



SC

*THE MONTHLY
JOURNAL OF
CROP CIRCLES
AND BEYOND*

66

JULY 1997

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"Unjust criticism is often a disguised compliment" DALE CARNEGIE

SC has been accused of many things over the years, which I guess is a mark of its success, but one thing often harped on about by its detractors is that we constantly mount personal attacks on individuals in the crop circle world. As most of our regular readers will know for themselves, this simply isn't the case. What we will do, where appropriate, is to address the issues of what people say about crop circles, harshly if necessary. Sometimes this means naming names. Some individuals seem to think it's okay to spout unfounded views widely on behalf of the crop circle 'community' wherever they may but don't seem to like it when they are held accountable for it later. Everyone is entitled to an opinion, but if people lay their heads on the line by telegraphing controversial views, they have to be prepared to be tackled by those who don't agree - and if that falls to SC, then tackle we will, head on. This is completely different from launching into attacks on characters and personal lives, which we have never done, although others have - about us! - on occasion. While I accept that some of our early issues were perhaps a little too outspoken, we have never waged campaigns or targeted anyone with any ill-intent but only ever tried to set the record straight on issues we have disagreed with and defended ourselves where situations were worthy of it.

Some stories about us though are just plain imagination, as was illustrated at the recent Centre for Crop Circle Studies AGM where SC was accused of mounting an ongoing Holy War against... Busty Taylor!!! The most detailed trawl through our back issues shows that this simply isn't true, as readers will be aware. We have absolutely nothing against Busty which would lead us to waste space on such a campaign and have written to him to make this clear, offering him full right of reply in our pages to anything he may ever have taken offence at. We await his piece! Anyone else who feels under attack should take out a subscription to SC and then they'll know for themselves what we really spend our time talking about, ie. crop circles...

Sorry to anyone who tried to tune in for *The Magic & Mystery Show* about the Oliver's Castle video on the date we gave last month. It's changed again and will now be shown on ITV Meridian on 25th July, with Anglia ITV showing it around the same time. TV schedulers, eh?

And talking of TV, *Dark Skies*, reviewed last issue, has now been officially cancelled in the US...

ANDY THOMAS

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Front Cover: *Winterbourne Bassett, Wiltshire, June 1997. Photograph by Steve Alexander.*

DEVON

Down Thomas, Staddiscombe, Nr Plymouth: Three single circles in three separate adjacent fields were discovered on 15th June on the coastal road going east from Plymouth but appeared to have been there for some weeks. Two, 37' and 55' diameter approx, were in wheat and the third, 30' approx, was in barley. A bright yellow pulsating light was spotted in the Plymouth area the night the circles appeared, as reported in the *Western Morning News*.

Matford Barton, Nr Exeter:

In the same field as formations from 1991 and 1994, a 38' circle with four 17' by 7' emanating spurs, one offset from the equal positioning of the others, appeared here in oilseed rape around 25th June. There are no tramlines in the field.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Chedworth: A small single circle only 9' across was discovered here near a local airstrip early in the year, crop unknown, but as it appeared on land owned by someone with connections to local UFO researchers, it was apparently not taken seriously enough to be reported at the time! The lay had a nice spiral within it.

HAMPSHIRE

Droxford, Nr Southampton: A neat formation of three circles in a row, ringed by a large perimeter path, is marred slightly by a crude diamond of thin bent lines which appears to have been superimposed afterwards, linking the two smaller circles with the outer ring. First spotted 15th June, crop unconfirmed. This is not far from the location of the Exton 'Earth's magnetic fields' formation of 1995.

Kilmeston: A quintuplet with a ringed central circle was discovered here around 25th June in long-eared wheat, 175' diameter approximately. Reportedly neat and impressive.

Upham, Nr Eastleigh: Three ringed circles, each increasing in size and joined together in a row were discovered on 15th June, crop unconfirmed. The largest ring has two 'ears' which appear to emanate from each side, making this look a little like a baby's teddy-rattle! A second formation in the area, a dumbbell, has also been reported since, details unknown.

OXFORDSHIRE

Chislehampton, Nr Abingdon: An indistinct classic quintuplet was discovered here in young wheat on 24th June, just off the B480 road. The large circle is around 63' diameter and the satellites are about 15'.

WARWICKSHIRE

Churchover, Nr Lutterworth: A well-laid "40 metre" circle with a "fat ring" arrived here around 27th June, crop unconfirmed, not far from Junction 1 of the M6.

WEST MIDLANDS

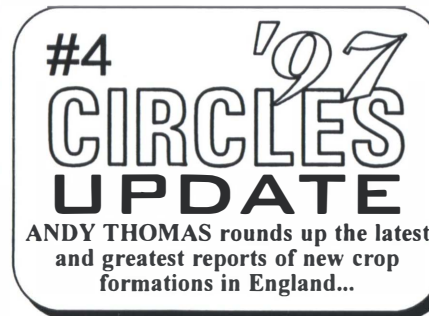
Whitehouse, Nr Sutton Coldfield: Several circles with pathways appeared here around 25th June, with what looks like the digits "9-7" just below the main complex, crop unknown.

WILTSHIRE

Rockley Down, Nr Avebury: Almost a mini-Barbury Castle '91 but much simpler, this 150' diameter design of three 40' (approx) circles linked by a triangular design arrived near Hackpen Hill around 11-12th June in barley. The central circle is around 53'. Impressive from the air, the crop was only lightly laid down and grew up again very fast. Visitors and the elements made the formation look rather messy after just a few days. The straight lines leading into the central circle reportedly appeared some time after the main formation. All the circles are spiralled clockwise.

Silbury Hill: A single circle in oilseed rape between the hill and the Sanctuary was apparently spotted from the air much earlier in the season but never examined on the ground.

Stonehenge: On almost exactly the same spot as last year's massive fractal, arrived a snowflake to end all snowflakes, in barley on 9th June, giving rise to some interesting speculation as to what the phenomenon is implying about last year's controversial design at Oliver's Castle. The first known formation to include a hexagon as a major part of its design (excluding Koch and Kyborg's man-made experiment in 1992), inscribed within this is a complex six-armed ice-crystal configuration with branches leading to many (around one hundred overall) little 'grapeshot' circles, the growth order of which follows the mathematical Fibonacci sequence (an article next issue), like last year's Stonehenge pattern. The overall size is closer to 150' than the



500' some reports have suggested. Incredibly, Peter Sorenson, who has subtly attempted to debunk virtually every formation this summer, has reportedly described this configuration as crude and unsophisticated. Apart from the fact that the low crop makes the design rather faint in places, few have been able to find it in their hearts to agree with this perverse view. Look at the photo this issue and make your own minds up. Sadly, the farmer, who was so accommodating to visitors last year (after persuasion), has been unable to accept that another pattern could visit his field again so soon and has become sceptical and hostile to sightseers. Don't, therefore, expect the party atmosphere which surrounded his field last year unless a swift change of mind befalls.

Winterbourne Bassett: An astonishing 202' diameter Chinese puzzle of geometric shapes, this appeared not far from the location of the mandala with the squares in 1995. Indeed, it seems to bear a slight thematic resemblance to its predecessor. Arriving on 1st June in very green barley, like most barley formations this design grew faint very quickly. Interesting to note that with the exception of the central circle, none of the crop was spirally swirled but instead swept flat in specific directions, giving the highly effective impression of interlocking components. A little-visited broken down stone circle lies very nearby.

The size of the remaining stones and the diameter of the ring (71 metres) suggests the circle was once an important one.

RUMOURS...

Uncertain word has it that there are formations somewhere in Cheshire, possibly one somewhere in Surrey - but possibly not - and a double-ringed circle may have been spotted five miles north of Newbury in Berkshire, just off the M4... Other patterns have been reported at Liddington Castle, Wiltshire, Danebury Ring, Hampshire and Chute Mead near Taunton in Somerset but haven't been found by researchers yet. Several circles which were seen at Whittington, just outside Cheltenham, however, turned out to be large fairy rings of fungal growth...

There are also a number of new reports from around the world which we'll try and round up next month.

By the way, the location of the Qabalah formation reported last month is actually spelt *Burderop* Down, not *Burdrop* Down as we had it. **AT**

Thanks to: Karen Douglas, Steve Alexander, Robin Cole, Debbie Pardoe, Nigel Tomsett, Steve Javor & Crop Circle Connector.



TOP LEFT: "The roar of the greasepaint, the smell of the crowd..."

BELOW LEFT: Turan Rifat in full flight...

ABOVE: "All that Jazz..." Jazz Rasool in his full flight...

THE... SUSSEX CEREALOGICAL BONANZA '97

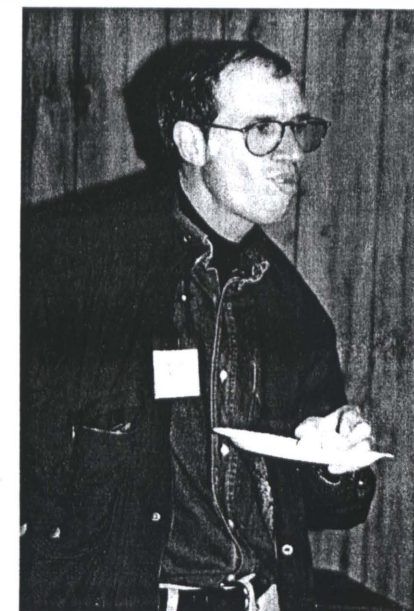
More images from SC's recent big event...

SCB '97 - THE VIDEO

Every moment of SC's recent day of presentations and entertainments is now available as a set of two videos, each 240 minutes length, for only £15.00 (inc p&p) for both. Tapes cannot be ordered separately. If you would like copies, please send a cheque, payable to SCR, to the following address:

44 Meadow Lane, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 9HJ.

Please allow SEVERAL MONTHS for delivery, as we are doing the copying ourselves! Thanks.



TOP LEFT: Spontaneous conversation breaks out during one of the intervals...

TOP RIGHT: Robert Bauval, very kindly photographed eating, in mid-chew...

MIDDLE: "Hello little boy... would you like to see my knot?" Stan Reynolds gets tied up with nephew Mark Reynolds...

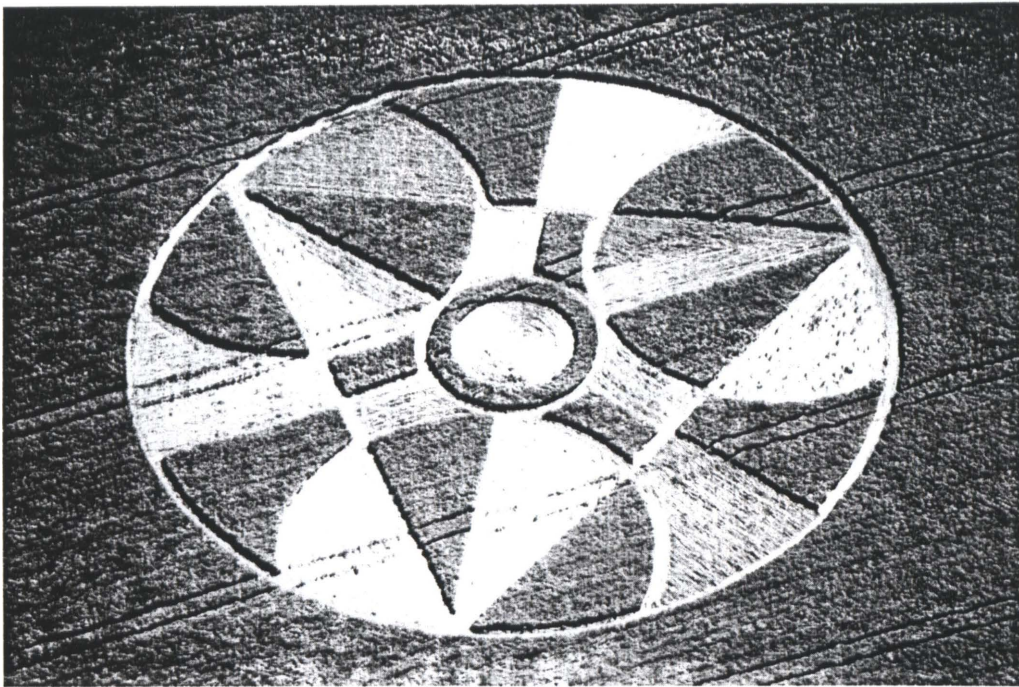
BELOW LEFT: Moon landings? What moon landings? Marcus Allen gets down to some serious annoying of patriotic Americans...

BELOW RIGHT: More stuffing of faces in the haven of the 'guest room'... Michael Green (centre), Karen Douglas (right), Turan Rifat (foreground) and friends 'do' lunch...

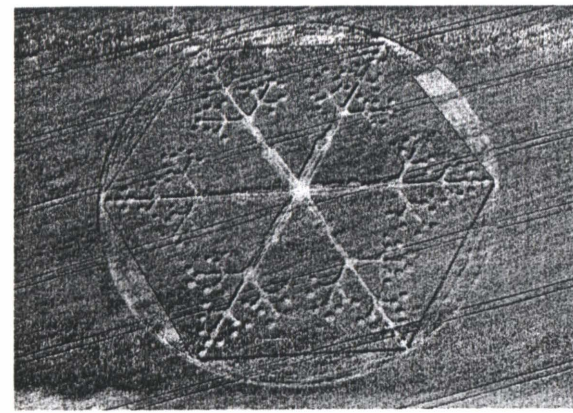
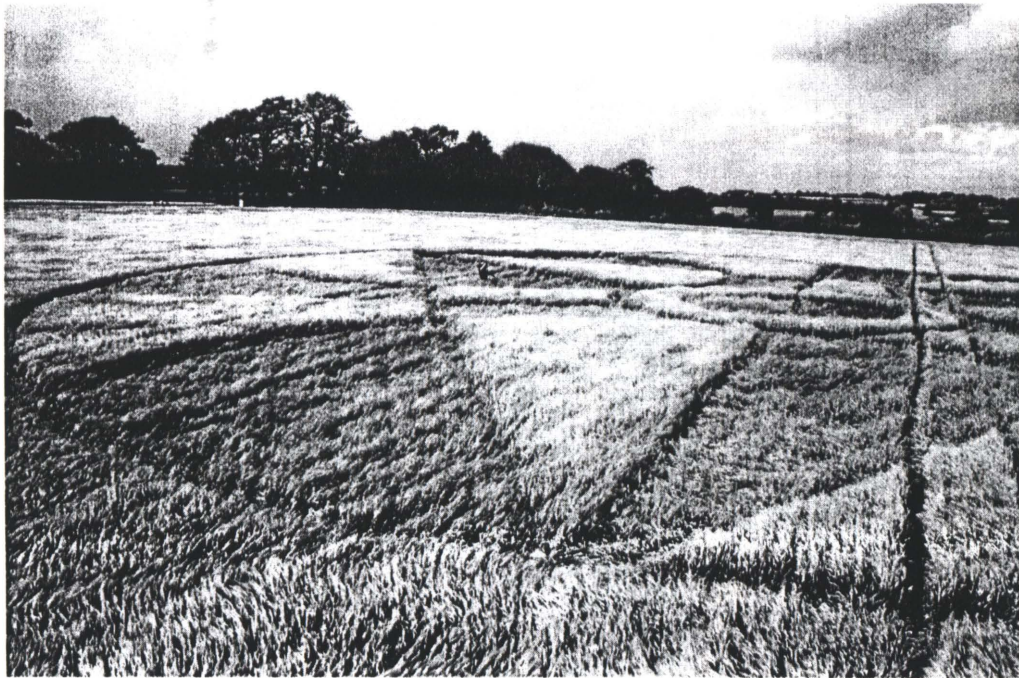


Photos by **BARRY REYNOLDS**





ABOVE: The 'chinese puzzle' at Winterbourne Bassett; geometry in motion... **BELOW:** Pole shot of Winterbourne Bassett. The barley had only been lightly brushed down and soon began to grow up again..

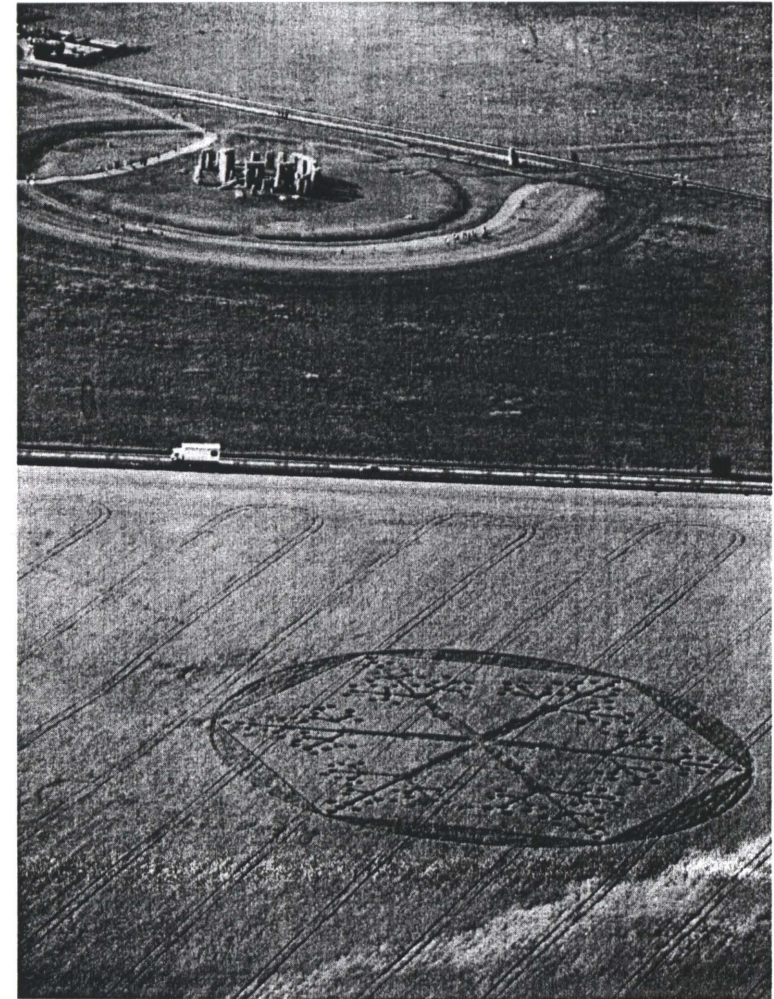


TOP: The snowflake to end all snowflakes... The Stonehenge formation.

#2 '97 CIRCLES GALLERY

Views of the continuing circle events from 1997...
Winterbourne Bassett pole, aerial and Stonehenge wide shots by STEVE ALEXANDER, overhead Stonehenge shot by LUCY PRINGLE.

Full colour original copies can be obtained from Steve at: 27 St Francis Road, Gosport, Hants, PO12 2UG, and from Lucy at: 5 Town Lane, Sheet, Petersfield, Hants, GU32 2AF.



RIGHT: Once again the circle-making forces provide the perfect photo-opportunity with England's most visited tourist site...

There was a higher purpose at work when all who had signed up for Ron Russell's June 1996 tour to England cancelled, save one person, Dawn Thibault. Being squired around the English countryside with Ron during a week that yielded a plethora of new formations resulted in the birth of a new croppie. After six months of internal debate as to whether or not she should share her enthusiasm with her community by organising a symposium in Denver, Dawn eventually put it to the 'sleep state test'. Awaking with the answer "DO IT", she promptly called Ron for suggestions as to speakers. Enlisting the help of brother Dana Thibault (thirsty for more information after attending one of Ron's lectures), they approached Jack Steinhauser (founder of the Sophia Institute) with their idea of presenting a symposium. That the synchronicity of the speakers

schedules (and mine) 'allowed' us to converge in Denver on the date selected should surprise no one, so Denver was treated to (in order of appearance) the work of Ron Russell, John Burke, John Martineau, Michael Glickman and, in his traditional role of last speaker, Stanley Messenger. Not too shabby considering which side of the pond we are on. It would be impossible to recount all of it here, so I present that which I believe will be of most interest to readers of SC.

With good pre-event media coverage the symposium was attended by 194 people. The well-rounded panel presented much complementary, occasionally dissenting, food for thought. All the ingredients of crop circle saturation I have experienced at symposiums in England were in place and the eleventh hour minor health problems and set backs had by the organisers (whoever said life is supposed to be easy for those researching phenomena?) were classic. The ultimate result was to spawn a new branch of now well-informed enthusiasts (there were NO negative reactions during or after the symposium) and a desire by the Thibaults to make this an annual (expanded to two days) event, with the intent to include British female speakers next year.

Tirelessly campaigning solo for years to bring the latest information and images of the phenomenon to the US mid and far west, Ron Russell's efforts were now paying off BIG TIME in his home town and he opened by telling us it felt like Christmas when he woke that morning. Knowing the phenomenon tends to pop up in areas

where interest is established, Ron announced he felt they will now have crop circles in Colorado (to much cheering). Ron's "personal language" is that "something astounding is happening on the planet," and that "we are being given a gift", so his humble sensibility was a perfect way to start the day. Right off, Ron stated his beliefs that this is not the work of one "artist" but rather a "tribe" of them, and that there is no profit to be made from the research; "you have to do this for love".

He then showed comparisons of formations to shapes and marks in other media, such as the glyph found on one of the stones lying on its side in Stonehenge resembling the 1996 formation on Roundway Common, and the triple-spiral Windmill Hill formation bearing a strong resemblance to the Tibetan 'Wheel of Joy' mandala. A SCOOP: the Vesica

Piscis formation at Ashbury looked precisely like a Mason's mark found by Ron on the foundation of a Norman Church in Compton Bassett, which also resembles the ironwork cover of Glastonbury's Chalice Well and the Hourglass Nebula seen by the Hubble telescope.

On the subject of crop circles world-wide, some striking examples presented were the 1996 reports of sixty in Holland, eighteen in the US, and the fairly new information given to Ron by Colin Andrews of two thousand formations found in India over the years. (Unseen and unverified as yet by researchers, but allegedly catalogued by that government.) Also shown were hard to come by fine selections of patterns in Iowa (which had no tramlines nor entry marks), Germany, the Czech Republic and Vancouver.

The first laugh of the day was during the story about the Paulding, Ohio, circle. When the farmer first found it he called the FBI (giggles begin), who told him "The X-Files are fiction" and recommended he call local authorities. When the Sheriff arrived, his response was to encircle the formation with the yellow police tape used to mark 'crime scenes' (big laughs). As a result of the "police activity", six thousand people came to view the circle! Many who have spoken with Ron know of both the pleasant and unpleasant physical effects he has experienced in fields over the years. Of the several stories he told, the most compelling was of the ill-effects that did not dissipate by leaving a formation. Seems it took Ron until he had finished drinking an entire bottle of water

throughout the day for him to realise that whatever had affected him so adversely in the circle had also been imprinted in his water. (Shades of Lucy Pringle's research.) Both Michael Glickman and Stanley Messenger shared similar stories during their presentations and I believe inclusions of this sort to be a responsibility for those who have been in the formations when addressing those who have not.

One of Dr Levengood's first acts of research into crop circles was to contact Pat Delgado in 1989, after reading *Circular Evidence*, for more information. Working quietly alone on the plant analysis for several years, he was contacted by John Burke in 1992 after he had read a Levengood lab report. Disenchanted with the British research being done under the direction of Monty Keen, Burke began to spend more time at Levengood's lab and was eventually asked to transcribe a few key lab reports from the scientific terminology to layman's terms (for croppie consumption). John began his presentation by explaining that the first challenge to scientists when faced with examining something new is where to start. He then segued into the early bent and blown node findings (pressure built up from the inside out), the plants in microwave oven findings (the first thirty seconds of heating shows the most resemblance to plants in and around formations), and the findings regarding the diminishing degrees of effect from the centre of patterns out (continuing beyond the perimeter). Incidentally, some of the most dramatic blown nodes Levengood and Burke have examined were of samples taken from areas of supposed 'wind damage'. (The 'Artists' not getting it right, or Nature expressing its abstract side?)

Of particular interest was to learn that growing grain has a NEUTRAL electrical charge overnight, which changes to POSITIVE during the day, and the only time a NEGATIVE charge has been encountered is in measurements taken from plants in or adjacent to formations. Levengood and Burke have confirmed Chad Deetken's early work on the growth potential of the seeds from formations. These seeds sometimes produce better growth, sometimes worse, but always display some differing effect from the controls.

Discussion of their findings on the samples found by Peter Sorenson in 1993 in a field at Cherhill (both plants and rocks had melted iron fused to them) led into a long-overdue clarification of the oft-repeated error regarding plants becoming magnetised. Originated by the US TV magazine *Sightings*, this spread as croppie lore. The truth is that Levengood was only illustrating that magnetic meteoric dust had become embedded in the tissue of some of the plants in this particular formation, which the editors cut right out of context and made it seem as if plants in *all* crop circles became magnetised. Another clarification was on the complaints Levengood and Burke have heard over the years about not using the "double blind" method of experimentation. Turns out this is NOT the format traditionally used in EX-

PLORATORY biology. In an attempt to satisfy their own curiosity, they have conducted tests of both stomping and rolling down growing grain at all times of the day and night (by themselves and by friends). When subjecting these plants to the same tests they perform on samples sent from formations, the results have yielded ZERO of the usual indicators. In the 200 samples Lefty has tested over the years, only ten formations showed no results. So, on to the controversy...

Plasma physics figure prominently in Levengood and Burke's research, as they believe it is plasma descending from the ionosphere (sixty to one hundred miles up) being attracted to certain points on Earth that cause crop circles. (OK I concede, but who or what says when, where and which shape will be created is where John and I take separate, though not embattled, viewpoints.) Simply put, plasma is clouds of electrified molecules making up 90% of the (known) Universe and emits MICROWAVES. (Lightning and the Aurora Borealis are two visible examples.) Knowing that many want an explanation as to how a natural process could give crop circles their amazing, geometrical shapes, John provided much info on geometrical shapes in Nature. There were also several photos of artificially produced plasma in various mediums that resembled the 'eye', 'flower' and 'infinity symbol' formations, as well as a wonderful photo of a plasma stream descending from the sky. (This still doesn't explain, however, the apparent interactive and intelligent 'behaviour' of the phenomenon, which clearly responds to human consciousness and even verbal stimulus, giving the impression either that something is 'listening' or at the very least that our minds play a role in influencing the plasma movements - Ed.) As to the question 'Why so many in England?', Levengood and Burke employ a theory that chalk (and other) aquifers, ie. rocks which retain water, act as plasma attractors. (That fluctuating aquifers generate an electrical charge is a well-known geological phenomenon.) When juxtaposing maps of both England's circle activity and its aquifers, it does illustrate that the greatest concentration of formations occur in areas over or near aquifers. There was much more on this; humans as attractors, the placement of ancient monuments in relation to aquifers, water levels in England over the years and the placement of the US equivalent (limestone) as compared to areas of US anomalous phenomena. John incorporated the work of Japanese plasma physicist Yoshi-Hiko Ohtsuki to illustrate his theories. After coming to England in 1989 to meet with Dr Terence Meaden and do research in the fields (we later learned John Martineau was part of this team), Dr Ohtsuki returned to his lab and was able to recreate crop circle-like shapes with plasma experiments. He also found similar shapes scorched on the walls of the Japanese subway system, the result of plasma arcs set off by the electric third rail.

As to John's "personal language" he concluded by

- REPORTS -

CROPPIES LAND IN THE MID-WEST

Circle conferences are often where one learns important insights and anecdotes, and, as such, reports can make for vital reading. On February 22 1997, Denver, Colorado, USA, played host to such an event and LOIS HOROWITZ was there to soak up the latest info...

stating "Crop circles are a two-dimensional record of at least a three-dimensional something that comes down from above," and "these ain't made by people". That Levengood has been published in a peer-review scientific journal (*Physiologica Plantarum*) has a far greater ramifications than most cropies may realise. It means that experts in his field have declared his research (proving the overwhelming majority of the samples he has studied were not from formations made by people) as sound science. Anyone who is interested in mainstream acceptance of crop circles as being a real phenomenon has something here they can proudly use. (By the way, Levengood and Burke's findings have been "95% statistically significant", meaning 20-to-1 odds that this is not a random effect.)

Novice speaker Dana Thibault's short but eloquent and heartfelt presentation on fractal geometry proved to be a necessary complement to the random references made by many of the speakers for those in the audience unfamiliar with the subject. Kudos Dana!

Being this was John Martineau's first American presentation, one must forgive the overly effusive intro he was given, too embarrassing to recount in this forum, so instead I'll publish his response: "Almost everything said about me is false, I'm simply a hippie", to which he received a big cheer. There has always been more meaning in that word than most of society realised (remember, we weren't in Glastonbury), so it was heartening to see Denver's response. John then launched into the "Elephant in the Dark" parable (each person describes a dramatically different elephant according to which part they had touched), always an effective reminder at circle symposiums.

John took the phenomenon further back in time by showing the 1678 Hertfordshire Journal woodcut of a formation. He cited the first photos of circles as having appeared in the 1960's and then illustrated the progression with the evolution of singles, doubles, triples, quintuplets and orbits. Admitting most of his research was done between 1989-1991, he therefore showed plenty from that golden age. John touched on the possible UFO activity connection and the work of the professional dowers originally involved in the research, as well as the connections to (and explanations of) the Michael line.

John's statement that Long Barrows are only found on top of chalk tied in very nicely with John Burke's findings, and the human body as a fractal enhanced Dana's presentation. His illustration of the body being a theme on five (as in four the same, one different, head, thumb and big toe) made for a nice comparison to crop circle quintuplets. Because John can see regional differences between formations in England, he believes this should also hold true for those that appear in the US.

There was quite an exploration of snails, the ladder component of the insectograms resembling snails' silvery trails, Silbury (and other monuments) being cov-

ered with snails and abandoned shells, and the folklore that if the snails were ever to leave East Kennett longbarrow, it would mean dire trouble for England. All this segued into John's geometrical and tangential drawings of the 1992 snail and other formations.

As to "personal language", John believes "communication is possible between the seen and the unseen, the painter and the paintbrush". Referring to "the agency" that creates crop circles, John does not believe it is the same one that is mutilating cows but was very interested in hearing John Burke expound on his and Levengood's theory the next day that there may indeed be a connection. (*Formations have very occasionally been found in the vicinity of cattle mutilations and grass samples taken from underneath dead animals have shown similar biological changes to that seen in circle-affected crop - but the link is as yet tenuous and circumstantial. Perhaps a similar energy is used but by different perpetrators to that of the pictograms - Ed*) He ended by giving voice to what many of us believe, that "there is an ancient science re-emerging, changing the way we look at reality."

Ardent cropies around the world will be pleased to hear that 'Glickers' was present in fine form and hooray for that! Michael Glickman is probably the best ambassador the community's got for the strictly positive and poetic point of view. (It was good that Martineau spoke between him and Burke, kind of like the sherbet served between courses in fine meals). Beginning by seducing us with a compelling story about someone disappearing in a crop circle, he had the audience in the palm of his hand right from the start. A BIG FAT LIE as it turned out (though some twenty people, including Stanley raised their hands as having believed it). A lesson in discernment, he wisely counselled, admitting his awareness of the effect a necktie and British accent has on Americans. He then went on to caution about those who would sell snake oil as fact for their own self-aggrandisement or to further their careers, and warned there were "no authorities, simply a bunch of people trying to find their own truth".

Michael gave elegant demonstrations of the mathematics of the golden section, the Fibonacci series and the significance of 7 and 11 as being telegraphed loudly in crop patterns. Those of us who have loved his presentations for years know the mathematics of circles foster Michael's (and therefore others) belief that there is "mind, intention, and will involved". Along more idiosyncratic findings, he presented the 1996 German formation that broke the rule of quintuplet geometry (all four satellites not the usual same diameter nor distance from the centre circle).

Always mindful of how I entered and moved through a formation, my crop circle research transitioned three years ago into working with a US 'Labyrinth' project so it was of great interest to hear Michael (and Martineau) discuss circles as labyrinths, "gateways to be walked for

our spiritual development".

Although Michael's partner Patricia Murray was not present physically, her presence was certainly felt and appreciated when he shared her discoveries of the 1993 Bythorn mandala being composed of 5 elongated hearts, and the totally new characteristics taken on by some formations when they were spun.

Michael also responded to the science previously presented. His statements, "I love John Burke but this ain't Mother Nature, Mother Nature isn't known for having a new idea in the mid 1970's", and, "they are not plasmas, they are wilful and may have a plasma content", I am sure are echoed by others. But despite these differences (which also surfaced later on the panel), the forum was kept quite gentlemanly. During his presentation Michael included the famous quote "God is a circle whose centre is everywhere and perimeter is nowhere". A stirring sentiment, but as a result of attending his lecture many of us are now devotees of the "Glickman Tao of Hubcaps". Once you start to notice these numerical variations, you'll never view hubcaps nor crop circles the same way again.

When Stanley Messenger attempted to begin his talk, he was abruptly silenced by the audience bursting into "Happy Birthday". What a pleasure to have been part of a group-sing for his 80th! A new decade certainly has not altered his approach though. His first words were to urge us to go beyond "how" crop circles happen, to "what" is happening. When that becomes the issue, "who" disappears.

We were also treated to Stanley's wisdom about circles being part of a process. He explained this now included those present and the energies they will bring to and take away from the phenomenon, but warned they were probably not going to be able to understand much about them. Despite having experienced the phenomenon first hand, he admitted STILL not knowing any better than the audience as to what is going on (other than crop circles being areas where people could come in and have their consciousness change, as he believes time is altered and accelerated within them). He reminded us to think about what part humans are supposed to be PLAYING in the phenomenon, rather than RECEIVING. Explaining he does not do research, but rather tries to relate the circles to a much wider perspective, he is therefore annoyed when names are assigned to the formations (agreed!). Stanley's conviction that the phenomenon will be "over, as I think they will be in a few years, when they have said everything they need to say", must have been startling for this audience of mostly novices to hear but also served to stimulate minds to go places they might not ordinarily go. Also not 100% enthusiastic about the science, I think a fair picture could be

derived from these statements. Stanley warned about "allowing ourselves to be unnecessarily preoccupied by the mechanism". "Most people in the civilised world should not be treating ordinary science as a religion. It is leading us more and more into reductionist thinking". "Each one of us has to enter into the freedom of our own spiritual reality. You must enter into authority of judgement as to what reality actually is". Stanley ended by reminding us to breathe, that if we get into trouble at this time of transformation, breathing is "infallible".

At the end of the day there was an opportunity to question the speakers in a panel setting. Here are a few select responses. Martineau proposed the possibility of new ley/energy lines being formed on Earth as a result of electronic pollution, thus causing a new psychic imprint. To the question could anyone on the panel have thought up crop circles, Ron replied that even the art students to whom he often lectures have been awed by the shapes, and Martineau stated he could not have invented what have been his teachers, as it was the circles which led him to sacred geometry. Burke spoke about phosphenes and being intrigued by reports of people from many cultures seeing the same shapes (which bear resemblance to crop patterns) while undergoing hallucinogenic experiences.

In conclusion I would like to add that after all these years of digesting all this information (my first crop circle dream was in 1973), I am still at the point I arrived at in 1993, which is, it matters not to me as to how, who or why (or even if they continue), but rather that the circles happened at all.

"We must be free and courageous enough to cast aside yesterday's most sacred belief for today's reception of a larger truth. Let the greatest truth we know always be the centre of our thought and aspirations" - Phyllos the Tibetan. LH

Special thanks to Sharon Steinhauser for being both hotelier and chauffeur to the speakers and myself, and for delivering us safely after driving unflappably during a moment of icy automotive treachery. (You can relax a little now, Ron.)



PHOTOS: (L to R) LEFT: John Martineau, Michael Glickman & Stanley Messenger. **BELOW:** John Burke, Lois Horowitz & Ron Russell.



with *Michael Glickman*

I am sure you, my dear readers, were as horrified as was I to see what passes as my new 'logo'.

Words cannot express my disgust and shame at this travesty. And this is supposed to be a wholesome family journal.

Let me start by making it absolutely clear that I had no part in it. My editor, in whom - hitherto - I have had every confidence, murmured something about a new masthead. There is little to be done at 8000 miles distance. I did what I have always done. I trusted him. There can be little doubt that the editorial team enjoyed great glee at their tasteless coup (yes - Ed). For my part, as the victim of their childish prank, my first thoughts are for you, my readers, and the offence you must have been caused, for I know you to be people of a radiant moral calibre.

But let us analyse this in more detail. After an hour or so, when my tears of rage had abated, I examined the 'picture' closely. It does not require great skill to see that the head - my head - has been crudely grafted onto the body of another. And a close study reveals that the body in question is that of a young woman. A necklace, a slim and hairless torso, the title strategically placed across the breasts. Now, I have always tried to keep in touch with my feminine side and anyone would be foolish to object to finding their head on a female body. However, I have been deeply shaken by the lack of respect the Management has shown for their columnist.

Should I open negotiations with the ghost-ship *SS Cerealogist* or should I continue awhile beneath my obscene new banner? Hold your breath and watch this space.

Once again the season has started at a breathtaking level. Last year, with the arrival of the Alton Barnes 'DNA' formation on the 17th June, a new record was established for the earliness of such a complex design. Who would have believed that, this year, a major

crop circle would arrive in mid-April? They are clearly trying to get our attention. As with last year, if only we could look and listen, we could understand that clear messages are being sent. The sophisticated Stonehenge snowflake, a formation of true finesse, cannot be read as anything but a strong confirmation of the Oliver's Castle events last year. No doubt some fool will emerge to characterise even this as a hoax.

As the season opens, it is appropriate, especially for newer recruits, to quote a couple of rules from *Cornography's Guidance for the Perplexed Croppie* which is now available in all good bookshops.

RULE 161. "THE WEB IS FULL OF GARBAGE"
Like all the rules in this excellent little book, they are occasionally wrong (ie. the exception of *Crop Circle Connector*). But only occasionally. It is safe to assume with the Internet that the photographs are good, the diagrams are inaccurate and the opinions veer from blah to outright lunacy. Read them if (a) you have no interest in the crop circles or (b) you have no life.

RULE 247. "ANYONE TELLING YOU A CIRCLE IS HOAXED IS A LIAR"

247 is broken, on average, only once or twice a year. Generally it is as good as gold. Experience has shown that the likelihood of hoax information being invented through wild opinion, distortion, fear or some other kind of psychopathology is now so overwhelming that RULE 247 has taken its place as the most useful of all. If when you are told a circle is hoaxed you immediately respond "Liar!" the party will usually slink away. He (for it is always he) normally has an awe-struck audience for his fantasies. Respond with vigour or ask questions. You will be helping us all.

A combination of 161 and 247 proves particularly useful.

It is with great pride, as an employee of the North American Office of **SC** International and Intergalactic, that I announce the 50th subscription to be collected here in the seven months since the US office was ceremonially declared open by Marlon Brando. That is about seven new readers per month in the US alone. Number 50 is Aaron Ford of San Juan Bautista, USA. I will be writing to him and it would be a wonderful gesture if every reader were to send him (via me) a congratulatory postcard welcoming him aboard! **MG**