A large, stylized logo consisting of the letters 'S' and 'C' intertwined. The 'S' is on the left and the 'C' is on the right, both rendered in a thick, white, outlined font. The background of the entire page is a dark, textured field with a grid of thin white lines, and a vertical line of circular crop circles runs down the center.

THE BIMONTHLY
JOURNAL OF
CROP CIRCLES
AND BEYOND

85

JULY/AUGUST 1999

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Formations
of 1999:
Full Listings

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Explained!

Rockefeller
Foundation
Funding
Story Breaks

The SC
Bonanza:
Full Report

1998
Pattern
Witnessed
Forming...?

SUMMER
SPECIAL!

"A childish belief in the marvelous turns a grown man into a coward, and the same belief consoles him in his darkest hours" ALEKSANDER HERZEN

Welcome to a bumper issue of SC. There's so much to report from this year's season so far - both in formations and news stories (see opposite) - it's almost impossible to know where to start and events will have overtaken this issue even as you read it. Nevertheless, we've made a dedicated attempt to cram in as much as we can and include lots of photographs of this year's stunning designs.

The Rockefeller story has certainly stirred up some unusually positive publicity in the media for the phenomenon but there's also some junk floating about out there. The music magazine Q, for instance, recently featured a few paragraphs about the famous 1990 Alton Barnes pictogram which graces the cover of the *Led Zeppelin* album *Remasters*, in response to a reader's question. Unfortunately, it gleaned its information from dodgy sources and reported that the pattern was well known at the time to have been made by a team from London and that the farmer and local villagers knew it to be a hoax because the same lot had openly made a practice formation a few days before! That there is not a word of truth to this (there was no practice formation, the farmer most certainly did not believe it to be a hoax, the villagers had no idea of what made it and no-one from London had anything to do with it) is no surprise, but what's of interest is that the usual hoax claimants, who almost certainly fed Q the story (probably via their web sites), are now back-dating their laughable claims to the beginning of the decade without even pretending to provide evidence, knowing they will be believed by a wilfully ignorant media anyway. SC communications to Q, naturally, provoked no response whatsoever...

Another media mention for the circles came unexpectedly from the BBC programme *Supernatural*, which explored the hidden senses of animals. Halfway through an episode came a sudden rather spectacular sequence of a crop circle being created by a whirling vortex, the narrator calmly explaining that crop circles are known to form from such natural processes! Of course, it went on to spoil things with the rubbish statement that anything more than a simple circle was man-made but the fact that the subject was broached so casually in the course of a standard documentary was something of a move forward, suggesting some kind of growing general acceptance at least. A similar mention of circles was then made in BBC 1's recent series of tornado-watching programmes *Twister Week*.

This will be our last issue before the total solar eclipse on August 11th. There has been a positive response to Geoff Stray's article last month about stone circles and eclipse prediction, and several eclipse-type crop formations have appeared in recent weeks (see cover and reports). It's fair to assume then, that a good number of English SC readers will be heading to the West Country to experience this event. With this in mind, those into more esoteric things should be aware that all sorts of groups, good and bad, will reportedly be trying to use this event and its supposed effect on the earth energy grid to their own advantage. The 'Illuminati' are using it to shut down our third eyes apparently, whilst many 'light groups' will be gathering to balance such black influences with positive vibes as part of 'Earth Healing Day'. Whatever you choose to do, and whatever may or may not transpire, be careful with the sun and those real eyes now...

ANDY THOMAS

SC

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SUBSCRIPTIONS: To subscribe to SC (six issues over twelve months), simply send a cheque to the address below for one of the following amounts:

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Front cover: Middle Wallop, Hampshire,
May 1999. Photograph by STEVE ALEXANDER

It can hardly have escaped many cropies' attention that the media has suddenly found a renewed interest in crop circles with the recent announcement of an apparent cash injection into circle research from the US organisation The Rockefeller Foundation.

Quite why it has taken so long for this story to break is a mystery - Colin Andrews first stated he was receiving this grant last year via the Internet, but only now has the PR campaign got into its full swing.

Several newspapers in the UK and US have run major features on the story, notably the *Daily Mail* and *Daily Express* over here. A regional ITV show devoted part of Central TV's *Central Weekend* to a discussion slot, featuring Andrews and assorted circle enthusiasts, and various TV and radio news bulletins ran items. The SC telephone line for one was suddenly alive with calls from TV production companies and radio stations wanting to make programmes about this new development, seeking contacts. The new media angle has been surprisingly positive towards the phenomenon, impressed that someone like Laurance Rockefeller can take crop circles seriously, leading hacks to wonder whether there is something in it after all. Only the *Daily Telegraph* ran a vitriolic column criticising the press for its sudden blind devotion. It had a point - bear in mind, only a few months or so ago many of the same newspapers and TV channels were running damning features on the veracity of the resurrected Doug Bower and his hoax claims.

So what is this all about and is it really the big story the media has been trumpeting? Well, yes and no. The truth is the Rockefeller Foundation has to give away a proportion of its profits each year under US tax laws to causes it considers worthy. This means anyone living in the US can apply for grants for projects requiring financial assistance. Colin Andrews simply asked for, and received, an unknown amount probably in the thousands rather than the unlikely millions being bandied about in the press, largely to help fund aerial photography ("staff" are supposedly being employed in this direction, working exclusively

for his CPR group). This should not be sniffed at - the grant is certainly an achievement and work had to be presented to prove the necessary dedication before money was given, so Colin should be congratulated there. However, the notion of gung-ho antics from Laurance Rockefeller flying over to the crop-fields of England with guns blazing, masses of technical equipment trailing and dollars flying from his back pocket is a fiction dreamt up by the media. The BBC's news website was partially responsible for this illusion, managing to put Rockefeller's name in place of Andrews's throughout their whole story. The reality is

that Mr Rockefeller is an 89-year old man with perhaps a modicum of interest in the circles. He is hardly likely to be leaping around the fields of Wiltshire himself. What is occurring is modest funding, not direct involvement.

Unbeknown to many, at least one other well-known research group has also received a substantial grant, this time for scientific purposes, but they are honouring the wishes of the Rockefeller Foundation by remaining anonymous. Contrary to the impression given by the marketing, the Foundation are not actually very happy at the public breaking of the news of CPR's funding. They would have preferred to keep their donation out of the headlines and were reportedly aghast at the publicity machine which went into action. They have subsequently expressed a reluctance to make any further gifts in this direction and some pretty firm results may have to be forthcoming for a change of mind.

This pressure for results is a worrying aspect and has already led to some alarming rhetoric to spice up what is, in truth, a fairly straightforward exercise. Though photography seems to be the main focus, talk of having "seven computers" and of using "global positioning technology via satellites to locate each formation" from Colin (quoted in the *Evening Standard*), for instance, is hardly revolutionary when one considers that computers aren't exactly an unusual acquisition these days and that global positioning devices can be picked

- NEWS -

GOOD 'FELLERS

The media has been full of crop circles in recent weeks, thanks to the recent announcement that the US-based Rockefeller Foundation is injecting a sum of money into research. But how much of this is fact or fiction and what are its implications? ANDY THOMAS investigates...

up fairly cheaply from any decent camping shop (SCR microlight pilot Michael Hubbard has been using a GPS device for years). The satellite technique can be no more accurate than a good bit of Ordnance Survey mapping anyway - and how often has precise locationing of this kind led to higher learning? Another concern is talk of hiring "private detectives". Though not directly stated, given previous escapades (Oliver's Castle video et al), these agents, if they exist, will presumably be used to scour croppie haunts in a bid to track down hoaxers - but is this really money well spent when similar efforts have failed to produce a tangible result and there's plenty of healthier pursuits deserving finance?

The race for more funding at the end of this run is surely going to be a concern for those who have it now and we can only hope the temptation to proclaim tentative and mundane results as something astonishing in the hope of inspiring more gold from the Rockefeller mines is resisted. If something of genuine interest is forthcoming, then great - but the signs are not as encouraging as they might be. One website story has already gone out that a winter survey by CPR of the East Field at Alton Barnes produced some interesting finds, clay pipes, archaeological curios, that sort of thing, which is worthy enough of note. However, the fanfared claim that a key found there exactly resembled the pictogram which graced the field in 1990 falls apart when one views what was actually dug up - a common or garden Yale front door key bearing almost zero resemblance to the formation and highly likely to have simply fallen from the handbag or pocket of one of the thousands of visitors to the field over the last decade. If this is the kind of exciting announcement we can expect, hopes for anything solid at the other end of this funding period are shaky, although the anonymous scientific grant is more promising.

Bear in mind that the Rockefeller Foundation also

sponsored an investigation by nine "prominent scientists" into UFOs last year, which concluded with the astonishing and hitherto undreamt of revelation that "there was something out there". Thousands of dollars well spent, obviously.

Sceptics will almost certainly use any lack of results at the end of the summer as proof that the man-made hypothesis reigns supreme. Some of the more extreme conspiracy theorists have even questioned the involvement (however distant) of a Rockefeller (a family much implicated in talk of the New World Order, the 'Illuminati', Trilateral Commission etc.) in circles research and suspect a deeper plot at work, a front designed to conveniently raise the profile of the circles before then demolishing them with a major debunk.

The good side to all this is the temporary elevation of the phenomenon in the public mind. The apparent involvement of an eminent US figure has certainly made some look at crop circles with a new eye and reporting has been remarkably free from the usual burden of overt Doug and Davery. We must use this to our advantage and spread what information we can through the newly opened channels while we can. As such, the Rockefeller funding should be given a cautious welcome and, despite the reservations, Colin and the anonymous scientific group should certainly be wished well in their endeavours in the hope they use the opportunities presented constructively and responsibly.

The media boom won't last, of course, Illuminati plots or not, so be prepared for the backlash. Word is already out on an alleged US-backed TV programme being made setting out to question the validity of Rockefeller money being used in this way and certainly questions will be asked by others. The public will forget all this fairly soon anyway - remember, today's news is tomorrow's fish and chip paper, so enjoy the brief kudos while it lasts. AT

Since our brief reports of the first 1999 formations last issue, there's been an explosion of new crop patterns out there. There seems to be a retrospective theme to many of the glyphs so far, almost a summing up of designs seen over the last decade (especially in the Alton Barnes event - see below), as if the phenomenon is preparing for some new stage in its evolution by taking stock of what has gone before... As ever, it has also produced some distinctively new developments to surprise us, however.

The usual mild warning: the information contained in these reports is based on what we have at the time, gleaned from several sources. The fine details of reality sometimes vary!

FORMATIONS

1999

Report #2

It's a busy summer for the circles, with some new design developments at work but also many old friends from the past coming back for a visit... ANDY THOMAS reports on the latest events up until the end of June...

BEDFORDSHIRE

Hexton, Nr Barton Le Clay: 2nd June saw the discovery in wheat of a small but neat dumbbell of a type seen many times before in which the larger 60' (approx) end is double ringed, the inner ring thick, the outer thin. A standing tuft marks a tight swirl in the smaller 30' end from which a curved path emanates, terminating in a small circle. The shaft connecting the two main components of the dumbbell is notably offset to one side. The night of its appearance was wet and windy. The Icknield Way path runs close by.

Thurleigh, Nr Bedford: On 26th May, a small single circle of around 15' was found in rape in an isolated field.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Amersham: Two 40' approx circles at opposite ends of the same field were found on 1st June near the roundabout junction of the A355 and the A416, crop unknown.

ESSEX

Galley Hill Wood, Nr Waltham Abbey: A vesica pisces of sorts, a large ring of 70' occulting a smaller one of 30', was found in rape on 14th May.

HAMPSHIRE

Henwood, Nr East Meon: An attractive 128' fan-blade pattern was discovered in rape on 27th April at this old circle haunt. Three standing semicircles with two uneven 'bites' taken out of each of their flat edges revolve around a standing ring while the crop swirls rather pleasingly around, although visitors report messier tendencies on closer inspection. Two unusual standing grapeshot are also included. (Photo page 12)

Over Wallop: First reported 3rd April, making it one of the first events of the year (although first dates in the season are always disputed), this

long, early 90's-style pictogram of rings, circles, paths and small claws was the first of a series of retro-designs for 1999, not to mention being the first to have a silly place name, of which there have been a few this summer! Aligned on the tramlines, this neat formation is unusual in that a very thin continuous path outlines the entire pattern, the emanating claws coming from this line, not the main body of flattened crop. (Photo page 10)

Owslebury: On 28th May, a 'triangular triplet' very similar, if differently proportioned, to one of this year's Sompting, West Sussex, formations (see Sussex report) was found in wheat. The central circle is 40' and the three surrounding satellites are 20'. Nearby lie two grapeshot (one a ring) and a curious 'scroll' design of a circle linked to a ring with a curved path, recalling the scrolls of Beckhampton in 1990.

Penton Grafton: A quite beautiful design of off-centre rings/crescents all contained within a circle arrived in barley on 30th May, strongly recalling the East Meon crescents of 1995 or Cissbury Ring, West Sussex from the same year. The lay was exquisite at the centre, an unfolding fan of stems flowing outwards and extremely neat throughout (no mean feat with barley which doesn't flatten easily). Not having visited this formation ourselves, we would like to be able to give you an idea of the size of this masterpiece, but unfortunately one of the best shots available has been digitally edited to remove the tramlines from the picture! This is a very bad trend to start and one which many would like to see stopped NOW (there has been quite some anger generated around this issue). Not only are the



tractor marks crucial scale markers in aerial photographs but they are sometimes used as part of the design - not evidence of hoaxing but simply artistic integrity; often patterns are placed in geometrical sympathy with the lines. When people take it upon themselves to start removing elements they would rather were not there, where will it end? How soon will it be before parts of the actual designs themselves start vanishing if, say, considered a man-made add-on? Unless obviously an artistic representation rather than a record, crop formations should be presented to the world raw, as they are, complete with their real environment, for people to interpret for themselves, before misunderstandings are transmitted around the world as erroneous truths.

Stephen's Castle Down, Nr Upham: A very unusual design was found in barley on 30th May, although it looked as if it had been present for a week or more. A kind of S-shape made from three grapeshot, a curved line and a triangle connected to another curve was mirrored with the same either side of a small central circle. Not far from the Owslebury formation, it shares a similar style of internal construction.

On 1st June, another glyph appeared nearby, of two linked rings with an internal pathway and small circles, all outlined with a thin wavy zigzag path.

Wallop: And this formation was a wallop, too. The first real stunner of the year was found in rape on 3rd May, a long line of circles and rings (ordered into nine major components) several hundred feet long, appearing to show the stages of an eclipse, once again - maybe - foreshadowing the events to come in August. (Photo on cover and page 10)

HERTFORDSHIRE

Enfield Chase, Nr Cockfosters: A 60' single circle in rape was found on 5th May, visible from the A111, not far from the M25.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Denton, Nr Northampton: A ringed circle touching the edge of a similar diameter circle with a pronounced swirl was discovered in rape on 19th May. Visible from the A248, the distinctive yellow flowers were already well on the wane when found.

OXFORDSHIRE

Kidlington: At the end of the main runway for Oxford

airport, a 120' approx double ringed circle with two grapeshot appeared on 13th June, crop unknown.

Toot Balden: At SC's favourite silly place name, a 60' circle was found in rape on 24th May but from its slightly dilapidated condition may have been present two or three weeks before.

In the field next door, a neater 100' ring in barley of 15' width with an emanating key was also spotted on 24th May. A design of two crescents in some kind of circular arrangement then appeared in the same field on 13th June.

SOMERSET

Compton Dando: On 23rd May, a circle containing two standing crescents, one inside the other, was reported in young wheat but may have been there for a few days. Around 80', the quality of the lay was remarkable for such immature growth.

Newton St Loe: Opposite the site of the pictogram which appeared on 11th April (details last issue), a mini-Julia Set of around 160' arrived next to the A4 on 13th June, a simpler but still impressive version of the Stonehenge fractal of 1996, minus the smaller outer circles. Created in young wheat, 17 circles form the spine of the pattern.

Tormarton: (Didn't there used to be a Yes album called this?) A 120' approx circle with two thin interlocking standing crescents contained within a standing ring was reported in rape on 9th May, not far from the M4 and Chipping Sodbury. A 10' grapeshot lay nearby. The general area has played host to formations before and a long barrow lies not far away.

SUSSEX

Lewes, East Sussex: At last the crop circles have returned to Sussex with something of their old verve (see Sompting reports), after two or three rather quiet years since the stunners of 1995, most revisiting old sites of former glories. The blobby 47' long dumbbell found here in barley on 20th June just off the Malling estate is the least impressive, however, the surrounding field criss-crossed with paths probably made by dogs and children, calling its origins into question.

Ovingdean, East Sussex: In the same field as circles from 1996, a small oval in wheat of around 15' with some scattered rough grapeshot and a rather stumpy cross 100' or so away was found next to St Dunstan's home for the blind on 19th June. Only a few hundred

feet from the sea, the lay is messy but the edges neat.

Sompting, West Sussex: In a major throwback to 1993, a gorgeous celtic cross design (four 50' circles and a ring around a 92' circle) was found here on 14th June in the same wheat field north of the A27 and not far from the same spot as the first, very similar-looking, celtic cross of that year (see SC 19 and the book *Fields of Mystery*). The major difference here is that the satellite circles are perched on the edge of the ring instead of having their centres on it and the overall design is about a third larger than its predecessor. Once again, the central circle occults a faint yellow line in the crop caused by an underground water pipe. The lay quality is very similar, neat if uncomplicated, and its familiarity felt like time-warping back six years. First found by the farmer on the 14th, he claims it grew the next night; from this it can be assumed that it started as a circle or a ringed circle and the satellites came after. Visible from the A27 at Lancing, the famous Knight's Templar church of St Mary's lies not far to the west. Two weeks later, a long messy path appeared adjoining the formation, cutting into its ring, looking like the crude efforts of local vandals.

While photographing the celtic cross from the air on 19th June, Michael Hubbard discovered another formation at Sompting, again back in a field which gave birth to a design in 1993. Further into the village, in the last field available before houses and sea take over, a 'triangular triplet', three satellites orbiting a central circle, lies in a barley field. The pattern is almost identical to one from 1993 which some SCR members believe appeared in connection to various psychic experiments (see past SCs and the book *Quest For Contact*) they were carrying out, except that the central circle is slightly fatter in proportion. As before, this field has no tractor lines (the original sowing tracks can just be made out faintly from the air) and no trails could be seen entering the formation which is virtually invisible from the ground.

The sudden reactivation of Sussex as a circle area supports predictions made last year based on Steve Page and Glen Broughton's recent work showing the connection between crop formations, geology and underground water. The water table has been very low in Sussex since 1995 and circles have been far fewer and simpler. Only last year did the water levels begin to substantially rise - and now more complex patterns seem to have revived again. (Photos page 15)

WILTSHIRE

All Cannings: 12th June, the same night two huge formations turned up at Alton Barnes (see below), a 'sunburst' motif of radiating standing triangles in a flattened circle was found at the foot of Clifford's Hill,

an Iron Age hillfort. The triangles are notably uneven in their width but the pattern remains attractive.

On 24th June, another old-style pictogram arrived in wheat, aligned on the tramlines. With a thick ring at either end, a celtic cross around a ring sits at the centre with two emanating paths leading to circles (one of them with a standing semi-circle) at their ends.

Allington Down: Squares have been rare in crop circles over the years, and whilst this design which appeared around 23rd June in wheat isn't quite a square, it seems to be a two-dimensional representation of a three-dimensional cube inside a ring, three adjoining parallelograms of straight flattened paths and standing diamonds creating a stark, eye-catching effect. With this and the hexagons at West Overton (see below), for all the old designs being portrayed this year, the phenomenon is forging ahead with new explorations too. (Photo page 9)

Alton Barnes: On 12th June a formation to whet the appetite of those who prefer the early 90's pictograms to the eclectic mix of today's styles appeared back in the East Field where all the fuss began big time nearly a decade ago. An enormous formation of over 1000' length which seems to be an amalgamation of every crop design from 1990-1992 appeared in barley close to the Knap Hill end of the field. Circles, rings, keys, claws, celtic crosses, insectogram 'antenna', 'ladders', rectangular boxes, arches... it's all here in one elongated chain with the tramlines as its spine in the old-fashioned style.

As if this were not enough in one night, further south in the same field, what can only be described as a 350' undulating serpent created with nine semicircular arcs and culminating in a lozenge shaped head also turned up on 12th June. This recalled the 1996 Barton Le Clay formation in its geometrical construction.

The lay of the crop was beautiful in both formations, albeit with different effects in each, swirls of barley flowing like water. (Photos page 12 & 13)

For those suspicious that the old-style pictogram seems a bit too knowingly retrospective and suspecting dodgy deeds, it's worth noting that the field was watched by various croppies (including two SCR members) until 2.30am and that the pictograms were spotted at first light - not much time in which to be so ambitious given the many hours of effort undertaken in past man-made demonstrations. The All Cannings formation also appeared the same night.

Avebury Trusloe/Beckhampton: An astonishing mandala appeared in young green barley on 23rd May, a massive circle of around 250' surrounded by 20 circles of around 12', not far from last year's triangle formation and nearby Windmill Hill. Inside is a standing area rather like a fried egg - a circle surrounded by a

large standing wavy outline, shot through with sperm-like tendrils, not unlike last year's Countesthorpe formation in Leicestershire. The whole design has a very organic, biological look to it, which some have likened to a virus - or a fertilised egg, although the sperm seem to be swimming in the wrong direction! The centres of the circles and the lay in general were very impressive. The farmer reportedly placed signs around the field advising visitors not to enter because of the presence of pesticides! Weather and visitors soon eroded the pattern to almost nothing, however. (Photo page 14)

In an adjacent field, a nicely swirled five-armed star design of radiating circles encompassed by a ring appeared in wheat around 20th June. (Photo page 9)

Barbury Castle: A stunning and very large motif was discovered in barley at this classic circle site of old on 31st May, not far from the site of the 1997 qabalah (or 'Tree of Life'), which, like this new event, appeared to contain ancient Hebrew-symbolism. An apparent representation of the Jewish Menorah, a supremely sacred symbol of the faith, a T-shape is made from 11 circles; four make up the 'stem' and seven going across the top are linked to the four by long curving paths while two shorter curves point downwards from the lowest circle, with a short straight tail between. Separate from this main pattern is a curious insect-like form of a double ringed circle with a stunted tail and pincers at either end. Some have described it as a 'scarab beetle' but this has been strenuously denied by those of Jewish backgrounds who maintain it has other meanings connected with Judaism and is not an insect. There's so much speculation, hot air and misplaced interpretation being blurred out all over the Internet about these symbols, we'll refrain from entering the fray for now, suffice to say that many believe they are highly significant and contain connections to various belief-systems and ancient cultures. Whatever, it is certainly one of the most ambitious crop formations of 1999 thus far. The presence of the number 11 being so conspicuous has excited some, as 11-fold geometry has never appeared before - the only number not to have been used explicitly by the phenomenon. Seven-fold geometry turned up last year for the first time so this may be a precursor to more overt 11-fold designs to come, perhaps completing the geometrical story told to us over the last 10 years. (Photo page 12)

Bishops Cannings: A simple but beautiful glyph of a circle eclipsed with a ring appeared in rape on 16th April, a small grapeshot placed neatly alongside. Just visible from the A361 outside Devizes, this stands opposite the site of the 1994 'scorpion'. The tramlines seem to have distorted one of the occulted edges of the flattened circle slightly, a common occurrence. Several 'eclipse' designs have graced us this summer, perhaps in a nod to the forthcoming event on August

11th. (Photo page 14)

Everleigh: Just outside Pewsey, a simple pattern of a ring with a small touching circle perched inside (or a large standing crescent if you prefer) was reported on 17th April in rape. (Photo page 11)

Marlborough: A small glyph looking rather like a squashed garden roller, two semicircles linked to a slanted 'F'-type claw, appeared in rape in the Poulton Farm area on 12th April.

Milk Hill: One of the very first English formations of 1999 arrived in rape on April 4th just one field along from the site of the famous 1997 fractal star, beneath the white horse carving. Setting a trend which has continued throughout several designs this summer, an astronomical theme is clearly present in this 600' line of five unconnected rings, circles and crescents, rather like a planetary alignment with an eclipse motif at the centre. The 85' approx central standing crescent, segmented in two, is itself superimposed with a larger, very thin and almost invisible ring, almost indistinguishable from the ground, being just two stems wide and far too thin to walk around. (Photo page 14)

A month later, on 2nd May, a very elaborate glyph appeared alongside in the same field. 14 circles revolve around a circle with 16 slightly unevenly placed emanating 'musical notes' or 6s, while a claw reaches out to a beautifully swirled centrally-tufted circle on one side and a circle and a curved path to a smaller centrally-tufted circle on the other. The radiating 'notes' bear a resemblance to an old Dogon tribe symbol, the 'Descent of the Nommos', representing the arrival of the ship they believe brought them to Earth from the Sirius star system, which the Dogons believe to be their original home, as did a similar-looking symbol found in a forest floor at Kingley Vale, West Sussex, in 1995. A little cluttered design-wise, but not unattractive. (Photo page 15)

Silbury Hill: Back in the same field which gave us the 'Charm Bracelet' or 'Dharmic Wheel' in 1992, what has been described as an Egyptian-looking symbol - the 'Wings of Horus' - appeared in wheat on 20th June. From a central circle two very long, stylised wing shapes emanate from one half and two smaller ones from the other. Even on the morning of its discovery, the crop was only very lightly brushed down and just a day or so later nearly all the crop had grown back up again, leaving not much to be looked at by people spotting the formation from the top of Silbury and heading down to see it. Interestingly, the 18th century historian William Stukeley once likened this Egyptian symbol (a serpent passing through a circle with feathered wings) to what he believed was the original layout to the stones of nearby Avebury. (Photo page 11)

West Overton: A quite staggering motif based on 10 hexagons linked with very thin paths and clusters of grapeshot with serrated edges arrived in wheat on 24th June, resembling something closely akin to the molecular structure of a crystal. Hexagons (six-sided shapes) are rare in crop circles - the first didn't appear until the Stonehenge snowflake of 1997 - and to see them used so overtly creates a very striking image, the apparent meaning of which will doubtless be much contemplated. If 'folded up' into a three-dimensional object, this design produces an octahedron.

Woodborough Hill: A bizarre circle with six uneven radiating standing arms inside was spotted in rape on 30th April, near Alton Barnes. It has been described as a kind of 'Maltese Cross' - quite why is a mystery as it resembles nothing of the sort. An abstract skull and crossbones motif would be more accurate.

YORKSHIRE

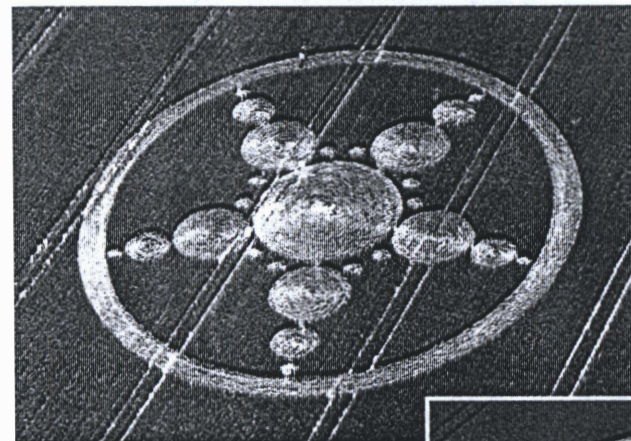
Dewsbury: Just off junction 40 of the M1 in North

Yorkshire, a circle with a wide ring was seen on 8th June, probably in wheat, facing the motorway. By the condition of the crop, it probably formed a week or so earlier.

Riccall: The most elaborate design yet seen in West Yorkshire, more reminiscent of Wiltshire boldness, was discovered in wheat on 22nd June at the Escrick Park Estate. In a similar touch to the Etchilhampton 1997 motif, a square standing grid of small circles sits inside a ring, with the apparent figures 8 and 0 making up part of the pattern. These figures will certainly stir speculation as to their meaning. Two standing circles sit in one side of the flattened ring.

The second half of the 1999 season will be recorded next issue. AT

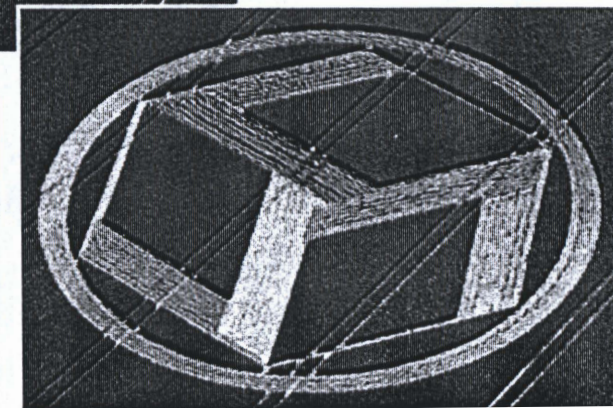
Thanks to: Steve Alexander, Kevin Constant, Crop Circle Connector and its contacts, Karen Douglas, Michael Glickman, Sam Goodwin, Andrew Mackie, Lucy Pringle, Mike Rogers & Richard Salter.

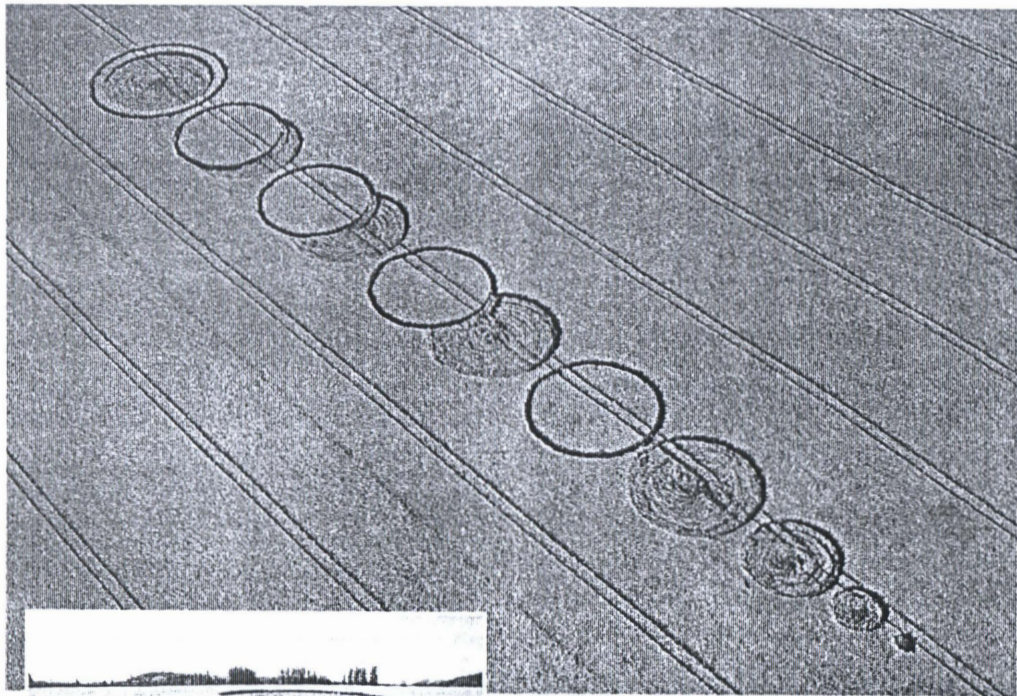


LEFT: Avebury Trusloe/Beckhampton, Wiltshire, 20th June. This is beautiful, even if some have dubbed it the 'Michelin Man'... (Brief report page 9) Photo: LUCY PRINGLE

BELOW LEFT: Isted Rise, Gravesend, Kent, 11th April. (Brief report last issue) Photo: ANDREW KING

BELOW RIGHT: Allington Down, Wiltshire, 23rd June. A two-dimensional representation of a three-dimensional cube? Photo: LUCY PRINGLE



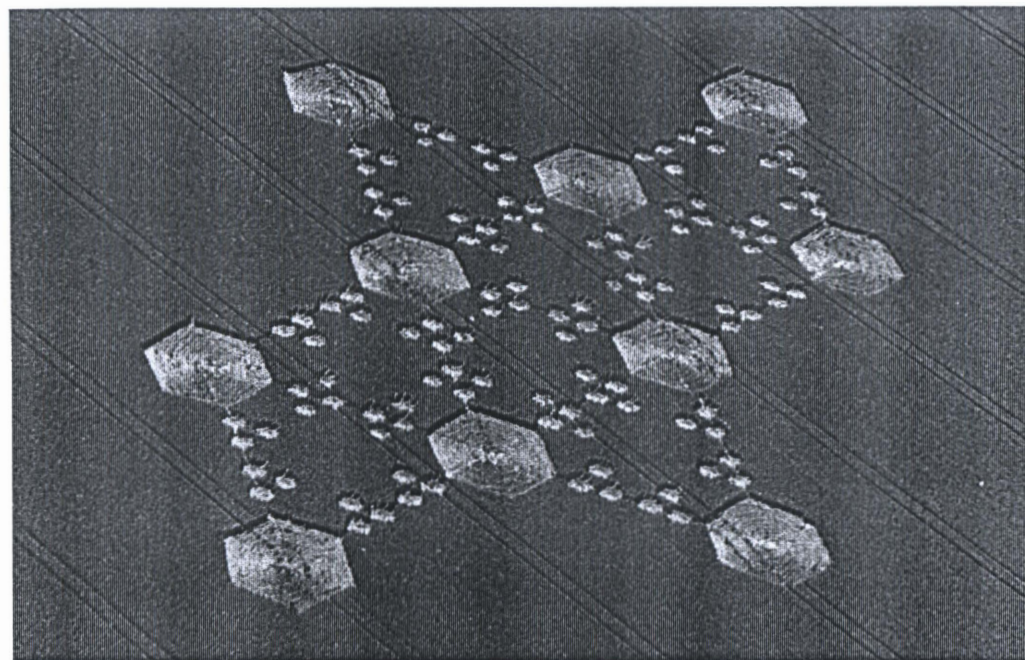
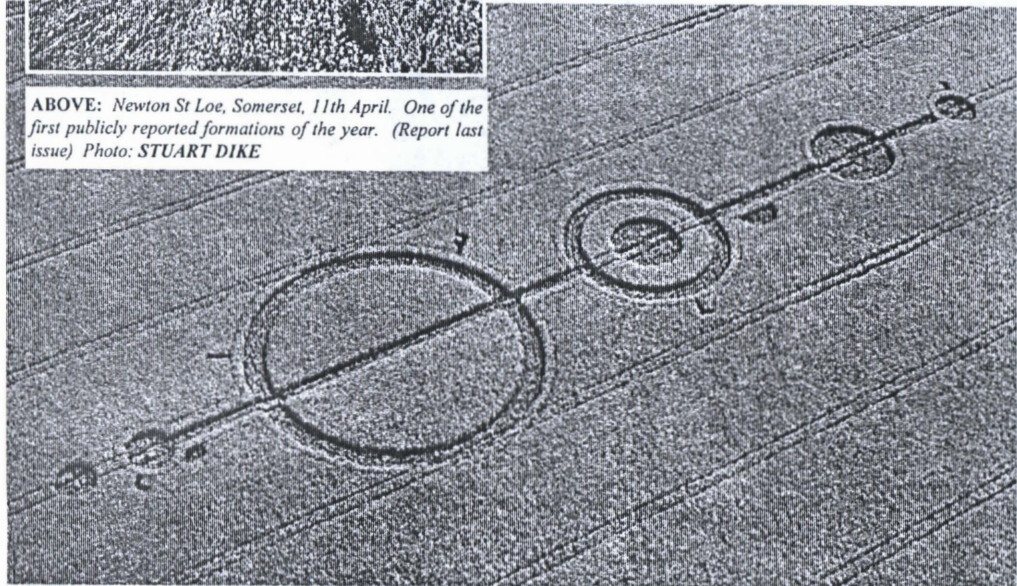


ABOVE: Wallop, Hampshire, 3rd May. *If this doesn't signify an eclipse then there's no hope of ever understanding these things!* (Report page 6) Photo: **STEVE ALEXANDER**

BELOW: Over Wallop, Hampshire, 3rd April. Note the very thin outline which surrounds the whole pattern. (Report page 5) Photo: **STEVE ALEXANDER**



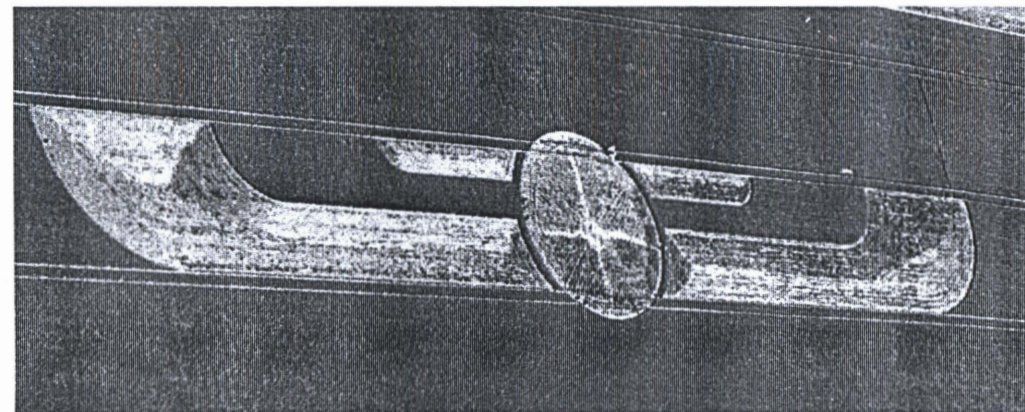
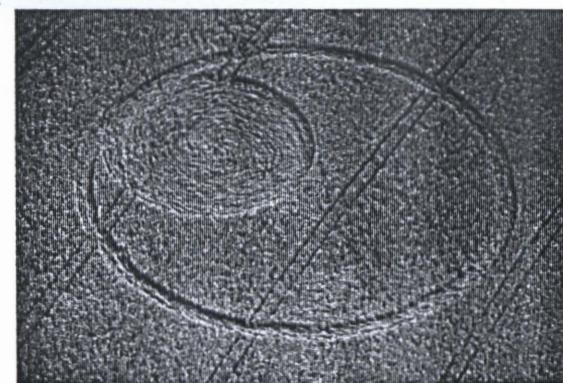
ABOVE: Newton St Loe, Somerset, 11th April. *One of the first publicly reported formations of the year.* (Report last issue) Photo: **STUART DIKE**

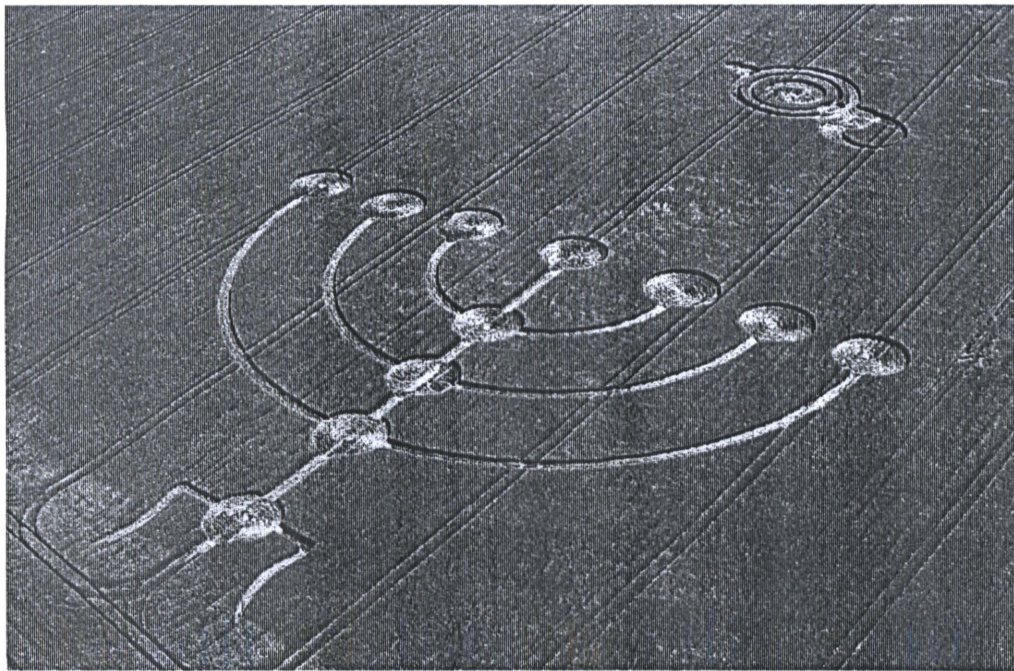


ABOVE: West Overton, Wiltshire, 24th June. *A striking image and a rare use of hexagons - the molecular structure of a crystal or an unfolded octahedron?* (Report page 9) Photo: **LUCY PRINGLE**

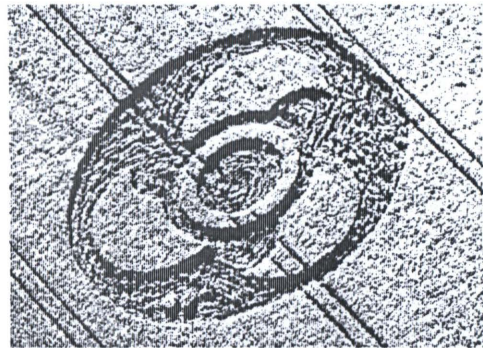
RIGHT: Everleigh, Wiltshire, 17th April. (Brief report page 8) Photo: **STEVE ALEXANDER**

BELOW: Silbury Hill, Wiltshire, 20th June. *Allegedly a representation of the ancient Egyptian 'Wings of Horus' symbol.* (Report page 8) Photo: **LUCY PRINGLE**



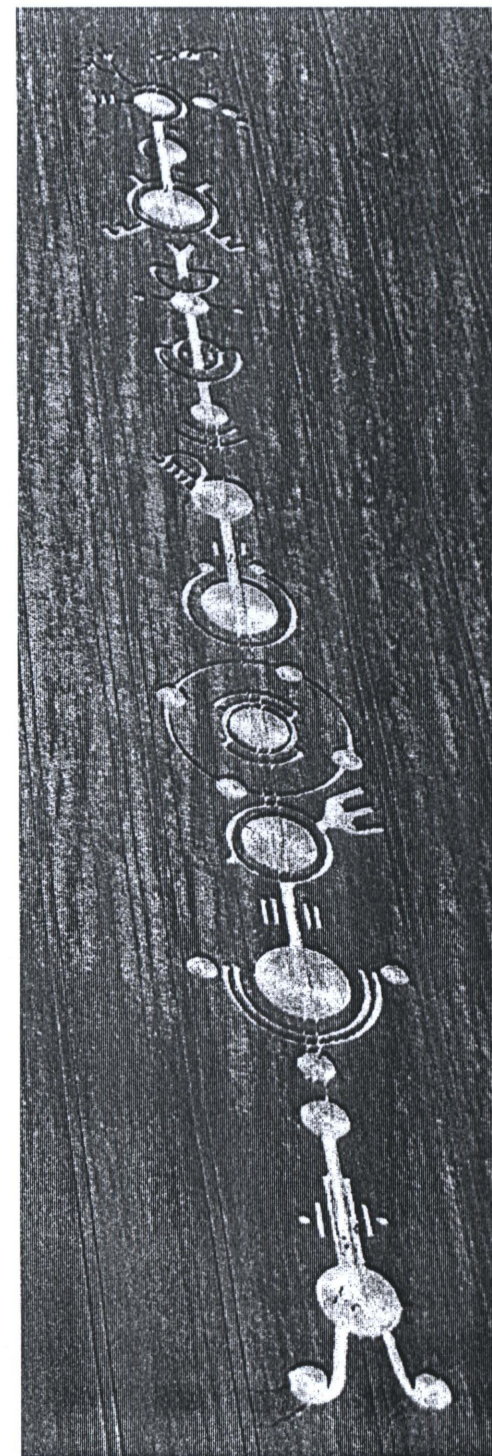
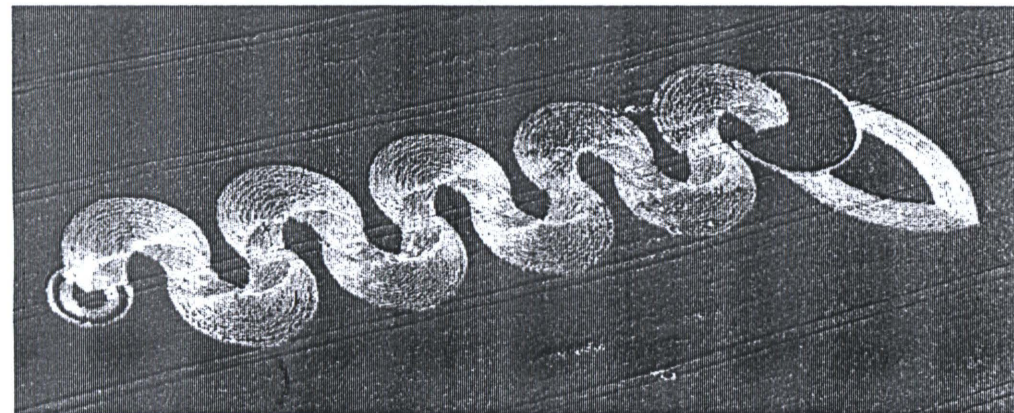


ABOVE: *Barbury Castle, Wiltshire, 31st May. 'The Menorah', an ancient Hebrew symbol of strong significance to Judaism, and the first formation to utilise 11 components. (Report page 8) Photo: STEVE ALEXANDER*



LEFT: *Henwood, East Meon, Hampshire, 27th May. The 'fan blades'. (Report page 5) Photo: LUCY PRINGLE*

BELOW: *Alton Barnes, Wiltshire, 12th June. This serpent design arrived in the same field on the same night as the long pictogram opposite. Photo: LUCY PRINGLE*

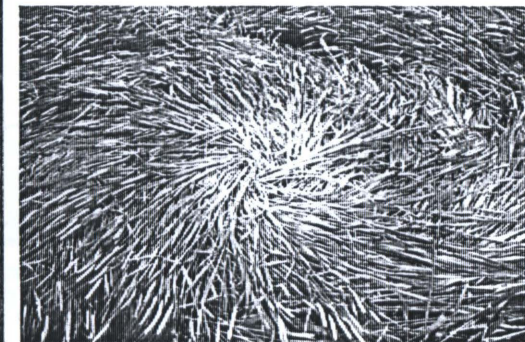


FORMATIONS
1 9 9 9
Gallery # 1

Full colour original copies of Steve Alexander and Lucy Pringle's photos can be obtained from:

LUCY: 5 Town Lane, Sheet, Petersfield, Hants, GU32 2AF, tel/fax 01730 263454
 e-mail: LucyPringle@compuserve.com

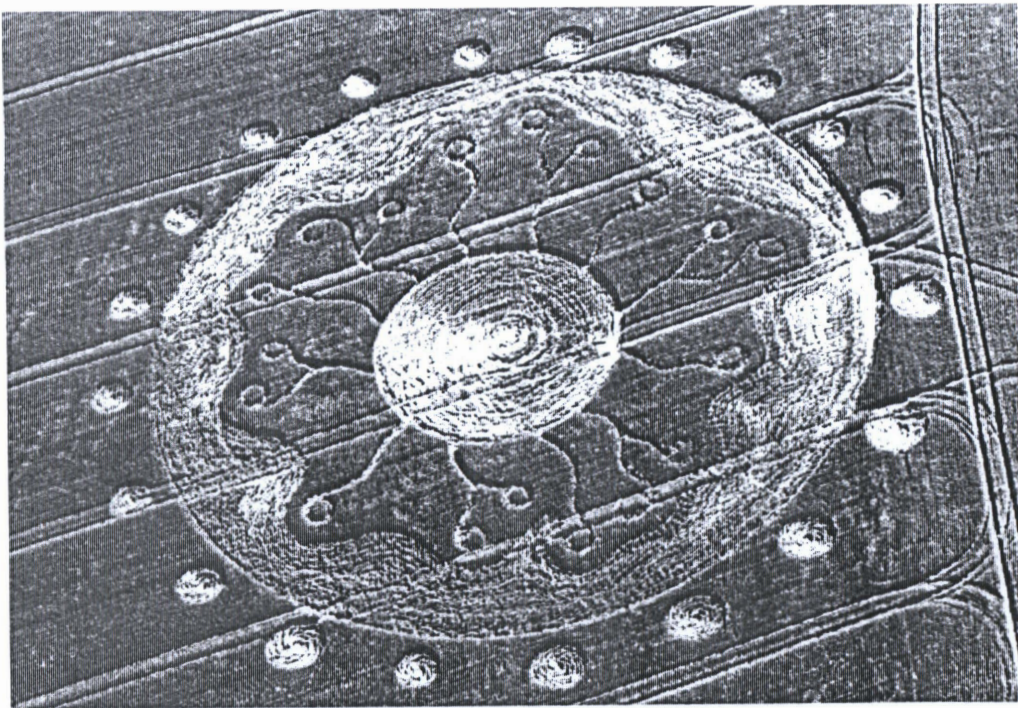
STEVE: 27 St Francis Road, Gosport, Hants, PO12 2UG, tel/fax 01705 352867



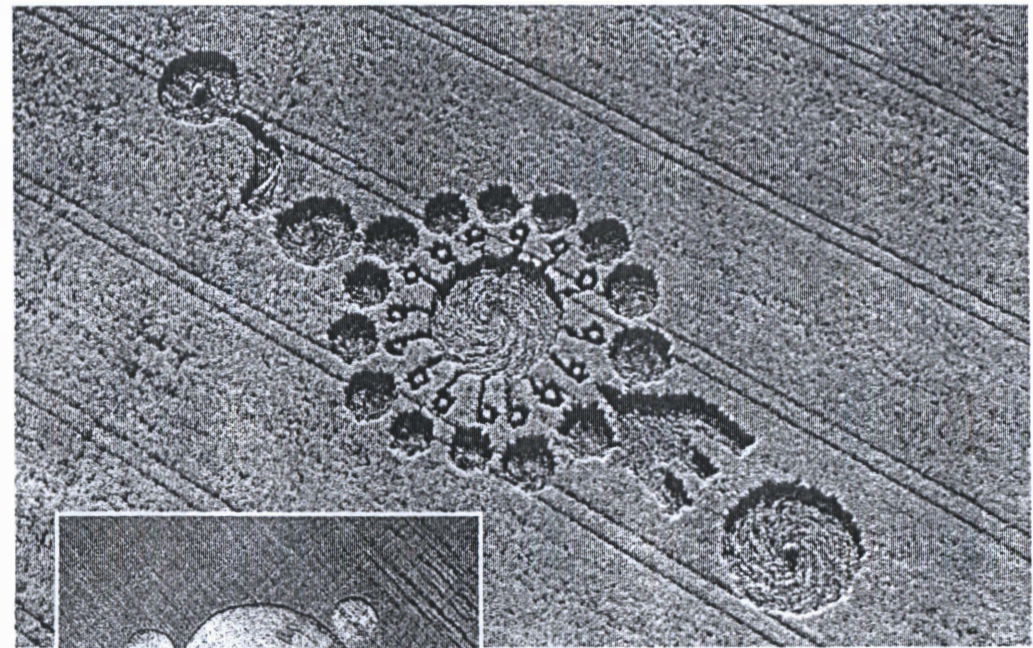
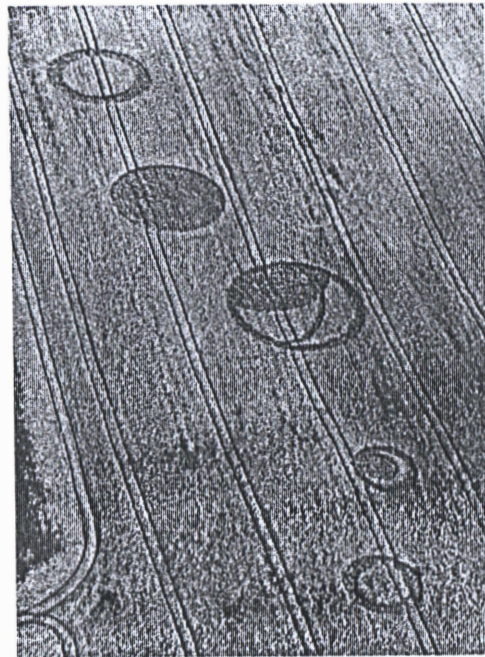
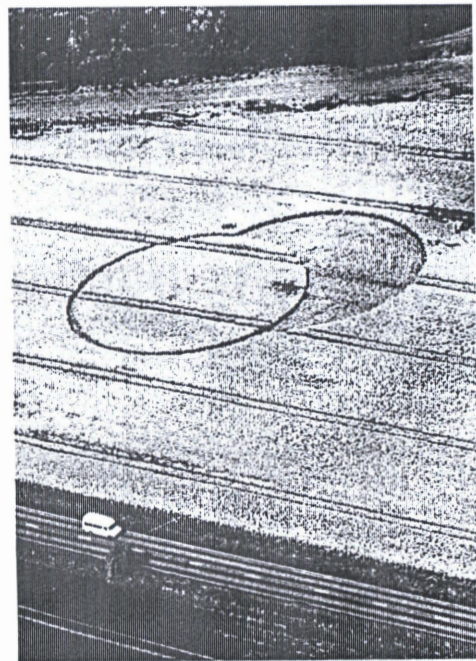
LEFT: *Alton Barnes, Wiltshire, 12th June. An astonishing string of symbolism first seen between the years 1990-92 all in one. See how many recognisable old formations you can spot here. This is over 1000' long! (Report page 7) Photo: LUCY PRINGLE*

TOP RIGHT: *One of the centres from the Alton Barnes pictogram. Photo: RICHARD SALTER*

LOWER RIGHT: *Pole shot taken over the Alton Barnes formations, giving some idea of its scale. Photo: RICHARD SALTER*



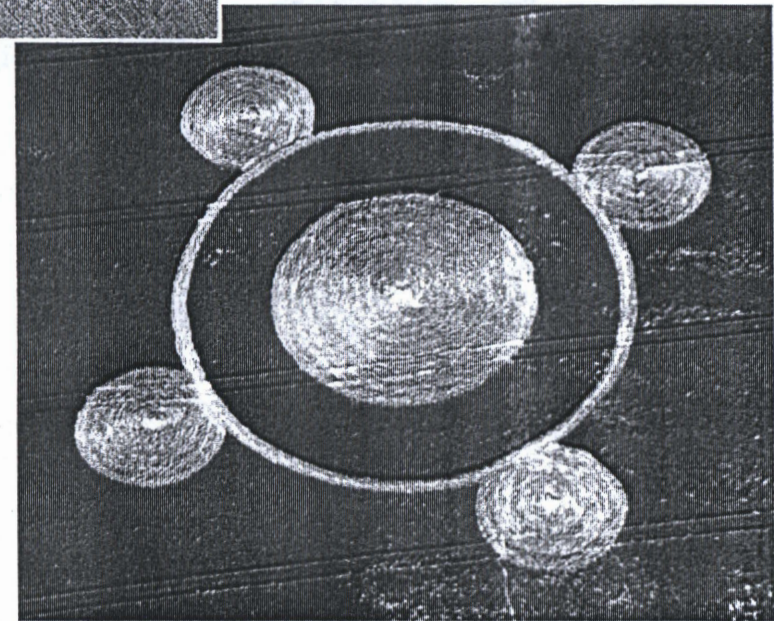
ABOVE: Avebury Trusloe/Beckhampton, Wiltshire, 23rd May. Whatever this means, it certainly seems to have a biological feel to it. (Report page 7) Photo: LUCY PRINGLE BELOW LEFT: Bishops Cannings, Wiltshire, 16th April. Another eclipse? (Report page 8) Photo: LUCY PRINGLE BELOW RIGHT: Milk Hill, Wiltshire, 4th April. (Report page 8) Photo: FIONA BARLTROP



ABOVE: Milk Hill, Wiltshire, 2nd May. This elaborate pictogram arrived in the same field as the other Milk Hill formation on page 14 opposite. (Report page 8) Photo: STEVE ALEXANDER

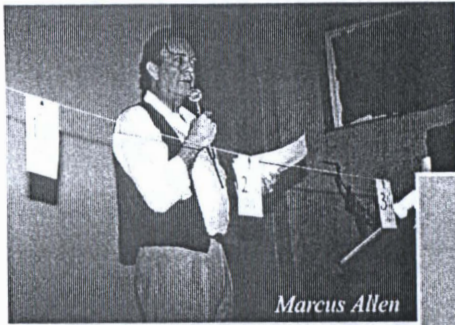
MIDDLE ABOVE: Sompting, West Sussex, first seen 19th June. This is almost identical to a design which appeared in the same field in 1993. Note the absence of full tractor lines in the field - and there are no trails entering the pattern. (Report page 7) Photo: DAVID RUSSELL

RIGHT: Sompting, West Sussex, 14th June. Again, back in the same field (different to the above) of a very similar design from 1993. The pale line across the field marks the run of an underground water pipe which has discoloured the crop. (Report page 7) Photo: MICHAEL HUBBARD



THE SC BONANZA III

Some images from SC's recent live event. Photos by ANDY THOMAS. Video pics by RICHARD SALTER



Marcus Allen



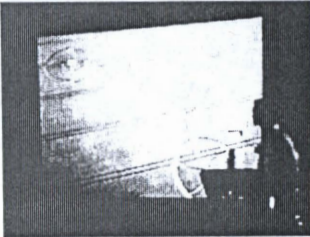
Barry Reynolds



Mae-Wan Ho



Andy Thomas



Jack Sullivan



John Michell



Mary Hykel Hunt



Jude Stammers

After the usual long months of planning which go into any event, the *SC Bonanza III* took place successfully on 8th May in the main hall of Southern Circular Research's headquarters at the Burgess Hill Scout Centre, West Sussex, and proved to be a hugely enjoyable and informative day for everyone who attended.

Coming on to *Ride of the Valkyries*, Barry Reynolds and Andy Thomas took the stage for the introductory hour, explaining the focus of the day to any newcomers. As the inclusion of Dr Mae-Wan Ho on genetically modified foods had attracted local press attention, some had come along specifically to hear her

and were intrigued at the other aspects of the conference. After a potted history of the crop circles, an insightful analysis of circular statistics from the last three years and a round up of the first 1999 formations, we were introduced to Marcus Allen, UK editor of *Nexus* magazine.

In a diversion from his more recent presentations on NASA cover-ups, Marcus delivered a quietly hard-hitting discourse on the implications of 'forbidden' sciences, such as suppressed archaeology which shows Mankind to be much older than the scientific establishment allows, stressing the importance of collective action in spreading such knowledge, disempowering those perceived as 'controlling' us. They only control us if we allow them to. Said by some to be the best presentation Marcus has yet given, a dash of theatrical flair was added as he strung a ribbon representing history across the stage.

After coffee, the hall reconvened for Mary Hykel-Hunt, an experienced student of the power of sacred labyrinths and associated symbolism. Mary proved a hit with the audience as she led them through a practical demonstration of how to construct a labyrinth. After the idea of actually building one full scale on the floor was jettisoned (apparently considered a few weeks previously), paper and pens in the auditorium provided the medium, with only a few minor disagreements breaking out as friends argued over which of them was going wrong.

Andy Thomas's half-hour slot, traditionally given

over to some kind of entertainment (remember the quiz shows?), he felt was better spent this year devoted to the recent work of astronomer Jack Sullivan (which *SC* readers will be familiar with), who joined him onstage to outline his extraordinary findings about the astronomical significance of some well-known crop formations. Since his last article, he had made another discovery about a planetary conjunction depicted in yet another 'asteroid' glyph, which he premiered here (to be featured in a forthcoming *SC* article, apparently). For a first-ever live 'performance' Jack did extraordinarily well

and his discoveries never fail to shock and excite, as attenders' comments throughout the day proved. His work deserves more coverage than it is currently receiving.

Lunch, courtesy of the 1st Burgess Hill Scout Group was then served and gratefully received (after two previous Bonanzas of mad food-panic, we decided to farm the job out this year - Ed), and after a brief mini-crisis in the 'green room' as a box of slides reportedly fell out into a pile and had to be re-sorted from scratch, the much-revered John Michell arrived for a relatively rare public appearance.

John, veteran of many influential 'New Age' books, editor of the classic early issues of *The Cerealogist* and master of geometry had the air of a returning headmaster administering his thoughts on crop circles to lost sheep. For many, to whom John is a legendary figure, this was their first chance to see him in the flesh and they were not disappointed as he expressed his view that, simply from a geometrical construction perspective, many of the huge pictograms could not possibly be man-made in the circumstances claimed. He expressed quiet dismay at some of his contemporaries who had fallen by the sceptic wayside. His dazzling finale paintings capturing the beauty of true sacred geometry were breathtaking.

Jude Stammers, known to many as the co-founder of The Coach House, a workshop and meditation centre at the West Kennett end of Avebury's stone avenue, then shared with us, in a warm and

- REPORTS -

THE SC BONANZA III

On Saturday 8th May, *SC* presented its third event of live presentations and entertainments and a good time was had by all. JOHN ROLLINGER reports on another successful event...

friendly way, her experiences with sacred sites around the world, especially those of Egypt. To Jude, they all carry the same resonance, an important message from history, and flow with energies that sometimes need re-balancing, a task she has set herself with friends and colleagues. Many agreed with her that this is a crucial time for Earth healing.

After tea, old hands knew what to expect with the arrival of Stan Reynolds, while others were pleasantly surprised to find themselves being treated to the traditional *Bonanza* magic show - or "warm-up act" for the final speaker, as Stan put it. Several members of the audience then found themselves press-ganged into taking part in elaborate and very entertaining tricks with cards and toy animals, far too involved to explain here.

And so to the climax of the day, Dr Mae-Wan Ho, a leading figure in the public fight against the spread of poorly tested gene technology being used in our crops. A small, at first unthreatening figure, Mae-Wan proved to be a very powerful and charismatic speaker, unafraid to speak her mind openly. The new gene technology has the potential to detrimentally affect or even destroy all life on Earth and irresponsible politicians and companies are jeopardising us with their narrow-minded actions. Happily, for those concerned they might leave the *Bonanza* fraught and depressed by the heavy implications of the subject, Mae-Wan's message was not one of gloom but of hope and optimism. People power does work, she said, because at the end of the day the world is run by market forces. The recent consumer backlash against GM food in England and the subsequent back-down from many leading chain stores over their policy proves that change CAN be forced if enough people are made aware of the issues. The GM problem is greater in other countries like the USA, where gene technology has been more widely accepted without public consultation, but feeling against it is growing. Mae-Wan is confident that it is NOT a given that GM foods will take over in the end - that is the impression we are supposed to receive, as a measure to disempower us by making us feel helpless. Public opinion CAN transform global issues and we should never forget this - taking us back to Marcus Allen's earlier presentation.

After a rigorous and uplifting question and discussion session with Mae-Wan, the day ended with the rather less important business of drawing the raffle and people went away buoyed-up and confident, happier for having heard the day's

presentations, which turned out to be a good mix of speakers and subjects, complimenting and reflecting each other without repetition. JR

SOME TYPICAL COMMENTS ABOUT SCB '99...

The comments and communications SCR have received on the *Bonanza* have been extremely positive, many saying it was the best so far...

"A big thank you to all the Team for giving us such a stimulating, joyful and nourishing day on Saturday..."
Pamela Rihal

"Thank you for the excellent SC Bonanza day last Saturday. It was a most stimulating and interesting day and a very worthwhile introduction to a variety of fascinating topics. I do congratulate you for your excellent organisation..."
Fiona Barltrop

"Just to say how very much we enjoyed the Bonanza... A very good selection of speakers - all interesting information, excellent food and intriguing entertainment from Stan Reynolds"
Sylvia Clarke

NOTE FROM ANDY THOMAS: Thanks to everyone who expressed their gratitude. Thanks are also due to those who helped in any way towards the event, especially Jean and Stan Reynolds for running the box office, Barry, who assisted me with organisation, Martin Noakes for maintaining the sound and lighting, Di Brown and Jason Porthouse for sorting out the stalls, and to everyone else who made major contributions; Linda Reynolds, Kaye Thomas, Sloane Noakes, Richard Salter, John Bowen, the ladies from the Scouts, all our excellent speakers, the stallholders who gave everyone something to look at (and buy) in the breaks and, of course, to all those who came along and watched. Oh, and apologies to the owners and clientele of the Indian restaurant which had to put up with a rowdy SC team descending and subsequently emptying the place. Cheers. AT

SCB '99 - THE VIDEO:

A video of the SC Bonanza III, taken by Richard Salter, is available as a set of two 240 minute video cassettes for just £16.00. Tapes cannot be ordered separately. If you want copies, please send cheques, payable to SCR, to the editorial address on page 2. Please allow TWO MONTHS for delivery.

I recently went to Vermont to give a lecture and afterwards I was approached by Naisha Ahsian who had been in England for the 1998 season.

She was nervous about telling her story. She had been delighted by her visit to the crop circles but dismayed by the negativity she encountered around the subject. Only after my talk, during which the words "hoax", "fake" and "paranoia" were scrupulously avoided, did she feel able to talk to me.

She had spent one night crop-watching with her friend Lili Ruane on Knapp Hill, Wiltshire, and made what I feel are significant observations. At about 12.30am on 8th August 1998 they witnessed light

activity over the Tawsmead Copse field. Of course, the field lies just over the Alton Barnes-Pewsey Road and their immediate thought was that these lights were vehicles. However, there were no red tail-lights and, in addition, they were behaving in a most unvehicular way. There were two separate sightings.

On the first occasion, there were two sets of white luminosities. Their rough assessment was that these were about four times larger than car headlights. One set of three luminosities did an anticlockwise and rather slow and deliberate procession around the field. There was a second set which - at first - seemed to be at the top of the field near the trees. This distance would have meant that they were much larger than the first group. However, after some consideration, Naisha decided that the second set was higher up, not further away. That is, they were the same size as the first set of three but above them. This group of luminosities was rotating in a rather tight ring and seemed to be alternately visible. While only two could be seen at one time they both felt that there were more than two lights circling.

An hour later, Naisha was alone, Lili having returned to the car to get warm. Again she saw two sets of three luminosities circling in a very controlled manner. One team of three started at the bottom of the field and, anticlockwise again, circled up to what might be called the twelve o'clock position. The other three started at the top and, still anticlockwise, described the left hand

part of a circle as they descended. Both teams then blinked out.

Notably, during this second sighting a group of smaller red luminosities appeared at about the nine o'clock position. They were off to the side of the main area of activity and visible for a very short time.

The next morning, 9th August, the Tawsmead Copse seven-sided formation was there directly below the area of the lights' activity.

Neither of these people had a specific involvement in the circles though they had both seen pictures of them. They were in England with Power Places Tours. They had not

seen the video footage of the Oliver's Castle formation appearing nor had they heard anything about it. They were under the impression at that time that a 'sighting' would involve UFOs.

Afterwards when Naisha saw the Oliver's Castle footage she wept. She feels her life was changed by what she witnessed at Tawsmead Copse.

The scientific method is, in my view, both flawed and overrated and has supported many grave errors. However we might on this occasion call on it for support. One of the keystones of the scientific method is replicability, preferably to order and preferably under laboratory conditions. What we have here (and what many of us have anticipated for some time) is the first repetition of the characteristics of a disputed event. This is going to happen again and it will be scientifically interesting to see how many further repeats will be required to produce apologies. MG

- REPORTS -

LIGHTS OVER TAWSMEAD

Last season's seven-sided formation at Tawsmead Copse impressed many. Now two ladies have come forward, who, it appears, may have witnessed its creation under aerial lights. MICHAEL GLICKMAN tells their story...

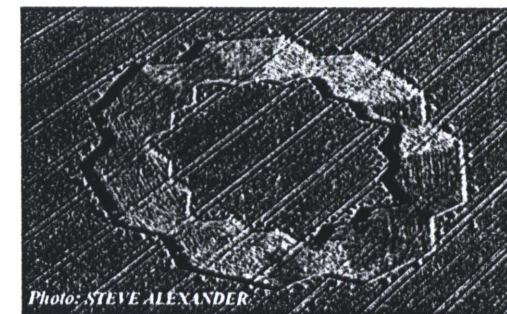


Photo: STEVE ALEXANDER

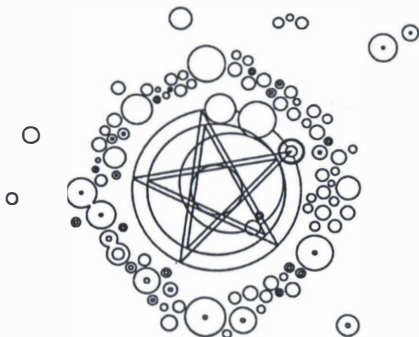
LETTERS

KEY TO A PUZZLE

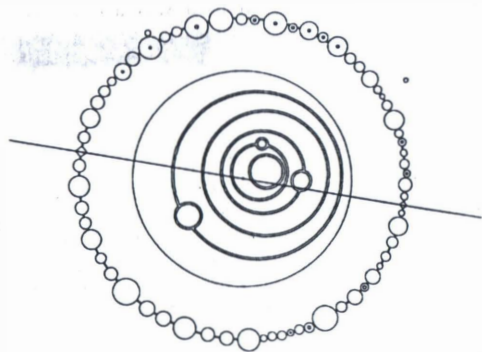
With pleasure I read Jack Sullivan's last article (SC 84), for he came to the same conclusions as me three years ago. I noticed that the Longwood Warren formation of 26th June 1995 contained two small squares on the outer ring and that a line drawn between them exactly crossed the geometrical centre of that formation (before you look out for the second square, it might be just a square-like 'circle' which got distorted by the tractor's wheel track, but the 'asteroid belt' definitely contains 65 small circles, including the two squares).

Furthermore, the Bishops Sutton formation of 20th June 1995 contained a ring with approximately the same diameter as 'Earth's orbit' in the Longwood Warren formation. This ring in relation to the smaller ring of Bishop Sutton and its central circle allowed the use of pentagonal geometry to describe size and position of all these components. It seemed appropriate to me to locate one tip of the pentagram on the centre of the only ringed circle in that formation. If one superimposes one formation on the other (they are drawn in the same scale) so that the two rings with the same diameter eclipse each other, and put the pentagram's tip/the centre of the ringed circle on the line drawn between the two small squares, then the 'empty orbit' is filled with Earth and its orbiting moon. Also there are two objects in the orbits of Venus and Earth. I could not figure out if this was something relevant and decided not to ask anyone to check out if they could come to the same solution for 'Earth's orbit' (I only sent Michael Glickman a copy of it). Now Jack has come to the same result - maybe he is able to explain all the rest indicated in these two formations?

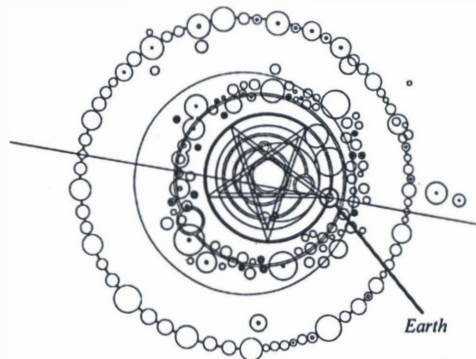
Wolfgang Schindler, Hamburg, Germany



Bishops Sutton, shown with pentagonal geometry.



Longwood Warren, showing centre line (not to scale with Bishops Sutton diagram).



Both formations, this time shown to scale, superimposed together - this positions the Earth exactly where Jack Sullivan's astronomical observations place it, predicting a conjunction which occurred on 16th January 1998 - the next nearest match is 6th April 2004 (see SC 84). Diagrams: WOLFGANG SCHINDLER

BRIGHTON ROCK

At long last, the first grass formation of the year has appeared... well not quite. This strange pattern (see diagram) which un-mysteriously appeared is quite remarkable in many ways, and although its outline is visible in the grass, it is no crop formation.

The triangular pattern was constructed by the removal of sods of turf, cut from the grass in Stanmer Park, East Sussex, as part of the 1999 Brighton Fringe Festival. The design was subject to an artistic performance called *Dark Matter* which took place on 13th-16th May.

Dark Matter was, as an accompanying leaflet states, 'An alchemical exploration of the invisible universe; a visionary journey into the nature of substance, the substance of nature'. The performance which took place in the 'elemental temple' involved the use of fire, water, sound, light, pyrotechnics, video and

performance. The design itself was adorned with various wooden sculptures and bizarre structures. In the spaces where the turf had been removed was scattered a white chalky powder and in the centre had been a shallow pond.

So if it's not a crop formation, why is it so important?

Firstly, its design is very crop formation-like and I would guess that many readers will have jumped with excitement as soon as their eyes saw the shadow diagram. Secondly, although the removed turves were replaced they have since withered; the design might therefore remain visible in following years. When observed from the air it is set to confuse, thus its publication and explanation will prevent any false alarms. At present a pilot in a light aeroplane could easily confuse this design as something quite genuine.

Finally I must add that while examining the pattern, I couldn't help but suspect its designers had been up to something rather more suspicious on the odd occasion!



Sam Goodwin, Newhaven, East Sussex

MARREE ME

In relation to your article on the Marree Man (two mile-long human figure found etched into the Adelaide desert last year - see SC 83), I thought you might be interested in this Landsat satellite image, taken from 705km up. It has only recently become publicly available and I cannot find it published anywhere.



Especially as a photographic original, it is a striking image. It is available from any Landsat distributor world-wide, or, in particular, from:

Australian Centre For Remote Sensing (ACRES), AUSLIC, Dunlop Crt., Bruce, ACT 2617, Australia. (The ACRES "Work Order" number for this particular image

is: 31 1971.)

Or from: Image Data Section, Mapland, Department of Environment, 300 Richmond Rd, Netley, SA 5037, Australia. (The same ACRES "Work Order" number would apply).

I Parker, Kensington, Australia

Interestingly, the official caption which accompanies this picture claims it proves the Marree Man was made over a period of time because the headband and genitals are not visible in this image, the assumption being they were not completed when the satellite flew overhead. However, closer scrutiny (which won't show in our reproduction here) reveals that these components ARE visible. As they were created with thinner lines than the main outline, one wouldn't expect them to be visible at such an altitude. Again, it's interesting to see how keen the Australian authorities are to write this off as something mundane - Ed.

GENETICALLY MODIFIED CIRCLES

Following the article by Sue Livingston in SC 76/77 and the current public and my own personal outcry concerning genetically modified crops, perhaps the crop circle community could turn the all-round paranoia to its own advantage.

Firstly might I be so bold and irresponsible as to challenge 'The Circlemakers' and whoever responds to that title to construct a formation in one of the mostly secret and well-guarded sites where the crops are being grown to avoid active 'vandals' (sound familiar?). The appearance of a formation in one of these awkward locations would certainly help convince me of a genuine source behind the mystery.

Secondly, if given a formation it might be interesting to see if there are any distinct differences in the design or the affected crop reaction than those recorded in conventional crops and formations.

May I therefore appeal for any information of formations appearing in genetically modified crop whether it is a new one from this year or details from a previous season, via the magazine.

Kevin Constant, Bedford, Bedfordshire

An interesting thought, but given the increasing amount of protestor attacks on GM test site fields - news of which, incidentally, has been suppressed in the media - it clearly isn't that much of a feat for someone to get into such a crop, so this 'experiment' might not prove much on the man-made score. On a slightly different perspective, it's worth noting that crop circles have appeared in both conventional and organic crops before; no specific preference of types has yet been apparent - Ed.

A few months ago, a researcher outside the croppie community but one who has carried out scientific experiments with microscopic aspects of crop circles which have attracted burgeoning interest, gave a presentation for members of the London branch of CCCS. As part of his lecture, he announced he had been working with archaeologists investigating what have become known as the Scott Stones, off the coast of Bimini, near Miami, USA. These are underwater remains which some have stated are what is left of Atlantis, the lost continent.

Our lecturer began to show actual photographs of these structures, taken by him, he claimed, whilst diving. The pictures were astonishing, provoking gasps of amazement; virtually untouched Egyptian-looking statues, sun dials, strange helmet-like devices and stone needles resting on white sands in clear blue waters, exotic fish swimming among them. He stated these were genuine artefacts from Atlantis and that photos of them had never been shown at a presentation anywhere in the world before. He then displayed pictures of objects brought to the surface, allegedly taken at the Miami Museum of Science.

It all seemed too good to be true. Surely this was the archaeological find of the century, so why were we, a small audience of crop circle enthusiasts, being treated to such a scoop? How could the underwater pictures be so clear, the remains so untouched by time and erosion? Many times he was questioned but categorically claimed they were his photos taken whilst diving and that he believed this was indeed Atlantis.

Discussion ran rife after the presentation, some unable to accept the reality of what had been shown. The presenter seemed taken aback that Michael Green, CCCS President and MC for the evening, turned out to be one of London's leading authorities on Atlantis (a long time study of Michael's). In fact, he seemed a little perturbed at the realisation. Wanting to investigate further, Michael invited the speaker to dinner the following day, where the claims were reasserted.

A few days later, several attenders of the meeting and others who had been made aware of the Atlantis photos were somewhat surprised by a BBC television holiday programme. The report featured a new venture for the rich - the Atlantis Paradise Island, a plush hotel on an isolated island resort shaped around the theme of Atlantis, with luxury accommodation, casinos, swimming pools - and an underwater exhibition of mock 'artefacts' viewed from a glass tunnel, known as 'The Dig'... Immediately, the resemblance to the 'Atlantis' photos seen the week before was obvious,

some of the same objects clearly visible.

Confronted with this via e-mail, the presenter claimed the hotel had simply copied the *real* artefacts for their display. Yet no-one in the archaeological community had even heard of such a find in the first place. Michael Green, being *ex-English Heritage*, has excellent contacts. Dissatisfied with this excuse, Michael

first made enquiries at the Miami Museum of Science. It denied any knowledge of a display of Atlantean objects. He then contacted the Atlantis Paradise Island for a brochure and promotional video. The brochure clearly showed what was seen in London and the video, made before the hotel was finished, showed computer graphic versions of the glass tunnel experience, the same artefacts even present in the animations. Michael sent photo-

copies of photos given to him by our presenter to Franz Hepburn, Sales Manager for Sun International, the main UK contact for Atlantis Paradise Island. He responded with this statement: "*I can confirm that the photos are authentic (sic) and can be seen on a visit to the Atlantis Resort, Paradise Island, The Bahamas*". When confronted with *this*, our presenter declined to respond further. He has since emigrated to Canada.

Unless, against all the odds, we have made a mistake, it seems that for one night, a madness struck someone previously thought reliable and respectable. It is possible it was just a joke that got out of hand, the unexpected interest shown in London making the story hard to retract. Yet the presenter was given many opportunities to come clean and persisted with what can only be seen as a cynical sham. Is it possible he himself had been led astray and really did think the objects at the hotel - which he must have visited or obtained photos from - actually were authentic rather than just entertainment displays? If so, what was all this about diving? The reason for the perfection of the pictures now seems clear - they were taken through glass. And the lack of erosion in the objects is because they are only about a year old - not 12,000.

This is a very sad episode which has cast doubt on the person in question's other areas of research. Certainly his crop circle findings must now be treated with caution and those who feel betrayed by what has happened have come to doubt every aspect of his alleged background and qualifications.

So, if someone at a lecture starts showing you pictures of what is claimed to be Atlantis and they look anything like that described in this article, start heckling very loudly - or at least ask some very serious questions of your speaker.

- REPORTS -

THE MAN FROM ATLANTIS

When are artefacts from Atlantis not from Atlantis? It's not often SC has to print warnings about people, but for the potentially gullible, the following cautionary tale is in order...



FARMERS: Strange creatures which roam around shouting unintelligible things at visitors to crop circles, run combine harvesters through centres of formations or cut out their middles, and have the cheek to act as if they own the place. See also FEES and FIVERS.

FEES: One aspect to crop circles considered particularly fishy by the media are the fees charged by some farmers (qv) to enter formations, leading to accusations of their deliberately hiring hoaxers for profit (there's a good title for a book; *Hiring Hoaxers for Fun and Profit*, the kind of tome that sells by the bucket load at Amway conferences) - as if farmers haven't got enough to do, what with all the shouting, combining circles out and, er, actually running a farm. Inflation seems to be pushing up fees, though. Back in the 'good old days', a mere £1.00 would get you past the scruffy caravan and bored farmhand and into your pictogram of delight. These days, some have been known to charge up to a whopping three quid a head - and even more on the black market (see FIVERS). Some trusting agricultural souls, unwilling to spare workers or recalcitrant offspring to man their fields have tried honesty boxes on posts at the entry gate to fields, with signs along the lines of "Don't betray our trust, donations please". Of course, they might as well put up a sign saying "ROB ME". Honesty boxes have probably funded many a pint at *The Barge*. The latest wheeze is for local village yoofs, unconnected with any farm, to turn up at formations and charge gullible tourists several quid each to enter, before scarpering up the road to buy crack or something.

FIVERS: As any self-respecting cerealogist knows, permission should always be sought before entering a crop formation. However, as there are actually very few self-respecting cerealogists left anymore, it's therefore worth transgressors carrying a wad of five-pound notes around instead for that horrifying moment of post-trespass discovery, signified by the unintelligible shouting from the edge of the field (see FARMERS). A fiver waved tantalisingly at an angry farmer is like cat-nip to a moggy, having smoothed many a potential scrap. If they demand tenners though, leg it quick.

FLIES: A morbid question often asked about crop circles is whether dead animals are ever found inside.

More next issue!!!

Apart from a couple of mashed porcupines some years back, only a bunch of half-melted flies seem to have attracted any attention, found hideously fused, *still alive*, to stems at Cherhill last year. Now we await anxiously for news of a baseball-capped, plank-bearing pensioner being discovered in similar circumstances. Which would, of course, be awful.

FLYING: As each year goes by, there's a bigger and bigger bunfight between budding aerial photographers for the same tiny pool of aeroplane pilots who must spend their entire summers spiralling round and round these ridiculous markings in fields. There's probably a special automatic control in the cockpit now marked 'crop circle mode' which, when pressed, leaves the plane circling and the pilot free to read a book or something. Recently, there's been a bit of a pilot famine since the Civil Aviation Authority decided to get snotty about any Tom, Dick or Harry making dosh from profiteering cameramen for what is supposed an amateur hobby, threatening licence-revoke on offenders. All that has now happened, of course, is that the annual fight over aviators between squabbling crows has shifted to unsuspecting CAA-approved helicopter pilots who don't know what's hit them and are probably planning a strike even as we speak. When every 'copter jockey in the country has had his fill of "could you just go round again and hover for a bit longer?", or when the first unfortunate cerealogist 'accidentally' falls out of the cockpit to the ground below when 'leaning out a bit far' ("honest, M'Lud"), aerial photographers will have to develop special 200' high stilts to get their wares. It'll be a bit like *War of the Worlds*, with strange bestilted figures striding over roofs and houses. Perhaps that's what Doug and Dave did - didn't they say something about using stilts?

FOREIGN LANGUAGES: Knowledge of these would be quite handy in the saloon bar of *The Barge* these days, as spotting an Englishman can be tricky at the height of the season. German would be especially useful to know. Or American. (*There goes our US readership - Ed.*)

FORTEAN TIMES: Let's all get excited about some potato that looks a bit like the Virgin Mary, shall we? Or about the story of a man who got his toe stuck in the tap and had to spend the rest of his life wearing it? Et cetera. All exciting stuff, who'll deny? But hang on, what's this - crop circles? A load of cobblers. Let's spend several pages a month rubbishing them. Better still, why not rename the mag *The Skeptic* and merge with another well-known open-minded institution? Charles Fort must be spinning in his grave at high velocity.

FRAUDSTERS: Do we really need to name any names here? **DS**



Cornography

with Michael Glickman

In the last issue Dudley Young asked in a letter where the meanings I attributed to numbers and geometry came from. He went on to talk about an article in *Steamshovel Press*, concluding "Sacred Geometry or just loony crap?" I will ignore this pithy assessment and assume he truly wants to know. I am grateful for his question. It has concentrated my mind. I have given it serious thought for some weeks and consulted fairly widely on the subject. John Martineau says "There's no disagreement on this subject". He believes that our understanding of the meaning of number originates with Plato and - subject to reinterpretation by scholars over the centuries - there is a consensus. John Michell, however, while broadly accepting the consensus, feels that interpretation can be modified by individual study. For example, he asks, how can a number be given to God?

The circle, a one-sided figure, is the symbol of 1. Ancient mathematicians referred to 1, the Monad, as The First, The Seed, The Essence. Others feel that it represents God, Unity, All-That-Is.

2, the Dyad, is often seen to represent "that which is Other". The Division of Unity, the first act of Sacred Geometry, elegantly divides the prime Circle by the use of the Vesica Pisces. The two-sided Vesica, shaped like an almond, is the symbol of two.

3, the Triad, is obviously represented by a triangle, classically an equilateral. Three can be seen as the first step in unfoldment or, as some prefer, completion. As the first child of the Monad and the Dyad, it can be seen as containing all possibility.

4, The Tetrad, is clearly embodied in the square. The Tetrad is often seen to be the first movement from two dimensionality (the triangle) into three dimensions, the tetrahedron which has four surfaces. It is the number of Experience, of Materiality, of Substance. Many consider the square and four as symbolic of the World.

5, the Pentad, is represented by the Pentagram, the five-pointed star, and is associated with life itself. The Pentagram contains the Golden Section, a proportion widely present in living forms, not least our own. It has been adopted as a symbol for Magic and also, more recently, for several countries and companies.

The shape of 6, the Hexad, is logically the Hexagon.

Certain commentators feel that the progress through the numbers has now achieved Structure, Function and Order which six represents. Others argue that six is the Crystalline or mineral aspect of Earth.

7, the Heptad, is known as the Virgin, because of the number's resistance to combining with other numbers. It is said to have great magical and mystical power and is the number of Spirit and Revelation. John Martineau adds Manifestation, but I would not.

Having passed the Virgin, we come to 8, the Octad, which unlike its predecessor combines promiscuously with almost everything. The ancients called eight Justice. Eight, uniquely, can be halved all the way back to unity.

9, the Nonagon, is made most powerful by its association with three. It is composed of three trinities and in some cultures was considered thrice sacred.

10, the Decad, is considered an aspect of 1, the Monad. 10 also represents a balanced form of Life, 5 doubled. This perhaps is why last year's double pentagram star crop formations at Dadford and Beckhampton last season were symbolically so important.

If 1 and 2 are seen as the mother and father of all numbers, then perhaps 3 to 9 can be considered their children, each with a different character. With the arrival of 10, the first double digit number, all possibilities become available. 1 and 0 can be construed as symbols of genitals. The digital revolution is based on them.

Number in our society is simply for counting things while the beautiful younger sister, Geometry, now helps us to design objects. In other times, both of these disciplines carried a heavy freight of meaning and symbolism which is now largely lost to us.

Should anyone wish to pursue this subject further they should contact me and I will suggest some references.

I figured large in the last issue (SC 84) which I read with a mixture of bemusement and horror. "Fiery temperament"? "Washed up"? "Guruism"? What is happening here? I don't recognise this person and nor, I feel, would those close to me. It is a real privilege to be working so close to these most beautiful and radiant occurrences and I am driven to despair by one thing only: the blindness and paranoia of those who cannot accept these gifts and start with a knee-jerk presumption that *everything* is man-made. There is never evidence, let alone proof.

This season promises us the hilarious spectacle of the monstrous affiliation of money and science reducing crop circle research to the status of a criminal investigation (page 3). I am sure you would not expect me to comment further! The really important news is the arrival of the beautiful 'Menorah' at Barbury Castle (page 12). Clearly this area is making a concerted bid to becoming the venue for Jewish Mysticism. The numbers are important here. The figure contains 11 circles (I told you 11 would come). The 11 is made up of seven horizontals ('candles') and four down the stem. I believe it tells of the reconciliation of Spirit with the World. We will receive many fours and squares this summer. MG