

BUFORA

SUMMER NEWLETTER

British UFO Research Association

Summer 2002

EDITORIAL

Welcome to this the latest in a line of BUFORA occasional publications. This is in addition to the issues of the New BUFORA Journal.

We are now well into the fortieth year of BUFORA's existence. So have we made much progress? Well, I think UFOlogy has probably not made any great discoveries in the last 40 years. But then again if we look at other projects that were born around the same time as BUFORA, such as the Search for Extra Terrestrial Life (SETI) they have not made much progress either despite having access to many more resources.

The current SETI project relies upon many volunteers around the world helping to process the data on their home computers (the SETI@HOME project). I know of many UFOlogists who are helping to process this data, there is even a BUFORA team

that members can join. Wouldn't it be ironic if one of the UFO enthusiasts that many scientists refer to as 'UFO nuts' actually processed the data which contained signals from an alien civilisation.

Anyway the biggest problem facing the SETI investigators is that there is so much radio noise, both natural and man-made, that they would have difficulty sorting out any genuine signal from the rubbish. And that is before they try to understand what it says.

Sounds just like the problem that UFO and other paranormal investigators have. There are so many misidentifications (the noise) that it is difficult to determine what is the true underlying phenomenon (the signal).

Steve Gamble

See Back Page for updated information for the lecture meetings

MUSIC COMPANIES CASH IN ON UFOs

Well, I suppose if it is alright for Hollywood to cash in on UFOs and other aspects of the paranormal it was only a matter of time before other parts of the media joined the gravy train.

In recent weeks there have been a number of UFO reports and strange going-ons from the Uttar Pradesh region of India. Now Delhi-based record company T-Series has produced an album of ballads written about the incidents in the northern state. It also appears that early success of the album is inspiring other local singers to produce their own songs.

I know Norman is planning to have more information of the Indian sightings in a shortly forthcoming issue of the New BUFORA Journal, so I will not go into detail here.

MORE MUSIC

At the start of the summer the press was full of will-they, won't-they stories concerning the marriage of Sir Paul McCartney to Heather Mills. Well eventually they did!

But did you notice where they were married. Castle Leslie in Ireland. This was the family home to Desmond Leslie an ex-Spitfire pilot who wrote an early, and probably the first popular book in the UK about UFOs—Flying Saucers have Landed. Desmond, who died a couple of years ago, was brother to the current baronet Sir John Leslie.

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Saturday October 5th, 2002

**BUFORA Ltd AGM
The 27th Annual General Meeting
of BUFORA Ltd**

This will now be held on October 5th 2002 at 1.30pm in the 1st Floor Function Room at the Sols Arms Public House, 65-68 Hampstead Road, London NW1 2PN.

It will be followed at 3pm by the monthly joint BUFORA/SPI 'Phenomenal Afternoons in London' meeting, to be addressed on this occasion by BUFORA Director of Research John Spencer on the subject of 'Ghosts and Poltergeists, The Impertinent Questions'.

MINUTES OF 26th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BUFORA LTD
Held at Linden Hall, Linden Road, Hampton, Middlesex On Sunday 24th June 2001

Apologies for absence:

Brian James, Michael Hudson, Manfred Cassirer, James Danby, Lionel Fanthorpe, Simon Rose.

1. NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING

The notice convening the meeting had been previously distributed. Brian James had sent apologies that personal circumstances at the last minute had prevented his attendance. In his absence, Bob Digby took the chair. The meeting opened at 13:10 hrs in the presence of 15 members. Mr. Digby explained that the AGM had been re-scheduled to this date as the previous meeting in April had been inquorate. In the absence of the Secretary, Steve Gamble agreed to take the Minutes.

2. MINUTES OF THE 25th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the previous meeting (April 2000) had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no matters arising. The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting, proposed John Spencer, seconded Gloria Dixon, and passed unanimously.

3. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Unfortunately Lionel Fanthorpe was unable to be present due to a previous commitment. Bob Digby read his address, which had been previously circulated. Several long-standing members who had served BUFORA in many different offices had recently died. Mr. Digby highlighted the President's suggestion that some form of memorial be initiated in their honour. It was agreed that the Council should take up this suggestion.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman's report had been previously distributed. In his absence Bob Digby offered to take any questions. Peter Doye asked if there had been any feedback about the day of the monthly lectures. Bob Digby replied that these had changed to Monday evening as the Quaker Centre could not accommodate Saturday meetings. He raised the possibility of Saturday afternoon meetings at Harrow campus. Judith Jaafar reminded the meeting that it had been necessary to move from the University campus in Marylebone Road because of a combination of falling attendances and rising costs. Whilst the University campus in Harrow was a possibility she felt that costs were little different from Marylebone Road and the venue was harder for many people to get to. In reply to a question she felt many of the current attendees at lectures were non-members. John Spencer asked about holding meetings back at Kensington library again. He asked if Saturday evening would be a better time. On a show of hands Saturday evening would be the preferred time for meetings. Bob Digby would take this back to the Council.

Bob Digby informed the meeting of the deaths of Roger Chinery, Robin Lindsey and Tim O'Brien who had all been long-term members of the Association. The meeting observed a minute's silence in their memory.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Bob Digby informed the meeting that the financial situation was very similar to the previous year. The rate of excess expenditure had been reduced, although things were not quiet there in terms of balance.

Since the accounts had been produced BUFORA had received legacies from the estates of Robin Lindsey and Roger Chinery. Bob Digby pointed out that any legacies should not be absorbed into general expenditure. Peter Doye asked the extent of these legacies. Roger Chinery had left £1000 to BUFORA, whilst Robin Lindsey had left his tape archive and some equipment.

It was noted that BUFORA as a small company is technically exempt from audit, but the accounts were audited to provide both transparency and an independent assessment of the Company. Bob Digby informed the meeting that R.M. Accounting in High Wycombe had audited the accounts. He proposed to use them as auditors for the year 2001. Their fee, including VAT had been £200.

6. DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH REPORT

John Spencer's report had been previously circulated. He did not have any additions to make. He offered to answer questions, but none were forthcoming.

7. DIRECTOR OF INVESTIGATIONS REPORT

Gloria Dixon's report had been circulated. She had no additions to make, but was willing to answer questions. None were raised.

8. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTS TO YEAR END 31st AUGUST 2000

Michael Lewis, seconded by Judith Jaafar, proposed the adoption of the Report of the Council of Management and the Accounts. Passed unanimously.

9. APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR

It was proposed that the Treasurer be given leave to appoint the auditor and fix their remuneration. Proposed by John Spencer, seconded by Gloria Dixon. Passed unanimously.

10. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Under Section 50 of the Articles Manfred Cassirer and Anthony Eccles were retiring by rotation. Under Section 37 the following who had been appointed during the year were also retiring: James Danby, Peter Doye and David Sankey. Neither Anthony Eccles nor David Sankey was seeking re-election.

It was proposed that Manfred Cassirer, James Danby and Peter Doye be appointed to the Council. Proposed Judith Jaafar, seconded by John Spencer. Passed unanimously.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A. LIMITED COMPANY STATUS

There had been limited response to Bob Digby's article in the Bulletin. The responses suggested little change to anything. The main thing was to improve the new content of the Bulletin, which was the main benefit to many members.

Bob Digby reminded the meeting that BUFORA had become a Limited Company in 1975 with a view ultimately of becoming a registered charity. Roger Stanway, the then Chairman, had tried without success to get BUFORA made a scientific charity. There were some advantages and some disadvantages of the current limited company status. The main advantage to members was that their liability in event of the company going bankrupt was limited to £1, whereas as a mutual club they would be liable to a proportion of the clubs debts on dissolution. The disadvantages included that as a limited company BUFORA had to pay an annual company registration and deposit annual returns with Companies House. Companies House rules imposed external deadlines on how the company operated. He raised the question should BUFORA convert back to being a mutual society?

Michael Lewis suggested that BUFORA consider seeking registration as an educational charity. Bob Digby agreed that educational charity status was a possibility but there should be no change to BUFORA's name or being predominantly in the UFO business. John Spencer responded that this avenue had been explored about three years previously. It was difficult for an organization to obtain charitable status under any section if it had been previously rejected. The rules had been tightened and the potential benefits might be limited.

Philip Walton said that ASSAP had become an educational charity. However this status limited what reserves it could hold and there were other constraints. BUFORA needed to consider carefully if this would be the correct road to go down.

It was agreed that an early Council meeting should review the options and report back to the members.

B. ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

Bob Digby proposed that the Articles of Association be reviewed to take account of changes in modern communication. The Articles had been created in 1975 before much of the existing technology existed and when BUFORA had a much larger membership. John Spencer pointed out that this was the second attempt to hold the AGM and that if modern communications were used it might be possible for more members to be involved without the need to be physically present at a meeting.

It was agreed that Brian James, Peter Doye and Bob Digby would review the Articles and if necessary put any changes to an EGM.

C. QUORUM

It had been proposed by Lionel Beer (seconded by Bob Digby) that, to reflect the lower number of members, the quorum for the AGM be reduced from 15 to 10. This was passed unanimously.

There being no further business Bob Digby thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 13:52.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BUFORA LTD.

The TWENTY-SEVENTH Annual General Meeting of BUFORA Ltd. will be held at 1.30pm in the 1st Floor Function Room at the Sols Arms Public House, 65-68 Hampstead Road, London NW1 2PN on SATURDAY 5th OCTOBER 2002 to receive the Chairman's Report, the Report of the Council of Management, the Accounts of the Treasurer, and to appoint the Auditor according to the Articles of the Association.

Signed on behalf of the Council of Management

Peter Doye, Chairman, 31st July 2002

NOTE:

Please note that a Member entitled to attend and vote at this meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy who need not be a member of the Company to attend and vote in his or her stead. Instruments of proxy must be lodged at the Company's registered address, Bufora Ltd., 70, High Street, WINGHAM, Kent, CT3 1BJ not less than forty-eight hours before the time appointed for the meeting. Members wishing to nominate persons for election to the Council of Management shall give to the Secretary such nominations in writing at the registered address, signed by the person proposed, stating their willingness to be elected, not less than four, nor more than twenty-eight clear days before the time appointed for the meeting in accordance with Section 52 of the Articles of Association. Nominations must show clearly the name of both the proposer and seconder.

Whilst visitors are welcome to attend the following lecture, only members of the Association in good standing and accredited proxies may attend and vote at the AGM. Only members in good standing may nominate or be nominated as members of the Council of Management or propose resolutions. Please bring membership cards as this will speed checking against the current membership list.

BUFORA Ltd (The British UFO Research Association) AGM 2002 Nomination of Proxy

I, (fill in your full name).....

Of (fill in your full address including postcode).....

.....

Membership Number (if known)....., being a member of BUFORA entitled to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting to be held in London on 5th October 2002, am unable to attend in person and therefore appoint the following person to attend and vote on my behalf:

Full Name

OF (full address).....

.....

Who is/is NOT (delete as applicable) a member of BUFORA

OR failing HIM/HER (delete if does not apply)

I authorise the meeting chairman to exercise the vote on my behalf. (delete if does not apply)

Signed:..... Date:.....

Persons acting as proxies will be required to produce evidence of identity. If you later find you can attend the meeting in person you may withdraw your instrument of proxy by informing the meeting chairman of your attendance on arrival. You must not vote in person and have a proxy vote on your behalf.

Signed instruments of proxy must be lodged at the Company's registered address:

Bufora Ltd., 70, High Street, WINGHAM, Kent, CT3 1BJ

not less than forty-eight hours before the time appointed for the meeting.

Chairman's Report 2002

Recalling the scrambling of night-fighters (the old Meteor NF11s) after the radar sighting of UFOs while serving at RAF Leuchars, a leading fighter base on the east coast of Scotland, back in the mid-1950s, I could hardly have foreseen then that early in the 21st Century I would be appointed Chairman of the British UFO Research Association.

BUFORA was founded a few years later, in the early 1960s (September 1962), and since then has built up a global reputation for its pioneering research and other activities as well as keeping going through less propitious periods. I was reminded of this recently when lunching recently with a noted figure in the wider sphere of anomalous phenomena. On hearing of my BUFORA connection, she recalled how when she lived in the States quite a few years ago, BUFORA was highly respected for carrying on serious research into Ufology when it was unfashionable to do so.

Recent times have not been too easy, with interest in the subject claimed by some quarters to be waning, culminating in the current 'Is Ufology dead?' debate (triggered off at a recent Fortean Times Unconvention weekend), and with membership down from its peak levels. BUFORA seems to have been caught in some crossfire from that debate. But let me assure members that if I thought that Ufology was dead, I would hardly have agreed to become Chairman of BUFORA.

Indeed, judging from my daily experiences, Ufology seems to be very much alive, from the national newspapers to specialist magazines, radio and television, and the internet, to lectures and events of various kinds (such as this summer's Mind Body Spirit Festival in London) as well as private conversations in some quite surprising circles. And BUFORA and individual members of it continue to attract plaudits, both in the UK and abroad, as well as some flak - at times grievously misinformed. A robust response to the latter may at times be required, but I hope too that some bridge-building will be possible.

40 YEARS OF BUFORA: WHERE NOW?

Adapting the title of a recent lecture I attended on 50 years of peace research and where are we now, I might still ask "40 years of BUFORA? Where is it (and Ufology) now?" Having only been appointed its chairman at very short notice and with heavy commitments elsewhere including across much of the field of research into anomalous phenomena, it will take time to work through and assess the situation, in consultation with other Council members, concentrating on immediate priorities and then moving on to consider longer-term strategies.

I am, however, reasonably encouraged by the overall situation. While it may need "to cut its cloth", compared with its heydays, BUFORA looks basically to be in good shape and with a Council of able people, combining many years of experience with some new blood (it could do with more - any volunteers, please?) and enthusiasm. Immediate priorities - and no significance should be attached to their order - are the journal, meetings and the website, though I should be glad to hear of other matters meriting early attention.

Issue No 1 of the New Bufora Journal (NB1) has been posted to members, and further issues are in the production pipeline. I would apologise for the delay in their reaching members while at the same time welcoming Vice-President Norman Oliver back into the editorial chair (assisted especially on the technical and layout side by Bob Digby among Bob's other current tasks) and expressing appreciation and thanks to outgoing Chairman Brian James for his work on both journal and website in addition to serving as chairman.

In a recent piece on UFO discussion sites invading the online world, the Chicago Herald Tribune, incidentally, described the BUFORA "low key and scientific" website as one of the most believable of all the UFO sites on the worldwide web.

EARLY OBJECTIVES

The immediate aims, in liaison with other council members and officers and with input from members generally, must be to help raise further the quality of the journal, the website and meetings as well as striving for more regular publication of the journal and updating of the website.

We have been lucky to obtain the voluntary services of a professional Webmaster, well regarded in his own field and with a scientific background, and it is now a question of obtaining the right input and streamlining the flow. I hope, as soon as I am able, to expand on this as part of a regular column in the NB1, in which I shall also cover other aspects of BUFORA's activities on behalf of its members and seek their assistance including suggestions as well as views.

While generally enjoyed and appreciated by those attending them, including myself when possible, the London meetings have encountered both organisational and attendance problems. The Monday lectures, at the Quaker International Centre at Byng Place WC1, provided some memorable evenings but tended to attract more non-members than mem-

bers, many of whom found it difficult to attend on a weekday evening. The move back in 2002 to Saturday afternoon meetings, at the Sols Arms Public House NW1, in collaboration with SPI (Strange Phenomena Investigations), has on balance gone well.

The new Saturday meetings have covered a wider range of subjects, but that looks to be a positive movement as it would be wrong to divorce UFOs from wider aspects of strange, anomalous or paranormal (or whatever word one prefers) phenomena. Special thanks are due to BUFORA Vice-Chairman Judith Jaafar and Treasurer John Wickham among others for their contributions to the above meetings alongside those of Malcolm Robinson and SPI.

Beyond the immediate priorities mentioned, I am particularly conscious of the importance of the Investigations and Research work reported on separately by Heather Dixon and John Spencer respectively. These two related areas are central to BUFORA's expressed aims (as printed on the inside back cover of NBJ1), and I should encourage the strongest support for them.

CORPORATE STATUS

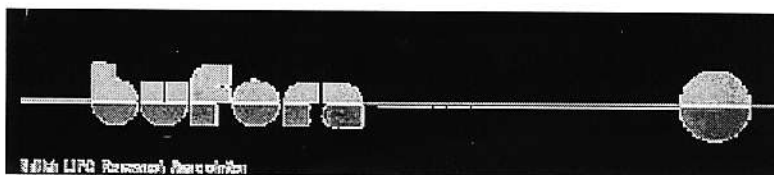
Further thought has also been given to BUFORA's corporate status and constitution. While there was a feeling that to retain such status caused unnecessary complications, recent best advice, especially in the light of greater legal requirements and responsibilities and the growing hazards for an organisation's officers of it not being incorporated, has led the Council to favour retaining such status. A simplified constitution will be put to members at an extraordinary general meeting as soon as it can be drawn up and agreed and a subsequent meeting arranged.

I would apologise to members on behalf of Council for any confusion over AGM dates. There have been difficulties, and it should also be borne in mind that the 2000-01 financial year-end was extended by four months to December 31, making it a 16-month accounting period.

Here, I would like to thank and record appreciation on behalf of all to Council members and others (including old friend and past Council member Manfred Cassirer) for their work and support for BUFORA. Special mention should be made of Bob Digby, Jim Danby and Steve Gamble who are standing down from Council but continuing to contribute in important ways, also Simon Rose. To them, to Council members remaining in office, not least Vice-Chair Judith Jaafar, energetic new Treasurer and Librarian John Wickham, Secretary Michael Hudson, and other officers and members, I would also like to express my own appreciation of their warm welcome and support for me as the new Chairman. A thought too for members who died during 2000-01 – and personally may I say that I certainly don't regard death as the end – including long-time BUFORA stalwart Robin Lindsey, who bequeathed to the Association his fine tape and video library of past BUFORA lectures.

Unfortunately, the intended AGM on July 6 had to be postponed, owing to the cancellation at very short notice of Philip Mantle's accompanying 'Alien Autopsy' presentation due to a close family bereavement. I was otherwise committed on that day – to again playing for Essex in Counties Chess Finals at Leicester, where they ended up winning an Open Championship final for the first time since 1958 when I was a member of their winning team – but can now look forward to chairing the AGM on October 5 at 1.30 pm at the Sols Arms which will be followed at 3pm by a lecture by our Director of Research John Spencer. I should urge members if at all possible to attend the AGM (and in any case sending in a proxy appointing the chairman of the meeting or other proxy to vote on their behalf if they are not there) as well as what should be an interesting presentation by John on 'Ghosts and Poltergeists, The Impertinent Questions'.

Peter Doye



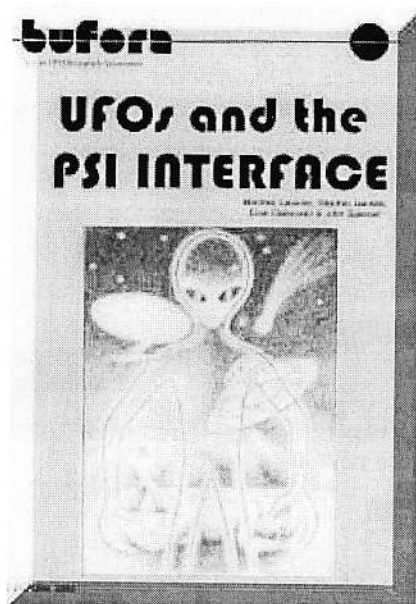
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Hosted by Malcolm Robinson
New menu system for
news, forthcoming
lectures, special events,
how to report a sighting
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UFOs and the PSI Interface

By Manfred Cassirer, Stephen Gamble,

Elsie Oakensen and John Spencer

In this publication, four contributors – all of whom have different backgrounds and viewpoints into the subject – have assembled current ideas on the possible interaction/crossover between UFO reports and PSI experiences.

- Manfred Cassirer presents a research paper – UFOs and the PSI Interface - in which examines the main theories revolving around the subjects.
- Stephen Gamble (who has carried out many roles for BUFORA) compares UFO and Psychic Entities.
- Elsie Oakensen (a fellow experiencer) describes Life After a UFO Close Encounter – and this includes life-changing events.
- John Spencer (Renowned author, and BUFORA's Director of Research) examines and discusses UFOs and the Paranormal Interface.

All members will have received a copy of this book, but further copies are available at **£7.50 inc p&p.**

Send cheques, postal orders or IMCs
(payable to "BUFORA Ltd")

About BUFORA

BUFORA was founded in 1962, as a federation of regional UFO groups throughout the UK. Many of these groups were formed in the 1950s. These included the British Flying Saucer Bureau, founded in 1952 (which is believed to be the UK's oldest UFO group), and the London UFO Research Organisation formed in 1959 and the largest UK organisation at the time. In 1962 the group was known as the British UFO Association, changing its name in 1964 to the present British UFO Research Association. BUFORA became a company limited by guarantee in 1975. This means that in the event of BUFORA being wound up each members undertaking to cover any outstanding debts is limited to £1. It was intended to be a prelude to seeking charity status. BUFORA is registered under the U.K. Data Protection Act, and amongst other things membership records are held on a computer database. (It is the policy of BUFORA NOT to release membership records to third parties.)

BUFORA is run entirely by volunteers, relying solely on its members to fund and carry out its investigation, research and educational activities. The day to day running of BUFORA is in the hands of a Council of Management drawn from the members.

Membership of BUFORA is open to all who support the aims of the association, and whose application is approved by the Council of Management.

AIMS OF BUFORA

The three aims of BUFORA are:-

- To encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying object (UFO) phenomena throughout the United Kingdom
- To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to unidentified flying objects
- To co-ordinate UFO research throughout the United Kingdom and to co-operate with others engaged in such research throughout the world.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

BUFORA is pleased to announce a brand new programme of events for 2002. At the time of going to press, some details were still being finalised but that doesn't stop you getting the key dates in those new diaries!

- In a departure from previous arrangements, BUFORA is teaming up with Malcolm Robinson's Strange Phenomena Investigations UK (SPI-UK) to sponsor a series of informal **Phenomenal Afternoons in London.**
- The venue will be the Function Room of The Sols Arms Public House, 65 – 68 Hampstead Road, London, NW1 2PN. It is literally around the corner from Euston Tower, and is within 5 minutes walk of Euston mainline rail station; and Euston Sq, Warren St, Great Portland St underground stations

Please Note

All of these events are admission by ticket at £6 unless otherwise stated. Members of BUFORA and SPI can obtain these tickets for £5 for advance booking through the box office at :

Evolution, P.O.Box 633, Beaconsfield, Bucks, HP9 2GL

Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to **Strange Phenomena Investigations.** It cannot be guaranteed that tickets will be available on the door and only advance booking secures the concessionary rate.

The Phenomenal Afternoons in London series, presents an opportunity to explore a wider range of subjects, given that it is impossible to consider UFOs without touching on wider aspects of the paranormal.

TIMES 3.00pm - 6.30pm

**Entrance: Public £6:00, SPI & BUFORA Members £5:00.
(Price includes light refreshments.)**

Please note the following dates and arranged speakers (correct at time of going to press):

Saturday 7th September

Matthew Williams: Crop Circles 2002 (Note: Change of Speaker)

Saturday 5th October

John Spencer: Ghosts & Poltergeists, The Impertinent Questions

Saturday 2nd November

**Jenny Ayres (formerly Eales): A Demonstration of Clairvoyance
Michael Ayres: A Demonstration of Trance Mediumship**

Saturday 7th December

Brian Allan: Reading The Mind of God (Parallel Universes) (Speaker change)

CROP CIRCLES TAKE OFF

But only at the box office. It appears that the film "Signs" starring Mel Gibson is doing well in the USA. Gibson plays the part of a farmer who finds crop circles on his land. The film is scheduled for release in the UK in the middle of September. Like buses—we are also threatened with another crop circle film coming along soon behind. I suspect that these films will encourage a new rash of hoax circle makers to muddy the waters even more. Since very early in the investigation of crop circles it was apparent to researchers that at least some circles were hoaxes. Now the number of circles known to be hoaxes has vastly increased, if there is a genuine interesting underlying phenomenon it has been totally drowned out by the rubbish (hoaxes). Of course, circles may have all been hoaxes all along—we may never know.

As an aside, I suppose it ought to be under the heading What Goes Around Comes Around, a friend recently purchased a copy of "An Owners Guide to The Hedgehog" by Dawn Wrobel. She reports the idea put forward by some people that crop circles are caused by hedgehogs running in circles. Now I thought somebody, possibly John Spencer, said that at a BUFORA lecture in response to some out-landish theory somebody put forward. And the comment was more along the lines of 'your theory is so way out that there is just as much chance of circles being made by mating hedgehogs running in circles'!