

# Claim our Circles £10,000

The £10,000 Sunday Mirror challenge, to solve the Great Corn Circles Mystery, is still on - after all the ingenious solutions put forward by readers.

But the thousands who wrote in - including many from abroad - haven't been wasting their time running around in fruitless circles.

Our panel of experts were highly impressed by their explanations of the phenomenon that has hit Britain's fields annually

since their first appearance in 1987. Said one judge, Colin Andrews, veteran circles investigator and co-leader of last year's Operation Black-bird crop-circles watch:

"There were some marvellous sightings and new information that could provide a solution in the not too distant future."

Hundreds of people actually visited the corn-circle sites... among them diviners, who scoured the countryside with bent twigs or metal rods trying to solve the riddle.

And answers ranged from the zany to the ultra-scientific.

- UFOs, messages from space and extra-terrestrials, said 40 per cent of readers.

- Whirlwinds, natural phenomena or "electric" power fields, prehistoric sites, crop deficiencies and the like made up around 25 per cent.

- Hoaxes or man-made circles, said another 20 per cent.

- Mating hedgehogs,

secret military activities, Druid and other ritualistic causes accounted for a further 10 per cent. Said panellist Professor Archie Roy, senior research fellow at Glasgow University's Physics and Astronomy department: "It is perfectly obvious that the crop circle phenomenon has seized the imagination of the public. "Although your reward was an obvious incentive, the readers' responses showed a genuine intrigue." Fellow judge Dr Terence Meadon, former professor of physics, author and

head of circles research with the Tornado and Storm Research Group, said eyewitness reports of circles being formed were "very good".

And Jenny Randles,

a leading member of the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association, declared: "There was a lot of fascinating material."

But, despite hours of adjudication, the experts were agreed: no one had come up with an indisputable solution - yet.

In Britain alone more than 400 of the beautifully-formed circles were recorded last year.

Since 1987, when 160 were spotted, the numbers of sightings have escalated.

This summer experts believe sightings could top 1,000 given the widened public awareness of the circles phenomenon.

If YOU think you can solve the riddle write to: Corn Circle Mysteries, Sunday Mirror, Holborn Circus, London EC1P 1DQ. The judges' decision is final.



Two more of the circles that intrigued our readers