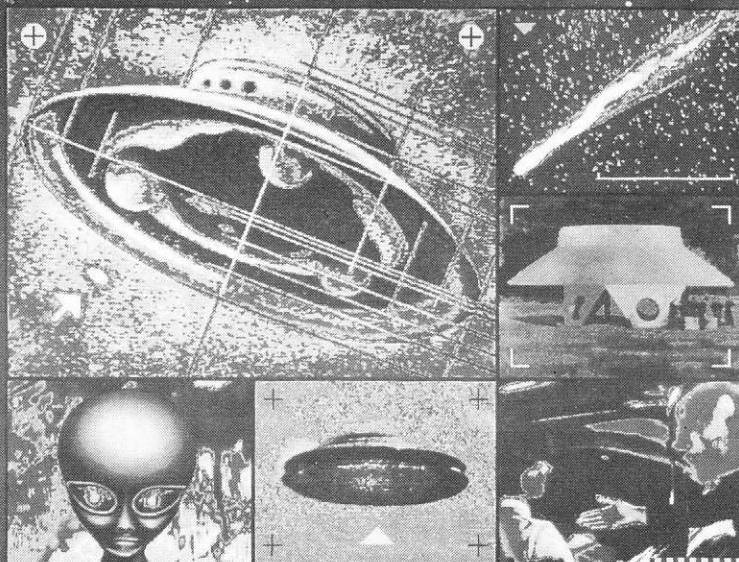


# UFO TIMES

Number 13 May 1991

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## THE UFO ENCYCLOPEDIA



COMPILED AND EDITED BY

# JOHN SPENCER

FOR THE BRITISH UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

### INSIDE

Paolo Fiorino of CISU amplifies on Italy's 34 known abduction cases.

An Hungarian CE1 is retold by Lazlo Kiss.

Ken Phillips starts of the Crop Circles season with his thoughts on the subject



And a further update on the biggest ever congress to be held in the UK.

Plus.... News of a new HQ for BUFORA, Investigations Diary, Skywatcher and more.....

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It is also the policy of **UFO Times** not to publish the names or addresses of witnesses who are not in the 'public domain'. The material and personal details of witnesses who have been published in the media will be treated with care and empathy by the editorship.

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(by guarantee)

Founded 1964. Registered office, 16 Southway, Burgess Hill, Sussex, RH15 9ST. Registered in London; 12349924. Incorporating the London UFO Research Association (founded 1959) and the British UFO Association (founded 1962).

AIMS

1. To encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying object (UFO) phenomena throughout 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.

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Membership is open to all who support the aims of the association and whose application is approved by the executive committee. Applications, forms and general information can be obtained from BUFORA's registered office.

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# UFO TIMES

Number 13 May 1991

ISSN 0958-4846

## Contents

4. **Editorial**
5. **Abductions in Italy**  
by Paolo Fiorino
7. **News**
8. **A Farmer's Tale**  
by Lazlo Kiss
9. **A Ufologist's View of the Crop  
Circles Phenomena**  
by Ken Phillips
11. **The Shadows of Reality**  
by Anthony North
12. **Investigations Diary**  
Edited by Jenny Randles
14. **Congress 1991 News**
15. **Skywatcher**  
Edited by Gary Anthony
16. **New Searchlight UFO Wave on  
Horizon?**  
Report by Mike Wootten
17. **Letters**

### **Front Cover**

Dust jacket from John Spencer's latest book **'The UFO Encyclopedia'**.

Look out for the exclusive interview with the author in the next issue of **UFO Times**.

# UFO TIMES

## EDITORIAL

### Psychology: The Misused Toy of Ufology

**The battle between the two main camps of ufological thinking - the ETHers and psychologists - continues unabated, with little sign of the alien visitation pundits claiming a credible victory.**

Consequently, I have always been keen to listen to other more reasonable explanations to account for the many strange reports we receive worldwide every day before accepting the ambiguity of the ETH. And in general terms I am satisfied that psychology must play an important role in the scheme of things. By the very nature of people reporting UFO encounters, it would seem preposterous to state that human psychology could not be a constituent of the ufological pie (to use a well-oiled phrase).

#### Pseudo-theorising

However, when one enters this area of study, caution and light-footedness is vital. It should be remembered that the minds of witnesses are being toyed with to the point where more damage can be done by the researcher's amateur tinkering and pseudo-theorising than the event itself. Surely this is not a goal we are aiming for when we carry out UFO research?

Unfortunately there are those researchers who have little or no thought for the witness. They are either splashing them across the pages of tabloid newspapers with lurid headlines or dismantling their psyche in public for all to see. Sadly, personal notoriety or personal financial gain is usually the motivation behind such actions.

But to be fair, there is a dilemma

that faces all researchers. Do we discredit a witness but at the same time add interesting material that multiplies our total sum of knowledge or do we look after the witness by keeping this information to ourselves, with ufology gaining nothing?

In my view a balance has to be struck where certainty of one's facts and the wishes of the witness plays a key role in any decision to publish personal information including the psychological status of a particular percipient.

Publish and be damned should not be on the agenda.

#### Secondhand Assessments

To illustrate this point, I have noted with interest a book recently published by Nigel Watson where he has made character and psychological assessments of at least three witnesses solely on the basis of secondhand information. He has defended his utterances by stating that it was not possible to visit every witness featured in his book. That in my opinion is shabby research and an injustice to the witnesses involved. But what infuriates these witnesses even more is that Nigel Watson is not a professional psychologist.

If we are to keep a rapport with witnesses and find answers to the UFO phenomenon, we must realise our own strengths and weaknesses. If your not qualified to make a character assessment of individual witnesses then don't make one at all.

#### Moved to Distraction

My move away from the noise and dirt of London to more peaceful climbs 'up north' has been completed - thus the delay of this edition of UFO Times. Please note the following new address for all correspondence relating to UFO Times and BUFORA publishing.

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# Abductions in Italy

**Paolo Fiorino**

There are 34 known Italian abduction reports out of 382 CE-III cases in CISU files, but among these 10 are involving the same witness (Fortunato Zanfretta), 8 are admitted hoaxes and 5 are better referred to as "on-board" experiences by contactees.

Public knowledge of abductions began in December 1978, following the Zanfretta's first encounter, though the Italian press had reported the Hills', Pascagoula and Walton's cases. A large amount of information was published in 1986 about the Calolzo di Cadore (BL) abduction/hypnosis affair (see: ITFOR-5).

A clear difference exists between more recent abduction reports and earlier CE-IV reports in the '60s and '70s, which were of the contactee kind (Galli, Zuccala, etc.).

## 1954: The First Case

On 13th December, 1954 Naples newspapers reported that a 57 years old peasant in Gricignano di Aversa (NA) had been missing for two days from December 8th. When he came back he reported that he had been "kidnapped" by two individuals, dressed "like the rainbow", who "made him walk for 48 hours without stopping". Sometimes they were tall, sometimes they were dwarf-like. He had felt like "flying" and weightless.

A full investigation by Umberto Talarico in 1974 found little more than the press story, since the witness had died. His son added that his father was completely dry when he came back, even though it had rained for two days. After the experience, the man had lived in a wild, confused state and stuttering in terror of "them" coming back for him.

No UFO was reported but the event took place during a great wave of UFO reports nationally.

## 1933: A Precedent?

An even more ancient case was found in "La Nazione" newspaper of 2nd March, 1933. A peasant in Favorino (province of Reggio Calabria) was seized from his home by a "man" who dragged him out of his home for about 30 metres, slapped him, and after that he found himself on the top of a tall tree, where the being was holding him by his hair. He crossed himself and the entity disappeared, leaving him unable to speak. He could only tell his story by gestures when the neighbours finally found him and helped to get him down.

## 1978-79: The Year of the Humanoids

Several CE-III's took place in Italy during the 1978-79 wave, and two of them were typical abductions. The well-known Zanfretta case (to be detailed in UT14) and a lesser known event in Lusiana (province of Vicenza).

On 18th January 1979, at 23.30, a 42 years old wood-cutter had his car stopped, with its lights turning off and the car doors opening by themselves. An "orange ball" was sitting on the road in front of him, and two copper-coloured humanoids, 1 metre tall, came down from a door.

The man could not flee while the beings came closer. They were wearing a metallic-looking, scaled coverall, their hands were long and ending with pointed nails. Their ears were like twisted wires, which were vibrating and humming.

The beings invited him on board by gestures and he followed them inside a

small room (two square metres) with electronic-looking gadgets and a screen. The beings began undressing him but he resisted, very frightened. Then the wall opened and an overall appeared, which he feared they wanted him to wear, so he sat down and implored them to let him go. At this point, one of the beings gave him a small box on which he had written something. A door opened and he got off. Suddenly the orange light disappeared and the night was dark again, except for his car lights, which he found on again.

### Some Possible Abductions

A few potential or hidden abduction cases have also been collected.

A UFO-related missing time was reported but no on-board memory.

#### **\* 23rd February 1978, 23.45 p.m., Sesto Fiorentino (Firenze)**

An engaged couple in a car noticed interferences on their radio. The man got out of the car and found himself enveloped in a "warm, violet light". He saw "four shapes" and lights all around. After completing his walk around the car he got back inside, where he found his girlfriend crying for he had left her alone for 20 minutes.

#### **\* 21st September 1978, 20.00 p.m., Cosenza**

A young man walking near a yard saw all the area illuminated as by daylight and could no longer see the surrounding blocks. Upon a hill he saw an ovoid object resting on the ground and a human shape with two antennae. Frightened, he ran away but fell while four humanoid beings came closer by jumps. He fainted and when he recovered he was surrounded by four 1.5 metres tall entities, wearing buttoned jackets, a rucksack and helmets with antennae. Their hands were pincers. He fainted again and he woke up at 20.30 p.m., but all had disappeared

#### **\* 8th December 1978, 20.00 p.m., Milanere (Torino)**

Two young men walking along a mountain

slope sighted a blue-white light among the trees. One of them got closer and disappeared. A few minutes later the light took off into the sky. The other man went to call for help from friends and a group of people came to search for the missing colleague. Finally finding him in a different location. He was unconscious, cold, felt weak and could not bear any light. Both witnesses suffered from conjunctivitis for several days. The disappearing witness found a strange scar on his leg and only remembered he was approaching a pear-shaped light when he saw 3 or 4 human shapes with pumpkin-like heads, silhouetted against the light. He could not move and then he only remembered odd lights and sounds and a feeling of being touched and raised. He refused to be hypnotized.

### A Singular Case

Only one known abduction was obtained entirely under hypnosis. It involved a 16 years old UFO buff who found and photographed strange cases on the the ground near Lago d'Idro (Brescia) on 27th July, 1973. Four years later he was hypnotized and under hypnosis he told he had been approached and touched by a "human shape" who had made him lose his senses. When he woke up he was being sucked up into an air-borne "object" through an opening underneath and a "vertical tunnel".

He had found himself in a round room where four "persons" were standing. Then a woman came in and the entities began moving around and talking and touching him on his forefront and his sides. He was nearly paralysed and could only move his eyes. He was then taken to another room and he was made to sit on a chair, where he could see the outside while the UFO landed where he was before.

He descended and looked at the craft taking off, then picked up his camera and photographed the traces. The psychologist who conducted the hypnosis thinks it was a fantastic dream responding to specific needs of the youngster (as a far more complete analysis showed: the case was quoted by the doctor in medical literature).

## CONCLUSIONS

We can summarize the abduction situation in Italy as follows:

- 1) The abduction phenomenon in Italy is very rare;
- 2) No great attention has ever been paid by the media: only Zanfretta received national coverage;
- 3) Very few detailed investigations were conducted and no case was fully researched;
- 4) Hypnotic regression has been very rare and in some cases (e.g. Zanfretta) has apparently gone out of control;
- 5) Typical abduction features from other countries are also reported in Italy (in particular: the sequence of events).

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## **BUFORA to open Staffed HQ**

Final plans are currently being drawn up to to action one of BUFORA's long term aims - years ahead of schedule.

To streamline and centralise BUFORA's administration and enhance its investigation and research efforts, BUFORA set a major goal to organise a central office with permanent weekday staff. This goal is imminently within reach of becoming reality as an offer of office space has been made to the Association.

### Fulltime staff

The office will be located alongside John Spencer's business premises (a suite of offices situated in Harpenden, Hertfordshire). This new development has now prompted BUFORA to embark on employment of full time staff to deal with the growing plethora of

administrative duties which invariably follows in the wake of a flourishing organisation.

### Benefits

The benefits of such a move will be endless. Members will be the first to feel the improvement: enjoying a very prompt response to enquires either by post or telephone. Those who are new to the Association and require more information will receive details by return of post. Media enquiries will also be managed in a more professional manner - supporting the press officer.

Research and investigation activities will be aided by the placing of the volumes of case files at the permanent Harpenden address plus the added and vital bonus of correct case filing and administration. The Publishing Department will also be using the office address as a central point of contact for all enquiries.

### Cost Effective

Despite the increased overheads, BUFORA Council believe this will be self financing. With increased efficiency and deployment of marketing strategies to increase publicity and profit centres such as UFOCALL and publishing, the growth of the membership base will meet the added costs. An increase in membership subscriptions is **not** planned for the renewal date this September.

It is clear however, that this development would not have been possible without the careful management of the Association over the past few years. Every new innovation or enhancement has built the foundation for BUFORA to make such a move.

BUFORA Ltd cannot simply be called a UFO group anymore. But its core aims and objectives have not changed. The Association will continue to encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research UFO phenomena and continue to offer its members unequalled benefits.

Final details have not been completed as yet. More information about this revolutionary move will appear in the next issue of UFO Times.

# A Farmer's Tale

Lazlo Kiss

The normality of a small village in Eastern Hungary called Hencida was suddenly interrupted in 1989 by some very strange events.

## Fire

In the evening of 17th November 1989, Sandor Gyorke, a 45-year-old tractor driver, was working on soil cultivation. At about 6.30 pm he arrived at the fields where he was to work when he noticed a 'fire' burning between the forest of the farmer's cooperative and that of the forestry, a half Km from him, at the corner of Miklosi-erdo.

He set the controls of his tractor and began his work as usual, still watching the fire. This took approximately a quarter of an hour, after which the fire was still burning, although there was an absence of smoke. He took little further notice of this and began to work in the field again.

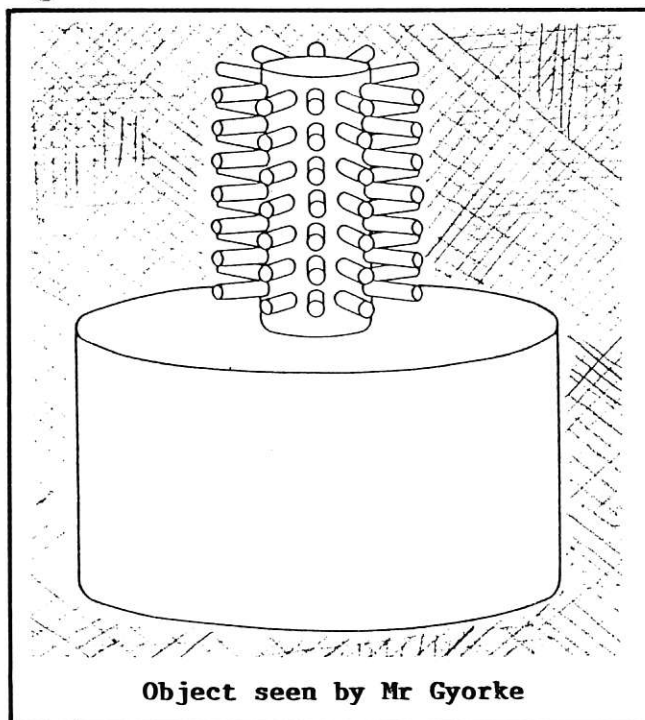
After his first trip around the field he observed a red light which descended and encircled his tractor. This light could be seen to come from only half way up the tractor from ground level. This strange light extended some 60 metres from the tractor. All the instruments of the tractor worked fine. He stopped the engine and could not hear any other noise, so he stepped out of the tractor and walked around it. He could see nothing apart from this red light. Upon entering the light his skin began to 'crawl' and upon leaving the light this sensation left also.

## Realisation

He remained near the tractor for some 4 - 5 minutes before returning to the driving compartment. It was at this point that he suddenly had a feeling that something terrible had happened. He

became extremely frightened and didn't know what to do. He became even more frightened when the light began to move up-and-down. after a few moments of this he decided that he had had enough and re-started the tractor's engine. Moving away he noticed that the light remained above [him] and after regaining his composure he continued with his work in the field.

Mr. Gyorke made four or five trips around the field with the light in constant attention. It seemed that he could not shake off this light and he actually feared for his life. After considering the situation he decided to look for two of his colleagues who should have been working nearby. He drove the tractor to a nearby river after which he lost sight of the strange light.

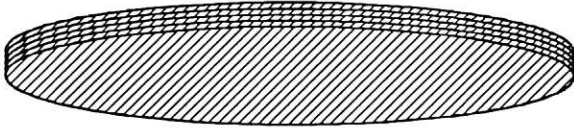


Many thanks to Mr. Lazlo Kiss of the Hungarian UFO Network for the above report. Mr Kiss can be contacted at: HUFON, 4002 Debrecen Pf: 160, Hungary.



# A Ufologist's View of the Crop Circles Phenomena

Ken Phillips



Over the last decade a most mysterious manifestation has been occurring in the crop fields of Britain, the nature of which has taken the form of various geometric patterns, mostly rings and discs, being formed by the layering of the prevailing crop.

The crops affected in this way are not damaged in the form of broken stalks or crushed ears of the barley and corn etc. but are laid over to form patterns with distinct outlines as described by the many newspaper reports. This fact means that whatever agent is causing the patterns, it is not caused by the landing of a heavier-than-air object. And in any case, no one has seen the causal agent, only its results.

If the patterns are not caused by objects landing in the affected fields then we are left with a number of alternative, natural agents, none of which adequately explain all of the characteristics described. These 'explanations are:-

1] the patterns are caused by stationary whirlwinds in the lee of hills and escarpments as demonstrated in the book, 'Crop Circles - Mystery Solved?', by Jenny Randles and Paul Fuller - [Robert Hale] - a hypothesis which might help to explain why there are so few crop circles discovered in, say, Essex, where there are few such impediments to air flow - if this is the case, then what is the mechanism which causes the patterns to develop in an ever more complex way, from single circles, through to doubles, triples, quadruples, quintuples and now to a whole string of patterns in which can be found non-circular and even linear formations?

2] the patterns are formed from the down-wash of air of helicopters - unfortunately for this hypothesis though, down-wash causes radial and irregular damage and not circular and, sometimes, contra-wise rotation.

3] the patterns are a function of the type of genetically engineered crops planted in modern-day Britain and which are, perhaps, subjected to some type of fungal attack, torque forces caused by stationary whirlwinds or animal activity etc. - again, this hypothesis is weak because of the progressive nature of the geometric configurations found in the crops as each year goes by - to date, no biologist has discovered a cause as to why the crop is failing in the geometric way described.



4] the circles are a gigantic, communal hoax designed by persons unknown for reasons unknown - no doubt some circles are the result of fabrication but to maintain such a vast and intricate communal effort without being discovered [perhaps resulting in legal prosecution for criminal damage and trespass] leaves us bereft of an explanation here.

5] the circles are formed by highly charged, rotating columns of air - the Meaden Vortex - descending suddenly in a way which causes symmetrical patterns to form in torque-prone crops when the base of the vortex makes contact with the ground. This testable hypothesis is not so outrageous as it seems because symmetry is common in nature, for example, Giants Causeway in Ireland, honeycombs and snowflakes etc. Nevertheless, the ever-increasing

complexity of the patterns is a worrying factor and must not be overlooked when future research is carried out.

6] the patterns are being created by magnetic(?) force fields as witnessed by the peculiar microphonic effects experience by the 'Daytime Live' film crew when they interviewed Colin Andrews and Pat Delgado in situ to a corn circle - to date no instrumentation has detected any magnetic anomaly in situ to a crop circle, but even if such a discovery was made, how can a magnetic force affect non-ferrous materials such as corn stalks?

### Genesis

From a personal point of view, none of these hypotheses exactly fit this highly dynamic and evolving phenomenon but there are amazing parallels with the genesis of previous phenomena which have occurred over the years; one being the genesis and development of the UFO phenomenon. For example, the social response to the two phenomena are practically identical, beginning as they did with a sudden, dramatic and media-propagated report. Next, comes an ever more bewildering development of manifestation which causes the establishment of both authoritative and private groups to find an explanation. This is then followed by a spiritual involvement, mostly by persons who are of a sensitive nature and/or are prone to what is generally called ESP; this latter group will eventually give rise to a new and irrational religious belief [i.e. 'New Age' - Man/planet in crisis etc.]. Finally, there comes the ultimate in the 'human condition': destructive and rigid belief systems based according to the particular side of the social 'fence' one happens to be standing at the time.

So what does all this mean? Well, from my own world view of events, the crop circles form a continuing part of an educational process by agents unknown - let us call this unknown agent, 'Unidentified Consciousness [UC] - in which we are constantly presented with a new set of conditions designed to make us think. From the Fox sisters in nineteenth century America [the origins

of 'spiritualism'], through to the 'ghost airships' at the turn of the century and the genesis of the UFOs in the 1940s, right up to the crop circles of the last decade, the circumstances are the same: the presentation of unique, yet ambiguous, manifestation of new phenomena, seemingly designed to make us think about ourselves and the world about us.

What is really shocking about the notion of UC is that it is the guiding force behind all the phenomena which has been recorded throughout the millennia, but from a contemporary viewpoint, UC is the common denominator running through all the seemingly disparate phenomena such as, 'Earthlights, UFOs, ghosts, anomalous creatures and crop circles etc.

### ESP Prone

This seemingly preposterous explanation of one unknown by another is the only explanation which fits all the circumstances behind all disparate phenomena because UC is working mainly through ESP-prone personalities. In other words the missing factor which explains all the absurdities and ambiguities which has frustrated researchers for many years is, of course, the human factor. This declaration does not mean that physical anomalies do not occur within our space-time but that UC outlines the special relationship between what is going on 'out there' and what is going on within the 'inner' reality of the witness.

NOTICE

## HAD A CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

If so, send details of  
your new address to the  
Membership Secretary  
16 Southway, Burgess Hill,  
Sussex, RH15 9ST

# The Shadows of Reality

Anthony North

Have you ever thought of the stupidity of such statements as, "I don't believe in ghosts," or, "I don't believe in UFOs"? What do these statements mean? If you were to say, "I don't believe in God," or, "I don't believe the Moon is made of green cheese," then you have a solid basis from which to work. God, to the Christian, is as portrayed in the Bible, and we know from scientific evaluation and observation that the Moon is not made of green cheese. But we can make no such evaluation of ghosts or UFOs. Therefore, stating your disbelief is invalid. If you said, "I don't believe that UFOs are alien spaceships," then you are on more solid ground, as you have stated disbelief over a clearly described hypothesis. But this is different from saying, "I don't believe in UFOs." In fact, this statement is usually born out of ignorance.

However, if you press the orator of this statement for a more clearly defined explanation, the most common statement is, "they're just hallucinations." And this is interesting.

An hallucination is something perceived which has no basis in reality. To most people such hallucinations involve seeing, hearing or smelling something. But is this explanation too myopic? Anyone who listens to the debates between 'right' and 'left' in the House of Commons will testify to the strength of feeling displayed. However, if you analyse the two ideologies from an unbiased stance, there is a surprisingly even balance of right and left in both. So who is essentially right?

## Remarkable Problem

From a political standpoint, such a debate could go on forever. But from a philosophical standpoint, one answer could be that they are both right, depending on the personal outlook of the assessor. But by accepting such a view, we are left with a remarkable problem. If both views are correct, how can we speak of 'reality' being exact to all? Quite simply, we can't. Reality becomes dependent upon the prejudices of the individual. One could say that reality, like time, is relative to the observer.

Meaning that our own beliefs and prejudices become answerable to the description of hallucination.

## Hallucinatory Reality

A logical continuation of this approach would be to say that the mind of Man directly affects the world in which he lives. Indeed, there is evidence with sight and hearing that what we perceive in our mind is dependent upon personal emotional stimulus. This is not far removed from an acceptance that reality shifts for each individual outlook.

This view is fascinating in that an 'observer effect' - where mind of Man directly affects his environment - is suggested in the paranormal, AND in particle physics. And what is even more fascinating is that particle physics has shown that the 'physical', when broken down to its atomic components, becomes nothing more than stable energy patterns. At a fundamental level, the 'physical' does not exist. This makes reality an hallucination in itself.

I suppose at this point we should ask ourselves, what is mind? Certainly it is not physical. Let's assume that 'mind' is an energy. If we do so, is it conceivable for 'mind' energy to affect other energies, such as those that create the 'physical'?

There is a strange fact concerning illness. Many illnesses have a psychological twin. Hysterical blindness. Hysterical paralysis. Heart complaints can be brought on by physical and emotional stress. Those readers conversant with the new ailment, M.E., will know that it is undecided whether it is a physical or psychological disorder. In some cases, an actual virus is diagnosed, yet the best treatment seems to be transcendental meditation.

'physical'. Solids don't exist. We have only energy. Perhaps we can affect this energy in two ways. At the species level, and at the personal level. At the species level we contract 'physical' paralysis. At the personal level, hysterical.

Do you believe in UFOs? I suppose it depends on how you make YOUR 'mind' energies work. I suppose it depends on whether YOU can make one materialise. But if you do, it's only an hallucination.

Is it time to view reality in a different way? Take away the word,

But so is everything else.

# Investigations DIARY

The Regular UFO report update of cases investigated by the NIC and local groups from around the British Isles

Edited by Jenny Randles

A more comprehensive Investigations Diary will appear in the next issue of UFO Times.

**89-019 Drumcondra, Eire 8 Aug. 1989 Inv: Pat Delaney/Ann Griffin**

Silver cigar seen by youngster playing cricket on sunny day. It drifted across the sky but other witnesses did not cooperate.

**89-020 Monks Kirby, Leics. 17 Sept. 1989 Inv: David Taylor/C. Potter**

After a psychic quest finding daggers (shades of the 'Green Stone') several paranormal investigators (including Clive Potter) saw a brief ball lightning-like glow on the road ahead of car as they travelled home. Odd.

**89-021 St. Albans, Herts. 6 Oct. 1989 Inv: Michael Lewis**

Red ellipse seen by witnesses to make a double loop-de-loop motion in the sky. Investigator baffled. Visible seconds only and so could be meteor plus some sort of illusion effect.

**89-022 Earl Shilton, Leics. 6 Oct. 1989 Inv: Reg Burton**

Man woke at 04.20 and saw circle of lights through window drift across sky. Conventional aircraft activity suspected but none successfully traced.

**89-023 Chelmsford, Essex 22 Oct. 1989 Inv: Ken Phillips**

Cases passed to us direct by Essex Police, involving their own officers and members of public who around 02.10 saw lights silently moving across the sky. In the morning an AIRCRAFT (yes!) was found abandoned on a road in the area and it turned out this was stolen, taken for a joyride and dumped. Police now believe this explains the sightings. A new IFO to be on the lookout for!

**89-024 Fulham, London 14 Dec. 1989 Inv: Michael Lewis**

Sweeping arc lights painting clouds in the distance. Investigator thinks these were aircraft lights but could well be laser lights as well given subsequent reports which



proved to be this and which look very similar.

**89-025 High Wycombe, Bucks. 22 Dec. 1989 Inv: Nadia Mullen**

White disc of light seen to drift across sky by lecturer on aviation history. He is convinced this was no aircraft, but from details unsure why.

**90-001 Wibtoft, Leics. 7 Feb. 1990 Inv: Reg Burton**

A triangle of lights (classic 'Silent Vulcan' as seen in Belgium and in many UK reports of late) seen from car by two witnesses as it drifted, hovered and silently flew away.

**90-002 Cockfield, Suffolk 2 March 1990 Inv: Roger Curtis**

Family saw triangle of yellowish lights low on the horizon. Visible some time then split and descended behind trees. Military air activity suspected.

**90-003 Llanfair T-H, Clwyd 27 April 1990 Inv: Margaret Fry**

Woman land owner found series of rings in her fields which persisted over summer. Connected with crop circles and UFOs by media, but several experts visiting them are convinced they were caused by fungal growth.

**90-004 Preston Brook, Cheshire 3 Aug. 1990 Inv: Jenny Randles**

Classic crop circle at site beside M 56 motorway. A strange wailing noise heard during night of formation and several lights seen in area. Extensive local tradition of both car stops and UFO close encounters discovered.

**90-005 Collampton, Devon 8 Aug. 1990 Inv: Doug Cooper**

A formation of circles and a crop triangle studied in detail.

**90-006 Weedon, Northants. 27 Sept. 1990 Inv: Ernie Still**

Abductee Elsie Oakensen saw a strange shape-changing yellow mass in sky which appears to have been the moon distorted through cloud and haze.

**90-007 Barnet, Herts. 11 Jan. 1990 No follow through**

Perfect description of the laser lights (this time from Wembley concert).

**90-008 Mitcham, Surrey 15 Jan. 1990 Inv: Ken Phillips**

Black oval appeared briefly and vanished. Seen by teenager. Little follow-up.

**90-009 Barnet, Herts. 31 Jan. 1990 Inv: Michael Lewis**

Yet more circling lights on cloud that are clearly laser displays.

**90-010 Kensington, London 6 Feb. 1990 Inv: Ken Phillips**

White light drifted across sky. Almost certainly an aircraft.

**90-011 Winsford, Cheshire 25 Aug. 1990 Inv: Jenny Randles**

Woman and husband saw silvery oval drifting with wind from place where fate had been held. Media claimed it was a spaceship looking for cornfield to land in but little doubt it was really caused by a toy balloon from the fete.



**6th INTERNATIONAL UFO CONGRESS  
16, 17 & 18 AUGUST, 1991  
CENTRAL LIBRARY THEATRE  
SHEFFIELD, SOUTH YORKSHIRE**

**Its on its way - probably the largest conference ever to grace the shores of Britain.**

Tickets are selling fast for this ufological extravaganza jointly sponsored by the International Committee for UFO Research (ICUR), the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA), the Independent UFO Network (IUN) and the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON).

The 6th International UFO Congress, entitled, 'UFOs: THE GLOBAL VIEW', will literally see a host of speakers from around the world present a variety of topical, but relevant papers.

**Congress Prices**

One of the advantages of staging the congress in Sheffield is that we can radically reduce ticket prices. The entrance fee has therefore been set at £6 per day, or £15 for all three days. An additional charge of £2 is required to watch the rock band

CEIV and the congress dinner (limited numbers only) is £9-75.

Special reduced room rates have been negotiated with local hotels in Sheffield, exclusively for congress delegates.

A congress booking is included with this magazine. Further information and booking forms are also available only from:

**Andy Roberts,  
84 Elland Road, Brighouse,  
West Yorkshire,  
HD6-2QR,**

Please make all cheques, postal orders and international money orders payable to BUFORA Ltd. Tickets are selling fast, so to avoid disappointment, order yours now.

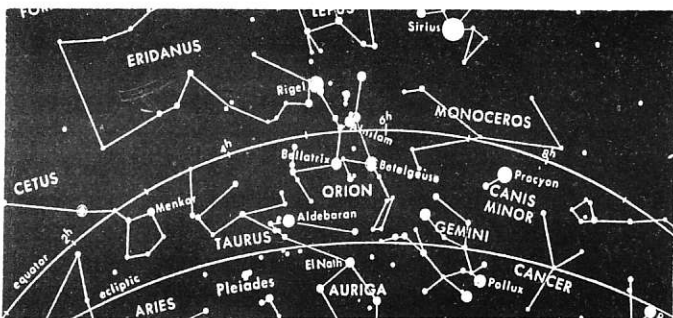
Congress T-shirts and ties priced £6.50 & £6.25 respectively are available from Philip Mantle, 1 Woodhall Drive, Batley, W.Yorks, WF17 7SW.

Full congress details will regularly appear in UFO TIMES and on UFO-CALL 0898 12 18 86 (45p peak 34p standard).

The following speakers have already confirmed, however the congress organisers will be inviting several more well known ufologists to present papers.

Dr. Thomas E. Bullard	U S A
Betty Cash & Vickie Landrum	U S A
Judith Magee	Australia
Catherine Howard	U S A
Paul Norman	Australia
Enrique Vicenti	Spain
Charles Hickson	U S A
John Spencer	U K
Bertil Kuhlemann	Sweden
Budd Hopkins	U S A
Bertrand Meheust	France
Jenny Randles	U K
Odd - Gunnar Roed	Norway
Walt Andrus	U S A
Cynthia Hind	Zimbabwe
Steven Gamble	U K

All speakers subject to change.



# Skywatcher

Edited by Gary Anthony

## Introduction

Summer is here with its ever increasing number of artificial, man-made satellites to be spied traversing the night sky. Watch out for a close planetary configuration of three bright planets in mid-June in the Constellation of Cancer. In Space News, Meteosat MOP 2 - a new provider of weather images at the forefront of weather sensing technology.

## The Planets

**VENUS** - May. Still an evening star, setting more than three hours after the sun. At magnitude -4.2; will move through Gemini towards Mars and Jupiter.

Moon Nearby on the 16th/17th.

June - On the 13th, Venus reaches its greatest eastern elongation ( $45^\circ$ ), hereafter closing on sunset, setting 2 hours after the sun by the 30th. By the 17th, Venus has caught-up to Jupiter and Mars on the 23rd; all three planets in close configuration near the Praesepe star cluster in Cancer on these dates. At magnitude -4.4 Venus outshines both Jupiter and Mars. Crescent moon to the south of these planets on the 15th.

**MARS** - May. Is close to the Praesepe star cluster in Cancer by the 31st; at magnitude 1.6. Moon near on the 16th.

June - Mars passes Jupiter while being caught-up by Venus. Will fade to magnitude 1.8 by the end of June. The red planet is very close to Jupiter on the 14th.

**JUPITER** - May. At magnitude -2.0 in Cancer; setting before midnight by the 31st. Moon nearby on the 18th/19th.

June - At magnitude -1.8, sets by 22h late in the month.

**SATURN** - May. On the 17th is stationary, hereafter moving slowly west amongst the stars around the Sagittarius and Capricorn Border. Rising at midnight by the 31st. Moon nearby on the 6th.

June. At magnitude 0.4, low in the south-eastern sky. Moon nearby on the 2nd and on the 29th.

## skydata

M A Y				1 9 9 1				J U N E			
7th	01 h			Last Quarter		5th	15 h				
14th	05 h			New Moon		12th	12 h				
20th	20 h			First Quarter		19th	04 h				
28th	12 h			Full Moon		27th	03 h				
RA		Dec				RA		Dec			
-----East-----				Venus		-----East-----					
08h > 09h	+10°	> +30°		Mars		08h > 09h	+10°	> +30°			
08h > 09h	+10°	> +30°		Jupiter		08h > 09h	+10°	> +30°			
19h > 21h	-10°	> -30°		Saturn		19h > 21h	-10°	> -30°			
<b>Meteor Showers</b>											
Name	Begins	Maximum	Ends	Max ZHR	Radiant	Coordinates					
Eta Aquarids	Apr 21	May 4	May 12	20	336° RA	00° Dec					
Ophiuchids	Jun 19	Jun 20	Jun 26	20	260° RA	-20° Dec					

Note: All co-ordinates refer to the 'equatorial system'.

# SPACE NEWS

## Satellite Summer School for Euro Students

The EUROAVIA Design Workshop was successfully organised in April. This educational project gave 20 aerospace students from all over western Europe, a chance to learn in a summer school environment how a satellite is designed and built. EUROAVIA is supported by ESA/ESTEC and was initially founded in 1959: it now encompasses some 1000 members in 9 European countries and has as its main aim to promote and develop European co-operation in the aerospace.

## New Weather Satellite Successfully Launched

On the evening of Saturday, 2nd March, Meteosat MOP-2 was successfully launched on Ariane V42 and subsequently placed in an elliptic transfer orbit. Monday, 4th March at 13h 34m & 13sec UT, the apogee boost motor (ABM) was fired which brought the spacecraft into geostationary orbit. The motor was ejected shortly after burn-out at 13h 39m UT. The spacecraft was allowed to drift into its intended position at zero degrees for replacement of Meteosat-4, becoming an in-orbit back-up spacecraft.

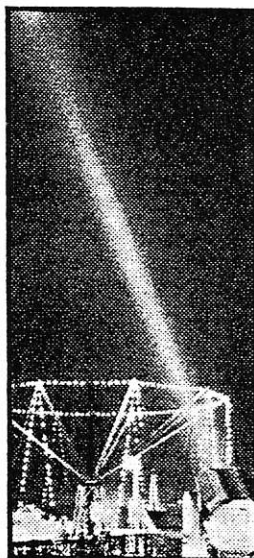
The Meteosat series of satellites have provided all our weather images for the past decade.

MOP-2 went into service at the beginning of May and is the second satellite in the Meteosat operational programme. It was procured and will be operated by the ESA, on behalf of the European weather satellite organisation EUMETSAT.

All information courtesy of ESA and NASA.

If any investigator requires astronomical information to help with the evaluation of case investigations please write (enclosing an sae) to:

**Gary Anthony, BUFORA ARP, 119 Askew Avenue, Hull, North Humberside, HU4 6LT**



**New  
Searchlight  
UFO Wave  
On Horizon?**

## **Report by Mike Wootten**

With searchlights being the current bane of ufologists - generating many UFO reports across the country, the news that a new more powerful type capable of reaching heights of 5000 feet is currently being trialed for the Meteorological Office will not be welcomed amongst investigators.

Francis Searchlights - a company based in Bolton has developed a new range of equipment designed to aid the measurement of cloud height. It is hoped that this new searchlight will replace more expensive laser technology which is used at present.

If the trials are successful, the Met Office will station 30 or more of the compact, lightweight lights around the country. And as the searchlights are easy to use and relatively inexpensive, more are likely to find favour with small airports.

Added to the current craze for powerful searchlights at festivals and pop concerts this added dimension will certainly increase the number of UFO reports that BUFORA and other investigation groups will receive from the public.

However, as this type of report is popular, most will be no trouble to identify. Others though will not be evaluated easily, especially when the observation is affected by unusual weather conditions.



# LETTERS

## On the Data Trail

Dear Editor,

I have been currently experimenting with a fully-working version of BUFORA's UFO database (based on MINI OFFICE PROFESSIONAL - DBASE MODULE software) on the PCW 8512. The prototype contains 36 West-Country UFO reports. It uses a slightly amended version of BUFORA's original database system (the basic shell of which can be transferred to any software, for any computer with ease, and still functions in an almost identical way).

The system can store 1500+ records on a drive "B" format (PCW 8512-9512), and 384 on a drive "A" format (PCW 8526). At near maximum capacity the database would be a little slow - but an improvement on manual data processing. Average space required would be, of course, much less than this - With a maximum of 800 reports for a given year for the 1970's (currently running at much less than this).

### Search Options

The system is simple to use. It can search on more than one field (successfully completing a 4 field search). Search options involve equal, less than, equal or less than, equal or more than, or "fuzzy" (looking for a given word within a list of words) options- with numbers, letters or combined numbers and letters. It can discern between upper and lower case letters. The data can be "sorted" in various ways - using a combination of fields. This permits reports to be organised into date & time order - if Date was the first field entered, all reports would be listed in date order, each report occurring on a given time, on the same day, being placed in the correct sequence! A field can contain a maximum of 72 characters (the greatest

number in BUFORA's database being 52!) Data types permitted are number (allowing calculations), Alpha-numeric (mixed numbers, letters and some symbols like hyphens) and US or U.K. date. The data required for the database is mostly identical to that contained on the R1 form - however, some guidance may be required to correctly fill in the TYPE field by people not familiar with it.

Two kinds of print-out is possible. The first is a no frills print-out, the second a more stylish option - permitting field names to be published in Data-70, Italics, Outline or Normal. The system can print all records, or just selected ones.

With computers there is the question of 'future-proofness'. Although the PCW 8000/9000 uses 3" discs (the standard being 3.5" or 5.25"), this will not be a major drawback. An independent disc drive using the more common sizes can be retro-fitted onto the PCW. So, when the original drives wear out and if the machine or 3" discs are no longer made, the system could switch to more common discware and remain operational! The main reason to favour these machines is that many active BUFORA members possess one (commonly a PCW 8256). The PCW series COULD be used very effectively as a workbench for the computer project. The bane of projects initiated by BUFORA is that the work is left to too few people - hence they tend to have quite short lives!

### Proposal

I propose that a database network be set up, to spread the burden of this work evenly. I suggest that Britain should be divided into regions (S.W., Yorkshire, Home Counties, etc.). A willing member possessing a PCW, and a copy of the Mini-Office software system, should be nominated to codify UFO sightings occurring within his region. He would get a "shell" of the BUFORA database system loaded onto an "A" disc, upon which he would record sightings as they are evaluated. Reports for various times of the year would be submitted to a central location as follows;

REPORTS FOR JAN-MAR, YEAR 1 - ON JUN,  
YEAR 1.

REPORTS FOR APR-JUN, YEAR 1 - ON DEC,  
YEAR 1.  
REPORTS FOR JUL-SEP, YEAR 1 - ON DEC,  
YEAR 1.  
REPORTS FOR OCT-DEC, YEAR 1 - ON MAR,  
YEAR 2.

These time lapses allow for investigation and computer-processing to be conducted at a relaxed pace. The discs holding information would then be rendered into ASCII format (permitted by MINI OFFICE system), and downloaded onto a central base for national statistics, and added to a localised collection for regional statistics. PCW 8256 format discs are up to the job of this (although being low capacity in comparison with other disc formats). In an exceptional year, we would get 1000 reports (83 per month) nationally - on a regional basis it would be a lot less - (about 5-20 per month). Using national totals, this would take up 17K per month on a disc (DBASE), or 52K for a three month period. (Local totals 5-20K respectfully). One side of an 8256 disc holds 180 K - quite sufficient to hold a season (3 months) of reports.

The value of a UFO DBase has been questioned by at least one leading Ufologist - who thinks the time would be "better spent" on organising the case files! However, both aims could go hand-in-hand! To discover what cases the association possesses, there has to be a constantly updated, widely available list of submitted reports. Computers, being adept at processing large quantities of data, seem a good workbench to base such a programme.

The most important use of a database - often neglected by Ufologists - is the ability of some systems to print out a selected number of fields (such as Ref no, Date, Time, Location, report type & cause). This allows for condensed lists of sightings to be printed out - IN OTHER WORDS ONE COULD PRODUCE A SIGHTING CATALOGUE WITHIN MINUTES FROM AN ESTABLISHED DATABASE. The Mini Office system permits this option. In my prototype system, up to 21 abstracts can be printed per A4 page. People would then know what sightings occurred where, when, its basic attributes and whether explained - or not (also listing cause, if an IFO report).

More importantly, this list would give the event's reference number. The fact that ref. number of cases are not common knowledge to people outside BUFORA greatly hinders the location of sightings in BUFORA's records. The ref. numbers work well in the prototype. A relevant sighting is found on condensed list, along with number. This is then to be typed into computer, allowing full listing to be displayed.

I feel this work would be of great value to BUFORA, and to Ufology in general. Any support, or suggestions, you can give in improving the set-up, and making it a system functioning on a nationwide level would be appreciated.

**R Moore**  
**Somerset**

**Editor's Comment:** You have obviously put a lot of time and energy into evolving the BUFORA database. But to cover all your points in one fail swoop - we've been there, done it and got the T-shirt!.

Seriously though, BUFORA is currently using Dbase II which is more powerful than Mini Office and can cope with and store more data per disc than Mini Office. We can also boast that the system is currently running not only on PCW 8000/9000 systems but also on PC standard equipment - in tandem, making the data universally available on any computer standard.

In the future it is hoped that the data will be on line via modems links, enhancing the availability of such information (but carefully managed under the Data Protection Act).

#### Blinded by Science

Dear Editor,

Am I alone in choking on a diet of vortices endlessly rammed down my gullet? And which of several discredited theories is Holy Writ? It also seems a pity that they apparently do not stand up to discussion before a BUFORA audience. At any rate, their chief proponent is unwilling to do so

for fear of contradiction.

"Natural" explanations of anomalies are always very attractive, at least superficially. Guy Lambert attempted to relegate the Poltergeist by postulating disturbances caused by underground water. Unfortunately it could be shown that underground water could not do what it was supposed to effect. We should do well to keep this in mind, as it may be highly relevant to this discussion.

### Proper Perspective

With literally hundreds of sightings the phenomenon of the circles can hardly be dismissed as a media hype. Let's put it in its proper perspective: although not new, it is basically a 1980 plus phenomenon of the West Country. I paid many protracted visits to Wiltshire in previous decades when I was closely associated with the Paraphysical Laboratory at Downton (Hon. Research Officer, etc.). It is close to Pepper Box Hill, one of several sites I am familiar with that have all the right conditions (or so we are now told) for the formation of crop circles, but I never heard of a single one! I depreciate the disingenuous objection that farmers didn't report them, which is a gratuitous Northern slur on local researchers such as the Wessex Group with which we were in constant touch.

It is also falsely alleged by the Vortex Pressure Group that there have been no changes in the morphology, in spite of the fact that the latest configurations are completely different, and even include rectangular elements! The a priori argument that any departure from the familiar arrangement is a proof of fraud is rather too convenient for my liking. By and large, I tend to be more suspicious of writers who are long on speculation, but short on proven fact.

**Manfred Cassirer**  
London

**Editor's Comment:** Thanks for the speculation Manfred, but where's your 'proven facts' that the circles are not caused by natural phenomena?

**Dear Editor,**

The Church of England is lucky: it only has the Bishop of Durham to contend with, whereas European ufology now has a whole host of atheists in its midst; many of them leading researchers. Of course this leading analogy doesn't really hold true because Christianity demands faith from its flock and ufology only requires a passionate agnosticism. But I wonder if in their longing to impress the scientific establishment with their rational stance some of our ufologists are not discretely much of the more controversial evidence under the carpet. Science is made by scientists. Scientists are only fallible human beings like the rest of us.

If the price to be paid for gaining their approval is to be the betrayal of dispassionate research then surely it is better to remain out in the cold. Researchers such as Paul Devereux and Andy Roberts are certainly doing work that is important, but the fact that EARTHLIGHTS are the cause of many UFO reports or that most crash-retrieval stories evaporate when scrutinised closely does not justify anyone in declaring ufology is dead. Twenty years ago the USAF spent half-a-million dollars to tell us that and here we all are with the reports still coming in, so I for one will continue to be a passionate and frustrated agnostic out in the cold.

**Michael Buhler.**  
London

**Editor's comment:** No, ufology is certainly not dead; There are many questions that still remain unanswered. However, to have any chance of unravelling these mysteries (and I believe that they can be unravelled), ufology desperately needs professional resources - resources that the scientific community has at its disposal. Therefore, we must be more professional ourselves, cutting out all the red herrings and work on firmer ground, thus shrugging off the status of ufology as a taboo subject amongst the scientific community.

I disagree that ufology is dead, but it still needs a damn good shake-up.



6th International UFO Congress  
16th, 17th & 18th August 1991  
Central Library Theatre  
Sheffield, South Yorkshire

What happened to Betty Cash & Vicky Landrum on a fateful night in December 1980?

Who did Charles Hickson encounter while fishing in Pascagoula in 1973?

Find out the truth behind these and many other fascinating cases along with the very latest worldwide UFO research at the 6th International UFO Congress - UFOs: The Global View.

If you are interested in UFOs you cannot possibly miss the biggest UFO conference ever to be staged in the UK. See inside for more details and book your seat NOW!

7th Sep

BUFORA London Lecture **Title to be announced**  
Speaker Stan Conway

5th Oct

BUFORA London Lecture **Close Encounters and Coincidence**  
Speaker Norman Oliver

From the start of the new London Lecture Programme the entrance fees will increase to £1.50 for members and £3.00 for non-members. This is due to increased costs of hiring the lecture theatre at the LBS. This is the first time in five years that the admission charge has been increased.

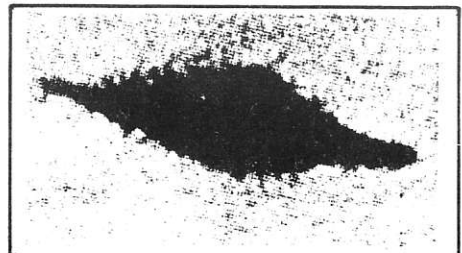
BUFORA London lectures are held every first Saturday of the month at the new lecture theatre complex, London Business School, Sussex Place, Outer Circle, Regents Park, London, NW1. The LBS is only a five minute walk from Baker Street tube. Lectures start at 6.30pm. Entrance £1.00 members, £2.50 non-members. The new theatre has wheelchair access and facilities for the disabled. **All are welcome.** Full lecture programmes are available from BUFORA (LP), 16 Southway, Burgess Hill, Sussex, RH15 9ST.

If you have an event that you wish to publicise on this page **free of charge** then write to the editorial address (page 2) with your request, three months in advance.

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