

SC

*THE MONTHLY
JOURNAL OF
CROP CIRCLES
AND BEYOND*

63

APRIL 1997

£1.00

Pipe
Organ
Patterns!

Global
Circles
Of
1997



Yet More
On The
Snowflake
Video...

**Egyptian
Wisdom And
The Circles**

"It would often be considerably healthier for us to dare to live without a reason for many things than with reasons that are simplistic. Either the Age of Reason has a long way to go or else we need to evolve into some yet more sensible Age" M SCOTT PECK

SC

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JOURNAL OF
CROP CIRCLES
AND BEYOND

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Front Cover: Etchllhampton, Wiltshire, July 1996.
Photograph by Steve Alexander.

The first question many ask right now when they telephone SC is "What's the latest on the Oliver's Castle video?" With this in mind, we include another update on the situation this issue in a continuation of our one-month-on-one-month-off coverage in an attempt not to let it get too boring. In truth, not much has moved forward - unless you're Colin Andrews (see article) - and what's clear is that no-one is going to agree on anything until some *definitive* evidence one way or the other arrives. Soon, we should have some major new formations to discuss and the emphasis will naturally shift away from musings over the video.

In this month's article I note the way in which my and others' personal views on the video have been misrepresented by those eager to paint some of us as blind fundamentalists, as an example of the paranoia generated by this whole business. Since writing that, the US magazine *Beyond Boundaries* has printed a letter from Colin Andrews which has the following gem: "...those like Andy Thomas who are determined to have me say it (the video) is real, even though I have never said so". This is an old myth, long discredited, based on my initial reports of the snowflake video which simply reflected the positive tone of Colin's own original news release. I have long-since made it very clear that he is now sceptical, but he doesn't seem to want to acknowledge this. I respect Colin, but certainly have nothing to gain by wanting his blessing either to legitimize or debunk the video! The world will still turn without an Andrews verdict. Colin already owes me a pint for having accused me of saying something he then had to admit I never said. It's going to be two pints soon.

If you're one of the people picking SC up for the first time at the *Sussex Cereological Bonanza II* (see opposite), don't forget to subscribe to what is the most regular and frank source of printed crop circle information anywhere in the world. If you want to know what's really going on, you won't regret it. And if you're one of our many new US readers who've joined us since our American 'office' opened, welcome aboard! Don't forget, we welcome photographs, exclusive articles and contributions from anyone, anywhere, so if you've something to say, push it our way...

ANDY THOMAS

After our report on the strange Cornish grass rings last month, it seems circle-making forces of some kind are indeed on the move early this year. Three other countries have reported new crop formations - of sorts - in the last few months...

Amsterdam, Holland:

On 18th January, three tiny circles were discovered in heavily frosted grass, each about 3' diameter and 2.5" 'deep'. Two lay next to each other but another was found about 100 metres away. Blocks of flats stood nearby, not far from Amsterdam's main harbour. Meanwhile, a more conventional crop circle of about 50 metres has been discovered in winter wheat elsewhere in Holland, location unknown. Holland was an apparent hotbed of circle activity last year, although it has been suggested by one researcher that most of the reported formations were made up for the Internet and photographs faked from pictures of existing English formations stuck together in new configurations..!

Michigan, USA: Two years ago, a Michigan housewife and her son noticed a blackened circle in the ground on local parkland, 150' or so away from the road. Come the following summer, they were amazed to see a field of crop had been sown on the site and that a circle of swirled wheat had replaced the charred marking of before. On 7th February 1997, a US researcher went out to the site after being told the circle was still visible... sure enough, the same site now had a 39' circle - but of standing

wheat growing up from grassland which has now replaced the crop field! The seeds from the proper crop circle of before (the lay still visible underneath the new growing stems) had apparently germinated. It seems that each time the crop grows up, it is subsequently swirled down again, to produce a

circle of standing wheat for the winter season! Two other circular areas of growing wheat were discovered nearby, one larger than the other.

Santo Angelo, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil:

On February 27th on a farm not far from Sepe Tiaraju airport, a bright red light giving off a strange sound was spotted by the farmer's wife. Next

day, a 33' circle was discovered in one of their cornfields. That night, a security guard at another farm watched a very similar light for a few seconds. Another crop formation, of a more complex but uncertain configuration, was again subsequently discovered. An odd "white dust" was found lying on the crop.

Meanwhile... Phoenix, Arizona, USA, has been having a spate of major UFO sightings. One report described the sky as having been "filled" with orange glowing orbs on March 13th, seen by "thousands". The numerous other accounts also speak of 'triangles' and 'discs' being seen and videoed. Local media widely reported the events... AT

(Thanks to Johan Roland & Jeffrey M Wilson c/o Crop Circle Connector, and Ron Russell)

- NEWS -
NEW CIRCLES
ACROSS THE
GLOBE

Something's already happening in the
world's fields and grasslands. Looks
like the 1997 season has indeed begun.
ANDY THOMAS rounds up the latest
news of fresh formations...

This is your last call for the...

SUSSEX CEREALOGICAL
BONANZA II

SC's day of presentations and entertainments inspired by the crop circle phenomenon

APRIL 26TH 1997, BURGESS HILL, WEST SUSSEX. Only a few tickets left!!!

Telephone 01444 233105 NOW to book... Or you'll be sorry.

The Oliver's Castle controversy industry continues unabated, but a few things are worth mentioning...

For several months now, Michael Hubbard, one of the people present at the very first showing of the video of the snowflake forming, has maintained that

what he saw that evening was not the same sequence that was subsequently being touted. However, following his published testimony in SC 61, where Michael outlined his memory of the video he saw, he has changed his mind... Michael sent us this statement:

- NEWS -

FLAKED OUT

The arguments over the authenticity of the video showing the snowflake formation appearing at Oliver's Castle grind on, but we won't bore you with them too much. Nevertheless, there have been a few developments, as ANDY THOMAS discovers...

I have been troubled for some months over my differing viewing of the original snowflake footage, seen at The Barge.

I recently experimented with a copy of the video. With the colour tuned out, the contrast decreased and the brilliance increased, as my recollection of the picture quality was, the formation is only just visible.

The two balls of light appear from the north, spiral around clockwise, then ascend out of view. The third ball appears from the same direction then disappears below view, only to reappear going in the direction of the first two.

These balls of light do in fact follow the flight paths as described in my previous article.

I believe that I mistook the straight hedgerow for the horizon, missed the two fainter balls, and never noticed the formation.

Therefore the footage, doing the rounds, could well be the footage that I viewed seventeen hours after the event. I apologise for any confusion that I may have caused.

Michael is to be congratulated for his honesty in having the guts to admit he may have made a mistake. This admission clears up one of the major mysteries which surrounded the video, that of the differing recollections of what was originally shown at The Barge that night. Given the conditions of the picture quality seen through the camera viewfinder as Michael outlines above (this is how the footage

was first shown), this could well explain the discrepancies between the different accounts of what was seen, and takes away at least one area of doubt surrounding the sequence.

Having read Michael's account in SC 61, US researcher Ilyes had already come to the conclusion that what he was describing was indeed the same video that we know and love (hate?) but just couched in different terms. She believes, probably with some justification, that all the arguments over who saw what that first night are simply attributable to the foibles of human memory and the viewing

conditions, nothing more sinister than that. Essentially, it seems everyone was dealing with the same video all along.

Not that this clears up the wider arguments about its origins. Colin Andrews has published his account of the whole business in his latest CPRI newsletter and heavily implicates video-maker/cropper Lee Winterston in having had a hand in fabricating the sequence with special effects, together with the mysterious John 'Weyleigh' (Colin's spelling) and suggests the formation itself was man-made. However, final proof for this isn't presented and the CPRI description of events relies heavily on Freddy Silva's testimony, which, with the greatest of respect to Freddy, is massively at odds with other versions in regard to the quality of the snowflake formation itself. Despite all his deep reservations over the video, Colin does, however, state "I am, in fact, open for the possibility that it is not a hoax", challenging the accused to prove themselves innocent!

In response to a comment I made in SC 61 about TV companies broadcasting the snowflake video without authorisation, Colin seems to think this was aimed at him and Peter Sorenson, yet SC 59 made it clear that the two of them were given permission - I was referring to the other TV companies and video productions which have featured the footage without the involvement of either (notably *West Country Television* and a recent Dutch video release). He also notes that I "suppose John Weyleigh to be in the United States". In fact all I was doing was speculating on what Weyleigh (the al-

leged cameraman) had told Michael Hubbard - which was that he was going to America for a while. Colin now claims his "detective" has contacted 'Weyleigh' at last and that he is back in England (if he ever left?) but wouldn't discuss the video.

But speculation isn't allowed, it seems. Anyone caught trying to sit on the fence and not have an opinion on the authenticity of the video is being branded by sceptics as being the same as blindly believing the video completely genuine. I was recently described on the Internet as being a "Starry-eyed advocate" of the snowflake video - yet nowhere, in SC or anywhere else have I ever stated that the sequence is either genuine or fabricated. Those who wish to knock might at least make the effort to read for themselves what really is being said. I stand by everything I wrote in SC 59, still the most in-depth and balanced investigation of the whole affair to be published anywhere to date: "*Whatever the truth, reasons for why the video must be fake haven't yet convinced. Even if the video is proved next week to be a fake, the reality is that here and now, we don't have that evidence.*" All the old arguments (that we can't be bothered to keep going over) which continue to be regurgitated were looked at both ways in that article. Little has changed since it was written and any case for or against still wouldn't stand up in court. The 'for' camp cite a list as long as your arm of video analysts willing to testify to the integrity of the footage, yet the crucial original master tape is still unavailable for

checking. Meanwhile the 'against' bench continue to concoct twisting conspiracy stories about 'intelligence services', the usual-suspects lists of alleged old-time 'hoaxers' and scheming video-makers, yet no proof is available for verification. Sure, the invisible profile of the cameraman is suspicious, but that's not enough to prove anything.

Despite those who have dismissed the video as nonsense (including, effectively, from recent editorial comments, *The Circular*, and by association the CCCS), reasons for doing so still aren't solid or are based on layer upon layer of assumptions and hunches - which could be wrong. Yes, it might all be a fake, and if it is proved to be so, we'll be happy to report it - but until then SC reserves the right to be open-minded. Which has nothing to do with being starry-eyed advocates of anything.

One point was well made in a recent letter from Bob Boyd of the Plymouth UFO Research Group: All the time we're caught up in arguing the pros and cons of an eighteen second video, everyone's forgetting the implications of the incredible "miracles in the fields" we received last year, which are currently running a poor second in the contemplation stakes. He's right - there's enough going on with the beauty and complexity of the formations themselves to show that something amazing is happening, without needing video proof of any kind. We'd do well to remember that as we prepare to enter another summer of wonders. AT

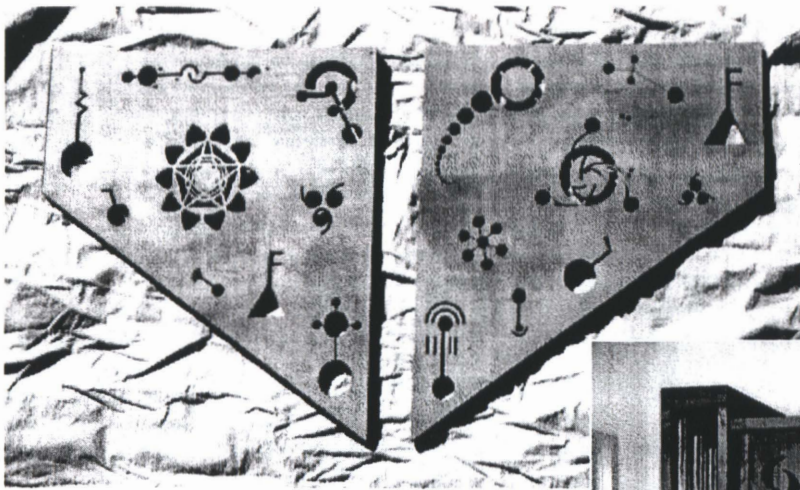
You should already know about what promises to be one of the big cropper events of the year, namely SC's *The Sussex Cereological Bonanza II*, which takes place at The Scout Centre, Burgess Hill, West Sussex on April 26th. With author Robert Bauval and a bevy of other well-known speakers, together with live comedy, magic and poetry, this event shouldn't be missed... Telephone 01444 233105 NOW!

Also coming up this summer is the second *Alton Barnes Fun Weekend* run by the Wiltshire Crop Circle Study Group, following up their successful event last year. This will be held exactly where the name suggests on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th July at the Alton Barnes Coronation Hall and will feature speakers, stalls, exhibitions and workshops. A marquee will also be erected outside to provide extra space. Telephone 01380 860304 for more details.

The by now traditional *Glastonbury Symposium: Investigating Crop Circles and Signs of Our Times* will take place, as ever, at the Assembly Rooms, Glastonbury, Somerset on the 1st, 2nd & 3rd August, featuring all manner of international speakers. Telephone 01934 713180...

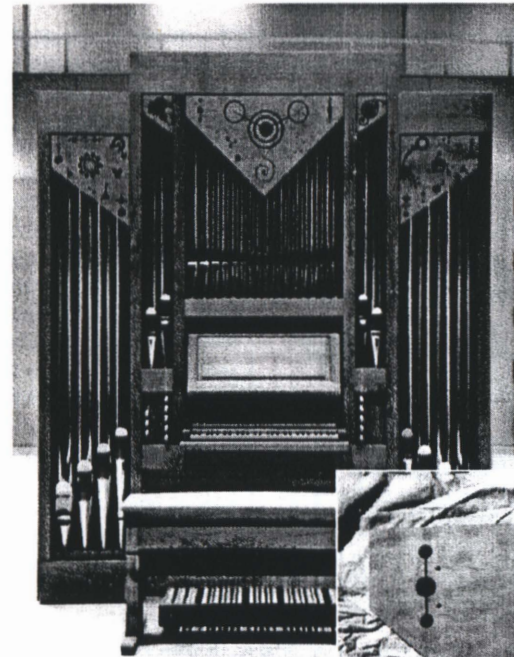
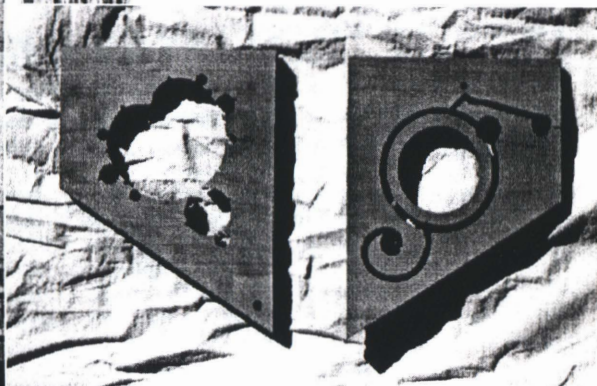
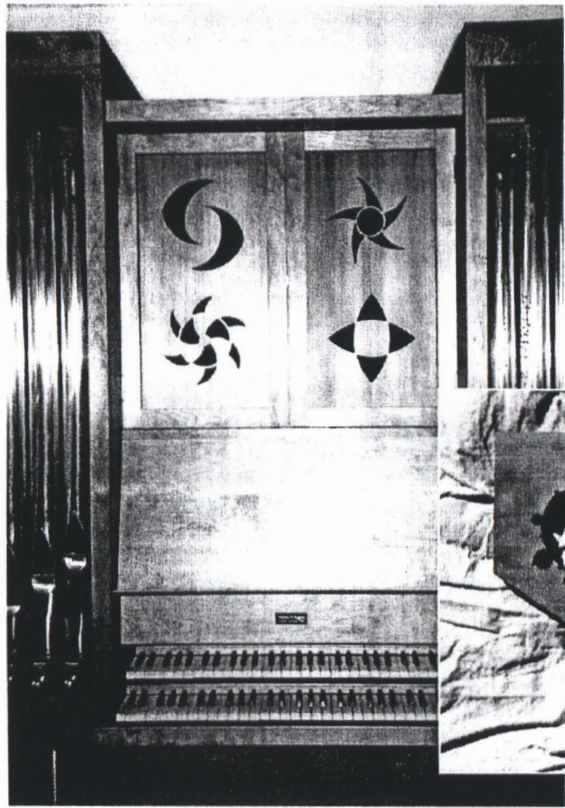
And should you be one of our German readers or a regular visitor to the European mainland, an exhibition is being held at The Women's Museum, Bonn, from May 2nd to June 1st. Entitled *Signs In The Cornfields - 10 Years of Crop Circles in Southern England* it will feature many photographs of prime examples, kicked off with a lecture by Lucy Pringle on the opening day. SC has apparently been "a major source of information" for the exhibition texts, according to organiser Marianne Krull. What more recommendation could you want?! Telephone Germany 0228 65 61 61... AT

- FREE PLUGS -
STAR DATES
A quick round up of some forthcoming important dates in the cropper calendar...



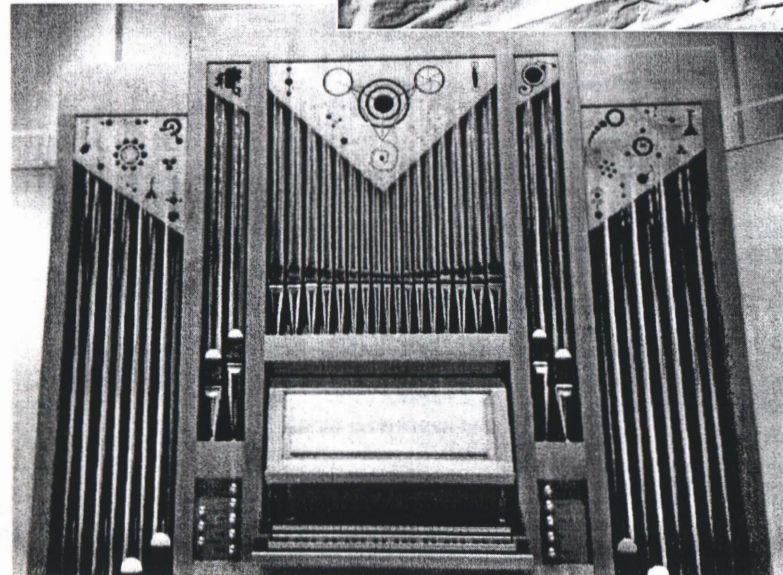
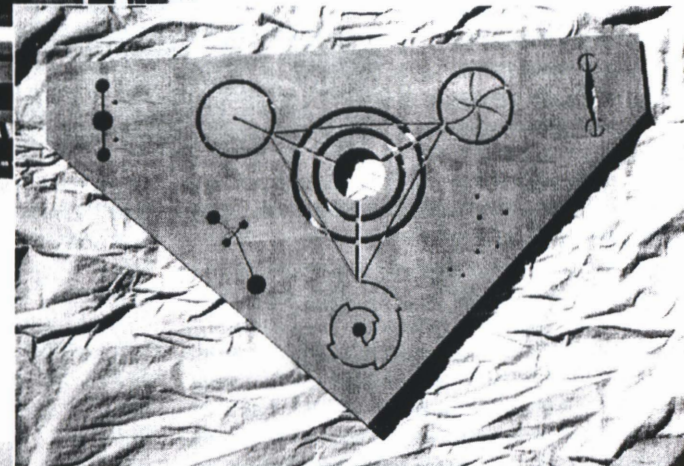
LEFT: Among the many crop designs here are the Wilsford '94 'thought bubble', the Winterbourne Bassett '95 'Manx runner', the '93 Bythorn mandala and - perhaps inappropriately (and twice!) - the '93 Overton '666' formation!

MIDDLE & RIGHT: Designs include the inner 'angel fish' of Wilmington '95 and the five inner blades of Kings Clere '95. **LOWER RIGHT:** The Ickleton '91 Mandelbrot Set and the '93 'monkey tail'.



ABOVE: One of the pipe organs in its full magnificent glory, with all the crop circle facades attached.

All photos by **CHARLES M RUGGLES**



ABOVE RIGHT: The '91 Barbury Castle triangle takes, perhaps justifiably, centre place in this carving which also includes one of the '91 'whale' formations, and even (on the right) a scattering of grapeshot circles!

LEFT: A closer view of the whole work of art seen in the very top picture.

CROP CIRCLE PIPE ORGANS!

A selection of photographs showing the fine work of **CHARLES M RUGGLES**, a pipe-organ manufacturer in Ohio, USA, who has incorporated crop circle designs into the structure of some of his creations. It is of great credit to Charles that the reproduction of the patterns are extremely accurate - artistic renditions of crop glyphs are often notoriously rough, but these capture all the beauty of their inspirations. (See article elsewhere this issue.)

In a package of stuff sent over recently by US researcher Ron Russell were some photographs of church-type pipe organs ornately carved with crop circle symbols! Eager to learn more, we enquired more of Ron, who put the creator of the organs in touch with us. Charles M Ruggles, the man in

question, has been constructing and restoring pipe organs for some years now and has a thriving business in the USA. He describes below how the crop circle connection came about. On pages 6 and 7 you can see for yourselves just how impressive these artistic renderings are.

Charles himself is a highly qualified organ player. After serving as assistant organist for Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland, he studied with many well-known tutors before entering the organ-building business in 1975.

So far, the two crop glyph-adorned instruments he has constructed have been for universities. However, given that some believe the crop symbols are reminiscent of ancient pagan markings - indeed, in some extreme cases some have stated (inexplicably) that they are satanic! - it would be rather amusing if one of these organs was to make its way into a church... especially as the '666' formation at Overton from 1993 features at least twice! How many would ever know what the symbols really were? (Conversely, some have suggested the crop circles might be the 'signs and wonders' promised by God in the book of Revelation, so perhaps they are appropriate after all.)

Anyway, over to Charles to describe the background to these extraordinary works of art... AT

I became acquainted with Ron Russell through Shari Adamiak and CSETI a couple of years ago, where discussions inevitably got around to crop circles and their inspiration for artworks. I began to feel compelled to use crop circle designs for ornamentation on my pipe organs and decided that the two university organs I was about to construct would be perfect.

The organ for Cleveland State University, Ohio,

was installed one year ago in the small recital hall of the music and communications department. It can be rolled to a small studio for practice and teaching use. The overall design had been submitted prior to construction, but no-one knew of the crop circle designs until I installed them on the organ in the recital hall. I had told no-one of my intent, nor what the designs were. The piano technician and a couple of other people knew right away what they were, but no-one else had a clue. If they asked I either told them or sometimes said "They can be whatever you want them to be". Everyone seemed pleased with the designs.

It might be of interest that the two ensemble rehearsal rooms near the organ have pyramidal roofs with Giza proportions, and the music department promotes the composition and performance of all styles of new music.

When designing the facade of the organ I ended up with a large triangular space above the pipes in the centre. This is a common arrangement using the natural lengths of the pipes. The space just cried out for the Barbury Castle formation. When I talked to Ilyes (US CCCS Co-ordinator) about my plans, she told me of Peter Sorenson's diagrams, which were immensely helpful. She also asked if I could use the 'monkey tail' design since it spoke to her musically.

I have just returned from installing the organ at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. It is a small studio or practice organ which many students will use. The centre doors keep the sound subdued for a small room, and keep hands away from small pipes. The four designs from the 1995 season seemed appropriate. Again, I told no-one of the designs beforehand. During the installation, several people asked what they were and I told them that they were crop circle patterns. Everyone apparently liked them. A couple of people remarked that the upper left crescents were reminiscent of old outhouse doors... CMR

For more information on Charles' work, contact him at: CHARLES M RUGGLES PIPE ORGANS, 13641 West Cedar Drive, Conifer, Colorado, 80433, USA.

What do vibration, crop circles and ancient Egyptian temples have in common, I hear you say? Well perhaps much, much more than we'd previously thought...

There is a growing school of thought which is trying to tell us that the ancient Egyptians were far beyond their time and perhaps understood mathematics, geometry, art, science and medicine better than we've so far given them credit for. This in itself is nothing new; people have put forward all kinds of theories (crazy and otherwise) to explain the motives of the pyramid builders and their ancient race. Recently though, Egypt is receiving renewed interest from

the public, largely through the work of several new writers including Robert Bauval (co-author of *The Orion Mystery*) who showed that the three pyramids were earthly representations of the constellation Orion and that the mysterious shafts of the great pyramid of Giza (previously regarded as air shafts) did in fact point to important constellations (including the three stars of Orion's belt at the time that the structure was built), putting to rest the age old Egyptological 'tombs and tombs only' theory. In his 1996 book *Keeper Of Genesis* co-authored with Graham Hancock (*Sign & The Seal / Fingerprints Of The Gods*) this new approach to the monuments of Egypt is convincingly continued.

If you've ever had an interest in this 'new Egyptology' then the other name you will no doubt recognise would be that of John Anthony West. It was the work of John West that caused a sensation in the early nineties when he put forward the theory that the Giza Sphinx was far, far older than conventional Egyptology held - some six thousand years or so older. With the support and expertise of American geologist Robert Schoch, John West challenged Egyptology with empirical evidence calling for the re-dating of the Sphinx, going on to speculate that it was proof of an advanced pre-dynastic civilisation on the Giza plateau, thousands of years before convention says civilisation existed. It is not my intent here, however, to explore this; for

those interested, the work is brilliantly examined in the aforementioned books. What is of relevance here however is another work by John West on Egypt described in his 1979 book *Serpent In The Sky*.

Serpent In The Sky was a work that was intended to put into the public domain the little-known work of a philosopher and Egyptologist R A Schwaller de Lubicz, who had, through many years of meticulous research (at the temple of Luxor), come to view the ancient Egyptian peoples and their great works of art and architecture in a whole new light. I'm not claiming here, in any way, that the ancient Egyptians are linked to the crop circle phenomenon but as I worked my way through this book I was struck by the relevance of some of the ideas on geometry, numbers and art, which could throw some light on our understanding of the crop circles.

As part of his research Schwaller de Lubicz had spent years studying and measuring the Luxor temple in Egypt. It was from this that he was to discover that the ancient Egyptian mind and culture was very far removed from our own. He was to learn that these people had an astonishing understanding of art, geometry and numbers and that their use of them was completely different to ours. He believed them to be knowledgeable in complex number mysticism, which not only used numbers to quantify material things but also used the interaction of numbers to explain the way in which the world worked - just like the Pythagoreans of ancient Greece. To the ancient Egyptian, 'number was all'. Crop circles have had a long and fruitful association with numbers and especially geometry. Often described as huge geometric patterns in the crop, the measurement and analysis of a given crop circle's geometry has provided many researchers with a certain amount of illumination into the mystery of the formation. However, this may only be part of the story as Schwaller de Lubicz's theory of the use of art in ancient Egypt may indicate. He believed that the ancient Egyptian temple was

- FEATURES -
**ORGAN
CIRCLES HIT
THE USA**

The increasing seepage of crop circle symbolism into popular culture continues unabated with the arrival of the first crop circle pipe organs in the USA. ANDY THOMAS introduces the work of CHARLES M RUGGLES...

- FEATURES -
**VIBRATION, CROP
CIRCLES AND...
EGYPTIAN
TEMPLES?**

Did the ancient Egyptians understand something about the power of geometry and numbers which may also be embodied in the crop formations? KAREN DOUGLAS considers the possibility...

specifically and geometrically built to inspire people to find new spiritual heights (to raise their 'vibration') using their understanding of proportion, harmony, resonance and the human being. Modern science is constantly making remarkable discoveries about the nature of particles and energy - and is also beginning to explore the relationship between vibration, frequency and form. We're probably familiar with the fact that if we vibrate certain substances at certain frequencies, those substances begin to form patterns - geometric patterns: Change the frequency of the vibration and the patterns that form change. Science is also beginning to discover that in subtle ways the human body is affected by vibration and frequency and more importantly the vibration, frequency and shape of things that surround us; not just light, colour and sound but the vibration and frequency of the buildings and cities in which we live. Scientists postulate that all matter is just groups of particles vibrating on a certain frequency and as a vibrating collection of particles ourselves, we are influenced by other vibrating particles. We can be affected either positively or negatively by this process depending on the frequency of whatever we are interacting with. Taking this in to consideration it is hardly surprising that some people see cities as depressing or oppressive; they are almost an assault on the senses - at odds with our own vibration. With all these principles in mind Schwaller de Lubicz suggested that the art and architecture of ancient Egypt was constructed with similar awareness of such matters. The huge and geometrically perfect temple was designed in order to harmonise and perhaps raise the vibration of its occupants so that they might achieve a higher experience of reality - it was this effect that made the attention to measurement, construction material and colour such as it was for the Egyptian temple designers. I can never hope to do any real justice to the scope and scholarly magnitude of Schwaller de Lubicz's work here, the way in which he saw the Egyptians' religion, mathematics, medicine, science and spirituality as one whole concept rather than constituent parts, not an analysis of the way we experience the world, but a synthesis of those experiences. For those with the time and patience I recommend the book, but let's take this to the crop circles...

Physiological and psychological effects inside crop circles have been reported for years, ranging from well-being and euphoria to headaches and disori-

entation. Could the frequency of vibration created by the geometric pattern of the crop circle be affecting us in these ways? I believe it's a possibility. If your own personal frequency is in harmony with that of the circle will you feel good, at peace? If your vibration raises to that of the circle, will you feel euphoric (or zapped with 'energy')? Similarly, if the frequency of the crop circle is out of kilter with yours will you feel a headache or even disorientation, ill? Again, it seems possible. There has been more than one researcher who have seen crop circles as temporary geometric temples, sometimes of huge proportions with the ability to inspire our psyche to a higher experience of reality. Is this because of an interplay of location, geometry and size? I've often wondered why people feel so compelled to enter crop circles; is it because of the wonderful experience of harmony and resonance we feel - compared to that which we feel in our towns and cities? How many people tell you how crop circles have changed their lives, how they now see the world differently - does this harmonising resonance have a cumulative effect on us? How many say "I could never go back to the way I once was"? Why is it some crop circles inspire us more than others? Is there an increased interplay between landscape, energy lines, number, geometry, size and the living crop? Schwaller de Lubicz suggested that true understanding was an emotional response to an intellectual stimulus. Perhaps this is also at work here. I feel just as it is possible to gain illumination, clarity of thought and resonance within the crop circles (this perhaps is best achieved through our own openness or willingness to harmonise with the vibration of the circle, then out into the landscape, to the planet etc.), it is also possible to close ourselves and create a negative dissonance. (Perhaps we all know someone who has or is experiencing this effect.) We should also think about the possibility that because we all have our own personal fine variations of the frequency of humankind (which is what makes us different from each other) we may not always be compatible with every formation. If we take this one step further these geometric patterns in the crop may also influence the vibrational frequencies of the planet and so on, and so on... - it's a huge thought! Perhaps each one of us should look carefully at the formations we do resonate with; maybe we can learn something about ourselves in the process. None of this answers the age old question of where

crop circles originate from but I consider that if our vibrational frequencies are being raised in this manner and in consequence we are unlocking new parts of ourselves, perhaps this too is happening to the planet. Perhaps new planetary effects will be observed - balls of light? The possibilities are mind blowing. Whoever or whatever creates crop circles

is affecting us, our planet and perhaps beyond. Their geometric temporary temples are inspiring many and are giving people a higher experience of reality (the 'raising of awareness' so many encounter). Crop circles may just turn out to be much more than we can imagine; it's up to us to tune into this and see where it takes us. **KD**

When I paid to get your monthly

- LETTERS -

newsletter I hoped to get what intelligent people thought their message was.

I have the book *The Cosmic Connection* and have studied it and other articles.

Don't bother yourself in defending your knowledge, let us know what you and others, at this time, believe the message of the crop circles is for our age. Where are these UFOs from? Orion? Sirius? The Pleiades?

When you deal with such you will get opposition as well as support from intelligent people instead of the 'slave' disinformation types. Who pays them could be of interest but watch out for libel.

Good luck!

ARTHUR STRONG, Arvika, Sweden

If there was an easy answer to what the message of the crop circles is for our age, rest assured that we would have given it. The problem is that despite all the years of research, no-one is really any the wiser as to what is going on. Everyone has their own ideas but nobody is yet in the position of being able to show that they are right, whatever some might think. We have lots of data and many beautiful designs to look at, yet it still feels as if we're a little like stone-age people looking at the sun and moon - impressed, yet utterly uncomprehending of their true nature. But it is the very variety of different views and the discussion and inspiration it seems to spark that provides one of the best reasons to be interested in the crop circle phenomenon. Would people ever have opened up in the way many have to new areas in their lives and in their thinking if the answers were there on a plate from the start? It is the questions and stimulations that arise from the circles as much as any answers we may eventually receive that seem to be important.

It is not for SC to tell people what to think, when there are no answers yet to tell. We are here first and foremost to provide an information service so

that others can make their own minds up about the data on offer. The fact that we make the effort every month to put SC out is proof enough of our conviction that something amazing is going on - even if we don't know quite what. I certainly don't. Yet the quickest of glances through our past issues shows that we have indeed featured many opinions and ideas about what different people think they may be about. Perhaps Arthur missed our special 50th issue in which fourteen individuals and leading thinkers in the crop circle world explained exactly what they thought was going on as far as they could. This month we have an article considering the ancient Egyptian connection, for instance. People must decide for themselves where crop circles and UFOs come from - if they are even the same phenomenon - be it Orion, Sirius, some source within or on the Earth or wherever.

As for dealing with 'opposition' and 'defending our knowledge', we're more interested in putting out positive information than constantly taking sceptics on head to head, although sometimes it is necessary to do this. Readers must react in their own ways to anything we print, but any lack of the SC team saying what they think the 'message' of the crop circles is isn't through fear of what others might think but simply because we don't actually know! - Ed.

'Present company' excepted, why is it that so many so-called 'corn circle researchers' talk such utter shite? Last week I attended a lecture in London which had Busty Taylor digging the usual unverified dirt against the Oliver's Castle film and Richard Andrews assuring us that there were no odd biological effects on plants in corn formations whatsoever, and that he had been trying for four years to prove this (but obviously hadn't yet). Sounds to me like a cheap swipe at the efforts of Dr Levensgood. Now I hear Colin Andrews is saying that 70% of all corn circles are hoaxed. Based on

Pyramidology roots OK

what? Nothing that anyone's prepared to put their head on the line for and come out and say, that's for sure.

Have these people not got anything better to do? We're all for reasoned debate but there's never a jot of substance in anything people like this say or if there is we never get to see it. To be allegedly interested in a subject and then spend most of your time junking it seems to me a sad kind of existence. Why not go off and do something else more creative? Instead, these mad buggers insist on spreading their bitterness and world-weariness to everyone else.

I don't always agree with everything I read in *SC* but at least your coverage is always fair-minded and (mostly) balanced. Take it from me, you're one of the last bastions of sanity in an area of study which sometimes seems more interested in debunking itself or having different 'researchers' slag each other off on a personal level. Read some Internet web sites if you want dire proof of that. Everyone at *SC*, whoever you may be, keep up the good work - you don't know how important you are right now.

TONY NASH, London

Er... - Ed.

I write in the hope that readers may be able to enlighten me by giving some reasonable explanation for a recent sighting of a strange phenomenon by myself and family.

We were travelling south on the A24 near Findon, north of Worthing, West Sussex, in the early hours

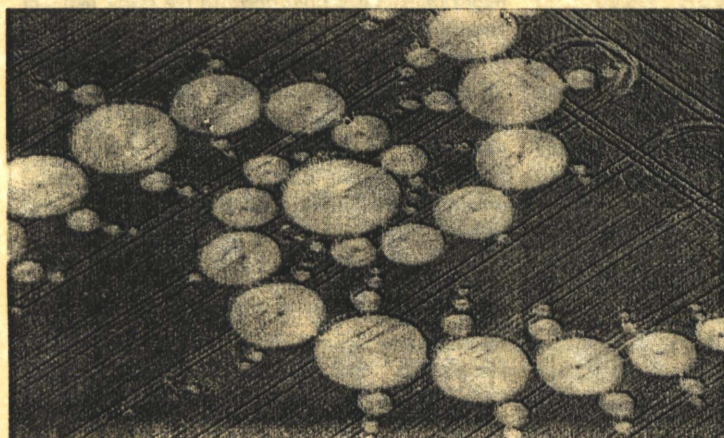
of Friday 1st November 1996 (00.27 to be precise). The weather was dry, high cloud cover, occasional moon. My wife, who was driving, woke me from my slumber to point out this phenomenon, clearly visible in the sky to the east. It consisted of what appeared to be nine or ten puffs of cloud symmetrically placed in a circle and rotating in an anticlockwise direction, with two or three smaller puffs forming an inner ring and, so my children later insisted, circling in the opposite direction. The height of the formation, whilst difficult to be certain with any degree of accuracy, was about 1500 feet. This vortex of cloud moved south-west (which, whilst I did not note the wind direction at that time, was certainly against the general trend of wind that day) until, when over Long Furlong on the A280, it gradually faded and disappeared.

One of my daughters was discussing the sighting at school to discover that, by some remote coincidence, her friend and mother had also been travelling in the area and had seen a similar vision, though I believe somewhat later, at 01.20.

Someone suggested a laser display but I have witnessed several such displays and there are several aspects of this sighting that does not tally with a laser show. I have perused local newspapers and can find nothing that can be connected in any way.

Being a man of logic, I am completely at a loss for a rational explanation and therefore write in the hope that your readers' observations might clear up this dilemma.

PAUL NAISH, Littlehampton, West Sussex



A different view of the Windmill Hill, Wiltshire, triple 'Julia Set' from August 1996, as photographed close-up by LUCY PRINGLE.