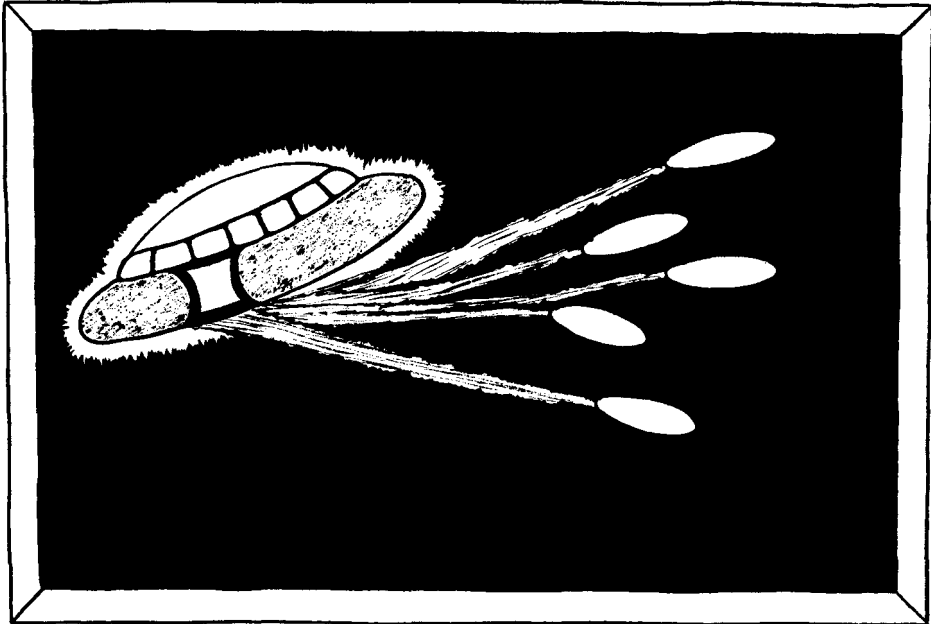


British UFO Research Association



Chatham Disc—see Report-Extra !

# bufo journal

Vol 7 No 3 Sept/October 1978

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# BUFORA JOURNAL

Volume 7 Number 3

September/October 1978

Editorial Address : 95 Taunton Road, London SE12 8PA

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likely to have a 'UFO background' than others, but why, in the name of sanity, should that preclude them from seeing UFOs?

Investigators, researchers too, will find hands thrown up in horror should they have the temerity to claim a CEI, CEII or—sin of sins—a CEIII experience themselves! True, their knowledge of the subject *could* enable them to put over a better hoax than most people should they so wish, but might it not also be true that their deep interest could make them more likely subjects anyway?

One is tempted to wonder—and certainly this is not just my own opinion—just how many active researchers deliberately tone down or repress all mention of personal experiences lest they be regarded as 'beyond the pale' by some of their (possibly) less fortunate colleagues. Is one perhaps expected to drop all public UFO activities in such cases lest 'scientific susceptibilities' be offended? If so, ufology would certainly be the poorer.

*Norman Oliver.*

## Editorial

### It's 'not done,' you know!

I have frequently heard it proffered as a 'black mark' against some individuals reporting UFO incidents that 'they knew who to report it to' or 'they've a friend who's a ufologist.' I really fail to see the logic in this. Admittedly, such people are more

## London Lectures

Sat. 4 November 1978: 7 pm. UFOs—The Psychic Connection.  
*Speaker: Sir John Whitmore.*

Sat. 2 December 1978: 7 pm. *Annual General Meeting (members only).*  
8 pm. *Audio-Visual presentation of Close Encounter Cases by Alan West.*

Meetings are held in the Lecture Theatre of Kensington Central Library, Campden Hill Road entrance, London W8.

**Important:** Please note that all meetings commence at 7 pm. The time of commencement was unfortunately omitted from the programme card.

# Bufora Ball Lightning Project

## Introduction

Ball Lightning, or Kugelblitz, is a short-lived, rare phenomenon which, in common with other phenomena reported in a random, unrepeatable way by untrained observers, has been treated with scepticism by the scientific community. Given that it may exist, there is also considerable speculation and controversy about its likely nature.

The description of the phenomenon is very variable, although there are general trends which run through the observations which enable ball lightning to be defined as a generic term. However, there are those investigators (including the present author) who are of the opinion that there may be several independent causes for phenomena whose empirical properties appear the same, or similar.

While usually observed in connection with thunderstorms, ball lightning may also be seen under other atmospheric conditions (as two of the accounts below confirm). Its lifetime is usually of the order of seconds, rather than of minutes. It is often spherical with a diameter of several centimetres, although other shapes and sizes are often reported. Because of its unfamiliar nature and rarity, ball lightning is often reported in the context of unidentified flying objects, and this is enhanced by the fact that it shares many characteristics with the 'classic' UFO effects such as odours of ozone or sulphur, interference with electrical apparatus, burns, ground marks, and so on. It may well be that there is a relatively high incidence of ball lightning events among UFO reports, which would explain why UFOs have acquired these 'classic' descriptions in the first place.

In acknowledging that it probably receives a number of ball lightning reports, Bufora decided in 1977 July to launch a Project to collect and evaluate reports of ball lightning. The Project has so far received only four first-hand accounts of ball lightning which are summarised below.

## Observations

1 One correspondent writes that in August or September of 1922 or 1923 when he was a schoolboy, he went into the garden of his Paddington home at about 21h00 and saw a series of orange-coloured balls of fire, each about the size of a large soccer football, running along a line antenna in a neighbouring garden. They moved from the house end of the wire right along to the china insulator at the far end, which was attached to a pole. There, he saw the fire dripping off in a long tail. There was a faint popping or crackling sound.

2 On the Tuesday following Whit Monday in 1931 at about 20h00, a violent thunderstorm occurred in Portrewydd, Gwent. The storm lasted eight hours and caused considerable damage. At about 00h00, the witnesses (two boys) saw a bluish ball about the size of a football strike a brick wall and bounce onto the road, disappearing in a shower of sparks. Next morning, they found a hole in the wall and a small crater in the road.

3 One afternoon in July 1937 at around 17h30, two men were driving near Llangollen, North Wales, when they met a thunderstorm. The rain had almost stopped, and they had pulled up to a halt in some traffic, when a light-yellow, spherical object, about 20 cm in diameter with an indistinct outline, rolled slowly down

the roof of some buildings. It followed a meandering path with 'almost a hopping motion' until it met the gutter. It then turned through 90 degrees to roll along the gutter until it touched an ornamental spike, disappearing with a bright flash which was accompanied with 'a clap of thunder.' The incident lasted about 20 s, and the phenomenon was about 10 m from the witnesses.

4 In Newgate Street Village, Herts, on 1977 March 28 at 21h00, a white light about 10 cm in diameter was seen through a window, hovering at ground level about 6 m away. Its intensity was similar to that of a bicycle headlamp, and after about 4 to 5 s it suddenly disappeared. The following day, the grass where the object had been seen was found to have been burned yellow-brown over a diameter of 12 cm. There was also a smell of burning and some ash or cinders. There were no thunderstorms in the vicinity but there were cumulonimbus clouds and it was showery. There was a heavy frost the following morning.

### Comments

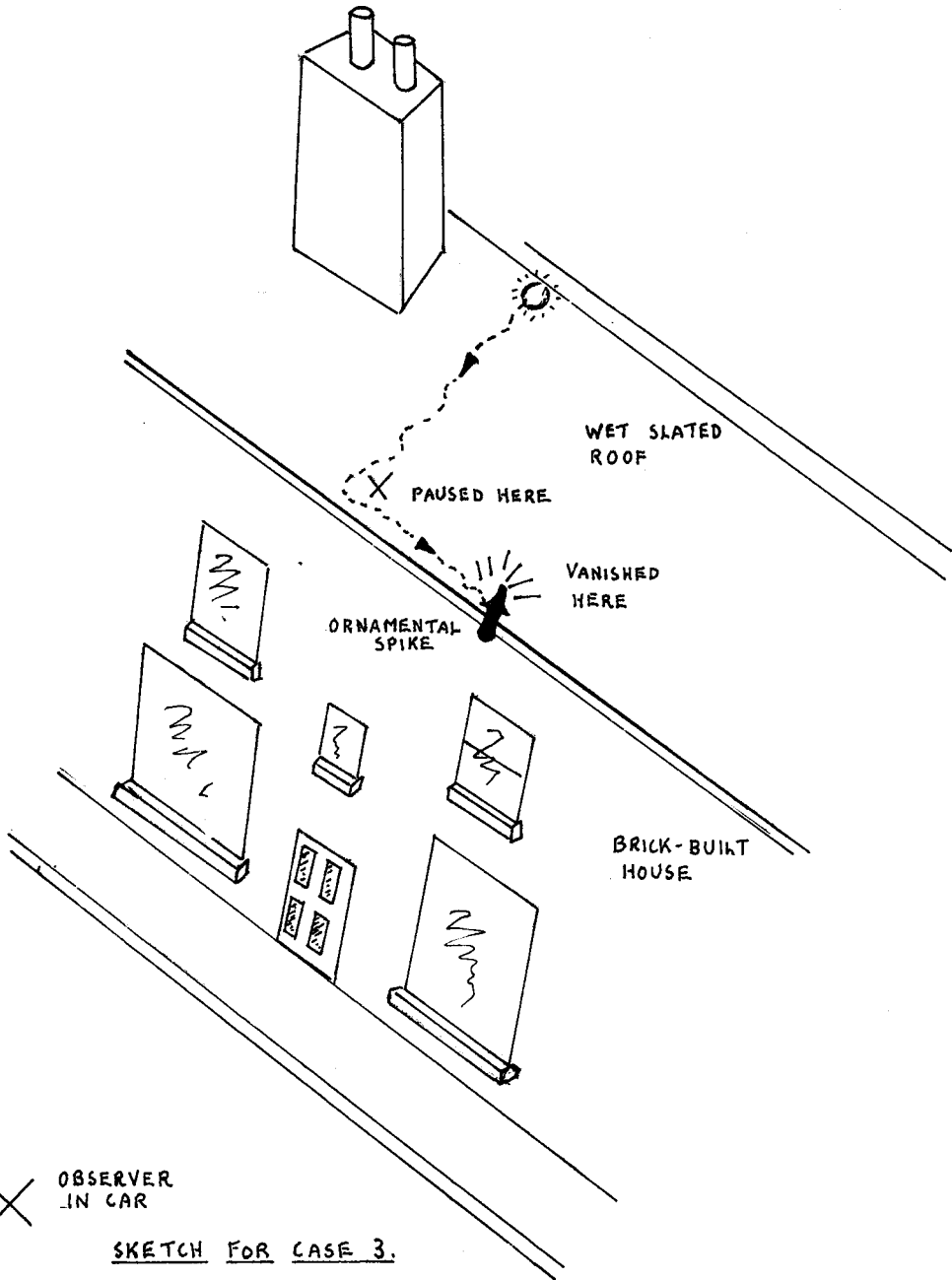
It will be noted that two of these events were reported to have occurred during thunderstorms, but that there was no mention of storms in connection with the other two events (*1 and 4*). However, it does not always seem to be the case that ball lightning is associated with conventional lightning, and one might suppose that all that is required for the formation of at least some types of ball lightning is an intensification of the local electric field. In normal conditions, there is a 'fair weather electrostatic field' of about 130 V/m near ground level. This potential gradient will increase with changes in conditions such as the formation of cumulonimbus clouds (*Case 4*).

The cause of *Case 1* was probably St. Elmo's fire (coronal discharge), a phenomenon which is distinct from ball lightning because it follows paths determined by electrical conductors (such as the line antenna). It is usually blue or blue-white, contrary to the orange colour described above. Without a more detailed description of the antenna, it is difficult to account for the 'fire dripping off in a long tail.'

It is suggested that *Case 2* might have been caused by conventional lightning which struck the wall and then the road, vaporizing some of the material with which it came into contact and enhancing the luminosity in the region of the strike, and giving the observer the illusion of an independent plasma. On the other hand, if this was a genuine example of ball lightning, it seems to fall into the category of 'dense ball lightning.'

The witness in *Case 3* holds a C Eng qualification and is a Member of the Institute of Chemical Engineers. It seems that he witnessed 'genuine ball lightning.' Because the downward motion of the ball was slow, and because it followed the gutter shortly before its annihilation, it would seem to fall into the class of 'buoyant ball lightning.' Its downward motion may, in fact, have been caused by its attraction to an earthed conductor. Its final explosive disappearance on contact with the ornamental spike must have been caused by the high electric field intensity found at sharp points—the spike was acting rather in the reverse manner to the way a lightning conductor operates. This probably allowed the charge stored in the ball to ionize the surrounding air. This is certainly the most interesting case reported here.

*continued on page 5*



SKETCH FOR CASE 3.

(BASED ON ORIGINAL SKETCH BY WITNESS)

Case 4, although unspectacular, does seem representative of 'genuine ball lightning.' The witness did not report it as ball lightning when she contacted Bufora. Like Case 3, this seems to be 'buoyant ball lightning.' One might estimate from the event and the damage it caused that the thermal power radiated by the ball was less than 10 kW and that it therefore had an energy of less than 50 kJ. The visible light emitted probably had an energy less than 100 W. (*This case is No 77-067 on the Bufora files.*)

It is interesting to note that three out of four of the cases are more than forty years old. This is consistent with my earlier work, where I have found that a disproportionate number of ball lightning cases come from the period before the Second World War. As I see it, there are two possible reasons for this. Firstly, there may since have been some change in the environment (such as air pollution) which has reduced the incidence of ball lightning.

Secondly, the alternative is that there is some sociological factor at work here. Could it be that increasing awareness about aerial phenomena—and especially the idea of UFOs—has meant that more and more people report ball lightning in this new context? This would certainly be consistent with my earlier comments about UFOs and ball lightning.

This is not the place to review theories

about ball lightning, since none of the above cases seem to give special weight to any of the existing hypotheses. There are, however, some excellent reviews of ball lightning theories, the best of which is Stanley Singer's book, *The Nature of Ball Lightning* (Plenum Press, 1971).

### Conclusions

Four incidents of alleged ball lightning have been received by the Bufora Ball Lightning Project and reviewed above. Two seem to be likely examples of true ball lightning. One of these events is rather spectacular, and the other is useful in that it allows an energy estimate of up to 50 kJ to be made for the phenomenon reported.

It is to be hoped that many more reports of alleged ball lightning will be received by the Project. Please address any correspondence concerning the Project to the address below—from where Ball Lightning report forms may be obtained.

Mark Stenhoff  
2 July 1978.

MARK STENHOFF, BSc(Hons) FRAS  
AFBIS  
BUFORA BALL LIGHTNING PROJECT  
Newchapel Observatory  
Newchapel  
Stoke-on-Trent  
Staffordshire  
England

**Now that Bufora** is able to support Investigators financially whilst working on major cases, the Treasurer is responsible for reimbursing expenses claimed, though he has first to validate claims before making payment. If a claim is sent direct to the Treasurer he is involved in correspondence with the NIC for validation. **Therefore will Investigators who have claims** please make them direct to the **NIC, Mr Larry Dale**, at the address shown inside the front cover. He will pass on validated claims to the Treasurer who will be able to make prompt payment.

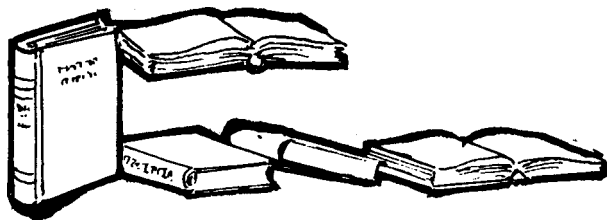
## Book Reviews

### The UFO Enigma

Donald Menzel and  
E H Taves

Doubleday 1977

\$8.95



Professor Donald Menzel, who died shortly before the publication of this book, had been for many years the director of Harvard College Observatory and was a noted astrophysicist. He was also an indefatigable campaigner against what he saw as the modern myth of UFOs. During the last 25 years of his life he wrote three books as part of his attempt to 'rationalise' the never-ending flow of reports and his theories were to become accepted by many scientists and the public as the definitive scientific view of UFOs.

This book, therefore, might be looked on as an important final word from Menzel on the subject. To me it was a disappointment, as much of the book repeats what he has said before. It is surprising how much of the more up-to-date material is taken from Klass' book *UFOs Explained*, and one is slightly irritated to read yet again about the biblical version of Ezekiel interpreted through meteorological optics. In the final two chapters, Von Daniken and the Bermuda Triangle are slapped down, perhaps to imply guilt through association!

Predictably, in the circumstances, all the unexplained cases of the *Condon Report* are dealt with. To give an example of the kind of treatment meted out to some of these reports: in one instance the conclusion is reached that a case is a hoax, not that there is any evidence for this, but simply that 'fabrication is a much more rational explanation than a spectacular silvery disk.' With such an attitude, what is

the UFO Enigma? In all fairness, the concise analysis of the alleged extraterrestrial map by Betty Hill is a decisive blow against the more extravagant claims made for it.

Why did an eminent scientist devote so much effort to attacking claims for the extraterrestrial origin of UFOs? It seems that Menzel was peculiarly sensitive to the irritant of UFOs having a far greater popular attraction than science, while remaining elusive, neither encompassed by scientific method, nor decisively rejected.

That his campaign failed is obvious—indeed the period since his death has seen unprecedented interest in the UFO phenomenon. Perhaps it was a disappointment that he had to keep on writing, for in 1952 he believed that '*the flying saucers will vanish—a frightening diversion in a jittery world.*'

*Philip Taylor*

### Prelude to the Landing on Planet Earth

Stuart Holroyd

W H Allen £6.95

Stuart Holroyd, an established writer on psychic matters, has given us a book that will make you think! Chronicling the very limits of human credulity and gullibility, it is largely the account of a series of hypnotic-state communications with representatives of a galactic civilisation. The principal figures in the events are Andrija Puharich, the former associate

of Uri Geller: Phyllis Schlemmer, the psychic channel for the messages, and Sir John Whitmore.

They came together at Ossining, a farm-commune in New York State sponsored by Puharich, beginning to receive messages from an entity identifying itself as 'Tom.' Holroyd attempts to make out a case to prove that information in the messages could not be known to Phyllis and must come from some other source than the ones known.

I strongly recommend this book, which is certainly well-written. Holroyd has a good style and is not as totally taken in by 'Tom's' antics as the subjects of his book, but he still views it in entirely literal terms. The book has great value as a warning of how far the retreat from reason can go once the mind's critical abilities are dulled by wishful thinking. Clearly this book is compelling reading for all researchers in Ufology.

### **Gods of Aquarius**

**Brad Steiger**

**W H Allen £5.95**

This book is a veritable potpourri of contactee information and philosophy—both its strength and weakness. In

gathering information, Steiger has gone around USA interviewing many people in order to give us, chapter by chapter, their ideas, philosophies and beliefs about research and investigation into the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects.

The results of these excursions and interviews with a wide variety of contactees make up the bulk of the book. One reads about '*The Star Maidens and the Worldwide Production of Little Uri Gellers*': '*Healing with UFO Energy*': '*Women and UFOs*': '*New Age Prophets and the Time of Transition*' and a lot more. It appears quite clear from Steiger's account that there are thousands of '*silent contactees*'—people throughout the USA who claim to have had some form of contact with Extraterrestrials but who have not run to the news media with their reports.

I found the book very interesting reading and quite informative: it is a disturbing book in many ways as it strikes hard at the roots of what many of us have learned in the past and have grown up believing to be beyond challenge. It is a book that warrants careful reading and a worthwhile reference book to return to again and again.

*Bryan Hartley*

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## Uforum

I perused the letter from P W (Essex) in the May/June *Journal* not without perhaps certain misgivings in respect of its veridicality, yet nevertheless I accept its textualism vis-a-vis its scientific accuracy.

However, stripped of its pretentious verbosity, the writer does have a point when he states that '*we must seek beyond apperceptive modes of apparent interpretation,*' for I myself have long contended that whilst objective criteria, as we know them, must of necessity be satisfied in respect of all ufological investigations, all this could be nullified if we neglect or reject the *subjective* implications of the phenomenon.

Indeed, in any section of Systems Science, which the study of ufological implications must inevitably entail, it is at long last beginning to be appreciated that in many instances one simply cannot hope to master the systems and/or methodologies by adopting our normal, routine and classical approach to the 'science' of ufology *as we know it*.

Godel's theorem, for example, shows that one cannot prove the consistency and completeness of any axiomatic system using only the axioms and the rules of inference of that system, which, from the ufological point of view, currently simply do not exist.

But I myself am becoming guilty of longiloquent verbiage.

Since, however, you have asked your readers to pass on P W's letter, I must confess that I have always regarded such communications, erudite though they may be, as exhibiting, a certain '*grossierite*,' in their apparent endeavour to '*blind with science*' those non-scientists amongst our Journal-reading members.

Or, as the late Sir Winston Churchill once wrote, '*this is the sort of English up with which I will not put!*'

*R Jones Pugh, RIC S Wales*

... I cannot refrain from commenting on the letters in the latest *Journal*: the one from Mr Murphy is an extraordinary classic of pseudo-science, riddled with errors and non-sequiturs. The one from 'P W' is still incomprehensible to me, despite several references to the dictionary!

*P Taylor, Eastbourne.*

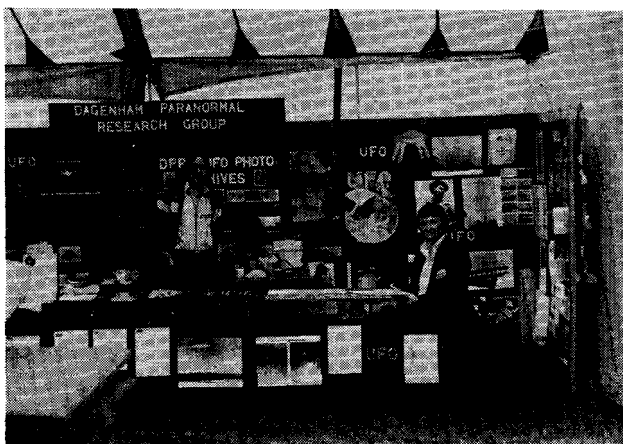
In the 22 June issue of the *New Scientist*, an article was published concerning the discovery of a megalith site in north-western Kenya.

Apparently there are some nineteen basalt pillars aligned to the 300 BC rising directions of seven star formations which are of significance in the Cushitic calendar still in use in the area today. (*Cushitic—local inhabitants*). This is the first find of an Archeo-Astronomical site in Sub-Saharan Africa and suggests there was a calendar based on astronomical observations in operation some 2,300 years ago. The site was named '*Namoratunga ii*' because of a similar site at Namoratunga (*translation—The Stone People*).

The stones were arranged in lines pointing eastwards from three large stones in the west. The article also states that the chances of these alignments being accidental are very remote and that the find adds to the ever-increasing evidence concerning the sophistication of prehistoric cultures.

Perhaps in some way this may be connected to the 'Ancient Astronaut' theory.

*S C Battman, Basingstoke.*



**Barry King's Dagenham Paranormal Research Group** had a stand at the *Dagenham July Show*. Barry writes:—

Public interest in UFOs and UFO research is monumental—as we discovered at our recent exhibition/display stand “*Scientific Ufology*” in the annual *Dagenham Town Show*. Our stand was featured in the professional ‘*Social and Recreational*’ *marquee*.

Over 8 and 9 July over 51,000 attended the Show and due to an intensive publicity campaign prior to the Show's opening, a high proportion of them paid us a visit. This resulted in a ‘two-way traffic’ as a number of people also reported UFO incidents and those visiting included police officers and military personnel. Our 24-hour 7 days a week UFO hotline first introduced in March 1977 was also featured. The stand was manned by Roy Lake, Andy Collins and myself for 10-12 hours each day with others coming in to help from time to time. It was a huge success and an *Open Forum* meeting is to be held during August and September to cater for those who were unable to air their views fully at the stand.

*AWARENESS*, the Journal of Contact UK. Details from: The National Chairman, Contact UK, 59d Windmill Road, Headington, Oxford.

## People

We extend a welcome to the following who have recently been admitted to membership of Bufora:

**London :** M Bull, G R Carvalho, N A Cunningham, T Davitt, Miss J Day, V Farrow, P J Gale, P J Haywood, V G Healey, Miss C Hill, S Gwynn-Jones, J Morgan-Kane, J C Maletka, Miss J Naismith, Miss A Newton, J D Roberts, W T Stewart, Ms Villiers-Stuart.  
**Home Counties :** Mrs. M. B. Bowen, R Charrington, C S Gare, P R Harris, R Hilditch, T Hudson, M Kitchener, A Lownds, R W Pollock, A B Pusey, Miss I Stanczyk, P Taylor, Mrs F E Trent, Mrs B B Weyers.

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J Copsey, R W Crawford, T Crawford, Miss S M Cresswell, N C Dart, D Eddles, P Edmonston, S Elliott, Mrs E Evans, H J Fish, L Felton, J Forrest, L Fry, S C Garfield, Dr A G Gibson, M J Goodwin, F Gordon, J Gordon, A Hancock, G S Hands, Mrs A Hayman, T Hooper, E J Horton, Mrs R D Williams-Hubbard, J W Humberstone, K Hunter, P A Jackson, Miss S Jenkins, T Jones, M Kemp, C N Koerner, C Kyriacou, R B M Levick, J A Lowe, A C Mann, A E Manning, E Marris, B F Maxwell, Mrs S McIver, Mrs P Mooney, D J Moore, M Newington, R J Power, Mrs P A Power, K C Roberts, Miss H Rudge, I A Scott, Miss E Solomon, L Swerdlow, P W Turner, Mrs J E Ward, P A Webster, Miss M Wheeler, P D Wright, Miss S F Wylie.

**Overseas :** D J Bosga, R Hight.

# Report—Extra!

Presented by Norman Oliver

*A multi-witness report from different locations is a rare bird—or, in view of some of the descriptions, perhaps 'fish' would be more appropriate! When, though, amongst the witnesses are numbered ten or more police officers—well! Yet such was the case in the Windermere area of Cumbria just after midnight as Sunday 28 August, 1977 commenced its allotted 24 hours. Presented here in observational order, readers may well consider that several of the more detailed accounts have much in common with the 'flatfish' objects reported over Kent skies in earlier issues . . .*

## A 'Classic' from Cumbria

*Inv R Hall*

**1. 11.47 pm** Peter Simpson, aged 12, together with his parents, observed two yellow/white lights travelling eastwards. However, viewing them from their Oxenholme, Kendal home, it was suspected these might be on an aircraft showing landing lights, and indeed, this report is twenty minutes earlier than any of the others.

**2. 12.10 am** Police Constable Ian Mackenzie in Bowness noticed two very bright lights to the right of the Langdale Pikes. These slowly approached—so slowly that witness dismissed the possibility of a plane—and became brighter: dimmer lights could also be seen at the front and rear, though as the object passed overhead the bright lights were no longer visible on the large noiseless 'shape' which, after gliding through the sky about 1,000 feet above him, moved slowly to the south-east and disappeared behind trees.

**3. 12.10 am** Police Sergeant John McMullan, aged 39, describes how he was walking in Keswick when he saw two 'car headlights' in the sky just above the skyline to the north. He watched for between seven and ten minutes as, with three other policemen he observed the 'object' travelling south slowly and silently, though when overhead it appeared to move off faster. He considered it had the shape of a hang glider or diamond: the large

white lights were on the 'wings' and a faint red/amber light could be seen in the centre. These lights were steady and were unlike navigation lights. The only sound to be heard was a quiet hum as the object moved away.

**4. 12.20 am** Police Sergeant James Trohear and Police Officer John Fishwick were on duty at Fallbarrow Park Caravan site on the shores of Lake Windermere in the company of other officers: four or five civilians were with them. The two lights—horizontal to one another—were seen approaching, and when overhead Sergeant Trohear could see a lesser light forward of the two lights and another just behind the horizontal, giving the impression there was a triangular or slightly diamond-shaped object between them. Another constable at this spot described the outline as 'being the shape of a stingray fish.'

**5. 12.22 am** Police Officer Alexander Inglis, aged 36, was driving home to Carlisle from Keswick along the A591 Keswick to Bothel road with three other police officers when all noticed two extremely bright white lights to the north-west over the hills. They all

---

### DIAGRAM OF AREA—see facing page

Apparent path of object → → → →

Sighting Locations: 1, 2 etc. (as in text).

Scale (app) 6 miles = 1 inch.



left the car when it was apparent that the object was travelling slowly (in comparison to an aircraft) towards them in the direction of Skiddaw. It was remarked that the lights were huge and seemed part of the same object inasmuch as the distance between them did not alter. No-one could make out the shape of any fuselage between the lights, but when directly overhead a very faint 'purring' noise could be heard. Two fainter lights were visible at the front and rear. The object then disappeared into the direct light of the Moon.

**6. 12.25 am** PC Joseph Maw, aged 28, was on duty with another officer on the A592 at Miller Ground, Bowness. They too saw these extremely bright lights in the direction of Buttermere side by side low over the fells coming slowly towards them. Again, as they came overhead, two further lights were visible, all apparently on the same object whose shape could not be made out. A slight buzzing noise was heard. The 'shape' continued on its course and disappeared in the distance.

**7. 12.25 am** Mrs Mary Mortlock, of High Portinscale near Keswick watched the object pass over her house after first seeing it approach from the direction of Bishop Rock in the north-west. She first saw the two lights side by side, then a third between the two front lights—amber in colour—became visible and witness thought it seemed to be a small section lit up on the inside. She said it was impossible to make out the bulk of the object, because since the starlight was so faint in the light of the full Moon it was not possible to see whether the object was triangular with three brilliant lights at each corner, or whether the illuminated amber section had three antennae with brilliant lights at the end. There was no noise, the lights cast no beam and as

the object disappeared towards Helvellyn only the amber light was visible.

**8. 12.27 am** Police Constable David Wild, aged 25, on foot patrol on the A592 Rayrigg road at Bowness, saw the two lights apparently hovering over the hills about 1500 feet up. As he watched, they moved soundlessly towards him and a third light could be seen at the rear. Although unable to distinguish an exact shape, Constable Wild said he had the definite impression it was kite-shaped or 'like a skate fish.' The object must have been 'very large indeed and solid in construction.' No sound was heard and a check with Air Traffic Control revealed no aerial movement anywhere in the vicinity. Three other officers with him were also witnesses.

**9. 12.30 am** John Platt, aged 63, of Grange-over Sands, Cumbria, together with his wife and relatives saw the object just before retiring for the night and put out the lounge lights to get a clearer view. The object travelled slowly towards Cartmel Fell, then stopped completely and began to travel towards the house: they all went into the garden and could see first two, then four lights, the lights being so bright that the shape of the object was obscured. It 'floated' noiselessly across the sky not quite overhead, then moved off towards Grange in an easterly direction. The whole experience was 'uncanny and rather weird.'

**10. 12.30 am** Constable Ronald Jones aged 24, was with Police Sergeant Geoffrey Merckel when a report of an unusual object was received over the car radio. From their position near Skelwith Bridge on the A593 they watched a 'diamond, kite-shaped object' with four lights as it moved noiselessly out of sight towards Grange over the Morecambe Bay area.

**11. 12.30 am** A husband and wife at Silverdale gave perhaps the most detailed description of the object. As the lights approached, witness fetched his binoculars and focussed them straight up into the underside . . . .  
*'I was looking up into what appeared in shape like a giant ocean-going catamaran with twin hulls. A large transom at the front supported what appeared to be two giant lights (without beams).'*  
 His wife described these lights as *'large bulkhead areas intensely illuminated.'* The transom also joined together the twin hulls which terminated in side-rear windows of light. There were two small dull orange glows on the underside. The moonlight did not reflect from the surfaces which were a dull shadowy charcoal colour.

\* \* \*

The description given by the last witnesses (who requested anonymity) should, I feel, be given full consideration, since although somewhat at variance with the others, it appears to have been the only instance of binoculars being used, and, apart from the *'Kent Flatfish'*\* mentioned earlier, it also brings to mind the *'Hampshire Catamaran.'*\*

Surely, this occurrence will stand comparison with even the more 'classic' sighting reports, for how many have included more than ten trained observers in different places, and certainly the account of the last witness also reads most reliably. Perhaps this 'craft' will be kind enough in future to put in a daylight appearance: had it done so at Windermere, one cannot but feel that in the holiday season dozens of photographs would have been taken.

\**Bufora Journal*  
 Vol 6 No 6 pp 16-17 Newington 'Skate'  
 Vol 6 No 3 pp 10-11 Hampshire  
 'Catamaran'

### Table of reports

Time	Heading	Chief Witness
2345 to 2347	W to E	P Simpson
0001 to 0011	N to S	J McMullan
0010 to 0020/25	NW to SE	I D McKenzie
0015 to 0025	NW to SE	M Mortlock
0020 to 0025	NW to SE	J I Trohear
0020 to 0030	N to S	B Nicholson
0020 to 0030	N to S	J Fishwick
0022 to 0027/32	NW to SE	A L Inglis
0025 to 0030	NW to SE	J R Maw
0027 to 0032	NW to SE	D Wild
0027 to 0030/37	NE to SW	A constable at Bowness
0030 to 0032	N to S	Witness at Silverdale
0030 to 0032½	NE to SW	R Jones
0030 to 0033	N to NE by N	J Platt
0030/40 to 0034/44	NE to SW	G A Merckel

Overall apparent course of object—North to South. First seen north of Bassenthwaite Lake, went down Lake Derwentwater, Lake Windermere and was finally seen heading out to sea over Morecambe Bay.

\* \* \*

### Tottenham 'Torch'

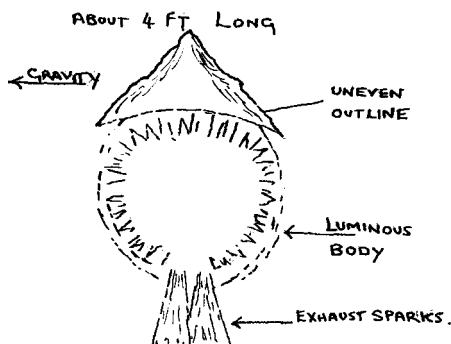
*Inw K Grayling*

Mr Solomon, a North London clerical officer, came out of his flatlet around 9.30 pm on 2 October 1977 to get some fresh air. Whilst standing by the flat he glanced upwards to see an illuminated torch-shaped object moving soundlessly from the north-west at an elevation of about 60°. When at an elevation of 80° in the north-east it suddenly disappeared.

The object had been clearly defined and in view for a total of some thirty seconds. No colours were noticed. The speed had been *'comparable to that of a commercial aircraft.'* Witness considered it was at a high altitude.

## Luminous 'Fir Tree'

*Inv M Keatman*



Mrs Rutherford, of Penn, Wolverhampton, was driving along the A464 at 1 am on the morning of Monday 17 April 1978 towards Wolverhampton, and was in the Wrottesley area, when she noticed an object to her right. At this point there is an orchard and the ground at the side 'dips,' the road looking down on to it.

Mrs Rutherford described the object as 'an upside-down fir tree, jagged in outline with a luminous green circle around the body.' At its rear there appeared to be reddish exhaust sparks. In view for about a minute, it was estimated to be around four feet long. It seemed to hover and then shot off over the brow of a small hillock at great speed keeping low. The object had been lying horizontally about 100 metres away and appeared metallic: as it shot away it looked as though it was hugging the contours of the land.

\* \* \*

## Clapham 'kite' emits 'laser beam'

*Inv S Kellard*

Christine Arnold, aged 32, a Clapham, London, housewife had been out shopping on 10 April 1978. It was 4 pm, she had just returned home and

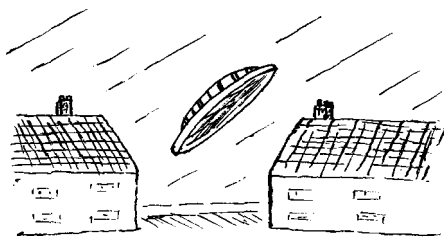
was about to go out again to collect her daughter from school when she noticed an unusual grey object in the sky. She became scared, dropped the shopping and ran to her mother's house several doors away where she, her mother and sisters went into the back garden to watch it. Its shape was similar to that of a box kite, and indeed, the witnesses were on the point of settling for this when it disappeared into a black cloud and on its re-appearance (if, in fact it was the same object), a very strong red beam of light came out from it rather like a laser beam: this seemed to point at the witnesses and one of them screamed. A number of little white lights flicked on and off several times, then the object and lights disappeared sideways into the cloud leaving a white line.

When the object came back out of the cloud, its original 'box kite' appearance (like two squares atop one another) had changed slightly with one square partly separated from the other horizontally. The object(s) and lights were seen against a background of some very dark clouds following a heavy snowfall. The whole episode occupied between five and eight minutes and was sufficiently impressive to make two of the witnesses frightened and a little hysterical.

\* \* \*

## Humming object disturbs family

*Inv A Pace*



Mrs Mary Moffat, 23, of Bucknall, Stoke-on-Trent, was woken up at 3.15 am on Monday 17 April 1978 by her baby crying. She attended to him and as she was putting him back, heard a humming sound. She returned to bed but the sound continued and on going over to the window and looking out, in between two houses she could see angled a clearly-defined metallic grey object which was the source of the hum. She watched it for between five and seven minutes, then came away and discussed it with her husband who had also heard the noise but had not gone over to the window.

Suddenly the hum ceased. Mrs. Moffat returned to look, but the object was no longer visible. However, a couple of minutes later the noise started up again very loudly as though the object was right over the house, waking Mrs Moffat's five-year-old daughter who was very frightened: then after a further minute or so it went. The night was dry and cold with a little scattered cloud though many stars were visible. The whole episode lasted some twenty minutes.

\* \* \*

### **'Orange-strutted cigar'**

*Inv C Bord*

Mrs Alice Thatcher and a friend were travelling by car along the A525 Ruthin to Denbigh road one Wednesday in January 1978, and at 11.45 am were passing through the village of Rhewl, when they noticed to the right what at first they assumed to be a helicopter flying very low: they then realised there were no rotor blades, no wings and the object was noiseless. It was cigar-shaped—'like a cigar, plump in the middle'—with what one witness described as 'silver with red markings,' the other as 'orange struts (about 3) sticking out at an angle of 45° from the base of the silver body.' The

object gleamed in the sunlight as it travelled slowly across the sky in an arc, apparently coming down into the field or woods ahead to the left. When this point was reached, however, nothing was to be seen.

Another witness, who requested anonymity, was working in Rhewl and viewed the same or a similar object from a kitchen window for at least two minutes. It was a cold day with no wind: there was a clear, blue sky and witnesses remarked on the intensity of the sun's rays as they were reflected from the silver body of the object.

\* \* \*

### **Chatham disc with 'family'**

*(Cover illustration by  
Jennifer Cook)*

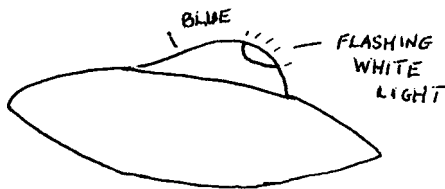
*Inv J Castle*

On Sunday 1 January 1978, witness was in bed at her home in Chatham, Kent, when she heard a high-pitched humming sound that continued for about two minutes. It was just after midnight and she called her mother. Together they went over to the window from which they saw a large silver-grey disc, compared in brightness to that of a street light. The disc stopped, a 'door' opened and five smaller yellow objects came out of its interior which appeared blue. The large disc manoeuvred for a couple of minutes then went over to the front of the house: the lights that had appeared from its interior made high-speed movements for some fifteen minutes, then rose and went out of sight leaving large trails behind them.

The original height of the disc was given as 'about the height at which a private (light) plane would fly.' It was a cold, dry night with a clear sky and many stars were visible. The humming noise was heard also by a next door neighbour and was persistent enough to give one of the witnesses a headache.

## Bleeping 'Blue Cockpit'

*Inv C E Edwards*



On Wednesday 11 January 1978, Glyn Thomas, aged 31, of Cimla, Neath was out walking: the time was 6.35 pm. He heard a 'bleep, bleep' sound and, looking up, saw an oval object 'low down and not far away.' This had a reddish underside and what appeared to be a 'blue cockpit' on top. From the cockpit came a white flashing light of high intensity, the flashes being emitted at two-second intervals. The 'bleeps' synchronised with the flashes and the speed of the object was estimated at 150 mph. In view for about three minutes it finally disappeared over the top of a hill as it travelled in the direction of Swansea. Witness stated that although it was dark at the time and the object did not glow, contours were clearly visible.

*The synchronisation of bleeps and flashes seems to me puzzling since sound takes time to travel and unless the object were within a hundred feet or so all the time one would not expect them to be heard and seen together—Ed.*

\* \* \*

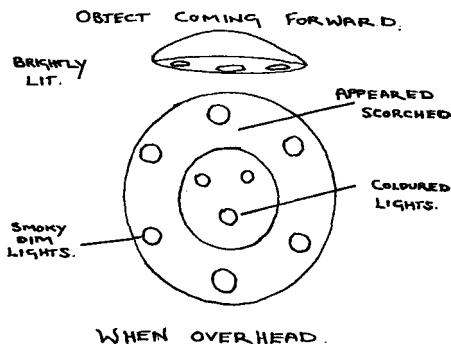
## Scorched UFOs over Staffs

*Inv A Pace*

What seems to be an observation of the same 'object' from three different locations was reported on the evening of 5 April 1978:—

**9.50 pm.** Mr Roy Twemlow, of Weston Coyney, Staffs, was driving

from Ash Bank to Leek Road where he lives, when a bright light was seen ahead. Mr Twemlow speeded up and the light was still visible on reaching home: hurriedly finding his binoculars, he looked at the light and as he did so two more lights came on. Bringing them into focus he found three smaller lights were visible above them. All these lights were in the form of a triangle, but no actual connecting shape could be discerned. As he watched, the lights began to move and an orange light appeared also and started to flash. The lights then swooped down to the right of the house and disappeared in the direction of Ash Bank: no sound was heard.



**10.05 pm.** Mr Douglas Cooper, his wife, daughter and son-in-law observed a bright stationary light. For five minutes it remained still, then, noiselessly it approached, a circular shape which had a dome on top emitting a very bright light. As it passed low overhead, dimly lit portholes could be seen with three coloured lights in the centre of the object in the form of a triangle. Its underside was 'sooty black as if scorched.'

After passing slowly overhead it moved out of sight over the top of a block of flats. It had been in view altogether for around ten minutes and had first hovered, then moved slowly towards the

startled witnesses before vanishing from view.

**10.12 pm.** Mr J F A Moss, a surveyor and town planning consultant of Hartshill, Staffs, entered his bedroom and noticed a bright, white light in the sky a long way off but approaching from the direction of Longton. As it came closer, the light increased in intensity and a cluster of red lights was noted above the white light which was in fact so bright that it was impossible to make out any shape. The lights passed over the Basford area and, moving to the front bedroom, Mr Moss watched them disappear towards Port-hill. The line of flight was straight: the estimated speed 500 mph and the height estimated at around 8,000 feet.

\* \* \*

### Skateboard UFO

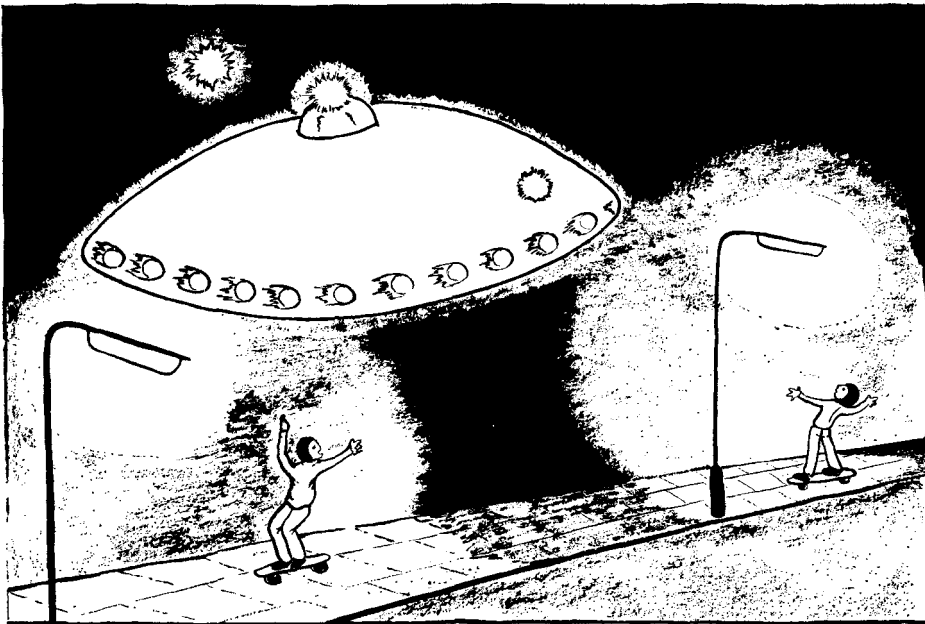
*Cr Omar Fowler & SIGAP News*

On Monday 30 January 1978, at app.

8 pm, two boys, one 13½, the other 14, were playing on their skateboards on a quiet road in the Brighton Hill Estate area of Basingstoke, Hants. Some street lamps were lit but there were few people about.

The boys were playing with two others when they all noticed a bright light in the sky moving towards them. One of the others commented that it was most likely an aeroplane, then went off, leaving the two by themselves. The light had now moved closer and the two could begin to make out a round shape in the middle of the glowing orange-yellow light. As it came nearer the whole glowing light seemed to be spinning: it continued to approach and commenced to hover: only a series of lights around the centre of the body continued to rotate.

*continued overleaf*



Oval in shape, the object approached to about 100 feet from the ground: the boys could see it had a row of yellow lights rotating around the centre (estimated at 80 revolutions per minute) and as the lights spun, a small green light could be seen at each revolution. The yellow lights were clear in outline on the leading section but were blurred on the trailing part of the light, that is, half round in front and blurred at the back.

Other lights could also be seen and a red dome was situated on top of the body. Behind that, a red light seemed to be suspended just above the body, as though on some kind of aerial, although no details of aerials could be seen. A white light was positioned on the forward part of the body and a rhythmic droning noise, like that of bees, was heard.

The object was seen to reverse a little, then come forward again, continuing to hover. The boys described the object as being the length of a house roof. By this time they were scared and began to run for home. One of the boys dropped his skateboard, but quickly retrieved it and ran on. After a short time they stopped and glanced back—but the object had gone

## Strange encounter at Genova

I am indebted to *Massimo Varrichio*, an Italian member who has sent in details of a 'humanoid' encounter in Italy. He writes:—

'Irene Lucente, a 14-year-old girl living in the Via Lagaccio, Genova had an un-nerving encounter with a strange 'thing' on 26 October 1977 at about 9 pm. As she was walking home, she saw the form of a 'man' near a tree. This form began to walk very slowly, seeming to stagger in a drunken manner. Irene said the 'man' appeared very white and held his right hand near his neck as one might do if experiencing a shortage of breath. There appeared to be only two fingers on each hand. The figure was about 1 meter 60 in height and was wearing some form of helmet: the legs were not visible below the knee (presumably because of undergrowth). At this point Irene became very scared and ran home. Similar 'forms' had been reported from La Spezia, also in Liguria.

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**Tell Your Friends About Bufora**

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**Larry Dale** has been busy recently in the field of lecturing as well as in his role as NIC. On 9 June he gave a three-hour talk in the academic block at Southampton General Hospital which was chaired by Lt Commander Alan Fowler. The meeting was voted a great success and Larry has been invited back later in the year.

6 August saw the general release of the film "CE111K," and Larry returned from holiday to speak at the Rochester Odeon at its first screening there. Other Bufora members and investigators were present and a UFO exhibition was provided for the foyer.

# Points from the Press

Valerie Martin

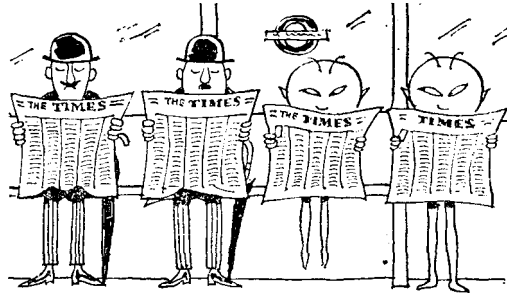
The *Tavistock Times* of 28 April had an account and drawing by Joan Amos, who with 3 other patients in Tavistock Hospital saw at 6 am on a clear sunny day a bright white light high in the sky with a saucer-shaped craft hovering motionless in the centre. The halo of light emitted by the object was elongated outwards at either side and the 'saucer' was tilted, clearly showing domes on top and bottom. It hovered for about 3 minutes, then tilted to the right and veered away to the north east, the light around moving with it. The paper also mentioned the numerous bangs at night when it was not Concorde time, and terrific white flashes in the night sky.

\* \* \*

In the *Aldershot Weekend News* of 14 April, a MoD Official politely scoffed at the reports of UFO sightings in the area. Both he and RAF Odiham refused to discuss suggestions that the UFO was an RAF helicopter using a special light, and said it was top secret. The latter said they had certain lights for aircraft and the MoD agreed there was some classified flying in the area.

\* \* \*

The *Shields Gazette* of 17 May had a report on the US Navy radar technician who tracked a UFO across the Florida sky at the Pinecastle electronic warfare range in Ocala and said he had never seen anything like it before. A dozen other workers spotted the brightly-lit objects late on Sunday, one object appeared to hover, then turned abruptly and sped off. The duty officer said several people had called after seeing an object 50 to 60 feet in diameter with



flashing lights, which computer- equipped radar could not follow.

\* \* \*

The *Grimsby Evening Telegraph* of 18 and 19 May carried articles on the illustrated lecture given by Norman Oliver to *Cleethorpes Space Science Group* at their headquarters, the Beacon Hill Observatory. The talk, which contained examples of close encounters generated so much interest that numerous people were unable to gain admittance, but a spokesman explained that on a previous occasion when a large hall was booked, only 30 people turned up.

\* \* \*

The *Streatham News* of 19 and 26 May had stories of strange lights seen on the common. Two schoolchildren playing football saw an oblong ball of fire appearing to move in a controlled way only 5 feet above their heads, when they went to collect their ball from the woods. Two residents claim to have seen it 2 or 3 feet above the ground heading towards the common, and a witness looking out of a window saw a round ball of fire travelling just above rooftops, which suddenly veered off at tremendous speed. Norman Oliver commented that there may be a connection between these sightings and what could have been 'landing marks' found on the common in March.

*continued overleaf*

The *Yorkshire Evening Post* of 19 May had an article on a series of late-night bangs on Humberside, which frightened many people. Worried callers jammed police switchboards, and all patrols were put on alert and made careful investigations, but the cause remains a mystery. The explosions, 4 or 5 of them, shook houses about 11.30 pm the previous night in towns as far apart as Hull and Scunthorpe. Two ladies living in the Bransholme area of Hull reported that within 5 minutes they saw an object like a spaceship in the sky. The MoD could offer no explanation.

\* \* \*

The *Western Telegraph* of 25 May reviewed Torch Theatre's '*The Blue Stones of Preseli*,' a well-researched entertainment full of historical and local detail, part of which connects the spate of UFO sightings in West Wales with the magical properties of the stones, and was scripted through interviews with local UFO spotters.

\* \* \*

The *Sunday Mirror* of 28 May ran the headline '*UFO's swoop on Air Bases*,' which seems to be the only explanation for unidentified hovering craft spotted by military observers and radar trackers. Pilots attempted unsuccessfully to give chase, but the Pentagon tried to explain away the incidents as unidentified helicopters flown by unknown pilots. Details of the 1975 'space spies' were disclosed by *Ground Saucer Watch Inc*, since under US law the public has the right to information from the government.

\* \* \*

The *Eastern Daily Press* of 30 May in its *International Commentary* column discussed UFOs being good stock material for the media during slack periods, and insufficient attention is

given to rational explanations. UFO is a military term denoting something not conforming to official identification patterns, or which could be identified under more favourable circumstances. The relevant authorities are reluctant to identify objects for security reasons and use the UFO label as a convenient extension of the *Official Secrets Act*. There are programmes for killer satellites, cruise missiles, neutron detonations, thermal imaging, and sightings of cigar-shaped, domed, silent, hovering, flashing and wingless craft do correspond to structural principles of aerospace technology, even in its most bizarre forms. Remotely piloted vehicles generally have muffled engines and are tested with night-time laser tracking and illumination systems, so radiating strange lights. As they are expendable, they are sometimes destroyed probably giving rise to strange sightings then mysterious disappearance. Protective suits for personnel could give rise to sightings of oddly dressed folk in the vicinity of a UFO.

\* \* \*

The *South Wales Echo* of 31 May gives an explanation for the 2 spherical objects, glowing red and moving slowly in formation across the sky in a northerly direction about 9.30 pm over Abergavenny. Cardiff amateur astronomer Gerard Dolan says the description fits Venus and Jupiter and the red glow would be caused by light passing through the earth's atmosphere.

\* \* \*

The *Leicester Mercury* of 5 June had a similar explanation by Trevor Thornton of the *Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation*, for UFOs seen in part of that county. Seen through binoculars there is a prismatic effect which splits the white light and makes the object appear coloured.

The *Evening Sentinel* of 5 June mentioned the UFO exhibition and mini-conference staged at Crewe Civic Centre by the *Federation of UFO Research* of Crewe, with guest lecturers Tony Pace and Lionel Beer of *Bufora*.

\* \* \*

The *Halifax Evening Courier* of 21 June had a report of more mysterious objects in the night sky over Calderdale, but Trevor Whitaker of *Bufora* had discounted one which he and another witness had observed as Venus. The previous Monday a man saw a blue star-like object moving at different speeds between Calder Valley and Southowram. Two other sightings were reported on Saturday and Monday of a light splitting into three, over Ogdan and near Fly Flats Reservoir.

\* \* \*

The *News-letter (Belfast)* of 10 June gave an account of an object described as 'tube-like' or ball of fire which came whistling from the sky and hit the ground with an explosion felt over a radius of 60 miles in a desolate region between Buenos Aires and La Paz, on the night of 6 May. Border guards, scientific experts and reporters were searching. Two US Air Force Officers reported as members of *NASA* were trying to determine if it was similar to the Soviet satellite which crashed in Canada, but a US Embassy Official said the men were carrying out a training flight and were nothing to do with *NASA*.

\* \* \*

The *Sunday Mirror* tells how 8 terrified children ran home in a panic after seeing a silver light as big as a double-decker bus, which after turning red, vanished, turning nearby trees silver. One child said it was noiseless

and they thought it was going to take them away when it came towards them. A father, who is a Special Constable, thought it was a hot air balloon or helicopter, but nearby RAF Lyneham said none had been in their air space the previous day.

\* \* \*

The *Catering Times* of 15 June reported the UFO Conference at Frome, which had to move to the Grand Cinema because of alleged double booking at the Portway Hotel. Only 50 people turned up out of an anticipated 600 from all over Europe. The cinema manager said it was so badly organised that it brought the town into disrepute and blamed the owner of the hotel. Undaunted, the latter said the conference didn't come up to expectations but another may be staged next year.

\* \* \*

In *Reveille* of 23 June, an Italian aviation expert, Carlo Di Folca, claims in the authoritative review of the Italian Air Force that America and Russia signed a pact in 1971 to swap information about UFOs and keep the rest of the world in the dark, so that neither power would mistake UFOs for atomic missiles. Also that they want to discredit the idea that UFOs exist, to keep their positions as masters of technology.

\* \* \*

The *Western Daily Press* of 27 June had an article on Lord Christopher Thynne, 2nd son of the Marquis of Bath, who helps run the family home, and who has become president of the newly formed *Warminster UFO Club* and intends going out on skywatches as often as he can.

*continued overleaf*

The *Gloucester Journal* of 26 August included a comprehensive three-column feature headed *Investigating the mystery of those flying saucers*, contributed by Mr J R Casey of the *British Flying Saucer Bureau* (Founded 1953). Details of the *Bureau's* activities and its long association with *Bufora* were given together with a great deal of interesting background material and reports.

\* \* \*

The *Lancashire Evening Telegraph* of 27 June had a short item and photo of the domed-shaped object snapped over Shiraz by an Iranian student. The

original, in colour, clearly shows 3 windows. A week later he saw 3 more saucers flying together in the distance.

\* \* \*

Lastly, the *Daily Mail* of 6 June and other papers in giving details of the *Cutty Sark Whisky Offer*, names the first claimant, Californian grandmother Susan McMahan, who has offered the firm's director and 3 other people a ride in a flying saucer to a small planet she claims to have discovered recently. Director Russ Taylor thinks there will be claimants, but *Bufora's* Chairman, Lionel Beer, considers the chances of success nil.

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## From Ghosts to UFOs

Paul Devos.

*As Paul remarks in his article, many UFO researchers regard Warminster with deep suspicion—and certainly many hoaxes have been perpetrated there, some hoodwinking even the most respected ufologists. Nevertheless, in 14 years of UFO research, Warminster is the only place I have seen anything I could not identify—on two occasions. I consider, therefore, we should be careful not to 'throw the baby out with the bathwater' solely because of 'hoax' and 'fringe' associations.—Ed.*

### Part 1—Warminster

The possibility of a connection between psychic and UFO phenomena has often been put forward. The purpose of this article is to record occurrences at two different locations which have been attributed to different causes, but when considered together seem to indicate that the same force may be at work.

Accounts of electro-magnetic phenomena in relation to UFO sightings are legion, and may be found throughout UFO literature. Many such cases have occurred at Warminster and a fair selection is to be found in Arthur Shuttlewood's first book, *The Warminster Mystery*. A classic example was reported by Leonard Pike, a businessman motoring through Warminster in 1967. As he passed Cley Hill, the interior of his car suddenly became unbearably hot, and he felt his

eardrums almost shatter as a high-pitched whining noise disrupted the silence of the night. The engine began to cough and whimper, then cut out altogether. As soon as his car had stopped, Mr Pike jumped out: directly above him he observed a glowing white disc, which, after hovering for a few seconds, sped away towards Cley Hill and disappeared northwards.

Although such 'vehicle stoppage' cases were relatively commonplace in the 'early years' at Warminster (1965-6-7), over the last two or three years they have become increasingly rare. Nevertheless, one or two have been reported—for instance, Neil Pike, writing in *Wessex UFO Record No 6*, described two such incidents which, although no UFO was obvious on either occasion,

would seem, if taken at face value, to be without an immediately apparent explanation.

The first incident occurred just after 11 pm on Saturday 29 June 1974. Mr Pike had just left Starr Hill Barn and was driving along the farm track towards the main road when his engine suddenly cut out. The vehicle coasted on, coming to a halt about 250 yards from the main road. Mr Pike looked around under the bonnet with a flashlight, but was unable to trace any obvious reason for the failure. There was more than enough fuel and all connections seemed in good order. After fifteen minutes or so Mr Pike gave up all attempts to restart and walked the rest of the way to his home in the town. He felt that water in the contacts or dynamo could be ruled out, since at no time during the day had the car been standing out in the rain. Indeed, on returning the following morning—and there had been torrential rain overnight—the car started instantly!

The second incident took place on Monday 21 October 1974, again at Starr Hill, but this time he was not alone. Mr Pike's car is equipped with parking lights which, at the time, had not been working for several months. As such lights are not a legal requirement in England, Mr Pike had not bothered to have them fixed. At precisely 9.05 pm, the passenger side light became illuminated. All attempts to extinguish it by any means other than the main switch failed, and after turning the light off by this switch, they were unable to turn it on again! Prior to extinguishing the light, the wiring and bulb holder had been examined without success. As Mr Pike put it: *'Perhaps there are logical reasons for both occurrences, but I find the experiences, especially the latter, rather mystifying.'*

So—here we have two incidents which, if accepted as genuine, are both puzzling, but when considered within the framework of the whole UFO enigma are almost commonplace. With regard to the principal witness, I met Neil Pike at Warminster myself in 1974 and he impressed me as a sound reliable observer.

I am well aware that reports of strange occurrences at Warminster—UFO related or otherwise—are regarded with the deepest suspicion by many UFO researchers. Whilst I can understand some of the reasons for this attitude, I still feel that there is something very much *'alive'* there—even if now only on the psychic level of interest. It seems as though the continued *'onslaught of UFOs'* since 1965 may, in some way, either have instigated or re-activated the psychical properties of both Cradle and Starr Hills—not my own theory, but one propounded by Arthur Shuttlewood and others.

There have been many reports of what has become known as the *'Invisible Walker,'* both in the copse at Cradle Hill and around the barn at Starr Hill. One night in August 1973 at Starr Hill I was told that the night before, observers at the barn clearly heard six heavy *'almost metallic'* footsteps coming down the road towards them from the direction of the track leading up to Starr Hill proper. At first, they thought it was a soldier coming to warn them about straying onto the nearby Army ranges, but when nobody entered the torch beam they hastened up the track to investigate. No explanation could be found.

Only in three instances can I find record of actual physical indications of a *'presence'* being witnessed in conjunction with footsteps—all were reported in *Wessex UFO Record No 7*

*continued overleaf*

by Neil Drinan, one of the principal witnesses in all three cases.

The first incident occurred on 20 July 1974, when Mr Drinan, of Gloucester, was at Starr Hill with a couple of friends. They spent the night in the car and next morning Mr Drinan was looking at the remains of a tank on the hill opposite through a telescope, when he heard footsteps behind him. He turned round, expecting to see his friend, but no-one was there. The gravel was being moved as though trodden on by invisible feet. The footsteps stopped about ten or twelve feet from him.

On 10 August and 21 September 1974 respectively, Mr Drinan had similar experiences. In August, after hearing footsteps coming across the barley field towards them, he and his companions observed the barley being pushed aside and underfoot by some invisible force or being. Then, on the night in September, while Mr Drinan was setting up his 'bed' on one of the hay bales at the back of the barn, he and a friend observed the barn gate open and heard and saw hay and straw being kicked by the '*Invisible Walker*.'

Other phenomena reported from Starr Hill have included the appearance of '*giant figures*' which seem to stand immobile, silently watching the barn: these figures were first seen at Cradle Hill in 1971 but now, apparently, have moved to Starr!

How seriously should we take these reports of '*giants*'? Whilst skywatching alone at Starr Hill in 1972, I was

particularly impressed by the almost tangible atmosphere of the place—an atmosphere that would, in all probability, be dispelled by a large crowd of people. In this context, it is interesting that in all cases I have come across of observations of giant figures, relatively few observers were present. Perhaps alien forms find it easier to manifest themselves when only small numbers of people are around—or perhaps the answer is simpler than that. Neil Pike himself, in one of the articles referred to earlier, wondered whether these giant figures would have become such an integral part of the UFO scene at Warminster had he not been so hasty in reporting his original experience in 1971. Suggestion, particularly at locations already established as centres of UFO and paranormal activity, is a force to be reckoned with. Stating the obvious, perhaps, but I feel that the role suggestion can play cannot be emphasised too strongly. However, at the same time, I would not wish to be too sceptical or dogmatic, since I have been fortunate enough to experience minor visual and auditory phenomena at both the hills mentioned, though I would hesitate to state they were both definitely paranormal in origin: nevertheless I have as yet discovered no satisfactory explanation for them.

So, for me, at any rate, Warminster remains a place well worth visiting.

In the second part of this article we shall leave Warminster behind and proceed to the source of our comparisons—Borley.

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### **Plea from Membership Secretary**

To facilitate answering enquiries **would members please remember to quote their Membership No—on ALL correspondence**—as the Membership Secretary frequently has to be consulted by other officers on correspondence and enquiries they receive. **THANK YOU.**

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# Sighting Summaries

Presentation by Pauline Grego

Code No.	Date	Time	Place	Report	Class	Investigator/ Credit
1936	Sept	2000	Hilderstone, Staffs	Camouflaged cigar	C3c	—
1955-1	?	pm	Nr Cheltenham, Glos	Circular object— lighted windows	C3b	G BAKER
1955-2	13/14.4.55	2200	Ripponden, Yorks	Large white round/ bell shapes	B3b	C LOCKWOOD
1960	Summer	2000/2200	Hampshire	' Cross '	C3c	K PHILLIPS
64R	July	1700	Catterick, Yorks	Silver/white Spheroid	B4b	A PACE
75—	6.7.75	0300	Glastonbury	Cigar & Saucer-like objects	C3b	WCUFORA
75-272	17.8.75	0100	Weston-Super-Mare, Avon	White light	C4c	WCUFORA
75-274	19.8.75	0900	Mendip Hills	White/orange light	C4b	WCUFORA
75-275	19.8.75	0920	Mendip Hills	White object	C4b	
75-276	?	0800	Ilminster, Somerset	' Bird shape '	C3c	WCUFORA
76-412	October	pm	Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol	' 2 saucers atop another '	C3b	G KNEWSTUB, BFSB
76-414	5.9.76	0004	Gainsborough, Lincs	Five white circles	C4b	—
76-415/6	2.7.76	2130	Mendip Hills	Orange disc	C3b	WCUFORA
76-417	18.7.76	0015	Weston-Super-Mare, Avon	Cigar changing colour	C4b	WCUFORA
76-418	28.12.76	1716	Southampton, Hants	Several round white objects	C4c	—
76-419	3.8.76	2255	Bristol	Brilliant white light	C4b	WCUFORA
76-420	23.8.76	2130	S France	Starlike object	C4c	WCUFORA
76-421	29.9.76	2000	Bristol	Red pulsing light	C4c	WCUFORA
77-168	21.6.77	1300	Nelson, Lancs	Silver/grey cigar	C3b	B HARTLEY
77-416	12.7.77	2125	Batley, Yorks	Black triangle	C3b	T WHITAKER
77-435	12.11.77	1941	Cleland, Lanarkshire	Dome shape with lights	C3b	T O'NEILL/ S CAMPBELL
77-436	3.10.77	1700	Ware, Herts	Four yellow ovals	C3b	M LEWIS
77-437	19/20.8 1977	2130+	Brookmans Park, Herts	Coloured balls	C3b	M LEWIS
77-438	2.10.77	0140	Dudley, W Midlands	Round silver-grey humming object	C3c	M PRITCHARD
77-441	8.11.77	0935	Rowley Regis, W Midlands	' Silver tennis bat '	C3c	M PRITCHARD
77-444	26.9.77	0735	Kilve, Somerset	Grounded egg shape	C2c	—
77-447	October	2300	London, SE2	Blue/grey saucer shape	C3c	M WEAVEN
77-448	23.10.77	2015	Clare, Suffolk	Vari-coloured lights and triangle	C3b	A COLLINS
77-449	4.9.77	2100	Haverhill, Suffolk	White/silver lights/ balls	C4a	A COLLINS
77-450	July	0250	Haverhill, Suffolk	Silvery cigar	C4c	A COLLINS

continued overleaf—

Code No.	Date	Time	Place	Report	Class	Investigator/ Credit
77-451	6.9.77	2300	Witham, Essex	' Warming pan with sparks '	C4c	A COLLINS
77-453	Nov	0630	Penryn, Cornwall	Two white discs	B4c	A PACE
77-454	14.1.77	0020	Worcester	Brilliant orange object	C4c	—
77-455	Nov	1915	Crawley, Sussex	Red and white lights	C4b	B EASTON
77-457	Sept	1915	Bexhill, E Sussex	Sparkling red oval	C4b	P TAYLOR
78-017	19.1.78	1830	Pavenham Woods Beds	Eight objects with lights	C2b	K PHILLIPS
78-018	2.3.78	2045	Radwell, Beds	Red and green light	C4b	K PHILLIPS
78-019	9.1.78	2000	Radwell, Beds	Red and green light	C4b	
78-020	6.3.78	2048	Oakley, Beds	Four flashing circles	C4c	K PHILLIPS
78-021	8.3.78	2130	Felmersham, Beds	Red and green lights	C4b	K PHILLIPS
78-022	9.3.78	2000	"	"	C4b	
78-024	15.1.78	2053	Ivybridge, Devon	Blue domed object	C3c	J WEBBER
78-028	3.2.78	1800	Whitechapel, London	Cigar with red lights	C3c	B KING
78-029	16.4.78	0100	Cirencester, Glos	Brownish triangle	C3c	G BAKER
78-030	24.2.78	2145	Clapham, London, SW4	' Metallic tin helmet '	C3c	S KELLARD
78-031	5.4.78	2045	Bristol	Silver circle with blue glow	C4b	WCUFORA
78-036	25.1.78	0745	Woolwich ferry, London	2 silver-white ovaloids	C3b	B KING
78-037	3.1.78	0400	Bexhill, E Sussex	' Bright cereal bowl '	C3b	P TAYLOR
78-038	9.3.78	2130	Eastbourne, E Sussex	Red oval	C4c	P TAYLOR
78-039	30.3.78	1900	"	Humming saucer	C3c	P TAYLOR
78-040	30.3.78	1910-2230	"	Multi-coloured spinning object	C3b	
78-041	30.3.78	1910-2230	"	Two coloured points of light	C4b	
78-042	13.4.78	2030	Dartford, Kent	' Red and white saucer '	C3b	
78-043	March	2055	Dartford, Kent	Two manoeuvring lights	C4c	M WEAVEN

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## LENDING LIBRARY RESTARTING

Colin and Janet Andrews have kindly agreed to restart a book lending library facility for Bufora. It is anticipated that books will be available by mail or by collection on request from the London Lectures. **Please write for details to: Mr and Mrs Andrews, 339 Eastwood Road, Rayleigh, Essex.**

## British Authors

## Arthur Shuttlewood



Arthur Shuttlewood—an early photo.

*‘Two years ago the small Wiltshire town of Warminster was suddenly gripped by a series of Flying Saucer sightings which have persisted right up to the present day. No town in England, or for that matter in the world, has registered so many authentic reports of UFO’s.’*

So read the introduction to Arthur Shuttlewood’s first book *The Warminster Mystery* published in 1967. Whether or not one considers that Warminster has registered more authentic UFO reports than anywhere else

is a matter for debate, but it cannot be gainsaid that the area has consistently attracted ufologists of all persuasions—from the outright sceptic to the most convinced ‘believer,’ and it continues to do so. I am constantly being asked for information about the area, and whether or not the claims made for it are justified, there is certainly no shortage of people who wish to find out for themselves!

For 30 years Arthur Shuttlewood was a journalist—20 of them as a news reporter on the *Warminster Journal* and *Wiltshire Times*. A Grenadier Guard for seven years, an additional three were spent with the Air Ministry Constabulary. He has also been a Warminster urban councillor. His books:—

*The Warminster Mystery: Neville Spearman (hardback)\* Tandem Press (paperback)\**

*Warnings from Flying Friends\**

*UFOs—Key to the New Age: Regency Press.*

*The Flying Saucerers: Sphere (paperback)*

Currently he has three further books in various stages of preparation:—

*UFOs in Motion (Sphere paperback to be published in 1979).*

*Wheels of Heaven and A Rainbow of UFOs.*

Norman Oliver

\* Now out of print.

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**Please see overleaf for an important announcement that will be of interest to all members, but particularly those residing outside the Greater London area.**

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— — — — **Tell Your Friends About Bufora** — — — —

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**Fufor**—*Federation UFO Research*—of Crewe are commencing publication of their own magazine and invite the submission of UFO and UFO-related articles for publication (these should include a short biography of the sender). Also welcome would be details of UFO events, which would be publicised free of charge. A “For Sale and Wanted” column will also be a feature—at 2p per word. Envelopes should be marked ‘Manuscript’, ‘Diary’ or ‘Adverts’ as appropriate. Clippings and miscellaneous reports are also sought. A high quality of material and a degree of objectivity is aimed at by *Fufor* and its Editor Mark Tyrrell, to whom items should be sent at 24 Cavendish Road, Crewe, Cheshire, CW2 8SW.

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**Special Announcement**      \*      \*      \*      \*      \*      \*      \*

Detailed arrangements have yet to be finalised and approved, but it is anticipated that a programme for a London UFO Conference at a selected venue will shortly be announced, the probable date being Sunday, 26 August 1979. *Bufora* are acting in association with *Grand Metropolitan Hotels* to present a variety of noted speakers of high-calibre including, it is hoped, prominent overseas ufologists.

Though London members will be very welcome to attend, the occasion is specially designed to benefit those in other parts of the country and to give them the advantage of overnight West End Hotel accommodation at reasonable rates by a combined British Rail/Hotel package deal at a considerable overall saving. Wives, families and friends would also be able to profit by the package deal and enjoy the attractions of London without any obligation to attend the Conference before returning at their leisure on the Bank Holiday Monday.

Well-supported, there is the prospect of this major event being the first truly international UFO Conference to be held in the UK, a Conference which could be repeated annually and one which would also boost *Bufora's* already considerable standing as a responsible research and investigation organisation. In the meantime, we would like to have some idea of the support the venture will attract and ask you, therefore, to complete the coupon below—this will place you under no obligation whatsoever—and return it as indicated.

— — — — — CUT HERE — — — — —

To: *Bufora* (Conf), 95 Taunton Road, London, SE12 8PA.

Please send me full details of the projected London 1979 Conference as soon as they are available. I understand this places me under no obligation to attend.

NAME: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms.....

ADDRESS: .....

Total number interested—  
including those not wishing to attend the Conference itself.....

## Edinburgh Branch News

**The Edinburgh Branch** recently had the pleasure of meeting M Angel Grazioli, of Beziere, France. M Grazioli, a professional engineer visiting Scotland on business is associated with the leading French journals *Ouranos* and *Lumieres dans la Nuit*. He told us that the well-known French UFO research scientist, Dr C Poher, was now working full-time on UFO research on a Government salary. As far as I am aware, there is no precedent for such an appointment of a civilian on a full-time basis and it is one that could well be repeated elsewhere.

**The attendance** at meetings is increasing and at the July meeting, a tape, kindly supplied by the BBC, was played, of the *Radio Aberdeen* link-up discussion on UFOs with Charles Bowen, *FSR* Editor, in London, Ian Taylor in Aberdeen and myself, representing Bufora in Edinburgh. Ian Taylor claims a number of sightings in the Aberdeen area and feels that the Grampian Mountains area may be one of high UFO activity.

**We now have an entry** under "UFO Research" in the Edinburgh phone directory and a substantial library of books and journals.

PETER A HILL, *Branch Secretary.*

# A.P.C.I.C.

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## Books and Leaflets

Title	Members	Non-members
An Engineer's Look at UFO's <i>Leonard Cramp, AR AeS, MSIA</i>	30p	50p
Close Encounters of the Third Kind <i>Ted Bloecher (ed C F Lockwood &amp; A R Pace)</i>	60p	70p
Guide to the UFO Phenomenon	45p	65p
Investigation Procedures <i>Trevor Whitaker</i>	30p	50p
Investigators Handbook	£2.50	£3.50
The Use of Analytical Instruments in the Search for Extra-terrestrial Spacecraft <i>David Viewing</i>	30p	50p
1976 Conference Proceedings	£2.50	£3.50
Articles of Association (members only)	£1.25	—
Bufora Journals (back numbers)	35p	50p

(In some cases, only photocopies of Journals can be supplied, at cost, plus handling and P & P).

All the above publications are available post free from:

**Arnold West, Bufora Publications, 16 Southway, Burgess Hill, Sussex RH15 9ST.**

## Personal Column

**Skywatch UFO Detector:** Successful magnetic needle type detector, incorporating latching circuit and audio alarm, battery operated. £9.00. Stamped addressed envelope for explanatory literature. Malcolm Jay, 102 Nelson Road, Chingford E4 9AS. (*The word 'successful' should not be taken to mean you will automatically see a UFO, but Malcolm's literature DOES quote names of purchasers who have.*)

**Unattached lady,** early thirties, Surrey area. Interests: Astronomy; UFOs: Science fiction. Seeks unattached man under fifty for lasting companionship: same or similar interests im-

portant. Must have transport. Write to: Box UL, 95 Taunton Rd, London SE12 8PA.

**Close Encounter Cassette Tapes (C60):** Many CE11 and CE111 titles now available: Send NOW for details to Skyquest (B), 95, Taunton Road, London, SE12 8PA.

**Interested in the more bizarre and unusual CE111 claims?** Write to Box SX3, 95 Taunton Road, London SE12 8PA.

**UFOs AND THE CHRISTIAN** (Regency) by Eric Inglesby. Foreword by Bishop Bardsley. £2.50 direct from Spring Cottage, Fairford, Glos. An essential Encounter.

## THE BRITISH UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Bufora Limited (by guarantee). Founded 1964. Registered Office: Hazelmont House, Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham. Registered in London: 1234924. Incorporating the London UFO Research Organisation, founded 1959, and the British UFO Association, founded 1962.

**Aims:** 1—To encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying objects (UFO) phenomena through the United Kingdom. 2—To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to unidentified flying objects (UFOs). 3—To co-ordinate UFO research throughout the United Kingdom and to co-operate with others engaged in such research throughout the world.

**Membership:** The annual subscription is £5.00, \$10 in the USA and Canada. Membership is open to all who support the aims of the Association and whose application is approved by the Executive Council. Application/information forms can be obtained from any officer.

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