

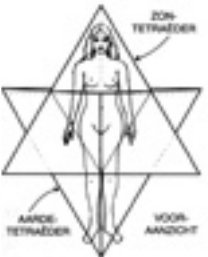
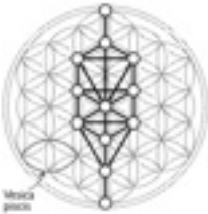


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# HET MYSTERIEBLAD 1.2

Eerste jaargang | nummer 2

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*'De weg van  
het mysterie...'*

'2 manen' in een koolzaadveld/ ontdekt op ma.4/05/04/  
Foto David Russell ©.

# Crop circle project 2004

*The project started last summer as an idea in the head of our friend Jan.*

*Staying at the Barge Inn, Honeystreet, UK, we met some hoaxers who tried to recruit us for a crop circle making session. We declined, and they later on perpetrated one or more hoaxes in the neighborhood, one being the East Field knotted rope. Two other claims where: the knotted rope in South Field (substantiated by diagrams shown very soon after the event) and the Walker's Hill Swallows (not a very convincing claim). Anyway, Jan was rather impressed by these events. Having organised symposia on the subject of '2012' in the past, he started making plans for a new symposium, with some speakers from the crop circle world. He would also like to make a formation for his guests to do a group meditation and some ceremonies in.*

For this he asked the help of some of his friends, including my cousin Kim and myself. Jan had arranged that a small field near his home would be sown (by hand, so no tramlines) with winter barley.

This was meant as fertilizing crop, so no harm would be done as the field would be plowed soon after the making of the formation.

This project was only acceptable to us on these conditions: it would have to be with the farmers' consent (which we had: the farmer himself offered Jan the use of the field), and there would be no deception whatsoever: visitors would be notified in advance that the formation was man-made.

These conditions were met, so we joined the project. After all, we were very curious as to how hard making formations would be, what the floor pattern would look like, what details we could incorporate into the floor and design, which tell-tale marks our instruments would leave behind...

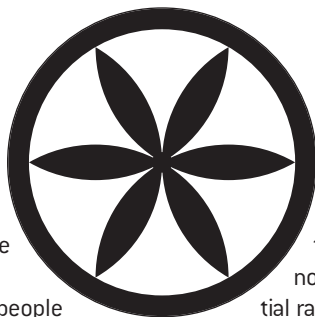
Based on many past experiences with crop circles, we also wondered whether somehow we would be able to make 'contact' or 'interact' with whatever force that may or may not lie beyond the phenomenon.

To sum things up, here are some basic questions I would try and get answered by this project:

1. **Design:** how hard will it be to get a nice design also look nice in the field? Can we incorporate hidden geometries in the design that can still be made out in the resulting formation (e.g. let the thickness of a ring be determined by pentagonal geometry, but just use rope lengths to scale instead of drawing out all the necessary extra line in the field)
2. **Floor pattern:** how hard is it to make young crop go down? Does it look messy using planks? Is the downed crop laid in swathes the breadth of the board, or rather different? Can we get nice swirls in circles? Can we make the edges smooth or does



The field, three days before the action.



The design

it look a bit serrated? Is it really that much work to smoothen out an entire edge by hand or foot?

3. **Manpower:** how many people does it take to lay it all down?
4. **Energy:** are there dowsable lines in the field before or after laying down the crop? Can energy be felt inside the formation? Do dowsing rods follow the lay of the stems?
5. **Interaction:** can we draw additional energy to the place? Can we somehow get 'response', e.g. flashes of light, balls of light, a formation that gets created without our assistance perhaps? Other strange phenomena?

These are a lot of questions, and some may seem strange to a skeptic reader, but everybody who has been around crop circles for more than a day will want to keep an open mind about them... They will not all be answered in this report, but some will.

### The project

We wanted to meet regularly (about once a month) to discuss the technical aspects of the formation, to visit the field, and to get 'tuned in' to the whole thing. Crop circle researcher and video author Bert Janssen would occasionally drop by to take some footage and conduct some interviews. He only did this for documentary purposes, he did not endorse the project in any way. Anybody who doesn't like the idea of this project should be aware that Bert is in no way to blame for it.

### The meetings

The meetings were always held on Sunday afternoon. Somehow we always got terrible

weather as soon as we got to the field, making us start to think that maybe the gods were not happy with our plans. Torrential rain, gusts of wind, and an occasional thunderstorm almost thwarted our entire plan.

### The design

After a few try-outs we agreed on a design: Jan felt very strong about a flower of life design, as it had special meaning for him. This being his project, we happily agreed on this. The core of the design was set, but I wasn't too sure yet about some of its features. How thick would the ring around the petals be? How large would the central overlapping circle be? I proposed this (pic) design, based on the star of David (six-fold geometry). I thought the thickness of the ring would in this design be very harmonious to the rest of the formation. Using a different logic, Jan proposed to make the respective radii harmonious relative to each other resulting in a slightly thicker ring and a smaller central circle. Thinking about the practical aspects (the circle would have to be able to hold around 70 meditating visitors) we agreed on the design with the thicker ring, thus giving up some of its harmonious proportions. The final design would thus be like this (see on top of this page).

Radius of the flower of life: 12 m

Thickness outer ring: 2 m

Total diameter: 28 m

Radius central circle: 2 m

As the field was very small (barely 40m by 40 m), the formation could hardly be bigger than this. By English standards it is quite small indeed.

Although the design did not necessitate this, we decided to peg out the centre and the 6 tips of the petals in advance. The pegging, very straightforward when done on paper using a compass, proved a bit of an ordeal: the wind blew the rope so strongly we could hardly hold it in place. Also, without an outer circle to orient our moves, we had to repeatedly adjust our rope and double check our distances. Off course this would be easier if we had made the outer ring first... At the centre, Jan buried a large crystal, hoping it would attract energy to the site. He then proceeded doing a shamanistic ritual as we stood by and watched. These rituals would be held on a couple of occasions, sometimes involving music, drumming or rattles.

### Energy?

I tried to dowse the field on several occasions to see if any energy-lines were present beforehand, and if so, to see if any changes in direction, lay or strength could be noticed. Terrible weather however made dowsing impossible on several occasions. On days with better weather (scarce), one could feel some weak lines running through the field, but they were hardly impressive.

### Instruments

We devised three stomper boards: two of 1/2 m and one of 1m long. To soften up the sharp edges we enveloped them in towels and blankets. On the sides, a triangular protrusion was made to 'guide' the crop inward.

### Laying down the formation

The day we planned on the actual making of the formation started out sunny. However, we expected terrible weather as this had always been the case when visiting the field. We gathered by the field around 2 pm, broad daylight (no secrets, remember?).

Present:

- for making the formation: Jan, Kim, Wannes, me.



Jan, one of his students Alexander and Bert Janssen waiting outside Jans home.

- for registering the event: Bert Janssen
- cheerleaders: several people

Jan and Wannes wanted to started by giving hands and making a circle. Then we whipped out the rattlers and danced around the field. 'Don't rattlers call out the rain?' Kim asked jokingly. About five seconds later, it started pouring. Very entertaining indeed. Around 2.30 pm, Wannes got in the field to stand in the centre and hold the rope tight. Jan would make his first round (anti clockwise) with the 1m board. Wannes made a small circle at the centre to make some room.

How did they get into the field without tramlines? Strangely enough, the entire field was sown in properly, with the exception of a slender line running straight to the formation, a bit off centre. This was not done deliberately. When dowsing the field, one could now get a



General Jan instructing his troops... The original photo shows the design on the paper. Unfortunately, it did not get past the scanner. Jan is holding the rope and the two shorter boards.

very strong reaction when crossing this line. Dowzers claim to be able to see in the landscape and by the way vegetation grows where certain lines run. Maybe the bald line just had growth disturbances because of excessive energy running through this line? or maybe I just 'expected something' there, and thereby also 'found' something. That's dowzing, one can never be sure!

So how did we progress? Jan did his first round of the ring, laying down (quite roughly) a ring 1m wide, keeping the inner edge as clean as possible. I followed him with a short board, widening the ring a bit and flattening out anything Jan left standing. The crop was about knee-high, and very flexible. Tests conducted beforehand on small bushes made us feel uneasy as we had to trample the stems completely before getting them to the ground. But in the field, things were very different: the crop that went down also pushed other crop down, keeping it in place. It was a bit surprising to see how easy the stalks went down.

Before the ring was completed, the big board snapped in half. We would have to finish the formation with the two 1/2m ones. Suddenly a terrible thunderstorm came over us. Rain started flooding the place fast, and impressive lightning bolts flashed by overhead. We had to take shelter inside the farm building. This interruption set us back about 45 minutes. After the rain stopped, we continued with the ring. The rain had turned the barnyard into a very muddy place, but strangely enough we did not get much mud on the laying crop. After completing the ring, we started drawing the outline of the petals. Jan would stand at one of the tips (pegs), and Wannas, holding the other end of the rope, would carefully walk to the 2nd tip to Jan's right. Upon arriving, he stood his ground and Jan would start of doing the same thing, until all petals were lined out in the field. Next, we finished the cen-

tral circle. We had planned to comb the crop outwards, so as not to let crop from the petals overlap this central circle.



Wannas and Jan making a small central circle for Wannas to stand in.

It looked fine so far, but we had not made enough preparations for the petals: there was some last minute discussion about how to lay them down. Jan was adamant on adding small half-circles at the base of the petals, whereas Kim and myself doubted this would really look good. We proposed to make a circle where the petals were at their widest. Finally we agreed on a method: the left hand side of the petal would be combed towards the ring, the right hand side towards the centre, making sure the crop did not overlap the central circle. After finishing two petals in this manner, we



Jan starting off for the making of the big ring.

tried something else: we would follow the outline of the petal, taking down lots of crop at the petal's base and tip and leaving everything standing when the petal was at its widest. This method would gradually



Wannes lining out the petals. Bert's watchful camera nearby.

trim the central standing crop from an oblong shape into a circle about 1.5 m wide. Next, one could step into the centre of this standing feature, put the board down and do a 360 degree turn with it, creating a tiny circle 1/2m diameter (note: this could be used for producing a grapeshot at limited distance from downed crop or tramlines). This tiny circle could now be expanded until the entire petal was down. This created a nice feature of the formation: the two ways of laying down the petals would follow each other. One lengthwise, one circular, one lengthwise,...

A final surprise awaited us when Kim was flattening his final petal: a pheasant suddenly flew out of the crop about 1/2 m away from his board. It had been sitting there the whole time, guarding its 8 eggs! We left this section of the crop standing.

To be honest, I thought the lay of the crop wasn't bad at all. Especially the swirled petals were nice and pretty flat. The ring was also pretty flat, except from areas where crop was thin. The edges were pretty sharp, but we edited out the places where they were serrat-

ed by hand or foot. The crop did not go down in swathes as wide as the board, but rather in bundles 5-8 inches wide. This is probably because barley and wheat grow in bundles as well, and they go down together when pressure is applied. Most stems were not severely damaged, and the bloom was at many stems left unharmed (maybe the towel-around-the-board approach helped?), but in some cases it was gone. Of course we surely caused some damage with our shoes.

Some more observations:

- Upon finishing the small circles inside the petals, it was very easy to leave a ring about 1 or 2 stems wide standing like a 'screen', a feature admired by many in other formations. This leads us to conclude that this feature is not very hard to include in formation. It does not involve much extra effort or time.
- When laying down crop, it would sometimes occur that some of the stems at



Kim successfully mimicking brain activity ;) He is standing at the center, which is being widened by Jan, not in the picture.



A balcony shot. Jan widens center circle, Kim is waiting for his turn in one of the petallines.

the edges would go down behind a single row of standing stems. This happened automatically. One finds this type of detail being described as 'remarkable', 'intricate', or 'delicate' in many reports. We have to conclude however that this feature can not be considered as a hallmark of 'the real thing'.

Overall, the design did not look too bad for a bunch of beginners. We made some pictures from the top of a nearby barn. We tried to get a microlight to fly over the formation for more photo's and video, but this proved impossible. The field is positioned under restricted airspace because of nearby flightpaths for planes from Brussels International Airport. Concerning energy: one could feel a buzz when standing in the circle, but was it more than suggestion or excitement? I don't know. Anyone interested in dowsing will be happy to hear that the dowsing rods gave a strong reaction inside the formation, following the heads of the crop as one moved about. Is it the shape itself that somehow channels energy? Is it because we tried to gather energy by means of music, crystals, rituals or meditation? Is it because we used a field with energy lines already present? I do not know.

## Interaction

Did we somehow encounter strange phenomena during this project? Jan talked to two mediums about his project, and they both told him that things were 'starting to move' and 'something would happen'. One of the medium saw a 'bright light'. Well, there certainly was bright light the day we made the formation: numerous flashes of lightning! We saw no other things that day, except maybe for one occasion. Before the storm started, I was doing the ring with as small stomper board. Suddenly, out of the corner of my right eye, I saw a single ball of light zipping by in a more or less horizontal path. It was clearly there, I could see it zoom by and slightly change course (see drawing). It was a ball, not a streak. It seemed pretty low to the ground, but there was nothing in the background to check this, so I can't be sure. I stopped in my tracks and shouted some profanity. Bert was filming the field from a higher terrace, but he did not react, so I guess he did not see anything. This makes me think it probably wasn't that low after all. Later on, lightning came in that same area of the sky. The colour of the ball

and the lightning were quite similar. Did I see a classic bol as reported in formations by many? Or did I see ball lightning (also very rare, so I'm happy with both solutions)? Nothing else really happened, except maybe the dot on the photo mentioned earlier.

forced break of about 45 minutes because of the weather. There was always 1 person working, sometimes a second one was at it as well. Never were there three people working (flattening) at the same time. The formation had a diameter of some 28 m.



The formation was made on wednesday the 28th of april. The Symposium was held on may 1st and 2nd. No phenomenon manifested itself that weekend either. We finished the making of the formation around 6 pm. This means we were at it for 3.5 hrs, including a

Shot from the top of the barn. Kim finishes the final petal, Bert films at close range. A section of crop behind Berts...behind is left standing. It contains a pheasant's nest with 8 eggs! The sun comes out a little, adding some interesting colours to the formation (compare with the next photo).



Tired yet generally satisfied with the result, Jan poses for a picture. We made this photo while filming. Should something odd appear on the picture, then the camera might catch it as well. As you can see, no result. The red building on the left is part of the farm house. It features a balcony providing a nice view over the field. The black barn behind Jan was used for the two top shots. Jan risked his hide climbing this thing in windy weather...

For me it was a very interesting experience. It gave me much better insight in the technical side of crop circle making: floor patterns, design, execution, problems, surprising results, hallmarks of 'the real thing' that can be duplicated intentionally or accidentally,... Does this experience make me think differently about the reality of crop circles? Yes and no. The man-made aspect is no longer an unknown for me, so I can have a more realistic look on the matter. But there is still so much that has happened to me and my friends around crop circles in the past that defies rational explanation. There is still something going on, and crop circles, man-made or made by some other agency, seem to be part of it. Are they the main part? Are they messages, or just media, markers pointing at something else? Maybe it's all

some weird coincidence: one day a formation appeared, and no man knew how. This mystery puzzled him and made him go out into the field at times he normally wouldn't. This unusual behaviour unlocked a new world for him, making him go places he nev-

is beyond and above us: it has nothing to do with people, there is no message for us, it's a cosmic joke or not even that. Maybe people just want them to be meant for us, because it somehow makes us special. If some higher force deems us worthy its attention,



er went before, exploring possibilities he never considered before, meeting people he normally wouldn't even notice. Maybe all the light phenomena are just like us: curious souls who wonder how the circles got there, and who are divided amongst themselves over the questions whether those strange creatures they sometimes encounter inside these structures are responsible for them? Or maybe the phenomenon

Another shot from the top, from a slightly different angle. Note the small white dot above the center, a little to the right. Only one photo shows this little ball/dot. Too bad it's so small on the photo, making hard to assess what it may be. You can see Berts camera pointing more or less in the same direction. It may have picked something up, but I haven't checked this yet. As there is very little to go on, I would classify this dot as interesting yet not very. Maybe I'll blow up this picture sometime in the near future. If it's still there, I'll inform you. Also note the line parallel to the petal Kim and Bert are standing in. This is the light green line mentioned earlier, now well trodden by incoming and outgoing traffic...



Two odd things did appear on this photograph... Or is it just Kim and myself? The cows in the distance couldn't care less.

or tries to communicate with us, it somehow makes man feel he is relevant, he has a purpose. Like kids in the playground hanging around the popular ones, man wants to hang around this 'divine' reality hoping some of the divinity rubs off on him?

Ah, nothing like some deep philosophical mumbo-jumbo to conclude an otherwise fair and down-to-earth report! I hope this was instructive for you. If you have further questions, feel free to e-mail me. You all know the address. 