

# BUFORA

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# THE BRITISH UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

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(Incorporating the London U.F.O. Research Organisation, founded 1959  
and the British U.F.O. Association, founded 1962).

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## THE BUFORA JOURNAL

Volume 3    Number 10

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(This issue produced by BUFORA editorial sub-committee)

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

It is hoped that by the time this Journal is in print, we shall have resolved the question of its editorial future. We have had a small but extremely useful response to our request for editorial assistance and it will be a great relief to have the Journal once more in competent hands. This particular issue has had to be put together by various Committee members on top of their normal duties and has proved rather a headache.

From comments in an earlier Journal, it is obvious that many people do not properly understand the functions of a working committee such as that in BUFORA and one would like to assure them that there is no intention of keeping anyone in the dark as to its activities. Members have every opportunity to express their views through the pages of the Journal and also at the A.G.M. In fact it would be most helpful if members did let us have their comments more frequently as in my department, at least, the only correspondence I receive apart from a few "regulars" is an unending stream of requests from students who want help on projects and papers about UFO's, schoolboys who want to know how to start groups, and people who ask for "all information on UFO's." I often wish I had a neat "UFO pack" to hand out, consisting of fully authenticated photographs, or preferably cine films, taped interviews with witnesses and/or landed aliens, and detailed, verified explanations of who, what, why and where UFO's come from. I do my best to answer all my correspondence as promptly and helpfully as possible—but find that a stamped, addressed envelope makes me just a little more prompt . . . in fact, some people even forget to put an address at all.

At the lecture meeting in January a member of the audience announced in no uncertain terms that he considered that 95% of the audience were only interested in the extra-terrestrial aspects of UFO research; if UFO's were proved otherwise, he maintained, most people would not want to know.

He certainly has a point here and it is a fact which must be faced if we are to maintain the support of members. Most people come to the lectures hoping to hear something dramatic—don't we all? However, BUFORA is a research association devoted to getting to the truth of the matter, unpalatable as this may be. Also, if we wish to get anywhere with the Establishment we must present our case in a form acceptable to them. This is a difficult task especially as we have meanwhile to keep the lay public (and the bulk of our members) interested and encouraged.

I feel it is important that all types of opinion be acknowledged, especially at this time when our ranks seem to be in danger of splitting between the extra-terrestrial viewpoint and that of the psychological/parapsychological. We should not make the mistake of humping everything under one label simply because unknown natural phenomena are becoming entangled with what may be genuine hardware from other solar systems. Another wrangle which is becoming rather tiresome is that between so-called "scientific opinion" and "the others." Let's have a little more toleration on both sides.

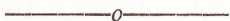
A similar situation arose at a recent panel debate arranged between the magazine *New Scientist* and the Society for Psychical Research. The audience, many of whom were young people, were obviously agog for stories of spooks, poltergeists

and the paranormal generally; also for some sparkling exchanges between the two teams. No such luck, however—apart from the hopeless acoustics, there was an endless arid debate on the merits and demerits of card precognition exercises; both sides trotting out the usual well-worn arguments and counter-arguments. The audience left in droves; it was not what they had come to hear.

Now obviously continual entertainment cannot be expected or provided; research work, often of a long and tedious nature, cannot always produce spectacular results. At the same time the scientific fraternity, both for and against, could try and present their case in a manner more acceptable to the layman. The imagination of younger people, especially, must be captured—otherwise they simply drift over to a lunatic fringe organisation which will at least give them a run for their money.

The B.B.C. tell us there are 12 million addicts of the TV Science Fiction series “Star Trek.” Many of the younger generation are growing up with the idea that extra-terrestrial life and travel is perfectly normal. The world powers are again showing interest in possible signals from outer space civilisations. It will be an uphill job convincing all these people that UFO’s are a weird manifestation from mysterious twilight regions around the earth.

There appears to be room for all these shades of opinion in the UFO movement—understandably, though, people get impatient when one theory fails to crystallise and turn to another, often throwing out the baby with the bath water.



### **RETIREMENT FROM EDITORSHIP**

It is with great regret that we have to record the retirement of Dr. John Cleary-Baker from the Editorship of the Journal.

From 1965 when his first Editorial appeared in the Spring issue until now he has worked constantly and successfully in the face of many difficulties to produce a Journal with a mainly scientific outlook and of a high Ufological value in accordance with the Aims laid down in the Constitution of BUFORA.

As Editor he has resisted the temptation to publish everything and everything remotely connected with Ufology, (would certain other UFO publications please copy) but this has meant that the careful selection of articles has necessarily reduced the amount of material for publication so that at times John has been obliged to furnish much material from his own pen.

His shrewd observations, pithy comments and flashes of wit have rescued many a Journal from the borders of dullness. His editorials have provided encouragement and inspiration to all those interested in the solution of the UFO problem and it is well worth re-reading his first editorial of Spring 1965. In retrospect one will be impressed that so much of what he said then is even more true today and worth assimilating afresh.

Neither has he neglected those other aspects of this strange phenomenon which at present cannot be caught in the scientific ‘Butterfly Net’ and here his awareness of the psychological and philosophical overtones of the subject has helped to avoid the pitfalls of Cultism and Pseudo-science.

In case this sounds like an Obituary you may be certain that John Cleary-Baker will be in the fore-front of Ufology for a very long time and I know that he feels that by relinquishing the Editorial Burden he will be free to explore certain avenues of Ufological Research more thoroughly.

We owe a heavy debt of gratitude to John for his years of unstinted hard graft in producing our Journal and for his unswerving support of the Association in so many ways. On behalf of all members of BUFORA I extend to him warmly our very great thanks for the years of most valuable service he has rendered in his Editorship of the BUFORA Journal and trust that we shall have the benefit of his wisdom, experience and engaging personality for many years to come.

GEOFFREY G. DOEL,  
*President, BUFORA.*

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## NOTES AND QUOTES

### LITTLE GREEN MEN AGAIN

There was a slight rumour knocking around Gloucestershire for a while that it had been invaded by little green men. The actual area of activity was Uckington, where the vice-chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. Arthur Surman, wondered if anything ought to be done about an apparent invasion evidenced by the abandoned parachutes in his fields. He said that at least six had been picked up and more might be lying about yet undiscovered. The members said they would like to contact the users, but Mr. Surman thought this might be difficult because the parachute canopies were only about 18 inches square. It was at first thought to be a children's prank, but all the parachutes were of exactly the same design and obviously commercially produced. The clerk then suggested they might be of extra-terrestrial origin and so far no-one has come up with a better suggestion . . .

\* \* \*

Unpopular though the E.T.V. theory may be at the moment in certain quarters, this seems to be the line that orthodox science would take if they allowed themselves to regard UFO'S seriously. The story that long delayed radio echoes might come from a space probe sent to Earth by another civilisation is reported to have received the guarded blessing of the American radio astronomer, Professor Ronald Bracewell. He first postulated the theory of an alien space probe close to Earth when he tried to interpret long-delayed radio echoes noticed in the 1920's by Norwegian meteorologists. His work has since been taken up by Mr. Duncan Lunan, a Scottish scientist, who has sent his charts and calculations to Prof. Bracewell.

In fact, it has now been announced at a meeting of the British Interplanetary Society in London that tests would begin at the end of April to locate such an alien space probe that might be in the same orbit around the earth as the Moon. It seems the Russians also are extremely interested in this possibility and Dr. V. Troitsky of the Radio-physical Institute in Gorky, has in particular been listening for intelligent radio signals from selected stars within 100 light years of our solar system. Dr. Troitsky has teams at widely spaced receiving stations across the U.S.S.R. who have been constantly monitoring radio pulses on 3 to 50 centimetre wavelengths. Apart from numerous articles in journals, two thick volumes of 400 pages each have been put out on the work of CETI (Communication with Extra Terrestrial Intelligence) by science publishers in Moscow.

## GOOD LUCK SYMBOL

A well known figure who doesn't seem to care where UFO's come from but who thinks they are of "great significance" is President Amin of Uganda, who said he was among many people who saw a mysterious object "covered with something like smoke," descending onto Lake Victoria in the direction of Lutembe Beach, on the 3rd March. After about 7 minutes, it was seen to lift off like a rocket being fired, but moving gently. When disappearing into the sky, the last seen of it was "like the tail of a big snake." The President pronounced the object to be "very important and a good sign." Any person who might have seen it was advised to go for prayers at their place of worship. The President further explained that it was "very happy, important and a sign of good luck to Uganda." Time will tell! Meanwhile the rest of us are possibly praying in the hope of seeing a UFO!

\* \* \*

## BAD LUCK SYMBOL

A mysterious "light" was described by Thurlow Craig, in his "Up Country" series in a Sunday newspaper. He and his wife were driving down a road in Wales, where they live, which according to local people is haunted by the ghosts of previous inhabitants of the area who were driven into nearby swamps by invading Norsemen and it is claimed that the screams and cries of the victims can still be heard. Mr. Craig's wife happened to look through their rear window and exclaimed: "What on earth can that be following us? It looks like a blue moon." On looking in his mirror, Mr. Craig saw the whole of it filled with blue light. His dog also became alarmed and jumped on Mrs. Craig's lap. Local legend has it that the light usually portends bad luck—unlike the object seen by President Amin! Mr. Craig drove off swiftly and so far only reports a slight accident later that afternoon.

## EDITORIAL APPOINTMENT

I have pleasure in announcing that on 7th April, our Executive Committee appointed Norman Oliver as Editor of BUFORA JOURNAL. Norman has been an active member of the Association for some ten years and has affirmed that he will adopt an editorial policy in keeping with the aims and status of our Association.

In future all editorial material, including articles, announcements, readers' letters, books for review and exchange journals, should be addressed to:

Norman Oliver  
Editor—BUFORA JOURNAL  
95 Taunton Road  
London, SE12 8PA

(Tel. 01 - 852 7653)

LIONEL BEER—*Vice-Chairman.*

**N.B.** Advertising copy and related correspondence should continue to be sent to me as indicated on the back cover.

## COMMENT FROM RICHARD J. NASH

### Regional Co-ordinator for Region UZ (Hants & Dorset)

Since the reorganisation of the various regions of BUFORA throughout the country, we in the south have had a rather lean time with regards to sightings and members/investigators "in the field," that is until just recently. We have had more than our fair share of sightings and witnesses since the beginning of February and, due to a great deal of co-operation and liaison, have managed to cope. The reason for the lack of interest and members in this particular region has been put down to no BUFORA officials being in close touch. This reason has been given on several occasions and does seem to have predominated. A great many genuinely interested people have now come forward to offer their services in one way or another, and I do feel that it is vital that some sort of acknowledgment is necessary by Committee members and Regional Co-ordinators to these people. There can be no individual blame placed upon anyone here; surely it is, or was, the unwillingness of BUFORA to extend their activities and close correspondence to members and potential members far afield. However, it seems as if this 'dormant' attitude no longer prevails and potential members are now being contacted via the new regions and their officials. It is certainly good to see this forward-looking attitude but does it still rest with the individual?

I hear that the Staffordshire branch of BUFORA is now firmly settled and is going 'great guns.' Following their bright example, region UZ (Hants and Dorset) are now planning such a branch. We have a nucleus of keen and talented individuals which we hope soon to mould into an active group. I would be interested to hear from the Staffordshire members who inaugurated their branch, with a view to some tips and comments.

Richard Colborne and his Associates are going full-tilt and deserve a special mention for their efforts in producing an Investigations supplement. This is long overdue and should at least bring members up-to-date with current developments in the investigation field. Incidentally, I have recently tried to enlist the official help of RAF and Naval Air Stations, but have met with a wall of complete indifference and a stoney reply of "No" to all my efforts. I would have thought that with their sophisticated equipment they would have been a useful addition to our enquiries. Have other members tried and failed, or is the official "No" peculiar to the south and west?

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### DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS

We hope to bring out a Directory of Members within the next few months so that Members can contact others in their locality if they so wish. If any Member does NOT want to be included will they inform the Membership Secretary, Mrs. Harcourt, 170 Faversham Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent AT ONCE. BUFORA will take *no* responsibility for publishing Members' names and addresses unless they receive instructions to the contrary.

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## BOOK REVIEW

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### THE DRAGON AND THE DISC

An investigation into the totally fantastic

by F. W. HOLIDAY

Even if you do not hold any particular views on Loch Ness type monsters no doubt, as a UFO researcher, you will feel a certain sympathy and fellow feeling with their investigators. However, here the author attempts to tie up Monsters and UFO's in what seems an unlikely alliance but one which, nevertheless, I found fascinating and mind-stretching. Although to some of us his ideas may seem impossibly way-out, it is only by this kind of "brain storming" activity that some light may eventually be thrown on the UFO mystery.

Mr. Holiday maintains, and we can hardly disagree, that much evidence has piled up to support the view that there are many strange phenomena connected with Scottish, Irish and Welsh lakes, apart from those in other countries. His previous work "The Great Orm of Loch Ness" is well worth reading in this respect. In the present book the author challenges the assumption made by most students of the phenomena that they are dealing with organic creatures, as studies of archaeological and mythological sources have convinced him that man's first religion was constructed around what he considers to be two sorts of natural happenings—the Dragon, or Great Worm, and the Flying Disc.

There are various instances of carvings and paintings where these two symbols are depicted together and Mr. Holiday suggests that burial mounds, long barrows, and edifices such as Stonehenge, are based on these discs and dragon symbols. Some of his assumptions are infuriating—but they make us think. Certainly the evidence for "dragons" in Britain is intriguing, to say the least. Such creatures usually engender fear and loathing in people who see them and one wonders whether this is an atavistic feeling or just the normal human reaction to the unknown and unlovely. Frequently they suffer the same reluctance to speak of the sighting, or experience it again, as do UFO witnesses. Local legends speak of Worms as creatures of Hell—in fact, Connaught in Ireland is likened to the nether regions because it was said to contain more Great Worms of Hell than any other part of Erin.

Monsters and UFO's certainly share the same characteristics of elusiveness and lack of co-operation with photographers, although one feels that this may be due to the universal law of cussedness rather than some machinations subtle on their part, as Mr. Holiday maintains. However, all possibilities must be considered although sometimes it appears that the author has fallen into the trap of attributing all phenomena to the same source. Even so, he makes a valuable contribution to UFO and "Monster" literature and this is certainly a book to include in your UFO library.

There are numerous illustrations, photographs and line drawings showing the distribution of principal English and Welsh dragon locales, UFO phenomena in Bronze Age artefacts, orthoteny lines, UFO depictions in cave art, etc.

Obtainable from Sidgwick & Jackson Ltd.

PRICE £3.25.

## UFO'S OVER STAFFORD

In 1680 a Dr. Plot published a book entitled "A Natural History of Staffordshire." This long and extremely tedious book (dedicated to James II) is, however, of interest to the writer because it contains short accounts of certain peculiar phenomena which bear, in his opinion, a remarkable similarity to the modern reports of "Flying Saucers" or "Unidentified Flying Objects."

These reports are contained in the first chapter—called "Of the Heavens and the Air"—which deals mainly with the usual types of matter that one would expect to find under such a heading: the Moon, clouds, comets, eclipses and other similar phenomena. However, under the heading of "Uncommon Meteors" Dr. Plot has recorded two objects which were seen at that time, one in 1676 (which is the more interesting) and the other in 1672 (which is of little interest in this discussion). He has also referred to these two cases in the Index of his book, as, respectively, "the globe of flying fire" and "the globe standing still," which gives, I think, some idea of their nature.

The 1676 meteor he described as follows: "After thunder that which falls under consideration are other more uncommon meteors which have been observed here, such as that seen at a place called Broadheath in the Parish of Seighford, between that and Ranton Abbey about 7 at night, near Michaelmas in 1676, by Mr. John Nash, the worthy vicar there, which at a distance (he told me) appeared like a great fire, but coming nearer it's form and motion were plainer to him, it being of a globular figure moving by jerks and making short rests, at every one of them letting fall drops of fire which were part of it's body for it decreased in magnitude the further it went and the more often it dropped so that it wholly disappeared at about three quarters of a mile's distance: which upon computation of time and other circumstances I take to be the very same mentioned in the Philosophical Transactions that was seen in so many distant places of England on September 20th 1676, about the same time of night, viz. Kent, Essex, Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, Devon, Somersetshire, whereof there being so large an account given by the Reverend and learned John Wallis, Professor of Geometry at the University of Oxford, I shall add little more concerning it." The author then goes on to relate, "But that, notwithstanding it appeared at Oxford and Seighford in somewhat a different shape and motion, at Oxford somewhat long with a round knob at the end and moving equally swift, at Seighford globular and making short rests, yet it might be the same meteor which (not to mention mistakes perhaps occasioned through the inadvertency of the surprised relators) might possibly alter a little in so great a distance."

This then was the object. However, apart from the similarity of the 17th Century reports to many modern UFO reports, it is the locality in which the object was seen that raises the most interesting aspects of this matter.

Ranton and Seighford in North Staffordshire are in an area from which numerous reports of UFO's have come over the years. The two villages are separated by about two miles, and Seighford is about one and a half miles from Stafford, the County town.

On the night of June 25th 1954 at about 11.30 p.m. the then vicar of Seighford and his family saw through the vicarage windows a large illuminated object, "crablike" in appearance, in the sky, shining like gold, with bright appendages attached to it hanging down from the object. It appeared to be moving backwards

and forwards in long sweeps about half a mile to a mile in length. It had a dome like half an orange about twenty-five feet wide, and was watched for about two hours by the family.

It will be apparent that the object of 1676 seen by the Vicar Nash and the object of 1954 (seen also by the Vicar!) would have been sighted over approximately the same area. Broadheath is not far from Seighford, and the object seen in 1954 was sweeping over the same areas as the object of 1676. It could also be suggested that there is a certain loose similarity in the objects themselves. Could the "letting fall drops of fire" be the same as the "bright appendages hanging down?" Possibly. Could the "long sweeps" and "moving by jerks" be the same type of activity? Again, possibly.

But the interesting point here is, surely, that there are recorded two phenomena over approximately the same place, bearing a certain similarity in description, but separated by nearly three hundred years of time. Could there be some connection?

Nevertheless, it should not be forgotten that four months after the incident on October 21st 1954 at Old Vicarage Farm near Ranton the Roestenburg sighting occurred. This, again, is virtually the identical area to the last two reports I have discussed.

Mrs. Foestenburg (the wife of a Dutch farmer) claimed that at about 4.45 p.m. on this date she saw "a queer round object" hovering above the farmhouse. Two "men" bearing a remarkable resemblance to Adamski's "Venusians" were staring at her through two transparent panels. The effect of this was almost to induce a nervous breakdown. Shortly afterwards the family left, and moved to another area. (It should be added that Mr. Roestenburg had also claimed to have seen an object travelling around the sky over the Ranton-Seighford area the night after the incident).

What was the object seen in September 1676? It is certain that no known meteor is able to move in jerks across the sky and take short rests at the same time. Is there any connection between this object and the one seen in June 1954? It may well be asked, "Why this area?" There is nothing special about Ranton, Seighford or Broadheath, so perhaps there may be some connection between these "visitations" (and quite possibly others unrecorded down the years). There is no reason why this tiny area of North Staffordshire should be such an attraction. Perhaps there is another explanation.

The last interesting parallel with modern times is the curious change in shape of the 1676 object and Plot's report that it was seen almost simultaneously over a wide area of Southern England. Could there in fact have been not one object but several?

At about 7.00 p.m. on March 25th 1955 a "meteor" was seen over most parts of Britain. It was variously described (and widely reported) as being egg-shaped, cigar-shaped, disc-shaped, like a fountain-pen, ovaloid and of various sizes, colours and speeds. The theory at the time (unofficial, of course!) was that there were several UFO's travelling over the U.K. at the same time. Plot's object is described as "globular" at Seighford and as "somewhat long and with a round knob on the end, moving equally as swiftly" over Oxford. Plot has some doubts whether it was the same object, but puts the disparity down to the inadvertency of the witnesses.

There is a definite similarity between these two reports: the sightings over a large area over the country, the change in shape, even the same time of day (7.00 p.m.). Perhaps it is a similar type of phenomenon.

## A LANDING IN MINIATURE

The following is the account of an unusual event which occurred on the morning of Tuesday, 19th December, 1972 in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. Certain features encountered in this case show strong similarities with some of the commonly recorded characteristics of other UFO sightings. In spite of the short duration of the event (a few seconds) the small size of the UFO reported makes this case doubly intriguing.



### Left

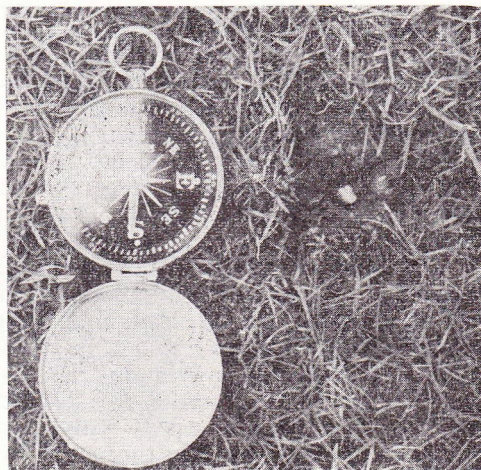
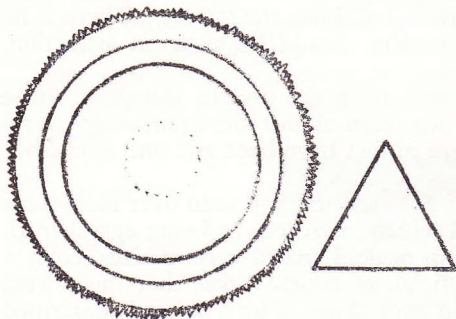
Mr. Stanway holding a 3in. cardboard disc just above the depression in his lawn and showing the size and position of the glowing object.

### Below Left

Drawing of glowing object and triangular depression, both half scale, centre of object white, shading to blue, with red and outer yellow band.

### Below

Close up of triangular burnt depression. The compass measures 1 3/4 in. in diameter.



## The Witness

As far as we know the only witness is Michael William Stanway, aged 30, night shift tyre verifier who lives with his wife and two young daughters at Hanford, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. In his job as a verifier Mr. Stanway is required to inspect and check the work of others and this aptitude—his keen sense of sight, is reflected in the accuracy in which he recorded his experience. When first interviewed on 11th February, 1973, Mr. Stanway spoke openly and sincerely about the whole episode which he said was still very vivid in his mind. He had not reported the case to the press or police, in fact it was largely due to the intervention of a friend that his story came to the attention of BUFORA.

Mr. Stanway usually arrived home from the night shift at about 6.00 a.m., and entered the house from the front door. At this time of the year it was a habit of his, before retiring to bed, to go to the bottom of the garden to the greenhouse and turn down the heater which had been kept on high during the night to protect the chrysanthemums. In the following transcript Mr. Stanway describes what happened on the morning in question:—

## Recorded Account

“ It was about 6.15 a.m. in the morning on the Tuesday before Christmas. It was pitch black. There were no lights in any of the houses. I could not see any light from where I was. I came out of the back door and pulled it to, I walked I should say two yards just down the steps and I saw this glowing ball. What struck me most was the brilliance of it. It was really bright. It was sitting on the lawn when I saw it. I should say for half a second. It took my eye and I turned approximately to my left and then that split second it was sitting on the lawn. I saw the colours. It was near enough white in the centre, then very pale blue shaded out to a deeper blue from the central core. This I should say was 1½ in. to 2 in. across. Then there was a clear division where it changed from blue to really bright red—a deep red. I should think the band of red was ¾ in. across—completely circular. There was a clear division again from the red to the yellow. The yellow was the same thickness as the red band. The yellow was the outer edge of the object and was not misty but really “ feathered ” on the outside. (See diagram). After about half a second from when I saw it, it lifted off. It did not seem to gather speed as it travelled up (uniform motion with no acceleration). It did not travel straight up but in a sweep, a curve from South to North. It lifted off at an angle of say 30° to the ground and went more or less at 90° when it had gone about 10ft. into the air. I followed it for about 1½ seconds from the time it left the ground to about 20ft. to 30ft. up in the air, and that was the last I saw of it. I will be quite honest, it stunned me for a minute. I did not know whether to carry on or go back into the house. So I went down to the lawn and as luck had it there was the dog's ball. I more or less tripped over that. I still knew the exact position where it (the glowing ball) had come from, so I put the dog's ball down as a marker. Then I had a good look up but could not see anything and that was that. The weather was dry and it was not raining and it was definitely not frosty. As I said I marked the spot and came back into the house. About six hours later, this would be 12 midday, I came down and went outside to have a look where I had marked the position, and when I got there, from where I had put this marker (the dog's ball), about 3 in. or 4 in. away was

this triangular-shaped burn on the lawn. The ball was in the exact position where I had left it as a marker. It had not been moved at all. To be quite sure I stood in the position on the steps from where I had seen the glowing ball and it was the exact position.”

### **The Depression**

In spite of the period of nearly two months since the sighting, the depression was still quite distinct. (See photograph). It was shallow about  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. in depth and by measurement was found to be an equilateral triangle with sides of  $1\frac{3}{4}$  in. Moss had already begun to grow inside the depression but not grass. Although brownish, it was difficult to say whether the area had been burned. Mr. Stanway confirmed that when he first examined the mark it seemed to be a cross between a depression and a burn. Other discoloured areas on the lawn were compared but none were as small and as well defined (and depressed) as the triangle.

From close examination of the depression it was evident that the grass along the west edge was raised slightly as though the artifact responsible may have entered from an easterly direction. When asked Mr Stanway confirmed that he knew of nothing in his possession, garden implements, children's toys, etc., which could have made the triangular mark. A soil sample was taken from the centre of the triangle (marked in the photograph with a small piece of gravel) and some control samples from elsewhere. Unfortunately the results of tests on these are not yet to hand.

### **The Glowing Object**

Apart from the description already given, Mr. Stanway said he noticed that in spite of the brilliance of the colours, the object did not light up the ground or cause shadows. The colours were very vivid but did not dazzle and created an arc of light as the object departed in a curving path. During the brief period of the sighting no sound was detected. The distance between the witness's location and the depression, and by supposition the glowing object, was found to be almost 22ft. Small discs of circular white card of varying diameters, were held by the investigator in front of the depression and viewed by Mr. Stanway from his original vantage point. The 3in. disc was judged to be a similar size to the glowing object and was found to be only fractionally larger than his original drawing. If in fact the triangular depression and the glowing object were connected in some manner, then the very fact that the witness marked the position of the object so close to the depression (3in. or 4in.) in complete darkness, only reinforces the accuracy of his account.

### **The Cat**

Every morning when Mr. Stanway went to attend to his greenhouse heater, the household cat, a creature of habit, popped out of the back door and led the way down the garden. On the morning of the 19th December however the cat came out of the doorway, stopped on the path and suddenly ran in the opposite direction along the side of the house, through the front gate and across the road. It was then as Mt. Stanway was wondering what had come over the animal, that he turned and saw the glowing object sitting on the lawn.

*To be concluded.*

ANTHONY R. PACE.

## REPORT from the NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS CO-ORDINATOR

Richard Colborne

Well . . . five months have elapsed since I was given the post of National Investigations Co-ordinator and, believe me, they have not been easy. Perhaps I have been guilty of muttering unkind things under my breath about my predecessors but now I am in a better position to sympathise. What should have been done long ago is that the job should have been analysed—and it would have been found that it is not one job but at least two.

### Two Jobs.

Although the membership is unfortunately rarely informed about them BUFORA receives oodles of sighting reports—mainly via the newspapers—and it is quite a job sorting them out and allocating them to investigators up and down the country, then examining the completed report forms when they are sent back and, after any necessary follow-up, filing them.

Allocating reports is only half the story—what about the investigators themselves? The list of investigators needs constant updating, keeping check on changes of address and the personal details of personnel. At the moment I am, with the help of my assistants, compiling files on all the investigators so that it will be possible to select a person whose experience matches the requirement of whatever situation arises as well as his geographical location with respect to the sighting.

### Going according to plan.

I have recently issued a newsletter to the investigators, preparing them, I hope, for the reorganisation I have planned. However, writing in the Journal gives me a chance to get a message through to everybody, because you can all help. As I said in the Autumn 1972 issue of the Journal, I am striving to create a national network of investigators and to decentralise operations. The first step, which is the selection of capable people to act as Regional Investigations Co-ordinators, is going to plan. The U.K. (excluding Ireland because I have not had time so far) has been provisionally divided into 19 regions and at 23.3.73 eleven of those regions have been filled by Co-ordinators. Several other people are being considered for appointments as R.I.C.'s in the near future. A list of Regional Investigations Co-ordinators and a provisional map of the regions can be found on the following pages.

<i>Region</i>	<i>Co-ordinator</i>	<i>Address</i>
A	MRS. PAT BARNES	“Windon,” 43 Gladstone Street, Bourne, Lincolnshire, PE10 9AY. Tel. Bourne 3208.
AF	NORMAN BEHARRELL	21 Brent Avenue, Longhill Estate, Hull, East Yorkshire. Tel. 0482 33890.
DJ	GORDON CLEGG	107 Hoylake Road, Sale, Cheshire, M33 2XJ. Tel. 061-962 6193.
OP	IAN SANDERSON	“Sandon,” 69 High Street, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Coventry, Warwickshire, CV8 3FJ.
PU	RODNEY LLOYDS	17 Digby Way, Newbury, Berkshire. Tel. Newbury 3067.

S	OMAR FOWLER	149 Mytchett Road, Mytchett, Camberley, Surrey. Tel. Farnborough 41012.
SE	TREVOR WHITAKER	"Sheraleigh," 8 Central Park, Well Head, Halifax, Yorkshire. Tel. Halifax 67047.
SN	IAN MACKINLAY	112d Penylan Road, Penylan, Cardiff, CF2 5HY. Tel. Cardiff 45197.
ST	GRAHAM KNEWSTUB	27 Station Road, Shirehampton, Bristol BS11 9TU. Tel. Avonmouth 3207.
SX	TERRY W. COX	"Ashram," Redmoor, Bodmin, Cornwall. Tel. Lostwithiel 627.
UZ	RICHARD NASH	"Ker House," 12 Southwick Road, Cosham, Portsmouth, Hants. Tel. Cosham 76386.

### **Shortage of Investigators.**

We are very short of investigators in some parts of the U.K. The worst shortages are in: Wales, Scotland, Anglia, the counties to the north of London and to the south-east of the Midlands (and, of course, Ireland). In fact we need investigators all over the country as we have currently only about two hundred. Are you under the impression that you are an investigator? Well, if you have not been contacted personally by me or by your R.I.C. since I took office, or have not received my newsletter, then it is certain that your name has somehow been omitted from the list. I should like to hear from everyone who thinks that they should be listed as an investigator or would like to become one.

### **Not renewed.**

Another big problem is that many who filled in their investigations application forms last year have not renewed their subscriptions, although the membership is increasing slowly. At least some of our members, including investigators, must join by personal recommendations. Did you encourage someone to join last year? Thank you if you did but why have they not renewed this year? Why not give them a call and ask them—I have personally tried this with a high degree of success. Perhaps they have just forgotten to renew or perhaps they thought that they were never given anything to do. The position regarding that, at least for the investigators, has changed considerably. More than half the number of investigators have been given at least one case to investigate since October 1972.

### **Encouraging New Members.**

At my full-time occupation (that's the one that gets me the bread, not the one I do for BUFORA), I have recently moved to another branch and in a matter of only a few weeks I have found two colleagues who are interested in UFO's. Maybe they have no interest in becoming investigators but they are potential members. From meeting people at work, without including all the various social activities in which we all meet people, we should all be able to encourage at least one person to join BUFORA in the course of a year. It has reached my ears that our subscriptions are not increasing by 100% per annum. A lot of UFO researchers must lead very lonely lives! Perhaps I can say at this point, 'thank you,' to all my Regional Investigations Co-ordinators who, along with all their other duties, are encouraging new members at a much higher rate than one a year.



## Publication of Reports.

In this issue we have included a number of interesting accounts of UFO experiences. This is but a small proportion of those received but of course they are not all so interesting. It is my firm belief that we should not reproduce distorted stories from the press when we are investigating a high percentage of the reports we receive. I have been campaigning to have this position revised for months and if I get my way you will find more *investigated* cases in BUFORA Journal in the future.

A minor point concerning the publication of investigated cases is that they require summarising, that is, writing a narrative from the information given on the original investigator's report, which normally consists of a completed questionnaire with additional notes or comments and sometimes photos or diagrams that need explaining in words. Anyone interested in summarising reports should contact myself or the Hon. Secretary.

The following summaries are from investigations carried out on behalf of BUFORA over the last few months.

*Date* : 14.11.72.

*Time* : 2210 hrs.

*Location* : Cold Ash Hill Road, Newbury, Berks.

Driving out of the car park of the 'Spotted Dog' into Cold Ash Hill Road, Mr. John Drawbridge (Secretary of South West Aerial Phenomenon Society) saw what he describes as a "coupled light." An intense yellow light with a smaller red light on top, just like a "cherry on a cake." Both lights were constant and although Mr. Drawbridge at first thought the object to be a helicopter he discounted this theory on the apparent slow movement of the lights.

John gave chase to the object at 70 m.p.h., and estimated it to be travelling at about 100 m.p.h., and on a trajectory parallel to the road. Halfway down the hill he stopped and got out to observe the lights. There was no sound from the object and as he watched, it appeared to pass under the moon. As it did so the intense yellow light changed to a bright orange.

The witness gave chase to the lights again but it was now ahead and by the time he reached the bottom of the hill it accelerated away at several hundred miles an hour, curving to the west as it did so, then moving back in a semi circle passing over the Newbury/Greenham area.

*Date* : 22.2.73.

*Time* : 0650 hours GMT.

*Location* : Copnor, Portsmouth, Hants.

Fourteen-year-old John Enderby was preparing to set out on his paper round when he heard a noise like a loud refrigerator and saw an orange disc with what he describes as "yellow and black" lights around the base. These lights, which numbered about 10, were working their way around the base of the object by flashing on and off in continuous sequence; they were not rotating. Stepping outside to observe the object, John found himself a mere 50-150 feet away from the object as it hovered above the garden of his home. John was not in the least bit frightened and stayed to watch the object, which was in his view for about 25 seconds not including about 10 seconds when he rushed back indoors to call his sister, who also saw it. When looking up underneath the object, John saw it as a disc of about 30ft. diameter, with the lights situated near its outer edge but as the object moved off and was viewed in profile, it took on a cigar shape with a rounded dome on top and a smaller one underneath. It finally disappeared to a dot which his sister described as being like that on a TV screen when it is switched off. Two other reports have been filed for sightings in the same locality on the same day by independent witnesses. This case investigated by Richard Nash.

Date : 9.2.73.

Time : 2200 hours GMT.

Location : Cosham, Portsmouth, Hants.

Two 12-year-old boys were walking home when they saw a bright cream coloured light to the north-east. They described it as being like the exhaust of a rocket but without the flame and possibly with sparks coming from it. The object appeared to make a right-angle turn and take up a course parallel with the road on which they were walking. There was no noise from the object and it was in view for about ten minutes as it moved slowly through several turns and manoeuvres. The 9th February was a day of sudden UFO activity throughout Surrey and Hampshire. Investigated by Don Robertson.

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A Warwick man was narrowly missed by a lump of ice that fell on 28.1.73 from an overcast sky accompanied by a whistling noise. The ice, which was estimated to weigh 20lb., was "plate shaped" and approached at an angle, embedding itself into the clay soil. Investigation by Ian Sanderson has indicated that in this instance the ice came probably from an aircraft.

Date : 14.12.72.

Time : 1640 hours GMT.

Location : Iltingworth, Halifax.

Mrs. Lorna Butterfield caught sight of a bright object through a window at her home on Eastwood Avenue. At first she thought it was a star but noticed that it was moving slowly in a south easterly direction. As she watched, it changed from a single point of light to three lights arranged in a triangle, of which the top light and the bottom left remained silver/gold in colour whilst the bottom right light became a definite blue. Continuing in the same direction, the object reverted back to its original single point of light and was eventually obscured from view. Mrs. Butterfield went outside to regain a view of the object and watched it until it became obscured behind houses. She could not hear any noise from the object. The investigator, Trevor Whitaker, commented that it "could have been an aeroplane . . . but the colours did not seem right."

Date : July 1954.

Time : 1722 hours BST.

Location : Town Centre, Harpenden, Herts.

Regional Report No. S213.

This sighting from the summer of 1954 has just come to light. Raymond Logan, then a bus conductor, was dashing to a cafe between journeys when, looking up into the sky, he spotted something which he thought so unusual that he decided to miss his cup of tea and watch. The sky was perfectly clear and blue except for this one cloud (if it was a cloud) which hung high in the sky above the town. Under the cloud was a small object, the shape of which Mr. Logan did not describe but its manoeuvres were most unconventional.

It remained stationary under the cloud for about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  minutes and then suddenly 'shot' to a new position away from the cloud. There was no visible acceleration or deceleration but the object moved at a constant speed and very fast. After remaining stationary again for about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  minutes, it shot off in the same manner, to yet another spot in the sky. After a further similar period of time, it repeated the process again, this time finishing up in its original position, underneath the little cloud. It had now moved in a complete triangle.

After a short time, during which the witness had kept it under observation, the object moved off in a straight line towards the horizon, again at a constant velocity, very fast. It was out of sight in a matter of a few seconds. At no time was any sound heard from the object. The witness was unfamiliar with flying saucers at the time but he reported the sighting to the Air Ministry.

Date : 4.2.72.

Time : 1325 hours.

Location : Gt. Ormond St. Hospital annex, Surrey.

Regional Report No. 1240.

Although observed by two very young people this seems to be a most interesting case. Neil Hards and his 'girl friend' Jacinth, aged 9 and 10 respectively, were walking towards the school-room in the hospital grounds when they heard a noise above them. They looked up and saw nothing but the noise kept on. They looked up once more and saw a silver coloured object and, as it grew nearer, they saw what Neil described as 'scress' all over it. He described the noise as like 'rough sandpaper' and said that it kept 'stopping and starting.' The object then took up a hovering position during which it 'rocked like a waltz, from side to side.' There was a fin on the side of the object which faced the observers and when the object rocked towards them Neil could see 'the other fin.' Also, whilst it was rocking Neil saw the underneath, which was 'concaved,' (a very technical word for a boy of 9) and the top, on which there was a 'bump' which was red

with a thin goldish-coloured line running across it from front to back. The object was observed for between 2 and 3 minutes and eventually disappeared behind trees. The children were very frightened by their experience and hurried to the school room.

This is an extraordinary report which the investigator, Ken Phillips, describes as accurate. He also postulates that this object might have been a Hawker Harrier, a type of aircraft that is capable of hovering and without very careful checking this would be difficult to out-rule, if not impossible. However, the questions arise, if it was a jet plane, what was it doing over a hospital? Why was the noise stopping and starting? And why was it not observed by anyone else? It is extremely common in close encounters and detailed observations for there to be only one witness or a small group. If it be considered that reports by single or related witnesses are not submissible for scientific analysis then we have lost the main body of our data.

*Date* : 11.2.73.

*Location* : Chobham, Woking, Surrey.

*Time* : 1800 hours GMT.

Regional Report No. S220.

The witness, Mrs. Rouffignac, was driving along the un-numbered road that runs across Chobham Common, past the well known Chobham Clump, between the hamlets of Longcross and Burrowhill. She was travelling in a south-west direction when she saw, across the common to the east, an object which she described as being "rectangular in shape with what looked like a 'rudder part on the end.'" The object was visible for about fifteen seconds as Mrs. Rouffignac approached the junction of the B383 onto which she turned in a north-west direction.

She then stopped to observe the object, but found that it was not to be seen. The witness thinks that the object, which had "many, many coloured lights around it which flashed continuously" was about 30ft. off the ground. She heard no sound from the object which she is certain was not an aircraft. (This locality lies under a flight-path from Heathrow Airport so Mrs. Rouffignac ought to be familiar with the sight of low flying aircraft).

This sighting from an independent witness occurred during a 3-day period of sudden UFO activity throughout Surrey and Hampshire and it can hardly be coincidence that the National Investigations Co-ordinator has seen an unusual light-in-the-sky in the same locality during the same period. (See S216).

*Date* : 9.2.73.

*Location* : S990621. On A319 south of Chobham Common.

*Time* : 2007 hours GMT.

Regional Report No. S216.

Driving west along the A319 towards Chobham village, the National Investigations Co-ordinator, Richard Colborne, saw a light in the sky which he at first thought was an aeroplane's landing lights but the colour was rather too orange, so he stopped the car to watch and, sighting on a tree, observed that the light was stationary. The light, which was to the north at an elevation of 5°, had a magnitude of -4 and was of a deeper orange colour than the planet Mars. After 30 seconds the light faded out seemingly covered by a small, low cloud but appeared again after a few seconds, now moving slowly eastwards at an angular velocity of approximately 2° per minute. To try to get a closer look at the object, Richard turned off the main road, towards the object but he lost it in a matter of seconds in this wooded locality.

The weather at the time of the sighting was clear and dry, the sky was completely dark with many stars visible. This sighting occurred during a three day period of UFO activity throughout Surrey and Hampshire.

*Date* : 14.3.72.

*Location* : Walthamstow E.17.

*Time* : 1950 hours GMT.

Report No. 1226.

Mrs. Lyons, a housewife of Bridge End, Walthamstow, London, was just putting the baby to bed when she saw through the window an unusual object in the sky. She went into a darkened room to observe it more closely as it hung in the south-west. The UFO was oval or cigar shaped but in an upright position. Mrs. Lyons watched the object for about 1 minute before it suddenly vanished as though it had been switched off. It was orange in colour with a hazy glow around it and situated about 20° above the horizon. Investigator: Ken Phillips.

*Date* : 13.11.72.

*Location* : Brown Edge, Staffs.

*Time* : 1021 hours GMT.

Report number: None.

Mrs. Margaret Buxton was hanging out her washing when she spotted an object speeding across the sky from north-west to south-east. Its shape was either like a disc or a sphere and it wobbled slightly as it went, even though it was travelling at a very high speed. While in view, several flashes of reflected light were observed from the object and it may have been these flashes of light that caught Mrs. Buxton's attention.

The wind at the time of the sighting was 20 knots south-east at ground level and 30 knots due south at 10,000ft. Investigated by D. James.

*Date* : 21.1.72.

*Location* : Andover, Hants.

*Time* : 0143 hours GMT.

Report No. 1267.

Mr. George Harris, his wife and son observed an object in the night sky that was puzzling enough to make them report it to a local UFO researcher. The object first appeared to be a circular but later changed to an ellipse. It had a green glow around its periphery and through binoculars an inner ring of evenly spaced white lights could be seen. At first the UFO remained stationary but after about four minutes it dropped vertically to take up a new position nearer the horizon and it was then that the change of shape occurred. The object changed position once more, this time ascending at an angle of 40° until it reached an elevation of about 40° which was slightly higher than when first seen. At 0152 the object disappeared by growing smaller and smaller in size. The witnesses were at a loss to know what it was they had observed.

*Date* : 15.4.72.

*Location* : Drifffield, East Yorks.

*Time* : 1830 hours BST.

Report No. 1266.

Mrs. Hilary Marson, a 28-year old housewife, was just clearing the table when she saw through the window what she at first took to be a small aeroplane but, as it approached, she realised her mistake. The 'aeroplane' which was travelling south towards the house, had what appeared to be wings of a very shiny material. The body of the object was a dark colour with two triangular windows at the top and something rotating underneath. When it got to within about 200 yards of the house it stopped and remained in this position for about a minute. It then moved away backwards very slowly at an estimated 5 m.p.h. It curved around to the north-north-east and remained in view for about 5 minutes before disappearing behind a wood. The object was also watched by Mrs. Marson's children and, as it moved into the distance, she observed it through binoculars. This was the second object that Mrs. Marson had seen from her home within a few days but the first time she thought there must have been a logical explanation, such as an aeroplane at an unusual angle.

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## 1973 NORTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE PRELIMINARY NOTICE

The 1973 Northern Regional Conference is to be held during the afternoon of Saturday, 12th May, 1973, at the Wakefield Albany Inn (Exit 40 on M.1 Motorway). Further information will be forthcoming shortly.

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## FIREBALL OBSERVATION

A number of reports have come in from Staffordshire and the Manchester area of a bright fireball observed at 8.21 a.m. BST, on 23rd March, 1973. Further information about this event is required including bearings and elevation measurements and should be sent to The Research H.Q., Newchapel Observatory, Newchapel, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. A.R.P.

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Articles and items for inclusion in the "Journal" must be sent direct to the Editor and not to other BUFORA officers. Requests for permission to reproduce material from the "Journal" should also be addressed to the Editor.

## PIONEER 10 THROUGH THE ASTEROID BELT

Pioneer 10 has now traversed the asteroid belt on its way to Jupiter and has not apparently been affected by the debris in this region.

To have collided with a large fragment of material, would have meant the end of this historic mission, the first beyond the orbit of Mars. N.A.S.A. will now have more confidence in its ability to despatch probes beyond the Asteroid Zone.

The belt apparently contains less matter than astronomers thought. Pioneer 10, which in mid July, 1972, encountered the near side of the zone, discovered a deficiency of particles less than 1 micron in diameter.

These particles could be even more prolific close to the Earth than in the Asteroid belt—solar radiation may have slowed up the finer material, causing it to spiral in towards the Sun.

Particles between 10 and 100 microns seem to be uniformly distributed from the Earth's orbit through to the belt's far side.

On the other hand larger particles—100 microns to 1.0 m/m in size became three times as common as Pioneer 10 penetrated the belt.

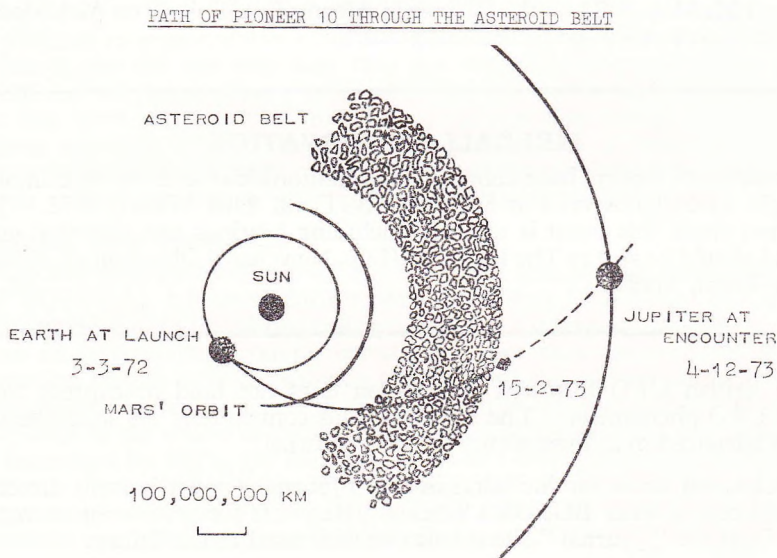
No fragments larger than one m/m were detected, these are probably very rare.

None of the larger Asteroids passed within Pioneer's field of view.

In December, after a series of experiments in the vicinity of Jupiter, Pioneer 10, which is pursuing an interstellar trajectory, will leave the plane of the ecliptic and head into "deep space."

The probe is due to close with the red star Aldebaran in the constellation of Taurus, 53 light years distant, in approximately 1.7 million years.

M. F. PACE.



## THE UFO VISION

### Part 3

This is the third and final instalment summarising an extraordinary event experienced by the Ardern family (pseudonym) and which appears to have a strong link with the UFO phenomenon in general and possible religious interpretations in particular. The two previous parts, appearing in Volume 3 Nos. 8 and 9, have recounted solely facts and testimony and it is the intention of the investigator in this final part to discuss not only additional relevant information about the percipients and the locality but to formulate preliminary findings and conclusions. The investigations into this unusual event are still continuing and the investigator hopes that this summarised account will stimulate discussion and suggestions which may even reveal hitherto unknown events of a similar nature.

#### A. Further details and observations.

- (1) By good fortune, the strange occurrence was permanently recorded by Mr. Ardern in his small diary which he completed daily. In fact Mr. Ardern made two references to it in this diary; one on the relevant date page and a further note on the back of the diary, thus indicating the considerable impression that the previous night's experience must have made upon him. This green, soft backed diary is embossed with the words "National Union of Mineworkers Midland Area" and the words written by Mr. Ardern on the page headed with the date, Sunday, 15th January, 1967, are as follows:

"15th, Sunday.

Dull, colder. Up at 9.15 a.m. Our Clive and Andrew came up. James (pseudonym) out. Chest much better. Wind S.W. *Very Good Night* Legs down.

16th, Monday.

Dull, Mild. Up at 10.45 a.m.

Arderns invaded by men out of space from 2 a.m. in the morning. James and Eric in a trance.

No Visitors."

The note at the back of this daily diary read as follows on a page headed NOTES:—

"Arderns at (name of house) were invaded by some out of space at 2.0 a.m., January 16th, 1967. Eric and James in a trance could not move Groaning and Bumping all of us heard it bar Margaret (pseudonym) Mr. Ardern also maintained a larger annual diary where he used to put down details of daily events but there is no reference to the event in that diary. Eric also used to keep a daily diary, but surprisingly, he did not record his experience in it. Mr. Ardern's diary entry is undoubtedly a crucial piece of evidence and serves to support his wife's opinion that he did not treat his sons' "vision-like" descriptions all that seriously and apparently believed that they had both been dreaming. Having said this, it is possible that in reality Mr. Ardern may have formed, or later come to form, a different opinion about the occurrence but this and the answers to many other tantalizing questions will never be known owing to Mr. Ardern's untimely death in April 1968, two years before the investigator learned of the existence of this case.

It is evidentially significant that no member of the Ardern family knew about the diary entries until a careful search had been prompted by the investigator in 1970. This fact alone discounts the possibility that the whole story is a hoax or a family practical joke.

- (2) One of the puzzling aspects of the case is that immediately after experiencing the strange occurrence, both Eric and James had a brief conversation with their father but not with each other; in fact both sons thought that the experience was unique to himself and believed the other to be fast asleep. This is curious as Eric would have to have entered James' room in order to speak with his father, who was standing in his bedroom doorway. (See plan P.32 Vol. 3 No. 8). In the absence of corroborative evidence from the late Mr. Ardern, it can only be assumed that the two sons did not experience the events simultaneously.
- (3) An intriguing aspect of the case is Eric's belief that the "voice" communicated, whether telepathically or audibly, for several minutes explaining the meaning and purpose of the words: "You are the chosen ones." Although Eric states that he cannot really remember what was said, it may be that he does in fact remember more than he is prepared to repeat. The reticence could be caused by the very personal and extraordinary nature of what was said. It should be emphasised at this point that both Eric and James were naturally reticent and embarrassed about revealing the one common phrase that they did remember.
- (4) Whatever the explanation for the Ardern's experience, there is no doubt that it was extremely vivid and impressive. This is amply borne out by the lucid way in which Eric, and particularly James, were able to recount their respective experiences in fluent detail almost four years afterwards.

## **B. Local and Environmental Factors.**

- (1) The ridge behind the Ardern's house lies on a geological fault line at the southern end of the Penine range of hills.
- (2) The Ardern's house is situated in an area that has a very strong tradition of Methodism and primitive Methodism. It is interesting to record that less than 1 mile from the Ardern's house, Hugh Bourne, the founder of Primitive Methodism, claimed to have met God in a "vision" in 1807, thereby undergoing a conversion to the Christian faith and a life of evangelism. Near the place of his "vision" Hugh Bourne held his first open air camp meeting on 31st May 1807, which began the religious revival known as Primitive Methodism.
- (3) In recent years a nationally known Pentecostal Church has grown and flourished in the close vicinity of the Ardern's house although none of the family have had anything to do with either the Church or the religious ceremonies which its members practise and experience.

### C. Possible Explanations, Findings and Evaluation.

- (1) Possible Explanations:— (space precludes a full reasoned analysis in this present account)
- (a) Hoax: There is nothing arising from many hours of investigation, which suggests that a hoax is being perpetrated upon the investigator or that the two sons had originally invented the incident in order to hoax their mother and father and could not now admit this fact.
  - (b) Vivid Dreaming:— Both Eric and James are adamant that they were neither asleep nor dreaming during their experience, James being particularly conscious of his surroundings throughout. The possibility of coincidental similar dreams being experienced by two persons in different rooms seems incredibly remote. The telepathic transference of a vivid dream from Eric to James or vice versa appears to be equally remote. In any event, it must be remembered that one characteristic of the experience was shared by four members of the Ardern family, namely, the high pitched hum that appeared to emanate from above the roof of the house.
  - (c) Vivid dreaming triggered off by an external impulse or phenomenon: Again, the detailed descriptions and similarities of the experience preclude the possibility of vivid dreams.
  - (d) A phenomenon of the mind involving hallucinatory and psychosomatic effects: This could possibly explain such an event experienced by one person alone but the investigator is not aware of any recorded case where two independent and separated individuals have more or less simultaneously suffered similar mental aberrations.
  - (e) Religious vision: The facts of this case bear a remarkable resemblance to the frequent descriptions of religious visions that appear in both the Old and New Testaments. However, unlike many who have had religious visions, neither Eric nor James underwent an immediate “conversion” that manifested itself in any recognisable form, e.g. the abandonment of current career and daily routine to become a missionary or evangelist. It is possible, of course, that any “conversion” could be taking place gradually or, alternatively, that further “visions” or “signs” will appear in the future. If a purely religious interpretation of the event is in fact the correct one, then it is interesting to speculate on the following intriguing possibilities:—
    - (i) Did both Eric and James “hear” exactly the same messages?
    - (ii) Was it intended that neither of them would remember anything other than the first significant pronouncement?
    - (iii) Is the forgotten part of the message still stored in the unconscious minds of both percipients?
    - (iv) Will a future event cause the percipients to remember the forgotten message or act in a certain way in accordance with it? That is, was the experience akin to the making of a post hypnotic suggestion to a person in a deep hypnotic trance?

- (f) UFO Phenomenon: The only devious link with the more common characteristics of the UFO phenomenon is the sighting of a bright, glowing ball of light by James through his bedroom window immediately after his rather alarming experience and which James believed was associated with what had just happened to him. It is, of course, possible that this bright light had a natural explanation and that its presence in the sky below dense cloud was coincidental. It is not unreasonable to assume the strong possibility that the appearance of this light source was not pure coincidence and was in fact part of the overall event.
- (g) Combination of UFO Phenomenon and Religious Event: This can, at present, be no more than a possibility as this conclusion is largely dependent upon an interpretation of the known facts, and it is by no means certain how this event should be interpreted correctly.
- (h) Hoax perpetrated upon the percipients: It is also possible that the Ardern family were the innocent victims of an ingeniously planned and executed hoax by persons unknown and for motives unimaginable. All the circumstances of the case do not permit this explanation to be taken seriously.

#### D. Conclusions.

The facts concerning both the case and the percipients have been condensed and abbreviated for the purpose of these articles, and the investigator has on both paper and tape a considerable amount of related and ancillary information of importance for analysis and evaluation purposes. The preliminary conclusion of the investigator is that the Ardern family were not victims of a hoax and that all the percipients are being as truthful and frank as possible, bearing in mind the length of time which has elapsed and the emotional state which the experience aroused in both Eric and James at the time. Further, the investigator does not believe that either Eric or James dreamt or imagined part or all of the incident.

The true explanation must still remain a matter for speculation for the present time.

(ED. The investigator has indicated that he would welcome readers' observations and suggestions on this case, and if many are forthcoming, he may well prepare a further article to deal with any interesting aspects or ideas that may arise. Letters should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, who will pass them on).

2nd after Epiphany 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 1954  
 Osw Clive & Andrew  
 came up John out  
 Clare inside 13<sup>th</sup>  
 W. NW very good night 13<sup>th</sup> Jan  
 16 MONDAY  
 Dull  
 men out Space  
 John & George  
 17 TUESDAY  
 Very good night 17<sup>th</sup> Jan  
 letter from Robert

Entry from Mr. Ardern's diary.

## STAFFORDSHIRE BRANCH

PAUL GREGORY, 24th March, 1973.

Although the branch has been recently formed, the UFO phenomenon has not shunned Staffordshire over the years.

In 1967 UFO sightings reached a crescendo over North Staffordshire. The Potteries 'Flap' has been carefully documented in "UFO's: Unidentified: Un-deniable:", a well known report published by Roger Stanway and Anthony Pace.

However the present phase of UFO reports in the county extend back in time to 1954.

On 21st October 1954, Mrs. Jennie Roestenburg at Ronton watched a disc shaped object hover above her house and observed two 'men,' with white skin and long hair, looking at her through a transparent panel in the craft.

Also on record there are cases equally intriguing and puzzling as the Ronton report, though the data is scattered among various editions of UFO publications.

One of our future projects will be to collate all the important cases into one detailed report.

Our immediate projects are firstly, to promote the Association in the West Midlands which in turn will benefit the branch. Secondly, we are in the process of strengthening our investigations procedure in Staffordshire.

A Branch Cheese & Wine Party was held in January to enable members to meet each other and to finalize our future plans. This was well supported and all concerned had a very plesaant evening.

The exhibition staged by the Stoke-on-Trent Astronomical Society in Hanley Museum, which included a section on UFO's, attracted over 25,000 visitors.

A lecture on the UFO phenomenon in conjunction with the exhibition attracted over one hundred people.

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For use of Skywatchers, a four-berth caravan has been sited at Warminster. Cutlery, crockery, blankets and cushions are provided. Provision of bed linen, towels, etc., are the responsibility of the user.

The caravan is sited at the Woodcock Caravan Estate, Woodcock Road, Warminster.

For bookings and further information apply:—

Mrs. M. CAREY,  
61 Corton,  
Nr. Warminster, Wilts. S.A.E. please.

or for information only:—

Mr. A. WEST,  
49 Mill Road,  
Burgess Hill, Sussex.

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## BRITISH UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

### Staffordshire Branch

The Staffordshire Branch was formed in November 1972, to provide members of the Association with a focal point for research, also a basis to meet socially and an opportunity for the mutual exchange of ideas and information.

The branch is open to all members of B.U.F.O.R.A. who reside in Staffordshire and surrounding counties.

There are no separate fees required, as a current membership of the Association is the only qualification.

In addition to being eligible to participate in the Staffordshire Branch's activities, all members receive the 'BUFORA Journal,' a quarterly magazine dealing with all aspects of the UFO phenomenon.

A separate "Research Bulletin" is also published four times per year.

Meetings are held at: Tawney House, Webberley Lane, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent.

Each meeting will commence at 7.30 p.m. Light refreshments are provided. A nominal charge of 10p is made to defray expenses.

#### PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 12th June.

"Sky Watch '73."

A discussion on the techniques employed on organised sky watches and examples of natural atmospheric and celestial phenomena often mis-identified as UFO's.

For further information send s.a.e. to Hon. Secretary, Staffordshire Branch, Mr. P. Greogry, 25 Wye Road, Clayton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs. ST5 4AZ.

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#### "A GUIDE TO U.F.O. PHENOMENA."

The first of a series of BUFORA information booklets is available at 42p (inc. P.P.) from A. West, 49 Mill Road, Burgess Hill, Sussex.

To encourage wide distribution of this very useful booklet special rates as below:

1 copy 42p. 3 copies 84p (save 42p). 5 copies 126p (save 84p).

All post paid.

#### OBITUARY

Our readers will learn with regret of the death of Ivan T. Sanderson on February 19th, 1973. Mr. Sanderson was an active Fortean researcher and founder of the Society for the Investigation of the Unexplained. He will be sadly missed by his many friends and colleagues.

A.W.

## B.U.F.O.R.A. LIBRARY

### Alphabetical List by Authors

It is regretted that a postal service is not available. Books are obtainable by personal callers only from the Librarian, Captain I. Mackay, 5 Pitt Street, Kensington, London, W.8.

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|--|---|
| ADAMSKI, George<br>(Co-author D. Leslie)   | Flying Saucers Have Landed.<br>Inside the Space Ships.<br>Flying Saucers Farewell.<br>Flying Saucer from Mars.<br>The Mechanism of Nature.<br>They Knew too much about Flying Saucers.<br>Flying Saucers over the West.<br>Flying Saucers and the Three Men.<br>What We Really Know About Flying Saucers.<br>Flying Saucers are Watching Us.<br>The Scoriton Mystery.   |
| ALLINGHAM, Cedric                          |   |
| ANDRADE, E. N. da C.                       |   |
| BARKER, Gray                               |   |
| BEARNE, A. W.                              |   |
| BENDER, Albert K.                          |   |
| BINDER, Otto                               |   |
| BUCKLE, Eileen<br>(Asst. by Norman Oliver) |   |
| BURT, Eugene H.                            |   |
| BUSSON, B. & LEROY, G.                     | UFO's and Diamagnetism—Correlations of UFO and Scientific Observations.<br>The Last Secrets of the Earth.<br>Other Worlds Than Ours.<br>The Taming of the Thunderbolts—The Science and Superstition of Ball Lightning.<br>Worlds in Space.<br>Unidentified Flying Objects.<br>A Manual of Spherical and Practical Astronomy, Vol. 2.<br>Theory and use of Astronomical Instruments.<br>Exploration of the Moon.<br>The Inexplicable Sky.<br>Space, Gravity and the Flying Saucers.<br>Piece for a Jigsaw.<br>The Venusians.<br>The Flying Saucer Reader.<br>Gods or Spacemen.<br>Spacemen of the Ancient East.<br>The Nature of the Physical World.<br>Flying Saucers, Serious Business.<br>Flying Saucers—Here and Now.<br>Relativity—The Special and the General Theory.<br>(Authorised Trans. by R. W. Lawson).<br>Why are They Watching Us? |
| CADE, C. Maxwell                           |   |
| CAIDIN, M.                                 |   |
| CHAPMAN, Robert                            |   |
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| CLARKE, Arthur C.                          |   |
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| DAVID, Jay (Ed. by —)                      |   |
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| ERSKINE, Allen Louis                       |   |
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| GARTMANN, Heinz                            |   |
| GATLAND, K. W. &<br>DEMPSTER, D. D.        |   |
| GUIEU, Jimmy                               | Flying Saucers Come From Another World.<br>They Rode in Space Ships.<br>Flying Saucers and Common Sense.<br>Man's Place in the Universe.<br>The Riddle of the Flying Saucers.<br>A Man from Mars.<br>UFO's Over the Southern Hemisphere.<br>Men of the Other Planets.<br>Flying Saucers over Australia.<br>The Search for Life on Other Worlds.   |
| GIBBONS, Gavin                             |   |
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| HENLEY, Carra De Puy                       |   |
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| HEUER, Kenneth                             |   |
| HOLBEDGE, James                            |   |
| HOLMES, Capt. David, C., U.S.N.            |   |

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MOORE, Patrick  
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RYAN, Cornelius (Ed. by —)  
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LAPP, Dr. R. E.  
SHUTTLEWOOD, Arthur  
SCULLY, Frank  
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STEIGER, Brad  
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THOMAS, Paul	Flying Saucers through the Ages.
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U.S.S.R.	Anatomy of a Phenomenon.
VALEE, Jacques	Challenge to Science (Co-author Janine Valele). Passport to Magonia—From Folklore to Flying Saucers. Time Measurement—Part I: Historical Review. Ministry of Education: Handbook of the Collection.
WARD, F. A. B., M.A., PH.D. F.B.H.L., F.INST.P., F.M.S.A	The Old Straight Track (1970 rpt). Between the Planets.
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WILKINS, H. Percy	Flying Saucers on the Moon (U.S.A. ed. FS on the Attack).
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### UFOLOG APPRAISALS

- Ref.* : 3/9/1: This is a difficult one and obviously the report suffers from some degree of unintentional exaggeration. Unless the lights were attached to some conventional structure, such as a tower, it is hard to explain them in normal terms. The full report may throw more light on the matter.
- Ref.* : 3/9/2: Perhaps the lights were the result of a weather balloon catching the light of the Sun which had set just 45 minutes before. At high altitude this might not have had the same wind forces acting on it as the lower cloud cover by which it was eventually obscured.
- Ref.* : 3/9/3: This account appears to describe an aerial device of a completely unconventional nature. A 22 page report of this incident has been prepared by Gordon Clegg and Ron Drabble, BUFORA investigators.
- Ref.* : 3/9/4: In spite of the lack of sound reported by the witnesses, this account could well describe a number of helicopters on night exercises. One does not *always* hear the noise of engines in these cases. It would be useful to check on the proximity of any air force or army base to the locality.
- Ref.* : 3/9/5: This is an interesting report. The location of the event (Salisbury Plain) makes one think immediately of some military explanation—perhaps a helicopter landing and taking off again. I understand other witnesses have now come forward and it will be a valuable and hopefully an enlightening exercise to compare their accounts with Mr. West's.
- Ref.* : 3/9/6: Could the three orange objects have been high flying aircraft brightly illuminated and engaged in some refuelling exercises? If not perhaps they were some astronomical phenomenon akin to bolides?

## BOOKS FOR SALE

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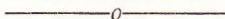
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