

**THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF
CROP CIRCLES AND BEYOND**

SC

39

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**Levengood... the Litmus Test Approaches? - Results on Sussex
Samples - Marcus Allen - Andrews Cancels US Convention**

"In many ways we view technology as a panacea; by ever increasing our own power, we believe that we have an ability to solve any problem that can be presented to us. And to a certain extent that is hypothetically true. But what actually happens is that technology simply amplifies our own nature in an ever greater way" **JARON LANIER**

Bit of a technical issue of SC this month, as we herald some of the Levengood results on crop formations in Sussex. But even those not versed in techno-lingo should get the gist - ie. that something very important is being discovered about the nature of the mechanics of crop circle-forming which cannot be accounted for by human activity. Already the backlash has begun from some less sure about the validity of Levengood's work, Montague Keen among them, spreading a very negative view of what appears to be very thorough and scientifically carried out research. A negative view is all that has been presented thus far - no evidence to show why Levengood might be wrong. Certainly 'Lefty's studies have been taken seriously enough for several journals not usually given to covering strange phenomena to include articles about his work. The piece in *Farmers Weekly* was an excellent and precise piece of journalism, unspoil by any ridicule. It'll be interesting to see what response it gets. A smaller item which appeared in *The Times* couldn't resist a dig however, with the columnist displaying his own ignorance, unable to report Levengood's findings without tacking on "Convinced? Nor am I" at the end. Nevertheless, this marks an important step forward in scientific crop circle research because, unlike previous attempts, there is actually something to show for all the efforts; a difference between plants found in crop circles which may define at last just what a 'genuine' formation is. More work carried out in the coming season (almost upon us!) should put the lid on the validity of this line of research at last.

Meanwhile, Ed Sherwood is an up and coming name in cerealogy and is primarily interested in the link between crop circles, our minds, Extraterrestrial intelligences and the psychic links between all three. For those in the Sussex area, he'll be speaking at the next branch meeting of CCCS Sussex, on Tuesday 18th April...

ANDY THOMAS



The Monthly Magazine of
Crop Circles and Beyond

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*Front cover: Warnford, Hampshire, July
1994. Photograph by Steve Alexander.*

The pen is mightier than the sword it's said, but the full weight of this statement is not always fully appreciated. Despite circulating rumours that George Wingfield has undergone some kind of religious conversion after meeting an American with stigmata and now thinks many of the crop circles are created by the Virgin Mary (or something), *The Cerealogist* magazine under his editorship is up to its old tricks. In the latest issue, George lists all the major crop formations of last year as hoaxes and names those allegedly responsible. That the piece is a work of complete fiction is beyond doubt, concocted through a combination of dubious sources and George's own paranoia. This is confirmed by 'hoaxers' Rob Irving and Robin Allen who privately acknowledge that George got EVERY SINGLE ONE WRONG in his article, bar one - which was the flower Julian Richardson made for Arthur C Clarke's *Mysterious World*.

However, despite the spurious nature of the article, it has managed to upset a few people and could have far-reaching consequences in some areas. A rather unpleasant fax is currently doing the rounds, addressed to George and illustrated with a picture of a 'grey' ET, which reads as follows - minus the nastier bits:

"Hi Wingfield. Bet you didn't expect this. I'm bumt out, trilaterally speaking, that is. Wanna know some facts boyo? Well I can tell YOU a tale or two! How about the good old fourteenth! Keep guessing... ..Glorious news, eh! Oh no! I'm not talking about valentines day, not that fourteenth. Bastille? Uh, uh. ...You will be in for a shock - because there is more where that came from, oh yes me old fruit. Big blue will never forget the day they fired you. Your 'bit on the side', Gouldly speaking. Stay AWAKE - we're watching you!!!"

For those 'in the know' the fax drops several clues as to who may be behind it, although these could be deliberately misleading, and is probably part of the continuing trail of Wingfield-baiting which George made the mistake of rising to a couple of years back. Either that or a disgruntled croppie, unhappy at the debunking, has decided to give chase.

More seriously, George's article has caused Professor Gerald Hawkins, whose study of the diatonic ratios found in crop formations has been an important development, to withdraw all such work

from the public domain, for reasons which remain unclear. It is likely however that he doesn't want his name associated with phenomena which George is very publicly proclaiming as fraud. It's a shame he can't have the courage of his own convictions.

George, along with fellow-sceptic John Macnish, was scheduled to speak at Colin Andrews' International Crop Circle Convention this April in New Hampshire, USA. The appearance of his article, along with other factors, has caused Colin to cancel the event. In a statement which Colin has asked us to print, he says:

"It is with great disappointment and many apologies that I have to inform you of the cancellation of the Con-

vention to have been held at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, USA on the 8th April 1995. There were two primary reasons we organised the convention. The first was to give the American public and research community an opportunity to share the research findings and for front line researchers themselves to present the best evidence available. The second was to raise funds for future research now that my own funds have been devoured by the last twelve years investigation. Unfortunately a number of recent developments would have seriously affected the quality of our advertised programme and may have jeopardized even more the valuable funds beyond the \$4000 loss that this convention has already cost. Some of the factors which influenced my decision are as follows: i) A major hoaxing article written by George Wingfield and just published in *The Cerealogist*, if true, has serious ramifications and could place in jeopardy some of the scientific claims made by well known scientists. Wingfield falls well short of supplying conclusive evidence of his claims that numerous of the well known 1994 formations were man-made. However the story must be carefully and urgently investigated. ii) Two important speakers have developed health problems which could affect their attendance. iii) Two large scale conferences have been planned to coincide with the convention, including one in which George Wingfield is going to speak. I therefore felt this was the prudent decision."

I personally hope it was the other factors which forced Colin's decision and not fears about the nonsense promoted in *The Cerealogist* which barely deserves our contempt let alone concern. The only thing in "jeopardy" right now is what's left of George's reputation. I don't think the scientists need worry. **AT**

- NEWS - **BY GEORGE!**

As *The Cerealogist* continues its kamikaze spiral into debunk-hell, ANDY THOMAS discovers that wider repercussions are being felt as a result...

The Sompting triangular triplet of 1993 (Ref. Sussex 1993/01) was one of many controversial formations which have appeared in Sussex. To some people's disapproval we were more than happy to label this formation genuine, even if the farmer "knew" that it was "kids". This was the formation in which we discovered a piece of looped bailing twine (apparently placed to give the impression of a hoax) so soon after it appeared that it could only have been placed there by one of the Sussex research team, the farmer or someone 'in the know'. We have our suspicions...

Andy and I demonstrated that if you prepare well beforehand, sampling is fairly easy. Forty-eight individually labelled samples were taken in thirty minutes during an exercise that the SAS would have been proud of. So what did Dr. Levensgood find?

Firstly a good slap on the back. Even though the samples were taken in complete darkness, they constituted "by far, the most detailed sampling of any crop circle complex examined in this laboratory [Pinelandia, Biophysical Laboratory, Michigan, USA]. For this reason considerable effort has been expended in the detailed study of these samples taken along the uniform, coordinate transverses" [see sampling diagram].

LABORATORY RESULTS, SOMPTING TRIANGULAR TRIPLET 1993: (Plant material: wheat plants and seed heads)

STEM NODE EXAMINATION: "Each sample group contained between 6 and 10 plants. Both node ratios and the degree of node bending was taken at nodes 2 to 4 on each plant. Very significant node bending increases were noted at the node 3 and 4 positions from all the samples within both the main circle and the satellites compared with those taken outside the formations (and of course the controls). The node swelling was also significant at the node 3 and node 4 positions and this was readily explained by the presence of very active

pressure formation within the upper nodes. The node tissue has visco-elastic properties and does not return to its original shape after the heat expansion.

The "expulsion cavities" were extremely pronounced at the node 3 and node 4 nodes within the plants located in the formations. These expulsion cavities appear to be from a very rapid build up of significant gas pressure within the nodes, during the transient heating phase. This pressure, if sufficiently high, literally blows a cavity through the cell wall of the node tissue. The dark coloration noted was from fungus and mould attack on the rich exudate blown onto the surface from within the cytoplasm of the cells.

The distribution of this internal pressure is such that in some cases the cell wall fibres are stretched outward from two expulsion centres. The distribution of these expulsion cavities over the large circle formation is shown in figure 1a, where the frequency percentages were averaged over the four co-ordinate locations. The level in the controls is indicated at the 250-500 bar on the right. Even though the two cavities found in the controls were much less prominent than those in the formations, and did not have the mould blackening, they were included in the analyses.

Cavity levels in the three satellite samples (figure 1b) were somewhat higher than those in the large circle. This would be in accord with a higher energy density within the secondary instability products from a plasma vortex. The very sharp boundary of these energy formations is indicated in figure 1a, by the pronounced drop in cavity frequency between the 32 feet (inside) and 35 feet (outside) locations in the large circle."

So the expulsion cavities on the nodes are prevalent in the laid crop within the main circle, occur even more heavily within the satellites but are virtually non-existent outside of the flattened crop.

SEED GERMINATION AND SEEDLING DEVELOPMENT FACTOR (Df): "The germination

and seedling growth results summarised in figures 2a - 2d provide clear evidence that the formation energies have suppressed seed germination and seedling growth to a very significant degree. Every sample within the 32 feet radius in all four co-ordinate directions have negative Df values (chance expectation less than 1:1,000,000), some reaching 100% reduction (zero growth).

This energy effect on the seeds is not unexpected since the formation occurred in the early part of June 1993, in fact it agrees with data from other formations. This agreement also extended to seed weight changes. In figure 3 are growth data from the satellite formations compared with their seed weights. Although this is not a tight correlation it again demonstrates that the formation energy can greatly suppress seed development and subsequent plant growth.

COMMENTS ON DATA: If one takes the co-ordinates of maximum growth reduction within the large central circle and plots them on polar co-ordinates drawn according to the compass directions, there is, as shown in Fig. 7, an indication of a spiralling energy around the epicentre. The form of this spiral suggests the possibility of a high component of electrons within the vortex.

The Lorentz force on a plasma with a somewhat vertical trajectory through the Earth's magnetic field, would direct it into a spiral type of formation. Although the pattern in Fig. 7 is purely conjecture on our part, it should be kept in mind that this is the first analysis in which sufficient samples were available for observing even a rough pattern of influence from the crop formation energies and forces."

Whilst other Sussex formations were sampled in 1993 and other tests were performed on them, eg. oscillation tests on the bract tissue, the results of these are currently not available. So, on to 1994.

I shall always remember the conversation that I had with Andy on our way to Birling Gap to see two small circles. "It would be very easy" I said "to dismiss these as two insignificant circles in the middle of nowhere and not bother surveying them". But as dedicated croppies it was our duty. A short while later I was saying to Andy "I think these may be the most important circles that we have ever seen"... (The Birling Gap formations were of course the ones with the crop bent over halfway up the stems and woven into the bits next to them - Ed.)

Sampling at Birling Gap was not an easy task due to the nature of the bent crop. When we eventually removed an entire 'nest' about 18" in diameter, it involved the complete destruction of an area about four feet wide. To take individual samples meant that parts of the formation had to be completely destroyed. This I found very sad. Now don't forget that Colin Andrews has publicly gone on record saying that Birling Gap was the work of Rooks. So what did Dr. Levensgood find?

LABORATORY RESULTS, BIRLING GAP FORMATIONS, 1994: (Plant material: barley plants and seed heads)

"The germination rate of barley and the growth vigour of the seedlings are generally lower when compared with development in wheat. For this reason the development factor (Df), taken at the 7-day seedling stage was utilised in the analyses of the germination data.

A) "Egg" formation results are summarised in Table 1. The stem node lengths are listed for the apical or node 4 position (in mm). The control value is a mean from six samples taken at the west and east locations, 25, 50 and 125 feet from the formation.

It is quite apparent from the data in Table 1 that there is a significant increase in the node expansion within samples taken from the Egg formation. In addition there is a pronounced drop in the seedling development factor, both parameters suggesting a substantial influence of the formation energies on cell structure and growth processes. It should also be pointed out that expulsion cavities and node splitting were only observed in plants from the formation (none in controls).

B) "Tear" Formation: Since this sample group seemed to have a more clear cut delineation of the spacing within the formation, the Beers Law relationship was applied [see box]. The ln (Node length) data are presented in Fig. 1-A.

The linear regression curve (r=0.99) does not include the point at the epicentre. Here, as in the Chehalis, Washington sample the epicentre point lies considerably above the regression curve. Again this may be explained by the fact that, as in the Washington case, the lay of the plants was different at the epicentres in both the Egg and the Tear than in other locations within the formations. At the epicentre of the Tear the lay was such that the plant nodes could have received more energy per unit area, thus explaining the greater node expansion.

- NEWS - LEVENGOOD: THE RESULTS

For the past two seasons, Andy Thomas, Barry Reynolds and Martin Noakes have been diligently sampling Sussex crop formations, drying them and packing them off to Michigan, USA, for analysis by Dr Levensgood who has now produced over 30 laboratory reports as well as the world's first peer journal review of crop formations. BARRY REYNOLDS presents some of Dr Levensgood's findings...

Figure 1a: Distribution frequencies of expulsion cavities in large circle

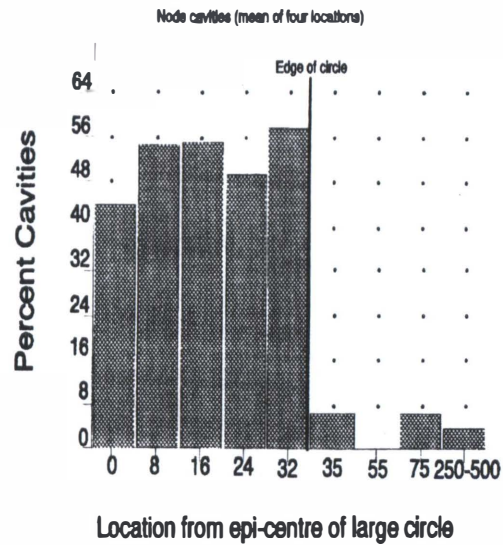


Figure 1b: Distribution frequencies of expulsion cavities in satellites

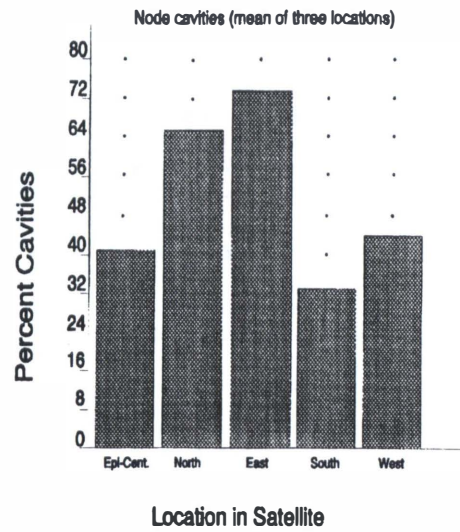


Figure 2c: Seedling development from East (E) sampling coordinates in large circle

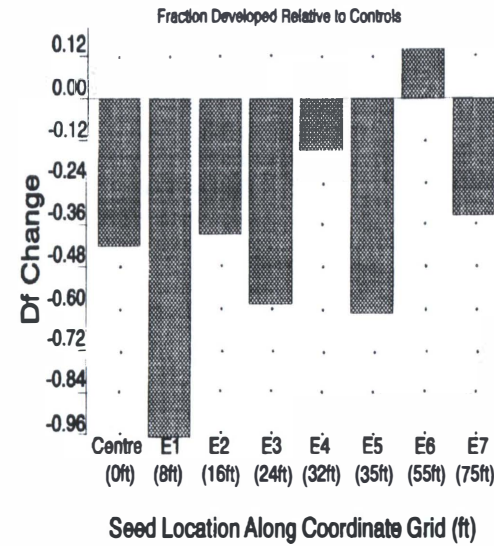


Figure 2d: Seedling development from West (W) sampling coordinates in large circle

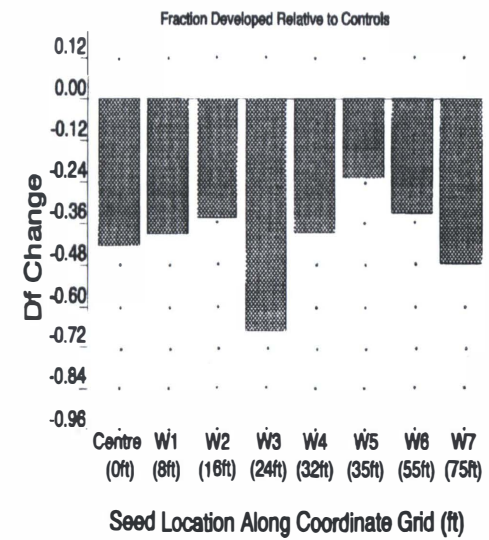


Figure 2a: Seedling development from North (N) sampling coordinates in large circle

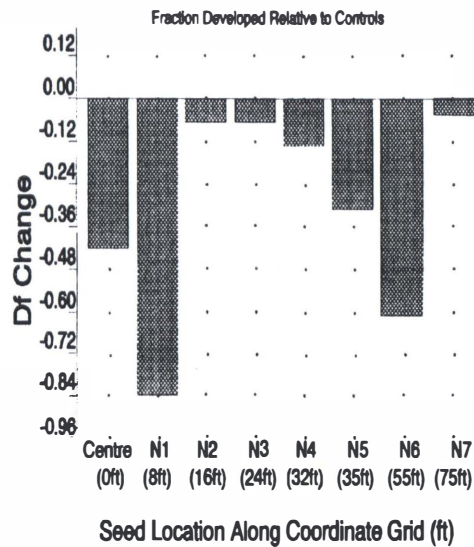


Figure 2b: Seedling development from South (S) sampling coordinates in large circle

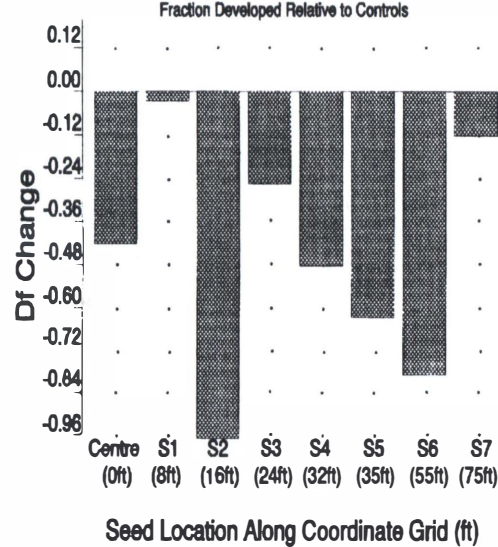


Figure 3: Relationship between seed weight and the resulting plant growth in satellite formations

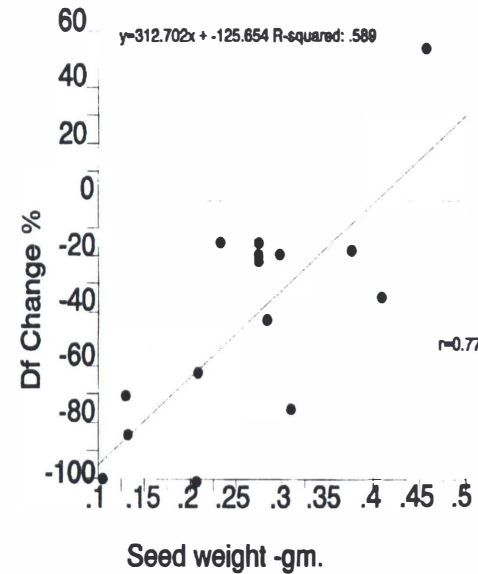
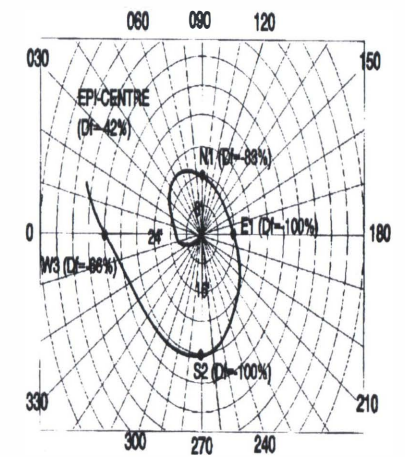
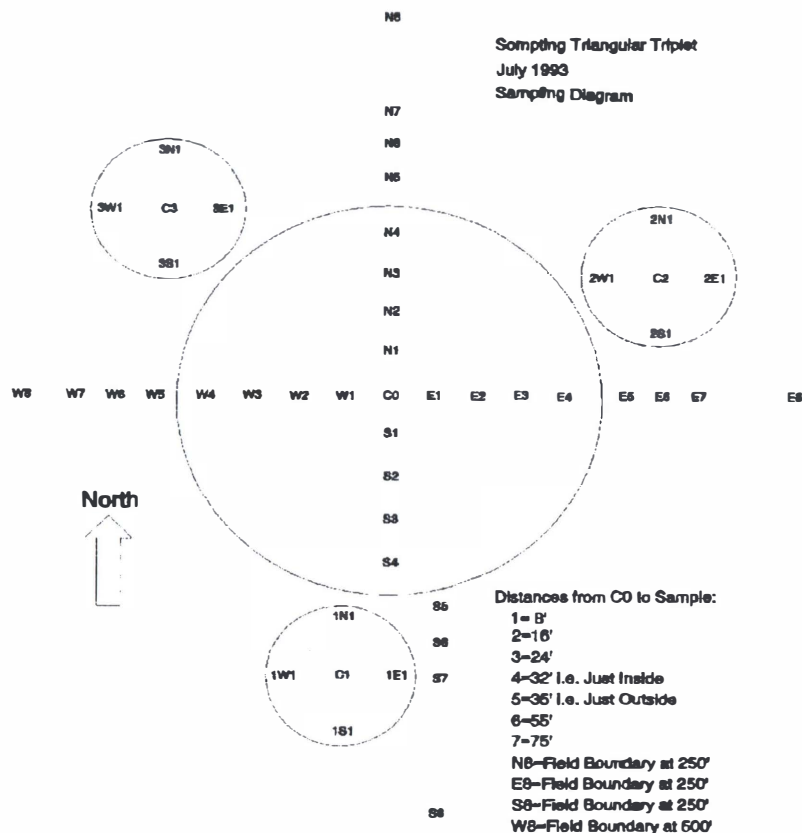
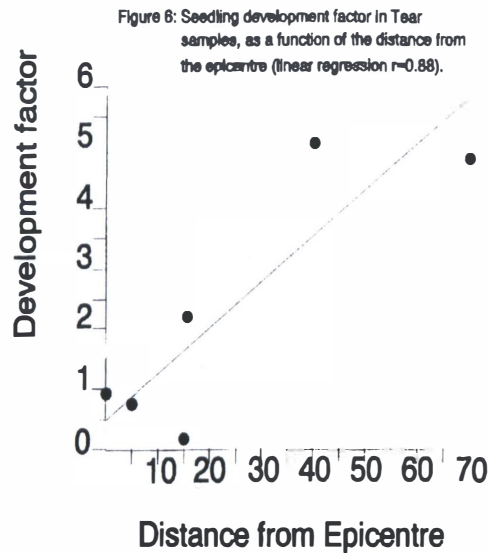
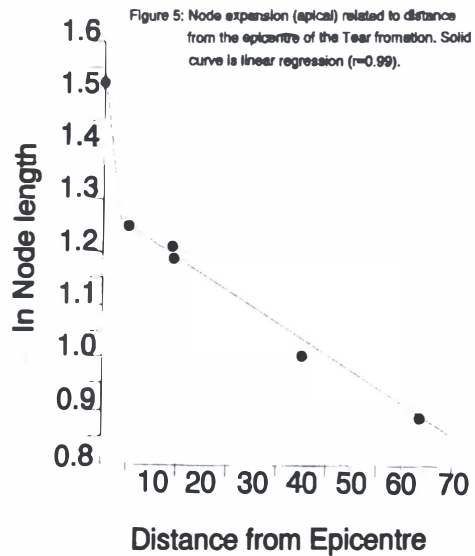


Figure 4: Polar coordinate grid locations of samples showing maximum growth reduction - as related to the epi-centre of the large circle formation. Curved line provides an indication of the outward spiraling energy.





The Df values from the Tear plants are compared in Fig.1-B with the distance from the epicentre. Here we see a direct relation between the Df level and the distance from the epicentre. This relationship clearly confirms the presence of a damaging energy source. For those who might wonder why this data does not conform to the same ln-relationship as the Node length data, the explanation lies in the fact that the node expansion is the result of a physical energy absorption, whereas the Df values reflect a physiological damage within the seeds. In other words these are quite different parameters, but both reflect the influence from the energy impingement.

C.) "Nest" (from Egg): It was extremely difficult to separate the interwoven stems without damaging them in the process. The node expansion was very severe (average 5.48 mm) and the seedling development factor very low at Df = 0.32 (for control comparisons see Table I.). These nests are very suggestive of the formation of severe, highly localised sub-vortices within the formations.

D.) "Failed Control": Prepared by Mr. Anthony Cheke for the purpose of comparing with other plant material. The mean node length expansion was 3.01 (0.59 s.d.) and Df = 10.78, both parameters falling well within the range of the controls (see Table I.). There were no node expulsion cavities or splits in this sample group.

COMMENTS ON DATA: One of the most interesting aspects of the Tear and Egg formations is the fact that for the first time, we have a clear cut example of the formation energy being dissipated above the ground level. The presence of the large number of small but very energetic sub-vortices is yet another striking example of high degrees of complexity developing within the vortex systems. In the Tear formation in particular, the energy seems to originate at the epicentre, as shown by the adherence to Beers Law (Fig. 1-A). The energies in both formations are sufficient to reduce seed vigour and viability (Table I and Fig. 1-B).

The suggestion was made by Mr. Barry Reynolds, that the "Slice" formation could be a portion of the organised energy which was literally sliced off the main vortex, through its interaction with the overhead power cables. This hypothesis seems to us a very reasonable one, when considering the fact that very low level energies can completely disrupt the energetics of very high energy, unstable systems. In other words, what we are seeing here, is the external electric field around the power line having sufficient influence to literally split off and change

the direction of a segment from a large vortex which presumably possesses an electric field several orders of magnitude higher than the field surrounding the power lines. What evidence exists to support the fact that local electric fields can alter extensive charge configurations within ion plasmas which are in the range of 20 meters in diameter? Here, we will present just one example of the many cited in the scientific literature.

In studies with forming thunder clouds which commonly have a (-) charge on the bottom and a (+) charge on the top, it was found that a negatively electrified wire strung below the cloud formation (between mountain tops) and powered by less than 100 watts of energy could completely reverse the polarity of the cloud. That is, after exposure to negatively charged air the cloud now had a (+) charge at its base and a (-) charge at the top. Only 100 Watts input changed the charge configuration in a cloud with a potential energy in the order of 100 million watts. The authors attributed this surprising result to subtle changes in the unstable charge configurations within the cloud. These findings demonstrate that very slight changes in the electrostatics of the external environment can have a drastic influence on the charge and forces within ion plasmas, and thus provides a reasonable explanation for the Tear-Slice formation."

So there we have it! Rooks or not? Make your own mind up.

Dr. Levensgood also analyzed a limited sampling from the Sussex University dumbbell (Ref. Sussex 1994/04) in Falmer at the same time, as this was also in barley. (See table)

"Here the heat energy was severe enough to cause pronounced node expansion. Only the underlay sample was reduced in seedling development and was the only one to contain expulsion cavities."

What I find interesting here is that all three of the samples from within the outer boundary of the formation show "pronounced node expansion" even though two of the samples were from STANDING crop. Dr. Levensgood attributed this in the case of the Chehalis Washington 1994 formation (which also had a standing center) to "the fact that the upright plants would be exposed to high heat energy directed orthogonally, whereas the downed plants would receive the energy at a more oblique angle with lower applied energy per unit area". Only the underlay sample showed reduced seedling development even though the

other two samples from standing crop were within the boundary of the dumbbell. So, to summarize: ALL crop within the outer boundary of the formation whether standing or flat shows nodal swelling but only the "flattened corn" shows seedling development and expulsion cavities. Explain that one Dick and Dildo!

Sussex will continue to sample again this year and hopefully will be doing some of its own nodal length measuring (ooh-er missus) to supplement Dr. Levengood's work. Our aim is to measure the nodal length of an ENTIRE formation so that we can see exactly where the energies are present and how they vary when compared to controls. BR

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 Moore, C B & Vonnegut, B et al, *Abnormal Polarity of Thunderclouds Grown from Negatively Charged Air*, 'Science' No. 223, 1986, pp 1413-1416.

Sample Location	Average Node Length (mm)	sd	No.	Node length change	Df
Controls 25-125 feet	2.97	0.41	69	-----	7.31
Epicentre	4.00*	0.84	5	+34.5%	4.82
10 feet inside	5.11*	0.58	10	+71.8%	2.72
10 feet inside	5.69*	0.51	10	+91.3%	0.78
Edge of Formation	3.29	0.33	10	+10.6%	5.26
Near Tram Line	2.68	0.91	9	-9.9%	5.26

*-p<0.05 Table 1. BIRLING GAP 'EGG' Stem Node and Seedling Development Factor

Sample Location	Average node length (mm)	sd	No.	Node Length Change	Df
Centre-Standing	4.08	0.67	10	+54.0%*	7.99
Ring-Standing	3.39	0.36	10	+27.9%*	10.95
Underlay	3.97	0.43	10	+49.8%*	2.84
Control 100 feet	2.65	0.23	10	-----	8.33

*-p<0.05 Table 2. FALMER DUMBBELL Formation Data for Four Submitted Samples

THEORY OF ENERGY ABSORPTION:

The stem node heating and rapid expansion from the energy striking the plant is examined in relation to the fundamental physics dealing with the absorption of electromagnetic radiation by the plant tissue. The principle applied here is known as "Beers Law" (Beer is a proper name, not from an idea originating in a pub) and is expressed by,

$$i = i_0(e^{-acd}) \quad (1)$$

where *i* is the intensity of radiation striking the plant, *i*₀ the intensity of the radiation at its source, *a* is a constant related to the absorption coefficient of the media (in this case air), *c* the concentration of absorbing molecules (air and water vapour) in the path distance *d* between the energy source and the plant stem node. Over a given crop formation *a* and *c* are taken as constants.

Equation (1) may also be expressed as a fraction of the radiation received by the plant as,

$$i/i_0 = e^{-acd} \quad (2)$$

We make the assumption that the stem node expansion (denoted here by *Nl*, the node length) is directly related to the fraction of the energy absorbed into the node tissue, that is,

$$Nl = b (i/i_0) \quad (3)$$

where *b* is the proportionality constant. From equation (2) we now have,

$$Nl = (b) e^{-acd} \quad (4)$$

and taking the ln of both sides of equation (4) gives the useful expression,

$$\ln(Nl) = -acd + b' \quad (5)$$

where *b'* is the intercept constant. Since *a* and *c* are also constant, we would predict a linear correlation between the ln of node expansion and the distance *d*, between the plants and the radiation source.

Marcus started off his lecture with a question: "How many people believe that ALL crop circles are man-made?". Not one of the thirty people present put their hand up. Now you may not think this surprising bearing in mind that this was a CCCS lecture. However, when you consider exactly who was present it appears quite remarkable: Doug Bower, Rob Irving, Robin Allen and others from the Wessex Skeptics, a veritable who's who of alleged crop circle fakers.

Marcus' excellent thought-provoking talk concerning the minds behind the promotion of circle-faking as the answer to the agriglyph phenomenon and the strategy behind it was an update of his Clapham talk, the basis for which was laid out in his comprehensive article in SC 33, and which will be expounded on in his SCB '95 talk (tickets still available! 01444 233105) so there is no need to describe it again here in detail even though he covered much new ground.

Marcus says he has discovered the secret of how to appear in the media. As the circles may need a boost this year, we in Sussex may take Marcus' advice and heed the points he advises. Sex, big names and money. If anyone reading this can help us under any of the above points then please telephone immediately!

One of the morals that came out of the evening is that you should be prepared to question everything and not be content with second-hand information. Check your sources, and their source before making up your own mind. This is something that we wholeheartedly believe in - be warned of this if you attend the SCB! Needless to say, the audience greatly enjoyed Marcus' talk, but the real excitement however came during question time.

There is nothing better than to listen to a good old slanging match between two dedicated croppies who are both on the same side but happen to differ over a trivial matter. When neither gives ground

(because they are not listening to each other) it is bound to cause fireworks. And so it did. Between who and why is irrelevant. You had to be there, it was great fun.

During question time, it was nice to hear Robin Allen of the Wessex Skeptics attempting to come clean about their involvement with the National

- REPORTS -

ALL-EN A GOOD NIGHT'S WORK

Marcus Allen continues his mission to explain "the why of crop circle faking" at the London Winter Lectures, as BARRY REYNOLDS discovers...

Geographic and Equinox set ups of 1991. Apparently they never meant the outcome to be what it was and feel that Terence Meaden stitched himself up well and truly (decreasing a hoax genuine with just a glance, on-camera), which I personally go along with. They abhor non-scientists being called scientists (after all, it takes years of study to get academic qualifications so

why should mere laymen be termed scientists when they have achieved nothing?) and they like to test anyone who says they have a litmus test, hence the destroying of all self-proclaimed authorities. Incidentally, he also commented that they found "garden rollers very inefficient".

Doug Bower had the final say of the night. He has not seen Dave Chorley his "friend of 25 years" and fellow law-breaker for almost two years now. They broke up, he says, because Dave wanted to claim the £10,000 Daily Mirror prize for the solution to the circles mystery and Doug did not. Maybe that was because Doug did not want the possibility of being prosecuted for fraud as well as criminal damage! After a comment from an ex-psychotherapist in the audience who noted that groups are only formed to disprove something if it really exists, Doug then admitted that God is working through him and that he has been programmed all his life to do these things.

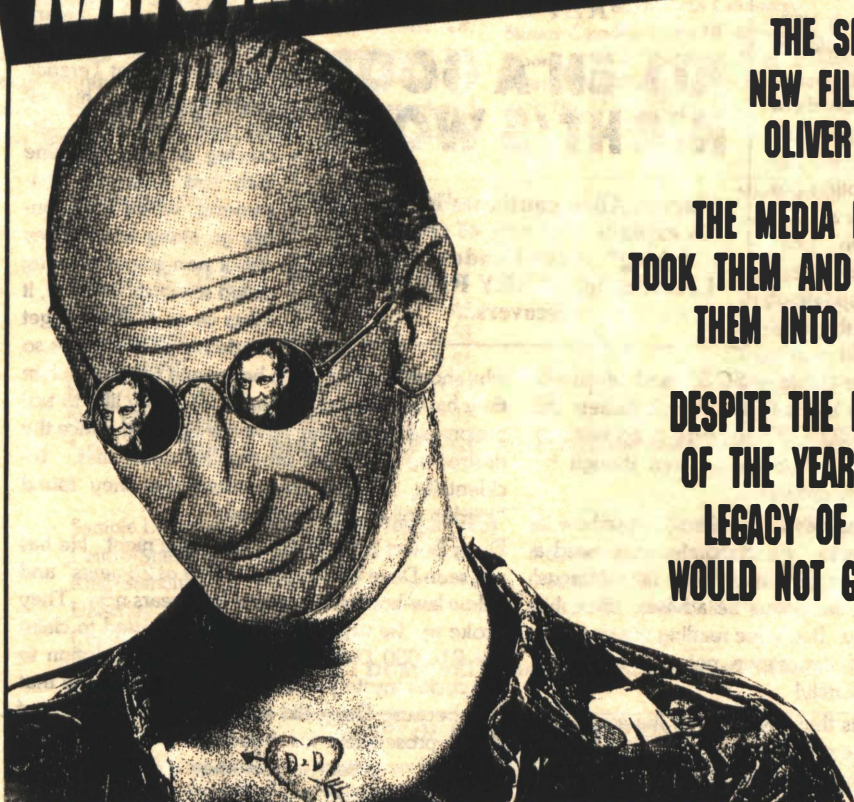
Shortly afterwards a fleet of ambulances arrived and a team of men in white coats took various members of the audience away in strait-jackets (are you sure about this? - Ed). BR

My God... It's the SUSSEX CEREALOGICAL BONANZA in April and I haven't bought my ticket yet! How can I live with myself if I miss it? Quick, dial 01444 233105...



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**THE MEDIA MACHINE
TOOK THEM AND TURNED
THEM INTO LEGENDS**

**DESPITE THE PASSING
OF THE YEARS THEIR
LEGACY OF TERROR
WOULD NOT GO AWAY**

Two renegades, Dougle and Davey, promoted and manipulated by an irresponsible media, go on a dangerous spree, until the game is finally up.

But even then, with one shut away from the outside world, the other is given to violent outbursts at crop circle meetings, inciting riots among the crowds... Could anything stop this insane criminal?

THEY SHOULD HAVE BANNED THIS STORY

**"A sickening fiction which should never have been given the oxygen of publicity"
MARY CROPHOUSE**