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CROP CIRCLES
AND BEYOND**

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**CIRCLES 2000:
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KENT CIRCLE INTERACTION**

NASA UFO VIDEO & MICHAEL GLICKMAN BOOK REVIEWED

SILBURY HILL: THE HOLE STORY...

"If you cut me down, I will only become more powerful"
OBI WAN KENOBI, Star Wars

After its relatively slow start earlier in the season, the phenomenon has kicked into gear big time, as the listings starting on page 5 testify, with some truly mind-boggling designs. Every year we think the formations can't surprise us, and every year they do. This summer, even some of the landscapes which cradle them have surprised us, as Michael Glickman's article opposite shows. The media has already dipped its first uneasy toes into the waters of circle coverage with a recent spot on BBC Radio 4, with yours truly versus alleged circlemakers 'Team Satan', while John Lundberg of the same outfit plugged the orthodox hoax view yet further on Channel 4 a few weeks after. Meanwhile, a British Gas poster advert currently uses the image of a radiator (!) made as a crop circle.

But the blather of Team Satan seems positively benevolent compared to the output of some supposed croppies. The latest issue of *The Cereologist* manages to pack in a series of diatribes against Steve Alexander, Karen Douglas, me, Michael Glickman, Barry Reynolds and SC as a whole, accusing us of all sorts of naughtiness and misdemeanours. It's a continuation of an obsessive personal vendetta born of an envy and hatred so far removed from the beauty of the phenomenon *The Cereologist* is supposed to be interested in as to lead one to genuinely worry for its editor's state of mind. 'Vapid New Age witters' we may be (see *Letters*, p18), but at least we sleep soundly at night.

At the end of the day, the truth or otherwise of the badmouthing can be tested by the old adage "By their fruits ye shall know them." Our work is out there in the public domain for all to see - have a sniff of our fruit and veg and see what you think. *The Cereologist*, sadly, is smelling increasingly putrid, doing the crop circle community as a whole no favours at all. Shame.

Away from all that - rather belatedly - readers may have missed this Millennium card (below) issued in the 'Country Companions' range. Now the circles have even made it into cute greeting cards, their influence is surely unstoppable...

ANDY THOMAS



THE BIMONTHLY JOURNAL OF CROP CIRCLES AND BEYOND

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Front Cover: Bishops Cannings, June 2000. Photograph by STEVE ALEXANDER

Many readers will have heard of the hole which appeared at the top of Silbury Hill and it seems appropriate to record the circumstances, or at least that part of the story which we know.

An American couple visiting the area climbed the Hill on the afternoon of 29th May. Scrambling to the top, they found an apparently bottomless hole, several feet in diameter, right at the centre of the flat circular area. They had no way of knowing that it had only just appeared. They were bemused by yet another example of English eccentricity: leaving a dangerous pit, without even a handrail, on top of a national monument!

However, as word spread, English Heritage, who are charged with stewardship of the Hill, moved into action. The area was barricaded off in a rather ineffective way (as we will see) and two 'security guards' were posted to smoke and read the paper in their van until it was time to go home to bed.

A day or two later, workmen were seen hauling scaffold poles and corrugated metal sheets up the side of the Hill with bright blue synthetic rope. They were to construct a large square lid which they hoped would cap the hole against both further rain penetration and unwelcome access by the unauthorised.

The local *Gazette & Herald* of Thursday 1st June gave the event front page coverage with a supplemental article inside and several colour photographs. They reported the views of Chris Ginnell, the property manager for The National Trust, which works closely with English Heritage. He suggested that the hole was, in fact, the collapse of a vertical shaft dug in 1776 by the Duke of Northumberland. The heavy rain, he said, had caused the damage.

There seems to be no information on the refilling of the 130' deep hole after the failure of the enterprise. The Duke and his associates were not pursuing historical or archaeological truth; they were looters. For centuries the locals had believed that a solid gold replica of King Sel, mounted on his horse, was at the centre of the mound. Northumberland, who was already a

renowned pillager of antiquities, obviously thought that Silbury was a profitable bet and set up his expensive project using Cornish tin-miners under the direction of a Colonel Drax.

It had been assumed, over the ensuing 224 years, that the Drax shaft had been filled, and the first

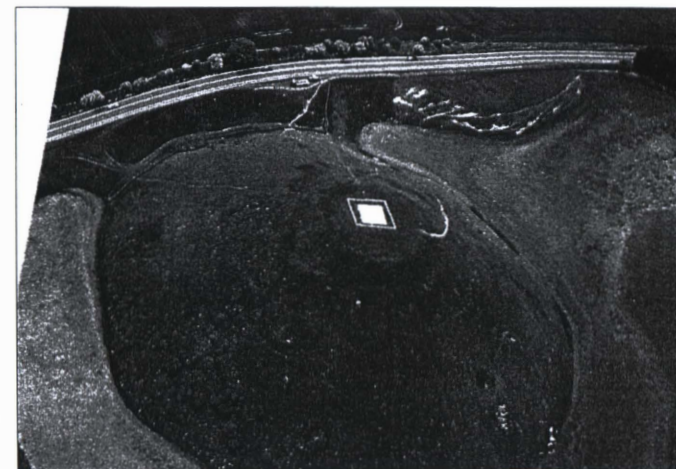
reaction among the engineers and consultants brought in as advisers was one of some bewilderment. How could rainfall, no matter how heavy, cause a volume of earth to compress so catastrophically? The truth soon became clear. The shaft was never filled, it was merely plugged at the top. Little analysis is needed to understand this. The Duke lived at a time when all ancient mounds were believed to be burial sites. The smaller ones had

yielded ornaments and artefacts of some value. It was perhaps logical to assume Silbury, the biggest of all, would give up the biggest treasure. When it became clear that Northumberland's efforts and investment would not be rewarded, he must have looked for the cheapest way of getting clear. He did not refill and reinstate, as had been assumed until now. He simply plugged the opening.

Now, whether the plug was 3' or 30' thick will forever be a mystery. The mining practice of that era was to bridge heavy balks of timber, probably oak or elm, over the shaft and to load earth (or in this case, chalk) on top of them. More than two hundred years of dampness will have reduced the

- NEWS - SILBURY HOLLOW

The top of Wiltshire's famous Silbury Hill, centre of so much crop circle activity, has collapsed inwards, to much speculation from media and metaphysicians alike. Is the reason why mundane or meaningful? Or somewhere in-between, as MICHAEL GLICK AN observes..?



Silbury capped... Photo by DAVID RUSSELL

strength of the timber, while the recent heavy weather will have saturated the chalk plug until it reached sufficient weight to cause the rotten support timber to fail.

English Heritage seem to be making all the right moves. They are aware of Silbury Hill's importance to many of us and they are committed to informing the public of their intentions. Geological and engineering investigations are still taking place. It is likely that, when decisions have finally been taken, the void will be backfilled, using chalk to match the original construction.

This, then, is a brief report of the events and responses to the opening of the Hill. It hangs together and is unchallengeable as a narrative of events in Newtonian reality.

However, there are other realities. I think that we, in the crop circle world, are aware of this. I propose now to outline a parallel narrative.

In the early hours of the morning of Sunday 25th of March, a young man driving towards Marlborough past the *Waggon and Horses* saw a flattened oval of numerous coloured flashing lights near Silbury Hill. As he approached the Hill he saw that the lights, which were white, red, green and blue, were positioned above it. He could not tell if the object bearing the light was stationary on the hilltop or if it was hovering a small distance above. There were no other vehicles on the road and he was very frightened by what he had seen. He raced home.

The initial report, again in the *Gazette and Herald*, quotes the National Trust as confirming that, as far as they were aware, there had been no gatherings at Silbury. The telephones at the *Waggon and Horses* had gone down. Police recorded no other reports of sightings, but by the following week, in response to the article, several people came forward to confirm that they also had seen the lights. On the night of the 5th/6th May, two women on a cropwatch at Knap Hill saw a light display over Silbury which lasted about an hour. They saw what they could describe only as "slow lightning", a golden light, zigzagging downwards towards the Hill. They later realised that - from another direction - this might have been perceived as a spiral or coil. Another witness on the same evening saw a similar lightshow over Silbury, but viewed from the west. For her the light was silver rather than gold.

Before the hole arrived, the triangle-in-a-ring sequence of crop circles commenced at East Field on the 21st May (though this design trait had already been set elsewhere at Farningham, Kent, on 25 April - Ed). Shortly after, on May 31st, the Lockeridge Hill formation arrived and the trio culminated with the evolution, over the nights of 2nd and 3rd June, of the formation at West Kennett (see p7). There were several luminosity sightings around this formation, one involving lights which appeared to move from the top of the Hill into the

formation. Subsequently, on 11th June, exquisite sibling formations arrived in a field to the west of the Hill. I know of no anomalous events associated with these formations.

When the hole was first announced, the news spread like wildfire through the crop circle community. The general view was that the energy contained in the Hill had been 'uncorked'. There was a widespread feeling of euphoria about this and a sense that the timing was perfect. Many noted that the event occurred almost precisely two calendar months after the sighting of the coloured lights. There was, initially, a logical disbelief that the hole could have fallen inwards. We thought, as did everyone, that the shaft having been properly refilled, there was nowhere for the earth to go. Had the earth been removed, just like the mysterious smooth cylindrical Swiss holes reported in the early '90s?

So moved were people by this event that a small group, on at least three occasions, braved the guards and penetrated the capping, abseiling on the third visit to the bottom of the hole, 33' down, with floodlights and video cameras. An unknown lateral tunnel was discovered and filmed on this occasion. It sloped downwards for about 18' at a compass bearing of 200 degrees before itself becoming blocked with spoil. This side tunnel was clearly part of the Northumberland/Drax works.

So where are we? The conventional view, supported by English Heritage and anyone wishing to cling to the mechanistic paradigm, is that the supports to the original shaft plug rotted and collapsed. This, at one level, is unchallengeable.

But what about the other synchronous events? What about the widespread feeling of 'rightness' about the idea that the Hill's energies had been uncorked? What about the central role the Hill has played in the development of the crop circle mystery? What about the immeasurable, unknowable energy that many of us are certain it emits? What about the strange fact that the Hill is constructed of alternating layers of organic and inorganic materials, exactly like Wilhelm Reich's orgone accumulator, which displayed powerful and inexplicable effects? What about Dr F R McKim's 1959 resistivity survey, which was carried out to locate voids in the mass of the Hill, but discovered only that it emitted a faint overall oscillation in readings which were never satisfactorily explained?

There is a powerful lesson here. We have here two parallel realities. Neither one truly negates the other and we are able to choose our own position. (Charitably, we are never confronted with the truly undeniable. The fainthearted are always given an escape hatch.) Is it, as the mechanists would say, a simple coincidence that, after two hundred and twenty four years, the plug collapsed? Or are other forces involved in the synchronicity of opening energy channels precisely when and where they might be needed? **MG**

There's been a multitude of stunning designs in the last few weeks, as reported below. As ever, this list is not necessarily definitive, but documents everything we have reports on so far since the last issue. Measurements are often approximate. Written in the present tense, bear in mind some of these formations will have gone by the time you read this. Those with access to the Internet should check out Crop Circle Connector (see below) and other web sites for the latest news and images.

HAMPSHIRE

Lippen Lane, Nr Warnford: 27 June.

6-fold flower design of overlapping rings.

Owslebury: Reported 17 May, but probably older. Cluster of nine circles contained within an outline in barley (*PHOTO p11*). Looking rather like a multi-toed pawprint, some reports say this began as a single circle and grew later.

Pack Lane, East Oakley: 12 June. 72m 6-fold flower design in barley. This is a very neatly executed pattern consisting of a wide central ring with six emanating petals and six encompassing semi-rings around the perimeter. A small grapeshot with a standing centre lies in each cleft where every semi-ring meets the tip of a petal. Visible from the London to Southampton railway line.

Stephen Castle Down, Upham: 2 July. 200' flower shape in oats. This very complex design is a cluster of many semi-rings and semi-circles around a central small ringed circle, strongly recalling the Clanfield 'pond ripples' of 1998.

Tichbourne, Nr Alresford: Reported 27 May, but probably older. 150' circle with scalloped ring in wheat. The scallops on the thin ring are placed in four equidistant pairs, curving inwards. Visible from the A31, in the same field which hosted one of the 1995 'asteroid' formations, not far from Cheesefoot Head.

HERTFORDSHIRE

Cuffley: 18 June. Pictogram of triangles and

rings in wheat. This unusual but neat design near Cuffley railway station just off the B157 is a 140' flattened triangle with a standing triangle within it. Perched on one side of each tip of the outer triangle is a thick ring, forming a triple-armed 'spinner' effect. A 'W' shape appeared alongside it a day or so after.

KENT

Eynsford, Nr Farningham: Reported 24 June but appeared around 15 June. 340' ring of three circles connected by 36-circle 'bead necklace'. The Kent ascension into major league formations continues

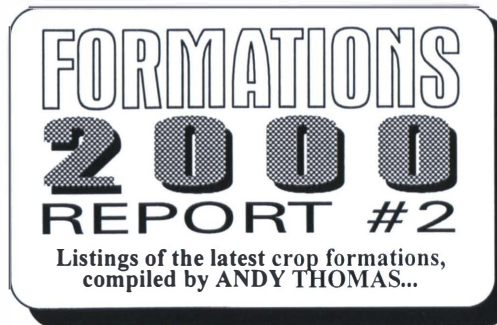
with this attractive design, of which the largest circle was 85', the smallest, 2'. The crop was neatly and "heavily" laid, but remained undamaged. One of the circles is actually laid across the Darent Valley public footpath which crosses the field.

Wouldham, Nr Rochester: Reported 22 May but probably older. Three triangles in oats. Some dispute whether these unusual markings are in fact crop circles and not some other kind of crop marking or damage, as they had no discernible swirl and were much recovered when found. They essentially resemble a side view of the pyramids of Giza! The proportions are not correct, however, although it has been suggested they are the view of them from a particular place in Cairo. The largest triangle is 30'. A castle, a tumulus and the Pilgrim's Way footpath are all close by.

Wrotham, Nr Farningham: 14 May. 'Celtic knot' in barley. This lightly imprinted formation is in essence a single wide path wound around in three loops (the lay giving the impression of the path going 'under' itself) and does indeed seem to be a form of Celtic knot. Visible from the M20, a simple yet ingenious design.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Brighthurst, Nr Corby: Reported 6 June, but probably older. Circle with central standing 'cog-wheel' in barley. The main motif of this geometrically precise and striking formation is the curved arms of the cog, which also resemble



12 circular saw teeth around a small circle at the centre. The 'Jurassic Way' public footpath runs through the field.

Market Harborough: 18 June. Circle with eight radiating concentric arcs in wheat. Visible from the A427 to Dingley, this crisp pattern also has a variety of other small symbols and grapeshot scattered about it.

Morcott, Nr Uppingham: 18 June. Pictogram of circles, paths and large crescent in wheat. Two circles linked by a path lead to the crescent, which has a further path and circle on the opposite side. Three separate circles lie next to it. The whole effect is very clear-cut. This appeared on almost the same spot as a 1999 formation.

Seaton, Nr Corby: 15 May. Dumbbell of ringed circle and ring in barley. The large ring is 30m and the smaller one 10m. A 7m circle lies nearby. Visible from the B672.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Wakerley, Nr Corby: Reported 13 June, but probably about three weeks older. 6-fold 'wheel' of small circles in barley. Visible from the A47, this faintly resembles one part of the famous 1991 Barbury Castle triangle in that it appears to be six curved spokes within a ring, except that each spoke (and the ring) is made up of small circles in the 'beading' style seen on other occasions (see Eynsford, Kent report above). Geometrically accurate and impressive.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Crossbanks, Acomb, Nr Hexham: 12 June. Ringed dumbbell in wheat. Large double rings surround the larger circle, very similar to the Warningcamp Hill formation of West Sussex in 1996. Slightly crude in execution.

OXFORDSHIRE

Asthall, Nr Burford: 29 June. Two circles, 78' & 50', in wheat. The smaller circle of the two has a very neat spiralled lay. Easily visible from the road to Asthall Leigh.

SOMERSET

East Compton, Nr Shepton Mallett: 19 June.

Small circle within a large crescent in wheat. This was spotted just off the A361 on the road to Glastonbury.

Stantonbury Hill, Nr Bristol: Reported 18 May but probably older. Julia Set fractal in barley. Very much a relative of the famous Stonehenge fractal of 1996, and the Newton St Loe Julia Set of 1999, this shares the line running along its central spine but lacks the smaller outer circles of the Stonehenge pattern. Perhaps unsubtle, but neat.

Winsbury Hill, Nr Marksbury, Bristol: 31 May. 11 snaking circles in barley. Very pleasing formation of crisply defined circles, which taper down in size at either end of its S-shape line. A very thin path connects all but two circles at one end. The central circle has a radial burst at its centre. The Stantonbury Julia Set (above) lies close by.

TYNE & WEAR

Fawdon, Nr Newcastle upon Tyne: 30 June. 30m oval with emanating path in wheat. Discovered near the southbound carriageway of the A1, this simple formation is distinguished by having two centres and a complex floor lay with an 11m pathway leading off from it.

WILTSHIRE

Alton Barnes (East Field): 21 May. 200' ringed optical illusion 5-pointed star in barley (*PHOTO p10*). Considering much of East Field is fallow this year, or had not yet sprouted fully when this appeared, the phenomenon clearly hasn't been put off by that, awarding a formation to the relatively small area of available crop in this field which has played host to so many designs over the years. It is the earliest a pattern has appeared here. Essentially a ring with standing triangular shapes in it, it is in fact the optical illusion of a star seen in perspective (as if tilted away from you), one side positive, the other negative. The crop is a little roughly laid, although barley is never that neat a medium, but an excellent radial 'sunburst' centre graces one of the triangular areas.

Alton Priors (South Field): 19 June. 200' 16-spoked 'train wheel' in barley (*PHOTO p12*). A very striking design which does indeed resemble the large wheel of a steam engine, an eight-petalled 50' flower at the centre radiates

the 16 spokes to an outer ring. The resulting standing triangles each have a scoop taken out of each corner from semi-circular scallops inside the ring, most with a few standing stalks at their centres. The radiating paths are impressive in the way they taper inwards. The paths can be seen continuing to the centre through the laid crop of the central flower.

Bishops Cannings: 18 June. 150' 'Chinese puzzle' of standing curved triangles within a circle in wheat (*PHOTO p11*). A beautiful pattern which at first looks like randomly scattered bits of origami, does in fact follow a logical symmetry which makes it no less impressive. On closer inspection, there's a lot in this for geometry freaks; the main frame of the pattern is hung on an equilateral triangle within a larger equilateral triangle, within a hexagon, with some parts of the formation standing and some flattened to create the 'puzzle' effect. Very attractive and clearly a relative of the East Field star (above).

27 June. 8-fold mandala within a ring in wheat (*PHOTO p10*). This beautiful pattern is virtually impossible to describe, suffice to say it is an eight-pointed central star with emanating lozenge shapes (half laid, half standing) contained within two overlapping squares, the whole contained within a ring. Some of the resulting triangular areas have impressive 'sunburst' radial centres in a style which has become more common in recent years, while there are standing centres elsewhere. One of the lozenge shapes, curiously, seems to have been confused by a tractor line and only half of what is a full laid area in the seven others has been flattened. Campers in the vicinity the night the formation arrived reported "strange sounds" from the field, and helicopters, police and cranes appeared very early that morning to observe the new pattern. What that was all about no-one is quite sure.

The field is owned by the same farmer who cut out the 'basket weave' design of last year. After initial threats to cut this out too, sense prevailed and a donation box was placed at the edge of the field for visitors to contribute to, a more positive and less blood-pressure raising solution all round (see *Cornography*, page 20).

East Kennett: 2 July. 180' square grid of 1600 3-D boxes within a circle in wheat. This truly astonishing formation is a sequel to the 1997 Etchilhampton grid of 780 boxes, only this time each box is properly defined as a 3-D effect individually laid or standing square rather

than just being made up by criss-crossing lines. The grid is quadranted, with two diagonally opposite zones laid with the 3-D edge on one side (ie. standing square), the other two laid on the other (flattened squares, standing edge). Each one of the 1600 - ! - boxes is very accurately laid out, stunning the mind. Not aesthetically beautiful to some, but breathtakingly ambitious and precise.

Lockeridge: May 31. 200' motif of rings and a triangle in wheat. A close double ring surrounds the outline of an equilateral triangle which has three interlocked rings superimposed onto it, three laid 'petals' resulting. Some don't like this formation because of its slightly 'unfinished' look, but that seems to be its intention and it has a Leonardo da Vinci-type diagram feel to it which is not unappealing. The lay was rather muddy, however, and the crop quite low, adding to its sketchy feel. Many grapeshot lie around it.

Milk Hill, Nr Alton Barnes: 1 July. 6-fold flower design. A gorgeous emblem of standing curved diamond-shape petals unfolding from inside a ringed circle, this has been likened, justifiably, to a stained glass 'rose window' from a church. Very striking and accurate.

Silbury Hill: 2-3 June. Standing triangles in a 200' circle in barley (*PHOTO p12*). This formation (actually nearer the West Kennett Longbarrow, but see note below regarding the *Waggon & Horses* patterns) was one of a very few to be completely 'remodelled' the night after its first appearance. Stage one appeared on 2nd June, a ring containing 12 standing squashed-looking triangles, surrounding the thin outline of a large equilateral triangle at the centre. Though the outline was well-executed, the lay was so messy and incoherent even compared to past suspected hoaxes, some consider that someone actually deliberately trashed it the morning of its appearance to make it *appear* hoaxed. Stage two the next night, however, completely transformed the formation, the areas between the inner triangle and the ring being laid flat and the internal triangle itself becoming a cluster of six individual standing triangles. Astonishingly, all the messy lay of the previous day had been combed down to become as neat and tidy as the rest of the new parts! A very unusual occurrence.

Golden lights were seen hovering over Silbury the night the first stage of the formation arrived. Some have linked these lights to the appearance of the hole in the top of the Hill

itself – see Michael Glickman's article on page 3.

11 June. Two elaborate symbols in barley (*PHOTOS p9*). These two striking images arrived in the field behind the *Waggon & Horses* pub which other formations have graced over the years, and as such these should probably be defined as being at Beckhampton, but for the sake of clarity we'll follow the generally accepted location of Silbury, which lies nearby. One of the designs is a 230' eight-pointed star with four thin rings of widening distances, while the other, more sophisticated one (an octohedron if turned 3-D) is a 150' ring containing a hexagon, triangle and inner circle, with a short tail of small grapeshot leading off from the ring. The eight-pointed star had little standing tufts throughout its lay with the now familiar 'sunburst' radial splay around each one. These were soon trodden down, leading some later visitors to remark on messy lays, but first investigators were highly impressed with the floors of both designs.

Tales of a suspicious car full of 'lads' being seen in the car park of the *Waggon & Horses* around 2.00am are rendered meaningless when one considers that the farmer himself drove past the field at about 3.30am first light and states there was nothing in the field. The formations were then first spotted at around 5.00am – an impossible timescale for such 'lads' to work in, as previous experiments have proven.

Stanton St Bernard: 25 June. 200' ring within a ring in wheat. A simple old-style design with an neat outer ring of 4.6m width and an inner one of 4m.

Grafton Down, Nr Wexcombe: 8 June. Triple armed pattern in barley. A pleasing, if simple, design of three 94' arms of three near-touching circles each, some with standing tufts, increasing in size to the outside (14.5', 24.5', 44.5') centred around a central small circle. Beautiful water-like swirls make this a very attractive formation.

Windmill Hill: 18 June. 270' circle with internal optical illusion chequer-board square in wheat (*PHOTO p11*). Probably the most stunning design of the year, this has to be seen to be fully understood, but essentially the chequer-board grid of raised and flattened rectangles, diminishing in width as they move to the outer edge of the box, gives the astonishing optical illusion of a bulging sphere. This style of design has been described as 'Vega-Nor', a form

of 'Op-art' pioneered in the 1960's which plays tricks with the mind. The square-within-a circle is now becoming a standard issue of the phenomenon, and Windmill Hill played host to a similar design in 1999, but this is the most ambitious in the series yet.

Woodborough Hill: 24 June. Crude small single circle in wheat.

YORKSHIRE

West Bretton, Nr Kexborough, West Yorks:

26 June. Circle with inner squares. Just west of Junction 38 of the M1, this boasts yet another standing square within a circle, with two increasingly smaller squares within it, at angles to each other, Russian doll-like.

OVERSEAS (locations only)

CANADA: Willmar, Nr Regina, Saskatchewan

CZECH REPUBLIC: Krasna Lip, Decin District

GERMANY: Brandshagen, Nr Strahlsund, Mecklenburg-Vor / Burghasungen, Nr Zierenberg (3 formations) / Doernberg-Zierenberg, Nr Kassel, Hessen / Dorla, Nr Kassel, Hessen / Ehlen-Martinsdahl Nr Kassel, Hessen / Ehmen, Nr Braunschweig, Niedersachsen / Elfershausen, Nr Kassel, Hessen / Gut Eschberg, Hessen / Gut Rangen, Nr Kassel (2 formations) / Klein Kedingshagen, Nr Strahlsund, Mecklenburg-Vor / Netze, Nr Waldeck, Hessen / Niederrhein, Nordrheinwestfalen / Schmedshagen, Nr Stralsund, Mecklenburg-Vor / Ubachsberg, Nr Heerlen, Limburg / Zierenberg, Nr Kassel, Hessen **HOLLAND:** Hoeven **ITALY:** Villa Raverio, Lombardia / Villaspeciosa, Sardegna **RUSSIA:** Yuzhnoye, Stravropol

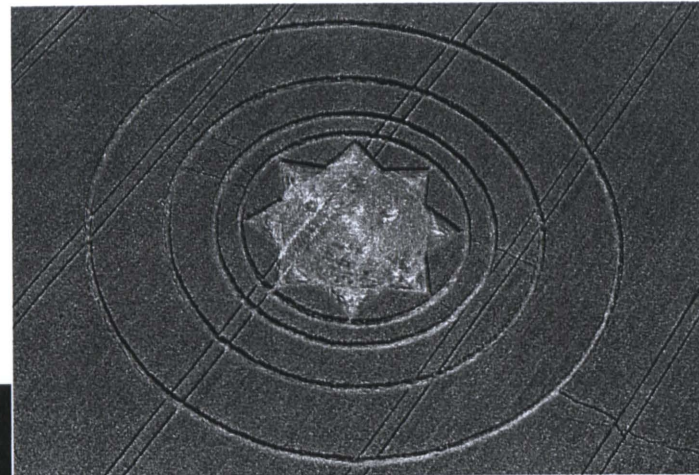
USA: Roanake, Virginia / Virginia Beach, Virginia. □ **A full report on overseas formations will appear in a Winter issue.**

SOURCES: *Crop Circle Connector* and its correspondents, *Medway Crop Circle & SC* contacts.



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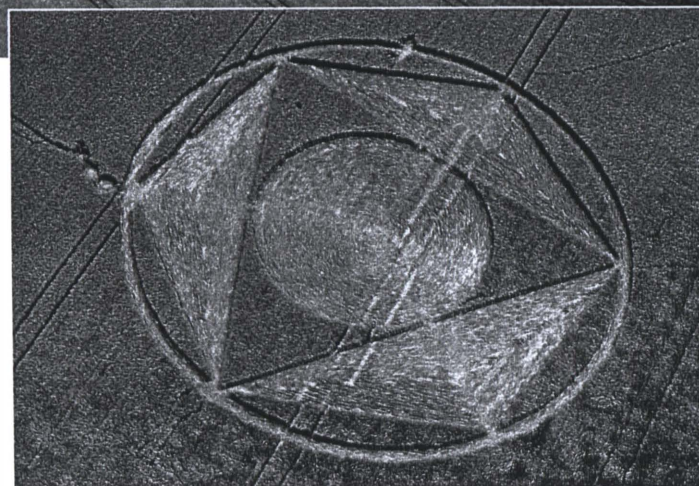
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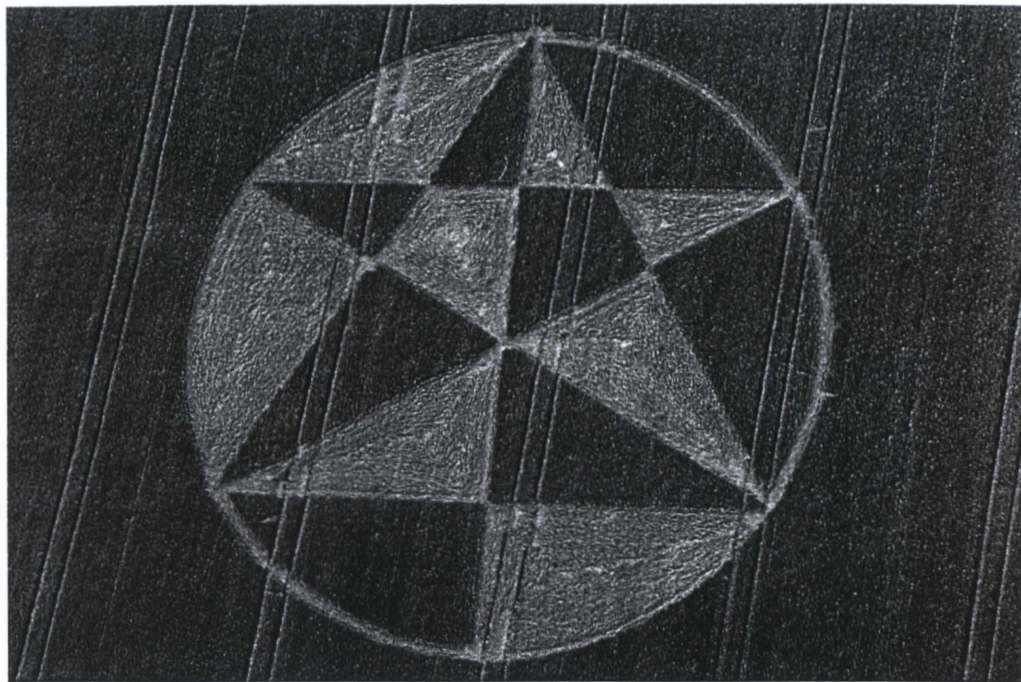


THIS PAGE: Nr Silbury Hill, Wiltshire, 11 June. Report: p8. Both these designs appeared the same night, behind the *Waggon & Horses* pub.

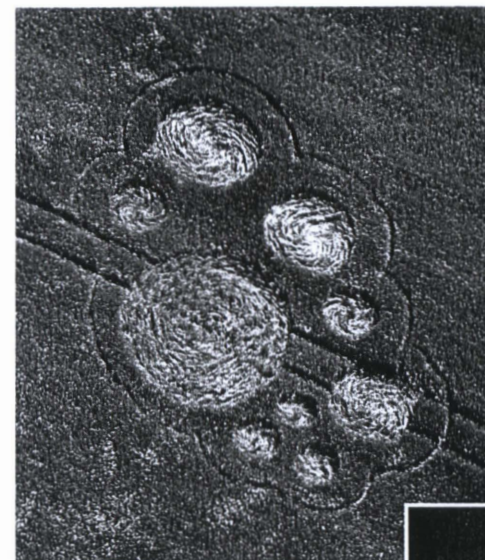
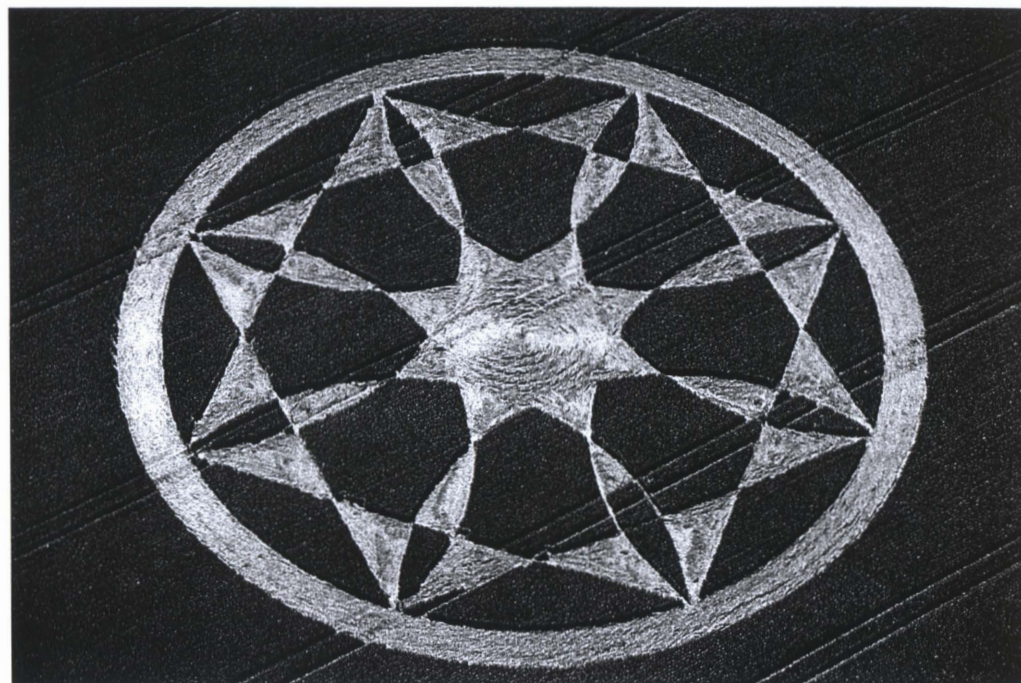
Close-up photos: **STEVE ALEXANDER**

Central photo: **DAVID RUSSELL**





ABOVE: Alton Barnes, Wiltshire, 21 May. Report: p6. The famous East Field produced this for 2000. Photo: **LUCY PRINGLE**
BELOW: Bishops Cannings, Wiltshire, 27 June. Report: p7. Note that the bottom right hand 'lozenge' hasn't been completed. Photo: **STEVE ALEXANDER**

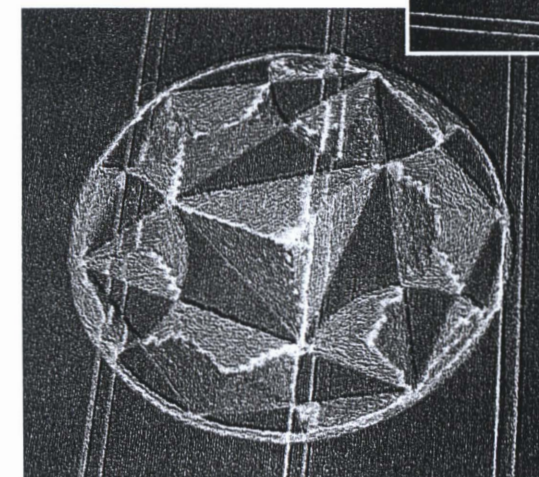


ABOVE: Owslebury, Hampshire, 17 May. Report: p5. Photo: **LUCY PRINGLE**

RIGHT: Windmill Hill, Wiltshire, 18 June. Report: p8. Can you see the sphere within this? Photo: **STEVE ALEXANDER**

BELOW LEFT: Bishops Cannings, Wiltshire, 18 June. Report: p7. The 'Chinese Puzzle'. Photo: **STEVE ALEXANDER**

BELOW RIGHT: Furze Hill, Wiltshire, 14 May. Photo: **LUCY PRINGLE**

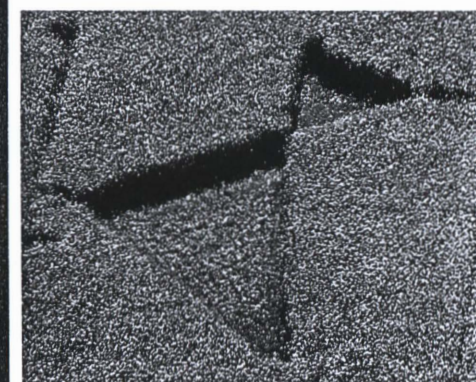
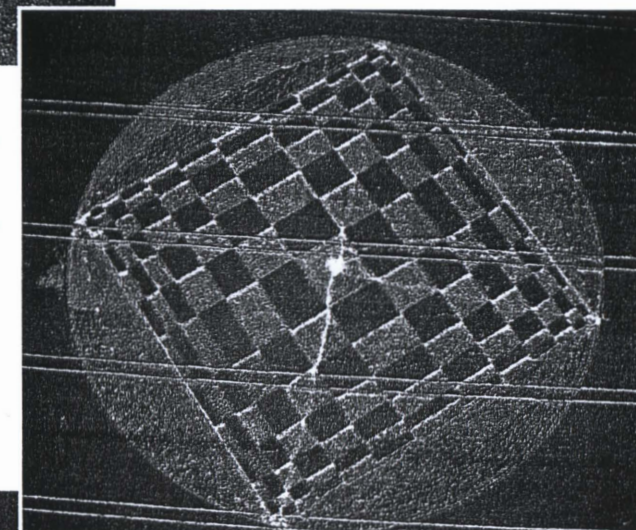


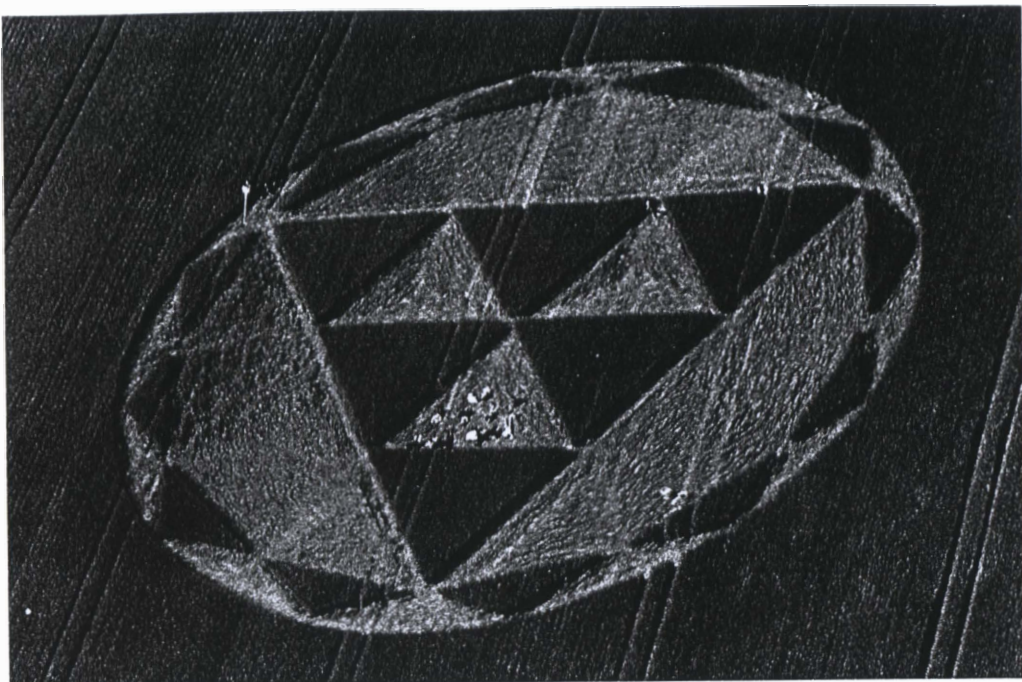
FORMATIONS 2000 GALLERY #1

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

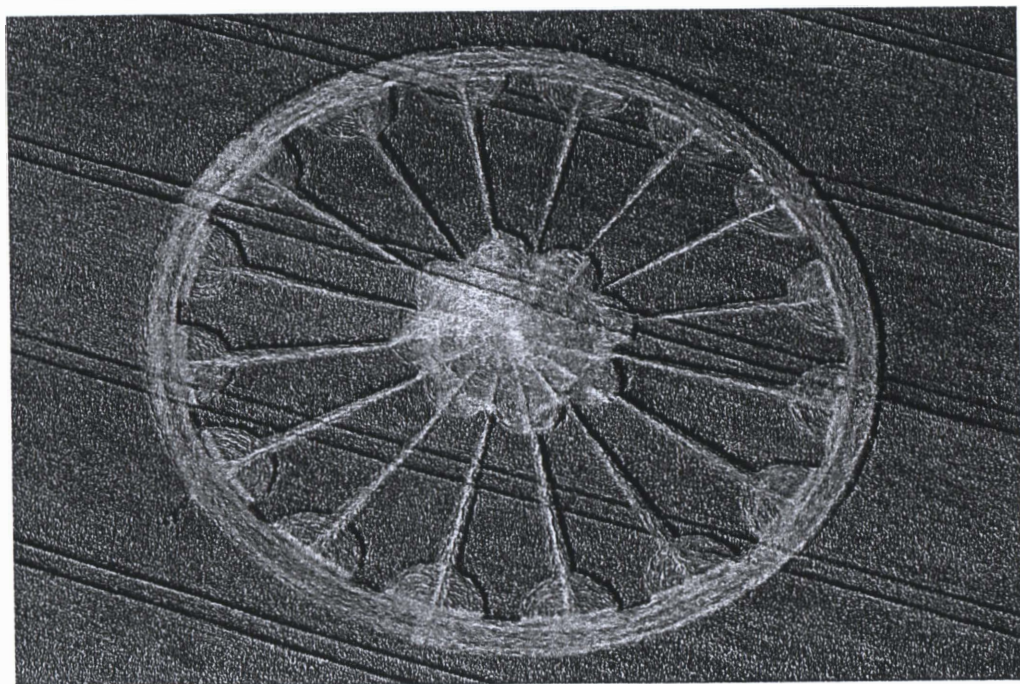
LUCY: 5 Town Lane, Sheet, Petersfield, Hants,
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e-mail: temporarytemples@netscapeonline.co.uk





ABOVE: Silbury Hill, Wiltshire, 2-3 June. Report: p7. This appeared over two nights, undergoing a massive transformation. Photo: LUCY PRINGLE BELOW: Alton Priors, Wiltshire, 21 May. Report: p6-7. A wheel, or what? The tapering spokes are impressive. Photo: STEVE ALEXANDER



For some time, an enthusiastic group living in the Medway area of Kent has felt the need for an independent local crop circle organisation. Together, we have formed the Medway Crop Circle (MCC), which has similar aims to all such other groups in that it endeavours to cover all aspects of the phenomenon. With seven formations landing in our ball-park during '99, it's felt that the Circlemakers have responded to the renewed interest shown in this neck of the woods. The Medway environs are intensely rich historically, and we have many old stones lying around inviting crop circles!

Aware of the phenomenon's interactive aspects, it was decided to try to seek a positive response from the Circlemakers by using simple group meditation, involving our logo (Fig. 1). Based upon three circles, the logo's top circle includes a heart-shape which forms the letter 'M', linking to the two lower half circles which make the two 'C's' (MCC).

Our first meditation took place on a beautiful sunny afternoon on Sunday 19th March 2000 - we couldn't have wished for a better day! We seated ourselves on the three-line ley that runs for four miles from Burham Court church, via the Coldrum Stones, ending at Trottscliffe (Trosley) village church. This church overlooks the fields that in '99 hosted two of the most impressive formations ever to be seen locally.

My wife Janet and myself, along with other founder members, Ann Pedersen, David Taylor and Marcelle Moriarty began by thanking the Circlemakers for all the beautiful designs of seasons past. We then asked that in response to our boundless enthusiasm for them, we would love them to acknowledge us by placing a similar design to our logo in the fields. Details of the day's events were recorded and logged in our computer's memory.

Well, after several weeks of neck-straining runabouts looking for big heart-shaped M's, Kent's

first formation came down at Farningham on the 25th April. A few days later, after obtaining the farmer's permission, Janet and I entered the 'Yellow Peril', and true to form emerged as a pair of 'Marigolds'! Although we had found some broken stems etc., we came away feeling quite

positive about it. Ann and David, who had visited it independently, felt the same.

Farningham that day had many visitors, and the only place we could park was right outside the lychgate of the village church. My attention was drawn to the roof of the lychgate, because it had an interesting pierced trefoil design, held within a triangle (Fig. 2). It was then I realised that what I was confronted with was the underlying

geometry of the formation lying a quarter of a mile away (Fig. 3). Not only that, this was the same geometric make-up that was used in our logo (Fig. 4)...! Had the Circlemakers answered us?

Looking back at all the '99 formations, I tried to find one based on this geometry, and although there were quite a few tri-circular near misses, I only found it employed at Liddington Castle.

Our second meditation took place on a cold and miserable evening (we must be dedicated!) at the ancient Kits Coty House (standing stones) on Bluebell Hill, on May 3rd. (Not only is this my birthday, but a certain well-known croppie also shares it with me...)

On May 14th, a 'Celtic Knot' (see p5) appeared, parking itself in a field near Wrotham. An alignment runs from Kits Coty to the Coldrum Stones, straight through the Trottscliffe fields, that were home to the '99 formations - and then on into the field at Wrotham, would you believe?

The Celtic Knot, as you can see from the drawing (Fig. 5), contains the same underlying geometry, once again, as our logo. As you can imagine by now, we are awaiting future developments with baited breath... GT

REPORTS

MEDWAY MEDITATION

In the last couple of years, Kent has suddenly become a fashionable place for crop formations. Could this be due to active interaction and a new burst of enthusiasm from local researchers? GRAHAM TUCKER believes so...



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



(5)

Diagrams by GRAHAM TUCKER

REVIEWS

Cereological paraphernalia and beyond,
reviewed by SONYA PORTER,
MARCUS ALLEN & ANDY THOMAS...

The Secret NASA Transmissions: 'The Smoking Gun'

by Martyn Stubbs & UFO Magazine
Video Review by SONYA PORTER



There are two types of anomalous objects shown on this video, filmed from space shuttles during their missions over the past five years. They are seen clustering around the Hubble Space Telescope during its repair, around the MIR space station and also around the tethered satellite which broke away from the STS-75 mission in 1996. If

the footage is genuine and if the phenomena cannot be proved to be of natural causes, then this tape does indeed provide 'smoking gun' evidence of intelligent life of some kind in Low Earth Orbit.

The first phenomenon is of a spherical 'doughnut' shape, in varying sizes, opaque but at times almost transparent and with what seems to be a jagged edge. The second is rod-shaped, of different lengths and shimmering with colour, but extremely short-lived.

Martyn Stubbs is a recently-retired cable TV station manager in Vancouver, Canada with 25 years experience of editing fast-moving videotape. Following the filming of anomalous objects by astronauts on board a shuttle in 1991, sheer curiosity drove Martyn to record and investigate in detail the NASA tapes of all the shuttle missions for a period of several years (broadcast routinely on specialist TV channels). He now has 36 tapes of eight hours each, covering every mission from the time it started until the moment it stopped.

The first, spherical, phenomenon was easy to detect and is shown in the footage both as small,

fluffy balls, flying around in clusters in different directions and at different speeds close to the shuttles, and also as huge bright objects moving singly around, for instance, the MIR spacecraft or across Earth's horizon. Martyn found the rod phenomenon much more difficult to catch and display on the video. Because they move at such incredible speed, it was only his experienced eye which caught the odd glimpse of 'something' and made him dig deep into the NASA tapes to find out what it was. And it was only when Martyn broke down the video into 60 frames and two fields for each second of video that he found what he had glimpsed: a brightly-coloured rod which could be seen in one frame for one-thirtieth of a second and then vanishes to - where?

Last summer, Martyn contacted Graham Birdsall, editor of Britain's *UFO Magazine*, and together they have produced this video which was issued at the end of the 9th Annual International UFO Congress Convention at Laughlin, Nevada.

Now, what's my opinion of the tape? You have to remember that I am looking at it from the ordinary enthusiast's point of view - I'm no scientist.

The fluffy balls immediately made me think of the 'foo-fighters' of the Second World War - those glowing balls of plasma which flew with planes of both the Allies and Axis airforces in 1944/45 - and also of what we now call the luminosities which have been seen and videoed over crop formations for many years.

The rods recalled another phenomenon, also called rods, which have been filmed by Jose Escamilla in Texas since the early 90s. Those, of course, although they do move extremely quickly, are nowhere as fast as the space rods. But could they be the same thing? Could the Earth rods start in space and then be slowed by the atmosphere?

Martyn Stubbs points out that both the ball and rod phenomena appear to act intelligently and that was certainly the impression I got about the fluffy balls. If they had been operating in water, I would have thought they were jellyfish! It was more difficult to tell from the video just how the rods behaved because they moved too quickly for the eye to follow easily and there were just not enough examples. Apparently, one critic thinks the rods are cosmic rays. Martyn counters this by saying that when they are interested in anything, such as the repair of the Hubble Space Telescope and the opening of a stuck shuttle door, then the rods cluster around and slow down. If that can be seen clearly, then they are obviously not rays. Cosmic rays are not capable of curiosity and the laws of physics say they can't slow down for any reason.

The one criticism I have of the video is that there is too much talk and not enough footage. I understand that the first section must be given over to an explanation of the basic UFO story. This video is for the general public as well as for UFO buffs and some people haven't even heard of

Roswell yet! But the second section, which is an interview with Martyn Stubbs, is far too long. It could have been edited and the story of Martyn's work condensed into half its actual length without loss. Bearing in mind that it is the footage, the evidence, that we all bought the video for, there is just not enough of it in the third section. Martyn, to his eternal credit, collected his evidence on 36 tapes each of eight hours in length and I should have liked to have seen much, much more of it than we do. More footage would give the debunkers headaches saying it was hoaxed: if Martyn had doctored 288 hours of footage in the years taped, he wouldn't have had time for his day-job! Personally, I would be happy to spend another tenner on a video which showed nothing but footage plus commentary.

But no matter how much footage is shown, will the scientific fraternity accept it as that famous smoking gun? Some members, perhaps.

Guido Nigro, a SETI director, was very impressed, and actually said so for publication. But when one of the chief designers of the Hubble Space Telescope was shown shots of the rod phenomenon, he left the lecture room without a word. He had 'felt comfortable' with the spherical phenomenon because there are possible though unlikely explanations for these, but he couldn't handle the apparent impossibility of the rods.

And this is the problem. I'm sure that the rejection of the whole idea of UFOs, of crop formations, of aliens and extra-terrestrial life is not simply (or only) due to government conspiracies. It is the human condition. Most people outside our circle are, basically, afraid of what they cannot understand and will do anything to avoid it, both physically and mentally. Until there is a flock of UFOs sitting for months on end over all major cities or formations in every corn field throughout the world and these are mentioned again and again on TV (the new religion, the only thing people believe in these days), then I do not think that any 'smoking gun' will ever be accepted.

There is one small light. Graham Birdsall tells me that although he has contacted every possible media outlet - TV, radio, the press - he has had not one reply. Usually someone will come back and say "Tell us more", even if it goes no further; sometimes breakfast TV shows will invite him on for odd comments. Not this time. Not one reply. If you can't handle the impossible, you close your eyes to it. If you can't debunk the answer, you don't ask the question in the first place.

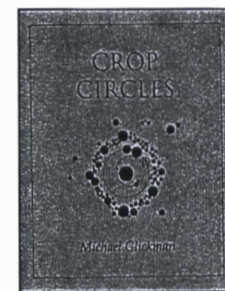
I'd advise, get the video and then demand more footage. **SP**

THE SECRET NASA TRANSMISSIONS: 'The Smoking Gun'. 90 minutes, VHS / NTSC. UK: £16.99 / US: \$27.50 / Canada: C\$37.50 / Europe: £17.99 / Rest of the World: \$27.50. Obtainable from UFO Magazine only, at Quest Publications International Ltd., West Street, Lloyds Bank Chambers, Ilkley, West Yorks, LS29 9DW, England.

Crop Circles by Michael Glickman

Book Review by MARCUS ALLEN

Four years ago, Michael Glickman published his first book (reviewed in *SC* 60). It covered the major formations which had appeared up to the end of 1995 using silhouette drawings by Wolfgang Schindler as illustrations. Michael's comments were succinct, pertinent and made with an economy of words which is the hallmark of his writing.



Now with a new title, *Crop Circles*, rather than *Corn Circles*, this edition has been completely rewritten with illustrations of formations from 1987 to the end of 1999, the updated entries drawn by Michael. It is in the same format as before - small, brown paper wrapper and good value at £6.99.

Where its strength lies is in the significantly greater understanding which Michael brings to his work. A clue to this understanding is a brief remark in his Introduction, when Michael refers to the "hundreds of hours spent in the circles" and the "many times more than that spent with the circles at my drawing board".

The process of transferring information from aerial photographs and notes made when visiting formations to a sheet of paper has produced the illustrations used in this book. This has enabled Michael to grasp many insights to the original creative development of the formations during the past few years. We are fortunate that he is able to describe these for us so well.

While maintaining that "to speculate on the identity of the Circlemakers is fruitless", Michael nevertheless contends that who or whatever is responsible has, on many occasions, produced "a work of art larger than a jumbo jet".

It is this anonymity of creation which so intrigues many people drawn inexorably each summer to the fields of Southern England. Quite often it is easy to become blasé with familiarity; each year there are new wonders to be found, new conclusions to be discussed and new arguments to enter. In doing something few have attempted - recreating the geometry, diversity and inventiveness of the formations to the degree of accuracy necessary to then grasp the true sophistication of what we all witness, Michael does us a great service. What we see in the fields is vastly more complex than just a bit of crushed corn, especially when it has to include Euclid's second theorem!

Michael is again speaking at The Glastonbury Sym-

SC 91, July/Aug 2000 17

You may well have a concrete clue to the circles in the *Galaxy Legacy* article... but there again. The crop circle phenomenon is exactly like psychic phenomena: you cannot appear to recreate 'experiments'. It's like it's playing games with us. You know it exists - but try proving it. For instance, a scientist may know *mathematically* that a planet exists around a certain star system but has to *wait* for it to be found. You mention the 'master sequence' from 11 to 77. I don't have to point out that this is the magical '7', the number of change. If I'm right, by the year 2014 (ish) all the courier (energy) lines will be at their peak and *all over* the planet. I still feel (as you do) that the circles are portents of change. But how do you change people's thinking at a stroke?! There might indeed be a link between the sun, the crop circles and our evolution, in fact you can bank on it. There is a lot more to the hole in the ozone layer than meets the eye. You can bet that as far as the Earth Mother is concerned it's a case of "Here we go again". John Lee Hooker at 3.00am? Now that's a blast! I think you may well have a kind of acknowledgement on your hands... or some soul is crying out to be free.

Paul Bura, Cemaes Bay, Anglesey

MEDWAY MUSINGS

Do we dare flatter ourselves by suggesting that the increasing amount of crop circles in Kent is to do with a local growing awareness of them? Five of us started meeting on a regular basis a couple of years ago. We have now formed Medway Crop Circle (see *article on page 13*), which is a rapidly expanding group. Are the Circlemakers answering our endless questions by rewarding us with a lot of local formations or is something entirely different going on?

Last year, whilst dowsing the remains of the Borstal formation which the very angry farmer cut down just a couple of days after it appeared, leaving the rest of the field uncut, it occurred to me that it and two other Kent formations have been located next to the channel tunnel rail link, which is bulldozing its way through the 'Garden of England'. Incidentally, the link is also following the Pilgrim's Way footpath - nice work chaps! The rest of the circles could be found close to other important things like ancient monuments etc.

Am I being paranoid by saying that it seems that many things such as power lines, substations, MOD property and now the rail link, which surely must carry negative energy, are placed next to or on leylines, sacred sites and ancient monuments? Is this done on purpose? Who decides where such things are put? Surely placing things like this on Mother Earth's finely tuned meridians must do something which is not entirely desirable?

In Kent, a lot of anomalous phenomena has been seen in the last couple of years, together with a seemingly increasing number of crop circles. Are these lights and circles replacing or rebalancing lost or negative energy, of which we know very little about? Is Kent under threat? Are there so many formations in Wiltshire because it is subject to a vast amount of military training? How deep does this thing go? Are we the human race really being targeted or manipulated by a negative force that is trying to pollute the Earth's and our energy? Is that what the circles are trying to tell us? Why does the government refuse to look at the Wiltshire fields from satellites to see how this amazing, seemingly interactive and mind-boggling force does its stuff or indeed if it is just a few pranksters? There must be a reason.

Ann Pedersen, Kent, via e-mail

A DILLER, A DOLLAR...

Look at the 'Great Seal of America', both sides, as on a Dollar bill. When they are superimposed on each other, we have an eye within a triangle, within a hexagon, within a circle - similar to June's formation at Beck-hampton (see p9). For more on the Great Seal, see <http://www.greatseal.com/>. For the connection between the Great Seal and Sirius, and 2012, see <http://www.geocities.com/Area51/Nebula/9172/dollar.html>

Geoff Stray, Hastings, East Sussex

FOR PETE'S SAKE

Vapid new-aged witterings!
What a load of Bollox you people spew out...

Pete Glastonbury, Wiltshire, via e-mail



LAYS: What fun cropples have had with this amusing term through the ages. Simply walk into *The Barge* and say "was it a good lay?" to someone when they start going on about the latest formation, and there will be a guaranteed laugh, nudge or "ooer-missus" from someone. Really, you can't go wrong with this ever-dependable accessory to a good time in those long summer evenings and it should be deployed at every opportunity. However, given the amount of writhing human flesh spotted in all sorts of positions over the years in various supposedly secluded formations, be prepared, on activating the old "was it a good lay?" wheeze, to get an occasional straight "yes" from red-faced, sweaty-looking couples with far-away looks in their eyes. Also be prepared for the party-pooper - usually a newcomer to the scene - who answers a straight "yes" to the question and goes on to yawn everyone to death in great detail about crops, magic bends, S-shape swirls and layers instead of doing the decent thing and playing along with the joke. Have nothing to do with these people. Unless, of course, they are actually talking about sex, in which case ask more about their magic bends fast.

LEVENGOOD: Emergency mantra used by victims in extreme moments of full debunk attack. Gibbering restlessly in fear, back against the wall as the Skeptic moves in for the kill, the prey will suddenly blurt out "...Levengood!" The effect of this move can be dramatic, stopping inexperienced Skeptics in their tracks, as the prey follows up its alarm call with a series of staccato noises along the lines of "bent nodes! - expulsion cavities! - seedhead mutations! - H-glaze! - cell wall pitting! - *Physiologia Plantarum*!". The momentary doubt set up in the mind of the Skeptic can be enough to allow the prey to break free and confuses other less determined predators. (Warning: this doesn't always work, particularly when attacked by the Lungebird and Kickingson species.)*

LEYS: Not to be confused with 'lays' (qv), although a similar, though less common, giggle-generating wheeze can be used when addressing dowsers as in "did you get a ley?", provoking at the very least a Roger Moore-style raised eyebrow. Of course many arguments rage as to whether leys or ley-lines exist or not, and those who do believe in them often can't seem to decide whether they're talking about 'energy lines', as in invisible, natural electricity-type thngles, or true leys, which are physical alignments in the landscape. If challenged, dowsers usually get around this by stating that ley lines *follow* the course of energy lines, talking animatedly as pendulums are excitedly swung and rods twiddled in front of questioning eyes, hypnotising to the point where no-one

can think straight anymore and the exact nature of the original enquiry is forgotten. The 'twiddlerod' manoeuvre (also known as 'the pendulswing'), as it has become known, was first deployed by students of Alfred Watkins who'd already forgotten his real theories, and has proved a useful distraction from straight answers ever since.

LIVE TV: Sadly now kaput cable TV station on which an interview with Michael Glickman once followed on from their flagship programme *Topless Darts*, a gameshow where pneumatic ladies (funbags on full display) thrust large phallic projectiles at a target on some beach somewhere. Less successful was a follow-up series attempting to cater for the ladies, *Lunchbox Volleyball*, in which tall men with big, er, lunchboxes cavorted around a net in skin-tight shorts. Meanwhile, news bulletins would be livened up by the appearance of the 'News Bunny', a fluffy puppet which would react appropriately to the serious issues of the day. You think we're making this up, don't you? If only we were. Live TV did, however, manage to produce a not-bad-actually series entitled *The Why Files* (geddit?), in which crop circles featured fairly regularly. Unfortunately, it was also this crew that once managed to lose a whole painstaking day's footage of croppie interviews because the sound person... forgot to turn the sound on.

LOCKERIDGE: A bizarre area of Wiltshire which, rather like The Kennetts (see last issue), seems to fluctuate wildly in size and border depending on who documents any crop formations appearing in the general area. Overall, for many, 'Lockeridge' is taken to be the large area of land between the A4 and Alton Barnes, although purists then spoil things by insisting on using fiddly little place names like Furze Hill, West Woods, etc. Come on, we all know the real truth of things - north of Alton Barnes, but not as far as the *Who'd a Thought* it pub? Lockeridge. South of West Kennett Long Barrow and that vague area which might or might not be West Overton? Go for Lockeridge every time. Well, nearly every time. Was the 'Lockeridge whale' of 1991 universally known as the 'West Woods whale'? No, it was not. Yet, suddenly the 'dragon' which appeared in the *same field* in 1998 was described as being at the new-fangled 'West Woods'. Ha! - it'll always be Lockeridge to old hands. Even if it's wrong.

LUMINOSITIES: Little lights which famously dance around crop formations in the summer months, BOLS, 'amber gamblers', call them what you will. 'Dandelion seeds' is one term which has been used. 'Balls' is another. However, videos prove their reality. Apart from the Oliver's Castle sequence, which is, of course, cobblers, as any discerning researcher knows. Despite the proper proof which does exist, it is a fascinating curio that so many of these luminosities are seen by people leaving *The Barge* at ten pints past midnight. It's an amazing thing - these obviously sentient globes have the power to home in on brainwaves altered by fermented sugars, enabling those transformed to be taken to other plains of existence, enabling full visibility of said balls. Wonders will never cease!!! **DS**



epnography

with Michael Glickman

I am aware that my frequent railings (or perhaps snipings would be a better word) against the noisy games of Her Majesty's army tend to upset a few readers, so I promise never ever to mention it again. (Unless they mistakenly nuke Devizes as part of their "manoeuvres".)

Salisbury Plain seems to have acquired a new - even bigger - piece of artillery, and our boys simply love playing with it. In my innocent way, I thought the bangs we had been hearing were as loud as anyone could need but, in the last few weeks, the relentless wallops literally shake the windows of hapless local residents (like me). A local church reportedly had a large picture fall off the wall. Still, we shouldn't moan. It is reassuring to know that we can quickly see off those Serbs / Iraqis / Argentinians / Gypsies / Unmarried Mothers / Bogus Asylum Seekers or whoever this week's enemy happens to be.

I heard on the news, and I swear this is true, that the Navy, hoping to save money, have decided not to use real shells in their firing practice. Their shells cost £649 a pop, which I assume to be peanuts when compared with the megatonnage they use on the Plain. Navy gunners (please believe me) are now using blanks and are expected to say "Bang" when they pull the string.

But back to the real world. This is an unusual season. The weather through April and May was awful, and though we know that the circles appear whenever they wish, an air of courageous acceptance seemed to descend. "We are in for a slow season," people said, adding like brave little soldiers (see above) "But of course it doesn't matter! Whatever we get will be welcome."

In this area, there was the slow build up of the triangle-in-the-ring theme. Contentiously, and I expect many would say predictably, I am convinced this was a perfect follow up to last year's Avebury triangle. No. I don't believe it was a hoax. Yes, I do think the *Daily Mail* was lying and yes, I base this opinion on detailed work and analysis. But I digress!

The real booster was to arrive on 18 June when we had the remarkable Windmill Hill formation (p11) which was the most assured graphic expression of three-dimensionality that the circles have ever demonstrated. On the same day, on Bishop's Cannings Down, another 3-D formation appeared (p11). In this case, standard perspective drawing was employed rather than the Windmill Hill Op-art. But they were both totally incomprehensible from the ground. Aerial photographs, or accurate drawings showed an implied solidity that we had never seen before. Bishops Cannings might be viewed as three starfish clinging to a grapefruit. If you look carefully you will see that two of the legs (arms? limbs? appendages?) of each disappear around the back of the sphere while the central leg in the foreground is gracefully angled sideways into an exquisite composition.

The beautiful South Field formation (p12) did not aspire to the solidity of its siblings, but it had other delightful features. The sixteen spokes which separated the radial leaves narrowed as they swept inwards. They converged to the centre with a precision which I had never witnessed.

This formation was quickly pronounced a hoax. We can relax into the security of knowing that some things never change. The usual gullible buffoons made their pronouncements based on absolutely nothing more than claims by the usual glib confidence tricksters. This pathetic ritual would be laughable if it were not for the hundreds, if not thousands, - of people who are so grievously misled each season...

...And one of those people is Farmer Naughton of Bishops Cannings, who last year brought his combine to cut out the lovely seven-fold 'basket' rather than leave it for people to enjoy. This year, to the astonishment of all, he put up an honesty box and opened the field.

I visited him to thank him and to take him a photograph and drawing of his new formation (p10), which to me is one of the most articulate geometrical designs we have ever had. He said that he had wanted to cut it out immediately, but his wife persuaded him, against his better judgement, to allow people in.

He glanced at the picture, but was anxious to let me know that he still thought it was done by vandals. I suggested then that he and I go immediately half a mile down the road to the Wiltshire Constabulary Headquarters. We could ask why, as predictable acts of damage to property take place every year in a limited area and within a defined season, they have never made an arrest. I told him that I was able to supply the names both of individuals who claim to cause this damage and "researchers" who aid and promote them.

He was not too keen on that idea. I wonder why not? **MG**