

*THE MONTHLY
JOURNAL OF
CROP CIRCLES
AND BEYOND*

58

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**SC Gets A
US Office!**

**The 1997
Crop Circle
Calendar**

**Strange
Effects
On People
In Circles**

**The Myth Of
Mass Hoaxing**

"I pin my hopes to quiet processes and small circles in which vital and transforming events take place" RUFUS JONES

You will either be relieved or disappointed to hear that, apart from this column, this month's issue is an Olivers-Castle-video-controversy-free zone. Next month, however, we will be looking much deeper into what has become a very complex situation. Some swear the video of the formation appearing is genuine, some believe otherwise. The truth is that no conclusive evidence has yet come forward to prove either side. Many questions remain, whichever way the authenticity of the film is looked at, and some of the recent turns taken are, frankly, utterly bizarre in their implications... but you'll have to wait until next month for more on that.

The Internet especially has been throbbing with hyperbole and very opinionated views on the video. Through this, Colin Andrews has issued a statement disassociating himself with ever having said the footage might be genuine, chastising those who have suggested he thought otherwise. This is not quite fair as Colin was the first to announce the existence of the video with a press release which we ourselves were faxed. This new statement effectively criticises those who simply reported what was issued originally! It seemed clear by implication that he believed it certainly could be authentic - otherwise, why issue such a press release so widely? To set the record straight (I have now spoken with Colin about this), giving credit where credit appeared to be due was certainly the only intention of our reporting his own words in SC 56, and mine in including the same info in a recent article I contributed to Sightings magazine (both written before Colin declared the video a likely fake). There is certainly no big "campaign" by "so-called researchers", as Colin puts it in his latest statement, to make him look stupid, on our part at least. To be clear then, let it be known that Colin has never actually stated that the video was genuine. However, despite leaning heavily toward the footage being faked, privately Colin concedes that there is as yet no proof to show this, and indeed some 'expert' opinions apparently suggest the opposite....

On a different note, we have learnt of a few more formations from the summer but the info is now such a trickle as to not warrant a listing for now. Thank you, however, to all those who have sent, and continue to send, information - please keep it up! Meanwhile, South-East-based readers can look forward to a Sussex '96 round-up special in the next few months...

Finally, we must wish *bon voyage* to our regular columnist and hoax theorists' nemesis Michael Glickman, who departed these shores in October to live in sunny California. Fear not (or hard luck!), however; Michael will continue to telex his views to us in his bi-monthly *Comography* page, so you don't get rid of him as easily as that... All good wishes to Michael in his new life.

ANDY THOMAS



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Front Cover: Oliver's Castle, Wiltshire, August 1996. Photograph by Steve Alexander.

NEW US SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

Michael Glickman's absconding to the US may be a sad event for many of us (a joyous one for others, I'm sure), but it has produced a happy side-effect for SC. Michael, together with Patricia Murray, has agreed to operate a US office for us!

What this means is that at last we can operate a full subscription service to American readers without the ghastly business of trying to process US cheques through the tortuous system we have so far had to operate.

US subscribers will no longer have to draw cheques in sterling from one of the few US banks with British branches. Instead, all they have to do to subscribe or renew their subscription is send a normal cheque, in US dollars, to the new American address. Michael and Patricia will process the cheque in a US account and pass the subscription form over here to Di and Jason who operate the mailing service for SC. The actual copy of the magazine will still be mailed from England. (Subscribers in the UK and other countries should continue to contact the usual English address.)

We have a healthy growing readership in the US but some have understandably been put off by the highly complex and baffling cheque-processing demands. Now that barrier has been removed, potential subscribers can simply order SC as they would any other magazine or piece of merchandise within the United States.

If you are one of our resident readers in the US, please pass this information on to any contacts who you think may be interested in receiving SC on a regular basis. There's now far less excuse for relying on the scrappy third-generation bootleg Xerox which we know do the rounds! If you're one of these folk, take out a personal subscription and help support our very valuable circle-information service. Remember, SC is non-profit making and we need all the help we can get. Everyone involved in the journal gives of their time voluntarily. Because of rising postage and production costs, the US subscription rate has increased slightly to accommodate these (see price below). The UK and other overseas rates are expected to follow suit with

an equally slight rise shortly. We've tried to avoid a price increase for as long as possible so don't think badly of this - SC's subscription rates haven't risen since September 1993!! Which is pretty good when you think about it.

The new address to which all US subscriptions and renewals should be sent is as follows:

- INFORMATION -

IMPORTANT ADMIN INFO!

SC gains itself a US office and rings changes to US subscription processes... Information for advertisers also follows... Everyone please read!

MICHAEL GLICKMAN,
PO Box 2077, Santa
Monica, CA 90406-2077.

A year's subscription is \$33.00 (yes, dollars!) and cheques should be made payable to 'M Glickman'.

UK and other overseas subscriptions should continue to be sent to the usual mailing address in England. Changes of US addresses (not new subscriptions or renewals) should also continue to be sent to Di and Jason at this address.

FLYERS FOR INCLUSION WITH SC

On a separate note, would all those who wish to have flyers for their events or merchandise go out with SC please note the following:

We are very happy to provide this service (as we don't yet carry advertising for non-SC causes within the pages of the journal) but these rates and conditions apply:

It costs £10.00 for each batch of flyers to go out (ie. if you have two lots of different flyers, it will cost twice that), cheques payable to 'SCR' please. Flyers must be produced by the sender themselves and be no bigger than A5 (ie. the size of SC). Please package your flyers very firmly and securely when you send them to us; we've had some arrive in various mangled states or not at all in one case. Please send them to Di and Jason at the SC mailing address (not to the editorial address), enclosing payment as above. Most importantly, SC reserves the right to refuse flyers for any reason we see fit, and we will mail them out when it is convenient for us to do so. It's a lot of extra work if there's already others to go out in a particular month and we may hold yours over to another issue if necessary so please send the flyers to us with plenty of time to go before the advertised date if they are promoting an event. Thank you! AT

Following last week's examination of the words "Baloney" and "Credulous" this article will look at the importance of "Discernment" and "Evidence". Next week, "Fraud" and "Gullible".

Five years have passed since the launch of the Doug and Dave fraud. Perhaps the time has come for a historical review.

First, a word of recognition and admiration. I have never known, or heard of, a news manipulation as pervasive as the D&D myth. Many millions of people were led to believe the circles were (and by inference still are) made by "two old men".

And looking back, in the calm months after the most amazing crop circle season ever, there is still no evidence (there's that word) that Doug and Dave ever hoaxed a single circle. I have here that fateful copy of *Today* dated 9th September 1991. The headline reads "Men Who Conned the World" and, with the benefit of hindsight, we can understand how prophetic that was. They conned us all, not with what they had done but with what they claimed they had done. Reading *Today* all these years later I realise that not a shred of solid evidence (that word again) was presented in support of what they said. Indeed, when they displayed their supposed skills, their profoundly unsatisfactory monkey-tricks for the cameras, there was much evidence that they were liars. Why did Pat Delgado, the most decent of men, fall for this? Because, I suggest, he forgot - just for a moment - to discern.

It cannot be held against him. All of us have failed, massively, to discern over the past seasons. And, after these gloomy and strife-ridden years, who among us believes that D&D made all the circles, the majority, some, a few, even one ...?

The community had seen nothing like this. Careers and friendships were strained, the courses of some lives were altered. Yet, for some of us it never rang true. Why? Because there was no evidence. Certainly the claims were enough, if unexamined, to put the doubters to sleep. But it is clear that a cheap lawyer could have shredded Doug and Dave's fantasies in ten seconds.

In the early nineties it was apparent that there were a few hoaxed circles but the absence of evidence and our own lack of discernment turned these few events into an imagined torrent. The hoaxers were bright enough to discover that they never needed to do the hard work; a simple claim, especially to the needy and vulnerable, did the trick.

We had moved from a PR scam to mischief makers to claimants. But through all this, the phenomenon developed. Indeed, it would be safe to say that the Circlemakers hardly noticed these expressions of humanity's malice, denial and destructiveness. As the phenomenon increased its range, the faith in the hoax idea grew, most powerfully

within our own ranks. Some of the proud flagships of crop circle interest became quite literally the mouthpiece for hoax claimants.

So here we are. Five years later we can survey the wreckage. Organisations have effectively collapsed, hopefully to be revived without their hoax obsession and desperation for the mythical "litmus test". Magazines, once required reading, are no longer so.

I believe the flaky young men in black who very occasionally faked a circle are now bored and inactive. Let me make it clear that I have no evidence for this but nor is there any evidence supporting their activity. Claims have diminished, apart from those sought and encouraged by a famous few. I remind readers that, despite police interest, farmers' fury and National Farmers Union rewards, no one has been caught.

It's all over. Or is it?

It has long been apparent that the real support for the hoax hypothesis comes from the heart of our own ranks where it is nurtured obsessively. So many researchers pronounce that "many/most/the majority/90%" of circles are man-made. These dictates are offered with an authoritarian paternalism that brooks no challenge.

Why do we never ask how they know? Why is supporting evidence never offered? How are they so certain? Why are they never challenged? Why

are we such SAPS?

I hesitate to make extreme comparisons, but these techniques are widely used on the scruffier edges of politics. Power and authority is increased by the control of information. Just as the hoax claimants implied that they had made a circle, many commentators, hoax supporters all, imply that they have information about hoaxes. And how many of us have ever heard evidence to support these wild allegations?

One researcher's latest newsletter states, "Of the 40 or so reports so far this year, most are almost certainly very poor attempts by people." This is the kind of assertion we sit still for. It is a commonplace for senior researchers to use their position, real or imagined, to issue pronouncements of this sort. The wisdom and authority of their position is implicit and they clearly never feel a need to justify

Back in SC 51 we reported the tale of the Stratford-on-Avon 'eye' formation of 1995, which appeared next to the site of a pop festival and seemed to represent the logo of a band who played there. The band claimed, fairly convincingly (they placed adverts in the music press asking for those who might have made the formation to come forward), no knowledge of the formation. No evidence of hoaxing was forthcoming, leading some to think this was another of the circle-making forces' amusing synchronicity tricks. Further details have since arisen, as Ray Cox explains...

A further development has come to light with regard to the 1995 Stratford 'eye' formation.

Wolfgang Schindler sent me a photograph which he found in a German magazine called *Esotera*, the photograph itself taken from a book by one Dr Wighard Strehlow called 'Desert Dance' about Australian aborigines. The photograph shows a group of aborigines sitting around a pattern marked out on the ground similar to the Stratford 'eye', without all the eye details but with the three semi-circles above and the three below. The aborigines are "about to shift the pitch", and this refers to a ceremony or game or something like that - or maybe moving location.

their opinions.

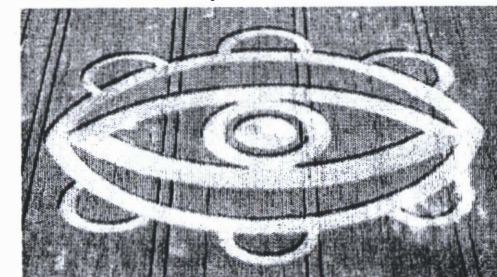
I now challenge the hoax theorists to justify these sorts of statement. "Most" of "40 or so" means more than twenty. I challenge them to tell us which they were. The old dodge of keeping it secret for reasons of "security" will not wash any more. If they cannot justify these sweeping edicts, will they be gentleman enough and have sufficient respect for their public, to apologise and withdraw such groundless assertions?

This situation could not have arisen without a compliant and dopey community. I challenge you to ask questions, to write letters, to ask for evidence in support of this rubbish. Above all, I challenge you to start to use your own discernment.

Because the shocking truth is this. The claims of some self-proclaimed senior researchers have no more substance than those of Doug & Dave. **MG**

Now you may recall that the music band which had the eye symbol as its logo and which was very similar to the formation is itself called *Pitch Shifter*! Perhaps this refers to pitch as in music. (Many synthesisers, which the band use extensively in their music, have a control lever called a 'pitch shifter' - Ed.) When Michael Newark contacted the group he was told that the logo was drawn by one of the members, who was a graphic artist, simply whilst doodling, about five years ago, and, of course, they could throw no light on the formation.

You will notice we have TWO coincidences here; the coincidence of the design and that of the name. Whether or not there is a connection here with something - a formation? - very far away and in Australia, it certainly reveals again the amazing coincidences in this phenomenon. **RC**



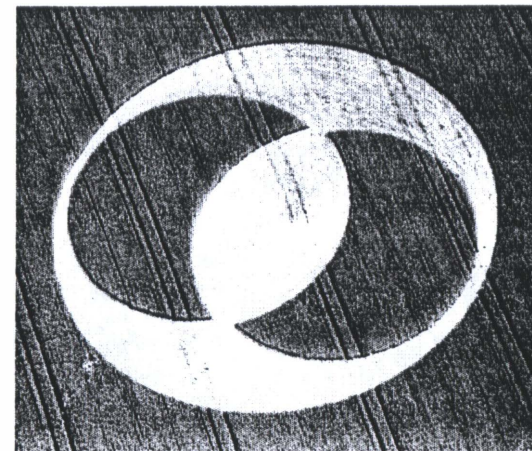
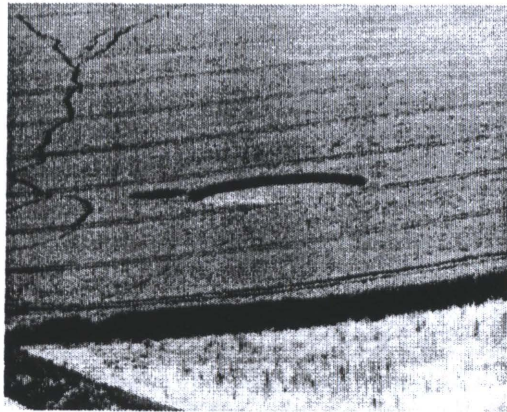
- STIR 'EM UPS -

HOAX? WHAT HOAX?

As the Doug and Dave press escapades pass their fifth anniversary, **MICHAEL GLICKMAN** looks back on the resulting damage, and discovers that **we ourselves, the crop circle 'community', are most responsible for having perpetrated the myths and legends of mass-hoaxing...**

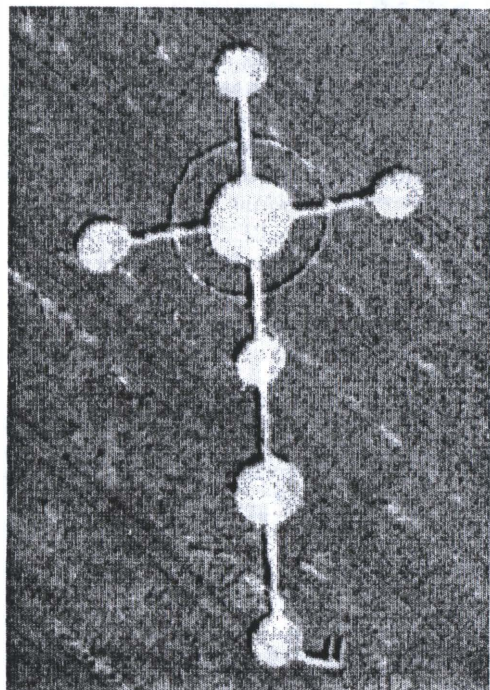
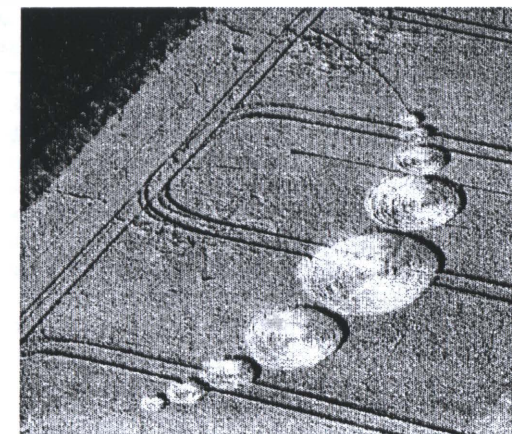
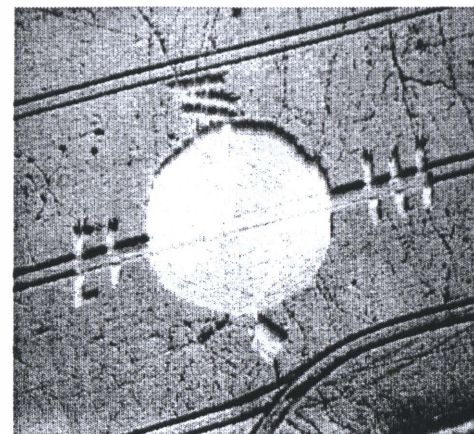
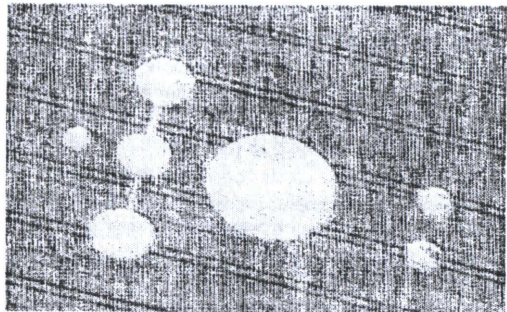
- NEWS - SHIFTING THE PITCH

Remember the 'eye' formation which may or may not have been a pop group's logo..?
RAY COX tells more...



CIRCLES '96 PHOTO- SPREAD #5: ODDS & SODS

*In previous issues we've shown some of the more high-profile formations of the year... Now for the others, some less seen for sometimes obvious reasons! A few are good, a few bad, and some just plain weird... Original colour copies of certain of these photographs can be obtained directly from: **STEVE ALEXANDER**, tel: 01705 35286 and **LUCY PRINGLE**, tel: 01730 263454.*



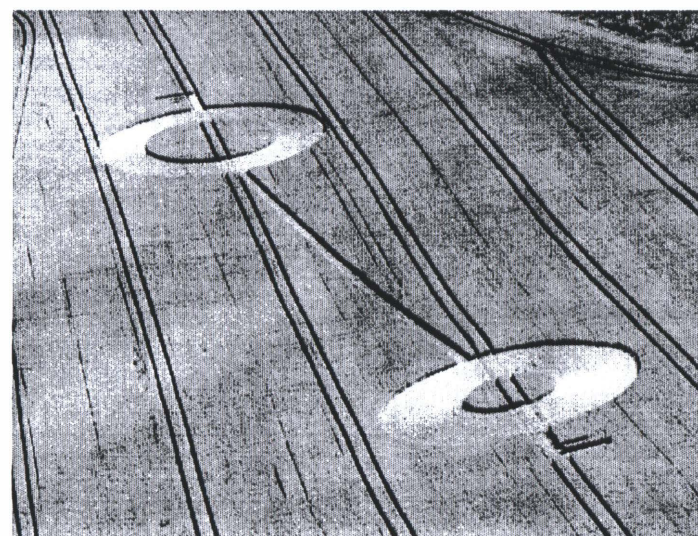
TOP LEFT: Arreton, Isle of Wight. Photo: **CAROLYN MORGAN**

TOP RIGHT: The 'grey alien' face at Waden Hill, Wiltshire. Because it looks as it does, no-one takes it seriously, yet many believe the 'greys' are responsible for crop formations..! Photo: **STEVE ALEXANDER**

MIDDLE: Layer-de-la-Haye, Essex. Photo: **NIGEL BROWN** (Evening Gazette)

MIDDLE RIGHT: 'Torpedo' near Burbage, Wiltshire. As far as we know, no-one ever saw this on the ground. Did anyone out there go inside? Photo: **LUCY PRINGLE**

LEFT: Cross formation at Compton Abbas, Dorset. Photo: **GEOFF SOPER**



TOP: 'Vesica Piscis', Ashbury, Oxfordshire. Photo: **STEVE ALEXANDER**

MID LEFT: Longparish, Hampshire. Photographer anon by own request.

MID RIGHT: 'Croissant', Ashbury, Oxfordshire. Photo: **LUCY PRINGLE**

LEFT: Woodborough Hill, Wiltshire. This was the latest formation made by the Germans Koch and Kyborg as part of their ongoing communication experiments. Photo: **LUCY PRINGLE**

How exactly does one arrive at a particular line of investigation?

The direction my research has taken is the express result of personal experience (I have visited in excess of 200 formations) and the reports sent to me by many people from all over the world. I would

like to thank each and everyone of you and to reassure you that everything you tell me is in total confidence unless you give me permission otherwise. The current lines of enquiry have all stemmed from these personal experiences and submitted reports.

Over the years it has become apparent that many people suffer similar experiences and it is this recurrence of symptoms that led me to investigate the possible reason behind these particular reactions. There may be several reasons, of course, and each needs to be examined carefully. I continue to have the good fortune of wonderful help from many skilled medical experts and scientists with biochemical and physical knowledge and expertise. This help is invaluable and very welcome, so if any of you, as you read my reports, have any particular suggestions or areas of knowledge that could further this research, either in analysing the reports or suggesting a possible test, I would be very glad to hear from you.

"I CANNOT GET THE TASTE OUT OF MY MOUTH"

I believe our five senses are invaluable detectors that sadly we ignore only too often. In a previous article published elsewhere I mentioned 'taste' (1). On certain occasions when entering or in the close vicinity of a formation, I get this strange metallic taste which is so invasive, I cannot get rid of it by spitting or any other means. I only ever experience this when in these circumstances, never at any other time. Other people have also experienced this taste and 'Debbie' considers it her litmus test as to the genuineness of a formation. When she has this taste, she believes the formation is bona fide. I have discussed this recently in talks and have been amazed by the number of people who have also experienced this sensation. The most interesting story of all came from a woman who approached me after my talk at the 1995 CCCS Conference in

Andover. "I have that taste in my mouth now" she announced, "and I am not in a crop circle, but I am a diet maintained diabetic!" She went on to tell me that whenever her protein ketones rise to a certain level she experiences this 'taste' and has to get something to eat quickly in order to correct this situation. In other words this is her warning signal that her blood sugar level is dropping dramatically and she must do something about it! This caused me great excitement; could this point to what was happening to certain people when they went into a circle? The tiredness that was so often re-

ported, was that due to a draining of energy as a result of an abrupt drop in our blood sugar level? It gave me a coat hanger on which to put further research.

What are ketones? They are organic compounds that contain a carbonyl group (an oxygen atom doubly bonded to a carbon atom) bonded to two other organic groups. The blood ketone level in humans normally increases in response to starvation, diabetes mellitus, or a high-fat, low-carbohydrate diet. Dietary changes and, in diabetes, the administration of insulin, usually corrects the condition.

"WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TIME?"

Many people report loss of time, states of euphoria, bliss and out of body/mind experiences; raised levels of awareness and consciousness. Clearly our everyday levels of consciousness are in a constant state of change and movement, but could the crop formations be playing a particular role in inducing these altered states and if so, how? What ingredient in the circles could be held responsible?

I believe this is a complex area where there is no easy answer. Many of the formations are shaped like mandalas, meditation structures used for that purpose alone. It therefore seems quite acceptable that when people are attending a talk and are watching the aerial slides pass by on the screen, that some will go into a meditative state, but... when people enter them on the ground, they cannot see the whole formation and often it is so complex, it is impossible to work out its overall shape from that

vantage point. So why are those people being affected? Is there some other possible explanation? Dr Levensgood has established there is evidence suggesting that "rapid air movement, ionisation and transient high temperature are somehow involved in producing crop circles". This is taking us into the microwave area of the electromagnetic spectrum. How does microwave activity work? There is a vast library of work written on microwave activity but as yet comparatively little is known about the function and interaction between microwave radiation and living organisms. Much work needs to be done in this area. Clearly the effects will depend on the power density, frequency and exposure time. We do know it affects our central nervous system. This is composed of three levels, our spinal chord, the lower brain and the cortex or higher brain. It works rather like a giant electrical circuit, each portion performing special functions. Richard M Neal, Jr MD's *Paralysis By Microwave* tells us that in laboratory tests, overexposure to microwave activity can lead to severe headaches, drowsiness, nausea and abnormal menstrual bleeding. I have three reports of the latter (*several very abnormal cases of this were reported in the 1996 Stonehenge formation - Ed*), many reports of severe headaches (2) and many of 'drowsiness' and nausea.

In extreme cases overexposure to microwave activity can lead to paralysis. I have two individual and independent cases of paralysis, Ralph Noyes and Kobus Nieuwmeier (3). This would appear to be 'functional' paralysis (as opposed to peripheral or phonetic paralysis) which is temporary and 'apparently not caused by a nerve lesion'. In other instances microwave activity can produce feelings of euphoria and ecstasy.

Audio effects such as clicking, buzzing or chirping have also been recorded coming, it would seem, from within the head or close to the head of the individual.

Do these effects strike a familiar chord and how could they be tested? This led me in 1993 to invite Isobel Maxwell-Cade (widow of Biofeedback pioneer Max Cade who wrote *The Awakened Mind*) and her partner Peter Staples who have continued Max's work, to perform Electro encephalogram, EEG, electrical brain rhythms tests and Electrical Skin Resistance, or E.S.R. tests (4). Each year both Isobel and Peter have kindly consented to continue this research, and each year their findings show a remarkable consistency in the sharp disparity of readings between the control tests performed in a

house some distance away from a crop circle and identical tests carried out within the circle. Even taking into account the joy and delight of sitting in a crop circle in beautiful countryside could not account for the disparity shown. In 1995 we were given permission by farmer Roger Silk to go into the wondrous East Meon 'nested arcs' formation. It was an extremely hot day in the field with no shade and the temperature was about 36 degrees C. Our thanks go to Roger Silk as he not only allowed me to bury my bottles in this formation but the BLT team were also given permission to carry out tests which, on analysis, showed the classical characteristics of microwave activity with dramatically altered differences between the control samples and the ones taken from inside the formation. Peter Staples reports that "Watching the Mind Mirror EEG for even a short period shows how rapidly and frequently the spectrum of the brain wave activity can - and often does - change". The account given below is therefore a brief appraisal of the overall shift (or absence of such shifts) in the patterns of the subjects listed.

Our interpretation of the EEG patterns reflects a "hierarchy" of states of consciousness ie. where each state has a greater level of awareness and responsiveness than the one below. Whilst there are appropriate situations for all these states, we are looking for an increase in the level of awareness and in the balancing of the activity of the two sides of the brain.

Our subjects were myself, Margaret Randall and Christopher Weeks, who were measured the previous year and Roger and Linea Taylor.

FINDINGS

All three ladies showed a significant reduction in the ESR for both hands in the crop circle while either retaining or increasing the hand temperature. This reflects more stimulation and "involvement" eg. a more pro-active state.

Chris showed a reduction in the ESR in the left hand and increase in the right hand in the crop circle. As the ESR in the palm corresponds to the activity of the opposite side of the cortex, this shows as an increase in right hemisphere activity (eg in "feeling" or gestalt awareness) and a slight decrease in the left hemisphere activity (eg. sequential and semantic thinking). Roger showed the converse - a shift from right dominant perception to left dominant perception.

Margaret's EEG patterns showed predominant

- FEATURES - THE HUMAN EFFECT REPORT

LUCY PRINGLE continues her investigations into medical and physical effects on people entering crop circles and here presents the scientific findings compiled from her work in 1995...

beta at my house and a much more balanced beta/alpha/theta pattern in the circle. The change was consistent with the "outside/inside" measurements of the previous two summers and the improvements seemed to be more stable, ie. improved connection between mental and emotional activity, for example in the expression of thought. Linea showed a more heightened awareness in the crop circle, with more activity in the alpha and lower frequencies, better integration and very balanced, symmetric activity across the two hemispheres.

The most striking difference was in my own patterns. I had high levels of beta with "alpha blocking" in the house typical of "mind in overdrive". In the formation I showed a more "receptive" state, with beta reduced and far more alpha and lower frequencies. With eyes closed, this was more trance-like. With eyes open, it was more right brain dominant - for example, sensing experience as feeling without necessarily being able to translate the experience into words. This scenario was also apparent in measurements from the previous year.

Roger had the appearance on the EEG of someone with considerable experience of the meditative reflective states but without the precision of awareness of internal state which would allow this quality to be integrated with concentration on external subjects. He showed the "fifth" state with eyes closed concentration at the house (ie. balanced beta/alpha/theta), but showing this much more predominantly with more alpha and with eyes open in the crop circle. This comparison could indicate that Roger was a quick learner, and was showing a greater awareness of the states from the first session to the second.

Chris showed high levels of delta with unstable patterns (changing frequently) at my house. The mind appeared to be preoccupied at a subconscious level - perhaps with inspiration and/or anxieties. In the crop circle there was more alpha and the mind seemed calmer. (Alpha activity is necessary in order to bring this kind of subconscious activity into awareness.) Chris would definitely benefit from more of the practice of sitting in a focused silence.

The results have on every occasion been beneficial and this has led Peter Staples in his report to conclude "We have noticed again that the subjects were showing more body awareness and right brain activity when in the crop circle in preference to

intellectual thinking. It seems from our observations over the last three years that these people benefit from being in crop circles. They experience tranquillity - which can often lead to a healing boost to the immune system."

That these results are always beneficial, unlike the many adverse reports that reach me each year, has, I believe, a bearing on the fact that I dows the formation carefully before using it for our tests. I do this primarily because Margaret Randall suffers not only from Reynauds disease (circulatory condition) as indeed do I, but she also has a secondary condition for which she is a guinea pig at a London teaching hospital (5). I would not knowingly place her in a position that could worsen her existing condition. As it happens her chronic condition seems to be in a state of remission, her doctors unable to give an explanation for this improvement. Margaret however connects it directly to her yearly visits to the circles, but is hesitant to give this reasoning to her doctors! It might be interesting to test people in an 'unfriendly' formation one year! Any volunteers?

INTOXICATING HEADACHES?

Could there be any other reason why people are suffering from headaches, ranging from slight to severe? Could there be other reasons why there are many reports of nausea?

Let us explore headaches first. It would seem likely that some form of strong electrical force or field is present when a formation appears. We also think that this is likely to be a plasma, a gas containing a high density of electrons and positive ions. When in a gas they stop behaving like individuals and start behaving like an integrated whole, such as a swarm of bees, that can move simultaneously with tremendous force and speed. When this condition occurs nitric oxide, not to be confused with nitrous oxide (laughing gas), can result. It is a by-product of combustion and can be formed from air by lightning. It was this situation that encouraged Jim Lyons to suggest to ADAS (*Government department which investigated some formations in 1995, before those involved in the tests were mysteriously sacked - Ed*) that there might be residual traces of nitrogen in the soil that could be detected and measured and indeed this was proved to be the case in several of the formations tested. What is nitric oxide and what are its effects? Nitric oxide has a bad reputation and has been given a bad press, being linked to acid rain and smog and is also thought to be carcinogenic. It gives us sore throats,

sore and running noses and eyes and coughs. It can also lead to light headedness and intoxication. It is a poison, but in small doses is a necessary one. It occurs quite naturally within our bodies, acting as a messenger and is responsible for regulating our blood pressure and plays a large part in controlling our digestive system; it is also thought to enhance our long term memory potential. In men, it plays an essential role, relaying sexual excitement to the penis, dilating blood vessels, causing an erection. In the 1995 Avebury Trusloe Spiral in which Keith Wakelam and I both suffered instant and severe migraine headaches when standing in the centre (6), the nitrogen level at the centre was found to be 90 % higher than in the rest of the formation.

A woman sent in a report after visiting the Crewkerne wheel formation in Dorset, saying that she had developed a severe sore throat whilst inside that lasted for two days, but at the same time, felt as though she was bubbling like champagne!

One of the most common complaints is sore throats and one I have experienced on a number of occasions during crop circle visits. Are we wrong to place these ills on the shoulders of possible nitric oxide alone or should we be looking at the effects of some of the sprays used in farming to control pests and stimulate growth? Many of these sprays come in brand names such as insecticides Pirimicarb and Denigton S Methyl, not immediately recognised as containing organo phosphate chemicals that are heavily discouraged if not already banned due to the risk to human life. Some particular chemicals like organic phosphates, when married with other substances, could have alarming consequences. A chemist, when asked what might happen if organic phosphate substances were exposed to electromagnetic radiation such as microwaves, was alarmed and said he would flee the kitchen!

What effects might be experienced by people if they went into a newly formed event that was on land that had recently been sprayed with organo phosphates? Organo phosphates have been given much media publicity recently and the implications of their use are disturbing.

A programme produced on BBC's *Southern Eye* recently discussed their dangers. They were developed during the war by the Germans as a nerve gas and many people lived distressing lives as a direct result of exposure to this terrible wartime chemical.

Much research is being conducted into O.P.'s as

more and more stories of suicide and ill health suffered by farmers come to light, particularly sheep farmers who are compulsorily ordered to dip their animals in a solution containing organo phosphates. The list of symptoms is so long and potentially alarming that one wonders why nothing has been done before now to tackle this problem.

Sixty per cent of farmers having medical problems, when examined have been found to be suffering from depression and asthma, whereas others complain of fatigue, headaches, lack of co-ordination, panic attacks, anger, rage and severe mood swings.

It would appear that the level of the neurochemical serotonin in our brains is also affected, giving a possible explanation for some of these effects. "Serotonin is a neurotransmitter which has been implicated in a wide range of mental phenomena from sleep cycles to psychosis and psychedelics" (7). Organo phosphates are still available to gardeners and are widely used in public places such as parks and gardens. Breakspere Hospital continues to conduct a much needed research programme into the problems and symptoms of O.P.'s and it is hoped that positive action may soon be taken to safeguard farmers and the general public; until such time, however slight the risk, we need to bear this unsettling scenario and its possible effects in mind when visiting the crop circles.

WATER BOTTLES AND HOMEOPATHY

Results on bottles of water buried under crop circles take a long time to come through and much as I long for immediate news, this is not possible, especially as in several cases we are breaking new ground in testing these samples. As mentioned in *Three Lines of Research* (8), Dr Cyril Smith, using his well tried and tested Resonance technique, found substantial and measurable differences between the water samples placed inside the formation as compared with the control samples. These were preliminary results but gave me sufficient encouragement to continue this line of research. Dr Jacques Benveniste, the pioneer of the water having a memory hypothesis, also kindly agreed to test samples, using a technique by which he notes the change in the way the atoms spin; he will send the same samples on to Dr Joan Davis, an immunologist working from a laboratory in Switzerland who will test the water for bacteria levels. She will then send the water to Dr Cyril Smith for his evaluation; he will be the final link in the chain. If all

these tests using the different techniques show measurable anomalies on the same samples, this will be of great significance and hopefully will encourage sponsorship. All the scientists involved have contributed their time and expertise for love alone and I am greatly indebted to them, but there must come a time when they simply cannot continue to do research on this basis.

In addition to Drs Benveniste, Smith and Davis, Dr Levengood approached me last summer, having read about my water research and the method I was using. He also kindly asked to test samples for me and the preliminary results were so exciting he telephoned me from his home in Michigan to say that the results showed such a substantial increase in the level of bacteria in the water samples buried inside the Nested Crescents at East Meon as compared to the samples buried outside, that he felt this was of enormous significance. He has done me the very great honour of calling it the 'Pringle effect' and has encouraged me to continue my efforts in this

area. Clearly a great deal more work needs to be done, methods constantly need updating and restructuring, sometimes requiring a total rethink back at the drawing board. This all takes time and so the results inevitably take longer than expected to come through. I will be continuing my research into these and other areas as they arise; please keep sending in reports, everything no matter how small or insignificant it may seem, is important and could be one of the elusive and vital links that go to completing the jigsaw puzzle. Your help is essential. LP

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Each autumn, a crop circle calendar seems to spring up from a different source to the year before it. In 1993, Gateway Books published what is still the best circle calendar yet produced. In 1994, the Centre for Crop Circle Studies unleashed their own artistic creation on the world, followed by another in 1995, a well-intentioned but much inferior effort to the first. Better was a rival 1995 calendar produced by the single-monikered researcher Ilyes in the US.

This year, the annual arrival has been launched by a combination of the 'Wiltshire Crop Circle Fellowship' (once the CCCS branch, now apparently not) and the team of Michael Glickman and Patricia Murray. And it's pretty good. Each month features a colour photo of a '96 pattern, and, of course, a calendar grid, in green and black behind which lie rather smart grey images of other crop circles from the last couple of years. Photos in circle calendars are traditionally accompanied by general quotes of the metaphysical and ethereal. This time, the quotes are actually about crop circles by people involved with crop circles. (I must declare an interest here - I helped choose them...)

The formations featured are: Stonehenge, the Ashbury Vesica Pisces, the Littlebury Green man-

dala, the Liddington Castle solar/lunar symbols, the Goodworth Clatford Tudor Rose, the Alton Barnes double helix, the Martock cross, the Olivers Castle snowflake, Barton-le-Clay and the Windmill Hill triple Julia Set. By and large the photos, taken by various snappers, are excellent (although the definition on a couple could be crisper). One quibble though: the use of pole shots. A criticism levelled against last year's CCCS effort was the use of ground photographs, and two are featured here, as well as aerial shots

of the same. They're nice photos sure enough, but they simply don't stand out enough when seen across a room, as a calendar inevitably will be. Aerial shots of two new formations would have been a better bet.

But don't let this put you off. You won't be disappointed with owning this or be ashamed to hang it on your kitchen noticeboard. It's about as good a souvenir of another year's worth of crop field mysteries as you're likely to get, and an opportunity like that is not to be sniffed at. AT

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