

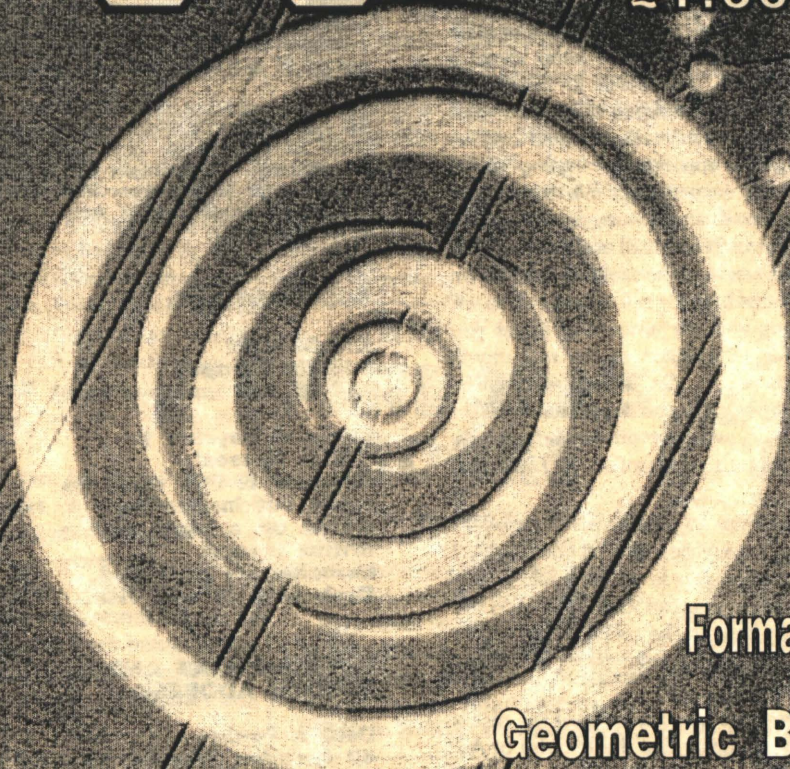
SC

THE MONTHLY
MAGAZINE OF
CROP CIRCLES
AND BEYOND

45

SEPT/OCT 1995

£1.00



More
1995
Formations

'Close Encounters':
Still Relevant After
All These Years?

Geometric Bliss:
John Martineau's
'A Book Of
Coincidence'

"The public buys its opinions as it buys its milk, on the principle that it is cheaper to do this than keep a cow. So it is, but the milk is more likely to be watered" SAMUEL BUTLER

Now, before anyone says it, yes, this issue is dated September/October, and no, you haven't missed an issue, nor will you. The reason for this issue being listed as a double month, instead of simply 'September' as it might have been, is because we are bringing ourselves into line with other monthly publications by having the *forthcoming* month as our cover date of issue, as opposed to the month in which the magazine actually *appears*. Thus next month's issue will be dated 'November' even though it will be issued in October. We've given this issue the double-barrel of two months' names to help smooth the 'gap' that might otherwise seem to exist, when all we've done is jump ahead a month in name alone. The reason for this change is that as SC is usually published in the third week of each month and not normally received until the last week, it has the appearance of going 'out of date' very quickly even though it is the current issue. With the new dating system, psychologically you will receive your SC early (!) and it will actually then cover three weeks of the month it says it is on the cover instead of only a week or less... This will not affect in any way the amount of issues you receive for your subscription or the real month your renewal comes up. So, anyone who comes forward after reading this and says "But haven't I missed an issue.?" will be reprimanded severely (with a free lifetime's subscription to *The Cerealogist*).

After the treat of three 16-page issues in a row, it's back to 12 sides for a while - after all you wouldn't want the subscription rate to go up would you? - but in the meantime you can look forward to our celebratory 50th issue in the spring which will be an anniversary bash with extra pages and some special contributions...

Finally, radio listeners may have heard the recent news reports announcing that the Ministry of Agriculture's 'ADAS' department have concluded that the crop circles are definitely not all made by people but that they are created by some "natural force". Be warned however, that this report, to our knowledge, did not derive from any official ADAS source, which has yet to publish its findings in full.

ANDY THOMAS



The Monthly Magazine of
Crop Circles and Beyond

Editor: **ANDY THOMAS**

14 Bishops Drive
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 1HA

Tel: 01273 474711

SC: Edited and produced by ANDY THOMAS. Articles, letters and contributions to the editorial address please. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual contributors and not SC as a whole, unless otherwise stated.

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Debbie Pardoe
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East Sussex
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Front cover: East Meon, Hampshire,
July 1995. Photograph by Steve Alexander.

As it turned out, last issue was indeed the final round-up of new formations for the year, although a few straggling reports are coming in, such as accounts of another Sussex formation, a dumbbell at Compton near Chichester, not spotted until after it had been harvested. Although the CCCS' Hotline recorded message was perhaps a little premature in announcing the season over at the end of July, little else appeared after, although a large pictogram was discovered near Dorchester in Dorset. Overall, there seem to have been less formations than in the last few years and, as noted before, their geographic distribution has been quite different, with the traditional Wiltshire well down in numbers, and Hampshire up. Part of the reason for this is simply

that the very hot weather resulted in the fields ripening well before time and the harvesters were despatched very early. Another reason that has been mooted is because of the huge reduction in the water table due to drought conditions across Britain. It has been noted by several researchers (and particularly dowers) in the past that crop formations tend to appear in close proximity to underground water sources.

With these sources much diminished, perhaps the abilities of the circle-making forces were severely restricted. Or perhaps this is the beginning of the end of the circles, as predicted by some... Even so, one suspects they will be back in 1996. A photographic round-up of some more of this year's formations appears this issue. AT

- NEWS -
**SEASON'S
END**
Another circle season passes...

What is the collective noun for coincidences? If there isn't one yet then may I suggest that hereafter a collection of astronomical geometrical coincidences be known as a 'Martineau'?

This book is basically a geometric proof of the Harmony of the Spheres. Elegant, concise, frugal with words, disconcerting and infuriatingly mysterious, it is proof for me at least of the true impact of our beloved circles, that of transmuting alchemical gold from the prima materia of the cerealogist's psyche.

The author has been immersed for years in the crucible of cerealogy and has come out a magician constructing silent incantations with compass and ruler. In a less restrained age he would have been burned at the stake and then canonised for opening such a Pandora's box as this.

What this book really is is an elegant and beautifully produced prayer, an offering to Gods. One does not have to understand the geometry to be entranced by the mandalas constructed from the harmonies of planetary orbits. Like all true mandalas and all true crop circles, however constructed, they have a meaning in themselves, without reference to the outside world. This book has all the makings of a cult publication.

By that I mean that it will probably sell thirty copies and disappear without trace until some time in the future when the author is safely senile and can't remember having written it. Then it will be hailed as a work of genius and collectors will garotte each other when one turns up propping up a table leg in a second-hand book store. Until then the silence that hails its birth will be deafening.

And that is inevitable of course, because like the Barbury Castle or Mandelbrot formations, the implications of its geometries are just so damned problematical.

Anyone who picked up this book without knowing John Martineau's cerealogical background might be forgiven for wondering what the connection is between the crop circle geometry in the appendices and the astro-

nomical mandalas. One can only assume that years of studying the intricacies of 'geometry in the round' have connected neurons in the author's brain that would never normally make contact. With the lightning flash of insight one suddenly sees the geometric universality of all constructions. Truly a case of the alchemical 'as above so below'. I experienced something of that same feeling

- REVIEWS -
**PANDORA'S
BOOKS**
John Martineau's *A Book Of Coincidence* looks set, in time, to become one of the most important tomes of its kind, as it reveals some astonishing geometric correlations and a staggeringly beautiful 'natural order' in our solar system, as SIMON BURTON discovers...

several years ago when an obscure persistence of coincidences impelled me to begin looking into solar eclipses. I began to come across throwaway remarks in astronomical textbooks almost apologising for the embarrassing fact that, well, solar eclipses actually are only visible from the Earth. Not because there is nobody else out there on any other planets to see them, but because the co-incident that causes them is so remote that it just doesn't happen anywhere else in the solar system and it shouldn't happen here at all.

You see, the Moon is far too big a satellite for a small planet like Earth. It sticks out like a Rolls Royce parked in front of a council flat, and what's more it is parked at exactly the right distance from the sun in relation to its diameter so that it totally occults the solar disk. While the Sun and Moon differ in size by a factor of 400 times, they also differ in distance from the Earth by the same factor, making both appear half a degree across. If the Moon were a fraction smaller, or a bit further away, the phenomenon that is so weird and spectacular that it singularly pre-occupied every ancient culture on this planet for millennia and inspired the science of alchemy, would not exist. The fact that the Sun

and Moon appear exactly the same size in the sky, is the archetypal origin of the alchemical practice of hiding the greatest secret in plain view. After all, it's just a coincidence, isn't it?

The ecliptic alchemical conjunction may achieve 99.99% perfection but never 100%. Nature does not work to absolute degrees of accuracy, for the absolute denies chaos, and without chaos is death. And here we come to what for me is the most intriguing common thread running through the solutions to the mandalic conjunctions of orbital geometries revealed in John Martineau's book. Not the fact that they are absolute, but the fact that they are typically 99.9% accurate. This for me is stranger than would be an absolute match and speaks of the divine necessity of striving for perfection.

One of the mystery traditions has it that when the Universe was created the demons of magic were consigned to dwell 'in the angles between things'. I think John Martineau may just have opened up some of those angles and let something out. **SB**

A Book of Coincidence is published by Wooden Books, price £10.00, and available by order or from John Martineau direct.

It's dark. Reclining bodies stretch as far as the eye can see, beneath the starry sky, as if waiting for something to arrive. Suddenly something does.

From the darkness in front of them, multi-coloured glowing lights burst forth in a procession, speeding towards the waiting crowds. These are UFOs and they're up on a 50ft screen set up in Brighton's Preston Park for an open-air free showing of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* to celebrate a local cinema's 85th birthday. Last night it was the other Steven Spielberg epic *Jurassic Park* being displayed

and large crowds could rightly be expected for the much newer and hugely popular dinosaur flick. But tonight, astonishingly, for an eighteen year old movie about that hoary old subject ETs and UFOs, Preston Park is completely packed. Not an inch of grass within sight of the screen is visible beneath the heaving mass of mainly youthful

Brightonians.

Many of these people are clearly coming to this film in its full cinematic glory for the first time, too young to have seen it first time around. The reaction to it is fascinating. All around, as events progress on-screen, hushed conversations spark up about the possibility that what is being portrayed *might be real*. With the Channel 4 television programme about Roswell imminent the next night, the subject is on everyone's lips: "Have you seen the clips of that alien being operated

on they keep showing? What d'ya reckon to that then?". *The X Files* is mentioned with nearly every other breath. Cosmic conversations about life on other planets and dimensions ebb and flow. This stuff is clearly striking a chord with a new generation. All of a sudden, *Close Encounters* is relevant again,

ironic, given that it was probably this film above many others that laid the foundations for the ET-alien-UFO revivalist genres we see all around us now in fiction - and possibly 'fact' in some cases. A question that must be asked is; without this movie, would the concept of the 'Greys' be as prevalent and accepted as it is now? *Close Encounters*, and to some degrees its almost-sequel *ET - The Extra Terrestrial*, was the biggest promotion of this image around the world yet seen at the time and was the first fictional representation in the movies of ETs as people had allegedly reported them instead of the more fanciful portrayals audiences had been used to. The 'grey' alien being which appears at the climax of the film clearly struck a chord with the public. But if this had been portrayed as an orange blob instead, one has to wonder, would programmes like *The X Files* and the newly-revived *The Outer Limits* now have an abundance of orange blobs instead? And - controversially - in many cases, would those who claim to have alien abduction experiences be having memories of being manipulated by orange blobs instead of little grey beings, abduction experiences being continually linked with the mind (though no less 'real' for it) Morphic Resonance and all that..?

Given the years that have passed since Spielberg's vision of ET contact, and the now greater acceptance of the idea that aliens may be among us, the film stands up remarkably well, although it's interesting to see the pessimism that has since crept into the public perception of how knowledge of such contact might be kept from us. This pessimism is hinted at in both *Close Encounters* and *ET*, with faceless military squads, sinister helicopters disrupting UFO-watches, false local disaster scenarios being set up to clear areas of their local population... and yet, there's something in Spielberg's approach that suggests he believes such tactics would be justified, that such necessary deception and disruption would only be for our own good in the end. Despite the presence in the film of the two benevolent scientists trying to persuade gung-ho military commanders that certain members of the public should be present at the big ET meeting which climaxes the film, that only two manage to escape detection and make it (as renegades) suggests that Spielberg feels that most people aren't ready for such an experience with other-worldly beings.

Or weren't ready. Nearly two decades on, the pessimism and suspicion that something big is being kept from the public awareness has grown and

spread to the point where the resulting neurosis is rising to the surface in the plain paranoia and reactionism of such mainstream television as *The X Files*. This distrust of our authorities, that they do not tell us everything we really need to know has now become the norm. Although we still continue to accept them as institutions, no-one really trusts our politicians, our military commanders and our captains of industry. People who believe cover-ups and coercion are for our own good are increasingly hard to find. If *Close Encounters* were made today, the lightness in tone which pervades that film might now be replaced by something closer to the oppressiveness and darkness portrayed in Spielberg's own shift towards pessimistic subjects as evidenced by *Schindlers List*.

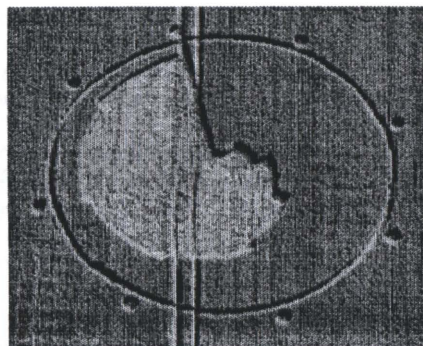
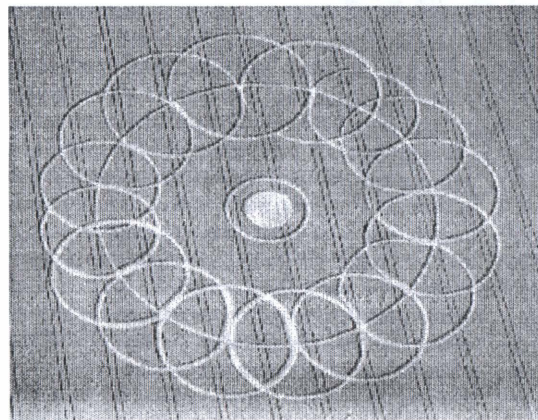
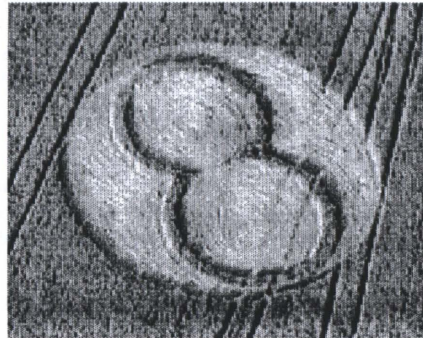
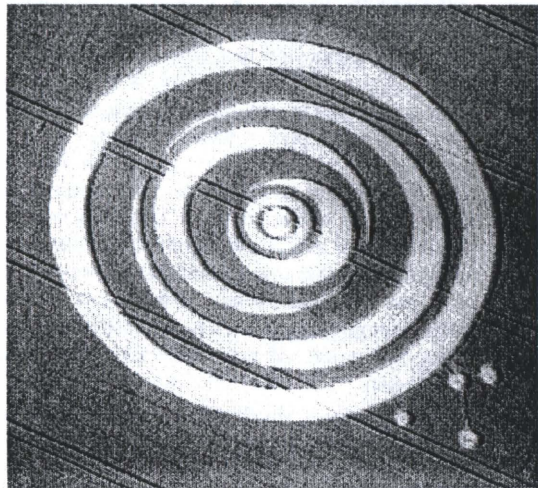
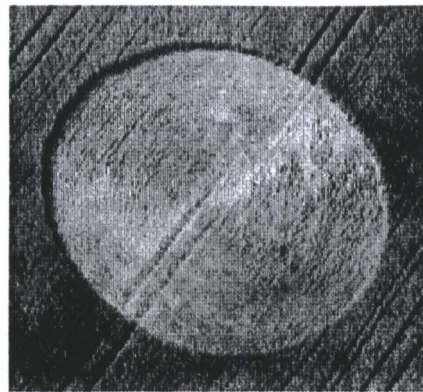
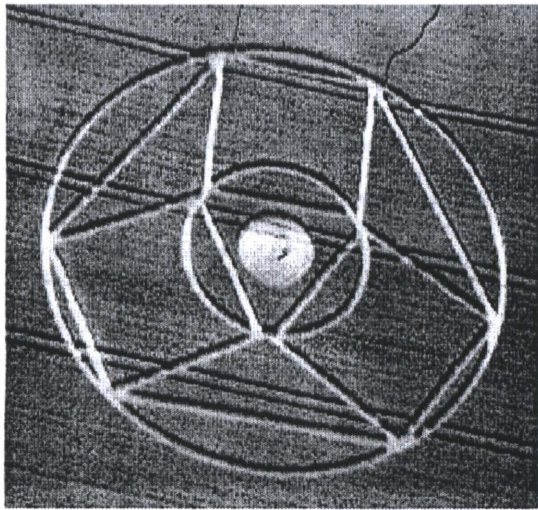
If we take as a yardstick the many people packed into Preston Park on a cold night and the attitudes and world-views distilled from all the overheard conversations, maybe the time is indeed coming when the public will be ready to be confronted with the official recognition that other intelligences DO exist and are HERE and NOW (if they are, of course, and people with this belief are not merely very misguided and gullible individuals...). A generation is arising which has been brought up with the concept of ETs and other dimensions simply as part of our culture, if only in fiction. If those in power and in control of information fail to recognise that these people may at last be able to withstand the culture-shock hammerblow that an official announcement of alien contact may bring, a major opportunity will have been lost and may not come again.

As the film closes, the huge mothership rises into the stars, and bodies begin to disperse like ants, I reflect wryly on the much asked "*Could this be real..?*" by those in wide-eyed wonder at the prospect. And yet, (though maybe an entirely different phenomenon from UFOs and ETs), only two miles from this site is Patcham, site of so many crop formations in the past. Around these questioners is an entire county that has been bursting with lights in the sky, shapes in the fields, and other unexplained phenomena this very year and others past. Whole groups and organisations dedicated to the documenting of such things roam the countryside on their doorsteps. Signs and wonders from unknown sources lie under these people's very noses, yet remain too close to see or perceive for the majority. When the presence of these wonders is finally acknowledged, the question will change to "*Why weren't we told..?*" Don't wait to be told. **AT**

- REPORTS -
CLOSER ENCOUNTERS

ANDY THOMAS attends a screening of Spielberg's *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and discovers its significance is not lost on a new generation...

The distracted non-members of SCROFORN



TOP LEFT: *Winterbourne Bassett, Wiltshire*

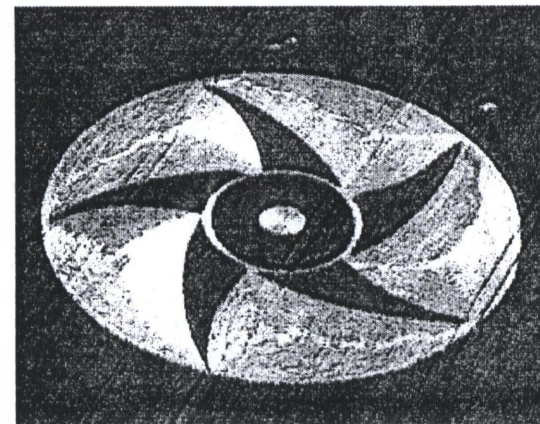
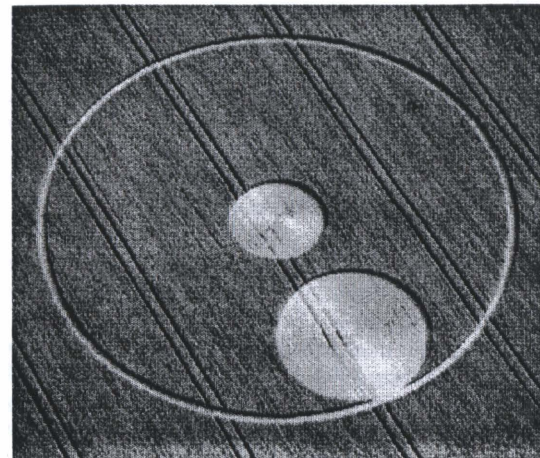
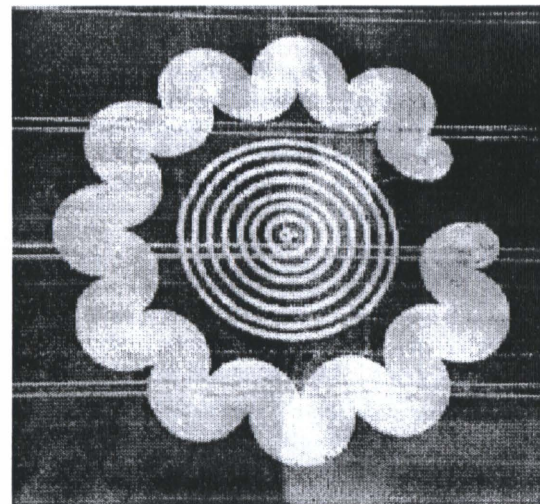
TOP RIGHT: *Silbury Hill, Wiltshire*

MID LEFT: *East Meon, Hampshire*

MID RIGHT: *Andover, Hampshire*

LEFT: *Goodworth Clatford, Hampshire*

ABOVE: *Andover, Hampshire*



THE 1995 CIRCLE SEASON

Our fourth collection of photographs from the short but sweet circle summer of 1995... Incidentally, if any readers out there have any of their own photographs of formations not yet featured that they would like to see in SC, please send them in to the editorial address for our consideration. Photos must be clear and have good contrast between dark and light.

Photographs by STEVE ALEXANDER

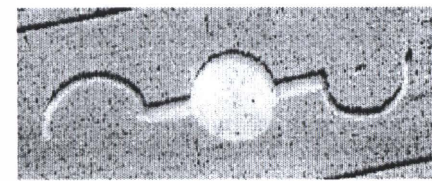
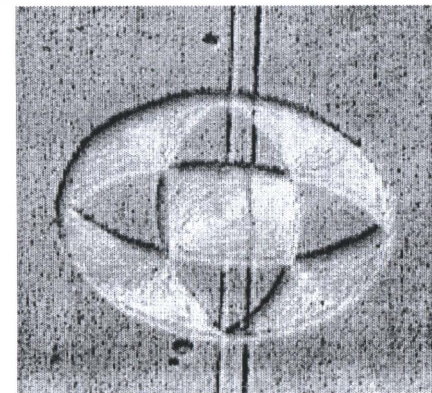
TOP: *Dunley, Litchfield, Hampshire*

MID: *Roundway, Devizes, Wiltshire*

BELOW: *Kings Clere, Hampshire*

ABOVE RIGHT: *Andover, Hampshire*

BELOW RIGHT: *Market Lavington, Hampshire*



Regarding the formation at Cheese-foot Head, illustrated on page 4 of SC

43 - it looks to me like one of the 'thought bubbles' merging with an amoeba, or perhaps more interestingly a sperm about to fuse with the nucleus of an egg. Perhaps we should look out for the offspring! Moving on to the Win Tun Dragon (see also SC 43) - as a long-time student of the Chinese art of Feng Shui, which deals with the energy dynamics of landscape dragons, I have often wondered what would be the result of the cutting off of the dragon's nose by the M3.

In ancient China, military commanders would often subdue an unruly region, not so much by military might as by using their military engineers to cut off the head of the area's landscape dragon, thereby removing the power of place from the people.

And what happened to Winchester? Well almost immediately after the desecration, as a result of Local Government review the County Seat lost control of large chunks of its power base as the cities of Southampton and Portsmouth were given unitary status. If the road-builders had cut off the dragon's head instead of just its nose presumably the county would have ceased to exist altogether, which was one of the other options available to the commissioners!

SIMON BURTON, Southampton, Hampshire.

I have just received SC 43, with Erik Beckjord's *Talk To Us!* article. The "strange letters in a linear style" (which appeared at Milk Hill in 1991 - Ed) he mentions were interpreted in a *Cerealologist* article to be a Latin statement, "Oppono astos" - "I oppose cunning". This interpretation was arrived at after 42 languages had been examined. I am an astrologer who gave a talk last year on 'Kepler Research Day', 12 November, on the "Numerological and spiritual significance of asteroids to the number 42", and in a study of asteroid positions at the time of the famous Barbury Castle formation I found asteroid Merlin and the planet Mercury in conjunction, together with Jupiter and Halley's Comet. Carl Jung and Arthur Koestler, and their ideas on "synchronicity", are involved with the cosmic significance of 42 multiples. Lightning set fire to Bognor Regis railway station on 26 July last, the

120th anniversary of Jung's birth. A few days later there was the UFO sighting near me, at Binsted, and the first "Binsted" in the Portsmouth telephone book is under a 42 multiple telephone number. In SC 43, just received, I note that SC's subscription address is 42 Croxden Way...

DON STALLYBRASS, Bognor Regis, West Sussex

I did not make it to the crop fields of England this year. Now I know why. I had solved the mystery, and comments recently made in SC prove that this is true. The mystery is never quite totally solved down to the last nail, but fairly satisfactorily, I see it as solved now, for pronouncements made recently back up what I have been saying since 1990. I said then in an article on crop circles decoding in *UFO Magazine* that the circles seem to be made by a giant child, a jovial spirit, a happy alien, and nothing since then has come up to change my mind. I've restated this point several times in the major crop circle journals and in my lectures.

What confirms this? In SC 44 I see comments that Sai Baba says that the crop circles "are made for fun". SC refers to recent conferences as giving a feeling of "deja-vu hovering over both gatherings" (I felt this when I compared Glastonbury 1993 with Glastonbury 1994 - all the usual suspects, saying all the usual things.) And then there is this: "How long can crop circle researchers keep talking about the same subjects to the same people with so little new ground to move into, the only renewed stimulus being the latest batch of crop formations for the year?" As Yogi Berra once said, "Looks like *deja-vu* all over again". Looking back on 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995, one might also say "Nostalgia isn't what it used to be".

To add to my solution, let me point out that in 1991, the farmer at Hackpen farm told me that in 1990, his cousin had seen dancing lights out over the crop at night. One year later, to the day, at that spot, the Hackpen Hill formation was created. Now, we read in SC that the Beeding dumbbell appeared after the farmer's father saw multi-coloured lights moving about at the spot. OK, so dancing lights are sometimes the entities that make the circles. Whirling columns of mist, spark-like tiny

lights, blue columns - all can be the the form at different times.

In 1994, I had a pint with Colin Andrews and told him that he was becoming a ufologist, and that it was time to move on anyway. He now is. He now has. I say now that the crop circle journals will now slowly, one by one, fold, or move on to other anomalies. Fewer and fewer crop circles will crowd the Barge pub, the circles will decline each year in number, bookstores will cease stacking non-sellers on circles, and the winds will continue to blow over the Salisbury Plain whilst UFOs flit about Silbury Hill. I believe it was in *Peter Pan* that it was said that fairies only exist as long as people believe in them. So it will be with the circles. A few will form, but nobody will find or notice them each year, until one year, none appear. On to other things...

Such as the Santilli film. There is much interest here, and so far, on the pro side, the ear seems lower than human (but similar in position to that of Bigfoot, a possible large alien), the eyes are extra large, and Turner's Syndrome does not create large eyes and eye sockets, there is NO navel, the internal organs seem odd and not human at all. Female genitalia would be appropriate if aliens are distantly related to us genetically, and remember that the Ilkley Moor alien has male genitalia as I revealed in BUFORA's newsletter, *UFO Times*. (Perhaps they should date...) On the con side, I wasn't there, and there is no guarantee without the body in front of us, that it isn't a giant con job. Best sit on the fence on this one.

All visiting crop circles are welcome to see the UFO, Bigfoot & Loch Ness Monster Museum I have set up in LA, which has also a large crop circles section. We even use the (Alfriston) Catherine Wheel as a logo. Cheers Punters.

ERIK BECKJORD, Marina Del Rey, California, USA

*Sounds like Erik's signing-off testimony with regard to the circles. Actually, even though some of my comments are quoted above, my own enthusiasm for the phenomenon remains unabated, and whilst I did talk about *deja-vu* in regard to the recent conferences, I also hugely enjoyed them and thought them worthwhile as I hope I made clear in my original article last month. SC isn't planning on folding just yet - Ed.*

I note with interest the recent radio reports about positive results from the MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries) department ADAS' investigations into agriglyphs and am reminded of comments made in SC 44 during the course of the CCCS conference review. It rightly mentions that ADAS have been a crucial factor in the quashing of the 'Bodmin Beast' stories of pumas roaming our British countryside. This was achieved by ADAS 'scientifically' proving the non-existence of the beast by methods as yet unspecified. The article makes mention of concern from some that ADAS' recent forays into testing soil samples from crop formations may result ultimately in a debunking exercise of a similar nature; raising researchers hopes of a grand scientific finding only to dash them by a very public announcement that no strange effects of any kind were discovered after all. This would once again place the idea in the minds of the population that there is nothing unexplained about these silly corn circles.

Anyone who shares this fear of an ADAS-assisted deflating of circle phenomena may, I'm afraid to say, have their fears vindicated by a column which appeared in the satirical magazine *Private Eye* a few weeks ago. This (serious) article asserts that the MAFF have been deliberately distorting and withholding information that would quite clearly prove the existence of a dangerous (to farm animals at least) creature at large. This has been achieved by threatening farmers who have been reporting savaged livestock with action taken against them on counts of poor husbandry. Foot and Mouth disease and other herd-debilitating ailments are suddenly mysteriously 'discovered' on these beast-believers' farms - thus farmers are understandably reluctant to come forward with official reports of livestock being attacked. In other words, the MAFF does not want a public scare about roaming predators because it will then have to pay money to investigate and track down such creatures. Thus any reports are silently sat on with coercion and threats. We must assume then from this that ADAS were instructed from 'on high' to come up with their negative result on the Bodmin Beast scientific testing.

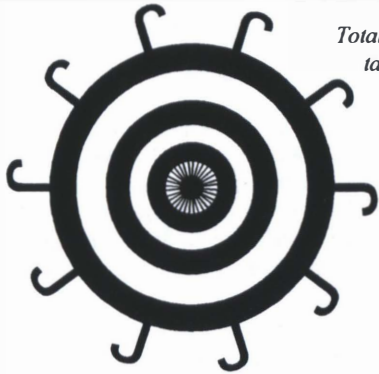
I am sure that from this, despite early promise from soil sample results and the subsequent PR, SC readers can see that it raises concerns of potential threats to the impartiality of the final ADAS report on corn circle analysis.

JOHN ROLLINGER, Ringmer, East Sussex.

- FORMATION SURVEYS -

SUSSEX CROP FORMATIONS '95: 5) KINGLEY VALE

Report by JUDITH NEWMAN



Total diameter 130cm. Distance between 'J's 20cm.

Kingley Vale is a National Trust nature reserve about six miles from Chichester, and about three miles from the East Dean formations of last year. There is a grove of incredibly old Yew Trees, the remains of a much larger forest. Historically it is the last remaining Grove of the oldest Yew Forest in Europe. It is at the bottom of a large, natural, very steep "horseshoe" area, with four prehistoric mounds on the top of the Vale.

My brother had come to stay for a few days. I had asked myself "If you only had one day together, what would be the one thing you would want him to see and experience whilst here?" Absolutely no contest - take him to The Vale. We started up the footpath at about 2.00pm, a beautiful, warm, true summer afternoon. We entered the Grove and stood and communed for a few minutes and then entered off, to the left within the Grove, into a group of three Yews leading to a stretch of them. We stood within the rough triangle between the three Yews, taking them in. We then tried to get to the next section of the Grove along an animal track. I felt sure we were going in the right direction but then, between five to eight or ten (I think - time is always stretched, yet somehow compacted when you're in the Grove) minutes later we found ourselves coming back into the triangle between the group of three from another angle.

"Oh, Look over there!" said my brother, Bruce. I

Ref: Sussex 1995/05

Date of Appearance: 22nd June 1995

Description: Spoked three-ringed circle

Crop: Pine needles & forest floor materials

Location: Kingley Vale, near Stoughton, West Sussex

O.S. Map No: 197

Grid Ref: 824 110

Surveyed by: Judith Newman

turned to where he was pointing and on the forest floor was the symbol. Right where we had been walking back and forth, standing and looking, five to ten minutes earlier. We are both convinced that the symbol had NOT been there those few minutes earlier.

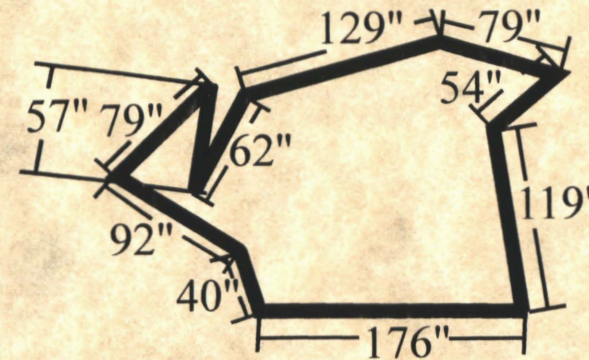
As we got closer and saw the EXACT geometry, symmetry and general "feel" of the symbol the sense of "otherness" was really very strong. We kept far enough outside so as not to disturb anything, yet close enough to just keep walking slowly round and round the symbol to try and 'take it all in' and fathom out whether it was a genuine phenomenon or whether it was human-made. It was just so perfect and full of "life" even though the symbol was constructed from the dust and little twiggy bits of Yew leaf shavings of many years. We stayed there for at least fifteen minutes. During that time, I tried to construct just one small aspect of the symbol using the same material from the forest floor. In two minutes, I couldn't come anything like as close to the exactness of the shape, height, contour of the section of the symbol I was trying to copy, so if it was made by humans at an earlier time, it would have taken HOURS. And we are both convinced that the symbol had NOT BEEN THERE five to ten minutes before we came back to the spot and saw it.

We went back early next morning. The symbol still there, we took some photos. I finished off a film and then reloaded my camera in the Grove whereupon the camera/new film completely malfunctioned. I have had this camera years; it has never malfunctioned before. The shutter jammed completely and would not operate from any angle, or even in my little garden when we got back again this morning. Thankfully, the few pictures taken on the end of the old film came out. I took soil samples with a wooden spoon, smoothing the symbol gently back with the back of the spoon as best I could. JN

- FORMATION SURVEYS -

SUSSEX CROP FORMATIONS '95: 6) BINSTED

Report by ANDY THOMAS



Helen Whitlock, who lives in the remote village of Binsted a few miles west of Arundel, is not a lady who needs much sleep, so to be up and about at 2.45am is not an unusual occurrence. On Saturday 1st July, at exactly that time, Mrs Whitlock was out walking her dogs in the garden of her and her husband's farmstead. The night was starry but very humid.

Looking up, Mrs Whitlock observed what she at first took to be a shooting star, travelling west to east, until that is it slowed down and appeared to stop over the roof of their house. On closer inspection, she could see that the light was a cigar-shaped object with rounded ends, about 7ft long, hovering about 50ft high. A "band of mist" circled around its middle, and either side of the long edges of the cigar were four "lines" of light, two each side in parallel. The inner lines were a bright red and the outer ones were a bright "metallic green". After a few minutes, the object began to slowly move down towards the end of the garden. As it passed above the field beyond, it abruptly winked out.

Mrs Whitlock was fascinated but not worried by the object, and she didn't give it too much thought until on the Monday morning her husband Robin went to inspect the large pond at the end of the garden, a fenced off area of rushes and undergrowth. To his astonishment, a large patch of these rushes had been squashed down in an undefined shape, with no apparent cause and no traces of anyone or anything

having broken into the area. The shape was found very close to where the object witnessed two nights previously had vanished.

By chance (?) the Whitlock's closest neighbour was Jenni Cassel, a member of CCCS Sussex, who reported the 'formation' and the light to Andy Thomas, who, together with Martin Noakes, went down to inspect the area the following Tuesday. Although no discernible configuration to the large flattened patch was visible, the rushes were certainly laid down and swirled in much the same way one might expect in a 'regular' crop formation. No crush marks where any physical pressure might have been applied were apparent. Martin and Andy measured the area and took samples of the rushes to send to Dr Levenson in the US. As yet, to our knowledge, this is the first instance of a formation having been reported in rushes, made even more intriguing by the apparent connection with the strange cigar-shaped object.

Several local newspapers somehow got hold of the story - Mrs Whitlock is not sure how, and didn't speak to any of them! - 'quoting' Mrs Whitlock and her story inaccurately. The *Bognor Observer* even quotes her as saying perhaps she had had "one Pimms too many"! Yet another fine example of the dedication of the British press to the truth. Andy Thomas is also said to have taken "clods of earth" to send to the States, when, as stated above, it was actually samples of the rushes. AT

Ref: Sussex 1995/06

Date of Appearance: 1st July 1995

Description: Irregular shape

Crop: Water rushes

Crop was laid in swirls and swathes

Location: Binsted, West Sussex

O.S. Map No: 197

Grid Ref: 993 051

Surveyed by: Andy Thomas and Martin Noakes

The formation was far less defined than this diagram suggests, but this is the shape as far as could be discerned. Measurements here are given in inches.

Cornography

with Michael Glickman

As a general rule, it is safe to assume that 95 per cent does not exist. It has no reality and is never used seriously. It is an invented figure put forward with confidence by people who are desperate to make a point without any evidence.

We have seen two examples this year. I am told Reg Presley asserted at the Cardiff UFO conference that 95% of circles this year were hoaxes and, on the Glastonbury Symposium coach tour, there were reports of Richard Andrews making the same claim. Have they been speaking to each other? Do they know something we don't? Or is it that with not a shred of evidence, they reach for that reliable old talisman of sloppy thinking - 95%.

It only works, of course, if it is pronounced with authority. The bubble bursts as soon as anyone asks "Why not 93.75 or 96%?" not to mention "How do you know?"

If they are correct, then of the eighty or so formations this year, only four are real. Perhaps Reg and Richard might share with us which they are?

That other great hoax apologist, Colin Andrews, arrived at Glastonbury to deliver our annual chastisement. He berates us, as usual, for our many inadequacies. Oh, it's true, it's true! What amazes me about the man is his acute vision. He arrives annually at the world's foremost crop circle gathering each year, attends not a single lecture, spends time with barely a single researcher, arrives ten minutes before and leaves ten minutes after his presentation, but STILL knows our failures and shortcomings.

I am sure we will all try to do better.

I hesitate to offer advice, but perhaps it is time Colin was told that "phenomenon" is singular while "phenomena" is plural. As someone who makes his living from this phenomena he should be aware of it.

It was a curious season. The formations, though fewer, were of a great sophistication and inventiveness. No doubt they will unfold further on

drawing boards and computer screens this winter. How I look forward to meeting the intelligences which can continue to dream up designs of this quality.

But it was shorter, and it seemed to end sooner and without the 'Grand Finale'. It may be that Brian Grist was completely correct in his article 'The Aquifer Attractor' (*The Cerealologist* No.5) and perhaps the water table, in this hottest of summers, became too low for the microwaves, or whatever, to operate efficiently. As reported by a Dutch couple at The Barge, Holland had 26 formations last year, but this year had only four by mid-July.

As to the Grand Finale, perhaps we are being taught not to presume. This is, after all, our own invention, and not necessarily a part of the Circle Makers' agenda. Barbury Castle 1991 appeared in mid-July.

Another shock this year was the total absence of formations in the beloved East Field. How many of us, in our wildest dreams, would have anticipated this after such a consistent recurrence since 1990? Tim Carson admitted he was pleased to be passed over while Polly seemed to be disappointed. Perhaps this is another lesson for us. Have no expectations.

The Mum and Dad of all croppies, Adrian and June Potts at The Barge Inn in Honey Street had a brilliant season. We are lucky to have found such an idyllic headquarters with such tolerant and flexible hosts. There was an evening in mid-August when, apart from the usual suspects, we had an American group, under the wing of Ron Russell, a German group, led by Michael Hesemann and an American TV news team. One could barely squeeze in.

The circle phenomenon is the most photogenic we have ever seen and everyone wants a ride on the bus. At the 'Whole Life Expo', a kind of American New Age Marks and Spencer in Pasadena last May, there were four or five speakers whose programme notes promised exciting images and information about the circles. Everyone is onto it. Crop Circles and Past Life Regression, The Native American Way of Crop Circles, Crop Circle Cuisine for Vegetarians, How to Make Friends and Influence People with Crop Circles.

My new video *The Kennedy Assassination and the Crop Circles* will be a real hit. **MG**