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AND BEYOND*

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**Carl
Sagan
Strikes
Out**

**Michael
Hesemann's
'The Cosmic
Connection'**

**Astonishing
Alignments
In Sussex**

"What evidence would you have of my reality beyond that of your own senses?" CHARLES DICKENS

A new book by the well-known popular scientist Carl Sagan looks set to stir up the cerealogical hive once again, as he lays into the (non) validity of the crop circles as an unexplained phenomenon with ferocious zeal. His sceptical fervour isn't reserved for our subject alone, as just about any subject connected with 'alternative' thinking or which remotely challenges the accepted concepts of conventional science is given a severe slugging in his forthcoming volume *The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark*. The title alone gives the agenda away without any ambiguity. However, it's interesting that the (abridged) chapter about crop circles and UFOs has been singled out as advance publicity for the book, appearing in *Parade Magazine* in the US and receiving much media coverage. The irony is that Sagan holds that the world at large would rather believe that the crop circles are a paranormal phenomenon than not, an example of how the world is still gripped by dark age superstition. Sorry, but I rather thought it was the other way around! Sagan, you may remember from Marcus Allen's article in *SC* 33, is a prominent member of the paranormal-busting organisation CSICOP, so we shouldn't be surprised at this latest attack on the circles, although Sagan has been quiet up to now. In fact his article simply comes across as uninformed and half-baked to those in the know - Sagan still appears to believe that Doug and Dave were pretty much the whole answer to the crop circles! It also smacks of cowardice - after all, croppies are hardly hard targets, threatening the conventional world view of the population... or are they? What is he scared of? See Doug Rogers' article opposite for more.

Thank you to everyone who sent Christmas wishes to myself and the *SC* team. Forgive us if we didn't return those wishes individually, but the list gets longer every year! They are much appreciated. Thanks also to those who continue to send in cuttings and articles for our records. We don't necessarily reproduce them, but they are essential for giving us the wider picture. Keep them coming. With this issue, complete with its annual facelift, *SC* enters its fifth year of business! Wow. We'll save up all the celebrating, however, for our special 50th issue...

ANDY THOMAS



The Monthly Journal of
Crop Circles and Beyond

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Front cover: Willington, East Sussex, July
1995. Photograph by Michael Hubbard.

To those of you who have seen the ABC 20/20 TV programme of 20 October 1995 which made light of crop circles (see last issue), and to you who have now read Carl Sagan's article in *Parade Magazine* (the US one, not the naughty English *Parade!* - Ed) which does more of the same, I invite you to step back for a moment to view what is going on here.

There is something about cerealogy now in 1995 that is disturbing to those out-of-sight agencies which fear public interest in any phenomenon which hints at off-planet activity.

Both the 20/20 piece starring Barbara Walters and the *Parade Magazine* article by popular astronomer Sagan attempt to belittle cerealogy, the crop marks themselves, and the people who study the designs. Both rely heavily on the Doug and Dave affair of 1991 to compromise all to do with the circles.

In the four grain growing seasons since '91, a thousand crop markings have been seen in fields all around the world. In the intervening four years, no event has been recorded to parallel or exceed the success of the Doug and Dave caper to depreciate the crop circle phenomenon. If, indeed, some one individual or organisation of pranksters had been caught at mischief in a cornfield, the event would surely have been broadcast worldwide with the same bewildering efficiency displayed in 1991. But none has!

The spinelax backbone of the night

Barry Reynolds' honest but less-than-complimentary review of the video *UFOs, Crop Formations & The Paranormal* starring Colin Andrews, Reg Presley and Busty Taylor last issue has prompted the following statement from Colin himself, which he has asked us to reproduce: "The video is not

one of my productions as you state but that of my friend Reg Presley. Reg Presley asked me to take part in his production and I took part in several interviews for it. I do not take exception to Barry's assessment, it is his opinion. I would greatly appreciate it if you would correct the error in your next edition." In other words, the above video is a Presley production, not an Andrews one. Colin

Sagan asks, "who profits when almost all of us are gullible?". We in turn ask Sagan, "How do YOU profit as critic, while in the dark with the rest of us?". On the face of it, both Walters and Sagan have taken on an ever-enlarging community of sincere, capable, no-nonsense researchers evidently with-

out concern that they themselves may soon be seen as irresponsible.

Why would these two high-profile activists accept assignments from some agency to attack people who do no harm whatsoever to others when studying unusual events in grainfields? Since when has it become necessary to haul out the heavy guns to attack enthusiasts who decide for

themselves to spend time and coin to study something... anything?

This one-two punch from Walters and Sagan might possibly develop into jabs three and four if the intricate and unworldly crop designs of '95 are so alarming as to cause the present unrest.

May I suggest we not be surprised at a further attempt to discourage study of the patterns between now and spring.

At the appropriate time next season, of course, the circle-makers' agenda of the past several years may continue to develop regardless of what is written or said by those who have no idea what it is they are trying to discourage. **DR**

simply appears as part of the programme.

Reg, clearly pleased with his own efforts and the final result, recently entered this video into a film competition about paranormal subjects in the US, up against such competition as Richard Hoagland and Michael He-semann's latest ventures...

Reg also recently appeared on Channel 4's *Clive Anderson Talks Back*, threatening his credibility severely by seriously suggesting that the huge penis formation near the Prime Minister's home at Chequers in 1994 was genuine... Even if this is true (which it could be), this isn't the sort of thing one should say to 'funny man' Clive Anderson, of all people, in front of several million viewers! **AT**

- **MEDIAWATCH** -

THE SAGAN BUG

Celebrity scientist Carl Sagan's recent all-out media attack on crop circles and those who study them prompts **DOUG ROGERS** to anticipate further onslaughts...

- **NEWS** -

NOT GUILTY

The Colin, Reg & Busty show isn't quite what it seems...

There's a lot riding on this book with regard to the future mass marketing of crop circle publications. As the first serious tome since Pat Delgado's disappointing *Conclusive Evidence?* three years ago, many eyes will be drawn towards it as the great white hope for restimulating the book-world's interest in the circles, which has drastically waned since the golden days of the Delgado & Andrews' and CCCS volumes. Doug and Dave did their job well and only cynical works like Jim Schnabel's *Round In Circles* have seen any genuine investment since.

Michael Hesemann's *The Cosmic Connection* (originally printed in Germany in 1993, now updated for the English edition) is being used to test the waters again - and even here the circles are piggy-backing a ride on the safety of UFOs, that perennial favourite of paranormal phenomena, in which interest only seems to grow.

UFO activity and crop circles have often been linked before, of course, but here German researcher Hesemann finally goes the whole hog and etches the links, as he sees them, indelibly for future generations. This, then, is perhaps the biggest problem some croppies may have with the book - it's very set in its opinions. The central core of the book is that crop circles are made by Extra-Terrestrials and UFOs. That's it. No arguing. No other theory is given a look in; according to this volume, all other ideas about what may be behind the circles can be binned, because Hesemann has made up his mind and is out to make yours up for you.

This is, of course, his prerogative; it is, after all, his book, and you don't have to buy it. But if you do, and don't share his views about the source of these beautiful shapes which appear each year in our fields, prepare for frustration. If, on the other hand, you believe intrinsically that ETs and UFOs are the whole story then you may be in heaven for a few days.

In fact Hesemann is pretty uncompromising in all directions, giving short shrift to anything beyond his preconceived notions and fields of personal interest. Witness, for instance, his complete refusal to acknowledge as true any stories of crop formations found before the 1970's, despite some pretty good

evidence that they've been around in some form for at least a century or more. Circles before the middle of this century would upset his hypothesis, you see, that crop circles are messages from aliens who have been visiting our Earth since we awakened to nuclear technology (after visits in antiquity), and who are now etching patterns into our crops to... well, attract our attention basically. Even if these beliefs turn out to be true, the book comes across as quaintly old-fashioned in this respect.

Old-fashioned is a term that could be applied to his approach to circle-research too. Reading *The Cosmic Connection*, one might get the impression that nothing in cerealogy has moved forward since 1989. All the old characters who founded crop circle investigation are praised to high heaven from the outset, sometimes justifiably, but at other times

with just a touch too much rose-tinted retrospection. They are presented as gods (with the exception of Terence Meaden) who are still the only ones who can provide true sustenance for the faithful, when in truth some of these names long ago moved into the realms of unhealthy scepticism when personal crusades failed to turn up the answers they craved. A little more acknowledgement of the new movement of post-Doug and Dave researchers, who have turned up arguably as much of worth as their predecessors, would have been welcome. The very design of the book is formulated to recall glories of yore, its look clearly intended so that it can sit nicely alongside copies of *Circular Evidence* or *Harbingers of World Change* without ringing too many changes that might induce a seizure in old-time purists. The Old Boy Network runs strong in cerealogy.

But the book is far from the disappointment all this might suggest. On the contrary, in the absence of anything else on the horizon, this tome offers about the best and most up to date (to 1994) overall history of the crop circle phenomenon that anyone could hope for and is almost worth recommending for this alone. The accompanying colour photographs are almost uniformly excellent, with strong colours which jump out at you, and in this respect the book is very successful, because the crop circles

are first and foremost a visual phenomenon which drab tomes like Donald L Cyr's *Crop Circle Secrets* often forget. Unfortunately, the black and white reproduction is far less good, with details often lost in the murk.

Besides the obvious info about English formations there is also a decent round-up of crop formations which have appeared in other countries - another rarity - even if it does only go up to 1993 and has an inevitable bias towards Germany. This illustrates another curiosity about Hesemann's selective outlook: Wiltshire and Hampshire are virtually the only counties in England ever to have had crop formations if this is to be believed. Hesemann has never heard of Sussex for example - except to mention a stone circle near Seaford which doesn't actually exist - despite the prominence of some of its circular events, especially in the early days (one of the very first quintuplets appeared at Alfriston in 1984).

In addition to such strange omissions, some well-informed readers may also find this book somewhat *factually-challenged* at times, with a few old chestnuts being questionably bandied about as gospel. Did Barbury Castle really get sealed off by the military the day the famous formation was discovered? Were there really 1200 formations in England in 1991? Did Operation Blackbird at Bratton Castle really film a genuine crop circle being made? There are other dubious 'facts' to consider, so tongue-biting may be necessary here and there. The good news is that the disease of hoaxing-talk which seems to have affected his cherished colleagues doesn't seem to have transmitted too much to Hesemann, or at least not immediately visibly. The Doug and Dave myth is given a pretty good thrashing and the entire mass-hoaxing scenario is treated equally contemptuously even if a little *but-this-might-have-been-a-hoax-actually* does creep in on off-guard moments, particularly in the overseas round-up.

So much for crop circles. What you really get here is two books for the price of one, as the cover, split between a crop formation and a UFO, openly acknowledges. What then of the real point which *The Cosmic Connection* clearly wants to make - that Extra-Terrestrials are visiting our planet? For this aspect, the book is probably a very good introduction to the UFO subject for croppie novices, although long-term devotees will want for more depth. So much of this type of information is scattered across many branches of ufology, He-

semann has done a good job in bringing all these elements together under one cover without doing a disservice to any of them. So you get the abduction scenario, the idea that Mankind was seeded or at least influenced by ETs, a smattering of classic UFO encounter cases, the Face on Mars, and so forth. The only problem is that despite all this, the evidence that links ETs directly to crop circles is still defiantly *circumstantial*, and maybe this is one of the reasons why the book doesn't ultimately gell.

According to Hesemann, 20% of crop circles occur in connection with alleged ET encounters or UFO sightings - UFOs which could be any number of things besides spaceships. What of the 80% that don't share these connections? If only 20% have this link, can there really be said to be a definite link at all? An interesting connection for sure, and one which must be considered, but not a conclusive one. Despite the clear intention that we should be convinced by this book that crop circles are caused by ETs, those who don't already have this belief and think there is far more to the circle phenomenon than is meeting Hesemann's eye won't be swayed by *The Cosmic Connection*. Perhaps it's the slightly pedestrian, though competent, style of the writing (which may have lost something in translation) that fails to transmit Hesemann's obvious enthusiasm for his subject, which comes over in the flesh but not on the page, which undermines his apparent aim.

However, you won't be unhappy to own a copy of this book as part of your crop circle library. Indeed, I recommend you buy it, if only to secure the future of other crop circle books which may be looking for publishers. If this is seen to bomb, there may be no others in its wake, so make the most of this while you can, and encourage the publication of other speculative tomes in the process, which may make other connections which surely deserve equal attention. **AT**

The Cosmic Connection is published by Gateway Books, price £12.95 (UK) or Atrium Publishers Group, price \$19.95 (US), 168 pages. Hesemann fans may also wish to seek out his latest video UFOs: *Secrets of the Black World* which explores the mystery behind 'Area 51' in the Nevada desert where various crashed saucers and ET bodies are reputedly held - worth a look. Contact Marcus Allen at 55 Queens Road, East Grinstead, RH19 1BG, tel: 01342 322854, to obtain this video in the UK.

- REVIEWS -

THE COSMIC LAST CHANCE

Michael Hesemann believes UFOs and ETs alone make crop circles and he wants you to believe it too...
ANDY THOMAS reviews *The Cosmic Connection*, the first - and last? - major new cerealogical book to appear for some time in the UK.

On May 31st 1995, just a couple of hours before hearing of the second 1995 Sussex formation at Alfriston (Sx 1995/02), I had been reading *Crop Circles: Harbingers of World Change* (Gateway, 1991) and in particular Chapter 6, 'Energy, Circles and Leylines' by David Tilt. On page 105 David mentions the fact that no less than twenty-two alignments had been discovered (by a Mr Whiteside in 1975) centring on the churchyard mound at Berwick. Also, David himself claims to have traced a powerful line of energy "from a henge site several miles away to the churchyard mound". Intrigued, I discussed this with my partner Nigel that afternoon, since we have long been actively involved with Old Sites in this area, taking particular interest in their alignments, their history and in the myth and mystery that surrounds them. I wondered as to whether the 'henge site' mentioned by David Tilt was in fact Burlough Castle, an old mysterious earthwork which has held its secrets for many centuries.

It was early in the evening when we learned that there had been a formation somewhere near Alfriston and as soon as we realised that it was within a few miles of Berwick Church and Burlough Castle, we felt instantly compelled to turn to the maps. At the time we did not foresee what was to result from this line of investigation.

Alignments Discovered: Using Ordnance Survey Pathfinder Map No.1324 (TV 49/59/69), Eastbourne and Seaford area, the immediate lines were obvious:

If a line is drawn from ALFRISTON CHURCH to the church at WILMINGTON, and another line is drawn from BERWICK CHURCH to LULLINGTON CHURCH, then the point where the lines cross pinpoints the position of the formation at Grid Ref. 527 033.

Nigel then placed a ruler on the map, lining up the formation with the LONG BARROW ON WINDOVER HILL and he noticed that, when extended, this line passed straight through the SC Subscription Mailing Address, at Grid Ref. 601 034.

A line drawn from this address to last years' BIR-

LING GAP FORMATION (Sussex 1994/03) at Grid Ref. 558 965, and then a further line from here to the 'Catherine wheel' formation at ALFRISTON, produces a triangle with JEVINGTON CHURCH at its centre, Grid Ref. 561 015. It is worth noting that the line between BIRLING GAP 94 and ALFRISTON 95 passes straight through LULLINGTON CHURCH.

It was then obvious that three lines drawn from the two formations and the SC Subs address to Jevington Church produces a near perfect two-dimensional representation of a tetrahedron (see diagram).

This whole area of East Sussex is steeped in pagan folklore and the lines marked on the map forming the tetrahedron pass through some very ancient sites, each with a story to tell: LULLINGTON CHURCH, about 300 to 400 yards

away to the south of the Alfriston formation is situated upon a mound within a surviving Druid Grove. The church itself is only a tiny chancel, by far the smallest church in Sussex.

ALFRISTON CHURCH is also situated upon an ancient mound and there is a quaint legend which says that originally it was to have been built in another field. Every morning, however, the builders discovered that the foundation stones had been miraculously transported to the mound. The story goes that a wise man happened to notice four oxen lying together in the shape of a cross and, taking this as an omen, suggested that the church should be built in cruciform shape on that very same spot.

Inside the Lady Chapel there is a beautiful stained-glass window which clearly shows a representation of the Qabalistic Tree of Life. In the past the village must have been associated with pagan tradition for quite some time since the North Door of the church is blocked. When travelling around the country, Initiates of the 'Old Faith' would make it their custom to enter village churches via the North Door. This was a sign, a secret code of recognition, to other Initiates who would later approach the visiting stranger. The church of St Mary's at Sompting is another such example which has, of course, played host to many of the best

Sussex formations in past years.

JEVINGTON CHURCH, lying at the centre of the tetrahedron, is dedicated to St Andrew who, like St Michael and St George, was a dragon-slayer. There is a sculpture on the north wall of the nave depicting the figure of a man wearing a loin cloth thrusting a sword into a dragon at his feet. The sculpture was discovered in 1875 and not much is known about it other than its Saxon origin. Jevington village was a Saxon settlement. There is a striking stained-glass window set into the south wall showing a depiction of St George in armour with a writhing green dragon at his feet.

The church information leaflet states that: "There was as late as 1576 a North Door - commonly known as the Devil's Door - and traces of it can be seen on the exterior" !

Undoubtedly we were making some important discoveries here and we think that this whole region was probably a vast religious complex of some importance. Certainly it has its share of Long Barrows and Tumuli and it was considered to be significant enough for the Benedictines to found the Priory at Wilmington.

The Church, Priory, Long Man Chalk Figure and Long Barrow at Wilmington: "Wilmington Church is also interesting for the huge ancient yew tree standing in the churchyard, perhaps dating back a thousand years to the earliest use of this site for religious (Christian or Pagan?) purposes. The proximity of the Long Man to this ancient Sacred Site suggests some definite connection between them" (Janet & Colin Bord, *Atlas of Magical Britain*). There can be little doubt that the Priory was associated with occult practices, since the infamous magical grimoire known as 'The Key of Solomon' was discovered there and it is well known that Benedictine monks practised and wrote about such things as alchemy, astrology and the use of magical talismans. Also, we have noted that Benedictine establishments always seem to turn up on, or near, ancient sites as if to guard the travellers road along the 'Old Straight Tracks' just like the Templars (with whom they were associated) in the Holy Land. Many crop circle sites seem to have a Benedictine site for company.

From the evidence so far, I think it follows that Wilmington, like other areas thus far indicated by the tetrahedron, is yet another Ancient Site of Power and has been recognised as such down through the Ages. The Long Man chalk carving on Windover Hill (facing the Priory and the church)

was said by Alfred Watkins to have been a 'dodman', a surveyor, with his staves and measuring rods. Another myth suggests that he may represent Baldur the Beautiful, a Norse God of Light, throwing open the Doors of Valhalla, or Odin the All-Father, who would roam the land as a one-eyed hermit in a dark, hooded cloak with a staff and a raven flying close by.

The Long Barrow above the Long Man of Wilmington, through which the line passes, is 260 feet in length and is, without doubt, one of the finest on the South Downs.

BERWICK CHURCH, is said by David Tilt to lie at the centre of 22 alignments (see *Harbingers of World Change*, p105). It is built upon a prominent mound and is dedicated to the dragon-slayer, St. Michael. (Surprise, surprise!) The church is famous for its wall paintings, incidentally, which are quite beautiful.

The opening passage of the official church pamphlet reads as follows: "All the churches along the line of Willingdon, Wilmington, Alfriston, Lullington, Berwick, Alciston, Selmeston, are built on high ground. They are all ancient foundations, and in all probability built on pre-Christian "barrows". When our early forefathers had to decide where to build the church, it would be natural for them to give preference to the spot that was already sacred, even if it were a pre-Christian and therefore heathen place of burial." And there we have it. Confirmation from a Christian source.

The Wish' and the Birling Gap Formation 1994: 'The Wish' is an area on the map which is characterised by a 'Field System' and is known locally as 'The Ridge'. During initial investigation of the Birling Gap 'Tear and Slice' formation of 1994, we were speaking to a friendly farm worker who told us that "...up there on the Ridge, it's very old", going on to surmise that archaeologists would find some interesting artefacts were they ever to excavate. In the immediate vicinity of this formation were several Stone Age, Bronze Age and Celtic sites, as well as a later Roman settlement (see SC 40).

The SC Subscription Address: No. 42 - "The Answer to Life, the Universe and Everything", according to *The Hitch-Hikers Guide To The Galaxy* (humorous science fiction by Douglas Adams -Ed) and, of course, the Alfriston 1995 formation resembles an open-armed spiral galaxy. (Incidentally, archaeologists are very excited about a large Bronze Age settlement recently discovered not far from the SC mailing address.)

- FEATURES -
**LINES,
LEGENDS AND
FOLKLORE**

DEBBIE PARDOE discovers some astonishing alignments and 'coincidences' among the crop formations, churches and landscape of the Alfriston and Wilmington area in East Sussex...

Arthurian Legend: "Peredur, the hero, is on a quest when he comes upon a CASTLE WITH NO INHABITANTS. In the hall he finds a CHESSBOARD ON WHICH THE PIECES ARE PLAYING BY THEMSELVES. Peredur takes sides and inadvertently loses; in anger he throws the chessboard out of the window into THE RIVER. An ill-favoured maiden enters and rebukes him but tells him that he can make good the injury he has done his host by repairing to THE NEARBY WOOD and beheading the white hart that frequents it. Peredur rides into the wood, HUNTS, kills and beheads the hart. A mysterious knight seizes the head and carries it off. As a punishment for his failure, Peredur is sent to A MOUND BENEATH WHICH IS CARVED THE FIGURE OF A MAN. There, he recites a spell and a HUGE BLACK MAN springs out of the MOUND prepared to do battle. Peredur defeats him, and the black man disappears into the mound."

Rodney Castledon in his excellent book, 'The Long Man of Wilmington' tells us that: THE MOUND IS THE WINDOVER LONG MOUND; the CARVED FIGURE IS THE LONGMAN; less than a mile to the NW of the Long Man and flanked on one side by the stream-bed of the RIVER CUCKMERE, is a low mound called BURLOUGH CASTLE. In spite of its name, there is not a trace of masonry anywhere on the site; nor is there any mention of it in any medieval documents. It is, in truth, a CASTLE WITHOUT INHABITANTS.

The CHESSBOARD CASTLE reappears in many guises in the story as the mysterious castle where many kinds of strange and wonderful things happen. It is also known as the 'Bespelled Castle' and 'The Castle of Wonders'. BURLOUGH CASTLE fits this aspect of the story as well, for it was long considered to be the Home of the Sussex Fairies.

The nearest WOOD to the CARVED FIGURE and the DESERTED CASTLE is THE GROVE SURROUNDING LULLINGTON CHURCH, three quarters of a mile south of BURLOUGH CASTLE which is a rare survival of a Celtic Sacred Grove. The Church was deliberately built on the Pagan Site to entice members.

The HUNTING OF THE HART may be commemorated in HUNTERS BURGH, a second Long Barrow, half a mile from Windover Long Mound. The GIANT or Ogre is a Pan-like giant, carrying and protecting the wisdom of the mound. It is a distant memory of Cernunos, the Horned One, Herne the Hunter. Also, the Long Man used to be

called 'The Green Man of Wilmington'. The Green Man was one of the titles accorded to Merlin in his role of 'Man of the Woods' or 'Giant Herdsman'. The connections are fascinating and possibly worth following up?

The Wilmington 1995 Formation and More Lines... Since writing this initial report, an unusual and beautiful crop formation, consisting of four symmetrically arranged crescents giving the impression of a spiral, appeared several hundred feet to the north west of the Long Man of Wilmington at Grid Ref. TV 540 037.

This is the second known formation to have turned up near the famous hill figure, the first being in July 1990 at Grid Ref. TV 555 045. Interestingly, a line drawn from the position of the 1990 formation through the 1995 formation extends to LULLINGTON CHURCH. Furthermore, a line from this year's formation through the figure of the Long Man himself extends to JEVINGTON CHURCH, the centre of the tetrahedron.

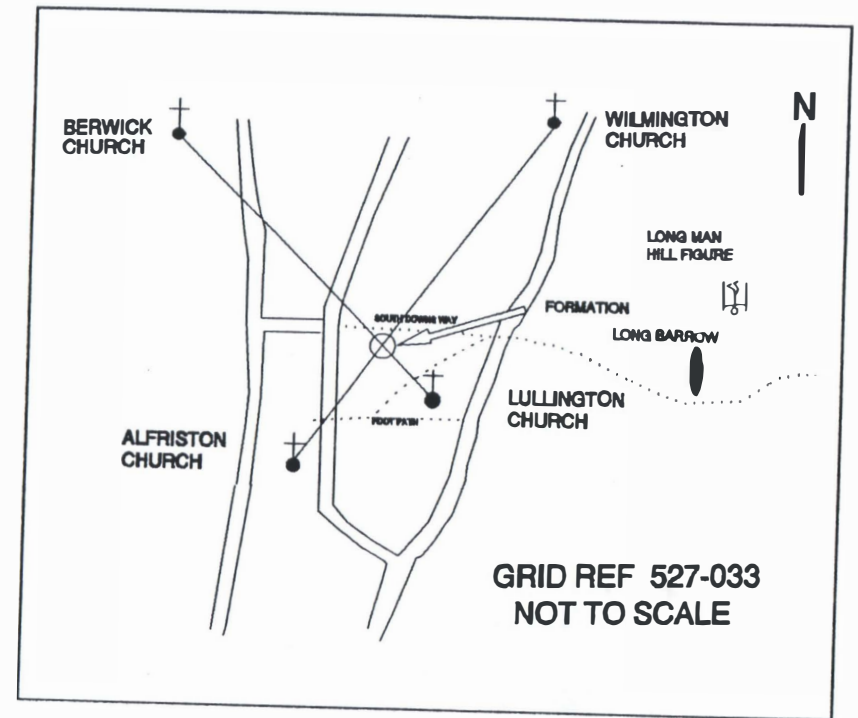
A further line from Wilmington Priory through the '95 formation extends to the perimeter of the Stone Age settlement on Seaford Head. Apparently there used to be a Long Barrow here which was demolished for the golf course. Seaford, incidentally, also has a lovely old church with a blocked North Door.

As for the number 42, someone recently pointed out that the Long Man of Wilmington has often been compared to Orion the Hunter in the night sky (and hence to Osiris). In 1784, a certain astronomer named Charles Messier began naming, or numbering, star clusters and nebulae; they were given 'M' numbers and the Great Nebula in Orion was numbered M42. DP

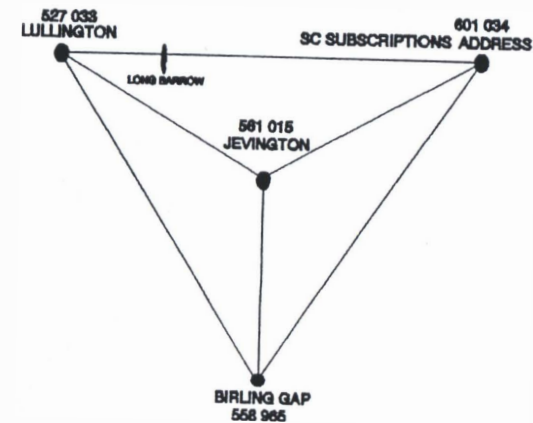
DIAGRAMS OPPOSITE:

The top diagram shows how the Alfriston 1995 formation (shown as a circle) falls exactly on top of the crossing point from two lines drawn between Berwick and Lullington churches, and Alfriston and Wilmington churches.

The diagram below shows the astonishing tetrahedron shape achieved by drawing lines between Lullington and Jevington churches, the Alfriston long barrow, the SC subscription address in Eastbourne and the site of the Birling Gap formations of 1994.



ORDNANCE SURVEY PATHFINDER 1324 (TV 49/59/69)



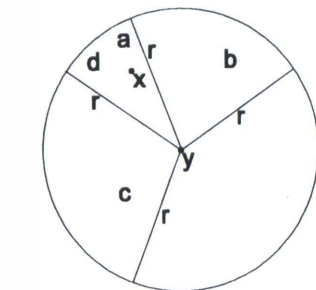
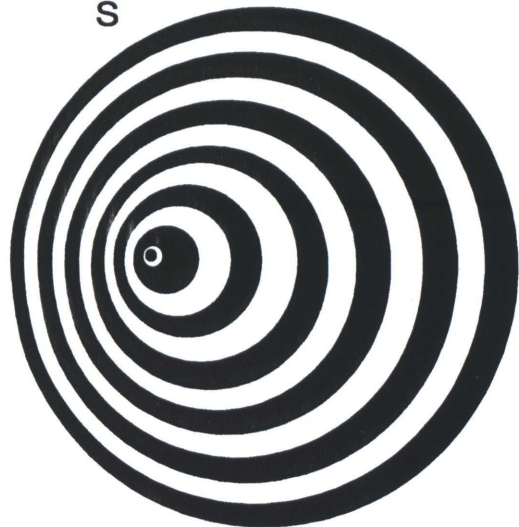
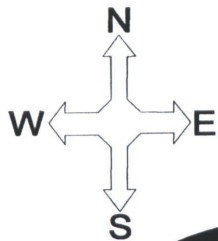
NOT TO SCALE

- FORMATION SURVEYS -
SUSSEX CROP FORMATIONS '95:
10) CISSBURY RING

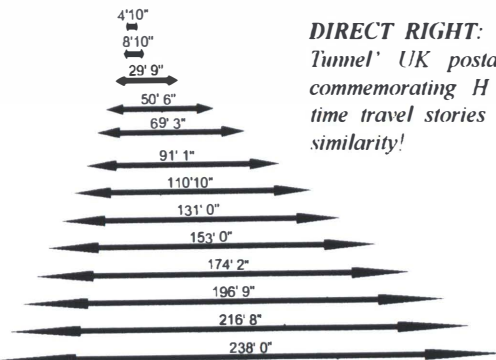
Report by BARRY REYNOLDS

LEFT: Survey of Cissbury 1995 formation

RIGHT: Tables showing how the ring diameters of the Cissbury formation can be calculated by trigonometry (see report).



At a; $r^2 = ((a+c)/2)^2 + (((b+d)/2)-d)^2$
 At b; $r^2 = (((a+c)/2)-a)^2 + (b-(((b+d)/2)-d))^2$
 At c; $r^2 = (c-(((a+c)/2)-a))^2 + (((b+d)/2)-d)^2$
 At d; $r^2 = (((a+c)/2)-a)^2 + ((b+d)/2)^2$



DIRECT RIGHT: The 'Time Tunnel' UK postage stamp commemorating H G Wells' time travel stories - spot the similarity!



SUSSEX CROP FORMATIONS

For those unaware, although a publication which covers crop circle events everywhere, SC is produced by members of CCCS Sussex, whose task it is to investigate and survey all crop formations which appear in the counties of East and West Sussex in England. SC can never hope to include full surveys of all the many formations across the country so it is continuing its tradition of featuring detailed reports of the formations on its own doorstep. Reading these are a useful exercise for all readers, however remote from Sussex, because surveys of any formations in this amount of detail are very hard to come by. We hope that these on-the-spot and in-depth reports give a good idea of the nature of the circle phenomenon across-the-board and all the many facets involved, such as important geometries and correlations, which often go unreported with the simplified news of major formations elsewhere.

This huge formation, 238' in diameter, appeared less than one mile (1.5 km) to the north east of the ancient hill fort of Cissbury Ring on a small hillock nesting within the South Downs on the opposite side of the road from Steyning Bowl, a local takeoff point for hang gliders and parascenders. The formation itself was on a strange part of the hillside which was both steep and curved. This meant that from some parts of the formation you actually looked down upon the rest of it getting quite a good view from within it. Six hundred feet (200m) further up the hillock (actually on the summit) was the ancient earth embankment Park Brow.

Even though the hillside was considerably inclined, aerial photographs of the formation showed the circular elements to be extremely circular (not oval as they first appear) and evenly spaced whilst all having different geometric centres. Due to the circular elements not sharing the same centre, the lay was rather interesting. The larger the circle, the further offset the swirl centre was compared to the geometric centre. In fact the geometric centre of several of the circles was actually within the standing crop of some of the rings (see diagram).

All measurements for the nested circles were taken from the centre of the smallest circle as this was the only apparent centre point. This causes a problem though as none of the measurements taken actually represents a true radius as the circles were so offset. This can be seen from the photograph when considering the outermost circle and is reflected in the 'radial' measurements varying from 64' 0" to the west to 174' 0" to the east. Fortunately the circles were almost circular (again refer to Mike Hubbard's excellent photograph which was taken almost directly above the apparent centre) as opposed to ovals and therefore the diameters can be calculated by trigonometry as follows:

Where; point x is the centre of the smallest circle; point y is the geometric centre of any of the circles and a point we wish to discover; r is the radius of any of the circles and the distance we wish to calculate; a, b, c, d are the actual known 'radial' measurements as taken in the field. Using standard

trigonometry, this gives us a fairly accurate approximation to the radius of the circles. Fortunately eight 'radial' measurements were taken so we can repeat the calculations and obtain an even more accurate estimation of the radii. Thus the table opposite of actual measurements is given together with the extrapolated average diameters.

Whilst in the formation during the evening of 23rd July, two members of CCCS Sussex were repeatedly buzzed and harassed by the local police helicopter based at Shoreham Airport only a few miles away. At times the helicopter dropped to be only a few tens of feet above the crop probably causing more damage than those authorised to be in there! Later, those members made a telephone call to the police to find out what the helicopter business had been about and, surprisingly, managed to talk to one of the pilots. This officer then began to tell stories of UFOs they had seen on their patrols and wound up asking whether we were aware of the strange sightings of lights which were being reported at Bognor Regis!

On 6th June 1995 the Royal Mail issued a set of stamps commemorating science fiction. The 25p stamp of H.G. Wells' *The Time Machine*, featuring a 'Time Tunnel' like the one from the old television programme of the same name, bears an uncanny resemblance to this formation.

On Monday 24th July the sampling team took a standard sample set from the formation. Only seed heads were taken as Barry had decided that his garage already had too many samples in it drying out and he had very little room for any more stalks. Controls were taken from a distance of both 100' and 200', both east and west of the formations. Also at this time, the formation contained Lucy Pringle's experimental bottles of water (buried just under the surface). The team left the formation around 20.45 and headed off for Upper Beeding (three miles away - 4.5 km) to survey the new formation (ref. Sussex 1995/12) which had appeared thirty-six hours previously on 23rd July 1995. The team left the general area around 22.30, well after dark. That very night, the Cissbury

formation was to grow several major additions on the very spot where the control samples were taken... (separate report to follow) **BR**

***BELOW:** Table showing the exact dimensions of the Cissbury Ring formation.*

	North	North East	East	South East	South	South West	West	North West	Average Diameter
Circle	2' 9"	2' 7"	2' 10"	3' 1"	2' 2"	2' 3"	2' 0"	2' 5"	60.7"
1st Ring Inner	4' 3"	5' 0"	4' 10"	5' 10"	5' 4"	4' 7"	4' 0"	4' 0"	114.4"
1st Ring Outer	12' 11"	18' 2"	21' 9"	20' 5"	15' 1"	9' 11"	8' 10"	9' 4"	367.7"
2nd Ring Inner	20' 3"	29' 3"	36' 10"	34' 11"	25' 4"	16' 5"	13' 8"	14' 10"	609.5"
2nd Ring Outer	27' 0"	40' 8"	51' 3"	48' 2"	34' 4"	22' 2"	18' 10"	19' 10"	837.7"
3rd Ring Inner	36' 8"	53' 2"	66' 5"	62' 6"	46' 1"	30' 9"	24' 8"	26' 4"	1101.8"
3rd Ring Outer	43' 3"	64' 2"	81' 2"	77' 1"	56' 4"	37' 3"	29' 8"	31' 2"	1339.8"
4th Ring Inner	51' 9"	76' 6"	96' 6"	90' 6"	65' 4"	43' 3"	34' 6"	36' 8"	1580.8"
4th Ring Outer	61' 6"	88' 9"	112' 1"	105' 0"	76' 0"	51' 4"	41' 2"	43' 10"	1844.9"
5th Ring Inner	69' 6"	101' 5"	127' 0"	120' 3"	87' 8"	59' 0"	47' 2"	49' 10"	2105.6"
5th Ring Outer	77' 7"	114' 0"	144' 0"	135' 10"	99' 9"	66' 6"	52' 9"	55' 10"	2377.0"
6th Ring Inner	85' 6"	125' 5"	158' 5"	150' 0"	109' 9"	72' 11"	58' 3"	61' 6"	2617.7"
6th Ring Outer	94' 11"	138' 7"	174' 0"	163' 7"	119' 2"	80' 0"	64' 0"	68' 0"	2872.1"

THE SUSSEX CEREOLOGICAL BONANZA THE VIDEO

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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