



*THE MONTHLY
JOURNAL OF
CROP CIRCLES
AND BEYOND*

60

JANUARY 1997

£1.00

Michael
Glickman's
'Corn Circles'
Reviewed

**Anomalous
Lights
On Video**

**The Worst
Hoaxing Myths
Of 1996 On Trial**

"When you understand all about the sun and all about the atmosphere, and all about the rotation of the Earth, you may still miss the radiance of the sunset" A N WHITEHEAD

Welcome to, astonishingly, issue 60 of SC. We have now been running for five full years and enter our sixth with as much enthusiasm as ever. Almost without realising it, with our monthly output of news and an ever-growing readership around the world, we seem to have become, for many, the prime source of printed information available on the phenomenon of crop circles. Certainly, in the last six months we have featured more photographs (around 70!) of 1996 formations than any other journal and have brought you important news which even now has still not broken in other publications. Thanks once again to all those who have supported us over the years and gratitude also to more recent converts for their commitment and encouragement. We hope to make some improvements to our print quality in the near future and readers can look forward to more discerning and frank reportage on 1997's developments. Don't forget, back copies of any of our past 60 issues can be ordered from the editorial address at £1.00 each. Write for details. Some said we'd never last this long... they were wrong!

Thanks to everyone who voiced or wrote their approval of last month's investigative issue into the full story behind the Olivers Castle video. Even now, more details are coming to light which we'll report on in due course. Thanks also for the Christmas greetings the SC team received last month.

This month, Barry Reynolds deals with some of the amazingly silly hoax stories that have been doing the rounds recently. Why feature them at all, you may ask? Well, simply because some of them are so ridiculous, they're actually rather entertaining and worth recounting as a good example of the incredible things some will believe in the face of all adversity. (Exactly what sceptics accuse us of, of course.) Within this piece is dealt with the recent claims that the 'fractal' formations of 1996 were man-made, as mentioned last issue. They don't deserve any closer coverage. Even Colin Andrews, who initially accepted the claims as true on his Internet site, seemed to stop short of confirming this position at last month's conference in Bristol, as if second thoughts had struck - a good caution against putting initial reactions out too soon on the World Wide Web!

ANDY THOMAS

SC

THE MONTHLY
JOURNAL OF
CROP CIRCLES
AND BEYOND

Editor: ANDY THOMAS
13 Downsview Cottages
Cooksbridge, Lewes
East Sussex
BN8 4TA
England
Tel: 01273 474711

SC E-Mail Address:
101476.1452@compuserve.com
SC: Edited and produced by ANDY THOMAS with assistance from Barry Reynolds and Kaye 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.

SC Copyright (C) 1996: permission must be sought for any reproduction of material. Copyright for individual articles and illustrations lies with the original authors, artists and photographers.

SUBSCRIPTIONS (UK & Overseas):
£10.00 (UK) £13.00 (Europe)
£20.00 (Overseas) USA - see below.
Cheques payable to 'SCR' please.
Cheques & POs must be made out in sterling (ie. English currency), drawn on a bank with a British branch.
Eurocheques accepted. Cash accepted but sent at own risk.

UK & OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS AND GENERAL MAILING ADDRESS:
Di Brown & Jason Porthouse
36 Graham Crescent, Mile Oak
Portslade, East Sussex, BN41 2YB
Tel: 01273 885117

SUBSCRIPTIONS (USA only):
\$33.00. Cheques payable to 'M Glickman' please.

US SUBSCRIPTIONS ADDRESS:
Michael Glickman, PO Box 2077,
Santa Monica, CA 90406-2077,
USA.

Front Cover: Littlebury Green, Essex, July 1996. Photograph by Steve Alexander.

THE CASES BEFORE US

This year, as every year, the crop formations appearing in our fields have moved on apace. Coupled with this are the ever more ridiculous claims by a few frantic people who still cling to the fact that these stupendous creations are the work of humans. This year it would seem that the cries of 'hoax' are more pathetic than ever before as these tortured souls fail to let their tiny minds grasp the fact that greater things are happening in the countryside than man alone can create.

Before us, therefore, are the accusations that various formations were made by human hands. We will act as judge and jury as the charges are laid out...

Judge (J) : Clerk of the court, your first case please...

CASE NO.1

Clerk of the Court (CC) : Your honour, a pilot flew over Stonehenge, an ancient monument to be found within the shores of Britain. The time was 17:30 and the fields nearby were devoid of any strangeness. At about the same time, a security guard at the said monument looked across into the same fields and confirms that indeed, no unusual markings were to be seen. The pilot came by Stonehenge again at 18:15 some forty-five minutes later. By this time there was a wondrous creation within the fields consisting of 151 circles in an arc some 915' long. Further enquiries revealed that others had witnessed this creation at around 18:00 and indeed that some had even entered it by 17:45 giving only a fifteen minute window for it to have appeared in during broad daylight.

(J): What is the charge?

(CC): The charge is that it was man-made, your Honour and that it was not completed within fifteen minutes at all but that in fact it was made the night before in about three hours.

(J): Show me the evidence!

(CC): The evidence, your Honour, is that a Mr Rod Dickinson said so on the Internet pages of an American gentleman who has never entered a crop circle in his life. If it's on the Internet it must be true.

Surely that should be enough for anyone?

(J): I fail to see it myself. We have two reliable witnesses who swear that the field was empty until about 5.30pm. Also, surveying the evidence presented by Mr Dickinson, he states that the formation was there all day but no-one noticed it because you couldn't see the for-

mation from the road - absolute poppycock, Sir! The formation was very clearly visible along a large stretch of the A303 when approaching from the west. Also, I note that the method in which it is claimed the design was made makes no mathematical sense and couldn't have been created in that way. Only the very uninformed could believe such nonsense! I am about to dismiss this case - do you have any other pathetic 'evidence' to present?

(CC): Yes, your Honour. Some others have suggested that the formation was indeed still being made by the hoaxers at one end whilst visitors were gathering within it at the other. The wily pranksters were busy still making parts of the formation completely unbeknown to those now marvelling at its intricacies.

(J): What nonsense man! You mean to tell me that visitors did not notice a group of people with planks and rope and measuring tools, and all sorts of other paraphernalia that would be necessary, busily making the formation whilst they marvelled at it? The field in which the formation lay was by no means flat, causing some lower parts of the formation to be clearly visible from the higher parts. You are mad, Sir. Charges dropped, case dismissed. Bring me another.

- FEATURES - TRIAL BY CROPPIE

The courtroom is set, wigs are donned, and on trial go 1996's Most Ridiculous Hoax Claims (TM.), compiled from some of the gloriously pathetic gems which rumour-mongers have been peddling recently. Your judge and jury, Mr BARRY REYNOLDS...

CASE NO.2

(CC): Sir, here is a formation at the beginning of the season which was undoubtedly man-made.

(J): Where was this formation and what is the evidence?

(CC): Your Honour, the design was opposite the largest man-made mound in Europe, a place built 6,000 years ago by man and known as Silbury Hill. If a hill this size was made by man then surely it beggars belief that the small six-petalled flower which appeared opposite it in June was not.

(J): That may be so, but what is the evidence that the flower design was man-made?

(CC): Well there is a pub nearby that aficionados, or 'croppies' as they are known, hang out in. A man who frequents it was heard to say that holes found in the ground within the confines of the formation were the same shape and size as a wooden post seen in a pile of such wooden posts at the back of the pub.

(J): Had the man been drinking?

(CC): It is well known that all 'croppies' enjoy drinking, your Honour.

(J): How far is the field in question from this pub?

(CC): About 4 miles as the crow flies, Sir.

(J): And do we know that these so called 'post-holes' were present when the formation was discovered?

(CC): Well, the first few visitors reported that there were no 'post-holes' but these were clearly inexperienced researchers who obviously missed them.

(J): You say 'inexperienced researchers' and yet did this not include people who have been investigators for six years and who have visited over one hundred formations each?

(CC): Exactly Sir, inexperienced researchers in-

deed.

(J): Poppycock. Inexperienced researchers only to those pertaining to make themselves feel more important. These were serious, mature and experienced people who would not have missed such vital evidence. And what a ridiculous thing to suggest that a wooden pole from a pile in a pub some 4 miles away had been used to make these holes. Next you'll be suggesting that respectable ladies go around at night digging up these formations. Case not proven. Next!

CASE NO.3

(CC): Your Honour, how astute of you to suggest that middle-aged ladies may be responsible for desecrating these farmers' fields. There is another report that a senior lady crop circle researcher was responsible for digging the centres out of every circle in one farmer's field in the name of research. She did it completely unnoticed by anyone and of course denies it, but it shows how easy it is to do this.

(J): Where was this field and what was the formation?

(CC): It was East Field, Sir, at Alton Barnes and the formation was dubbed 'The DNA Spiral'. It consisted of 89 circles in three different lines.

(J): And you suggest that a lady dug the centre out of all 89 of these circles? It is back-breaking work just to dig up my shallots in the summer let alone dig the centre out of 89 circles in a sun-baked field. Are you losing your marbles man? And anyway I have photographs here taken on the morning that the formation appeared showing that even if the centres were as you say, dug out, they certainly were not when it first appeared as every circle had a standing tuft at its centre.

(CC): But your Honour, we know that this formation was almost certainly man-made - possibly by a crack team from the SAS, according to 'knowing' sources! - as they had so long to do it. The last night-watching croppie left the field at 02:00 and the formation was discovered at 05:30. This gave the hoaxers a clear three and a half hours to make their creation.

(J): Hmmm. Hand me that slide-rule. 89 circles in

three and a half hours... That's two minutes and twenty-one seconds PER CIRCLE. Well, compared to Stonehenge where 'they' made 151 circles in, let's be generous and give them the full 45 minutes, under eighteen seconds per circle - that's loads of time! But seriously, a circle every two and a half minutes! Under controlled conditions it has been shown that it takes up to twenty minutes to construct a half-decent circle with a minimum of two people, so here in three and a half hours two people could maybe make ten circles. 89 circles would require nine teams of two, or eighteen people no less. Plus those directing would mean at least twenty people. And as for Stonehenge, by similar extrapolation that would require seventy-five teams of two people. This is completely preposterous. It is utterly impossible for humans to have made any of these formations that consist of multiple circles in such a short time. I will have no more of this nonsense. Hand me the rest of your so called 'evidence'.

THE JUDGE SUMS UP THE REST OF THE CASES

(J): What is this? The Alien's head at Avebury was obviously man-made because it looked like an alien. I suppose therefore that all circles are man-made because they look like circles!

A formation in the south-east of England was definitely hoaxed because teenagers were seen hanging around that field... the year before!!

One story which seemed to escape crop circle enthusiasts' attention in 1996 was the following little item which appeared on BBC's CEEFAX news service on 8th August. It seems someone has been bombing one of the crop circles' favourite sites...

"Two practice bombs dropped by accident by an RAF plane have been found:

The bombs were dropped from a Jaguar ground attack plane over Wiltshire, prompting a police search.

They did not contain ammunition but the public was warned they were still dangerous as they

Mr A made the DNA formation because he was seen in a nearby pub the night before!

Mr B made all the formations that appeared in Wiltshire in a two-week period because he was on holiday there... And researchers X and Y made all the formations within ten miles of Avebury because they made one there as an experiment last year.

THE VERDICT

(J): Clerk of the Court, where do you get this garbage from, man?

(CC): From very reliable sources your honour, from people such as senior researcher Mr Z. He amasses his evidence very carefully. For instance, he spent a whole afternoon standing at the entrance to one formation asking every single person who entered it if they had made it. That is the sign of a diligent researcher, Sir.

(J): No, that is the sign of a mad-man who has little idea of what he is doing. There is not one shred of evidence to back up any of these claims that a single formation of 1996 has been hoaxed. The entire lot is thrown out of court and you can go and find yourself another job. You're sacked for time-wasting and spreading vicious rumours that have no basis in truth at all. Now where's that book on UFOs... there's a subject I can really rely on. **BR**

contained a small explosive charge. They were spotted by a member of the public at a site near Alton Barnes. An army disposal team was sent to the site."

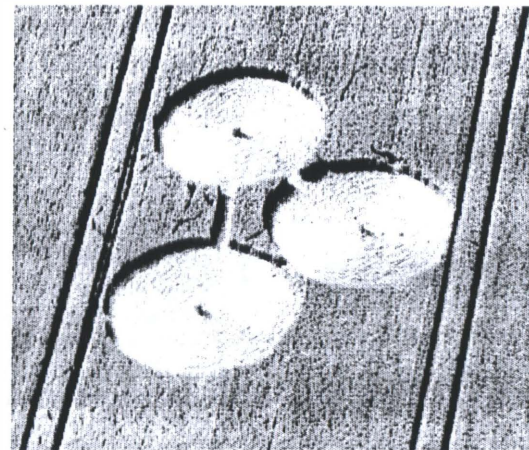
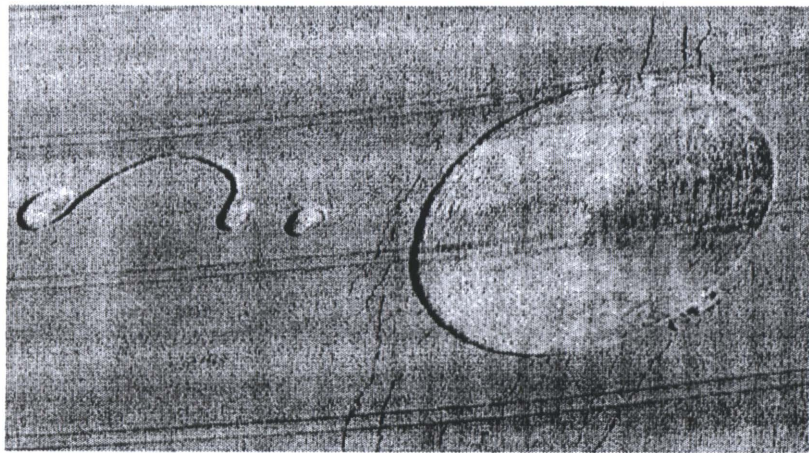
Most surprising of all is that no conspiracy theorists took hold of this and claimed with great drama that the 'military' were trying to scare off crop circle researchers from one of their favourite haunts by firing missiles at them. Still, now this is in print, we feel sure someone will go away and concoct such

a story accordingly.

We'll be watching the Internet closely, ready to claim our £5.00. **AT**

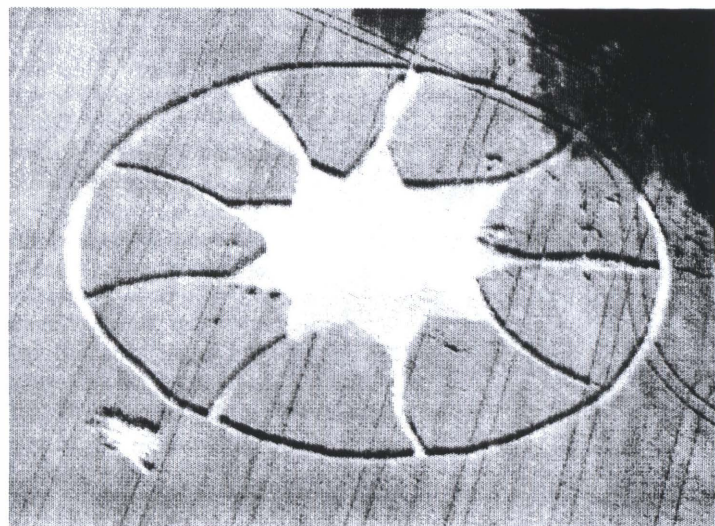
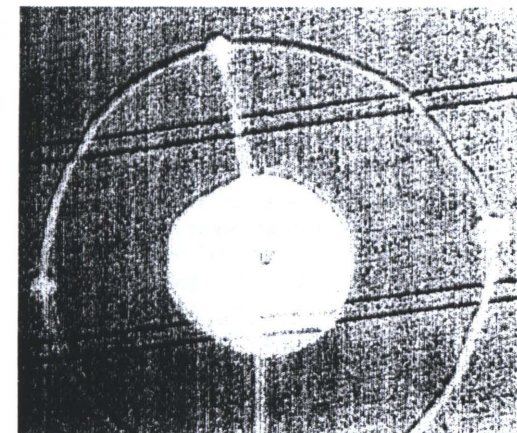
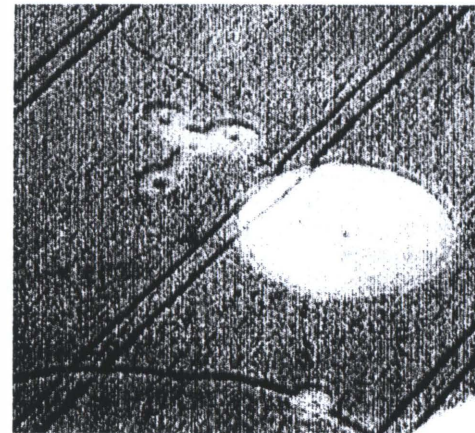
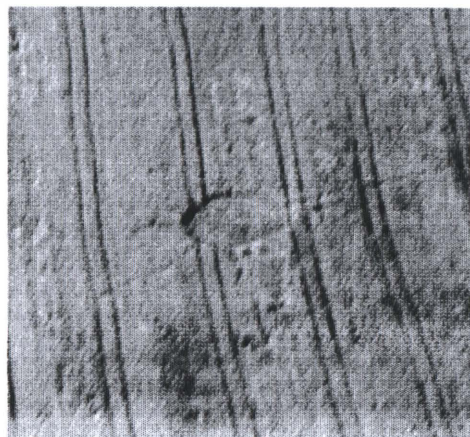
- NEWS -
BOMBS AWAY
ANDY THOMAS looks back on the bombs that fell on Alton Barnes, which nobody seemed to notice...

"Tink-a-Tank! Tink-a-Tank! Tink-a-Tank!"



**CIRCLES '96
PHOTO-
SPREAD #6:
EAST
MIDLANDS**

This month, a look at just one region of England, the formations of which may have escaped your attention, namely the East Midlands, or more precisely, Leicestershire. Some are impressive and imaginative, others a bit wobbly and rough, but all are crop formations nonetheless...

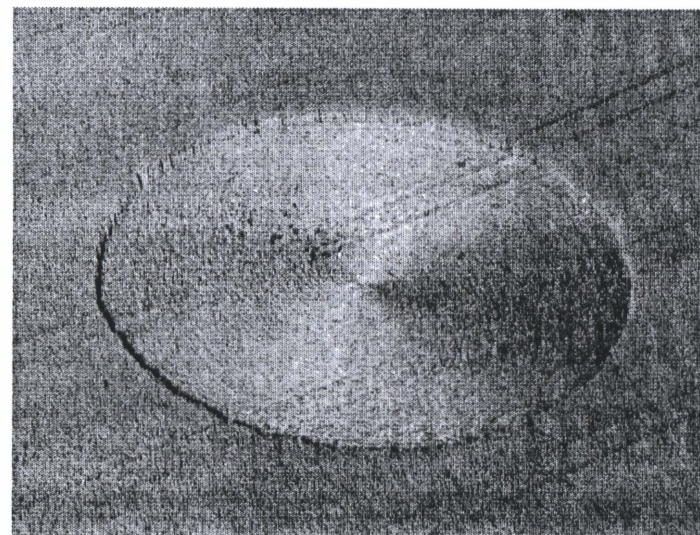


TOP: *Catthorpe, Leicestershire.*

MIDDLE, LEFT & RIGHT: *Groby, Leicestershire.*

LEFT: *South Wigston (Blaby), Leicestershire.*

Photos: NICK NICHOLSON



TOP: *Burton Overy (Great Glen), Leicestershire. Photo: NICK NICHOLSON*

MIDDLE, LEFT & RIGHT: *Wistow, Leicestershire. Photos: DAN MAPP*

LEFT: *Lutterworth, Leicestershire. Photo: NICK NICHOLSON*

With all that has been said recently about the Olivers Castle footage and not withstanding any opinion you may or may not have regarding its authenticity, perhaps it would be an apt time to remind ourselves that the crop circle phenomenon has in fact had a long history of association with the type of light phenomena seen in the footage - and it too is on video....

Perhaps the first in a long line of such videos was taken by Steve Alexander back in 1990. The footage was taken at 4.30 in the afternoon from Milk Hill near Alton Barnes, Wiltshire, and shows a

small white ball of very bright light move and arc around a wheat field below the hill. This light comes from the direction of one crop circle (clearly visible in the film) and then travels in the direction of another formation (known as 'The Hand of God') which is obscured by the brow of the hill. The light is seen to manoeuvre through the crop, glinting intensely as it does so. Interestingly, it leaves no visible trail. After a period of time the light is seen to take off from the field and fly very quickly away from the camera towards a tractor driver in the distance. As the light moves over the tractor, the vehicle is seen to stop and the light continues away into the distance. The tractor begins to move off again. The light then travels further and disappears up into the sky above another hill. The whole sighting lasted for an impressive 5-6 minutes.

Even today, the footage remains remarkable and watching the film we got our first glimpse of the extraordinary properties of these particular types of lights. The first point of interest when looking at the film is the incredible intensity of light the object seems to produce for its relative size (6-10 inches in diameter), and this in fact seems to be one of a number of common characteristics of this type of light phenomena. Secondly is the strange fact that the light does not seem to get any smaller the further it travels away from the camera. During an interview, the tractor driver (Leon Bessant) described the object as glinting constantly and said that he would estimate that it could have been the size of a beach ball. However, and perhaps more interestingly, he could not understand why or how

he stopped his tractor and then continued on, which parallels Steve's experience, who said that he could not understand why he just picked up his camera and started to film, almost as if he were on automatic pilot. The footage has been analysed in Japan (via Colin Andrews), the results of which ruled out any mundane explanation for what is shown in the video.

One year later (1991), in Manton, Wiltshire, two German students filmed a similar light in a crop field. The footage taken in the early evening shows a ball of light coming towards the camera, flying just over the heads of the crop.

The next segment shows the object fly directly over a crop formation in the field (known as 'The Manton ant') and at one point, after enhancement, the light is seen to leave the surface of the crop and fly into the air. During yet another segment of the film the light appears very bright as it moves quite quickly towards the camera; however, as it gets nearer to the camera the object is seen to get smaller and dims considerably until it is barely visible. The object also seems to slow down as it approaches the camera.

Some sceptics have tried to dismiss this film by suggesting that it shows nothing more than a dandelion seed head back-lit by the sun but this seems unlikely as the movements of the object seem direct and purposeful and the object does not just randomly float around in the wind as you would expect a seed head to do. The video provides further points of interest; foremost is the fact that it shows one of these balls of light in a direct association with a crop formation and secondly that as this object comes nearer to the camera it actually seems to get smaller instead of larger as we would expect.

Jumping to 1994, two further pieces of footage were taken. The first piece was by two Dutch researchers at the Wilsford 'thought bubble' formation of that year. This time the camera is set up on a tripod at the base of the field as the formation was on a slope. What is seen is short lived but very impressive and even more so when enhanced. The top circle of the formation consisted of a flattened ring of crop with a standing circle inside and it is

- FEATURES -

NEGLECTED EVIDENCE?

With the Olivers Castle video fresh in our minds, KAREN DOUGLAS takes another look at other existing video evidence of strange balls of light in connection with crop circles...

inside this standing circle that an intense elongated burst of brilliant light is seen to travel across the crop, reminiscent of the type of light given off by the object in Steve Alexander's film. The film is made all the more remarkable due to the fact that the strange movements of the light are clearly visible because the picture is not interfered with by camera shake and once again the light leaves no visible mark in the crop. It is interesting to note how each of these films seem to give an almost sequential guide to the properties of these strange lights.

The second film to be taken that year was presented to the crop circle community by Colin Andrews (although not taken by him). The video shows a pulsing bright white light in the vicinity of East Field, Alton Barnes, Wiltshire, which is apparently being monitored by a military helicopter. The object in this film is less obvious because of the distance from the camera, but on close inspection the light can definitely be seen blinking on and off. The light is only visible for a short period of time and then simply disappears. The object was near to the huge 'Eye' formation which was in the East Field that year and in which Steve Alexander and I were standing at the time witnessing the manic activity of the helicopters. Various explanations have been put forward to account for this footage including reflections from tethered plastic bottles used to scare birds from crop fields, which were allegedly found in the area; to the military explanation that the light was nothing more than a reflection from the helicopter strobe light. Both of these explanations seem again highly unlikely; would you be able to see a reflection from a small plastic bottle from over half a mile away? And would you see any reflection from a helicopter strobe light in broad daylight? What would it be reflecting off?

From these few examples there are pieces to be fitted together and questions to be asked. This type of light phenomena is perhaps some of the most persuasive evidence for a genuine crop circle phenomenon. Some critics have said that there is no evidence for a definitive link between the two, but I have never heard of actual footage of one of these very particular types of light taken in any other circumstance other than near or inside a crop circle. Some feel these lights are a natural phenomenon - 'Earth lights', but we ought to remember that evidence for an Earth light phenomenon is as yet unproven in itself.

While gathering the information for this article I was surprised to find how neglected these videos had

been in the crop circle periodicals. I found very little mention (if any in some journals) of these happenings at all - why?

If we now look at the Olivers Castle footage in the light of this information, perhaps a new approach is needed. One of the criticisms of the film is that the camera is not seen to follow the lights when the footage was taken, but let's look at that again - when Leon Bessant came into close contact with one of these lights he said that he could not understand why he had stopped his tractor and then continued on when the light had travelled away and Steve Alexander said that he could not understand why he just picked up his camera and started to film, especially in the light of the fact that he didn't even know whether or not the object was mundane. In the case of the Wilsford footage, the camera was set up on a tripod and it just so happened that the light appeared bang in the centre of the picture. Are all of these things a coincidence or is something more bizarre taking place - is there some sort of interaction going on? The pre-conceived idea is that we should expect people to behave in a certain way, ie follow the lights with a camera, when it is quite clear that in these strange circumstances this simply does not happen. One researcher has reproduced a video that is supposed to show how easy it is to create such a film. This is maybe so (*though the SC team weren't impressed - Ed*) but the fact that you can create a copy does not negate the original; there are some pretty convincing art forgeries around but that doesn't mean the originals are fake - a copy is just that, a copy. Even if, in turn, the Olivers Castle footage proves to be a forgery, we should not let it negate all these other films. How many of you were even aware that any or all of these other films existed?

It is interesting to note that if the film is a fake, that whoever instigated it is quite aware of the evidence for these lights and has tried to debunk it - why? **KD**

The Steve Alexander footage can be seen in Michael Hesemann's The Mystery of the Crop Circles and has been shown in numerous other UFO programmes and videos.

The German students' video taken at Manton can be seen in John Macnish's Crop Circle Communique.

The Dutch footage taken at Wilsford is rumoured to be featured in a forthcoming video by Lee Winterston.

The Olivers Castle footage is being bootlegged at various extortionately inflated prices, totally illegally, of course. Beware - some of these copies are by now seventh or eighth generation: ie. not much cop qualitywise. Don't judge it unless you've seen a good copy - Ed.

For a while, it looked as if a steady growth of books about crop circles had died a death in the wake of media scepticism. But starting with Michael Hesemann's *The Cosmic Connection* in 1995, a certain person's *Fields of Mystery* in 1996 and now Michael Glickman's *Corn Circles*, it looks like there's a growth interest once again. Books from other researchers are promised/threatened for the near future. Despite endless cynicism from some quarters, there is still significant public interest in these mysteries of the crop fields.

Whatever one's personal opinion of Michael Glickman - and his ability to speak his mind plainly tends to produce very clear-cut factions for and against - there's no denying that he is

one of the few grandees of circle research still working extensively out in the fields each summer. Because of this, and his informed insights into crop circle geometry, he of all people is in the right position to sketch the overall visual view which *Corn Circles* sets out to give. Controversy though, in this case, is steered well clear of.

This volume is but one instalment in a series of twelve proposed books published by John Martineau, whose own work on crop circle geometry a few years back set a high precedent to be followed. The series, produced by 'Wooden Books' in a small and simply presented format, is concerned with shape and form found in landscapes, mystical art and carvings, whatever the origins, and began with the first title, *Mazes and Labyrinths*. *Corn Circles* looks at the mysterious shapes which have appeared in our fields over the years, grouping some of the English designs together and briefly discussing their attributes and background, nothing more. There are no photographs and the book does not attempt, beyond some basic facts, to explain or debate the phenomenon further.

Far from being a drawback, its limited sweep is the strength of this book. All distractions of what, how and who are stripped away, leaving only the shapes themselves to be concentrated on. Too often do we have our attention drawn away from the inherent grace and beauty of these patterns by all the peripheral concerns. This little volume pulls us

back to the basics of what this is all about - artistry of the very highest order, wherever it may derive from. Each page has a series of black and white silhouette drawings (most by Wolfgang Schindler) facing a page of short, unobtrusive text outlining the development of the designs.

The title itself, *Corn Circles*, could be seen as a little misleading given that circles long ago started appearing in crops other than corn, and this was reportedly the subject of some debate between Glickman and Martineau. But it does at least suggest a return to simplicity, to earlier times when the formations were known as such, before the media circus began and 'crop circle' began to take on connotations of controversy or hilarity.

Whether this is a book for beginners is debatable - it depends whether or not the individual is drawn to the phenomenon simply by the shapes or by the other strange qualities and excitements which surround its history. If the latter, then no is probably the answer. But as a record of some of the more notable designs which have appeared over the years, this can't be bettered as a souvenir. (Nitpickers may, however, mourn the omission of the Silbury Hill 'charm bracelet' and the Froxfield 'serpent', and question why the counties the formations appeared in are not specified.)

Wooden Books have produced a little gem here, which will stand the test of time when other more discussive and theoretical books have become dated, both in content and in graphic design. The charming brown-paper cover ensures that you won't even need a bag to bring it home in. **AT**

CORN CIRCLES can be obtained from:

(UK) *Wooden Books, Walkmill, Cascob, Presteigne, Powys, Wales, LD8 2NT, price £9.00 (inc. p&p), cheques payable to 'Wooden Books'.*

(USA) *PO Box 2077, Santa Monica, CA 90406-2077, price \$18.00 (inc p&p), cheques payable to 'M Glickman'.*

- REVIEWS -

SMALL WOODEN WONDER

It's small and it isn't really wooden, but it is a rather charming book called *Corn Circles* by Michael Glickman. ANDY THOMAS goes back to basics...

The First Scandinavian Conference on Extraterrestrial Intelligence and Human Future was held at Espoo, Finland, during the weekend of November 9th and 10th, 1996. It was a grand success. As with every successful venture with a title including the word "first", there will be a driving force, an inspired leader, who sees to details and is ready for the inevitable glitch. Dr Rauni Luukanen-Kilde was the sparkplug at Espoo and her performance in bringing off this Scandinavian educational conference was a delight to witness.

Dr Luukanen recognised some years ago that adequate news of what was going on in our rapidly changing world was not reaching professional people in Finland. The media and the familiar line-up of sceptical commentators weren't doing the job of keeping Finland's decision makers aware of extraterrestrial developments as they were affecting the lives of others elsewhere on our planet. In Dr Luukanen's mind, that situation demanded remedy and so the conference at Espoo. Whether or not the cancellation of the July symposium at Hakui, Japan, had anything to do with the decision to hold this Scandinavian conference is beside the point. And the disruption of attempts to hold well-publicised conferences at the United Nations in years past, may or may not have played a part in the decision to hold this affair. But the voices that might have been heard at Hakui, or those that might have been much more effective at New York, were heard loud and clear at Espoo.

The roster of lecturers chosen by Dr Luukanen included those who speak with authority about UFO activity, abductions, crop circles and the need for a concentrated effort to cause governments to lift the obvious veil of secrecy surrounding each of these abnormal activities. The Hanasaari Swedish-Finnish Cultural Center at Espoo, a combination of excellent hotel and UN-style lecture hall, allowed each speaker full use of modern video and slide projection equipment. The four hundred plus who attended the conference received all that they might have been looking for, and then some.

Dr John Mack startled all with his 1994 video-taped interview of two young schoolgirls in South Africa who made communicative eye contact at play-

ground level with black-eyed visiting ETs. Colin Andrews cautiously displayed the Olivers Castle wheat field tape of a snowflake design in the making. Dr Steven Greer, founder of CSETI, always prepared to deliver the latest information on contacts with our ET visitors, emphasised the need for

co-ordination of high level government education with public disclosure to follow. Mohammed Ramadam, long-time interpreter and all-round assistant to many at the United Nations, touched on the spiritual developments of our time and our need for personal preparation to receive whatever changes in our lives lie ahead. Professor Leo Sprinkle, writer and lecturer at the University of Wyoming,

for thirty years has assisted those who have come to him troubled by experiences unexplainable to mainstream psychologists. His reminder that people see what they want to see, and don't see what they do not want to see, was received by many in the amphitheatre with nods.

Michael Hesemann, editor of the German *Magazin 2000*, described the current wave of UFO sightings in Brazil using a considerable volume of videotape to emphasise an airborne presence in South America where a calm public accepts daily sightings. Mrs Cecelia Dean, filling in for husband Robert, explained the need for the release from outdated oaths of national allegiance of both active and retired military personnel. Once free to do so, these experienced people could contribute much toward educating the public about the history of contact between our planet and others. Dr Nissinen chided scientists of all disciplines for their reluctance to break away from traditional research procedures.

It was Dr Luukanen herself who set the tone of the conference by reminding all that both US astronauts and Russian cosmonauts have recently acknowledged that most of their launches have been observed at close range by extraterrestrial craft. With this reminder that we on Earth don't need to search for extraterrestrial intelligences but simply to expand our world-view and recognise that they are already here, the conference was launched. A bit of Finnish history was made in November of 1996 and those of us who attended this unique gathering will remember its impact for a very long time. **DR**

- REPORTS -

FINS AIN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE

Finland recently played host to its very first UFO/crop circle conference. DOUG ROGERS was there to witness it...

Cornography

with Michael Glickman

I think it would be churlish to allow the rumoured recent death of Dave Chorley (of Doug and Dave fame, for younger readers) to pass unremarked. Dave was the smaller and less unpleasant of the two. I never met him but he unfortunately became - for me as for many of us - a familiar part of the landscape. How many questions after lectures have been dominated by the media sculpted view of D & D and how truly nasty were the results of their deceptions. We rarely get questions about Doug and Dave anymore. They are a minor grubby footnote in the history of a breathtaking world phenomenon but, in a curious way, I am sorry to see him go. He was the milder and less vehement of the two and I always had the impression that Dave, unlike Doug who still clings to his legend like a condemned man to his alibi, found the whole episode distasteful.

We missed an opportunity. When he and Doug quarrelled over money, Dave, isolated and lonely, was often seen around the pubs of Portsmouth. I am sure, given the right kind of nudge, beans would have been spilled.

More on the scuzzier side. (Why does it always seem to fall to me to deal with the scuzzy?) I read in a local paper some weeks ago that there was to be an art show dealing with ETs, UFOs and crop circles. One "Rod Dickinson, the World's Leading Crop Circle Artist" was to attend. I did not go, but a friend who did tells me that "Rod Dickinson" was there using the 1997 calendar which I helped to design as his principal piece of evidence.

Some time later, he was interviewed by Michael Lindemann who is a UFO commentator here in the US and - transformed now into "Rodney Dickinson" - he persuaded his host that he knew who had made the huge 1996 Stonehenge formation. Needless to say, Lindemann, as always in these situations, was blissfully ignorant of the facts surrounding the Stonehenge events, and swallowed the story whole. (See elsewhere this issue - Ed.)

So there we have it. Stonehenge is man-made. Dickinson said so, Lindemann believed him, and,

reportedly, a "leading researcher" was "on the verge" of declaring it a hoax. All we need now is for a "leading crop circle magazine" to feature this undiscerning and unappetising chain of untruth and the cycle will be completed.

Dickinson is a liar who has to come 8000 miles to find a credulous audience, Lindemann is rather irresponsible and should know better than to lend his name to this kind of garbage. And the others? Well, I think they know...

On a less distasteful note, I will be doing a talk on the circles for an operation here called *The Learning Annex* who run continuous courses on a variety of subjects. It is - I suppose - a kind of New Age, self-improvement, adult education emporium. The range of offerings might be amusing.

First, personal relationships. *How To Marry Rich reminds us that The Rich Are Going To Marry... Why Not To You?* You can attend *10 Fatal Dating Mistakes (And How To Avoid Them!)* or *What Women Really Want In Bed*. You can learn how to *Create A Native American Prayer Arrow, Start A Gift-Basket Business, or Make Your Own Soaps*. For your health, you can learn *The Art Of Breathing, Non-Surgical Facelifts, or How To Cook Two Weeks Of Healthy Inexpensive Meals (In One Evening!)*. More remarkably you could study *Transformational Haircutting* which will show you how to style your hair to complement your aura.

The brochure is almost 50 pages long and these samples are taken from just the first 15 pages. The most important point (which I make with some shame) is the fact that course 211A, *Crop Circles & Sacred Geometry* is the cheapest course available. Not in the cheaper group, the *cheapest!* What are they trying to tell me?

Looking back over the miracles of this last summer, it must be clear that several new doors have been opened and several promises for 1997 made. The arrival of the Stonehenge formation in daylight was a hint of impending further revelations. The earlier part of this column discusses how mean-spiritedly some of us received this gift. The video of the Snowflake showed how far the circlemakers are now prepared to go; our reaction to it has been a disgrace. Both of these formations were in long-eared wheat. Perhaps we are gently being reminded to listen - with compassion - to the limits and sadness of our own responses. MG