



*THE MONTHLY
JOURNAL OF
CROP CIRCLES
AND BEYOND*

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Circle
Calendar
Reviews

**USA
1997**

**Internet
'Hoaxers'
Infiltrate TV...**

**2012
Predicted**

"Three things we should keep in mind (in conversation): first, that we speak in the presence of people as vain as ourselves, whose vanity suffers in proportion as ours is satisfied; second, that there are few truths important enough to justify paining and reproving others for not knowing them; finally, that any man who monopolizes the conversation is a fool or would be fortunate if he were one"
BARON MONTESQUIEU

An insightful article this month by Lucy Pringle serves as a warning to anyone considering taking part in a television programme about crop circles: it may not turn out as you hope, as some participants have famously discovered in other broadcasts. That's not to say things don't *always* go well for a positive look at the phenomenon - there have been a few well-balanced pieces of TV journalism in the past. It's just that there's so much scope for debunkers to get the upper hand because, on the surface, to uninformed media researchers preprogrammed by received sceptical wisdom, the claims of hoaxers seem easier to believe than talk of incredible unknown forces, evidence for which is hard to properly absorb in the short time they may spend doing their research. Most scepticism is born of ignorance of what's really going on in the fields, its scale or complexity, and the hoax-claimants use this to their advantage. It's difficult to convey anything of depth in the short soundbites the media thrives on these days and shallow tales of prankery go across more easily than technical talk as to the detail of why crop circles are an unexplained mystery, which requires much background data. This unfortunate fact usually becomes obvious as soon as the TV editor's 'scissors' have done their work, no matter what might have been filmed.

It's not just TV either. I was asked to give a radio interview this summer about the psychic experiments carried out with crop circles by some SCR members, as recounted in the book *Quest For Contact*, only to find that any mention of the said experiments had been excised completely in the edit, leaving just a few innocuous, out-of-context points about the phenomenon. Which rather negated the whole purpose of the exercise! I reason now that the only way to deal with the media is not to avoid it but instead to simply give of oneself honestly and with good intent when the opportunity arises in the hope that at least some positive points about crop circles will go over, however heavily the final product may be slanted towards scepticism. After all, if those who believe in a real and important enigma always stay mute then the ground is open for the debunkers to have total domination. We have to do what we can, and if our well-meant contributions are abused or badly edited then it's the 'bad karma' of those responsible, not ours.

Talking of television, Ronnie Salter has written in to say that the cancelled US TV series *Dark Skies*, the only programme to have yet used crop circles as part of its regular storyline, now has a lobby group to resurrect it. Interested? Write to: UK Save Dark Skies Campaign, 40 Hodge Road, Worsley, Manchester, M28 3AU. Their Web site is: <http://planetenz.com/darkskies>. OK!
ANDY THOMAS

SC

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Front cover: Alton Priors, Wiltshire, July 1997. Photograph by Lucy Pringle.

#9 '97 CIRCLES UPDATE Overseas

Last issue we presented the list of crop formations from around the world in 1997, minus the USA. This month we complete our round-up of this year's events with the data from the United States, compiled by BARRY REYNOLDS. Throughout 1997 we have kept up our coverage of the latest formations as accurately and fully as possible in circumstances of constantly-developing data, providing the most comprehensive information available anywhere besides the Internet. A few formations will surely have gone unreported somewhere along the line, but for now that's it from the Circles Update section until next season...

USA CROP FORMATIONS 1997

County/ State/ Province	Nearest Town/ Village	Date First Seen	Crop	Details
Illinois	Between Collinsville & Granite City	18-Jun-97	Wheat	1/4 mile long crop circle in winter wheat formed around 16-18 June, 15 miles from Saint Louis. Part of it has 2 parallel paths 30'-40' wide with "stuff sticking up"! Thistle included with lay.
Indiana	Columbia City (near to)	08-Jul-97		2 areas less than a mile from each other near Columbia City & another 7 miles further south of non-geometric seemingly crop circle type damage ie. not lodging. Discovered as they appear on a line drawn through 2 of the 1996 circle sites.
Michigan	Livingston County, Michigan State Park	07-Feb-97	Wheat	39' circle of wheat growing on scrubland of grasses, shrubs and trees, swirled flat! Exactly the same happened in 1996! Two more nearby, one slightly larger the other smaller.
Missouri	St Louis	08-Jul-97		At least 9 separate sites with 25-30 separately affected areas of non-geometric seemingly crop circle type damage ie. not lodging.
Nebraska	Waverly	06-Jul-97	Wheat	Large (40') & small circles with paths described as 'F' or key-shaped.
New Jersey	Lawrenceville, Mercer County	09-Jul-97		Difficult to ascertain from picture but looks like a complicated dumbbell. Video shot from helicopter appeared on 'Channel 10' in Philadelphia.
New York State	Marion	15-Aug-97	Oats	5 offset circles joined by pathways. Farmer very kindly harvested around the formation. Samples sent to Dr Levengood.
Oregon	Silver Creek Falls, Salem	06-Jul-97	Wheat	64' double standing horseshoe opening to the southeast, very close to houses. Very impressive formation. Samples sent to Dr L.
Oregon	The John Day River	17-Jun-97		String of circles making up a thought-bubble type formation.
Utah	Lehi	01-Sep-97	Wheat	No details known.
Utah	Logan Airport	03-Jul-97	Wheat	Largest circular pattern in Utah known as 'Saturn's Ring' as it is a large circle with a 4' wide ring around it, ie. a ringed circle!
Utah	Providence	03-Jul-97		Smaller versions of "Joe" and "Mike" formations (see below) 20 miles south of originals in same field as 1996 "Turtle on Skis" (?).
Utah	Richmond	11-Jul-97	Wheat	Double with one circle ringed, crossed by pathway with bars, semi-rings and M-shape. Looks a bit like stylised "Mike". Approx. 300'.
Utah	Smithfield	06-Jul-97	Wheat	75' circle with trident emerging from one side and bar with curved end emerging from opposing side. Separate 30' circle near curved path. Reported in 'Herald Journal'. Looks a bit like stylised "Joe". Two guys, Joe & Mike, subsequently claimed formations! Approx 220' long.
Wisconsin	Wausau	13-Aug-97		Circle joined to ring with other pathways. Reported in 'Wausau Daily Herald' on 15th August.

One of the most lucrative growth markets in crop circle merchandise seems to be the rush to produce calendars for the Christmas market. Gateway Books set the precedent way back in 1993 with what is still the best example of its genre, big, glossy and with excellent reproduction. Since then, various, less ambitious calendars have appeared not from publishing houses but from research groups and individuals, with mixed results. For the first time ever, this year has seen the release of no less than *three* different calendars from various sources who last season collaborated on one. Whether the going of separate ways has produced better results or spread talent too thinly is for individuals to decide. Which calendar to go for is in many ways determined by what one most looks for in such a purchase - size, design, photographic quality or ease of use as an actual year planner. This last criterion is the least important aspect for many as these often serve simply as a good souvenir of each crop circle season instead of buying postcards or photographs separately. More than one household must at some point or another simply cut up their calendar for framed pictures without ever having utilised its intended purpose. Given that it's nearly always the act of seeing photographs of what's really going on out there in the fields that attracts fresh interest, these calendars, which will almost certainly be hung in kitchens, halls and offices and viewed by newcomers, have an important role to play in spreading the word of this extraordinary phenomenon, although some will inevitably accuse the plethora available of cynical cashing-in.. Whatever the reason for forking out on such items, this review, we hope, will help people make their own minds up as to which to go for this year by unbiasedly listing the relative merits and detriments of each example available. One SC grouse of the last few year's calendars has been the inclusion of ground and pole shots which simply don't work when seen across a room; interesting to see that none have been included this year. So, let's wheel out the exhibits. Out of fairness, we'll take them in the order they were published in:

Kornkreise: Das ungeklärte Phänomen 1998 produced by Steve Alexander, all photos by Steve Alexander. Prices (inc. p&p): £12.00 (UK), £14.00 (Europe), £16.00 or \$27.00 (USA - either currency accepted), £18.00 (Australia).

Formations included: Winterbourne Bassett 'Chinese puzzle' / Alton Priors Torus knot / Bishops Cannings star / Stonehenge 'snowflake' / Cley Hill hexagon / Etchilhampton 'flower' / Burderop Down Qabalah / Etchilhampton 'calendar grid' / Barbury 'flower' / Long Marston 3D-Torus / Silbury fractal star / Milk Hill fractal star

Cover star: Silbury fractal star (overhead aerial)

One can only imagine the rising gargle of horror Steve must have had when he got umpteen boxes of his calendar back from its German printers only to find they had printed the cover in German, hence the title. A little communication hiccup there. Still, it does give this project a kind of international flavour which may enable it to do well on the

continent and months and days are printed in all major languages inside so once the first page is turned (ie. almost instantly) the problem ends there. This calendar has a striking designer minimalism feel to it, all sparseness and thick white frames around the photos which sets it apart from the other two which are very similar in look. A short piece about the phenomenon by Karen Douglas is included at the back.

Pluses: Of the three, this has the most consistent photographic quality, which is uniformly excellent, not a single dud present, in focus with glowing colours. Steve is one of the very best circle photographers and this shows clearly here. Being A3 as opposed to the customary A4, this is also a larger format than its rivals, recalling the legendary Gateway calendar.

Minuses: The overall design appears to use a standard template intended to have a company logo, but this hasn't been filled, hence a strange white space at the top of each page. Although the calendar is larger than the others, the uncropped photos are actually smaller! Captions for the photographs are hidden away on the back page. Position of hook-hole means pages can't be turned but must be torn off each month.

Available from: Steve Alexander, 27 St Francis Road, Gosport, Hampshire, PO12 2UG. Tel: 01705 352867. Cheques payable to Steve Alexander.

Crop Circle Calendar 1998 produced by Wiltshire Crop Circle Study Group & Lucy Pringle, photos by Lucy

Pringle & various others. Prices: £8.50 plus £1.50 p&p (UK & Europe) or plus £3.00 p&p (global).

Formations included: Barbury 'flower' / Cley Hill hexagon / Burderop Down Qabalah / Winterbourne Bassett 'Chinese puzzle' / Dreischor Dutch inverted triple-Julia Set / Alton Priors Torus knot / Silbury fractal star / Oliver's Castle double crescents / Etchilhampton 'flower' & 'calendar grid' / East Meon 'insect' / German 'sacred mazes' & USA Oregon rings / Milk Hill fractal star

Cover star: Cley Hill hexagon (hillside view)

Last year the team that produced this collaborated with Michael Glickman and Patricia Murray to produce 1997's calendar. Although bereft of their input this time around, WCCSG and Lucy Pringle have played safe and the same template has been re-used, producing a near-identical format, the only major change being that the photographs are contained within narrow frames instead of reaching to the edges. Grey silhouette diagrams lie under the date grid, with black and green text and famous ethereal quotes (not directly circle-related this time) accompany each month. Thus, if you liked the look of the previous effort, you'll probably be happy with this too. Whether copyright wrangles as to use of the template will ever surface though relies on the goodwill of Messrs Glickman and Murray who originally designed it and have stuck to almost the same look themselves this year... (see below). A brief (anonymous) introduction to the phenomenon prefaces the calendar.

Pluses: Being the cheapest of the three available calendars and a direct descendant from a previous best-selling edition will ensure it does well. The cover, front and back, is glossy and very professional, and the title photo daringly different. The inclusion of overseas formations is refreshing and there's an excellent photo of the Dutch inverted triple fractal. There's room to write in the grid.

Minuses: Although generally pretty good, variable photo quality - the Qabalah has seemingly been cropped way too closely and lost definition. A couple of others lack clarity. Photo montages look a little awkward. And the East Meon 'ant/insect' is reproduced upside down! (Several journals commit this sin with circle photos - an easy mistake for novices but seasoned croppies should be able to see the difference in perspective by now!)

Available from: WCCSG, PO Box 939, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 3TA, or from Lucy Pringle, 5 Town Lane, Sheet, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU32 2AF. Tel: 01730 263454. Cheques payable to WCCSG or Lucy Pringle (please send relevant cheque to right address).

Crop Circle Calendar 1998 - The Phenomenon Continues produced by Michael Glickman & Patricia Murray

(**Crop Circle RADIUS**), photos by various. Prices: \$16.95 plus \$3.00 p&p (USA - \$4.00 p&p if going outside the US) or £11.00 (UK).

Formations included: Milk Hill fractal star / Headbourne Worthy quintuplet / Liddington Castle 'necklace' / Barbury 'flower' / Bishops Cannings star / Etchilhampton 'flower' & 'calendar grid' / Alton Priors Torus knot / Cley Hill hexagon / Vernham Dean ringed pictogram / Silbury fractal star (twice) / Stonehenge 'snowflake'

Cover star: Milk Hill fractal star with white horse (aerial)

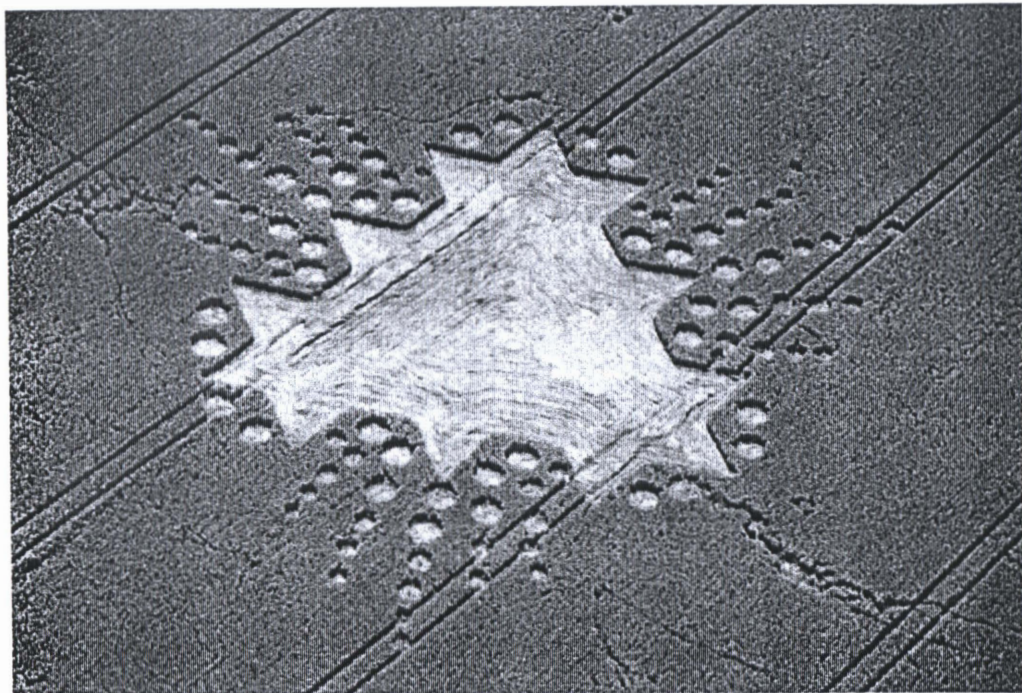
For reasons described above, this follows a very similar format to the WCCSG's calendar, with grey shapes behind the grid and quotes for each month (largely directly circle-related in this case). It's just as well Michael and Patricia decided to alter their template design a little this year or the two would have been identical! This is a ring-bound effort with a very short piece on the phenomenon on the back in which an attempt is made to make it sound like the agricultural community actually *likes* crop circles. The "scale and detail" of formations apparently "astonishes farmers and other observers". In general, "aggravates" might be more accurate in the case of farmers... Fortunately, the hook hole is punched right through the 'o' of 'Phenomenon' on the front cover.

Pluses: The inclusion of some English formations not covered by the other calendars, including the best photo yet seen of the Headbourne Worthy quintuplet. An excellent picture of Bishops Cannings and the photo-opportunity of a lifetime in which a ring of meditating folk sit almost at the centre of the Silbury fractal. Well-chosen quotes (ask me why sometime). Lots of room to write in. Little photo icons showing what's coming up for next month (nice touch).

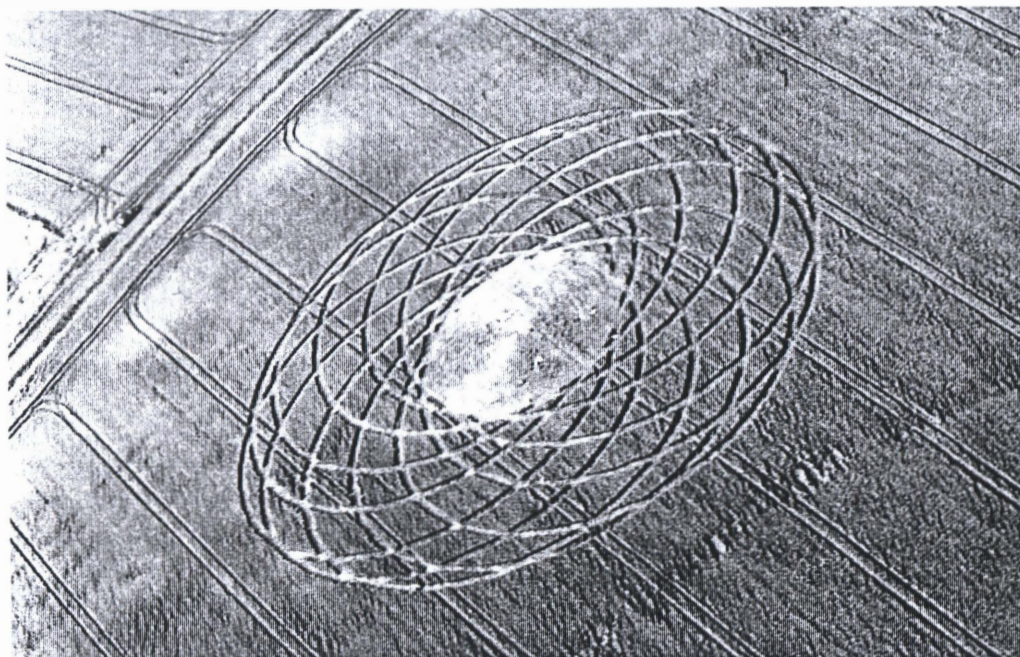
Minuses: Again, although most are good, some variable photo quality and uncomfortable off-centre framing on one or two. The inclusion of a quote which seems to encourage the creation of man-made paths into formations ("like the roots of a great tree"), although an imaginative touch, may *really* aggravate farmers. Little photo icons showing what's coming up for next month (it spoils the surprise!).

Available from: (USA) Crop Circle RADIUS, PO Box 2077, Santa Monica, California 90406, USA, cheques payable (in dollars) to 'Crop Circle Radius'. (Wholesale quotes tel. 310 358 6028 or fax 310 458 9886.) **OR:** (UK) Marcus Allen, Nexus Magazine, 55 Queens Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 1BG, cheques payable (in sterling) to Nexus Magazine.

How on earth does one decide? Easiest answer - get all three and have one for each main room of the house. Market saturation anyone? **AT**



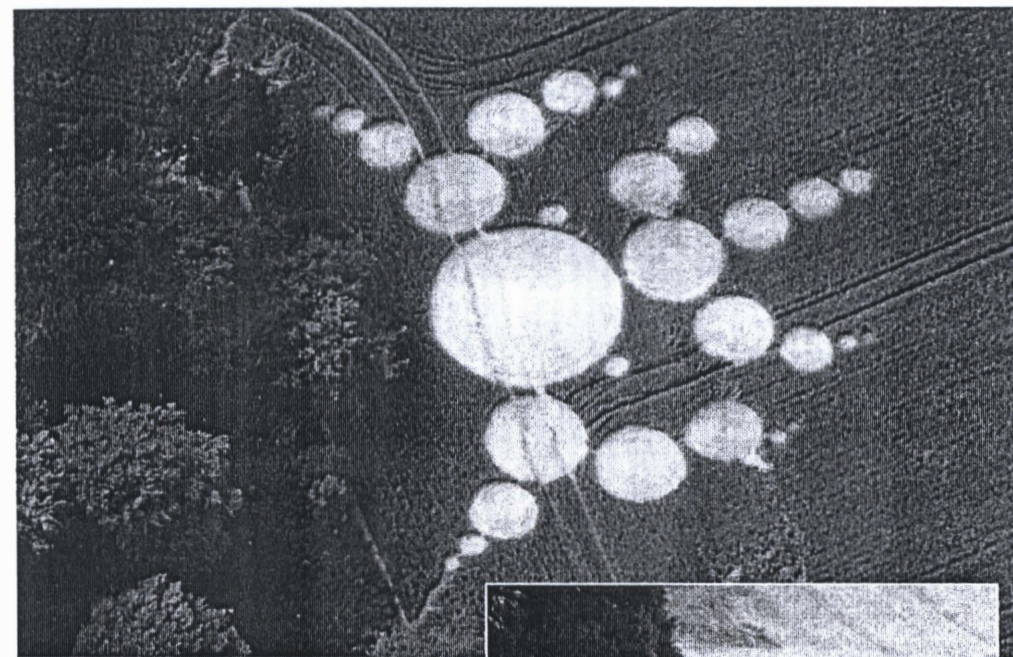
ABOVE: The very last English formation of 1997, at Hackpen Hill, Wiltshire, nicknamed the 'Strange Attractor' by some for reasons given in Geoff Stray's article on page 12. This is another fractal of triangles in the same series as the 'Koch snowflakes' which appeared at Silbury Hill and Milk Hill this season. **BELOW:** We've featured this pattern before but this is such a great shot of it, here's another view of the 'Torus knot' at Alton Priors, Wiltshire.



#7 '97 CIRCLES GALLERY

More stunning images from 1997. Alton Priors & Cosford by LUCY PRINGLE. Hackpen Hill and Liddington Castle by STEVE ALEXANDER. Aylesbury Swastika by GEOFF AMBLER.

Full colour original copies can be obtained from Lucy at: 5 Town Lane, Sheet, Petersfield, Hants, GU32 2AF, tel. 01730 263454, and from Steve at: 27 St Francis Road, Gosport, Hants, PO12 2UG, tel: 01705 352867.



TOP: Cosford, near Rugby, Warwickshire. There's a nice imagery to this, civilisation bustling all around it while the circle just sits serenely, unnoticed by most, yet just a glance over the hedge away...

CENTRE: Fractal 'creature' almost reaching out from the woods at Liddington Castle, Wiltshire. The main 'necklace' is almost identical to last year's 'croissant' at Ashbury, Oxfordshire (see SC 58).

BELOW: Swastika at Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. Despite clear concerns, some swear this was genuine.



Earlier this summer I received an E-mail from the producer of *Cyber Café*, a programme that appears on ITV Meridian television during the autumn, on a Saturday night/morning at 12.30am. He told me he was interested in doing a programme on people who made great use of the Internet in the Meridian region. I replied I was new to the Internet and still trying to find my way around even the simplest tasks and that from what I had heard there was a lot of politics and unpleasantness to be found among the groups and that I was not interested. I only used it for specific areas such *Crop Circle Connector*. This apparently he knew already for several weeks later he telephoned again, inviting me to appear on his programme due to be filmed in September. This time he revealed he was going to make a programme interviewing Rod Dickinson and John Lundberg. According to him, they called themselves 'The Circlemakers' and had set up lavishly illustrated and carefully created pages about their "art". They were vociferous in their claims to have made circles. I was incensed; by giving these people publicity, he was actually promoting hoaxing, an activity abhorrent to farmers and all true researchers. By giving them airspace they were promoting illegal activities that could well appeal to less responsible viewers. I refused. However, he was determined and over the weeks approached me several times to see if I had changed my mind. He assured me: "They would not be introduced as heroes, we will put it to them that they are damaging crop, trespassing and obscuring potentially valuable research in this area. (I am the interviewer as well as the producer of the programme)." He stressed that he wanted me to speak about the serious research that was being conducted into crop circles and "why there is far more to this subject than people with planks and ropes climbing over fences at dead of night". After talking to several friends, it then occurred to me that this negative interview in fact could be turned into something very positive. I had several long conversations with the

South East region of the NFU (National Farmers Union) who were in favour of my appearing in order to put over the legal aspect of hoaxing activity and the dismay of the farmers whose livelihood is threatened by these illegal actions. Next time the producer telephoned I said I would consider appearing but only on certain terms and conditions. These were given in writing and I agreed. The shoot was planned for Thursday 18th September, the venue, the *Mange 2 Café*, Southampton. My train was on time and I arrived a little early. The producer appeared and informed me that John Lundberg had withdrawn at the last moment; it would be Rod

Dickinson only. The programme was to be filmed as an informal talk around a table in the bustling café. They were shooting several interviews that day, including Father Lionel Fanthorpe on the paranormal. (Lionel is to be a guest speaker for UNEX next year.)

I would like to state that I have nothing personally against these people who claim to make crop formations but I do utterly condemn their supposed activities and their abusive treatment of the farming community.

The interview started with just Rod Dickinson (RD) and the producer/interviewer sitting at a table in the café discussing 'The Circlemakers' web site. Standing on the sidelines I could barely hear what was happening but it seemed as though RD was explaining how easy it was to make circles. This I found utterly distasteful; by so doing he was actually inciting people to try their hand and I found my hackles rising as I went into the shot, taking my place at the table. In the precise Oxford dictionary we are told that a 'hoaxer' is a 'deceiver'; I would like to suggest that we should not set much store on the words of 'deceivers', especially ones who not only are committing two offences, a civil one of trespass and a criminal one of damage to the farmers' land but who are also producing no evidence whatsoever of

their exploits.

This I put to RD; he maintained he was neither a deceiver nor in breach of the law! The argument he presented was that they are giving not only themselves but the general public enormous pleasure by being able to witness the glorious shapes they are making (or claiming) in the fields.

He also maintained that the farmers were not only making a lot of money out of the circles by charging people entrance fees, but were quite amicable and pleasant to him when he later told them that they had made a particular formation on their land.

When the farmers have offered a £2000 reward for any information that would allow a hoaxer to be caught and convicted, are we really so naive and gullible as to believe RD? Would farmers actually stand quietly, chatting happily to one who has just admitted committing such an offence on his land?

There are very few farmers who charge entrance fees. Tim and Polly Carson opened the field at Alton Priors where the amazing Torus Knot appeared this year to the general public charging £1.50 a head. This is an admirable way to let everyone enjoy the wonder of crop circles, ensuring that people enter the circle without damaging the rest of the crop. Over the years the Carsons have allowed people into their fields to visit the many formations that have appeared on their land totally free of charge apart from 1990 and 1991 when the first astounding pictograms appeared. By levying a small entrance charge to these amazing events, they were able to contribute to the repair of their local church from the proceeds. They are a generous family conscious not only of the needs of the crop circle community but of the needs of their village and other charitable organisations. We need more farmers like them. Our thanks go to them for making it possible for everyone to take part in such an unusual and wonderful experience.

After the interview, I questioned RD. Why did he not obtain the farmers' permission when others do such as Joachim Koch, Hans-Jurgen Kyborg and Erik Beckjord? His answer? "The result would not be 'art'" had the farmers' permission been granted and that "We do not know any farmers anyway". (Who was he talking to previously, I wonder?!) In addition he added that they lived in London and did not have time to search out the farmers.

I expect readers will find it as strange as I do that whereas they do have time to drive down from London, do have time to make a formation (*allegedly*) and even have time to talk to the farmer afterwards, they cannot be bothered to find the time to

ask the farmers' permission beforehand.

RD further told me that there were six people who were largely responsible for all the formations in the fields. He went on to say that if the six went away next year I would be surprised how few formations there would be. I said we would be delighted to take him up on that, whereupon he seemed to hesitate.

This statement is interesting on two accounts for not only did he not say that all formations would be gone, but was reluctant once more to follow up his offer.

This was the theme throughout the interview and the subsequent conversation. RD would make certain statements but when challenged utterly refused to substantiate or implement them.

He also refused to give any details about which formations, if any, they had made.

I believe that a certain percentage of formations are man-made, probably less than 5%. These will be the simple ones such as demonstrated by Doug Bower on BBC 2's *Country File* in September 1997. I do not believe that the enormous and geometrically complex ones such as the triple spiral Julia Set would possibly fall within the wit of man. During the interview I produced a black and white photocopy of this fractal image with its awesomely precise and flawless complex geometry, on which I had carefully marked the series of spiralling, rotating, equilateral triangles that extend in perfect precision right out to the final smallest circle.

"That is quite easy to make", pooh-poohed RD, letting his fingers dance in arcs over the page. I too am quite good at finger-dancing over a page but to try and persuade me that the same perfect result could be obtained by this method over an area of 1000 feet in the dark, in above-waist-high crop, whilst standing on the same plane as the crop is beyond my credulity. But then I am not RD!

I immediately challenged him saying I would be glad to find a farmer who next year would grant him permission to replicate the triple spiral exactly. The producer repeated the challenge: "Will you take up Lucy's challenge?". "No".

Well there you have the answer in one small word! Are you surprised? Do they really understand this geometry? How is it that people such as Jim Lyons can extract new mathematics from formations that appear? Do hoaxers really do this subconsciously? Maybe his clever finger-dancing would not be so easy to reproduce after all!

I also brought up the interesting fact that the magnificent and mathematically complex Julia Set op-

- MEDIAWATCH - NET GAINS: HOAXERS AT LARGE ON THE INTERNET?

Beware TV producers bearing invitations... The supposed crop circle 'hoaxers' now regularly utilise the Internet to make their ludicrous claims. Enter *Cyber Café*, a TV Internet review programme which decides to feature one of the 'hoaxers' up against researcher LUCY PRINGLE. Who would they favour in the editing? No, go on, guess. Lucy takes up the story, a fable for all who would expect justice on television for crop circles...

posite Stonehenge had appeared in daylight on the 7th July 1996 according to the independent evidence of two pilots, a guard at Stonehenge and a game keeper. RD dismissed the affidavits of all these out of hand, saying it had appeared the previous night the 5/6th July (*rubbish -Ed*). Again he refused to produce any proof!

The question must be, can we believe a single word they say? Rod Dickinson and John Lundberg cannot produce a single scrap of evidence for any of their wild, unsubstantiated claims and RD showed himself up to be the less than ingenious story-teller we all know him to be.

At an earlier point in the interview RD declared he did not know of a single genuine formation (contradicting his previous statement). "Then all Lucy's findings into the effects of electromagnetic fields are invalid?" suggested the producer.

Could it be that the unsubstantiated claims of a hoaxer would be considered more credible than the scientific findings of Levengood, Jim Lyons, myself and many others who have been devoting their time and resources to scientifically exploring this phenomenon for many years?

Excerpts from an article submitted to *Nature* by Jim Lyons comprise an up-to-date summary of the scientific state-of-art as currently exists:

The original studies by Dr Terence Meaden revealed the geological links of the formations with atmospheric effects, particularly the presence of vorticity and plasmas. However, his original hypothesis was unable to explain the complex patterns that began to emerge in the early 1990s and took no account of telluric effects which have long been known to be a feature of ancient sites.

Current models suggest the creation of the formations from Kelvin type columnar vortices which, with later computer studies of Taylor-Couette flow in fluids, show torodial field patterns being created by bifurcation processes of vortices that generate crop patterns.

The relative dimensions of various parts of formations have been shown by Professor Hawkins to exhibit diatonic ratios found in musical scales which can also be shown to occur in columnar vortex bifurcation processes, as Kelvin found in the 19th Century.

Many, though by no means all shapes seen in the fields can be modelled from bifurcation columnar vortex model. These secondary geometries are 2-D slices through a general 3-D shape which consists of a dual tetrahedral shape enclosed in a sphere, one hemisphere

above the formation, the other below ground. Between the horizontal planes of the tetrahedra are located a toroid within the centre of which is located a sphere whose diameter is that of the toroid annular width.

The above universal primary geometry possesses a significant 'angle of latitude' - 19.47 degrees which is observed as the location of the Red Spot on Jupiter, Mount Olympus on Mars and volcano Mauna Lao on Hawaii. This angle - the Kelvin wedge of a ship's wake - is also found to high accuracy in the geometry of several crop formations.

Electrical and optical effects occur in formations, usually shortly after their creation. Photographs can show the effects of double imaging and also floating luminosities. Batteries can rapidly become flat only to recover the following day. Sound spectra and other EM radiations have been detected. Compasses can spin and the local magnetic field can measurably alter. Floating balls of light have been videoed moving in and out of formations. This is again similar to ancient sites, particularly stone circles. Initial studies indicate similarities with earthquake lights, ball lightning etc. Models based on those of Kapitza together with recent ideas in the generation of sonoluminescence by zero-point energy are being formulated.

The effects of the creating energies on seed germination has been studied in some depth (Levengood, W.C, Physiologia Plantarum 90, 1994) and soil analysis has indicated significant changes in nitrate content.

The effects of crop circles on humans have been studied for several years and a significant data base is now being assembled (by Lucy Pringle). Of particular note are the sensations of nausea, fatigue lasting several days, metallic tastes in the mouth, disorientation, sometimes feelings of elation. There are also isolated examples of cumulative mineral and vitamin deficiencies affecting researchers who spend long hours in formations. Also a woman who was caught up in the creation of a formation suffered burst eardrums.

I hope that this communication has indicated that the topic of crop circles is now worthy of some serious investigation. Certain open-minded medically trained individuals are already taking an interest in the observed human effects. Yet there is more here for physicists interested in geological phenomena, biologists interested in the effects on plant growth and mathematicians who wish to derive new theorems on the links between ancient sacred and modern fractal geometry.

The Cyber Café programme was scheduled to be

shown on Saturday 15 November; it would be interesting to see how it was presented and slanted. During the interview I did manage to talk about the research I have been conducting for the past ten years into the effects of electromagnetic fields on living matter and to discuss Levengood's findings. Was I being conned into believing that this aspect would be shown and would it be another case of hoaxing sensationalism obscuring from the public the current true state of crop circle research, or would the actual picture be allowed to surface? LP

A few weeks later, Lucy got her answer. The programme as broadcast compelled her to write the following letter to the Social Affairs Department of Meridian Television, dated 18th November 1997:

Dear Sirs

From the outset I was reluctant to appear on this programme as I felt it might promote and give unduly favourable coverage to the unfortunate hoaxing element in the crop circles scenario. To portray this would I believed, have been irresponsible to the farming community and genuine researchers and be seen as a boost to hoaxers who by nature feed on sensationalism and publicity and seldom provide evidence or proof of their claims.

However after weeks of telephone calls from the producer Wingham Rowan, and after I had discussed the programme with the South East region of the NFU I agreed to participate under certain terms and conditions (enclosed).

I had reassured the NFU that I would represent them, describing and defining the offences of trespass and damage; the first being a civil offence, the latter a criminal offence. I portrayed this aspect cogently and strongly at the beginning of the programme.

This was not included in the programme.

People such as Dickinson, who refuse to give any proof or evidence of their exploits are notoriously evasive characters and as such difficult to pin down. However I eventually managed to lay down a challenge. On the programme Dickinson claimed the 1996 Avebury triple spiral was easy to make. When I challenged him to make a replica on a farmer's land next summer, HE REFUSED THE CHALLENGE. This refusal essentially dismissed his hoaxing claims in two letters: "NO".

I twice asked Rowan Wingham if he would guarantee that this challenge and refusal would be included in

the edited programme; twice he assured me they would be included.

It was not included in the programme.

Dickinson was allowed to appear as benefactor to the tourist industry of the region, also to farmers and others who, according to him, make a substantial amount of money out of his artistic exploits.

Dickinson was also portrayed as the main attraction of the programme, being shown as the star of the event before the programme started. In addition he had two minutes of the allotted seven solely to himself to describe his nefarious deeds.

For Meridian television to depict a hoaxer (be he a genuine hoaxer or not) in such a prominent and favourable light falls far short of responsible behaviour to the farming community and genuine researchers. It also falls short of the agreement by which I consented to appear. It was agreed that I would make my key points about hoaxers.

This was not shown on the programme. The key points were the criminal offence aspect, the resultant damage to the farmers' land and the lack of any proof or evidence provided by the hoaxers.

I have been in touch with the NFU who have voiced concern at the presentation and are currently deciding on their response.

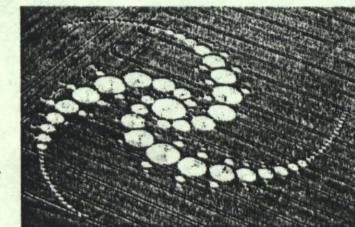
Unfortunately this programme has done nothing to reduce "the adulation shown to hoaxers on the Internet", nor reassure farmers and researchers of any good intent or even impartiality by Meridian. I therefore lodge a complaint.

I look forward to an early reply and hope that this matter may be satisfactorily and speedily resolved and that I will not have to take it to a higher level.

Yours sincerely, Lucy Pringle

And hereby stands a lesson; we can never bank on the media giving a fair hearing to the subject of crop circles. What they are really interested in is good television, entertainment. Truth and integrity seem pretty low down the agenda, leading often to the spread of lies and ignorance. Sometimes programmes come out positively but it's a lottery as to which way it goes, at the mercy of editor's wiles. Join SC next month for another sobering lesson in the marvels of television journalism... - Ed

RIGHT: The Windmill Hill triple spiral, 1996. Obviously a hoax. (Photo: Steve Alexander)



Following Dave Dickson's article in SC 69 on the forthcoming evolutionary leap, I'd like to expand on a point he mentioned - the end of linear time.

The most enduring feature of crop formations is the one after which they were first named: the circle. Circles suggest rotation and therefore circles of repetition. The circle not only defines the movements of the Earth around the Sun but also the cycles of time which we measure by them.

From 1978, quintuplets started to appear and are still appearing in 1997. Although they are suggestive of a sun and planets, I have also noticed that they are similar to the Aztec Calendar Stone, depicting five ages called "Suns"; the larger central circle represents the Fifth Sun and is surrounded by the four previous Suns. These were ages which ended in cataclysm, when the magnetic field of the Sun reversed, according to recent research by Maurice Cotterell and Adrian Gilbert. However, the knowledge seems to have been held in a purer form by the earlier Mayans. The Mexican UFO wave, complete with "com-on-the-cob-circles" which started on the day of the solar eclipse in July 1991, was apparently predicted by the Mayans and although Britt and Lee Elders correlated 1991 with the end of the Fifth Sun, other researchers have said it ends in 2012, when the Mayan calendar ends.

It is interesting then, that Michael Glickman has interpreted the 1997 Etchilhampton 'Grid' formation as a pointer to 2012 (see SC 68) with its 30 x 26 grid indicating the thirty 26-week periods between 1997 and 2012. What Michael didn't mention is that the 780 squares of the grid are exactly divisible by the TZOLKIN, or Mayan Sacred Calendar, which is a grid of 260 squares of sides 13 X 20. Three Tzolkins fit into the crop grid - two fit straight in and the third after bisection. Actually, the grid seems to relate to a "map" called "Psi Bank Warp and Holonomic Woof", consisting of eight Tzolkins joined together showing relationships between the Mayan calendar, the I Ching and the 64 DNA codons, in a book called *Earth Ascending* by Jose Arguelles (page 121). Arguelles' research into the Mayan calendar, plus physics, philosophy, geomancy and the I Ching convinced him that Mankind is creating a "noosphere" or mind layer around the Earth, which is evolving towards Teilhard de Chardin's 'Omega Point of Planetary Awakening' in 2012. When he published *Earth Ascending* in 1984 he was unaware of the work of the McKenna brothers who had published a book in 1975 called *The Invisible Landscape* with details of a sophisticated mathematical analysis of the I Ching. The brothers concluded that the 64 hexagrams of the I Ching oracle, or 'Book of Changes', was originally used as a calendar and portrays 64 timewaves which interact to form a "modular hierarchy" of 26 levels. The modular hierarchy is a Mandelbrot fractal where each of the levels is 64 times greater than the one below. When the fractal was mapped against history, the end-of-time climax where the waves all

peak together was found to be 2012. The McKennas were not aware until later that this is the end of the Mayan calendar! 1991 gave us a Mandelbrot fractal in the cornfields of Cambridgeshire, a diagram illustrating the complex mathematics of chaos theory, which "describes natural processes in terms of an unseen or non-physical dimension". It also illustrates the modular wave hierarchy encoded in the I Ching that implies our imminent encounter with this un-

seen dimension in 2012.

Less than a month before the Mandelbrot arrived a triangular 'craft' and balls of light were seen over Barbury Castle in Wiltshire the night the famous triangular formation appeared there. The design has since been called "the alchemical version of the Mandelbrot Set" and therefore also implies the End of Time in 2012.

The strange thing is, that Jon King, now editor of *UFO Real-*

ity magazine, had a strange extra-dimensional experience in 1980, following which he became convinced that a large triangular area of the West Country is some kind of dimensional gateway. He published a booklet about it in 1986 called *The Aquarian Triangle*. In the booklet, he said that this triangle would soon be the recipient of "light codings" or "energy codings" preceding human interaction with the creators of the codings. In 1989 Jon and some friends went to Barbury Castle which is at the exact centre of the Aquarian Triangle and did a ceremony to visualise the "mothership" landing there. Two years later the triangular formation arrived at Barbury and was almost identical in shape to the Aquarian Triangle. A version of the schedule given to Jon was published in the semi-fictional "TUMI" column in *UFO Reality*, issue 4, and gives a timetable of events in the forthcoming dimensional shift programme culminating in a dimensional interface in 2011, decloaking in 2012, and Earthshift in 2013.

So, the crop formations continue to evolve, complexity and increase, with fractal formations increasing too. 1996 gave us the Stonehenge Julia Set and the Avebury triple Julia Set, with a record-breaking number of circles. 1997 gave us the Silbury Hill Koch snowflake and the Milk Hill super-Koch snowflake, breaking the record again. The final formation of 1997 was the 'Strange Attractor' fractal at Hackpen Hill. This is a term from chaos theory that means "an irreducible invariant set that attracts the trajectories of all nearby points". It is a term that Terrence McKenna has used to describe the 'Omega Point' - which sucks our evolutionary trajectory towards it, like the plughole at the end of time.

I am currently wrestling to correlate information about complex sunspot cycles, which will have wound the sun's magnetic field to the point of reversal in 2012; with the effects of sunspots on the endocrine glands (which relate to chakras); on esoteric use of endocrine products; on ancient Egyptian techniques of arousing dormant functions of endocrine glands to produce a fourth-dimensional body. Somewhere in this lot is the answer. I'll keep you posted! GS

