

MAGAZINE OF THE CENTRE FOR CROP CIRCLE STUDIES (Sussex Branch)



THE END

AND A BEGINNING...

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"I hate reality. Unfortunately it's the only place where you can get a really good steak dinner" **WOODY ALLEN**

Welcome to the last ever issue of the Sussex Circular. But don't panic. This is because, from next issue on, we will be adopting our standard abbreviation as the full title in its own right and we will be known purely as SC, although we of course will know what it stands for! Why the 'change'? As the Sussex Circular has gone on, we have increasingly been covering national and international events in the crop circle world, to the point where these stories now vastly outnumber our local news coverage. Most of our readers live far outside Sussex as our readership rapidly increases. SC now goes out all over the world to places as diverse as the USA, New Zealand and Africa and it finally seems appropriate to drop the emphasis on Sussex. Sussex-based readers should not fear however - this is the county where the SC team operate; we are members of CCCS Sussex and we will not be ignoring the events on our own doorstep in any way; our coverage of Sussex formations will remain undiminished even as we expand our national profile. We will also continue to include a balance of what we see as related subjects, stepping outside the frame of circles where appropriate, to consider other areas of the 'paranormal' which raise deep questions about this wacky existence we call life.

This is the almost-but-not-quite new look issue for SC, which we hope you'll like; easier to read and perhaps just a little more pleasurable to the eye. Basically, I've retired my old IBM 6715 Actionwriter in exchange for a full DTP package, this being the 90's and all that. We'll get more adventurous graphically as time goes on. Many thanks to Jason Porthouse for all his time and effort in helping us meet the challenges of new technology. Even if we did have to buy his PC. We'll go the whole hog next month with a new front cover design.

Reaction to last month's 20-page special, in which we revealed the results of our 1994 crop circle survey has been very positive and I hope you took the time to read all the (very) small print of people's comments, which made it so entertaining and informative. It took far longer than we ever anticipated to compile but I think it was worth it. Dazzled readers will be glad to see our front cover back to a more sober colour this month. I wanted the survey issue to stand out. I think it worked...

Elsewhere in this issue, and on the insert you should find enclosed with it, are details of the eagerly-anticipated, most incredible event ever to happen to the planet, otherwise known as the **Sussex Cereological Bonanza 1995!** Places are limited to 130 so don't leave it too long before registering. You won't have attended a circle conference quite like this one before, so miss it at your peril... There'll be something for everyone.

Oh, and I nearly forgot. Happy Christmas. Don't be caught up in the new fashion of hating the festive season - use it to celebrate something worth celebrating, whatever you choose it to mean. Despite all the commercialism and overkill, Christmas, like life, is what you make it. Hosanna in excelsior. Solstice greetings. Happy Hannukah. Whatever.

ANDY THOMAS

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1994 has been a good year for television coverage of the crop circles, much of which has been down to the stroke of good fortune a certain Reg Presley of the The Trogs had in a top band suddenly covering a long-forgotten song of his and making him a decent bit of wedge and a lot of publicity as a result. Some don't consider him the best man for the job of promoting the circles but if it wasn't for Reg's interest in our pet subject, much of the coverage would never have materialised in the first place. The circles have made their appearance, via his Regness, from such diverse broadcasts as breakfast television to the Glastonbury Rock Festival. Suddenly they seem like news again.

And now Reg doesn't always appear when the agriglyphs arrive on our screens.

The hokum factor has not receded however, as the recent *Schofield's Quest* (ITV, 6/11/94) and *The Magic and Mystery Show* (ITV 10/11/94) demonstrated so neatly. *Schofield's Quest*, presented by ex-kiddie celebrity Philip Schofield is one of a new and proliferating breed of television programmes that attempts to investigate the paranormal (Michael Aspel's *Strange But True?* is another) for cheap entertainment but with a superficiality that doesn't give its subjects the necessary depth to make their case satisfactorily. Finally Schofield got around to crop circles. In its favour, the programme did at least attempt some balance in its presentation, starting with, sure enough, our man Reg (thankfully not wearing *that* circles sweatshirt again) attempting to sound scientifically convincing as to why the circles were not a man-made phenomenon, but it soon shifted on to what it really wanted to promote, which was of course the one and only Doug Bower.

Looking even dodgier than usual, wearing *that* baseball cap with the wire 'sighting', viewers were treated to the usual guff that we're all more than over-familiar with, about how he started it all, wanted to make everyone think a UFO had landed, it's only flattened corn etc, zzzz... His wife didn't notice him missing on all these nights'

work for seven years. Apparently. (It's interesting that Doug never used to say anything much in the early days, but now Dave Chorley has vanished from the scene, he's had to learn all his ex-partner's old lines...) Reporter Caron Keating gleefully lapped all this up, eager to spur

him on to the real point of the programme, which was to show, via Duggie, just how easy it is to knock up your own crop formation, the implication clearly being, if the tone of Schofield's voice was anything to go by, that anyone thinking there was anything more to this was rather a silly person. Our hero set to work in a sped-up montage of wacky shots and created "in fifteen minutes" according to

- *MEDIAWATCH* -

TV TIMES

Recent weeks have seen a spate of circle-related television programmes, not all of them positive... **ANDY THOMAS** rewards his video recorder to have a closer look

Schofield, a ringed circle with some curly bits coming off of it which in the three seconds we were given a clear shot of it looked initially impressive. Bower's clearly been practising since the appalling mess he made for ITN earlier in the year.

So that was it. Crop circles wrapped up at last. A few desperate words from Reg and some pathetic remarks about rutting hedgehogs from the phone-in afterwards, and we could forget about the previous 15 years' mystery, despite some vaguely conciliatory words from Schofield. But hold! - let's take a closer look at that circle-creating sequence.

We were informed that the formation took "fifteen minutes" to make, presumably without a break. And yet scrutinisation of the televised sequence appeared to reveal it unlikely that this could have been the case. We were shown an aerial view (presumably from a crane) of Bower working *alone* in the field at different stages of the formation's construction - and yet, intercut with this footage, were *ground* shots taken in the formation itself of Bower at work in close-up. This could have meant that at least twice, Bower had to stop and wait for the cameraman/crew to hop into the field, make their way into the formation and set up the shots. Surely this in itself would have taken about 15 minutes each time? In other words, it appeared the formation

was not made without a break as implied and must have taken much longer than claimed. What else happened in that time that we didn't see? If the formation was made without these breaks, why was the cameraman not visible in the aerial shots? I contacted Colman Hutchinson, Producer of *Schofield's Quest* to clarify this point, who confirmed that this sequence was not what it appeared to be, but not for the reasons above - in fact the shots of Bower from ground level were especially set up, taken in another part of the field. In a letter responding to my queries, he claims "Bower did indeed make the crop circle in 15 minutes... We then started another crop circle where we filmed Doug from the ground. We then intercut these two sequences, but in real time it took just fifteen minutes".

But, crucially, we were not shown how the ring - a very neat one - was made around the circle, as the sequence cut straight to a later stage in the formation. Bower could not have just tramped around the outside so accurately. Someone would have had to have entered the field and stood in the circle centre to have held a rope of some kind. This would have taken time, and means that *more than one person was involved*. If not, Bower himself would have had to have stopped and spent at least a few minutes finding a stake, banging it into the centre and attaching his rope, which again extends the time taken to *far* more than the stated quarter of an hour. Hutchinson claims however that Bower "used no other equipment other than his plank of wood. Nobody else was involved and he did not use a rope attached to the centre of the circle". I'm afraid I and others I've spoken to don't share the same faith in Bower's abilities; it's very unlikely the Producer would have been on site to witness this for himself. Call me a conspiracy ranter if you want, but try drawing a perfect ring *freehand* around a circle on paper even and you'll see what I mean.

Viewers were not allowed a close shot of the all-important floor-lay (which looks quite rough if you peer closely, not that most viewers would know the difference anyway, not being aware of what constitutes the 'genuine' phenomenon) and interestingly Bower never once used - or *risked* using - the cap sighting which he carefully explained at the beginning helped him to make straight lines, as there were no straight lines in his formation. The first thing Bower did when starting his demonstration was to walk straight through the standing

crop leaving a very obvious trail. And of course viewers were not informed that most crop formations are ten times the size and complexity of Bower's. Aside from all this, the programme was highly irresponsible in encouraging people to commit criminal damage.

In the next edition the following week, an update was given to the effect that they had received more calls in their phone-in about this segment of *Schofield's Quest* than any in the history of the show and could people please not phone in any more... We were not treated to any details of these calls.

The Magic and Mystery Show the same week was having no truck whatsoever with other people's opinions however and unashamedly presented a total debunk job that made *Schofield's Quest* look positively fair. In previous weeks we had already seen Andy Collins doing his psychic questioning bit, prancing about in priestly robes in a dry-ice filled churchyard like something out of the *Bat out of Hell* video as strange women did exotic dances to camera, when we know that this sort of thing is usually done in cozy living rooms, with carpet slippers and nice hot mugs of tea. Still, Andy clearly knows the value of a good marketing gimmick. The same programme had investigated the effectiveness of dowsing and sort of came to the conclusion that it worked, but included a magician's act in its demonstrations just to leave you with the idea that it *could* all be nothing more than a clever conjuring trick. There were no such niceties when it came to crop circles.

We were introduced to a man who apparently knew all about this subject. Meet Robin Allen - better known to you of course as one of the 'Wessex Skeptics', the small-time hoaxing group who once helped dupe Titty Taylor and Terence Meaden on Channel 4's *Equinox* with one of their few creations. He is also a prominent member of the UK Skeptics, an anti-paranormal group that exists merely to rubbish anything that remotely challenges modern scientific practice, regardless of the evidence (See Marcus Allen's article in SC 33). Oddly, this last rather unimportant fact failed to get a mention on the programme. So Robin did his thing, explaining how all circles were man-made, demonstrating a Doug & Dave stalk-stomper which had helped make "hundreds of circles over the last few years" and saying how he knew at least ten people who could account for at least "80 formations" this summer.

The female presenter (a la Caron Keating) took all of this on board as fact, hanging on every word the maestro said. How could people be so stupid as to think there was more to all this! Goodness, she even sent him off with a loving well-wish of "good luck with your next 'crop'!" And yet, she failed to notice one little point - *no evidence whatsoever, however slight*, was proffered by Mr Allen in defence of his case. Of course he didn't need a defence because the programme simply accepted his dubious *opinion* as being the whole truth and nothing but the truth. No magic and no mystery. A marvellously balanced programme. (As an interesting aside, Robin Allen has reportedly admitted in personal conversation that he *does* in fact believe there to be a genuine force behind some of the major pictograms... but there wasn't a sniff of that here beyond a grudging admittance that some "rough single circles" might be created by the weather.)

With both programmes, as usual, the public were spoonfed by those who rely on ignorance for their views to be given credence, knowing that most people will never bother to educate themselves to the real nature of the phenomenon. We should know better by now I guess, to hope for anything more from the majority of a media whose belief-envelope stretches beyond capacity at anything deeper than the latest *Eastenders* scandal.

Firstly, congratulations on the Sussex Circular which continues to be a fascinating read. I was

- LETTERS -

suspected of attending such a gathering becomes a criminal, liable to arrest without warrant. Furthermore, if the police suspect anyone of being en route to such a gathering, the five-mile exclusion zone is enforced, preventing that person from proceeding. It is very easy for circles researchers to dismiss these points on the assumption that the new laws will not be enforced in relation to the crop circles, but this misses the point. Whether or not the law affects croppies in practice, we have lost our right to drive past circles or even to travel the roads of much of Wiltshire and Hampshire. We may now visit circles only on condition that the police let us. It is easy to sympathise with people such as travellers or squatters when one sees these new laws from the victim's point of view. I hope all circles people feel as disgusted as I am at these infringements of our rights

The bill gives the police (not the local authority) the power to prohibit the assembly, place a four day exclusion order on the site, and place a five-mile exclusion zone around the site. Anyone

There are some glimmers of hope however. A recent series about motorcyclists riding the Ridgeway downs track through southern England saw the riders going through several areas of heavy circle-activity, meeting, would you believe, our man Reg atop Adams Grave, overlooking East Field ("If only 1% of formations are genuine, I want to know what's making that 1%") and actually having some sensible conversations about the phenomenon. Earlier this year, SKY satellite TV broadcast *Crop Circle Conspiracy*, a thoughtful and well-balanced assessment of the phenomenon that actually came out supporting the view that something not-easily-explainable was going on. Less seriously, Pat Delgado appeared on ITV's *What's My Line?* (a celebrity panel had to guess what his unusual interest was) and the US comedy series *Seinfeld* featured the lead character using "I'm the guy who made all the crop circles in England" as a chat-up line, leading to a two minute discussion about the phenomenon! Most recently, on the same edition that saw David Icke as one of its guests, BBC 2's comedy gameshow *Have I Got News For You* featured the ejaculating phallus formation that appeared near the prime minister's home in 1993, leading to some amusing speculation as to what it might mean if it were genuine...

SC will keep an eye on future circle coverage. **AT**

TERRY WILSON, Plymouth, Devon.

If one looks closely at the vulnerability of the positions people take up in controversial areas it nearly always turns out that at some level of their presentation it is not *logic* that fails them but *perception*. Why is it that Rupert Sheldrake's morphic resonance insights do not altogether stand up to the kind of onslaught which threatened orthodoxy turns upon them? Where does the weakness in his position actually lie? There are, as far as I can see, no serious flaws in his exposition, so to what is he actually vulnerable?

The clue lies in the response he makes when challenged to explain how the morphogenetic field works. So long as he continues to take up this challenge at the level on which it is made he remains, so to speak, on the enemies' ground, where they have a lot more clout than he has. Sheldrake's

weakness is that he faces intuitively towards the realm of reality where *organic* processes are rooted and then, as a scientist, attempts to account for them with concepts evolved from ideas derived from the *inorganic*. He wobbles uncertainly between two realms which are indeed intimately related but actually operate by different laws and which need understanding with different concepts and must even be observed through different organs of perception. Sheldrake as a biologist is extremely radical, but as an imaginative 'new world' creator of concepts and precepts he is a relative beginner. Relative to what? This is what we need to describe.

The fact is that the organic living events which resonate in the fields of operation which Sheldrake conceives and describes electromagnetically, only *resonate* there; they do not actually take place there. They take place somewhere else, and this 'somewhere else' is not observable in the physical world with physical organs of perception. It is this 'somewhere else' which is described principally by Rudolf Steiner as the 'etheric'. We only know about it at all because our thinking takes place in it, indeed our brain, where orthodoxy believes thinking to take place, is itself a physical extension of a morphogenetic field in Sheldrake's terms. Thinking 'resonates' in the brain, just as biological

events resonate in the morphogenetic electromagnetic processes Sheldrake describes. Brain matter, and indeed all living matter, is a physical extension of just such fields.

How then are these entities and their consequent events, ie. plant forms and conceptual constructs, perceived if not by senses? *They are actually perceived by the activity of thinking. Thinking is itself a form of perception.* We will discuss this later. It is the fact that Sheldrake does not take matters this far that is the source of the weakness. He is radical but not radical enough.

This presentation of the relationship between perception and thinking is not particularly new. But is has been virtually ignored for the best part of a century. It is fully deployed in the philosophical work of

Rudolf Steiner. Unfortunately there it has been overlaid with multiple misunderstandings of Steiner's later 'occult' work, where it has been misidentified and confused with much other theosophical or kindred teachings whose purely philosophical and scientific content is virtually non-existent. Had Steiner's purely philosophical and scientific beginnings not been overlaid in this way, later developments in existential and other philosophical work would have taken a very different course. As it is, the growth of human perception and thinking into new realities, which themselves transcend materialism, has been hamstrung all down the line by habits of thought which were appropriate to nineteenth century levels of consciousness, but are now outdated.

We need to grasp, by a process of stern mental discipline, that when we *think* about living processes and about thinking itself, we are actually *perceiving* something *real* happening behind the level to which our senses have access. We are not simply reacting, subjectively and indirectly, by an organic process originating in the brain, to something alien outside our organism. **Thinking is an entity in the 'etheric' which observes itself as an event in a morphogenetic field.**

"Tautological" you may say! "This is an idea pull-

- FEATURES -
**SHELDRAKE
AND THE
ETHERIC**

Rupert Sheldrake's morphic resonance theories seem to impress and frustrate in equal measure, as discussed by Andy Thomas in SC 33. But why? STANLEY MESSENGER may have the answer...

ing itself up by its own bootstraps!" But the very idea of tautology only has meaning in a reality where time is linear. In the etheric itself there is no linear time. Plant forms and thoughts do not 'happen' in the etheric. They exist there, but they happen in the morphogenetic field where time is linear. Morphic resonance is not between two parallel events in different realms, both linear. It is between an entity in non-linear time with what translates itself into an event in linear time.

The question "how does morphic resonance work?" is thus a solecism, a non-question. Events within a morphogenetic field 'work' like any other physical or electromagnetic event. But resonances between etheric entities and morphogenetic processes are not events in that sense, because they are not temporal in the sense of linear. So they cannot be described as causal. If anything they are instantaneous, spatial rather than temporal. The etheric archetype of a plant or of a logical sequence relates to its manifest form in a mode analogous to two entities in space. The point is, it is not the same space, and we are unused to thinking in these terms.

The mental discipline required for all this, although almost totally unfamiliar to ordinary thinking, is not essentially very difficult, nothing like as difficult, for example, as wrapping one's thoughts around later philosophies, Wittgenstein for example. But as this age of paranormal events proceeds it will be exceedingly difficult to make sense of them without expanding one's mental space in this kind of direction.

This would be important enough if we were merely required to be creative in a free mental space. But we are already in a time when scientific orthodoxy is sufficiently threatened by the inexplicable events overtaking it to be engaging itself in vigorous counter-attacks, as has been described for example in the recent work of Marcus Allen (SC 33). Counter-attacks succeed best if they manage to conceal areas of vulnerability. Basically 'science' claims to 'know' things. But since scientists are mostly not all that sure how knowledge is acquired, the claims they make for knowledge are at best provisional, at worst arrogant and dogmatic. Scientists therefore frequently confuse science with a belief system, a 'scientism' which scientists claim as a consensus base-line. It is this scientistic rather than scientific base-line they therefore wheel out when they attack claims made about new phenomena and new fields of knowledge, lacking any more secure conviction that the path of material science is on course.

What scientists fear more than not being able to keep up with the acceleration of new phenomena is that scientism will no longer satisfy the demands of ordinary people to understand what is going on. Each new phenomenon and fresh psychic experience increases the violence of this counter-attack. There is no way of standardising what we have to offer the public to help them to regain confidence and mental equilibrium. We have to encourage individuals to turn inward and re-establish the ground of their own conviction. **SM**

On the back of this issue, and enclosed on a separate sheet, are details of the long-awaited **SUSSEX CEREALOGICAL BONANZA!**

SCB '95

This is going to be a great weekend, especially with our star speakers David Icke and Michael Glickman on the bill. Day One will be the more conventional day in an unconventional kind of way, with our main speakers, live channelling from Paul Bura's spirit friend JoeB, anomalous slides, lots of circle photographs in general, inspirational poetry, and the debut of the first ever crop circle gameshow *Have I Got Circles For You...* not to mention loads of other stuff we've got up our sleeves. Day Two is more for the non-armchair crossoppers who want to find out exactly what to do once inside a real live crop formation so as to make the best use of their time in there; crop sampling, accurate measuring

techniques, photography, dowsing - all these and more will be covered. Even if you are an armchair cerealogist, come along for the Sunday

and find out how the surveys you read are compiled! Both days are going to be a lot of fun. As you can probably tell, **SCB '95** is intended to be entertaining as well as informative! Details of prices, times, places etc, are on your insert sheet or can be obtained by contacting the address and phone number on the back page. The event will take place in the Main Hall and all rooms of The Scout Centre, there's lots of room and facilities are good. Food will be provided with your ticket. Book now to avoid proverbial disappointment. If you are a vendor and wish to book a table for **SCB '95**, please let us know ASAP.

It's difficult to know where to start with the lecture that David Percy gave CCCS Sussex recently. Suffice to say he covered in great detail the book *Two-Thirds* which he co-wrote with David Myers. Readers of SC will be aware of the difficulties which I have had coming to terms with this book. Even after this lecture and a grilling from

Mary Bennett I am still grossly confused and simply cannot bring myself to read any more of it. But then I am obviously not enlightened! Fortunately for anyone who did want to try and understand this lecture, introductory ground had already been covered in previous meetings. In 1993 Colette Dowell had introduced us to hyper-dimensional and tetrahedral geometry and this year Mary Bennett had filled us in on the Council of Nine. We were therefore already endo-

dowed with much background knowledge which was just as well.

David informed us that the key to the future is tapping the energy generated by human beings. When we close our eyes and meditate, a conscious energy cone is formed above our heads. This energy can be collected by a 'Waldark hat' and stored for later use. The Waldark hat looks remarkably similar to the conical hats which the ancient Egyptians used to wear. So were they aware of this energy? If a meditator pictures an imaginary spinning tetrahedron in a circle then energy pours into the hat. If a planet rotates at the correct speed then it can also produce the same energy into its magnetic field. The idea is that the energy is transferred into a 54' concrete disk spinning at 75,000 r.p.m. It suffers from loss of mass and therefore from gravity. This all occurs within a spacecraft enabling one meditator to produce enough energy for flight. However, whilst all this was described as complete fact it appeared to me to be complete conjecture with virtually no evidence to back it up.

David also attempted to show how some crop formations can fit into Glastonbury Abbey if scaled to the right size. Unfortunately, this and other theories like it, fall down because only a handful of

formations are used to 'prove' a theory. What about the other two thousand that do not fit in? Surely any theory must encompass ALL formations. There are now so many formations that without too much effort one can always be found to prove anything, but one is not enough. Of course, the formations that David uses continue to 'prove'

his spinning disk theory. Alternatively, if the circles have many meanings then perhaps it only takes a handful to prove each theory as maybe every theory is partially correct. (One interpretation in *Two-Thirds* reads "Transtime crop glyph intended to depict the electrocuted body of a nitwit lying over a section of circular electric fencing". Even allowing that 'nitwit' has different connotations here, need I say more? - Ed) Finally, we were told that Alton Barnes

is an anagram of 'Alteans Born', the beings that allegedly initiated all of this. But then Spiro Agnew (ex-Vice President of the USA) is an anagram of 'grow a penis'!

What was impressive were slides comparing the Avebury complex to the Cydonia region on Mars, site of the huge 'face' and 'pyramids'. The Cydonia region (which was allegedly built where it is to spin Mars at the correct rate to produce the energy described above) shares many similar shaped objects to Avebury with similar angles and ratios between them. They are NOT the same size however; Cydonia is many times larger. Another piece of 'hard' evidence in David's talk which did impress the socks off me was the exact location of Stonehenge. There are 21,600 nautical miles around the Earth's equator - 360° multiplied by 60' (minutes). The exact location of Stonehenge is apparently 51° 10', 42.35" (north, east, south or west is not said). When you multiply the three together you get exactly 21,600! Impressive, eh?

David's lecture was received in a mixture of ways. Some loved it, some hated it. For me, there was very little that I agreed with. The quality of David's slides are unrivalled however, and if he is ever lecturing in a town near you it will certainly be worth attending. And as for the book, well one day... **BR**

- REPORTS -

HALF OF TWO THIRDS

He co-wrote *Two-Thirds*, he recommends wearing conical hats, he's David Percy and **BARRY REYNOLDS** now understands everything. Or does He?

- REPORTS -

CITY GLICKERS

The London Winter Lectures have been resurrected and Michael Glickman kicked off in his own inimitable style. **ANDY THOMAS** witnesses this momentous event...

Fresh from his recent lecture tour of serious-croppie starved America where he was (he claims) treated like "a cross between Henry Kissinger and Madonna", the Michael Glickman show returned to these shores on November 3rd to open the newly-revived Winter Lectures on the crop circle phenomenon, held this year at Friends Interna-

tional House, one of the London Quaker centres. Michael is a heartfelt and amusing speaker with a passion for the crop circles unrivalled by many others involved at the heart of researching the phenomenon who merely scratch the surface. About 50 or so people were treated to slides of the 1994 formations, and most importantly, to Michael's speciality subject; crop circle geometry.

Two formations in particular have fired up his mathematical juices this year - the Froxfield 'Flower' and the huge and beautiful 'Web' at Avebury. Contrary to the impression given by Barry's comments in SC 34 that the design of the Flower could be simply reproduced on paper by using one set of compasses, the uniqueness of this formation is that it *appears* that way but it is rather more special than that. When actually looked at in detail, where the compass (or rope?) lines might go, they are in fact uniformly offset by about two feet from the expected positions; incredibly difficult to produce consistently.

The Avebury Web is also not quite what it seems; one would expect the straight 'spokes' of the webbing to be lines that could be traced straight across the circles in the middle to meet their opposite counterparts - they don't. Michael showed how they are in fact precisely designed to just 'pass' each other when a line is drawn across. Thus *each* individual 'strand' of the web has its *own separate arc point* extending out several feet into the standing crop - a virtually impossible challenge for even the most dedicated hoaxer, especially without leaving some trace of their activity. Not that Michael feels he has anything to prove against the so-called hoaxing fraternity. His fervour in denouncing this non-aspect of the crop circles has led some to dismiss him as a fanatic, unwilling to view evidence that threatens his 'belief' in the circles as

being beyond the work of human hands, but it's not like that. He's looked at this supposed 'evidence' and found it not to be there. In his opinion, this is a facet of the phenomenon which should be beneath our dignity to even mention in the presence of such geometrical beauty and even Michael Green, chairing the evening, was berated later for constantly referring to this heresy.

Most importantly, Michael has discovered important links between the Web and the Bythorn Mandala of late 1993, which he believes acted as "bookends" for the 1994 season. Struck by an inspiration one day, he took a photocopy on a clear cell of the Bythorn formation and overlaid it onto the Web and found to his amazement that the two fitted around each other perfectly, sharing the same

unusual ten-fold geometry. For instance, the pentagon of Bythorn encompasses neatly one of the rings in the centre of the Web, the petals of Bythorn correlate directly with the points of the webbing and so forth. After checking his findings with the doyen of circle geometry John Martineau, Michael then found that his photocopy of Bythorn was not actually to true scale with the Web - and yet the scale he had used fitted it perfectly; a fortuitous error as it turned out, the significance of which may yet reveal itself.

Michael was well-received, even when openly threatening to send his audience to sleep with carefully-selected quotes from his favourite sources. A positive and entertaining discussion ended the evening perfectly and the size of the venue lent itself well to a conversational and relaxed atmosphere where everyone felt free to openly groan in disbelief when an elderly lady, after all she had been shown, expressed her opinion that the formations of 1994 didn't impress her very much. Michael at this point held his head in his hands, which rather summed up the audience's feelings in this direction. The meeting closed leaving everyone to look forward to the likes of Stanley Messenger, Michael Green and Marcus Allen in the coming winter months at the same venue. Well worth the train fare. **AT**

At one point planned as the CCCS 1994 conference, but hastily reverted for reasons unknown, it was never discovered whether the large audience crammed into Haslemere Hall in Surrey on 29th September was there to hear Lucy Pringle or Uri Geller speak but neither set of people would have been disappointed as both speakers gave an excellent talk. Lucy started the evening with a full round up of 1994 events covering the whole crop circle scene including her own research. Out of all the CCCS Council members Lucy must do the most field research. She does brain wave scans, homeopathic tests, dowsing, surveying, and yes she actually visits formations as well. This puts her in a good position to comment on them. (If certain other people spent as much time in the fields as Lucy does then they would also be able to partake in useful research instead of being armchair bores.) Lucy was as enthusiastic as ever over the formations and gave an excellent overview of 1994 but there was one omission, which I congratulate her wholeheartedly on. She never once, not once, mentioned the word (shhh, don't say it - someone might hear!) h-o-a-x (quickly say three Barbury Castles and two Mandelbrot Sets).

After a short break, and the discovery that Doug Bower and several other alleged hoaxers were present (why do these sad people keep turning up to croppie events?) Uri Geller took the stage. The first thing that immediately struck everyone was how incredibly young Uri looks in the flesh. By my calculations he is about 48 years old but looks twenty years younger. Uri only gives two or three lectures per year so we were quite honoured to hear him speak. Most of the lecture was taken up by him reciting his life history which, if you have not already read the books on him, is very interesting. His spoon-bending days started when he was around four years old after he had one of several close encounters with a UFO. At school he would make the clocks go fast or slow and was treated as a freak. As he became older the Americans became interested in him as a kind of psychotronic weapon.

They tested him for months under the tightest security but were at a loss to explain how he achieved his remarkable talents.

Inevitably Uri asked if anyone had brought any cutlery with them. Astonishingly, several people were able to produce spoons, forks and broken watches. These were all left on the stage whilst Uri selected a choice key from a bunch handed to him. Then over a period of several minutes, in front of our very own eyes and surrounded by several children, he bent the key through about 45° just by stroking it gently. Or did he? It was easy to be sceptical but by doubting you risked the wrath of all others present. It was impressive all the same. (At least one CCCS Sussex member had a broken watch rejuvenated that

night, just by leaving it on the stage - Ed.) He continued by telling us about his ideas and thoughts for the future, which are not dissimilar to those of David Icke and were a joy to hear. He claims that he knows where the biblical Ark of the Covenant is buried and is setting up a meeting between King Hussein and Yasser Arafat to get permission to dig for it. Goodness only knows what will happen if he finds it.

But for Uri, the sky is clearly not the limit. He also has a plan for the closing ceremony at the Sydney Olympics in the year 2000. With 3 billion people watching the proceedings coming to a close, linked by the television coverage, we ALL say "1, 2, 3 - disarm!" - and neutralise the worlds' nuclear weapons stockpile by telekinesis just like he bends keys! What a fantastic idea! All together now "1, 2, 3 - disarm!". "1, 2, 3 - disarm!". "1, 2, 3..." **BR POSTSCRIPT:** *While Barry and I were talking with Uri afterwards, our conversation was interrupted by one Doug Bower who pushed his way between us on an all-out offensive, ranting to Uri that he was the one responsible for all the crop circles since 1978, and why wasn't Uri aware of this etc. Amusingly, Uri said he had never heard of him and walked away... Men in white coats failed to appear, but it can't be long - Ed.*

- REPORTS -

THE SKY IS NOT THE LIMIT

The world-rekowned spoon-bender and psychic Uri Geller doesn't appear often now, but one day in Surrey he did and BARRY REYNOLDS was there...

Well it's been exactly a year since the SC 'scoop' that a gentleman in Seattle had successfully developed a free energy device, so I decided to telephone Richard "Scott" Mckie in Seattle, USA, to find out the current situation with regards to his POD MOD free energy invention. (See SC 24.)

I spent around 20 minutes or so talking with him. According to Scott his POD MOD unit is just about ready to be let loose on the world and he suggested to me that we would know all about it when it happened. He has had the ERU (electron recycling unit) perfected for some time now and has a prototype based on the 1986 model currently up and running.

He has confirmation that the "Super MOSFET" chip he requires is possible to build but it is not a cheap deal; it will therefore be commissioned after the funding has arrived.

He has two confirmed off-shore orders, one in China, for "600,000,000" 200W power supplies for bicycles which will power electrical motors to drive the bikes (this unit will fit inside a 3" tube and is planned to be attached to the bicycle using Velcro). The other order is from British Columbia for a single larger unit to replace an old oil burning power station, which is currently being heavily subsidised by the government due to inefficiency and maintenance costs.

Both of these orders rely on independent tests that are to be carried out this month; these tests will also secure the funding, which has been agreed, pro-

viding the tests results are satisfactory.

The funding will be coming from overseas. Apparently American funding has proven to be very difficult to get, possibly due to the discoveries to date demonstrating major errors in our understanding and teaching of electronics, and it could mean the loss of funding for a number of projects.

Reportedly Fliesschmann and Barnes (?), discoverers of cold fusion, have now had their second large grant, but are on the verge of renouncing their American citizenship in order to work elsewhere on the project. Scott says that he is also close to the same decision! He plans to set up a manufacturing plant in Scotland.

If anyone knows anything about "impedance matching networks" Scott would

like to get in touch with you. The example he gave me was a stereo amp which runs at 4, 8, or 16 ohms which requires a matched load. So does his prototype, and he would love to power a light bulb but the resistance is too low.

He estimates that the first commercial units for the bicycles will be manufactured within 6 months from getting the funding, which he assessed would take 2-4 weeks for testing and 2-4 weeks after that to receive the funding.

Let's hope so for his sake, because there appears to be a plethora of free energy devices around, including one featured in a two page article in the Sunday Express 27/11/94, where hydrogen power is extracted from water! **MN**

- NEWS -

THE MCKIE TO THE FUTURE?

Whatever happened to free-energy device maestro Richard Mckie? MARTIN NOAKES finds out...

- TRIVIA -

RANGLES SCANDALS

Ufologist Jenny Randles was... a man. Gosh.

A cutting from that establishment of education *The News of the World* this summer has come our way, in which Jenny Randles, the well-known ufologist or government-paid debunker, depending on who you listen to, reveals in an article entitled 'I HAD UFO-OLED!' that she was originally born a very male Christopher Paul Randles!

Jenny, who rather like Reg Presley with crop

circles is virtually guaranteed an appearance on any television programme that even mentions UFO's, made her transformation back in 1976. It was clearly a good career move!

SC has no problem with any of this. Long-term readers will in any case recall that this huge Fleet Street 'scoop' was in fact first revealed in this very journal, way, way back in SC 5! **AT**

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