



*THE MONTHLY  
JOURNAL OF  
CROP CIRCLES  
AND BEYOND*

**56**

*SEPTEMBER 1996*

**£1.00**

**The Glastonbury  
Symposium 1996**

**Latest  
Formation  
Listings**

**A Forming Circle Caught On  
Video At Last.. Or Not?**

"Truth is a constant factor that exists at many levels or frequencies; it is only in our interpretation of the details that confusion exerts its influence and our faiths fragment"  
MURRY HOPE

It's appropriate that we have Colin Andrews' beautiful photograph on the cover this month, as Colin is now at the centre of an exciting controversy that seems set to tilt the crop circle community (and beyond?) into some sort of chaos. He now has in his possession a video which he believes shows a crop circle being created by little balls of light at Olivers Castle this summer... Others have put different interpretations on the film, but understandably everyone is keen to get a look at it... let's hope we don't have to wait too long to view it; this sounds like something all cropies need to see as soon as possible so they can make their own minds up. See the Olivers Castle report on page 8 for the full story.

Once again, much of this issue is taken up with reporting the latest formations and we make no apologies! The other part is devoted to the recent Glastonbury Symposium, for which we also show no remorse (sorry it's all written by me, however; more variety next month). The Symposium is such an important part of the crop circle year to so many that what transpires there acts as an indispensable gauge for what is being said and thought about the circle phenomenon; a kind of annual taking of the temperature, a health check. How are we doing so far? Read on, and find out...

This summer has seen a huge leap in SC's readership figures and many people have come on board from our 50th anniversary promotion in Nexus, and the book *Fields of Mystery*. We'd like to say a big hello to everyone who's just joined us and we hope you're enjoying yourselves; we're not big and glossy, but we're quick off the mark with the latest information, honest in our opinions and dedicated to getting to the truth about this phenomenon, not the mythology. Don't forget to write.

One reader we have sadly lost recently is Kim Besly, a stalwart of the Sussex circles team who passed away after an illness. Kim will be fondly remembered by all who knew her, for her sharp wit and commitment to the truth; a fully paid-up member of the anti-bullshit brigade, a CND supporter and a one-time 'Greenham Women' activist to boot. Our love and best wishes to her husband Charles.

ANDY THOMAS



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Front Cover: Windmill Hill, Wiltshire, August 1996. Photograph by Colin Andrews.

Reports are still coming in of new formations but this is probably the last of the long lists this year as the fields are being harvested fast now. What a year it's been; late starting but ultimately rewarding, with some of the most astonishing designs ever seen. Even SC's home county of Sussex, after looking like it was going to get nothing for a while, finally wound up with nine circle events.

Before we begin the latest list, I should clarify what

I said about the Internet last month, when I said that it was "prone to errors". Every current source of circle information, including SC, is open to mistakes simply because of the Chinese-whisper type information network which spreads the info in the first place. I was not singling out or criticising the Internet, which provides an excellent service, simply stating a truth which should be

borne in mind by everyone who accesses any news source on the circles. Mark Fussell and Stuart Dyke's *Crop Circle Connector* pages on the Internet in particular are well worth checking out for those 'on-line'.

On a similar subject, ilyes in the USA has asked us to point out that some events which are listed as crop circles in the US are sometimes misreported fairy-rings and natural effect ground-markings. ilyes makes a good point in that everyone must be careful with handling uncertain info from distant shores. It must be remembered that all British information networks are at the mercy of what they are told, but we will continue to print the latest as we know it. If any errors do occur, which readers know of, contact us and we will be happy to correct them.

As far as we can tell, apart from the Internet, SC has printed the most thorough and up to date crop circle listings available anywhere in 1996. Thanks to all those who have made very kind comments on this and thanks especially to all our regular correspondents who make the lists possible. Here then are the latest formations in England, in county and place name alphabetical order, followed by a brief list of new US formations from this year. As ever, the rundown does not include 1996 formations

already listed in previous issues, which, for any who have missed them, are available as back issues from the editorial address, priced £1.00 each, cheques payable to SCR please.

#### AVON

**Burton:** A single circle in wheat was spotted on 18th August, visible from the M4 looking south, between Junctions 18 and 17.

- NEWS -

## CIRCLES '96 UPDATE #4

The crops are vanishing rapidly now but reports of new formations are still flooding in. ANDY THOMAS rounds up all the latest information and apocrypha on events in England and beyond since last issue ...

#### BEDFORDSHIRE

**Filgrave:** A dumbbell in wheat, ringed at one end and with a key shape emanating from the other, was spotted around 10th August.

**Streatley, Nr Barton Le Clay:** A very impressive design in wheat arrived here in early August, near the A6 road between Luton and Bedford, a chunky line of connected circles, rings and

crescents.

#### BERKSHIRE

**Caversham:** A 40' ringed circle in wheat with four smaller satellites arrived around 4th July.

**East Ilsley:** A formation appeared here 10th July, no details available. A single circle (if it's not the same formation reported twice) was then spotted on 26th July in wheat.

#### CAMBRIDGESHIRE

**Huntingdon:** Formation reported around 13th July. No details available.

**Spaldwick:** A big single circle appeared here around 22nd June in barley.

**St Neots:** A ringed circle was reported on 16th July.

**Wandlebury, Nr Cambridge:** A formation was found in wheat on 1st August. No details available.

#### CORNWALL

**Penryn:** A ringed circle next to a 'triangle on legs' like the letter 'A' with the top as laid crop was found in wheat in August.

## DEVON

**Bickington:** A dumbbell with a ring in barley was spotted in mid-August.

**Exmouth:** A circle and a ringed circle were found in barley on 8th August.

**Harbertonford:** A circle and a ring facing each other on opposite sides of a valley were found in barley in August. Their appearance was featured in local newspapers.

**Kingsteignton:** On the edge of the River Teign, an unjoined ring, like a 'C' was discovered in barley next to an unconnected 'L'-shaped pathway.

## HAMPSHIRE

**Clanfield:** A dumbbell in wheat with a pathway crossing the shaft was found on 12th August on the west side of the A3 road between Havant and Petersfield. It was harvested very soon after.

## HEREFORDSHIRE

**Hopwood:** A double ringed circle, approximately 111' across, with a nearby 7' grapeshot was found in barley on 9th August. Two small paths connected the inner and outer rings on the south side. The central circle had slightly serrated edges into the standing crop and the grapeshot was between the tramlines. Visible from an adjacent road.

## HERTFORDSHIRE

**Nettleden, Nr Berkhamsted:** Three formations in wheat arrived here in late July/early August. One was 100' across, a ringed circle with four arms extending to satellite circles; another was a 200' ringed circle with "curious appendages" on a sloping field opposite the first. The third was an impressive quintuplet "with knobs on" (oo-er mis-sus), according to Mike Rogers, which was also around 200' diameter. The farmers were generally hostile and the third formation was cut out with a combine harvester before time, to deter sightseers, leaving "a wide track leading down to a huge blob - looked almost as impressive!". The farmers have apparently offered their own £1000 reward for apprehending the culprits. Yawn. Mike Rogers also reports a curious meeting by one of the Hertfordshire circle investigators with a lady in one of the formations, who claimed her husband was one of the eye-witnesses to the alien bodies at Roswell...! And no, SC doesn't have her telephone number.

## KENT

**Boxley:** A ringed circle with emanating 'arrow-heads' was found in early August. Two pieces of wood with string in the classic stalk-stomper style were found left very visibly by the gate to the field, so obviously that most have concluded that these were left here deliberately to make the formation look a hoax, in a trick which has been tried on other occasions. These implements were not dirty or 'used'-looking in any way.

## LEICESTERSHIRE

**Calthorpe, Nr Rugby:** A single circle was found in wheat on 25th July.

**Enderv, Nr Leicester:** A formation was found here in July, no details available.

**Great Easton, Nr Corby:** A large single circle in wheat was spotted on 14th July.

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

**Aynhoe, Nr Banbury:** A single circle appeared in wheat on 26th July.

**Silverstone:** Formation reported here on 14th July, no details available.

## OXFORDSHIRE

**Ashbury:** What has been described as a 'Vesica Pisces', a flattened circle with two standing fat crescents (two circles overlapping in fact) was found here in wheat early August/late July. Nearby is Weylands Smithy burial mound and, two or three miles away, the Uffington white horse carving. The lay was very interesting - the central oval formed by the overlapping circles was in fact a clearly defined circle with pointed ends laid separately, giving the impression of a pupil in an eye. Around the same time, a 'necklace' design was found nearby, also in wheat, a circle with two curved chains of four diminishing circles emanating from opposite sides, linked with a very thin path.

## SOMERSET

**Somerton:** Two ringed circles in wheat appeared next to each other at the end of July, of a similar diameter to each other but with one of the central circles larger than the other.

**Yeovil:** A bizarre but attractive 'treble clef' shape was found in wheat at the end of July, made from

one continuous path of about 5' width, overlapping itself like the diagram of a knot. Looks like someone's gone for a mad ride with a motor mower but nice for all that, with good curves.

## SUFFOLK

**Bealings, Nr Martlesham:** A ring in barley with what has been described as 'two semi-circles' either side arrived here on 20th July.

**Colchester:** A large single circle with several grapeshot appeared in wheat on 9th August.

## SUSSEX

**Alfriston, East Sussex:** As we went to print, an unconfirmed report of a single circle seen around 10th August in this area was still under investigation.

**Arlington, East Sussex:** Around 31st July, in a field not too far from the huge nearby reservoir, and in an area which has seen circles before, five large blocks of indeterminate shape were found in wheat which didn't appear to be wind lodging, similar to last year's Long Burgh (95/03) formation. A standing centre with an impressive clockwise swirl around it marked the central block which was approximately 95' by 32'. Power cables stood nearby and the shapes were on the crossing point of two major energy lines according to dowser David Tilt, who discovered them.

**Mannings Heath, Nr Horsham, West Sussex:** In a very isolated field bordered by trees, a single elliptical circle was spotted by Michael Hubbard flying over in his micro-light aircraft on July 31st. It's unlikely it would ever have been reported otherwise. Investigation on the ground revealed the 80' approx anticlockwise circle in wheat to be very nicely formed and layered, with significantly swollen nodes found on the stems. The farmer's family have witnessed strange glowing balls of light in the area in years past.

**Ovingdean, East Sussex:** In an update to last month's report, we have since learned that the local police received several reports of strange glowing lights over the Ovingdean area on the night the formation of four circles appeared...

**Roedean, Nr Brighton, East Sussex:** While flying over the Ovingdean and Saltdean formations on 16th August, Martin Noakes spotted one neat but very tiny circle of about 15', a 14' equilateral triangle and two even tinier grapeshot, not far from Ovingdean, behind a golf course near Roedean

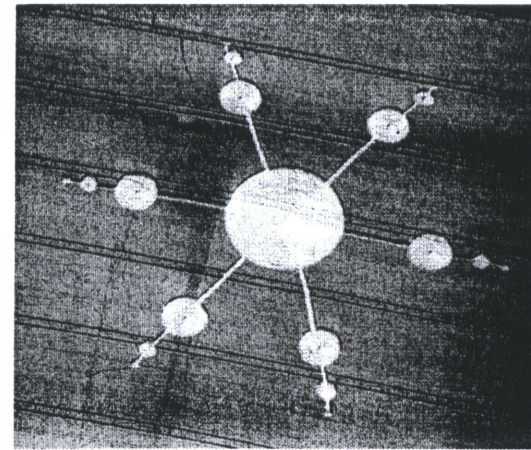
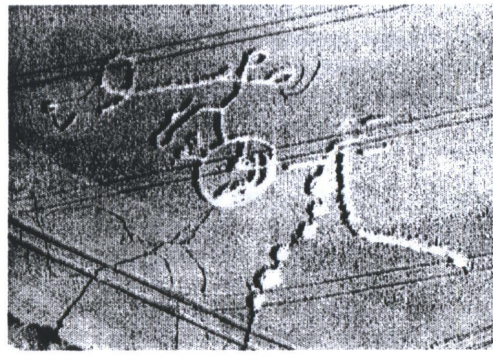
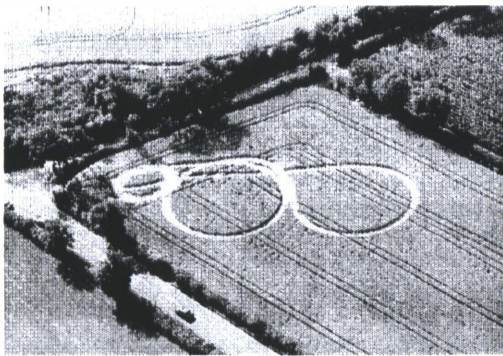
College for girls. The field of long-eared wheat was already half-harvested when the circles were photographed and they were briefly surveyed on the ground later from what was left of them.

**Saltdean, East Sussex:** Only a mile east from the Ovingdean circles, a small dumbbell in wheat appeared here on exactly the same spot as the stick-man-and-rude-word formation of 1995 (95/07), confirming the belief that the circle of that formation was genuine and the silly bits were added later. This year's pattern was first spotted in the early hours of 7th August - the field very visibly overlooks the housing estates of Saltdean. The circle was 48' approx with a 14' curving pathway leading to an 8' serrated-edged circle. The floor of the clockwise main circle was unruly but well-layered.

**Tilington, Nr Petworth, West Sussex:** A couple of miles from the line of strange squiggly hieroglyphs which were spotted in early July (see last issue), a key-shaped formation, seemingly with no actual main circle, was spotted from the A272 road on 1st August in a field bordered by cottages and a footpath. Unfortunately, the field was harvested very soon after and it was not surveyed.

**Warningcamp Hill/Blakehurst, Nr Arundel, West Sussex:** The best Sussex formation of 1996 appeared on 4th August on a very sloping field opposite an overlooking footpath, giving very good viewing from the ground; a beautiful sight in a beautiful location, an isolated valley with no roads. Formed in unusually low barley, the pattern was a long dumbbell with two large thin rings around the larger circle. The small circle was 20' and anticlockwise, the large 41' and clockwise, the small ring 103' by 3' and anticlockwise and the large 153' by 3' and clockwise. The overall length was 199' - one foot less than the extent of the Sussex team's tape measure! The lay of the crop was intricate, if a little untidy. The rings especially had been laid down in plaited clumps, overlaid one across the other, and showed classic examples of 'gap-seeking', where the laid crop had tried to shoot into the tramlines every time they crossed the rings, creating irregularities in the rings' width. The formation made the front of the West Sussex Gazette with a pathetic story about it being obviously a hoax ("A Corny Joke") because the farmer believed it was. Evidence was not, of course, forthcoming.

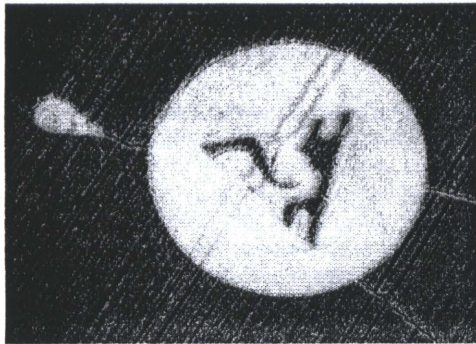
\* *Full reports on the Sussex formations will appear in a future issue.*



## CIRCLES '96: PHOTO- SPREAD #3

*Photographs from the 1996 crop circle season.*

*Original colour copies of these photographs and more can be obtained directly from: STEVE ALEXANDER at: 27 St Francis Road, Gosport, Hants, PO12 2UG, tel: 01705 35286. LUCY PRINGLE at: 5 Town Lane, Sheet, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU32 2AF, tel: 01730 263454. COLIN ANDREWS c/o: CPRI, 14 Reynolds Court, Artists Way, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 3ST, tel: 01264 358402.*



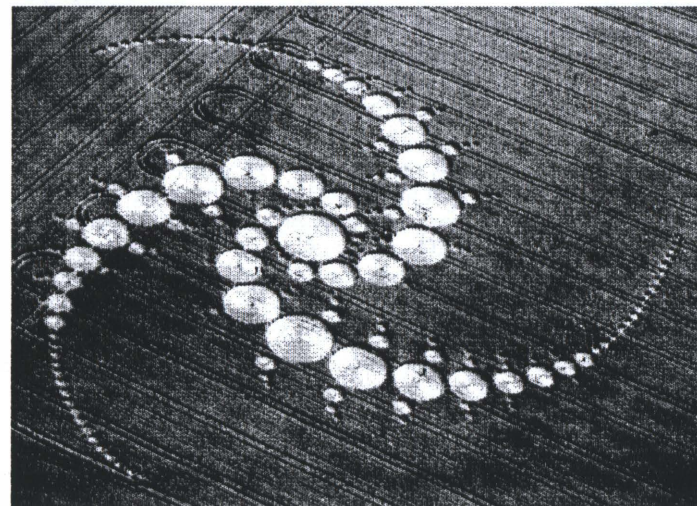
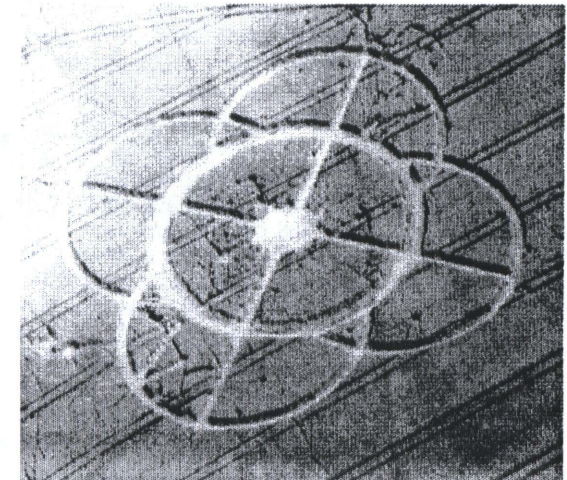
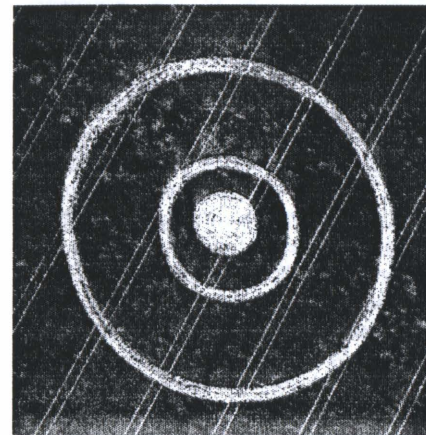
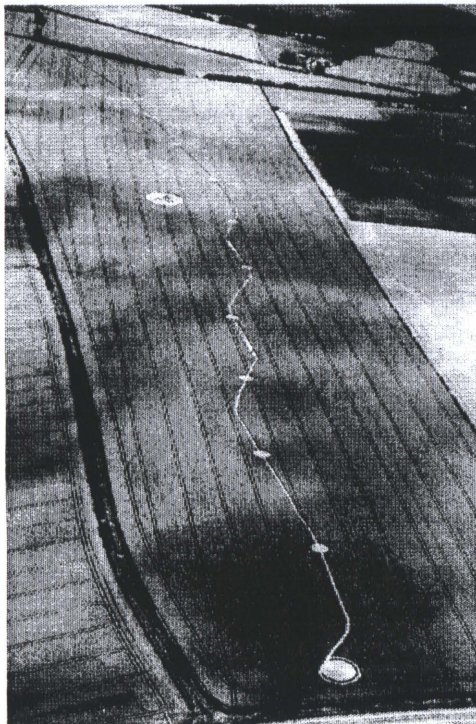
**TOP LEFT:** Yeovil, Somerset. Photo: LUCY PRINGLE

**TOP RIGHT:** Lockeridge/West Overton, Wiltshire. Photo: LUCY PRINGLE

**MID LEFT:** Close-up of Etchilhampton separate circle. Photo: STEVE ALEXANDER

**BELOW LEFT:** Etchilhampton, Wiltshire - the longest ever formation! Photo: COLIN ANDREWS

**BELOW RIGHT:** Liddington Castle, Wiltshire. Photo: STEVE ALEXANDER



**TOP:** Olivers Castle, Wiltshire - the first pattern to be filmed forming..? Photo: STEVE ALEXANDER

**MID LEFT:** Ropley Dean, Hampshire. Photo: STEVE ALEXANDER

**MID RIGHT:** Martock, Somerset. Photo: LUCY PRINGLE

**LEFT:** Windmill Hill, Wiltshire. Photo: STEVE ALEXANDER

## WILTSHIRE

**Liddington Castle, Nr Chiselden/Badbury:** A gorgeous emblem of rings, standing circles and crescents (described by Lucy Pringle as a Solar/Lunar Eternity symbol) arrived in wheat at the foot of the ancient hillfort embankment on 2nd August. The quality of the lay is widely regarded as one of the best of this year, flowing in many different directions and layers. Not far up the same field is a strange 'caterpillar'-type fractal of 39 circles, in the Stonehenge/Windmill Hill style but with the small circles squashed up together, not distinctly separate from one another. A 'teardrop' design lies in the middle of the shape's curved tails.

**Olivers Castle, Devizes:** A striking 225' across six-armed 'snowflake' arrived here in long eared wheat on 10th August, just below the ancient landmark, from where a very good view could be had. One field to the west of where the famous interlocking crescents of 1994 appeared, this was a circle with six radiating pathways (reminiscent of the 1993 Etchilhampton 'clock'), each ending in dumbbells with standing centres. The lay and swirls of the formation were exquisite; the variations in the way the standing centres had been created were almost a series of lessons in the many ways this effect could be achieved - each one seemed to be swirled differently. The farmer was hostile and only allowed people in on receipt of hefty bribes. Eventually, in a fit of pique, he drove his combine harvester from the nearby trackway directly across the field and through the centre of the formation, on his way to another field. This backfired horribly as the farmer had thus made this the first formation people could actually drive straight into in their cars, using the centre as a turning circle!! This formation may prove to be one of the most significant ever, for the following reason: a student from Bristol camping on top of Olivers Castle *might* have videoed the formation appearing... The student played the video, which showed balls of light flying over and in the field, to astounded cropies at The Barge pub the next day. Colin Andrews has obtained a copy and believes the video shows the formation actually being created. He describes the student's sighting thus in a recent 'statement' from CPR International: "At approximately 05.00 hrs on the 11th August as first light appeared, he saw what he thought was a small white-lighted sphere pass swiftly across the field directly below him. He moved quickly for his video camera which failed to operate due to the moisture sensor operating inside it. Some moments

later he tried again and it started to film. Just seconds into the film two white spheres moved into the frame from the right and arced across the field in a large spiral, much like the form which appeared as a crop pattern at Stonehenge in June. As the spheres spiralled across the field, a small circle suddenly flattened to the ground; within just seconds (as many eye-witnesses have reported previously) a large complex crop pattern materialized. Before the whole sequence was over a second pair of white glowing spheres approached from the top left of the frame. One of them appeared to lift out of the cereal field and join its partner. They also took a route arcing around in a large ring. As they did so the pathways and smaller circles in this elaborate 'snowflake' pattern were formed. The whole filmed sequence is just a few seconds long and shows either a very elaborate attempt to fraud or we have secured the most incredibly important UFO and crop circle film footage ever." However, some who have viewed the video, say that the formation was *already there* when the lights were filmed and controversy seems certain. Colin is having the film "analysed" and hopes to publish the first results in his next CPR newsletter. Colin has been asked to handle the "world media interest" in the video. Let's hope that on this occasion, the video will be made publicly available VERY SOON, in its entirety and in a raw undoctored form, unlike the recent Ray Santilli debacle with the 'alien autopsy' film where the public were constantly teased, milked and messed around before the whole footage was seen. If it *does* show what some are claiming, this video will indeed be one of the most important events ever in crop circle research. The proof of the pudding, however... Stay tuned.

**Windmill Hill, Yatesbury/Avebury Trusloe:** Reported briefly last month, this three spiral-armed 'galaxy' or 'Catherine wheel' of fractal-type 'Julia Sets' (pronounced Hu-lia) is generally regarded as the best formation of the year so far and appeared in wheat on July 29th. Swirling aerial lights were reported in the area the night it formed. With just under 200 circles making up its exquisite shape and geometry (which, as Michael Glickman has pointed out, seems to be based on ever-expanding equilateral triangles - spot the Sussex 1993 Sompting 'triangular triplet' in the middle) how anyone can still hold to the idea that this sort of thing can be knocked up by jokers at night beggars belief. Each of the larger circles had a standing centre, like the Alton Barnes 'DNA' design, and the lay direction

alternated clockwise-anticlockwise from one circle to the other. Staggering.

## USA

**Maine:** A large crescent was discovered in grass on 4th June, with many grapeshot scattered a few hundred feet away.

**Stony Creek, Nr Branford, Connecticut:** Two thin overlapping semi-circles were reported in wild grass in July.

**Sugar Creek Township, Nr Elida, Ohio:** A 48'

anticlockwise circle was found, again in wild grass, on 1st August.

**Vermont:** An oval was discovered in cultivated grass on 4th June.

We'll round up some of the many reports from various European countries next issue. Thanks to all our regular contacts, very especially Karen Douglas, Steve Alexander, Michael Glickman and Patricia Murray who have provided the bulk of the Wiltshire/Hampshire reports this summer. Special thanks this issue to Ray Cox, Mike Rogers, Lucy Pringle, Paul Vigay and Joyce Galley.

A year ago, back in SC 44, I wrote of the Glastonbury Symposium and other circle conferences; "How long can crop circle researchers keep talking about the same subject to the same people?" and that "There seems to be a movement to the spirit within, and the implications of the phenomenon to the individual soul right now". I have since seen these words quoted more than once elsewhere. This was not a criticism of the Glastonbury Symposium but rather a question which arose from its continued success - could it maintain the momentum it had set up for itself? Could the phenomenon engage people's attention long enough to justify this kind of massive annual event?

These questions were answered neatly and positively at the 1996 Glastonbury Symposium, held, as ever, at the Assembly Rooms in the heart of this most sacred of towns to so many. Simply, the answer was yes. With some of the more standard crop circle accoutrements and trappings stripped away from the agenda (no hoaxers versus genuine debates, fewer UFO references, less focus on surface details and scientific evidence), the emphasis was quite firmly on "the movement to the spirit within". As this movement is a journey which could take forever, the Symposium has set itself on a path that could now keep it going indefinitely.

In a way it's a coming of age, an acknowledgement that this event isn't really aimed at beginners. Some may mourn the dearth of straight reporting on events in the fields and skies, but that can be gained elsewhere. What was important to the 1996

Symposium was that all the speakers, in some unspoken agreement, simply accepted the crop circles for what they are, aware of the ongoing debates, but also of their dead-end nature. No-one had anything to prove. By now, after so many years of prolific activity, anyone willing to spend three days in a stiflingly hot dark room in the name of crop circles must believe the phenomenon merits this attention, accepting the formations simply as being THERE and having some meaning, whatever their source. The exploration of potential meanings on a global and individual scale was the backbone of the weekend, not the need to prove the validity of the phenomenon to anyone outside of the hall.

## - REPORTS -

# GLASTONBURY COMES OF AGE

The annual Glastonbury Symposium has become the epicentre of the crop circle calendar, a gathering place for cropies from all over the globe in a circle-intensive three days. This year focused the general state of play neatly. ANDY THOMAS sends a postcard home to explain why...

In fact the thread of content which seemed to bind the speakers was so uncannily consistent, it was almost as if they had all decided on a set agenda beforehand. That they had not, and no-one knew what anyone else was going to say before they took to the stage, demonstrates neatly the unity of thought which has come to bind many researchers today, with one or two exceptions. In short, what they have discovered, initially to alarm, but then to some kind of calm acceptance, is that with the crop circles, nobody really knows what the hell is going on. There are clues and theories, hints and pointers, but no answers, despite all the years of research. The disposal of the baggage of having to prove, of needing solid answers, and the obvious relief of this letting go felt by both the speakers and the audiences made the Symposium the first real acknowledgement of this new position in a public

event, creating a relaxed and positive atmosphere. Many now believe we are not being offered answers by the crop formations, but are being given questions, questions that we must answer, not have solved for us.

The lack of answers has driven many of our cerealogical forefathers to desperate scepticism and disillusionment. The need for conclusive gratification is a trait of the earlier years of crop circle research. This was illustrated neatly by the two representatives of this era who spoke, first in the quiet cynicism of Richard Andrews towards any formations post-1991 and second in the approach taken by Colin Andrews, the main speaker on the Friday evening. Colin is one of the last survivors of the founding race of researchers and despite also holding that the majority of today's formations are man-made he has learnt ways to keep himself on the map of cerealogy where others have fallen away into public debunking and bitterness. The formations Colin *does* like are presented as BIG news. He's a dramatic speaker, with a need to give solid information and scoops where maybe others wouldn't see any to be given. Thus what may be small details to others are presented as massive

events in his presentation. What might be insignificant coincidental events and mishaps to some are cast by Colin with the dark shadows of conspiracy. Ethnic doomsday prophecies are well to the fore. His scoops are presented as unquestionable fact. All this infuriates or delights depending on personal tastes but it demonstrates how the longer-standing researchers still retain a need to *inform with authority* despite cerealogical history having shown the danger of treading this path. That Colin's presentation weaved another thread from the rest of the weekend was no bad thing; it was a useful reminder of how things have been and of how they have changed for many. Some people still seem to need the approach of being told facts and absolutes without any ambiguity that requires the interaction of their own discernment, and love Colin for it.

The majority of the other speakers represented the new approach, however, discussing the implications of the new world of learning which has been opened up by the circles, no better illustrated than by Stanley Messenger, a fresh soul for a new age, housed in the body of a sprightly eighty-something. With his mane of white hair flowing, catching the

ultra violet lights which illuminated the murals of crop designs behind the stage, Stanley held the attention in a way few can. He lets his truths flow out, unrehearsed, in a 'stream of consciousness' as opposed to the soundbite techniques employed by younger speakers, which can be more immediately effective but which rest in the heart less permanently. It's hard at this distance of time to put a finger on *exactly* what he said, you just remember how much sense it made and retain the feeling of how deeply it touched you. Not that there's any airs and graces about this man; when he runs out of things to say at the end, he simply says "I've run out of things to say", and the precious moments with this great thinker are suddenly over.

Stanley's great friend and our columnist Michael Glickman was, as always, another highlight of the Symposium, filling the room with his friendly personality. Yet this is an affability tinged with the ever-present threat of the hellfire that can erupt at any minute in the direction of those he would challenge; namely, 'hoax apologists' and conspiracy paranoia disciples. If Michael was worried about being upstaged by some young upstart from Sussex ranting in a silver jacket to the *Hallelujah Chorus*, who had stolen his traditional Saturday breakfast slot, he needn't have been. Moved to a time where more people were likely to have got out of bed after Friday night's revelries, Michael delighted, informed and amused, especially with the introduction and untimely demise of his new companion 'Dolores', the world's first intelligent wheat stalk, which lay down at the chanting command of the audience ("Lay down Dolores...").

One of the most essential moments of the whole Symposium (repeated on the Sunday by popular demand) was the debut showing of a video put together by Michael and Patricia Murray, who coyly but endearingly introduced what turned out to be a staggering experience. Placing into sequence several of the formations which seem to embody rotation into their design (ie. the '95 Alfriston 'Catherine wheel'), these 'spinners' were, as the name suggests, turned using computer graphics at several different speeds, to show the extraordinary visual effects produced by this movement. More breathtaking than one might imagine from such a simple manoeuvre, the shapes took on new and astonishing forms, their surface nature changed substantially into hypnotic and often three dimen-

sional entities. This prompted the conclusion, which everyone couldn't help but agree with, that these designs were *intended* to be spun in this way. Another facet of the Symposium which was striking was that the newer post-Doug and Dave breed of circle researchers, who came into the fray free from the weight of the 'how marvellous it was in the good old days' view of crop circles, finally took their rightful places by their prominence in the event. These people recognise that *these* are the good old days, right now, and that the extraordinary things which are happening in our fields are continually surpassing anything which has gone before. I would include within this group several of the weekend's speakers but Karen Douglas was the most obvious example.

Karen (who, with David Kingston, also led the coach tour around the Wiltshire formations on the Friday) was one of the few lecturers who did actually concentrate on what has been happening in the fields this year, helped by the stunning photographs of her partner Steve Alexander. In amongst the more spiritual focus, her presentation stood out as the perfect balancer, a reminder of the source for all the fuss and paraphernalia of such events. Above all other researchers, though it may dent the pride of some, it can't be denied that Karen and Steve have probably visited, flown over and documented more crop formations in the last few years than any human beings alive, giving them a unique perspective. With sheer hard graft and workman-like study, not big ideas and revolutionary theories, Karen, and others of her ilk, have naturally risen to the surface of cerealogy where others have fallen away.

It is a subconscious recognition of this stature, besides any scandal sparked by anything else, that has also opened these fresher faces to criticism and spiteful rumour recently by a small core of envious detractors, but human nature is often cruel.

The big name attraction of the Symposium was Darryl Anka, an American psychic who channels an entity called 'Bashar'. His particular gift was sparked after seeing a huge black triangular spacecraft hovering a few yards from him. Now Bashar, a being from a hybrid race of the 'Greys' and humanity, apparently speaks his wisdom through Darryl in an effort to help one of their ancestor races develop.

Given the current backlash of cynicism toward channelled sources in an age where every other



**ABOVE:** SC editor publicly humiliates SC mailer in the name of, er, science.

**ABOVE MID:** Darryl Anka!

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Barry Reynolds!

**RIGHT:** Karen Douglas!

**FAR RIGHT:** Roland Pargeter helps Michael Glickman squash spaghetti.

Photos by BARRY and LINDA REYNOLDS

person seems to have the gift of mediumship, it is a credit to Darryl and Bashar that each of the two evening sessions over the weekend were crammed full with eager listeners. Bashar's presence is extremely powerful and very LOUD; ear plugs recommended. If one couldn't help but chuckle at some of Bashar's rather bizarre intonation, so what? The delivery was entertaining and the information on crop circles and the current evolution of our planet was exceptionally deep and striking. Even for the sceptics in the crowd, there was a general acknowledgement that wherever Bashar was coming from, be it the planet Essassani or Darryl Anka's subconscious, the ideas being mooted were thought-provoking and plausible, and tied in neatly with the general slant of all the event's speakers.

There were many other stand-out memories of the Symposium.... Christine Page triggering a spontaneous bout of volleyball in the auditorium (which threatened to carry on indefinitely) by throwing two beach-balls into the crowd which punched them back and forth across the hall... Barry Reynolds giving the final answer to the crop circle mystery by showing us a blank slide screen, the sum total of our conclusive findings so far... Symposium organiser Roland Pargeter speaking from the heart... Me finally buying a copy of *Two Thirds* (well it was a bargain)... As always, it's impossible to cover all the presentations of the Symposium in one review, suffice to say there were many other worthy contributors who gave their all and spoke their truths respectably.

Aside from the main presentations there's a whole periphery of other activity which surrounds the event and which is as much a part of the Glastonbury experience. In true 'Upstairs Downstairs' style, there's a thriving subterranean sub-culture in the dealers' dungeon rooms below, where all the T-shirts, books and trinkets exchange hands. A few venture up into the light occasionally, but others prefer to stay here for the duration of the Symposium, with food and drink shuttled down from the cafe. The conversation here is as enlightening or controversial as anything heard from the stage. In this enclosed environment, emotions seem magnified somehow; friendships are born, feuds are conducted, rumours whispered. And, of course, money is spent.

The Assembly Rooms' own cafe above (whole-food, of course) is another gathering place for those

ducking out of the heat in the auditorium, despite extra air-conditioning this year. In fact, as admission is only required for the presentations, some never make it beyond the cafe or the dealing rooms but just come for the atmosphere and the people which surround the main event. Some felt the price of this year's event was prohibitive and a number of English coppers were notable by their absence; instead, the Symposium seemed to have enforced its always international flavour. At least a third of the attenders seemed to be American, for instance, a sign of the awakening awareness from others far away enough from the centre of the main circle activity to see the wider picture, whereas some of us living at the centre can sometimes lose sight of the implications of what we have on our own doorsteps. Or is it that our American friends are better off than us? The whole weekend cost £65; on reflection, is this really too much for three days of such circle-intensive joy? Discuss.

Attending the full Symposium is a delightfully introspective experience where one only moves in a tiny triangle between the main hall and the dungeons, the cafes and pubs in the high street outside, and one's overnight hostelry. The three days seem to blur into one continuous haze, over as soon as it's begun. When someone smuggled a newspaper into the Assembly Rooms cafe showing the scenes of devastation at the Atlanta Olympic bombing, it was a real shock to realise that there was still another, harsh, world outside. And yet, the nature of the themes being discussed at the Symposium seemed to have something to say about dealing with and healing the effects of such tragedies. A weekend withdrawal into another little world the Glastonbury Symposium may be, but people come away from it with a joy in their hearts that goes out into the real world and which, somehow, somewhere, must have a positive effect which justifies its brief but radiant existence. **AT**



*Luckily,  
coppers  
never  
drink.*