England in 1992. We are working closely with the CCCS to arrange this. We still need to raise funds to pay our expenses, so I would like to make a frank appeal to *The Cereologist's* readers: we need about two thousand pounds to run the equipment, two thousand more to secure a place to base it in, and another two thousand to insure it. Additional money to defray our personal expenses for airfare and food would be much appreciated. Contributions should be sent to the CCCS, earmarked to the "CCCS/NAC Gamma Spectroscopy Project."

Let me close by mentioning other ongoing work. In addition to his scintillation counts, Kevin Folta examined plant DNA in samples and controls from the Argonne circle, and found that DNA from inside the circle was considerably more degraded than DNA from outside it. This suggested that the plants had been exposed to some form of radiation. Dr. W.C. Levengood of Pinelandia Biophysical Laboratories found consistent anomalies in plants from crop circles around the world, including node swelling, cell wall pit enhancement, polyembryony, increased seed germination rates, and variations in oxidation and reduction characteristics. And a scientist at Texas A&M has examined seeds under a scanning electron microscope, and found effects which may be consistent with Levengood's hypothesis that the plants had been rapidly heated and cooled. (Some of these findings are now being written up for submission to refereed journals.) These findings reinforce our suspicion that something remarkably interesting is going on in England's fields.

#### Notes

(1) Date and location data supplied by John Langrish. Langrish's figures differ slightly from the ones given in Michael Chorost's report, *The Summer 1991 Crop Circles* (Fund for UFO Research, P.O. Box 277, Mt. Rainier, MD, 1992.) They are more authoritative, so we use them here.

(2) The six cases we tested are discussed at length in *The Summer 1991 Crop Circles* (see note 1.) A condensed version of the report was printed in the *Mufon UFO Journal*, October 1991, pp. 3-15.

## HOAX DOESN'T EXPLAIN IT

A reply to hoax theorists, Peter Williams and Ken Brown, by *Michael Chorost*.

COULD ALL CROP circles be hoaxes? In Issue 5 of *The Cereologist*, Peter Williams and Ken Brown suggest that "construction lines" are evidence for the hoax theory. Construction lines are lines of flattened plants six to eight inches wide running underneath the visible crops in complex formations. Their subterranean position indicates that they went down before the visible plants did. Most crucially, they are manifestly *designed* artifacts, indicating careful planning and execution. For this reason, Williams and Brown conclude that they are evidence of hoaxing.

But this is very much a leaped-to conclusion. It exceeds the limits of the evidence. Construction lines tell us the order in which the plants were flattened, but they don't tell us who did that flattening. To put it another way, they tell us that intelligent entities made the formation, but they don't tell us *which* intelligent entities. It's rather like looking at an engine block with Oriental characters on it, not knowing the language, and concluding that it was made by Honda. That would exceed the evidence; one could only conclude that it was made by some Oriental company. Likewise, construction lines allow one to

conclude only that some intelligence was responsible.

They do not necessarily indicate foot trampling, as I will argue in some detail below. Nor do they exclude the use of highly sophisticated technologies. Consider silicon chips; the technology used to make them is very advanced, but it still lays their parts down in stages. Hence there's nothing valid about assuming that an advanced technology wouldn't need to lay down preliminary lines before laying down the bulk of a formation.

In short: construction lines leave us no closer to fingering the circlemakers than before.

I think Williams's and Brown's leaped-to conclusion is an artifact of the theory that crop circles are made by some large, hovering object physically pressing down the crops. Then crop circles would be made all at once. Construction lines invalidate that theory. But they don't invalidate the hypothesis that some other kind of technology is employed, such as narrow beams of directed energy coming from some distance above the ground. If we can find systematic evidence of directed energy, which my American colleagues already have to some extent (see

my other article in this issue), that hypothesis will become much stronger.

There's no way to prove that hypothesis save by detailed study of the plants and soil, which my colleagues and I plan to do in summer 1992. If we can prove it, it will trump virtually any pro-hoax argument. But it will take a while to accumulate such evidence. So, for the time being, I would like to show that the pro-hoax arguments of Williams and Brown are inadequate to the phenomenon they try to explain.

**Crop Lays Are Often More Complicated Than They "Need" To Be.** Williams and Brown disregard the fact that crop lays are frequently much more complicated than they would "need" to be if hoaxers were making them. Consider Step 4 of the diagram of how the Lockeridge "fish" was made (diagram 1.) It shows that the sides of the oval were laid down *before* the central circle. That doesn't make sense in terms of hoaxers. It would have been far easier to make the central circle first and then march outward to flatten the sides. It's not that hoaxers couldn't do it - they could probably figure out a way - but it means going to a lot of extra effort to achieve

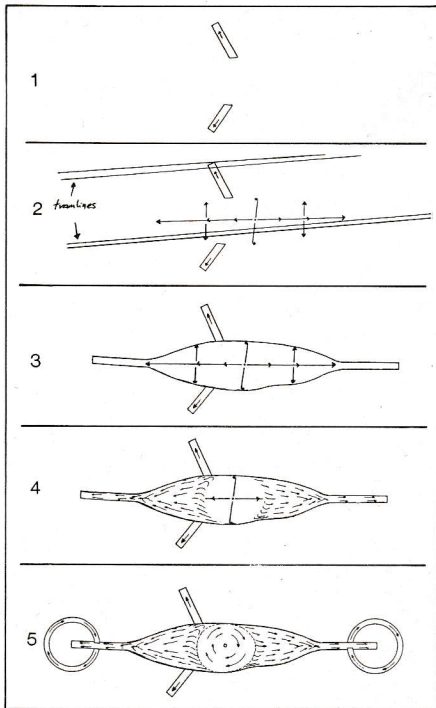


Diagram 1. Stanley Morcom and I worked out the probable order in which the plants in the Lockeridge "fish" (July 29/30, 1991, SU 137 661) were flattened. We hypothesized that the fins went down first, because the plants in them seemed slightly overlaid by those in the oval. The ribs were laid down next, then the outline of the oval. Then the oval's sides were laid down (we know this because the plants in the central circle lay on top of the plants in the sides). Finally, the central circle and the outer rings were laid to complete the formation. It was 346 feet long and covered roughly 9,570 square feet. It is worth noting that the other "fish" formations in the area had radically different crop lays. Why would hoaxers bother to create the same shape in entirely different ways?

John Langrish has written me that he didn't see evidence suggesting that the fins went down first. The overlap we saw was relatively subtle, and could have been an artifact of wind pushing the stalks over. If so, then the fins could have been made at any point. However, this does not affect the analysis I offer in the text. Hoaxers would have had to march inward from the tramlines, no matter where they started.

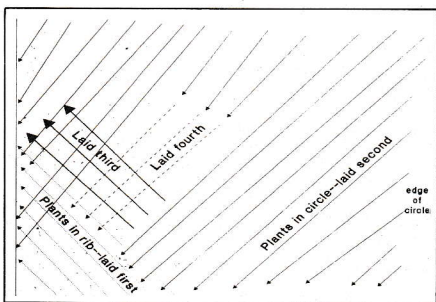


Diagram 2. A dumbbell formation at Jaywick. Note the complexity of the lay in the minor circle, and the fact that the ribs in both circles extend only about halfway toward the centers. It was also quite clear that both bars went down first, as there was pronounced gap-seeking from the circles into them.

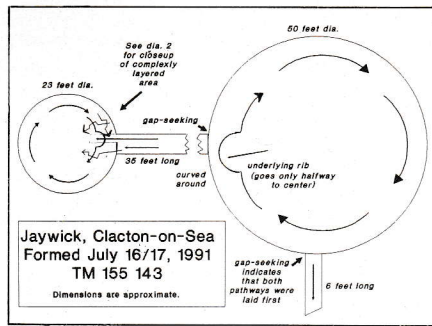


Diagram 3. A close-up of the complex area in the Jaywick formation's minor circle. It is keyed to the photo accompanying it. The "plants in rib" belong to the rib extending from the pathway into the minor circle. (It may help to tilt the diagram so its lower left corner is toward you—then it will match the orientation of Diagram 2.)



Photo 1. A photo of the complex area of the Jaywick minor circle.

an effect that virtually no one would notice.

Next, look at Step 2. It shows that the construction lines, the oval's spurs, and both fins are all laid "outward" relative to the centre of the formation. That means they run toward all of the tramlines which intersect them (I've sketched the tramlines in). The hoaxers would have had to flatten plants toward them as they made their way in, no matter where they started. It's probably possible, but it sounds like an awful lot of work. Why not just march in?

Another example. As Brown points out in his diagram of the Chilcomb Down formation (p. 12), the construction lines often go into, or very near to, the centre of the circle. But Montague Keen and I have seen construction lines in a dumbbell at Jaywick (diagram 2) which extended only halfway into both circles, terminating roughly 6 and 12 feet short of the centres. It seems very strange for hoaxers to march halfway in, and then use some other method to get the rest of the way in.

Yet another example. In many of the formations I've seen, including the Jaywick one, there were exquisite little areas where bunches of plants were folded down on top of each other three, four, or even five layers deep at 90-degree angles (see diagram 3 and photo 1.) There's no apparent reason I can see for their existence, for it would have been very easy for hoaxers to flatten these areas simply by going straight over them. It'd be quite unnecessary for them to do it any other way.

Finally, consider the "grapeshot" circles

associated with many large formations. For example, Plate 31 of *The Crop Circle Enigma* shows a formation with 34 tiny circles, most of them about three feet wide, scattered apparently randomly around it. It's hard for me to believe that hoaxers would go to the trouble of making so many little circles, many situated between the tramlines.

I don't know why these crop circles were made this way, beyond theorizing that it would be much easier to achieve these effects from the air than from the ground. My main purpose here is to exhibit their strangeness and counterintuitiveness. It shows how much a truly convincing theory of hoaxing would have to explain. It would have to explain why hoaxers do things in complicated rather than simple ways, and how they do them as well. Simply saying that hoaxers might use a broomstick with the bristles removed to push down plants explains very little.

**Construction Lines Don't Look Like Artifacts Of Mere Walking.** Williams and Brown argue that construction lines are made by people walking through the crop. On page 14, Brown writes that the construction line is made by the hoaxer moving "through the standing crop leaving a trackway of flattened stalks behind him, sufficient to be able to see and follow in the darkness." Let's tackle the beginning of that phrase first. If the hoaxer merely moved through the crop, he'd leave behind an irregular and messy line of semi-flattened and crushed plants. But construction lines don't look like that. They're very consistent in their width, and they're flattened very firmly and evenly to the ground. In other words, I don't think they're made just to walk from a tramline to some point in the crop.

Which brings me to the second half of the phrase: "sufficient to be able to see and follow in the darkness." Well, Brown would say, that's why they're so wide and even so hoaxers can see them. But that doesn't make sense either. As someone who cropwatched last summer, I know that nighttime in rural England is often as dark as a cow's stomach; a six-inch wide path is simply not going to be "easy" to see. Seeing isn't it. Besides, hoaxers marching into the crop would have each other to follow; they wouldn't need to make an extremely disciplined path. I'm pretty sure that even three or four heavy gentlemen marching in file wouldn't make neatly flattened lines where the plants look clean, straight, and undamaged. That's only a guess, of course, but it'll be very easy to field-test next summer.

**Hoaxers Have Never Demonstrated Making "Good" Crop Circles Under Realistic Conditions.** On page 11 Williams writes, "Remember that hoaxers have demonstrated their ability to make, or at least duplicate, the largest structures to the standard required." I don't remember that. I don't remember any controlled study where people made a formation 350 feet long (and ten thousand square feet in area) in the dead of night, in mucky weather, on a slope, and invisibly from nearby roads; and where the plants proved to be lightly flattened, without

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muddiness or apparent external damage, in complex layers. I do remember shabby little "demonstrations" where some people tromped down plants in vaguely round shapes in broad daylight, but that's not remembering anything very convincing.

Yet on page 12 Williams writes, "Analysis of the Barbury formation has revealed that it could perhaps be made (or copied) by two experienced hoaxers in 2-3 hours." Well, where's that analysis? More importantly, where's the demonstration which proves it? One can analyze and "reveal" until the moon falls out of the sky, but in the end one's got to put it to the test with practical verification.

**If Construction Lines Don't Indicate Hoaxers, What Do They Indicate?** As I've argued, construction lines don't reveal the identity of the circlemakers, but careful analysis of them could tell us a lot about how they think. It's a bit like the way scholars can learn much about how painters think by examining how they build up their paintings with layer after layer of pigment. I haven't offered any such theories of how the circlemakers think in this article, beyond saying that their thinking patterns seem anything but straightforward, but clearly such analysis is possible. And they enable us to explore how their thinking patterns have changed over time. In the 1989 and 1990 seasons, most formations had some obvious relationship to the tramlines, which suggests



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*Time for a break. Mike Chorost at the Waggon & Horses, Beckhampton, 1991.*

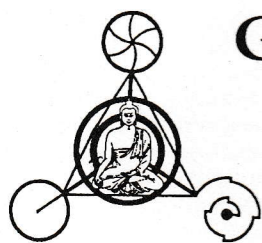
that the phenomenon *needed* the tramlines. For example, most of 1990's dumbbells' long axes ran directly along the tramlines. These formations, Stanley Morcom tells me, did *not* have construction lines. However, 1990's third and last double-dumbbell (at East Kennett) went at a 45-degree angle to the tramlines, and it *did* have construction lines. Morcom thinks it was the first to have them. In 1991, many formations ran obliquely to the tramlines, and construction lines became very common. Morcom theorizes that whatever's making the formations initially depended on the tramlines for orientation, but then learned

to make its "own" tramlines - i.e., construction lines. That gave it the freedom to orient formations as it liked. Hence, whatever the agent, we can theorize that construction lines play the orienting function once fulfilled by farmers' tramlines.

**Conclusion:** The hoax theory is just that, a theory: there's precious little solid evidence for it. No hoaxers have been caught in the act of making what is clearly a "good" crop circle; no one has demonstrated that "good" crop circles can be made by people at night, on slopes, in miserable weather, etcetera; and no one has systematically demonstrated that the condition of the plants is consistent with the effects of physical pressure. In the absence of solid data, theorizing *anything* is a royal waste of time. Far better to confess our ignorance, gather up our instruments, and collect basic data from every crop circle we can find. Then we'll have something to talk about; then we might find ourselves taking a few halting steps toward real knowledge.

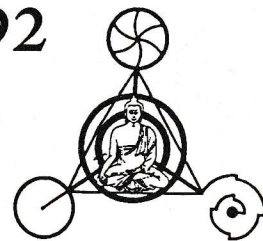
**Acknowledgements**

I thank Peter Williams for writing me a courteous letter indicating a desire to open a dialogue on the hoax theory. This article is largely based on my letter to him. Ron West measured the dimensions of the Jaywick circle. And I thank Stanley Morcom for teaching me virtually everything I know about construction lines.



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# SHADOWS OVER THE CORNFIELDS

Jurgen Krönig, a member of the Beckhampton Group which meets at the Waggon & Horses Inn near Avebury, describes the suspicions, doubts and fear of infiltrators which typically occur within special-interest organizations.



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The Waggon & Horses, meeting place of the Beckhampton Group.

DURING THE SUMMER of 1991 the crop circle scene began to change. Until then it had been mostly serene and easy-going. The hunt for new circles was fun: the spontaneous meetings in pubs and fields, the opportunity of meeting new, interesting people - not forgetting the media attention and the chance of being interviewed for television or radio. But by the end of the season the circle phenomenon had lost its innocence. The outside world closed in; TV programmes were no longer so pleasing, and the press followed its usual cycle of attention, ridicule and loss of interest. The activities of Doug & Dave and the Wessex Sceptics - to name only two of the known hoaxing teams - caused growing suspicion and unrest. The crop circle enthusiasts could no longer simply enjoy the beauty of the formations. It became necessary to take into account the possibility that a circle, even when it looked genuine enough, could still be a skillful hoax.

These external events caused changes inside the Beckhampton Group, reflecting changes within the crop circle world generally. Many new members had joined the Group that summer. Some of them contributed significantly to the change of climate within the Group. The "storytellers" particularly had a strong, not always beneficial impact. Their stories were mostly of a dark nature. They told of black, unmarked helicopters from which men, dressed in black and masked with balaclavas, jumped into fields, creating circles with "military precision". Mysterious telephone calls from a "metallic sounding voice" were reported; dark objects and flying discs were observed. All these stories became part of circles folklore. They were retold many times, details were added and the tales became more colourful and dramatic as time went on. The storytellers turned some members of the Group into active debunkers - although others had dedicated themselves to this role from the very beginning. A group of young men became suspicious and kept watch on the more outrageous storytellers. One of them, a young American student trying to gain some journalistic experience, decided he could hold back no longer. Oblivious to the irritation of his colleagues, who would have preferred to watch a bit

longer before going public, he published an article in *The Independent* under the title, 'Corn Flakes.' It was not at all well received by the Beckhampton Group. He portrayed the Group in an unfriendly light, causing some of the members to feel insulted and ridiculed. The article made some disturbing disclosures. One member of the Group was accused of having a long history of trickery. It was insinuated that she had not only been responsible for writing anonymous letters in doggerel verse to eminent crop circle researchers, but that she was still up to her old tricks and had already started playing mischievous games with the Beckhampton Group.

## A trickster

To the horror of the Group, it was revealed that one of their most enthusiastic and active members had a long, sinister record as a hoaxer. In 1980 he had played a bizarre trick on a local UFO group of which he was a member. At first the Beckhampton Group wasn't sure how to react. Should his case be regarded as the deed of a "youthful sinner" that could be laid to rest, or was history repeating itself? Should he be allowed to stay, asked to resign or, as some representatives of the "debunking faction" suggested, kept within the Group and closely watched? There were certain good reasons for suspicion. He had introduced himself into the world of crop circles by reporting a small formation near his house, and he was the one who liked to entertain gatherings in the smoke-filled tackroom of the Waggon Horses with a story about being telephoned by an anonymous, metallic voice. Guilty or innocent - in the end

he resigned honourably - it was all too clear that his position inside the Group had become untenable. Farmers declared that they didn't want anyone on their land, organizing or taking part in night watches, who was not "squeaky clean", as Polly Carson of Alton Priors put it.

Was it a coincidence that this member had moved into key positions within the Group and had argued strongly in favour of a more structured and co-ordinated body. He had become the treasurer and membership co-ordinator and had energetically started to prepare night watches for the coming season. It was he who proposed the introduction of smart new identity cards for night watchers. They were in the shape of credit cards and required two photographs - one for the card and one for the file - of each member. George Wingfield was the first to deliver: two astonishingly unrecognizable photos from early youth. It is worth remembering that not even Margaret Thatcher could overcome the resistance of the British nation to a similar plan. But most members of the Beckhampton Group were willing to accept that identity cards were necessary in the fight against hoaxers.

## Insecurity

Groups founded to study parascientific phenomena not only attract people who are fascinated with anomalies and bored with the "tunnel vision" of scientific orthodoxy. They are also an irresistible attraction to people with peculiar problems. Some are looking for a stage where they can become the centre of

Continued on page 26.



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Assembled in the historic Tack Room, the Group listens to George Wingfield.

# BELIEFS AND THEORIES

Dozens of ingenious and plausible crop circle theories repose idly in *The Cerealogist's* archives. We have pulled out a few of them, made an assessment of their strong and weak points and added some light suggestions on what to do if you are infected by any of the following notions.

**Total hoax theory.** Pioneered by Dr David Fisher of the British and Irish Sceptics, this theory asserts that every known crop formation could have been man-made. Thus, by Occam's Razor, it is most likely that people are making crop circles.

*Strong point.* Appeals to the French.

*Weak point.* Failure to address such questions as the identity and motives of the hypothetical hoaxing groups. Also unexplained are strange lights, UFO effects, undamaged stalk bending, radiation, etc. at circle sites. We're working on it, say the hoax theorists.

*What to do.* Work harder at it, solve the problems, claim the *Sunday Mirror* £10,000 prize.

**Gaia theory.** The earth is a living creature and she is disgusted and sickened by the poisonous muck dumped upon her by farmers. So she is signifying protest by writing across their cornfields.

*Strong point.* If she can do such a thing she has strong reason to do it.

*Weak point.* Couldn't she spell it out? Farmers have no time for decoding pictograms.

*What to do.* Go organic.

**New Age theory.** Similar to Gaia theory but without the negative element. The universe is about to rain grace upon us, charging power centres, reopening ley lines and making everyone feel very good and positive about everything. Crop circles are signs that this process is under way.

*Strong point.* Good idea.

*Weak point.* Flakiness.

*What to do.* Join Fountain International.

**Science fiction theory.** Somewhere, somehow, someone has a mysterious technique for marking cornfields by means of soundwaves, etheric rays or whatever, transmitted by an instrument they have invented. This person or group is thought to have military associations but he is also something of an artist.

*Strong point.* Fits many of the facts and bridges the gap between the hoax theorists and the supernormalists.

*Weak point.* No such instrument is known or believed possible at present.

*What to do.* Write another story.

**Crafty farmer theory.** This theory was first outlined in the *New York Times*, 27 July 1991, in an article on crop circles by William E. Schmidt. In tune with readers' instincts, he pointed significantly to the roaring trade in key-rings etc. of certain farmers in the Avebury area and to the profits which crop circles brought upon Wiltshire hostellers.

Whatever the cause of crop circles, he shrewdly observed, they were 'lucrative'.

*Strong point.* Always look for the profit motive.

*Weak point.* Many farmers are no more keen



to have crop circles that unlicensed pop festivals on their land.

*What to do.* Open a bed-and-breakfast at Avebury.

**Meteorological theory.** Associated for over ten years with its founder, Dr G. Terence Meaden the Wiltshire meteorologist, the causal theory of a 'stationary whirlwind', later refigured as a 'plasma vortex', satisfied the incurious, lulled anxieties and continued to interest most researchers up to 1990 when the first pictograms appeared. After initial hesitation about whether to identify them as hoaxes or genuine the founder accepted them as positively helpful to his theory. Following the hoaxing scandals of 1991, he withdrew recognition from pictograms, declaring them to be hoaxes. The theory is now a hoax-vortex composite.

*Strong point.* No other serious scientific theory has ever entered the field to challenge this one.

*Weak point.* Limited application and the lack of any records of folklore on crop circles.

*What to do.* Think it over.

**God speaking to Me theory.** Unworthy though I am, God has chosen Me as the recipient of His Word, uttered through agriglyphs. Through the circles I have become psychically awakened. Perhaps I am not so unworthy after all...

*Strong point.* It is not unknown in ancient records for God to speak to people.

*Weak point.* The myriad voices that babble on the psychic wavelenghts neither include nor constitute the voice of God. They are of low mental quality and cause insanity.

*What to do.* Take a course in elementary mysticism.

**The Devil theory.** Many so-called Christians, who have lowered their vision to seeing the Devil in everything, are consistent in attributing crop circles to demonic activity.

*Strong point.* The Devil is recorded as having made a crop circle, but mown rather than swirled, in an English oatfield in 1678.

*Weak point.* Crop circles are far from demonic in character.

*What to do.* Put the image of Satan behind you, see the glory that was hidden by it and direct your enthusiasms towards the light.

**Little people theory.** An army of tiny creatures, not easy to see, swarm into a cornfield and, each taking an individual stalk, persuade the corn to lie down simultaneously without damage. Grosser versions feature diminutive spacemen. Less specific are the fairy faith revivalists (Merrily Harpur, John Haddington, the Brotherhood of Ruralist artists) who encourage this theory for pragmatic reasons.

*Strong point.* A pretty picture.

*Weak point.* Most fields are sprayed against fairies.

*What to do.* Get some stronger binoculars.

**Mythological, archetypal or Jungian tendency.** Most artfully articulated by Patrick Harpur in *The Cerealogist*, this tendency (it is no grubby, commonplace theory) transcends the vulgar desire to explain crop circles mechanically, proceeding instantly to the formless world of archetypes. Thence it exhibits images of the gods or ultimate realities which are the cause of all happenings and manifestations upon earth, crop circles included.

*Strong point.* With its premises in the unchanging world of abstract truth, it is more firmly founded than any other expression on the crop circle mystery.

*Weak point.* Does not break the spirit barrier.

*What to do.* Allow idiots to suppose that you are not really serious.

**UFO theory.** Ever since the first, scattered specimens were identified as 'UFO nests' in the 1960s, crop circles have always been associated with the UFO phenomenon.

*Strong point.* Crop circles are evidently a continuation and solidification of the UFO phenomenon.

*Weak point.* But since the cause, nature and meaning of UFOs is unknown, crop circle studies are not advanced by the connection.

*What to do.* UFOlogists are a quarrelsome, cranky bunch. Avoid discussion of cerealogy unless you want mud slung over you.

**Invisible man theory.** An artist has learnt the secret of invisibility and is exhibiting each summer on the horizontal display surface of Wessex.

*Strong point.* Irrefutability.

*Weak point.* Robbing banks would be easier.

*What to do.* Watch out for the moving overcoat.

# DOUBLE HELIX

Insectograms... snails... DNA! A revelation on the M1 motorway starts a train of thought in the mind of *John Haddington*.

EVER SINCE I first caught sight of a crop circle I had a feeling that some clue to the source of the intelligence behind their creation would be discovered sooner or later, and that the clue would be found in the symbols that these circles described on the ground using the corn as a drawing medium. In 1988 a clover leaf formation appeared at Corhampton in Hampshire, and it was this tidy group of circles that gave the first indication of the intelligence behind the circles as a whole.

What follows is purely a personal view of the Intelligence behind the phenomenon, and in no way attempts to explain the mechanics behind the way that the corn is actually laid down. What I find so striking is the endless string of visual and literary puns that appear again and again as one examines the evidence. Yes, there are hoaxers and mimics of the genuine phenomenon but the true article shines through like the work of a great artist, and is always at least a mile ahead of the forgers who are a minor irritation to research, though an absolute blight to the farmers.

Last summer the development of the crop circles entered a new phase. Several formations appeared with a curious appendage that looked like a ladder. There were 15 rungs on the first two in Hampshire, and seven runs on the two that appeared at Stonehenge. A single formation appeared at Lichfield Down but two extra circles suggested the presence of another one hidden from view.

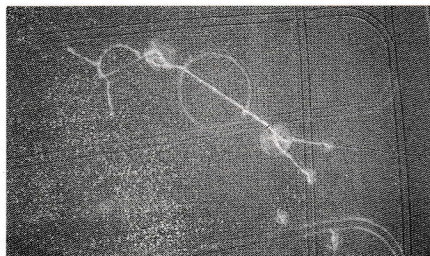
These configurations looked like representations of a living creature as there was a head with two antennae with small circles at the end of them. Two of these configurations had an arc beyond the head from which sprung the antennae. In each case the head of the creature was joined to a broad circular ring by an alleyway that ran the length of the diameter of the ring to another similar sized circle at the far end. It was on this circle that the ladder was fixed at an angle of 120 degrees to the right of the main connecting alleyway. A semicircular ring joined the top and bottom of the ladder and in the case of the Lichfield Down configuration there were two more alleyways attached to this ring. Both the Lichfield Down formation and the Stonehenge formations were hidden from view of the road.

I had a distinct feeling that there was an important discovery to be made from studying these circles, and while standing in the "head" I asked for some guidance as to the hidden meaning of these formations. I was sure that there was one, if only one could read it. It was around about Leicester on the M1 on the return journey to Scotland that the answer came through. These configurations are indeed representations of a creature. Not insects as had been previously mooted but

SNAILS! The clue is the ladder, for a snail leaves a silvery track where she goes that in Natural History terms is known as a ladder.

There is more. The old English name for a snail is the "Dodman" due to its eyes being on stalks. The other meaning of "Dodman" is an ancient surveyor of the landscape. These were the men in prehistoric times who sited the monuments of Stonehenge, Avebury, and all the other sacred sites of this country. They are also mentioned in the Domesday Book as the surveyors of territorial boundaries throughout the country. They were of course skilled dowsers and found water supplies for the early settlements.

There is a clue in Michael Dame's book *The Avebury Cycle*, as to what ancient man thought of snails. When first excavated it was found that the wooden building of The Sanctuary at the East end of the Avenue at Avebury had hundreds of snail shells placed beneath the supporting posts of the structure. This is a well known shamanistic practice of dedicating a building for a particular purpose - in this case the worship of the Earth Goddess; for the ancient people of Wessex regarded the snail as a manifestation of the



Lichfield Down 1991; not an insect, a SNAIL.

Earth Goddess, connected to the moon, and associated with the element water. The shell of the snail has a spiral form from which the creature emerges exemplifying the emergence of consciousness from the Cosmic Spiral. We call her "She" but indeed the snail is an androgynous creature capable of mating successfully with any other snail, a true hermaphrodite.

What more is being said by the portrayal of this image of the snail? It is in the Latin name that we find a further clue. The Latin name for a snail is *Helix Nemoralis*, or *Helix Pomatia* in the case of the edible Roman snail. When we first recognize that these configurations are snails and that there were two in each field of occurrence, the door opens to reveal this answer.

Two snails = Double Helix = construct of DNA, the connecting chemical of all lifeforms and a well kept secret of nature till now. Therefore the phenomenon behind the crop circles implies that it is to do with Nature. However, on a deeper level the Double Helix is also the construct of the Caduceus of Mercury, the God of Nature who brought

order to the Universe out of Chaos at the beginning of Time. Mercury is also said to be a hermaphrodite like the snail so this proposition starts to hang together quite neatly; the hermaphrodite God of Nature holding in his hands the symbol of the secret of Nature. Quite mind blowing if this is correct.

More evidence was to follow with the appearance of the Barbury Castle configuration, a double ringed circle surrounded by a triangle with circles at the apexes. One of these was not a circle but the helical spiral of a snail shell, confirming the fact that the other formations did indeed represent snails. When I first saw a picture of this formation my excitement was ill concealed as I brandished it under various unsuspecting noses; not only did it confirm what I had thought at the "Dodmanograms" but I had recent seen this exact shape hanging round Shirley Maclain's neck. An amulet in the form of a golden triangle with three small globes at the angles with a diamond set at the centre.

In haste I drove to Edinburgh to consult the esoteric department at Waterstones where a book on Alchemy fell into my hands. There, in a tract called the Golden Tripod was the same diagram: two rings with a triangle about them, and at the apexes of the triangle astrological signs for The Sun, The Moon, and Mercury. The alchemical triad, and at the centre of the two rings was written in Hebrew "NATURE". My thanks to Michael Glickman for the translation of that and for the translation of the word "Jamsuph" which means a sea of reeds (the fields of corn?). The text around the triangle reads "I WAS BORN OF HERMOGENES, ELECTED BY HYPERION, WITHOUT JAMSUPH I WILL PERISH". As you can see from the picture of the Barbury Castle event there are legs coming out of the central circle to the angles of the triangle. Could this be the legs of the Golden Tripod? In which case this pictogram is supposed to be viewed as a three dimensional figure.

The next important event was the coming of the Mandelbrot to Cambridgeshire. This figure is created by a mathematical iteration of an equation using real and imaginary numbers; a fourth dimensional science known as the science of CHAOS. The seal of Mercury has CHAOS written around its perimeter, for as previously stated he was the God who brought order out of chaos. So here are two pointers, one to the ancient science of Alchemy, the springboard of modern physics and chemistry, and the other to the new science of Chaos. Can this be an indication that we are about to enter the fourth dimensions? Certainly it would seem that these communications originate from that area, so maybe we should pay attention and treat this phenomenon seriously.

# A REAL AND IMPORTANT PHENOMENON

Co-author of *Circular Evidence* and one of the original band of crop circle investigators, *Colin Andrews* has gained certain insights and convictions during his long experience of the phenomenon. Unshaken by recent events, these continue to inspire his researchers. Dramatic changes are imminent, he warns, and the best we can do is to stay calm and be honest and open,



JURGEN KRÖNIC

*Keeping watch: Colin Andrews on a Wiltshire hilltop.*

AS ONE OF the original team of four researchers investigating this important phenomenon for some eight years, I can assure you we had discovered ample evidence of a real mystery 5 years ago. It was just a small segment of this evidence which enabled me to repudiate the wild claim of the hoaxers, Doug and Dave. Pal Delgado and I thought we did a reasonable job of putting the carefully recorded facts to the public with our first book *Circular Evidence*, published in 1989, but there is a demand now for the full story and the time is right to tell it. My next book will publish all the major features and will place the whole mystery on the table for inspection.

Pat Delgado and I have worked harmoniously together for many years and will continue to be in close contact, but we have agreed to restructure our respective efforts, leaving us both independent to undertake individual projects. I am about to undertake a second and much larger video contract which should jolt the world audience it is aimed at into serious thought. I am also keen to develop a world-wide organizational network and to commit myself to sharing data with scientists who feel they can forward the work. Pat will continue to publish the newsletter, re-named *Circle Lines*, which will no longer contain my input or CPR logo. So before rumour becomes rife, no arguments have taken place, we have agreed to a new situation and both of us are very happy to co-operate as friends in the way we always have.

How privileged the original four of us were, Dr Terence Meaden, Pal Delgado, Busty Taylor and I (occasionally Don

Tuersley), to walk into the new discoveries when it was quite usual to find only the set of footprints made by the farmer who had discovered it, or none at all. The farmers or their employees would find the circles and report them to one of us. No fear then of hundreds of feet pounding the area and destroying the evidence before we reached the spot. For several years I supplied my three colleagues with radio pagers which would activate as soon as the call of a new discovery was received. Within minutes of the call, Busty Taylor would be on his way to Thruxton airfield to fly the aircraft over the new arrival, while Pat Delgado, Dr Meaden and I would drive to the spot by road for site work. It was all very friendly and efficient. Our paper work was pro-formed and we knew just what to look for and record. Radiation measurements, plant and soil tests, compass bearings and accurate measurements were taken, along with many other notes. The details gathered in that early period were always going to be of the greatest value, and so it has proved. We were gathering valuable information well before the wider public were aware of the mystery, and hence there was not yet the publicity which has given rise to the most serious and worrying trend of all, hoaxing. So for serious research we should be re-focusing upon in the pre-1989 period when the subject was not so polluted.

It was the ground swirl details from the first Celtic Cross formation (Andrews Catalogue type No.8), at Longstock, Hampshire, in 1988, that enabled me confidently to refute the recent hoax claim. This was not referred to in the *Today* newspaper revelation of Monday September 9th 1991, simply because it would have damaged their hoax story. The Longstock site was visited by only Pat, Busty and myself and was completely virgin - providing very significant evidence of an extraordinary energy field. The plants lay at one point radially across the curving concentric outer ring. I have never witnessed anything like it before or since; it was truly amazing. If there had been the slightest possibility that anyone had created it I would have finished my investigation there and then. The formation was one of two pictured on the cover of *Circular Evidence*.

We must now take urgent stock of where we find ourselves with the research. There have been huge numbers of people rising to quick fame without the ground knowledge to represent the subject to the standard it demands. The media have been very much to blame for their eagerness to label anybody 'expert' so as to give their two-minute news-items credibility. I think we should accept the point made by my friend and fellow researcher Maria Ward recently,

that none of us are 'experts' and that the best we can accurately be called is experienced researchers. Yes, let us face up to our difficulties and organize ourselves for the challenge. Ego and Bandwagon time is over. Most of us have seen evidence in recent months of what happens when Ego is the prime mover - it can be very painful indeed and damaging to us all.

The cruel and unnecessary methods used by some of the sceptics groups leaves me almost speechless. Remember, many of these negative fools are scientists whose training we have paid for in the hope they would produce usefully for society. There is always a place for scepticism; we should all possess some of it, but it is the destructive type, that engenders such tremendously potent negativity and often hatred verging upon evil, that I have no time for. What kind of scientist lulls his fellow scientist into a televised trap to catch him out and to publicly belittle him? That kind of behaviour is unforgivable.

I believe we are witnessing but a small part of a changing world and with it changing consciousness. I am aware of three different confidential research programmes in UK, USA and USSR, each on the edge of discoveries which, I believe, will change the world and stand science once again on its head. So to all I would ask, keep a cool head, but be honest and sincere in your endeavour to understand. Do not be fixed in your thinking, keep an open mind.

'Mother' nature, as we have been taught to know her, is showing unhappy and desperate signs. She is ill and we 'brothers' made her ill. The snow has stopped falling on the mountain tops (ask those who have relied upon it throughout time); it is no longer there to melt and fill the mother's waters below; her rivers are drying up. Look at her lungs, in the form of the leaves on her trees; those leaves are withering and dying. Look at the leaves in your city, in any city in the world. Yes, 'Mother' has got big problems, and that means one certain thing - WE HAVE TOO.

Our subject is a fascinating one, full of intrigue, mystery and scientific challenge. But the beautiful nature of the phenomenon makes it not only a privilege to investigate, but often great fun as well. So let us retain light hearts, enjoy the work, transmit friendship and love. Having travelled the world and enlisted the assistance of numerous experts in many fields of science in my search for the answer to this mystery, I have recently come to the conclusion that the investigation into this subject, and that of the UFO, is about to witness a major breakthrough. I think a surprise or two is in store very soon.

# THE LESSONS OF HISTORY

*Joscelyn Godwin* draws attention to some previous outbreaks of psychic excitement and compares their developments to that of the crop circle phenomenon. The events in every case were surrounded by hoax, fraud and disinformation, but their mystery was never entirely dispelled and they have continued to influence our modes of thinking.

WHEN CASTING AROUND for a precedent that might help them comprehend the phenomenon of crop circles, many people fasten on that of UFOs. While not denying their possible kinship, I would like to push the analogy a little further back in time by considering two happenings of the nineteenth century: the vogue of Spiritualism, which began in 1848, and the communications of H. P. Blavatsky's Mahatmas in the 1880s. Time has ripened these no less curious events; in themselves they remain enigmatic, but their effects have run their course. Consequently one can treat them with historical detachment rather than journalistic breathlessness, and learn what they have to tell us - and I think it is considerable - about the present mystery.

The phenomenon of 1848, synchronous with many revolutions in the Old World, occurred in Hydesville, New York. A cottage had been haunted for some time by bumps in the night and other mild poltergeist symptoms. The young daughter of the afflicted family, Katie Fox, had the mischievous idea of talking back to the bumps, which took such obvious notice of her responses that she soon developed a rudimentary code and started a dialogue with them. They purported to be the "voice" of a peddler who had been secretly murdered in the house, and was demanding redress and the decent burial of his remains. Although this was not the first historical instance of a dialogue with the dead, it was an epoch-making one. Great crowds flocked to the Foxes' cottage to witness the communications, so much so that Katie and her sisters moved their theatre of operations to the nearby city of Rochester and began a chequered career as exhibition mediums. The peddler was soon forgotten (though some remains were said to have been found in the cottage cellar), but he was the least of the witnesses to survival that hastened to speak through mediums throughout the Northeastern states, and in due course throughout the world. The Spiritualist movement was launched, and with it the seeming proof that human Personality survives bodily death.

The spirits did not only bump or rap: they used the mediums' voices directly; wrote on sealed slates; moved heavy objects; inspired artistic, musical and linguistic performances far beyond the mediums' usual capacity; showed clairvoyance, and historical and prophetic insights; caused levitation and bodily elongation; even, on occasions, appeared clad in ectoplasm. Such miracles served as overwhelming confirmation of the spirits' reality.

Reactions to the phenomenon covered the whole gamut of intellectual and spiritual sophistication. On the most popular level, hundreds of thousands of people felt it as a

religious revelation: perhaps the first such experience of their lives, whether they had formerly paid lip service to Christianity, been indifferent to it, or completely skeptical. The apparent power of the mediums to summon up dead relatives went to the heart of the masses. It was especially effective in the cases of dead babies or children (far more common then than now), who assured their parents of their happiness in the "Summerland" and looked forward to a family reunion beyond the grave. For these Spiritualists, death lost much of its sting.

At a higher level, the Spirits spoke of the afterlife as a place and time of continual development: a doctrine not unknown among theologians but which stood in reassuring contrast to the stark choice of Heaven or Hell offered by most churches. Some spirits taught that we are eventually reincarnated; others denied this, explaining that moral and spiritual progress continues on other planets or in the many mansions of a beneficent God. Different sects were formed to cultivate the various types and levels of belief.

At yet another level, there were those, Christian and others, who were not interested in the survival of personalities, least of all in the ones that pretended to be George Washington or Shakespeare. The seances for them were rites of communion with saints and angels: adjuncts to a mystical view of the community of all beings in a universe that is the body of God.

The Spiritualist movement had its philosophers, its mystics, its channellers and systematizers; its personal rivalries, its self-servers and its star performers. Although it was an immense movement in terms of numbers, it repelled many orthodox Christians who regarded the spirits as diabolical agents, and as many materialists who saw the whole scene as one more manifestation of human credulity, fraud, and folly. For the latter group, the frequent unmasking of mediums caught faking phenomena, and the confessions of others who said that they and all their kind had been faking all along (the Fox sisters were supposed to have done the raps with their knee-joints), were sufficient to dismiss the whole farrago. Yet when one reads in the very extensive literature of the period, one cannot be so sure. No matter what happened at the Fox cottage, something was started in 1848 that changed the minds and lives of millions. And things were reported by unimpeachable witnesses that defy all materialistic explanations.

Social historians have played down the role of Spiritualism because it is an embarrassment to them, especially to those on the Left whose tendencies in our century have been those of dialectical materialism. But

Spiritualism was a major religious and social movement in the USA, and a considerable force in Britain and France. It allied itself with the abolition of slavery, women's suffrage, the temperance and anti-vivisection movements, experiments in communal living, and the opposition to the established churches: in short, with the politics of social reform and humanitarianism. At the other end of society, its practitioners included the Emperors of France, Russia, and Brazil, President Lincoln and Queen Victoria. Now almost extinct in the land of its birth, it is becoming ever stronger in Latin America, especially Brazil, where society is in some ways comparable to that of nineteenth-century Europe.

If anyone has read this far and still wonders what all this has to do with crop circles, I apologize. Perhaps my next parallel will make it clearer. This is the phenomenon of the "Mahatma Letters."

The evidence for the Hydesville rappings rests only on verbal reports. The Mahatma Letters, on the other hand, are physical objects which have come to rest in the Manuscript Room of the British Library. They are said originally to have appeared "phenomenally," i.e. materialized out of thin air, and were thus delivered to their recipients A. P. Sinnett and A. O. Hume. Madame Blavatsky certainly had a lot to do with their manifestation, and possibly with their content as well. But conspiracy theory is stretched to the limit by those who try to explain how she got them delivered on a train, at sea, and in other circumstances out of her direct control. In short, the letters are still quite a mystery, and even as physical objects require a lot of explaining: the closer one examines them, the odder they appear.

The Theosophists in Blavatsky's immediate circle did not doubt that the letters were somehow "written" by the Mahatmas (= "great souls") who signed them as Koot Hoomi and Morya, residents of Shigatse in Tibet. Although the letters themselves were not published until 1924, the strange phenomena attending Madame Blavatsky in India were described by Sinnett in *The Occult World*, and long extracts from the letters were given in his *Esoteric Buddhism*. Both books caused a sensation in England and the USA. True, the apports and other phenomena attributed to Blavatsky were not out of line with those of the more powerful Spiritualist mediums. But their association with hidden Masters of the East, followed by the mysterious delivery of letters from these explaining the occult history of the world and of mankind: that was something new.

Blavatsky's Eastern connection, whatever its nature, was underplayed during her years in New York that saw the foundation of the Theosophical Society in 1875. She dropped

hints of having been in Tibet and learnt the mysteries of the East, but her activities were more consonant with the higher ambitions within Western Spiritualism. It was her special mission, she said, to purify (sometimes she said to destroy) Spiritualism and to show that the agents working through the mediums were not the spirits of the dead, but deceitful elementals or else living adepts. Her own uncontested ability as a medium showed that phenomena could be produced by direct human will, when trained in the schools of occultism. As for the Hydesville rapping that had started the whole thing in 1848, some Theosophists attributed this to a group of living men, who had acted with the laudable intention of combatting the increasing materialism of the century. But it had got out of control when the entities involved started posturing as spirits of the human dead.

The Mahatmas of the Himalayas, likewise, were accepted by Theosophists as living men who had developed their occult powers beyond normal comprehension: hence their ability to project or precipitate letters at a distance, write notes in sealed envelopes, read the minds of their disciples, appear in the astral body, etc. But this was the lesser part of Blavatsky's programme, and some would say the most mistaken one. Her avowed purpose, after her arrival in India, was to teach a "Secret Doctrine" that the East had always known, but which had hitherto been kept from the profane.

As in the case of Spiritualism, there was no lack of ammunition for the opponents of Theosophy, especially after the investigation of the phenomena at Adyar by an emissary from the Society for Psychical Research, the plagiarism of a spiritualist's lecture in a Mahatma's letter, and the publication of compromising letters from Blavatsky concerning the faking of miracles - letters that were themselves probably faked. Many people who had a slight leaning towards Theosophy dropped it like a hot cake, while for those who had been sceptical all along, there seemed no reason to pay any more attention to Blavatsky and her spurious Himalayan Masters.

For others, the value of Theosophy was undiminished. It stood, after all, for the universal brotherhood of mankind; for the comparative and unbiased study of all the world's religions and philosophies; and for the investigation of the occult capacities of the human being. The first of these objects was fully in accord with the "leftist" ideals of the nineteenth century, and has suffered the same ups and downs as those. The second object has certainly flourished in the hundred and more years since the Society's foundation. Wherever comparative religion is studied in pursuit of wisdom (rather than as an academic exercise), and especially where Eastern doctrines and practices are concerned (Buddhism, yoga, meditation, etc.), there is a clear line back to Theosophy for any historian who cares to trace it. The third object occupied some prominent scientists in the earlier twentieth century, passed through a period of taboo, but may be on the brink of a revival.

In summary: Blavatsky's work alerted the Western consciousness to the Wisdom of the East; whereas Spiritualism had opened it up to Communion with the Invisible. Both ideas, whose spiritual value few would deny, were planted in the collective mind through means that may seem strange and a little cranky. There was sufficient funny business going on to allow the unreflective majority to dismiss both phenomena out of hand. The rumours of fraud and fakery acted as a filter, excluding that majority from any further dialogue with the phenomenon. Others were made uncomfortable by them, but not yet willing to close their minds: they had seen or heard enough to recognize that there was more than mere fraud going on here.

Those who remained within the movements as believers reacted according to their own preconceptions and at their own level. In Spiritualism they held seances and communed with the departed, but in so many different ways and with such varied doctrinal results that the movement was soon frag-



*Madame Blavatsky. Mystical initiate or charlatan, her teaching of the Secret Doctrine influenced her contemporaries and has left its mark on the history of modern thought.*

mented. In Theosophy they split into the many schools that acknowledge a leadership from the Mahatmas: for example, Charles Leadbeater, whose clairvoyant contact with the Masters totally changed the face of the Society; Alice Bailey, mouthpiece for "The Tibetan"; Cyril Scott, author of "The Initiate" series; and Elizabeth Clare Prophet, latest in a line of American disciples of the "Ascended Masters." These, in turn, paved the way for the all-too-human Masters from the East who have found a ready audience in California and elsewhere, and for the present movement of Channelling.

If space permitted, I would treat the UFOs as a third phenomenon in this series; but I must leave that to others. In the crop circles we have a fourth mysterious phenomenon, of a still more physical nature and obviously the work of an intelligence. A confessed fraud has deflected the attention of the vast majority of people, who had not studied the phenomenon sufficiently to have earned an opinion of their own. Those that are left comprise the whole gamut of reactions, from geometricians to trance mediums, just as Spiritualists ranged from F.R.S.'s to free love

agitators, and Theosophists from Gnostic bishops to fairy-spotters. Anyone with the least psychic capability is open to the temptation of forming a church or cult. There are the same kinds of egotists and self-publicists as arose in the Spiritualist movement and in the degenerate branches of Theosophy. What few of these people recognize is that they and their behaviour are themselves part of the phenomenon—and not the least part. We are witnessing the birth of another religious movement (some would prefer to say "pseudo-religious"), which begins from a moment of inexplicable "revelation," and continues with its rich mixture of esotericists, mystics, dogmatists, preachers, ritualists, and political activists that is a cross-section of mankind.

Are the circles caused by "living men," as some suppose the Hydesville rappings, the Mahatma Letters, or the UFOs to have been? If so, are these men (or women) masters of occultism or adepts at fraud? Is there even a distinction, when something of this magnitude is being set afoot? On the other hand, are the spirits in Summerland; the Masters "ascended," the UFOs from another planet or plane? One answers according to one's psychological makeup. My own makes me suspend judgment, pending more definite information.

I will just touch for an instant on another phenomenon: the one that, for Western civilization, encloses all others. Was Jesus a living man, supernaturally gifted or self-deluded? Or was he a symbolic saviour-figure; the Sovereign Sun; a spirit that never really incarnated; or the Christ in everyone? History records Christians of all these persuasions, and more. But history also records something immensely more important than these conflicting opinions: the effects on mankind, for better and for worse, of whatever happened in Judea in the first century.

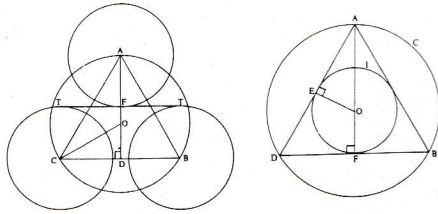
Faced with the crop-circle phenomenon, whose exact nature escapes analysis, I would likewise ask what is its overall effect on the belief-systems and the spiritual sensibility of those touched by it? I have said what I think to have been the general legacy of Spiritualism and Theosophy as leavens in the Western consciousness. To those who in some way "believe" in UFOs, the basic message - whether in a mood of reassurance or of warning - has surely been "We Are Not Alone." As for the crop circles, until they, too, have entered history it would be rash to crystallize any message but "Wait and See." By encouraging an open mind, an acceptance of uncertainty and of paradox, and a sense of expectant wonder, this message in itself may constitute the most valuable lesson of all.

NOTE: Joscelyn Godwin has written more on the historical background in "The Hidden Hand," a four-part article in *Theosophical History*, vol. III, nos. 2-5 (available from the Quest Bookshop, 12 Bury Place, London WC1A 2LE). Later this year his book *Arktos: the Polar Myth in Science, Symbolism and Nazi Survival* will be published by Phanes Press/Thames & Hudson.

# INTRICATE MATHEMATICS IN CROP CIRCLES

This is not a theory, insists *Gerald Hawkins*. The fact is that circle formations have an internal geometry with ratios which parallel those of the diatonic musical scale.

I HAVE NOTED Euclidean theorems which seem to exist in four crop circle patterns<sup>1</sup>. The geometric ratios follow the same mathematical law as the diatonic intervals, and notes of music. This is an actual finding, not a theory. The same properties show up in the measured rings and circles. Proofs of the theorems are given below, and a discussion follows.



Left, Theorem I. See *The Crop Circle Enigma*, plate 9.  
Right, Theorem II. See *The Latest Evidence*, page 54.

**I. The area, C, of the circles outside the equilateral triangle is five times the area within.**  
Proof: In figure 1, the sectors are 300° and 60°, Q.E.D. This result is a general proposition, not particular to the size of the triangle.

**The diameter of the triangle's circumscribed circle is 4/3 of the diameter of the circles at the corners.**

Proof: Since tangent TT bisects AD at F, and angle OCD is 30°,

$$2AF = AO + OD = AO + 1/2 OC = 3/2 AO, \text{ therefore } AO = 4/3 AF, \text{ Q.E.D.}$$

This result depends critically on all 3 tangents touching 3 circles, which condition may be verified by placing a transparent rule on the photograph, figure 1a.

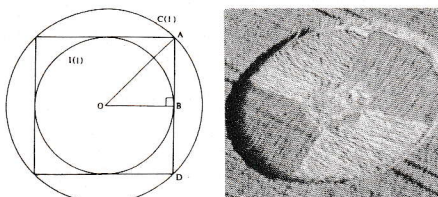
**II. The area, C, of an isosceles triangle's circumscribed circle over the area, I, of the inscribed circle is 4 X (side/base)<sup>2</sup>.**

Proof: In figure 2, let F bisect the base, BD, and O be the centers of the circles. Angle EAO is common to the right triangles, EAO, and FAD,

$$\text{therefore } \frac{OA}{OE} = \frac{AD}{DF}, \text{ and } \frac{C}{I} = 4 \left( \frac{\text{side}}{\text{base}} \right)^2 \text{ Q.E.D.}$$

The area of the annular ring divided by the area of the inscribed circle is (C-I)/I=(C/I)-1.

The equilateral is the limiting case with side/base=1. Therefore C/I=4, and (C-I)/I=3.



Theorem III. *Winterbourne Stoke*, 1989.

**III. The area, C, of the square's circumscribed circle is twice the area, I, of the inscribed circle.**

Proof: In figure 3, since angle AOB is 45°,

$$AO = \sqrt{2} BO, \text{ therefore } C/I = 2, \text{ Q.E.D.}$$

The ratio of area, C(1), of the first circumscribed circle, to the area, I(m), of the innermost circle is 2<sup>m</sup>.

Proof: Continue inscribing to the mth square and the mth inscribed circle, then,

$$\frac{C(1)}{I(1)} = \frac{C(2)}{I(2)} = \frac{C(3)}{I(3)} = \frac{C(3)}{I(3)} = \dots = \frac{C(m)}{I(m)} = 2$$

By multiplication,

$$\frac{C(1)}{I(1)} \times \frac{C(2)}{I(2)} \times \frac{C(3)}{I(3)} \times \dots \times \frac{C(m)}{I(m)} = 2^m$$

Noting that C(m) = I(m-1),

$$\frac{C(1)}{I(m)} 2^m, \text{ Q.E.D.}$$

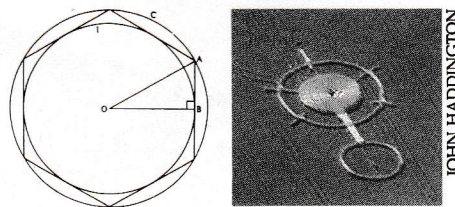
With m = 4, this ratio is 16:1.

**The ratio of the area of the annular ring to the area of the innermost circle is 2<sup>m</sup> - 1.**

Proof: Subtract 1 from each side of the above equation,

$$\frac{C(1) - I(m)}{I(m)} = 2^m - 1, \text{ Q.E.D.}$$

With m = 4, this ratio is 15:1.



Theorem IV. *Etchilhampton*, 1990.

**IV. The area, C, of a hexagon's circumscribed circle is 4/3 of the area, I, of the inscribed circle.**

Proof: In figure 4, since angle AOB is 30°,

$$\frac{OA}{OB} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}, \text{ and } \left( \frac{OA}{OB} \right)^2 = \frac{4}{3}, \text{ Q.E.D.}$$

It might be argued that the crop patterns do not show all of the lines that are in these geometrical diagrams. Actually, this is a recognized characteristic of Euclidian theorems - the proof of a proposition usually requires construction lines to be drawn.

Then it can be argued that there are many Euclidian theorems, and to find some in the crop circles is only moderately surprising. However, the above four are a special subset involving circumscribed circles, and, as an

additional distinction, they embody the mathematical intervals of music.

The ratios of frequencies in the diatonic scale are<sup>2</sup>:

$$1, \frac{9}{8}, \frac{5}{4}, \frac{4}{3}, \frac{3}{2}, \frac{5}{3}, \frac{15}{8}, 2.$$

These fractions give the perfect major intervals of 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and octave. The sequence is multiplied or divided by factors of 2 to reach higher or lower octaves, and is called just intonation. In its simplest form, the major scale can be thought of in terms of the white notes of the piano, c d e f g a b c'. (The chromatic scale contains 5 extra semitone notes. In contemporary tuning, called equal temperament, the major fractions are replaced by the series log<sup>-1</sup> [n/39.86], where n is an integer. The deviation from perfect intervals is regarded as undetectable to the average ear<sup>2</sup>.)

Applying Euclidian theorems to the crop patterns we find there are many perfect intervals. For example, the three circles with common tangents (Corhampton 1988), and the hexagon (1990), give a perfect 4th, 4/3. The inscribed square (Winterbourne Stoke 1989) gives four octaves, 16, and its annular ring reduces to a perfect 7th, 15/8.

Field measurements by Andrews and Delgado<sup>3</sup> of the triangle at Beckhampton (1990) show it was isosceles with a side/base ratio of 1.47. Within the irregularities of the pattern, this may be taken as 3/2, yielding Euclidean values of 9 (note d'''), and 8 (note c''') for the circles and annular ring respectively.

There were two small isosceles triangles on either side of the main one, each with a measured side/base ratio of 3. Again, from theorem II the diatonic ratio is 36, the note d''''', a double octave above the d''' of the main triangle<sup>4</sup>.

It is well known<sup>2</sup> that 12 of the first 16 harmonics fall exactly on the upper diatonic intervals. Thus it could be said in criticism that the ratios in the crop patterns are integers, not musical intervals. However, the non-integers found in theorems I, IV and in a previous analysis<sup>5</sup> argue against that view.

It is dangerous in science to use analogies among different phenomena. There are patterns in snowflakes and other crystals, but these are built up from atoms which stick together cohesively, and the crystal shape is characteristic of the atoms from which it is built. Crop circle patterns do not depend on the nature of the crops. Then again, crystals show symmetry, but extended crop patterns do not.

An organism such as the nautilus shell is coded to follow mathematical laws in its growth, and the spiral of seeds in a sunflower head follow the Fibonacci numbers 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21. But the crop circles are not the

JOHN HADDINGTON

BUSTY TAYLOR



growth pattern of a single organism, because a million or more independent stems of a crop are involved. Nor is the Fibonacci series the same as the diatonic scale.

Finally we recognize the Kepler caveat. In 1596, Kepler explained the solar system by pure theory based on Platonic solids, but the measurements of Tycho Brahe later proved him wrong. Equally unfortunate, his theory of a universe controlled by musical intervals was destroyed by the facts. With the crop circles, however, the measurements have come first, and these diatonic ratios are facts waiting for a theory.

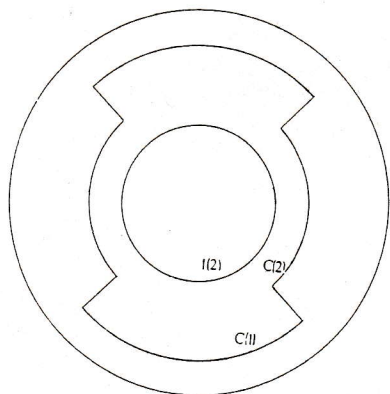
It was a recent study of mine in 1990<sup>5</sup> that led to this discovery of the diatonic relationship. I analyzed every ring and satellite in the set published by Delgado and Andrews<sup>6</sup>. For concentric circles the diatonic ratio was given by areas, and for satellites the ratio was by diameters. For flattened rings, as with circles, the measurement was taken at the outer edge of the flattened area. With those authors' total of 18 accurately measured features, 10 fitted the diatonic law to within 1%, corresponding to 15cm in the field.

One might question whether this sample is too small to rely on. Fortunately the criteria of small sample statistics give an answer - the confidence level is in the established range of acceptability, 99%. We have little reason to doubt the accuracy of Delgado and Andrews measurements, or the genuineness of the photographs. If more data becomes available for the '81-'88 time-frame the analysis could be continued, but it would require many sets, all with random ratios, to negate the above result. Nor, given the variability of the phenomenon, can one increase the '81-'88 sample by mixing in later years.

It is well known<sup>2</sup> that the diatonic ratios can be reduced to a common denominator of 24:

$$\frac{24}{24}, \frac{27}{24}, \frac{30}{24}, \frac{32}{24}, \frac{36}{24}, \frac{40}{24}, \frac{45}{24}, \frac{48}{24}$$

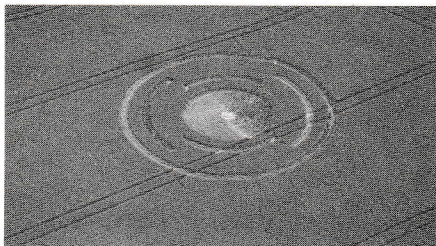
In theorem I it has been shown that the area of the satellites outside the triangle is 5 times the area contained within, which yields a perfect 3rd, 5/4. Somewhat surprisingly, the satellites at Corhampton in 1988<sup>6</sup> each contained 48 spokes, leaving a total of 24 in the corners of the triangle. This suggests actual fractions. The factor of 5 in the geometry of theorem I now occurs digitally as 120/24. In addition, one satellite's spokes gives 48/24, c', and those spokes external to the triangle give



Theorem V.

40/24, note a.

Richard Andrews and John Haddington<sup>8</sup> measured a formation of a circle with quadrants sectors, and a ring (figure 5). This leads to theorem V. Draw tangents and chords to show the two squares and rectangle that define the pattern (figure 6). From theorem III, the outer arcs enclose square 1, the inner arcs enclose square 2, and square 2 encloses the circle.



Illustrating Theorem V, circle on the Longmore estate, Hants, 1990.

V. The ratio of the area of the sectored pattern to the area of the circle is,

$$\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{C(1)}{I(2)} + \frac{C(2)}{I(2)} \right) = \frac{1}{2} (4 + 2) = 3$$

Geometry defines the number 3, field values<sup>3</sup> gave 2.998 as measured at the outer edge. This corresponds to the note g' in the second octave, which reduces to a perfect 5th.

The area, C(0), of the outer ring is 6 X the area of the inner circle, and 2 X the area of the sector pattern.

Proof: Since OC = AB, therefore OB<sup>2</sup> = OA<sup>2</sup> + OC<sup>2</sup>,

$$\text{and } \frac{C(0)}{I(2)} = \frac{C(1)}{I(2)} + \frac{C(2)}{I(2)} = 6, \text{ Q.E.D.}$$

The 6 and 2 correspond to the notes g'' and c'. Geometry, by its nature, gives rational numbers, but the actual measurements can never be so exact. Measurements in the field<sup>8</sup> gave 5.95 and 1.99, taking the outer edge as before<sup>5</sup>.

A skeptic might say 5 geometries are "not enough", but that opinion verges on cynicism. These geometrical patterns have stood out from the rest, in book jacket designs and even as the CCCS logo. John Michell<sup>9</sup> has described the geometry inherent in an oZo shape - a circle centered on the circumference of an equal circle. I leave it to the reader to prove that the area of the circle's inscribed hexagon is thrice the area of the diamond enclosed, yielding the same note (g') as in the sectored pattern, Figure 5.

I do not say in this paper that the crop circles are musical. I have used the terminology of "notes and intervals" merely to illustrate the mathematics. One can only say: "The ratios in the patterns follow the same law as the intervals and notes of the major diatonic scale of music." Also, this discovery is limited to the narrow time-frames 1981-88 for circles, and 1988-90 for geometries.

I seriously doubt that the published patterns were selected by crop circle watchers to show these effects. Nor am I putting forward a personal view - the diatonic law seems to be there as an unavoidable fact in the published literature. For persons who say a simple explanation will be found the

challenge is for them to find it. In that these results may not fit in with preexisting notions, hostile opinions may arise, but those opinions cannot alter the data.

Although limited by the paucity of accurate published measurements, the mathematical facts now stand in need of a theory. If, as some have suggested, the crop circles of the 80's were introduced into the fields of growing crops as a hoax, then any mastermind behind the venture was surely giving an erudite message. If, on the other hand, the crops circles are to be explained by conventional scientific theory, we must ask how these intricate relationships can occur. The credibility of a theory depends on the nature and sufficiency of the proof which sustains it.

For those who suggest the circles are produced by an underlying intelligence, then the questions to ask, over the past decade at least, are: "Why quantized, why geometric, and why diatonic?"

#### NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Hawkins, G.S., 1991 *Cerealogist*, No.3, p.15.
2. *Harvard Dictionary of Music*, 1973, Ed. W. Apel, Belknap Press, Cambridge, U.S.A.
3. Delgado, P. and Andrews, C., 1991, *Latest Evidence*, Bloomsbury, London.
4. Caveat: It is assumed that triangles follow the quadratic rule established for concentric circles<sup>5</sup>, but this first example in the literature also follows a linear rule of ratio of sides. Future triangles could resolve this ambiguity.
5. Hawkins, G.S., 1990, *Nature*, HO 1667, Unreviewed. See note (7) below. This paper is available upon request from: Special Collections - Hawkins Archive, Boston University Library, 771 Commonwealth Avenue., Boston, Mass., MA 02215.
6. Delgado, P. and Andrews, C., 1989, *Circular Evidence*, Bloomsbury, London.
7. Photogrammetry by Al Riggs showed that the 9 correlations in the paper were increased to 10, because the diameter of DA41 turned out to be 26.13m ±0.04m, not the 26.4m as measured<sup>6</sup> in the field.
8. Andrews, R., 1990, *Cerealogist*, No.2, p.6.
9. Michell, J., 1991, *Cerealogist*, No.3, p.16.

#### CORNELIA



"A sure sign of Spring - the grass-shopper warbler!"

CHRISTINE RHONE

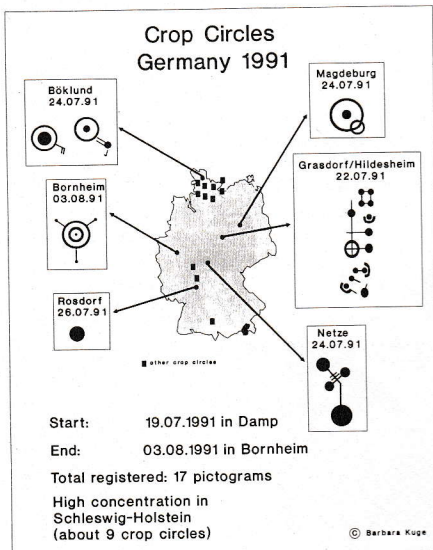
# REPORTS & SKETCHES

## The Korn-Kreise of 1991

From Dr Hugo Godschalk

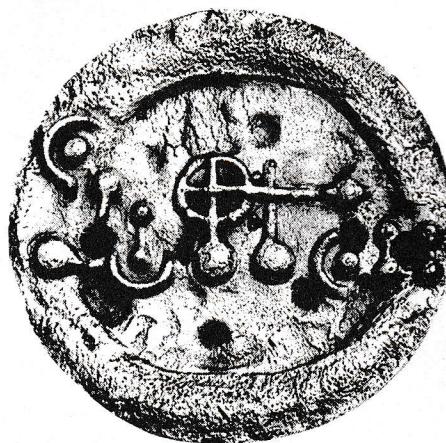
IT ALL BEGAN unfortunately with a hoax. A chemistry teacher together with 7 school-leavers planned to tease their colleagues in the village of Wörsdorf (30 miles north of Frankfurt). Inspired by the BBC-documentary film on British crop circles broadcast on Germany TV in early 1991, the group produced an unprofessional looking circle in a rape field on May 26th, 1991. But Germany had no previous experience of crop circles, so there were no circle experts available. It took three days before it became known that this examination class pleaded guilty. For the incredulous Germans, their rationalistic *Weltbild* still remained.

Two months later the crop circle phenomenon definitely reached unified Germany. The Germans were well prepared, because the books by Noyes (*The Crop Circle Enigma*), by Delgado & Andrews and Randles & Fuller were translated and obtainable in inexpensive paperback editions. The phenomenon started in the northern part of Germany, the



federal state of Schleswig-Holstein, on the night of July 19th. In this part of Germany about 9 "genuine" crop circles appeared, which were not claimed as hoaxes. It is remarkable that Schleswig-Holstein has the highest concentration of megalithic monuments in Germany (about 200 sites). Other circles were found in central Germany and also in the former DDR near Magdeburg. The most spectacular pictogram appeared on July 22 near Hannover, in the village of Grasdorf (Lower Saxony). Even the crop-circle-spoiled Britons would have been jealous.

But then the same thing happened in Germany as it did in the United Kingdom. After a short time of enthusiastic circle-mania



Eleven days after the Grasdorf formations appeared (22 July) an unknown visitor brought a metal detector to the site. After marking three spots he borrowed a spade from the farmer, dug up three objects and quickly made off with them. He later telephoned the farmer, but without giving his name, saying that he had found three plates of golden metal about a foot wide, and that he would send photographs. These duly arrived, and on each plate was an exact plan of the Grasdorf crop formations. Nothing more has been heard and no one knows what to make of this weird incident. One of the plates is shown above.

in newspapers and on TV, some students of the university of Kiel proclaimed that they were the creators of the crop circles in Schleswig-Holstein. They demonstrated on TV, covered by masks, how they made the circles. But their experiment turned out to be a clear hoax. They broke the stalks and the result was an uncertain geometric pattern. The "hoaxers" in the UK would do a better job for sure! After this disclosure the press easily persuaded people that all the crop circles were made by hoaxers. So the mystery seemed to be solved. On the other hand a lot of people are still seriously interested in this phenomenon. Some of them are organised in local working groups like the Kornkreis-Arbeitsgruppe, c/o Tom Doch, Traunsteiner Strasse 26, 8207 Bad Endorf. We are now waiting for a hot crop circle summer in Germany this year!

## A ring in Italy

THE ONLY CROP circle which has so far been recorded in Italy was described in the first issue of *Tracce Circolari* whose editor, Matteo Leone, kindly sent us a photograph.

This large ring, 200 ft. in diameter, was first observed by an Italian Army helicopter pilot on 9 August 1985 at Castions di Zoppola (Pordenone) and was investigated by local UFOlogists led by Antonio Chiumiento. It was in a field of Indian corn (maize). The plants, laid down away from the centre, were 15 ft. tall, and their stems, bent near the



ground, were 3-4cm (about 1 inches) thick. Investigators found that "you could only bend them if you tried with all your weight". They were not broken and were as green as the standing crop. In the very centre of the ring and outside it were three small areas where plants had been flattened in opposite directions.

Copies of *Tracce Circolari* and photographs of the Castions ring can be had from Matteo Leone, Via Barbera 66/B, 10135 Torino, Italy.

Issue No.1 (Italian and English) brings news that hoaxers Doug Bower and Dave Chorley have been active in Italy.

## Yorkshire

In 1990 a rare Yorkshire circle appeared on the farm of Lady Caroline Burnett Armstrong of Dalby near York, who sent us this report.

I DROVE TO the Theatre Royal in York on the evening of August 8th 1990. It was a bright clear night quite warm and I think the moon was full. I drove past the Hagg Field and could see quite clearly that the rippling wheat was intact and standing and there were no marks on it save the tramlines.



THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

Next morning we set off early (before 9 o'clock) to look at a property in Scotland. As we passed the Hagg Field we looked out and saw a perfectly circular corn circle. It was at least 20 metres from the hedge and there were no tracks leading to it. The Mercier Wheat was quite tall and difficult to penetrate. I looked at the tram lines which approached from the West (so much further than from the road) and they seemed untouched. The wheat was bent down near the ground, as if by a strong force and all the stalks lay in the same direction with the spiral at the centre. It was 20 metres in diameter. The children aged 11, 7 and 3 were very excited and there was much speculation about what caused the circle. Were flying saucers landing here? Mr. Smith the postman from Skewsby said he had often seen bright lights above the Brow and Hagg Woods. It was conspicuous from the road, so several motorists stopped their cars and soon a new track was formed through the corn to the circle.

My husband, a farmer, advised the children to collect money from the sightseers. The field commands spectacular views, north to the Yorkshire Moors, east to the Wolds, and there is a gravel dump at the western end often used as a picnic spot. It was a fine crop of wheat and we harvested it about a fortnight later. Since then no crop circles have appeared on this farm.

We are grateful to Henrietta Rous for procuring this report.

# REVIEWS

## IN SEARCH OF MEANING

David Fideler

### CROP CIRCLES: HARBINGERS OF WORLD CHANGE

Alick Bartholomew, editor  
Gateway Books, £14.95

AFTER THE NATURAL question of which circles are genuine and which circles aren't, everyone wants to know what crop circles mean.

Socrates said that the beginning of philosophy is wonder. From this perspective, it is obvious that the greatest effect of the crop circle phenomenon is the impact it's having on people's minds. Not only is it causing us to think, but it is causing us to think in deep, contemplative ways. Crop circles have caused thousands of people to pause and wonder about their lives, the nature of the universe, and our place in it; if this is the intended effect, then the intelligence behind the phenomenon must be very profound indeed.

Crop circles inspire hope among the converted, and justifiably so. Our modern approach to life has done so much harm to both ourselves and the planet that any phenomenon as beautiful and seemingly portentous as this must be welcomed with open arms. But if crop circles do portend planetary transformation, why am I so unenthusiastic about the new title from Gateway Books, *Crop Circles: Harbingers of World Chance*?

## Brief notices

*The Answer: Psychic explanations of UFOs and Crop Circles* by Margo Williams and Carolyn Morgan. Margo Williams is a well known, widely respected clairaudient medium and counsellor, the author of *Ghostly Gifts* etc. She communicates with angels, nature spirits and people from the stars, and they have spoken to her about the meaning of crop circles. These are caused by extra-terrestrial beings, seeking to draw our attention to the way we are destroying our living earth. Yes indeed, we have heard this before, but it is unwise to ignore the truth just because it comes from an unconventional source. Written with Margo's co-worker and neighbour in the Isle of Wight, Carolyn Morgan, this sincere, unpretentious booklet adds genuine material to the record of modern prophecy. £5 + 50p p&p from CM, The Grove, Grove Road, Ventnor, I.O.W., PO38 1TS.

1991 - *Scientific Evidence for the Crop Circle Phenomenon* by Montague Keen. This impeccably written and illustrated booklet gives the best possible account of the present situation in the scientific study of crop circles. The author, a Suffolk farmer

Gateway is the publisher of the earlier, highly acclaimed volume, *Crop Circle Enigma*, which pulled together, in anthology form, contributions from many of the leading cereologists and stunning photographs of the 1990 formations. Well written, beautifully conceived, and superbly illustrated, *Enigma* remains one of the best volumes yet published on this subject.

*Harbingers*, compiled and edited by Gateway publisher Alick Bartholomew, tries to replicate the successful formula of its predecessor, but from a slightly different angle. We are told that while *Enigma* is analytical, *Harbingers* takes a more speculative, intuitive approach, asking 'What are they?' and 'Why have they appeared?' The book was inspired by two Hopi shamans in Arizona who, on seeing a photo of the 1990 Alton Barnes formation, said that these symbols have appeared before at times of 'Earth change.' Like *Enigma*, *Harbingers* offers many good photos and diagrams of the formations. There are also some memorable contributions. Veteran cereologist George Wingfield brings us up to date on the 1991 formations and, in another article, discusses crop circles which have appeared in other parts of the world. John Michell submits a short, beautifully crafted essay, sketching the evolution of the phenomenon and its effects on the mind, with a suggestion as to where it might be leading.

As for the rest of the book, there is little to recommend it, unless you want to read about encounters with Devas and enjoy wallowing in someone's drawings of American Indians and chipmunks. While some of the articles contain thought-provoking points, most of them are poorly conceived and poorly written. Just when a piece starts to get interesting, it falls apart. Tired old New Age clichés are trotted out, now applied to crop circles. The least satisfactory article is by Michael Green, the chairman of the CCCS. He deciphers the Atlantean script of the pictograms, all the while quoting Alice

and director of the CCCS Crop Research Panel, carefully considers the hoax theory but finds it incompatible with the recent results of chemical and biological analysis of soil and plane samples from last year's circles. There is a significant preface by Prof Archie Roy, acknowledging the failure of all scientific theories to date, reasoning against the hoax explanation and foreseeing cereological breakthroughs this coming season. £3.95 from Elvery Dowers, 13 West Parade, Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 3DN.

*Crop Circle Classification* by Patrick Palgrave-Moore usefully classifies and codes the individual component parts of each formation and introduces standard terminology. £2.95 from Elvery Dowers Publications, 13 West Parade, Norwich NR2 3DN.

*Sussex Crop Formations, 1991* by Barry Reynolds is a uniquely valuable record with notes, comments, pictures and maps. £3 incl. from B.J. Reynolds, 44 Meadow Lane, Burgess Hill, W. Sussex RH15 9JA.

*Crop Circles - Hoax or Happening* by Carolyn North. Beautifully designed by Sara Glaser, illustrated with

Bailey, channelled entities, and other authorities. We are told that the 1991 dolphin formations in the Beckhampton area reflect "an intelligent life-form on the solar system of the star Capella." It may well be that there are cosmic energies associated with the formation of crop circles, but, if so, it is obvious that they can be overwhelming, and not everyone's circuitry is up to withstanding their infinite power.

As one who would like to believe that crop circles portend some sort of world change, why do I find this book disappointing? I suppose that it's because there isn't a lot of deep thinking going on here. Crop circles naturally evoke feelings and visions about their potential significance. Since crop circles seem designed to make us philosophize, everyone has some opinion or speculation about the phenomenon - everyone from scientists to the village idiot. There is no need, therefore, to depend upon the opinions of the so-called experts, since every person can discern the meaning of the phenomenon in their innermost heart. But if we do want to get someone else's opinion, perhaps we should interview innocent children, whose minds have not been infected with the dogmas of materialism or the beliefs of the New Age.

While everyone is free to publish whatever they wish, *Harbingers* is not a book which is going to bring people together in cosmic oneness, or inspire confidence in the devotees of crop circles. Perhaps it is a good thing that Doug and Dave came along, to put a damper on the extravagancies of speculation; the media success of their inane scam suggests that a more rigorous approach is called for on the part of cereologists. While only the bamboozled believe that Doug and Dave are responsible for the entire phenomenon, we all know that there have been hoaxes and that the experts are not infallible.

The most telling thing about crop circles is that they seem responsive to human intelligence. Not only have crop circles had a

classic photographs by the unsurpassed Busty Taylor, this is Carolyn North's worthy tribute to the 'sacred art' which she viewed during 1991 in the Wiltshire cornfields. "Our hope in making it small and inexpensive is to disseminate it far and wide", she writes. Her sensitive, artistic approach does full justice to the phenomenon. \$3.95 from Regent Press, 6020-A Adeline, Oakland, CA 94608.

*Spuren im Korn. Neue Fotos und Fakten... Radioaktive Strahlung in Piktogrammen... Zellveränderung... Neuartige Formationen... Merkwürdige Geheimfirmen... Und mehr... Indeed so. This magnificent volume is exactly what our German readers have been waiting for. We anglophones must wait a little longer for the British and American editions, which we shall review fully. This is quite the best crop circle book to date. It is edited by the wise and level-headed Jürgen Krönig, published by the percipient Lutz Kroth, filled with colour plates and complete with essays, largely by British cereologists, on every aspect of the phenomenon. 33DM from Zweitausendeins, Postfach 610 637, D-6000 Frankfurt am Main 60.*

profound effect on the minds of many people, but most of the major investigators privately tell of how certain formations have appeared in seeming response to their thoughts, dreams, and contemplations. If this is the case, and not simply a symptom of delusion, we are dealing with a phenomenon closely allied with what the Platonists call *Nous* or *Mind*, the principle of Universal Intellect. Then, crop circles would be seen as flowing forth from that interior dimension of reality, of which our own interior dimension is an integral subset. Such speculations come naturally to one who has been exposed to this phenomenon, and should not be suppressed. But the most important task at hand is developing an empirical test for the validity of individual formations, not publishing books on the nature of the Pleidians.

Everyone knows that the world is in trouble. We don't need crop circles to tell us that. Here in the U.S., despite the so-called economic boom of the '80s, the middle class is being eroded, with the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer; the quality of life, for most people, has decreased. All economic systems currently in force are based upon the fundamental premise of infinite, sustained growth. Yet, if the world economy grows at "only" 5% every year, that is - mathematically speaking - an exponential curve which cannot be sustained in a closed system of limited resources. If there isn't some form of radical paradigm shift on the order of a major cosmological revolution, all will be lost. Things are not going to remain the same; they are either going to get better or worse. In either case, world events are changing so rapidly that the outcome is probably beyond the scope of our contemporary imagination. In all likelihood, we are headed toward some type of global disaster or catastrophe. Let's hope that it's the latter, for the Greek word *katastrophe* means, literally, a sudden, dramatic "turning around."

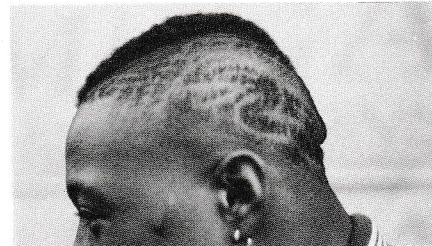
If crop circles do portend catastrophe, we should welcome these signs for what they are; yet, in all cases, clear thinking must predominate, for we humans, as the stewards of the earth, are the only ones who possess the power to save or destroy it. For those individuals who have been closely touched by the crop circle phenomenon, it has totally demolished their pre-conceived certainties about the nature of things, which is the necessary first step for radical transformation. Yet, having one's mind suddenly opened does not imply credulity, or an abdication of one's analytical skills. In terms of our planetary welfare, we may have reached a point where divine intervention is necessary, but only clear thinking on our behalf will bring about the necessary transformations.

David Fideler is an author, musician and publisher. An experienced writer on Fortean and esoteric subjects he is also the founder of Phanes Press (P.O. Box 6114, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49516), the leading publisher of books on traditional science and philosophy including *Circular Evidence* (Delgado & Andrews) and *Twelve-Tribe Nations* (Michell & Rhone). He edits the review, *Alexandria: the Journal of Western Cosmological Traditions*, and is the American distributor of *The Cerealogist*.



# NEW SWIRLED ORDER

Michael Glickman



MANY STUDENTS OF the Crop Circle phenomenon have been anxious to discover where it goes in the winter time. I am pleased to say that the Cerealogist can now, exclusively, reveal the answer to this question.

This winter, the Circle Makers have shifted their attention to young men's heads! In the London area, an outbreak of strange geometric hair markings has caused bewilderment in dozens of families.

The Hair Circles, or Scalpoglyphs, obviously placed in a much smaller "field", have a delicacy of design comparable to the familiar crop events. However, the geometric and symbolic motifs are new and scalpologists are already surveying and measuring the patterns before they are destroyed by the next crop.

One authority suggests that the phenomenon is caused by the action of air while drying the head, the "Hair Dryer Vortex Hypothesis"; this idea has been greeted with derision.

The owner of the "Palm Tree" (25th February 1992) refuses to give his name or address; he is worried that his head will be damaged by visitors. However he tells the following story, which appears to be typical:

"I found myself in a strange steel and leather chair, a bit like a dentist's chair. The room was very bright and there were lots of mirrors. A man stood behind me. He was dressed in white. He held my head in a vicelike grip. There was powerful buzzing which seemed to go right into my head. I was frightened to move in case he hurt me. Then I was released into the street. These strange markings were all over my head!"

We will keep readers informed of further activity.

Like many of us, I lead an enforced double life. Many sections of the outside world are disturbed by mention of such things as crop

circles. Your average bank manager, for instance, is not impressed to hear that his supposedly sober client spends obsessive hours with such marginal nonsense.

A year or so ago, my enthusiasm was uncontainable. It did not take too many glazed eyes and embarrassed silences to make me realise that, often, people preferred not to hear.

I travel a great deal and it has now become a rule for me never to raise the subject. Abroad, particularly, the risk of being taken as some kind of dingbat is high. Try convincing a dinner-party of solid Swiss manufacturers and their wives that the crop events have a spiritual nature!

But strange things happen. Last year, travelling through rural Ohio on the way to Dayton airport, my driver, a factory manager in shorts and baseball cap, asked, out of the blue, whether I knew anything about crop circles. He had been interested for months but had never discussed it with anyone.

A few weeks ago, in Australia at a business lunch, a woman whom I had only just met asked me the same question. She, too, had felt increasingly interested in the phenomenon but had never spoken about it.

Inevitably I had material with me which I showed them and subsequently I sent them both books. In both cases I asked them on what impulse they had raised the subject. They could not explain.

Have others had this experience? Do we croppies give off some kind of subliminal signal which identifies us to interested parties? An Agriglyph Pheromone perhaps?

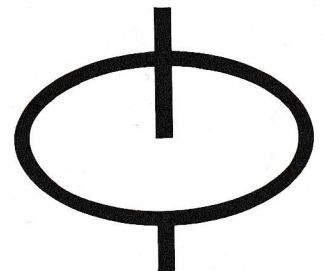
\*

I have a prediction for the coming season and I proposed to our genial editor that I give it him in a sealed envelope to be opened at the breathlessly awaited 1992 Conference.

He would not have it. He made it clear that he would not play that kind of game. I should have the courage of my convictions and display it now.

I believe it will appear in July, at Barbury Castle. The proportions of the ellipse will be about 1 to 1.77. The size is unknown.

If it appears I will not be able to explain; if it does not, I will take the derision with fortitude.



MICKEL BAIN

# LETTERS

## Wide awake

From Mrs Ilene Bower

It is with extreme annoyance that I read George Wingfield's references to myself in *The Cerealogist*, no.5.

"She must be the doziest person in the world if it took six years to notice his nightly absences."

If George Wingfield had taken time to verify the facts before writing this article he would have found that before I learned of my husband's involvement - with David - in the making of Crop Circles, their 'disappearances' were *weekly* - usually Fridays - not *nightly*. This in fact had been their routine for many years previously.

When I spoke to George Wingfield about this - on the telephone - I requested a written apology, also an apology to be printed in the next issue of this magazine. He would not agree to this but simply said 'Sorry' during our 'phone conversation.

Rather than rely on hearsay and reports in other publications, would it not be prudent for George Wingfield and other contributors to *The Cerealogist*, to ensure that their facts are correct before committing them to print.

My sincere thanks to Patrick Harpur for his understanding and support.

IRENE R. BOWER,  
367 Winchester Road,  
Southampton, SO1 7DJ.

## A stickler

From Mr Robert Robertson

I don't think it is pedantic to coin words which should be acceptable to educated people. Most educated people know that sciences usually have the stem -logy from λογος, a word.

The second stem is *not* -ology. I know that because I am by profession a mineralogist. I hate being called a minerologist; those who do this are unfortunately uneducated, so I never correct them!

One is unlikely to confuse *cerealogist* with other sciences. The following could be (but have not yet been) formed:-

ceratologist a student of animal's horn, κερας

ceriologist a student of honeycombs, κηριον

cerologist a student of doom, death and destruction, κηρ

As language changes in time we have accepted mixtures of Greek and Latin such as telecommunications, though I have a residual disliking for them. Mineralogist is Greek on both sides and is respectable. Cerealogist is modern English usage, I would suggest, and is becoming respectable.

Ceres has 2 short es, so we are serryalogists not searyalogists. The name of

the goddess of agriculture is probably connected with the verb creare to create. The long a sound should be preserved for we must honour Ceres and the creations we admire so much in the crops.

ROBERT H.S. ROBERTSON,  
Dunmore, 25 Nonnethill Road,  
Pitlochry, Perthshire.

## Another stickler

From Mr Kevin Green

I think you should stick to your guns over the I think you should stick to your guns over the CereAlogist. You are clearly, if I may say so, a person who has a feel and respect for the English language, and, in these days when all sorts of linguistic abuses are very common, such people do have a duty to demonstrate, through their own use of the language, that precision, elegance and conciseness are qualities worth preserving, both for themselves are for the sake of clarity. Please don't be forced off the straight and narrow by philistines and the unlettered.

KEVIN GREEN,  
46 Fielding Road,  
Chiswick, London W4.

## Billy Meier's UFO circles

From Mr Anthony Cheke

In these days of down-to-earth hoaxes by Doug & Dave, I hesitate to remind crop-circle people of our Space Brothers - but needs must.

I recent picked up a hardback copy of Gary Kinder's *Light Years*, a study of the famous UFO events in Switzerland involving



contactee Eduard ('Billy') Meier. It has a colour photo of a roughish triplet of swirled circles taken in 1980.

In 1979 two American researchers in the Meier phenomenon, Lee Elders & Wendelle Stevens, published a large-format book on it, full of colour photos, called *UFO... Contact from the Pleiades*. This book is hard to get hold of, as few seem to have reached Britain. A couple of years ago I was able to study a copy - and amongst the stunning UFO shots (no opinion on genuineness!) there is a good photo of a fairly neat single circle in grass, taken in 1974 - again glossed as a "landing trace". Note that this book was published before there was any widespread publicity or awareness of crop circles.

Meier also recorded bizarre sounds with very unusual characteristics when analyzed (see *Light Years*) - and altogether this whole 1970s story from Switzerland seems to me to warrant further investigation in the context of crop-circle history and mythology. Do we

have any readers in Switzerland?

ANTHONY CHEKE,  
139 Hurst Street, Oxford, OX4 1HE.

## Correcting the map

From Mr D. Warfield

As a former "moonraker" the map on page 4 of your Winter issue fills me with alarm. What dark and mysterious forces are at work to transpose Silbury Hill and the A4 road, not to mention pictograms numbers 1,2 and 3 with their adjacent road.

Pictograms numbers 3, 6, 22 and 24 have map references which do not agree with their locations. Glaring omissions from the map are those events at Purton (24.7.91) and Marden Cowbag (10.6.91) situated a few miles from the north and south edges of the map respectively. Perhaps the explanation is that these were hoaxes. Alternatively they could have been the only genuine pictograms!

D. WARFIELD,  
14 Glenwood Road, Henzlease, Bristol.

## Help, please

From Mrs Eleanor Lockyer

On Tuesday 24 July '90, BBC TV South reported a Corn Circle at Chilbolton, Near Andover, Hampshire.

By the time it was located for examination, on high chalk downland, the farmer had harvested. The field, it is believed, was south of the village and close to Chilbolton Observatory, near the ancient Mark Way, reputedly one of the oldest roads in England, and also bordering the parish of Leckford.

Can anyone supply any information about the Chilbolton corn circle, its correct location and hopefully a photograph which could be purchased?

E. LOCKYER,  
Green Meadows, Chilbolton,  
Nr Stockbridge, Hampshire.

## What use for dowsers?

From the Editor of *The Ley Hunter*

Brian Grist's valuable observations re the aquiferous geology raises certain points. Moving underground water apparently causes ionisation at ground level, and was the cause of effects captured by 'earth ray' photography and other experiments earlier this century, and was, indeed, one candidate put forward for the mechanism involved in on-site dowsing of water. This still remains a strong possibility, and thus Grist's suggestion that dowsers may have a role to play is an appropriate one. But what calibre of dowsing? "Energy" dowsing? I think not. *Whatever* causes crop circles, whether lightweight rollers wielded by such as Doug 'n' Dave, descending vortices, or Gaia writing memos to her biosphere, *energy is involved*. Hence "energy dowsing", where not a simple case of finding what-one-wants-to-find, which I suspect it most often is, is bound to yield rod reactions. While dowsing by experienced and objective water and mineral dowsers may indeed be useful, we have so far been treated only to the (revealingly) diverse "findings" of

those who project their personal concoctions of "energy patterns" onto dowsing rod responses that they do not, in actuality, understand. That has been adequately exposed in earlier issues of *The Cerealogist* - despite polite attempts to minimise the *debacle*, and ludicrous excuses of the "blind men and the elephant" variety. Pink elephants more likely!

Grist also points out that aquifers may attract ionised phenomena such as Meaden's suggested descending vortices. Indeed, there is a case in France where a potholer was struck 200 feet underground by a bolt of lightning taking as its path a stream of ionisation being issued by the cave system the man was exploring! In my hypothesis of 'earth lights', I take a broader approach to strange and exotic terrestrial light phenomena than Meaden does, and feel that there are probably several related forms of such lights, with at least some relating as much to geology as to meteorology. When I came to compile the index for *Earth Lights Revelation*, I found I had a *five-line* entry on the association of such lights and water. Water, light phenomena and thus possibly crop circles may, therefore, be connected, as Grist implies.

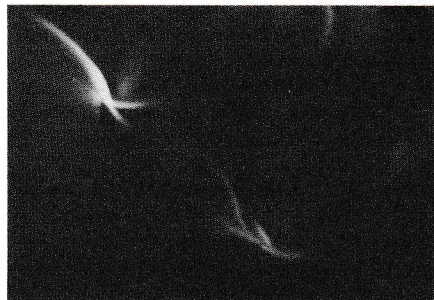
PAUL DEVEREUX,  
39 Alma Place, Penzance, Cornwall.

## Spirit photography

From Mr David Kingston

I was at Alton Barnes on August 18th 1991 at 16.00 hours; there was quite a strong surge of energy present but nothing visible so I pointed my camera at the swirled crop from where the energy was coming and took this and another similar photograph. All the other photos I had on the film turned out perfectly and the processing lab can give no explanation for these two.

I have another interesting item. In July last year, whilst a group of us from the Nirvana Centre in Dorchester were on a large earth mound near Maiden Castle meditating, my wife (a well known medium) received channelling to the effect that a 'circle' would appear on the Dorset/Somerset border north of Shaftesbury. The following events amazed even the sceptics: the group I was with noticed that to the west of us blue lights were present and bathed the tumuli to the west of us towards the Nine Stones at Winterbourne Abbas in an eerie glow and then as we walked down from the earth mound a red light which started in the shape of a sphere developed a tail before disappearing. Two days after the event we had a telephone call



from a pilot to say he had spotted a 'circle' north of Shaftesbury much to the delight of my wife. Because of its location it was still 'virgin' when we entered it. The farmer had not even known of its existence because it was not near to the road and it took Mike the pilot to locate it with his wife for us to see. It's shape was the same as the red light we had seen on the meditation evening near Maiden Castle.

Any Dorset readers wishing to join our organisation reader for 1992 we would be pleased to hear from at our address.

Please could they forward a S.A.E. so I can inform them of our pre-season briefing meeting.

DAVID KINGSTON,  
Circle Phenomena Investigations,  
17 Great Western Road, Dorchester, Dorset.

## Magnetic pen

From the Chairman of CCCS (Sussex)

After reading the article "Magnetic Anomalies" by Charles Thomas in issue five of *The Cerealogist* I felt I must write and tell you of my own experience involving a compass and a crop formation.

I entered the crop formation (Ordnance Survey Map 198, reference TQ 309 138) at Clayton, Sussex with a friend, Mary Arnold, after the field had been harvested and took a few measurements, but was particularly interested in the direction that the cross pointed (see diagram). I removed a compass from my rucksack and stood in the centre of the cross. I placed the compass in my right hand and was astonished to see the compass swing wildly, the pointer eventually settling to point to a direction that clearly was not magnetic north. I called to Mary, showed her the bearing and then placed the compass in my left hand. It swung wildly again, but settled pointing this time to magnetic north. I attempted to repeat this, but no matter where I stood or how I held the compass, I could not repeat the anomaly.

Having previously heard about compasses going awry within crop formations I was determined to get to the bottom of this. I therefore repeated the experience *exactly*; notepad in right hand, pen on top, compass on top of that. The compass swung wildly. Transfer the compass to the left hand, compass points to magnetic north. It was then I realised that my notepad or pen were playing a major role in this. Sure enough, the clip on my pen is magnetic. Therefore, when I hold my pen in the same hand as my compass, the clip attracts the pointer.

If Charles unknowingly had a magnetic object in his hand or was wearing a belt with a magnetic buckle then this could possibly cause aberrations in his measurements. In the article he states that the needle tended to revert to north when the compass was placed on the ground i.e. away from himself.

I am not saying that all magnetic anomalies are caused in this manner, but be warned. I was amazed to find that the clip on my pen is magnetic.

BARRY REYNOLDS,  
44 Meadow Lane, Burgess Hill, W. Sussex.



## On and off the line

From Mr Bernard West R.I.B.A.

Reference in your winter 1991/2 issue to the formation at Boreham Down, Lockeridge, Wilts prompts me to record an event on 6.8.91, during a visit to the site with my son.

We came upon the pictogram late in the afternoon of that day and initially had the hillside to ourselves. After some time however a car drew off the road, and a visitor started to walk up the short track to what had by then become an accepted entry point. As he crossed the lower part of the field we noticed he was carrying a portable phone, and trying obviously unsuccessfully to use it. He found us eventually and after a little time said "come and look at this". He had been crop circle spotting on his way home and, delayed, decided he should ring his wife. The calls had continued to be unanswered, but as he entered the "circle", (the feature was as recorded a central "fish" with fins and a circle at both ends), the phone fell silent and the power light failed. Experiment proved the phone active if held outside the formation even only at arms length, but totally inactive within. When he finally got through the same process of standing outside the circle silenced the conversation, and returning inside renewed it.

BERNARD WEST,  
Home Close, Station Road,  
Willington, Bedford.

## The Powers that be

From Ms R. Langley

I enjoyed *The Cerealogist* no. 5 very much. Hoaxing is a very old business. When Spiritualism started in the 1840s, all phenomena were declared fakes. This went on, and still tends to go on (see Uri Geller) because phenomena upset people. I feel the same people sometimes will believe in Adam and Eve, a fiery chariot, the resurrection of the flesh. So what happened? The Powers above introduced UFOs - again the same result; hoaxes, misunderstandings, scientific illiteracy etc.!

So the Powers started making their beautiful and delicate crop circles.

What will they have to do next? How far will we push them? How can they get their truth into our thick and recalcitrant heads?

R. LANGLEY,  
Highcroft, All Saints Road,  
Uplands, Stroud, Glos.

## Set at loggerheads

From Ms Rosemary Monk

I refer to Pat Delgado's letter in your Winter 1991/2 issue.

He says "...the subject [of crop circles] carries very significant spiritual connotations, by opening up people's awareness and unifying them beyond belief..."

Far from unifying people, it would appear that the phenomenon tends rather to set everyone at loggerheads.

ROSEMARY MONK,  
47 Lillian Road, London SW13 9JF.

## Keep to the point!

From Mr Donald Kelly

I have collected all the issues of the journal through the current Winter 1991/2 issue. Generally speaking, I give you and your staff credit for a job well done.

However, in the most recent issue I find an inordinate amount of coverage given to the hoaxes. The greater part of the editorial page is about the hoax. George Wingfield's 3 pages are about the hoax. Then Mr Williams and Mr Brown rehash the hoaxes once more.

In the future I suggest that you limit coverage of the hoaxes to perhaps two columns.

I was really too bad that George Bishop's report from Cornwall was cut short. Also, I would have liked to see a sample of the work done by Mr Langrish.

Let's keep to the essentials, shall we?

DONALD KELLY,  
4211 W. 95th St. Apt. 2B,  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453, USA.

## Impressions

From Mr Anthony Mostacci

I just received my Winter 1991/2 issue of *The Cereologist* and was looking at the "Mandelbrot Set" on the cover, and I thought, Magnificent, what an impression!

These markings are impressions in fields that leave impressions in the mind. And then I looked down toward the bottom on the cover and saw the names of those with their own individual and concerted "impressions". Now regarding the name change of the journal, why not name it: IMPRESSIONS? Just a thought.

ANTHONY MOSTACCI,  
Deist Research Institute,  
P.O. Box 433, Lynn, MA.

## Disinformation theory rebutted

From the Editor of *UFO Brigantia*

As one of the 'provincial ufologists' mentioned in the editorial of *The Cereologist* (Winter issue), I would like to offer my comments on the Doug 'n' Dave scenario with particular regard to George Wingfield's article.

It is clear that he has swallowed the disinformation idea hook line and sinker - but then undermines it with his own argument. Of course no one for a moment would dispute that all governments perpe-

trate disinformation when they see it fit, and he rightly cites the MI5 example in Ireland. Disinformation is a sophisticated and clever technique and obviously effective; any reading of a book on the subject of 'dirty tricks' will illustrate numerous very complex ways of issuing disinformation as befits the intelligence and connivance of those involved in such agencies. That's fine, that's their job and whatever we may think of it disinformation has saved our skins on several occasions this century alone (the 'false' build up to an invasion in the early part of WWII for instance which prevented Hitler crossing the channel). But then he expects us to believe that these same agencies are responsible for a campaign involving two elderly gentlemen using what Wingfield assumes are primitive and basic techniques for creating crop circles. Now call me naive but I would have thought that if MI5 (or whoever) were responsible they would have come up with individuals who at least had it sussed and appeared as though they were confident hoaxers, with some reasonable equipment.

Of course George may say, "ah but" and invoke a 'new' type of disinformation involving 'simple' people using 'simple' equipment, but then we really are into an infinite regression of disinformation and paranoia which leads to people suspecting every fault on their 'phone as a tap and every car at the end of their street as a surveillance vehicle. That way madness lies and believe me I've seen it happen to the most well-balanced of individuals who let belief get the better of them.

It seems to me that those with most to lose, both financially and from a kudos point of view, have the greatest interest in trying to explain theories which don't agree with their (new) world view as disinformation and that is as bad in its own way as the 'explainers'



who reduce everything to hoax or meteorology. Wingfield says at the end, 'The circles phenomenon is real' - no-one would doubt that, but hoaxes and meteorology are enough. It is how we view, what meaning we can extract, that matters. The weather and our environment are mysterious enough, human nature mischievous enough (and it is that which lies behind hoaxes in answer to Peter Williams's article). What more do we need?

All concerned should re-read and study Patrick Harpur's excellent article 'A Fairy Whirlwind' which allows for the phenomenon itself and a way of interpretation which transcends the other explanations behind the causes and makes it all FUN!

But then, of course, I'm only writing this because I'm part of a government disinformation plot!

ANDY ROBERTS,  
84 Elland Road, Brighouse, W. Yorks.

## No pictogram in Kansas

From Ms. Rosemary Ellen Guiley

In issue No.5 of *The Cereologist*, Mr. Pat Delgado reported on an alleged U.S. government coverup of a pictogram at Highland, Kansas (population approximately 1,000), said to have taken place in September 1991. Mr. Delgado said he learned of the case from an American informant who claimed to find what appeared to be a partially destroyed pictogram measuring one-quarter-mile long by forty feet wide in a farmer's field on the morning of September 26. Government "men in dark suits" and unmarked tankers and vehicles were on the scene. According to Mr Delgado, the men and vehicles were from the CIA. The pictogram allegedly was preceded the night before by a display of anomalous colored light over the field.

Various individuals in the US have attempted to verify this story, but without success. Recently, an investigation was undertaken by Mr Maurice Schwalm, the Midwest Coordinator for the Center for North American Crop Circles Studies, and who is based in Kansas City. He found no evidence to support either the occurrence of a pictogram, or of an attempt by the US government or anyone else to obliterate a crop circle formation.

Mr Schwalm spoke with numerous individuals, including: Mr Delgado's informant, "C.M.", a woman from Lee Summit, Missouri, a suburb of Kansas City; Linda Garvin, a truck driver who is based in Highland; Dr. W.C. Levengood of Pinelandia Biophysical Laboratories in Graff Lake, Michigan; Scott Corer; "L.S.", a psychic from Kansas City; the editor of the local newspaper, *The Highland Vidette*; a spokesperson from the Doniphan County sheriff's office; "W.C.", a farmer in Highland; and a reporter from *The Kansas City Star* who had covered crop circle activity in the vicinity. None of the individuals could confirm an actual pictogram.

What can be verified is this: a large area approximately the size and shape of the alleged pictogram was plowed by local law enforcement authorities in farmer W.C.'s corn field northeast of Highland in October 1991.

This activity was conducted during the daytime over the course of about one week, and was part of a murder investigation. The field had been first bulldozed in 1990 when a search began for the bodies of victims of a mass murder suspect, Marvin Irvin. Irvin grew up near farmer W.C.'s field. Bodies were found there. Authorities returned to the site to dig again in 1991, but found no additional bodies.

Mr Delgado reported that the alleged pictogram featured "partly recognisable letters, figures and other shapes." In the shapes were seedless corn husks that were almost white. Much of the crop forming the shapes was flattened and swirled in the manner that C.M. had seen "in crop circles elsewhere".

According to farmer W.C., his field is often used by youths as a nighttime party site. Satanic and occult rituals have been reported to take place in the area. Thus it is possible that youths may have been attracted to the murder investigation activity, and conducted rituals which involved tracing letters and shapes on the ground - an intrinsic part of ritual magic. It is also possible that some of the parts of the alleged pictogram were merely the swirled turn-arounds of a combine. Turn-arounds leave some crop standing, and the husks of this standing crop do turn white.

Farmer W.C. said he saw no anomalous lights in the sky during the time period in question. (The area is not far from the Missouri River, and natural "river lights" are reported from time to time, although such lights might not be visible from his farm.) There is a link, however, between a possible UFO sighting and the story of the pictogram. In the spring of 1991, truck driver Linda Garvin was driving along Interstate 80 near Reno, Nevada during the daytime, and saw what appeared to be six unexplained lenticular, cloudlike shapes in a formation in the sky. She relayed this to her friend, C.C. who is also a friend of Mr Delgado's inform-

## Nature in the round

From Mr Duncan Mackay

Sir, I can almost guarantee that the extraordinary sight (letter, March 9) of six hares running in alternate clockwise and anti-clockwise circles in a field near Sherborne Castle will result in a crop circle on that exact spot later in the year.

It is well known that crop circles occur close to public footpaths, ancient monuments, and, increasingly, in unusual circumstances.

I trust the relevant landowner will kindly assist in fulfilling this prophecy by ploughing up the field, planting cereals in it and keeping Japanese camera crews out of it until the crop is ripe.

Yours faithfully,  
DUNCAN MACKAY,  
18 Brook Street,  
Twyford, Berkshire.  
March 9.

## March hare madness

From Mr Bernard W. Riley and Mr David Brokensha

Sir, Early yesterday morning, Shrove Tuesday, walking along a public footpath close to Sherborne Castle, we witnessed an extraordinary sight.

In a field grazed by ewes and new spring lambs, a procession of six hares ran headlong in single file, and in full uninterrupted view, into the middle of the large expanse. Abruptly they stopped simultaneously, and ran in a closed clockwise circle; stopped again in unison to run anti-clockwise for a longer period; then dashed off, again in single file, to the cover of a fenced copse.

Was this, we wondered, Mardi Gras madness, pre-Lenten polka or rutting in the round?

Yours faithfully,  
BERNARD W. RILEY,  
DAVID BROKENSASHA,  
Tanrhocal House,  
96 Newland, Sherborne, Dorset.  
March 4.

Letters in the Times, March 1992. Submitted by Mr Valentine Gould.

ant, C.M. Ms Garvin stayed in Highland on September 23, 1991.

C.M. confirmed to Mr Schwalm that she and C.C. had visited a farmer's field where they saw a large plowed area about one-half mile long (contrary to the previous report of one-quarter-mile long). They took photographs and made diagrams without interference. C.M. took a soil sample from the plowed area and sent it, along with some photographs, to Dr. Levensgood. There was no control sample. According to Levensgood tests on the sample were inconclusive. He showed the photographs to an agronomist colleague, who opined that the swirled areas alleged to be "grapeshot" circle were merely combine turn-arounds.

The conclusion that the "men in dark suits" and the tankers and vehicles are from the CIA reportedly is based upon a computer check of license plate numbers recorded by C.M. and C.C. at the scene. Mr Delgado told a colleague in England that a computer check had shown the numbers to be untraceable. C.M. said nothing to Mr Schwalm about a computer check, but said she "knew" the numbers were untraceable.


Presuming that a pictogram were to occur, and the CIA were to attempt to cover it up, it is unlikely that the effort would be so untidy as to permit witnesses to take photographs and jot down untraceable license plate numbers. According to an ex-Pentagon source known by Mr Schwalm, it would be more characteristic of the CIA to use local authorities as a blind, and have such obvious things as license plate numbers traceable to logical identities. The source further said that he and a group of ex-Pentagon associates have investigated similar rumours of crop circles covered up by the US government, and none have been substantiated.

It appears that a fictitious pictogram story arose from various, diverse factual elements. On Feb. 21, I telephoned Mr. Delgado, but he declined to discuss the Highland case. He said the details will be published in his forthcoming book.

ROSEMARY ELLEN GUILLEY,  
P.O. Box 1712, New Canaan,  
CT 06840-1712, USA.



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# SCIENCE CORNER

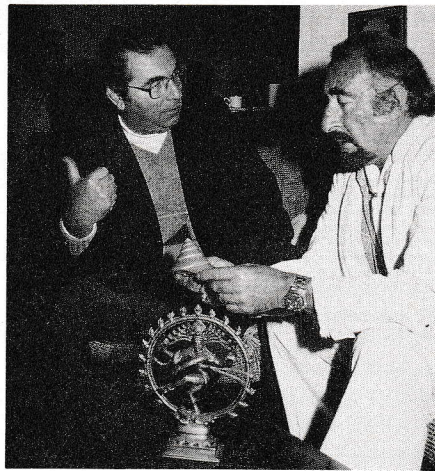
Mark Balfour on The Fields of Life

UNFORTUNATELY WE HAVE no science editor (Zoltan Crunlop being indisposed) so we are unable justly to evaluate the large number of scientific and post-scientific articles about the theoretic causes of crop circle phenomena which their authors have kindly sent us. Many of them invoke natural forces with which we are unfamiliar, together with old friends such as leylines, earth currents and the power of mind over matter.

One of the packets we received, from Mark Balfour of Astrally, was particularly well documented, so we sent it on to Dr Terence Meaden for his expert appraisal. His advise was that we ask the author for a brief summary. This was generously provided, and we print it below.

ALL THINGS IN nature are mostly organised in patterns and maintained by electromagnetic (EM) fields. The process has been clarified following the discovery in 1986 of a hitherto unknown, low-energy, vorticeal, EM field. Identified as an expression of one fundamental field of formative energy often called 'ether', 'zero-point energy', 'tachyon field' or 'unified field', it contains the potential for the emergence of matter and acts as the responsible agent for form, growth, and behavioral patterns throughout nature (morphogenesis).

Dr Sergei Barsamian, internationally known bio-physicist, has shown experimentally that this process is one of induction. Energetic information held in the formative field effectively influences the energy field of another natural system when a state of coherence (sympathetic vibration) occurs. Charged, particles can be attracted and localised in space following the laws applicable to field charges and the laws of matter in physics. On the Earth, (which should be regarded as a living entity) such locations would form, e.g. the Bermuda Triangle in the Atlantic, the Dragon's



Dr Barsamian (left) and Mark Balfour.

Triangle in the Pacific and phenomenon such as powerful eddies of air (whirlwinds) and large oceanic whirlpools. These can be viewed as major centres of induction for EM vorticeal fields.

In any system, induced EM energy produces conduits, called meridians in the biophysical entity or telluric currents in the Earth, e.g. 'Dragon Currents' in China and the 'Path of the Rainbow Serpent' in Australian Aboriginal lore. Ley Lines in Britain are aligned to this principle.

Along these conduits, points of high EM activity have always distinguished 'sacred sights' and can be viewed as minor centres of induction. This universal activity, the inpouring of vitalising energy into a natural system is a function essential to the processes of life.

EM fields align themselves to existing energetic field patterns in the Earth's telluric paths and a mutual modification of the patterns occurs through 'feedback'. The

mind/body interaction in bio-feedback is a fitting corollary.

Conventional theoretical physics considerations prove singular vorticeal EM field activity in nature and accepts their interaction which produces all other geometrical patterns, e.g. those seen in crystal formations. Dr Barsamian's work experimentally proves these findings and brings new applications of the principles outlined to physics. Cornfields, by virtue of their properties and high polarity act as naturally occurring stencils that allow visual registration of energetic patterns during induction into the Earth.

The activity cannot be measured with conventional technology and anomalies often occur to such electronic equipment in use. The process is rapid with effects such as luminosity, crackling or humming often accompanying the discharge of the field in the medium.

Further field effects, according to Dr Barsamian, may include stimulation of natural cell metabolism and possible altered states of consciousness when one is in close proximity. Many 'UFO' experiences can be attributed to the above considerations.

He accepts the existence of such processes in any environment and thus a state of ionization or the presence of plasma medium is not necessitated.

REF: *Journal of Biological Physics*. Stillwater. OK. U.S.A. 'A Morphogenic Process in Low-Energy Electromagnetic Fields' S.T. and S.P. Barsamian. 1988.

Suggested Reading: *The Sign of the Serpent Key to Creative Physics*. Mark Balfour, Prism Press, UK, 1990.

For further information: Mark Balfour, Metavision Research Consultants, 1/1 Richmond Avenue, Cremorne, Sydney 2090, Australia. Telephone (02) 953 4660.

## Editorial notes

(continued from page 2.)

The formation was actually made on the night of Sunday August 4th 1991, by three youths and added to on the following evening.

Both evenings were clear and dry, the site was chosen due to its visibility from the road in daylight. The formation was made using a ball of string with measured knots and each youth using a one-metre-long pole to press the corn flat, on their hands and knees. The reason for the second evening was to cover up a mistake made on the first night, which entailed enlarging the large flattened band from five metres to eight metres.

The whole formation was made from 9.30pm until 2.00am on the first evening, a total of 4 and a half hours."

There is a glaring discrepancy in the

dating of the event. The 'youths', according to Michael Inns, were active on the night of August 4th and again the following night, whereas Walbridge says that the formation appeared in the evening of Tuesday, August 6th at about 10.30pm. He is certain that the field was unmarked earlier that day. CCCS officials say they have the case in hand and further revelations will follow in due course.

## No more room

LOOK AT ALL these adverts! They have taken up the rest of our space. And there was so much more we had set to print. There was Lucy Pringle's lovely account of last year's astonishing profusion of wild flowers and her painstaking researches into the phenomenon; there was Charles Thomas's review of *The Sun and the Serpent* with his archaeologists' view on energy dowsing; a score of letters at least as interesting as those we have printed;

esoteric diagrams from Peter Sørensen of *Millennium Magazine*, and many other correspondents, comparable to the Barbury Castle pictogram; fine crop circle artworks from Jack Richards and Gerald Byerley; learned papers from physicists stating the cause of the phenomenon; much channelled material; new books to review from Terence Meaden and Pat Delgado... We must have more pages, and we shall next time, even if it means raising the price. The items specified above will appear in our next issue, which is due in August, just before the annual Conference. By that time a new crop circle season will be reaching its climax, and we hope that George Wingfield, now editing *The Circular* newsletter, will do his usual job for us of describing its highlights. Let us meet and exchange news & views at Salisbury's excellent City Hall (see announcement, page 27) on 22-23 August.

## Shadows over cornfields

Continued from page 10.

attention; others like to confuse and deceive, just for fun or to give themselves a feeling of superiority. Others again join because they want to fight "irrationalism" and "New Age conspiracies". Then there are those who pursue different aims, such as trying to win people to their specific form of belief-system or world-view.

The result of our experiences in the last few months is widespread insecurity and confusion. Many people in the Group don't know whom to trust or what to believe. A hint of paranoia has occasionally been present at meetings. It did not always seem possible to express one's honest opinion or to reveal publicly everything one knew. There was always the lingering doubt about whom to trust. Fortunately, the Group was able to overcome the atmosphere of mistrust and suspicion which could have destroyed it. In the days of the deepest doubts some mem-

bers expressed their wish to start their own new, much smaller and supposedly "more reliable" group. This has not yet happened. The Beckhampton Group has reacted to the irritations and doubts by concentrating more on the "hard" scientific side of crop circle research, regardless of the more spiritual or esoteric interests of individual members. The Group meetings have developed into very structured and disciplined events, with agenda, minutes and a rotating chairperson.

### Hard evidence

Night watches and hot lines are organised. The main aim now will be to observe and if possible film the formation of a circle and to collect as many crop and soil samples as possible. Even if CCCS and other research groups can organise access to scientific institutions and laboratories many members privately doubt that it will be possible to gain a waterproof scientific explanation for the crop circle phenomenon. They nevertheless seem to accept that it is right to concentrate

on looking for hard evidence. Solid research seems to be the one way to make sure that the members of the Group won't drift off too far, get confused and loose contact with reality. A certain amount of disorientation among members can already be noticed, not least because the various rival factions are trying to influence their views and win them over. Obviously it is very difficult for people to keep in touch with reality and at the same time accept that beyond our material world there are other dimensions and spiritual levels. Many members hope that the more scientifically based strategy of the group will discourage the attention seekers, cheats and agents provocateurs, though this may be asking too much from human nature and inventiveness. But one thing is certain: whatever the new season will bring - and the expectations vary dramatically - the Waggon & Horses will be invaded and the Beckhampton Group will for a few months be at the centre of activities.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE CORNFERENCE

The *Cerealogist's* second annual CORNFERENCE will be held at the City Hall, Salisbury, Wilts on 22 & 23 August 1992, with the usual galaxy of star speakers and some unusual additions. Tickets £35, and further details from: The Cerealogist, 20 Paul Street, Frome, Somerset, BA11 1DX.

27 May, 7pm, John Macnish is showing his film, *Crop Circle Communiqué*, and leading a discussion on corn circles at 14 Neal's Yard, Covent Garden, London WC2. If there is enough interest, this meeting may be extended over a full day. Inquiries to Nicholas Saunders, 071 836 9404 (fax: 071 379 0135).

We are asked to remind readers of the £5000 prize offered by the Koestler Foundation for an explanation of crop circles together with a recording of an occurrence.

## A test for hoaxers

In response to many suggestions from readers, *The Cerealogist* has agreed to organize an international crop circle making competition in July this summer. Sponsors are offering substantial prize money for the best, most convincing circle formation constructed overnight under predetermined conditions.

The time, place, conditions, judges and other details have yet to be decided. Teams of circle

makers (with or without previous experience) are invited to make preliminary inquiries to *The Cerealogist*, 11 Powis Gardens, London W11 1JG.

## The Crop Watcher

Issues 8 and 9 out now! Issue 8 includes Crop Circle Hoaxes in Kent and Wiltshire, the Amersham Cross and a Transcript of the "Up Front" Granada TV debate between Bower, Chorley, Delgado & Wingfield. Issue 9 contains Andrew Hewitt's Statistical Survey of the 1990 Crop Circles, the Tully (1966) case, Crop Circle Hoax at Chequers, Crop Circle at Preston Brook and a review of *Crop Circle Communiqué*. £1.50 per issue or £9.00 for 6 issues a year. Please send cheques made payable to The Crop Watcher to 3 Selborne Court, Tavistock Close, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 7TY.

## The Center for North American Crop Circle Studies

CNACCS has been founded in New Canaan, Connecticut to collect and disseminate information on the crop circle phenomenon in the United States and Canada. According to founder and director Rosemary Ellen Guiley, the Center will seek data and photographs for as many formations as possible in the 1992 season. Information and photographs of circles found in previous years also are needed.

Material collected will be added to the Center's already comprehensive database of circle activity in North America. The information will be

used in reports, articles, other publications and press materials. In addition, CNACCS will contribute to the annual North American crop circle report published by the North American Institute for Crop Circle Research, based in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

Individuals who wish to report or request information are invited to contact Guiley at P.O. Box 1712, New Canaan, CT 06840-1712, telephone 203-972-7293, or fax 203-972-7387.

## THE CIRCLE INFORMER

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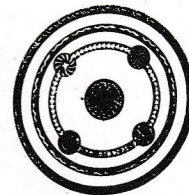
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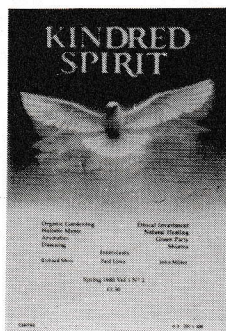
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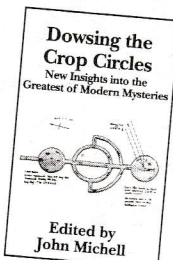
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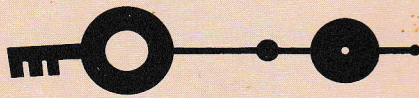
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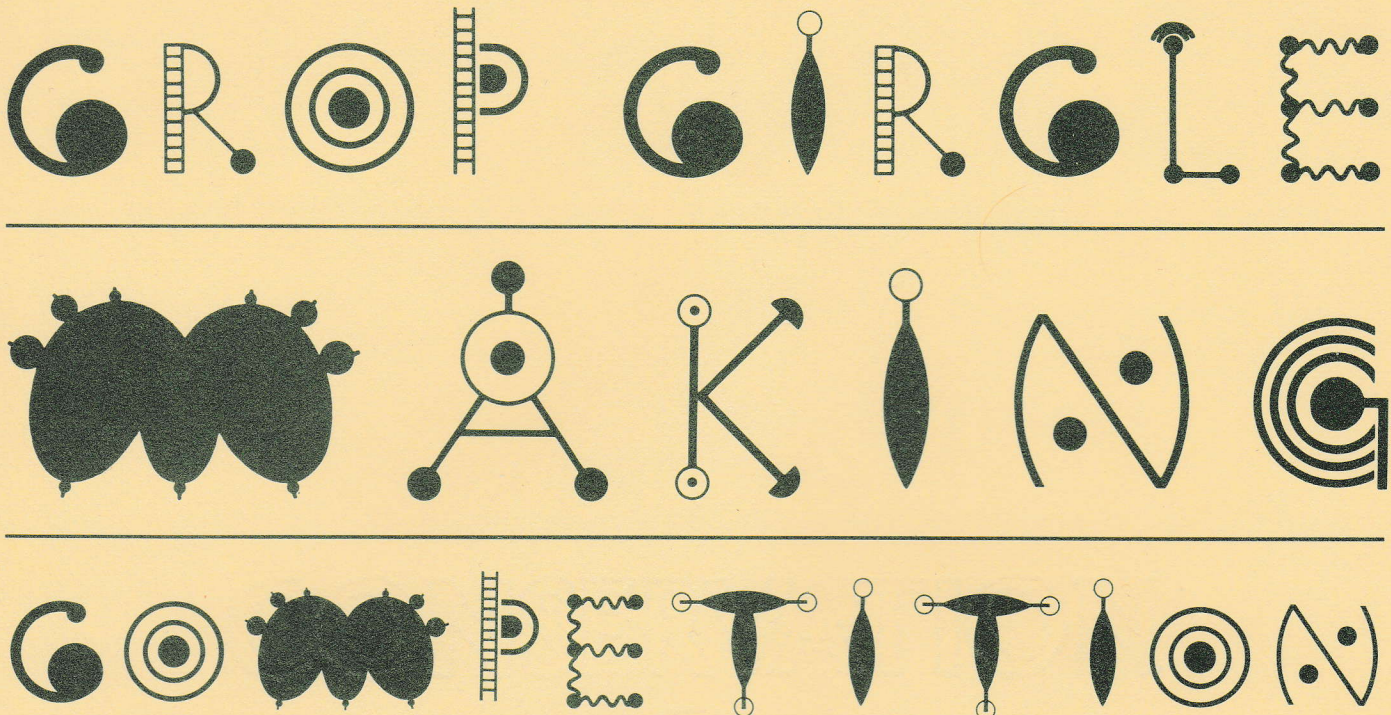
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Further details of membership and the programme of Gatekeeper Trust from The Secretary, Roses Farmhouse, Epwell Road, Tysoe, Warwick CV35 0TN.  
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# THE CEREALOGIST

THE JOURNAL FOR CROP CIRCLE STUDIES



**T**he Cerealogist magazine is promoting a contest for making crop circles, to be held on the night of 11-12 July 1992. The object is to reveal the extent to which artificial circles can replicate the details of the elaborately swirled crop formations which for the last twelve years have been appearing in fields of cereals and other crops in England and elsewhere.

This initiative is prompted by the recent, much publicized but largely unsubstantiated claims that hoaxers are responsible for many of the formations. It is hoped that those who have made such claims will be prepared to demonstrate their skills in public.

A first prize of £3,000 (\$5,200) and runner-up awards are offered for the artificial crop formation, made by a registered team, which in the opinion of qualified judges best reproduce the features observed at crop circle sites. The team will be required to execute a design to be specified by the organizers and will be judged the following morning by judges who will not know the identity of the contestants.

A field of barley has been set aside for the purpose of the competition and is now under cultivation at a site in southern England which will be known only to those organizing and taking part in the competition. After the event, the site will be disclosed and the public will be invited to view the results of the contest.

Teams of circle makers, with or without previous experience, are invited to apply for entry to this contest.

Conditions and other details from: THE CEREALOGIST. The British & International Journal for Crop Circle Studies. 11 Powis Gardens, London W11 1JG. Telephone: 071-229 3583.

The number of entrants will be limited to about 12, and each team to no more than 6 members. A £50.00 entrance fee is required from each participating team which will go towards compensating the farmer. There will be provision for parking and overnight camping.