

*Doug Bower*

**Weren't you desperate to tell someone what you were doing?**

Yeah, but I said to Dave when we first started this I said "No one in the world can know what we're doing, not even our wives," and he agreed.

In fact Dave's wife didn't know anything about it until she was walking up the high street in Southampton one morning when the *Today* newspaper was published, and a woman came up to her and said "Here, your husband's on the front of the newspaper!"

So as this went on I wondered how we were going to get out more nights than just Fridays. I don't know what Ilene would have said if I'd told her, "I'm going out Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays..." because that's what we wanted to do you see, the more the merrier.

In the business, Ilene always kept the books, she's been a book-keeper all her life,



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and I used to tell her every time the car needed servicing. One time when I approached her about it she said "But the darn thing was only serviced a few weeks ago, where's all the miles coming from?" I had no alternative than to go over to my studio, which was at the rear of the premises, get all the newspaper cuttings that I'd gathered up, every report I could find about the crop circles. I had four big albums full of cuttings, photographs and things. I banged them down onto the workshop bench and said "There you are, that's where we've been going Friday nights".

She looked at them and she started turning the first album out. "This is only newspaper cuttings," she said, "I know you've been interested in all this what you've seen in the papers, but this don't tell me anything, does it?" As she turned more and more pages over, I realised I had to come clean.

"Well, that's our answer to the crop circles, it's Dave and I that's been doing it".

So I started explaining everything to her, but she wasn't having it. "I'm still not convinced. You're going to have to tell me what you're going to do and then take me out with you one night" I had no choice but to agree. We went up onto Cheesefoot Head and I said "I'll go down the field there and do this circle and then you can come back and have a look at it the next day."

Of course in the end Ilene was even designing one or two of them herself.