

BUFORA NEWSFILE

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PAISLEY DAILY EXPRESS

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Marbury Park site of new UFO watch

UFO investigators will stake out Marbury Park this weekend following a series of sightings.

Bob Higgins is a member of a UFO study group and plans to follow up recent reports with a night-time skywatch.

A woman travelling through the park on Monday night claims to have seen an oval shaped craft which flew in just above the ground and flipped over.

The woman, who wishes to remain anonymous, said: "As it approached it was very low and we thought it was going to crash. It had a rotating red light underneath and went down over Marbury Lake."

She estimated the craft to be about the size of an airbus passenger aircraft.

In a separate incident a man driving through the park last month claimed to have seen a cube shaped object hovering over trees near to his car.

Bob, who lives in Northwich, believes the park may be one of the best places within the town to get a result. He said: "It has been very busy lately - it all seems to be happening. I hope to get out into the park this weekend because of these sightings."

UFO enthusiasts disappointed with appeal response

LOCAL UFO enthusiasts are disappointed with the response from members of the public after an appeal was put out in February for information from witnesses of unidentified flying objects.

In the first four months of the year, numerous sightings of bright lights in the skies over Tayside and Fife have been reported.

In February, a spate of encounters flooded in after three Broughty Ferry children saw something out of the ordinary in Orchar Park. Another boy described an object as "like a rugby ball with lights," seen near Broughty Castle the week before.

The appliance of science has helped explain many recent sightings of unidentified flying objects.

Only last week, the sighting of three strange lights over Newport by a man walking down Dundee's Forfar Road was dismissed as probably being a Hercules transport plane from RAF Leuchars.

Astronomical, meteorological and natural phenomenon have also been put forward as explanations.

But according to Bob Stewart, of Cupar, who does research for Stirling-based Strange Phenomenon Investigations (SPI), a lot of questions still remain unanswered.

He has worked with Dundee man Graham

Beedie on collating information from the local area for the British UFO Research Association.

"After the Orchar Park sighting, Graham and I interviewed the children and we are totally convinced they saw something which cannot be explained by scientific means," he said.

"They described a structured craft about 300 feet off the ground, and said a smaller craft emerged from a mother ship.

"We have tried to convince other witnesses to come forward but the response from the public has been quite disappointing."

Bob is currently investigating bizarre sightings of lights seen by puzzled residents of Kirkcaldy in April, and would like to trace the person who took a video of the incidents, as reported at the time.

Bob has just returned from a conference at Leeds University where evidence of a Government cover-up was presented by one of the country's leading UFO researchers.

Bob said, "Many people give statements to the papers about what they have seen but wish to remain anonymous, making it very difficult for us to investigate.

"We want to find out exactly what is going on and the only way we can do this is if people come forward."

Mystery of UFO

MYSTERY surrounds a close encounter in the night-time sky.

Stunned Gill Mellis of Paisley's Kerr Street claims she saw a UFO over Glasgow Airport.

The 31-year old librarian was walking near her home with her West Highland Terrier, Duke, when she saw an intensely bright, cigar-shaped object moving at high speed in a straight line across the sky.

Gill said: "I'm convinced it was a UFO. It just couldn't have been anything else.

"I phoned up Glasgow Airport and they said they'd had lots of calls about it, and that it was a comet.

Disappeared

"But absolutely no way could it have been that, or even a plane. It was so close, and moving so fast."

Amazingly, Gill's sighting of the mysterious object lasted for just moments.

"It was there for about four seconds and then it just disappeared in front of my eyes," she said.

"It didn't go behind anything or move off. It definitely just disappeared.

"It was unmistakable and I was so excited. I just thought 'Wow!'"

Gill said her neighbour also witnessed the object. "He didn't think it was a comet either," she said. "As far as I'm concerned it was a UFO."

Sightings

The object was also seen by William Annan of Todholm Terrace in Paisley.

He said: "I was just amazing. It was like a huge ball of fire going really fast.

"I watched it for about three minutes and then it just faded away."

A spokesman for the Renfrewshire UFO Research Group said there have been a number of UFO sightings at Glasgow Airport in the past.

Glasgow Airport confirmed they had also received calls about the sighting.

Military accused of deliberate hoaxes over UFO sightings

MARTIN HANNAN

EDINBURGH
INTERNATIONAL
science
FESTIVAL

MILITARY authorities are not covering up large-scale contact with extra-terrestrial life, according to a researcher into UFOs.

Instead they are covering up many of their own secret activities, Duncan Lunan, a researcher into unexplained phenomena, told an audience at the Edinburgh International Science Festival.

According to Mr Lunan, many other UFO sightings and "close encounters" are deliberate hoaxes either falsified by the military to discourage investigation of their activities or caused by mischief-makers.

In a lecture which set out to demolish many UFO myths - to the dismay of some of the audience - Mr Lunan demonstrated that UFO sightings could be explained by natural phenomena such as meteorites, or by people encountering military testing of secret hardware.

He also said that his researches had shown that statis-

tics on UFOs - the so-called "5 per cent" claim in which one in 20 UFOs are said to be genuinely unidentified - came about because of an international agreement that any satellite or rocket pieces should be returned immediately to their country of origin.

He explained: "If bits of Russian or a Chinese spy satellite, for instance, fall on Western territory they are immediately classified as UFOs, so that you don't have to hand them back to their country of origin but can hand them over to the intelligence services."

He added: "Hoaxes feature a lot in the equation. Some of those hoaxes are deliberately promoted by the military authorities in order to deflect attention from their activities."

Mr Lunan said he had been told by intelligence officers that the "5 per cent" of UFOs over the UK during the Cold War had included planes bringing in drug smugglers and illegal immigrants in order to confuse the Soviets as to what had really been identified.

He also said such famous UFOs as the original "flying saucer" sighting in 1947 and the Roswell incident in New Mexico could now be explained by the release of information about "flying wing" aircraft and remote-controlled pilotless vehicles (RPVs) which were in development by the US military in those areas at the time.

He added: "It would also explain why so many visitors to US Air Force bases claim to have glimpsed UFOs through hangar doors, which in turn led to suggestions that the US government was in contact with aliens."

The most famous incident in Scotland involving a close encounter - "the only one in the world with a local authority

plaque to mark the spot", said Mr Lunan - was Bob Taylor's report of an encounter with a downed UFO near Livingston in the 1970s.

Mr Lunan said that a journalist who dealt with the local police on the night that it happened and Mr Taylor himself later said the original police report contained details of a caterpillar-track vehicle which attacked Mr Taylor and slashed his trousers, a detail which has been left out of the official report of the incident.

Mr Lunan said that a more plausible explanation was that Mr Taylor had seen a military operation to recover a downed pilotless aircraft using a "wheelbarrow" bomb disposal type now familiar from its use in Northern Ireland.

Mr Lunan added that "atmospheric phenomena" could explain many other UFOs: "With Venus brilliant in the evening sky at the moment it is no coincidence we are experiencing a wave of UFO sightings in Scotland."

A BRIGHT light captured on police TV cameras has sparked a UFO alert.

The unidentified object was spotted on Falkirk's closed circuit television cameras.

The TV spies zoomed in on the Hallglen area after a woman reported a mystery sighting hovering above her home. Now baffled police are examining the video footage of the mystery object.

Superintendent Jim Forbes of Falkirk Police said: "We received a phone call from a resident in Hallglen who was concerned about a bright light in the area. Our officers responded but found nothing."

"However, a couple of hours later our CCTV operators turned their camera towards Hallglen and there was a light on the screen."

Superintendent Forbes added: "We're looking into it right now, but we don't want to speculate on what it might be. We're quite sure there will be a simple explanation for it."

The strange light was spotted in the early hours of last Thursday. The woman who made the call to police, Catherine Penman (40) of 53 Dochart Place, Hallglen, told The Falkirk Herald this week what happened.

She said: "My husband, Scott, was out in the shed and when he came in he said 'I think there's a UFO out there'. At first I didn't believe him, but the more I looked, the more I thought he could be right. It was a really bright light which was down quite low. At first I thought it was a star, but it was 10 times bigger than a star and was really close to the house. I watched it for two hours, then it moved. I contacted the police because it was so unusual."

Like the police, Mrs Penman has no idea what the light could have been, but she is keeping an open mind. She said: "There's no way it could have been a helicopter or a plane because of the length of time it hovered in the air. I've always been intrigued by UFOs and things like that, but it's quite freaky when you see something like that for real."

FALKIRK HERALD

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METRO NEWS (BIRMINGHAM)

02 MAY 96

By Jon Perks
UFO experts in Birmingham are celebrating their first ever 'flying saucer' captured on film.

Marilyn and Rob Aldworth say the video, shot in the Malvern Hills last December.

"We've got to have it analysed, but it's pretty exciting, and it definitely isn't a star," said Marilyn.

"We have had a few other cases out there, but this is the first one on film."

Birmingham UFO Society has also been contacted by another life form - American researcher Linda Moulton-Howe who specialises in animal mutilation.

She is keen to find out more about a farmer in Polesworth who claims to have seen a UFO disturbing his horses last December.

"This farmer kept on experiencing power cuts, ten times in the month, and he saw two objects fly over the fields and disturb the horses," said Marilyn.

"It's quite a coup for us," she added. Bemused Brummies are also keeping the Aldworths busy; two sightings of a red light over Washwood Heath and Balsall

Common were logged last week-end

THREE young X-Files fans are convinced they have seen a UFO!

The youngsters, all pupils at Maiden Erlegh School, claim they saw three different stages of an alien craft over the course of an hour.

Matthew Maitland, 12, Jonathon Sangha, 13, Stuart Lambourn, 12, and Stuart's mum Valerie, were walking home along Rushey Way from The Centrepoint Youth

Club on the evening of March 29, when Stuart suddenly shouted "UFO!"

Matthew said: "We all looked into the sky and saw what looked like a star changing colour. At first we thought it was a comet but then it turned into a big burning fireball, dropped something and faded away."

They thought that was to be their last sighting - but then they saw a "peculiar aircraft

with red and green flashing lights hovering in the sky".

And as they walked down Ilfracombe Way, Lower Earley Matthew and Stuart saw a "big red flashing light in the sky". They kept watch after reaching home and gradually it faded away.

Said Matthew: "What we saw was not a star, comet, meteorite or aeroplane. It can only be described as a UFO."

These X-files are for real

Dark secrets reveal the reality of UFOs

THE REAL life X-files are opened tonight when UFO investigator Jenny Randles examines the evidence that we are being visited by other life forms.

She may not be as glamorous as Agent Scully, but Jenny has devoted the last 20 years of her life to investigating UFO phenomena.

Witnesses

She traces the British government's interest in UFOs over the past 40 years and tries to find out how much the men from the Ministry really know.

Using archive footage from all over the world, she highlights interesting sightings and prompts some of those who have witnessed famous cases to speak for the first time.

"We had radar reports of objects travelling up to 4,000 mph across the North Sea into British air space, as big



By

MARK WOODHOUSE

as battleships," recalled the former head of the MoD unit which monitors UFO reports.

"We made every effort to investigate but we never found out."

A classic case that altered Government policy occurred on the night of August 13, 1956 when two fighter planes were scrambled over East Anglia to intercept a UFO observed

by British and American military sources. Thirty years on, Jenny tracks down the secret file on the case and the crew members involved.

Difficulty

"They sent us to various parts of the sky to look for things which the Americans said were there," said one. "We had much difficulty finding them but eventually we did..."

● Secrets of the Paranormal, BBC 2, 8pm.

● Jenny Randles looks to the skies to shed light on the enduring mystery of UFOs. Tracking down secret files over 30 years old has revealed startling new evidence, revealed tonight

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HEYWOOD, local emergency workers and even a former editor of this publication are featured in what is expected to become an international best-seller.

When southerner Timothy Good wrote 'Above Top Secret' in 1987 it went straight to the top of the best-seller lists and is now recognised as the definitive book in its field.

Now Mr Good has written a follow up called 'Beyond Top Secret' which features items relating to our town.

And the subject matter? UFOs!
The reason for the local interest is

■ Best-selling writer reveals the little green men reports that have come from Heywood

By **MARTIN PURDY**

an incident reported in the Heywood Advertiser in May 1989...

Two town ambulancemen, Stuart Goulding and Walter Gourse, were going to a job in the early hours of a Friday morning when they spotted three objects directly over their station on Hind Hill Street.

They said one object, flanked by two white lights and sending out

flashing colours, "went haywire" when they turned on their ambulance lights. The ambulance station phones went dead and one of the men ran to the nearby police station ... a constable followed the lights for more than a mile.

But air traffic controllers denied a close encounter of the third kind, despite other local folk reporting seeing the mystery object — they said it must have been a star reacting to atmospheric conditions.

Former Advertiser editor, Fitzsimmons is also featured recounting the time he and leagues in Rochdale were investigating reports of a UFO sighting visited by a top member of the Ministry of Defence. They had 'Notice' placed upon them and told not to write anything under the Official Secrets Act.

● The book is due to be released this summer.

Woman tells of her abduction by aliens

by ALAN COCKSEGE

A WOMAN claims she has never been the same since being the victim of an apparent attack by small, smelly aliens on a road near the Suffolk-Essex border.

The British UFO Research Association has described accounts of her experience as convincing.

Now the account of how Ros Reynolds-Parnham was apparently scarred for life in a four-hour encounter with the little grey men is being examined by Jenny Randles, who is helping to present a new BBC2 series, *Secrets of the Paranormal*.

Ros, 35, a show dog breeder from Little Clacton, claims she and her former boyfriend experienced the attack

Story 'totally believable'

Stoke-by-Clare between Haverhill and Sudbury 14 years ago.

She says she is not a weirdo, but believes after she and boyfriend Philip saw a blazing helicopter-size object hovering above them she suffered a nightmare experience from which she has never recovered.

As the craft swept down everything went blank, and the next thing she remembered was being on a Perspex pedestal in a pinky-grey oval room.

There were 3ft 6in tall grey figures all around her. They had large heads, no nose, a slit for a mouth, and had long, spidery hands with four fingers. The little men smelled like rotten eggs.

She believes the aliens could have taken her because of scars

she found on her legs and other parts of her body. As the horseshoe-shaped craft made its swoop with lights blazing, her boyfriend put his foot down, but the car engine died. Four hours later Ros found herself back in the car with the engine running.

She and her boyfriend did not say a word as they continued their September evening journey.

Later, she says, she started to "sleep-write", getting up in the night to draw things in dots, or write strange formulae or type odd letters.

She was haunted by severe headaches and noises in her head, but refused to take drugs prescribed by her doctor.

The strain led to a split with her boyfriend.

She has since married Mark Parnham after meeting him when he was appointed by an East Anglian paranormal research group to investigate her case seven years ago.

West Yorkshire-based Philip Mantle, of the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA), featured the Suffolk experience in his recent book, *Without Consent*.

He said: "I think what Ros says should be believed. She has turned down offers of money for her story, and says she is open to suggestions of other causes of what happened to her that night. Because of that I believe she is a credible person.

"She is a professional woman and could lose more than she could gain by going public on this."

Mr Mantle said other abductees had reported seeing hieroglyphic type-writing or grey figures who smelled like rotten eggs.

NORTH WEST EVENING MAIL (BARROW IN FURNESS)

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Mystery of UFO still up in the air

THE mystery of the UFO sighted above the Furness skies has deepened, with officials denying all knowledge of its existence.

Residents reported seeing a large cigar-shaped object travelling at speed over Kirkby Moor and the Duddon Estuary towards Haverigg on Good Friday, at about 8pm.

One eye-witness said the object was overtaken by a passenger jet.

But the duty officer for Manchester Airport's air traffic control said that no unexplained blips had appeared on their radar screens that evening.

However, he admitted that it might have been flying too low to register.

A spokesman for air traffic control at Ronaldsway Airport on the Isle of Man, which was in the general direction in which the UFO was flying, also said there were no reports of any incidents from pilots on Friday.

He added that there are several passenger aircraft which fly into Ronaldsway between 8 and 9:20pm

By JANET SHIELDS

each day, from Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Blackpool and London.

A spokesman for the London office of the Civil Aviation Authority said: "Air traffic control wouldn't necessarily know about low-flying light aircraft.

"It could be a light private plane or a low-level military flight."

But an RAF spokesman said: "On a bank holiday the RAF wouldn't be low flying, because we wouldn't have wanted to disturb people on a holiday — and the RAF does not fly in the evening."

He went on: "The RAF likes to have bank holidays too, and unless it was some sort of emergency it is unlikely that we would be flying helicopters in that area."

Formby Coastguard confirmed that there were no air-sea rescues in the Irish Sea that evening either.

'I SAW A UFO OVER POLEGATE'

Visitor's claim after mystery lights

By Penny Moran

A WOMAN staying in Polegate is convinced she saw a UFO flying over the town in the early hours of last Wednesday.

Mrs Olive Stookes, who lives in Peckham, was enjoying an Easter break with her husband at a friend's house in Hailsham Road, Polegate,

at the time of the sighting.

She claims she saw three different coloured circular objects, one silver, one red and one green, each one the size of a small dinner plate,

flying through the sky at 4.20am. As they approached they appeared to change into triangular shapes.

According to Mrs Stookes, the objects were coming from the Hastings direction and heading towards Lewes. They were flying at a reasonably slow speed and in an aircraft display formation, but were not making any noise.

She said, 'I was having trouble sleeping. I got up, looked out of the window and saw what, at first, looked like a satellite. It was like something you'd expect to see on television. It was all very fascinating and lasted about 20 seconds, but it was also very peculiar.'

She added, 'I couldn't have mistaken what I saw for anything else because the skies were clear and there were no stars. I hadn't been drinking and I certainly

wasn't dreaming. I realise some people may not take this seriously and I can understand that — I have reservations about UFOs myself!

'I just find it hard to accept the fact that I might have been the only person to have seen the UFO. Someone else must have seen it.'

The friend Mrs Stookes was visiting, Ivy Cook, said she found it hard to believe her friend had seen a UFO, but added that Mrs Stookes was 'very stable, not the sort of person that imagines things'.

Police said they had not received any other reports of UFOs in the area that night.

However they stated the police helicopter was out during the early hours of Wednesday morning in the Polegate area, and this could have explained the sighting.

HAILSHAM GAZETTE

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Polegate UFO sighting mystery

A WOMAN claims she saw a UFO flying over Polegate on Wednesday last week.

Mrs Olive Stookes from London, who was visiting a friend in the town, says she saw lights in the sky during the early hours of the morning. As the multi-coloured lights got closer, they seemed to change shape. The mysterious objects were heading towards Lewes and flying at a slow speed.

The police helicopter was out scouring the area that night — but Mrs Stookes says her UFO made no noise.

UFO mystery deepens

THE mystery of a UFO sighted in the skies of Furness has still not been solved with officials denying all knowledge of its existence.

Air traffic controllers said there were no unexplained blips on radar screens when the cigar-shaped object was spotted on Good Friday.

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UFO sighting prompts plea

THE SEARCH is on for a distraught county lady who apparently had a close and sickening encounter with a hovering UFO on a lonely Bromyard road, last weekend.

The unknown witness phoned a local radio station to give details of her alarming sightings, but refused to give any personal information.

Now former CID policeman John Hanson of Redditch, who is writing a book on Worcestershire's flying saucers, is keen to hear from the woman, because her account has all the hallmarks of a classic and authentic UFO case.

The witness, who is believed to have been driving at night from the direction of Worcester, said she saw a dazzling light in the sky before her car engine cut out.

By GARY BILLS

She stepped out of the vehicle to see a huge craft hovering above her.

John Hanson said: "The interesting thing is that she claimed to feel sick, which could possibly indicate some form of radiation."

"Although it is easy to mistake the planet Venus for a UFO this time of year, if authentic, this sighting seems to have all

the hallmarks of a classic case."

John said he now has "no doubt at all" that UFOs exist, and he has already investigated a curious roof-skimming disc which was reported in Worcester skies in 1976.

He said: "The proof of the pudding is in the eating, and I already have some interesting stuff for my book."

"The amazing thing is, there are so few hoaxes. Most people who see a UFO do not want to talk about it. Anyone wishing to help John Hanson with his investigations should phone 01210 447 7091 or the Worcester Journal on 01905 610171.

Kent's X-files

ON November 3, 1953 an extraordinary encounter took place in the skies over Kent. It was to lead to a debate in the House of Commons and interest by Prince Philip.

For a remarkable nine days the Air Ministry allowed the Press free access to a pilot and his navigator after they reported seeing an unidentified circular object while flying at 30,000 ft. But then the shutters came down, the incident was dismissed as a case of mistaken identification.

On April 19 the Kent Messenger opens the first of Kent's X-files on what has become known in the UFO community as The West Malling Incident.

To this day the case remains unexplained and one of the most intriguing close encounters ever reported over the South East.

In the following weeks we will be opening X-files on other sightings of UFOs, alien abductions, conspiracies, big cats, ghosts and much more.

A close encounter

A RESEARCHER from Herne Bay has provided vital information for a forthcoming book about a series of confirmed UFO sightings over Belgium six years ago.

In his book *UFO: A Deadly Concealment*, Derek Sheffield, a former RAF pilot, details three mysterious incidents between November, 1989, and March, 1990.

During the course of his investigations Mr Sheffield received help from Mervyn

by Neil Lampert

Newell, of Greenhill, who is co-ordinator of the East Kent UFO Research Unit.

The sightings of a strange triangular craft, which travelled at speeds and performed manoeuvres which would be impossible for a human pilot to survive, were witnessed by radar operators, hundreds of Belgian police officers and thousands of civilians.

The last sighting on March 30, 1990, resulted in an hour-long 1,000mph aerial chase involving two Belgian air force F16 fighter

jets. The chase ended when the unidentified craft disappeared just six minutes away from British airspace.

The Belgian Government became the first in the world to involve itself in an open UFO inquiry which it has since distanced itself from. The whole affair made front-page news across Europe.

Mr Sheffield's research led him to submit a document to the European Parliament calling for an official inquiry. The parliament's committee for energy, research and technology has agreed to discuss his application.

Mr Newell said: "I first rang Derek two years ago and introduced myself, but he was not too keen to speak to any UFO groups at that time.

"I then got a Belgian air force report about the incident on March 30, and I sent this to Derek because I knew he was researching the episode."

Mr Sheffield, 67, from Rolvenden, said the report, which is included in the book, was very similar to one already in his possession from the Belgian police.

"What was valuable about the air force version was the record of the conversation between the pilots and ground control which I am now considering as the basis for another book," he said.

● *UFO: A Deadly Concealment*, is due to be published by Cassell, on June 1, priced £9.90.

proaching Bridgwater at about midnight on Saturday he noticed a bright light apparently keeping pace with his car. He made out what he thought to be a brightly lit cylindrical craft which then flew over Taunton and hovered above Kingston St Mary.

When he arrived home he watched the craft through binoculars for about 15 minutes before it disappeared at high speed.

"Before I saw this thing I would have laughed at anyone who said they had seen a UFO. But I know what I saw. It was a clear night and my wife saw it as well. It was not a star or a plane — it was some sort of craft."

SOMERSET COUNTY GAZETTE

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13,000 people, including police officers and pilots, who reported a black triangle flying across Belgium and other parts of Europe," said Mrs Thorne. She added that there had been more recent sightings of a similar object over the south of Britain.

The Taunton sighting of a cylindrical UFO was reported by retired businessman Gordon Chamberlain, aged 64, of Barr, Bishops Hull.

He was driving home on the M5 with his wife from an Army reunion dinner at Weston-super-Mare. Ap-

the centre. A quite sizeable object, it passed overhead at about 200-300 feet.

Steven said: "It was pretty scary and we thought it was about to get us so we cut loose our fishing tackle, jumped our bikes and cycled away as quickly as we could."

They recounted their experience to local amateur astronomer Angie Thorne, who has investigated similar incidents. She said the craft matched one known as the Belgian UFO reported in 1990.

"There were more than

BRIAN TUCKER reporting

TWO UFO sightings — one of a "scary" large black triangular craft and another of a brightly lit cylindrical object — have been reported at Milverton and Taunton.

Two Wellington teenagers — Steven Wright, 17, and James Rawle, 16 — were fishing at Lovelynch Farm, Milverton, when at about 8.30 pm they saw what first appeared to be an aircraft.

But as it slowly approached emitting a low pitched humming noise they realised it was something they could identify.

It resembled a large black triangle in the sky with a white light on each corner and another near

BARNOLDSWICK & EARBY

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TIMES

UFO plea

CALLING in her cats late at night, a Barnoldswick woman was shocked to see what she thought were two huge orange balls hovering in the sky.

These had silver shimmering wings on the sides, giving a similar impression of sun glinting on the sea, according to a report she gave to local UFO spotter Simon Whitehead.

"She told me that the balls seemed to be hovering in the sky, just to the right of Holy Trinity Church, and remained stationary for about five minutes before vanishing totally," said Simon.

The sighting took place on Saturday, April 20th, around 11-40 p.m. and Simon would like to hear from anyone else who saw anything strange.

He can be contacted on 850553.

THE BATH CHRONICLE

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FOR a few years back in the late 1960s, the Wiltshire town of Warminster attracted visitors from around the world.

UFO hunters were drawn to Cley Hill, with many alleged sightings from its summit on clear summer nights. Books with strange titles like 'UFOs over Warminster' appeared on the market, and hotels in the town did a booming trade.

The 'believers' explained these phenomena with reference to ley lines, several of which converge on Warminster, although cynics pointed out that army exercises on nearby

than the great chalk masses of the Wessex Downs and Salisbury Plain, appears more impressive because of its isolated setting amid relatively flat countryside.

This circular walk around Cley Hill follows sunken paths, tracks and lanes through a rich agricultural landscape. At the end of the walk, it is worth expending just a little more energy to climb to the hilltop to see the remains of a Bronze Age hillfort that encloses two obvious round barrows.

The defensive potential of the site is clear with open views extending towards the Mendips in the west, the Cotswolds to the north and Salisbury Plain and the Wessex Downs to the south and east. Immediately a hand to the south lies the finely wooded Longleat Estate.

Nigel Vile explores a landscape associated with UFOs, ley lines and Bronze Age battles



Salisbury Plain caused many lights in the night sky!

This five-mile walk around the Cley Hill area enables this chalk knoll, some 750 feet in height, to be appreciated from all directions. Cley Hill, although no higher

UFO sightings and natural phenomena

Sir, - Duncan Lunan's claim (your report, 9 April) that the vast majority of UFO sightings may have a natural explanation, will come as no surprise to those who have been investigating these incidents over the years. Ufologists have long recognised that planets, stars, aircraft, etc, generate reports of supposed "mysterious" flying objects.

Where Mr Lunan goes too far is in suggesting that every UFO can be explained in this way. He cites, for example, Bob Taylor's 1979 encounter as an incident involving a remote-controlled, pilotless vehicle (RPV). On the surface, that argument may appear to have some

merit, as it fits part of the facts. It does not, however, tell the whole story in one important respect.

Mr Taylor testified immediately after the incident that the object he saw in Dechmont wood, West Lothian, was in part transparent, and thus it was actually possible to see through it. He also reported that the transparent areas were not static, but moved around the "craft" as if it were engaged in the ultimate in camouflage techniques by literally blending in with the background.

This description makes it hard to believe that Mr Taylor confronted a man-made object, although that is not to say it originated with some extra-terrestrial intelligence. There may well be another solution, although the ones that have been proposed already, such as ball lightning and mirages of Venus, seem as unlikely as Mr Lunan's RPV.

R N F Halliday
CHAIRMAN, SCOTTISH EARTH
MYSTERIES RESEARCH
FOUNTAIN ROAD
BRIDGE OF ALLAN, STIRLINGSHIRE

By RACHEL ELLIS

UFO fans are flocking to the region to witness the Geordie Triangle, the North East's very own X-Files phenomenon.

Sightings of flying objects with three-pointed lights are becoming increasingly common in the region, according to the editor of *UFO* magazine, Graham Birdsall.

He says the North East is a hot spot of alien activity because it is on a corridor of activity which runs along the east of England through Scandinavia to Iceland.

So the chance of having a close encounter in these areas is greatly increased. Speaking at the Newcastle UFO conference at the weekend, Mr Birdsall said: "The North East has seen a considerable increase in the amount of unidentified flying objects."

"In the last few weeks, there have been 120 sightings of these strange things



including in the North East.

The region is on a kind of corridor where there have been a large amount of extraordinary acts of airborne and undersea activity.

Awareness

He puts people's fascination in extra-terrestrials down to greater public awareness.

"It doesn't matter where you live, you will either have seen a UFO or know someone who has

North East are logged by Gloria Dixon at her home in Woodlands Park, Widenopen, Newcastle.

The researcher for the British UFO Research Organisation says about 95 per cent of reports can be explained by aircraft, balloons or natural phenomena.

Derek Murray, 60, of Sunderland, was one of more than 300 people at the UFO convention at Newcastle Civic Centre.

He said: "I was doing some work with the

australian desert in 1957 when I saw a UFO.

"It was daylight and there was this metallic object in the sky."

"It was there for about 20 minutes and then suddenly sped away."

Machine

"You could see every detail. There were portals and windows and a single light on the apex of the machine."

"About 30 people witnessed it. Ever since, I have been preoccupied with

UFO ALERT

A FIREMAN saw a fire in the sky on Saturday but it wasn't a real blaze.

For the Crawley blaze-buster reckons he saw a UFO from the fire station in Ifield Avenue at 9.30pm.

He described two circular lights, one behind the other, travelling very fast.

And a UFO was spotted over Thomas Bennett Community College.

Jennie Whitfield, 27, from Tilgate, was trying to spot a Japanese comet on Wednesday evening when she saw two bright lights dancing in the air.

She said: "The lights were far too fast and erratic for a plane."

Part-time astronomy lecturer David Roberts said it wasn't the comet, and added: "It could possibly be a low flying aeroplane."

● THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE - popular TV shows like *The X-Files* have made people more aware of alien life

Sky high sightings since '47

PEOPLE have been claiming they have sighted unidentified flying objects since 1947.

Despite denials by governments and defence agencies that UFOs exist, there is a wealth of information to prove the supernatural does exist.

It is believed a UFO is observed every 15 seconds on Earth, but only 10 per cent of people who see them report them.

Nearly 95 per cent of all sightings can be explained following research.

Aircraft, satellites, natural phenomena, balloons, kites and even birds have all been mistaken for UFOs.

But there are some sightings with no easy explanation.

Puzzle of A64 lights in sky

MYSTERIOUS lights in the sky by the A64 have been baffling people for more than 20 years, it has been revealed.

Dennis Elliott of Moorland Road, York, said he saw a "bright green ball" fly over him at high speed while driving in Copmanthorpe in the early 1970s.

He contacted the Evening Press after reading of a number of UFO sightings in the A64 corridor between Copmanthorpe and Tadcaster.

"My wife Valerie and I were in Manor Heath, Copmanthorpe, when a



bright green light the size of a football passed over our heads," said Mr Elliott.

"It lit up the sky and then passed over some trees in the direction of the Wild Man."

"We still do not know to this day what it was, it seems strange that once again unusual lights are being seen in that area."

A woman from Woodthorpe, York, saw a bright light hover in a field close to the Wild Man pub, now restaurant, last July.

"It just hovered over the field for ages - at least a couple of hours. It definitely was not a helicopter, it never moved," she said.

Last November, two barmaids at the Wild Man told police they had seen a "large ball of light" come down by the pub last November.

But after intensive search by police, firefighters and the RAF nothing was found.

A massive rescue operation was recently launched in Doncaster after a number of people saw "a ball of fire" fall to earth. But like the Wild Man "crash" no wreckage was found.

Strange sightings over York continue. Mary Wilson, of York, contacted the Evening Press after spotting a "very big" light in the sky over hospital fields, Fulford.

"It was quite low and sparkled. I've never seen anything like it before. It was so unusual," she said.

Mary Cooper, of Burnholme Crescent, York, saw two clusters of bright lights in the sky.

"I was taking my dog out for a walk and was looking up at the sky when I saw three roundish shapes whizz past. Then I saw another three," she said.

"The lights seemed to be all joined together. They went over in a matter of seconds and then just disappeared. There was no sound at all."

● Have YOU had a close encounter with a UFO? If so contact Simon Birtles on the Y-Files desk on York 653051 ext 347.

LITTLE green men beware!

If you spot a crowd of earthlings gazing skywards this weekend they aren't looking for the famous comet but something saucer-shaped and faster moving.

For more than a dozen enthusiasts are gathering for their first UFO-watch at a secret site at Ruvell Valley.

DONCASTER STAR

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Chief spotter Martin Jeffrey organised the event to launch his Sheffield UFO Research Association.

Martin, 24, was hooked on ETs when he spotted an alien craft on a family holiday in Minehead.

Now the part-time gardener has set up a 24-hour UFO hotline at his city centre home and plans a network of investigators.

Look out for aliens

He picked Rivelin because the group received dozens of sightings from the area in recent weeks.

"I decided to set up the group when I went to a UFO conference in Leeds and met lots of people from Sheffield," he said.

"The group wants new members and we hope to hold monthly meetings

and have lectures from famous UFOlogists."

■ Anyone interested in the skywatch or who wants to report a sighting, phone the UFO hotline: Sheffield 2756144.

■ A Hope family are baffled after spotting UFOs hovering above Mam Tor.

Lynda Arfield, husband Pete and 15 year old son Paul watched the bright object.

Lynda, of Marsh Avenue, had spotted the object on a number of other occasions over the last three months.

"It is all colours of the rainbow and on one occasion it split into two, moved in parallel lines

and then combined into one object again," she said.

"On another occasion there were two objects, one of which appeared to hover above the Blue Circle quarry at Hope."

But a Leeds Weather spokesman poured cold water over claims that aliens might be spying on the Peak District. He said the planet Venus and the comet were both bright objects in the night skies: "Venus is very bright in the west but it doesn't flash. These are likely to be planes or satellites. Lots thought they saw UFOs when some formations came over Yorkshire last year."

REVEALED: Man behind UK's real-life X-Files



NICK POPE: 'Mulder'

BURIED deep within Britain's Ministry of Defence HQ, is a department known as the Secretariat (Air Staff) 2A Office - a label which, we can reveal, masks the UK's own 'X-Files' department.

And, as the Mail went in search of the living

By: **ANDREA THOMPSON**

version of TV's X-Files investigation unit, we found not only the Ministry of Defence's 'UFO desk', but also Whitehall's own 'Fox Mulder' - 30-year-old civil servant Nick Pope.

A higher executive officer, Nick even is known to his colleagues as

Spooky - a nickname he earned during his three years as head of 2A, which has a brief to deal with UFOs and unexplained phenomena.

He explains: "Part of my work involved investigating UFO reports. There wasn't any real remit to look at any other paranormal objects, although by default I got into the debate about crop circles and animal mutilations."

Nick was the first officer at Desk 2A to develop a good working relationship with UFO organisations - such as QUEST International and BUFO-RA - and he found them useful allies in particularly sensitive cases.

"We would often swap names and addresses of cases, in a 'two heads are better than one' policy," he says.

"Ninety-five per cent of the cases we handled we could explain, but there is a hard-core five per cent we could not."

But what happens to these investigations

which are left without a rational, logical solution?

According to Nick: "They are simply labelled Object Unexplained: Case Closed, because, almost by definition, what are working with already been and go

Having taken up post at 2A as an 'open minded sceptic', Nick says he came out a firm believer.

"There's such a convincing picture when all the evidence is placed together and viewed collectively."

He has written a book based on his three years with the 2A division, called *Open Skies, Closed Minds*.

It's due for release in June and, as Nick reveals: "It attempts to give an overview of UFO phenomena, but running through is a strong autobiographical theme, looking at some of the investigations I carried out."

While he claims it's not classified information, Nick admits he's not the most popular man in the department at the moment!

And what of claims from the conspiracy theorists that the US has hangars full of spacecrafts, and aliens alive and dead?

"The jury is still out," says Nick, reservedly. But there's one thing he is certain about: "There is something out there - some form of extraterrestrial life."

And just like the fictional Fox Mulder, he's going to keep on searching until he finds the truth.

COLCHESTER EVENING GAZETTE

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'I saw daylight UFO'

A WOMAN has claimed to have seen a UFO over Clacton Pier - in broad daylight.

Sheridan Lane, of Straight Road, Boxted, said she was walking along the seafront at 3.40pm yesterday when she saw a bright pencil-shaped metallic object in the sky.

She said it was there for about 90 seconds and did not move, and then slowly faded away.

Meteor shoots across skies above Isles

A LUMP of space rock the size of a cricket ball was responsible for the spectacular meteor that flashed across the night sky last week.

The fireball was spotted by hundreds of people from Lewis to Ulster and left a fiery trail in the sky as it travelled west to east at 10.20 pm last Wednesday night. Stornoway Coastguard received eight calls from the public fearing the strange orange/yellow light could be a distress flare or rocket.

One of those who saw the unusually bright object was Mr Ron Crocker, of Bakers Road, Stornoway, a retired

Met Office technician and weather observer. He observed the meteor for about ten seconds before it disappeared from sight towards the mainland.

He said his attention had been drawn because the object was far brighter than normal meteors he had ever seen. Contacts in the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh later ruled out space junk as the object and identified it as a very large meteor. Normally, meteors, more commonly called shooting stars, are around the size of a

grain of sand, but last week's light show was caused by a lump of rock about the size of a cricket ball which probably crashed to earth.

Meanwhile, Gazette Great Bernera correspondent, Mr Kenneth J Smith has reported seeing two mysterious stars in the early hours of Tuesday morning. The two stars seemed to be moving in a circular motion, one appearing to have a red tinge and the other a green tinge to it. He has dismissed suggestions that the stars could have been an aircraft.

STORNOWAY GAZETTE AND WEST COAST ADVERTISER

09 MAY 96

END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT, TIM

GET ready for Star Wars (the REAL version)...

The world as we know it is about to be threatened by an alien invasion!

That's the frightening prediction in a book to be published next month.

In *Beyond Top Secret* author Timothy Good reveals enough sensational contacts with extra-terrestrials to put the wind up even Captain Kirk.

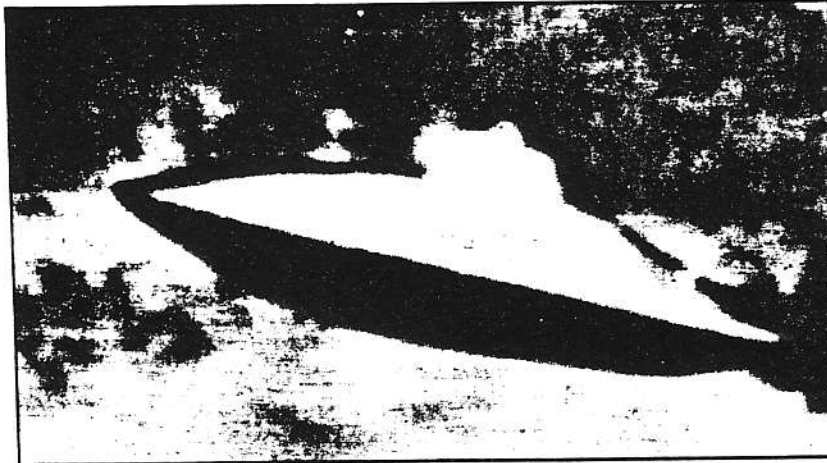
Here are just a few of Tim's amazing "little green men" revelations...

●A US jet, scrambled to intercept a UFO over Japan, disappeared in front of the eyes of horrified radar operators.

After watching his missiles explode harmlessly before even reaching the flying saucer, the pilot screamed:

"They've turned on some kind of beam and they're turning...they are coming after me."

The two blips on the



STAR WARS ALERT: New UFO book reveals a frightening catalogue of sightings

radar screen became one. The pilot and plane were never seen again.

●In 1983 two US Air Force jets were scrambled from the NATO base at Incirlik in Turkey and were seen by witnesses circling a much larger UFO before all three headed out to sea. Only one jet returned.

●University professor Dr Robert Jacobs filmed

By MATTHEW BENNS

the test firing of an Atlas missile which was destroyed by a UFO.

Watching the film he said: "Another object flew into the frame from left to right. It approached the warhead package and manoeuvred round it...at 18,000 miles an hour."

The "flying saucer" then fired four flashes of bright light as the missile, which tumbled out of its orbit.

●Cosmonaut G M Manakov, orbiting earth in the Russian Mir space station, said: "I saw an unidentified flying object... it was a great silvery sphere."

"There was a clean, clear sky. It is difficult to determine, but the object

was at a great altitude over the earth, perhaps 20-30 kilometres."

●Two UFOs were reported to have hovered over the Baikonur Space Centre in Kazakhstan for 14 seconds.

According to Good: "The following day bolts and rivets were found which allegedly had been 'sucked out' of the support towers, causing welded sections to come apart."

Thousands of panes of glass were smashed in the complex, knocking the entire cosmodrome out of action for two weeks.

Tim says: "I believe man's progress on earth has been monitored by beings whose technological and mental resources make ours look primitive and theirs supernatural by comparison."

But he claims governments have covered up UFO sightings to prevent panic. He adds: "We are entitled to know some of the truth at least."

The book is published by Sidgwick and Jackson on May 10.

Close encounters to put the wind up Captain Kirk

A UFO was spotted from Littleborough on Wednesday night.

A man — who wishes to remain anonymous for fear of being labelled a crank — was looking out of his bedroom window in Littleborough just after 9pm when he saw the mystery object.

He said: "I live on the top of a hill and I had a perfect sighting of the UFO with my binoculars."

"It was moving over the M62 from the Shaw and Oldham area and had two brilliant bright lights."

"It was definitely not an aircraft going into Manchester Airport because there were no flashing green and red lights."

"It was difficult to distinguish the shape of it because it was travelling

MYSTERY OBJECT 'DISAPPEARED AT AMAZING SPEED'

incredibly fast, but it had a blue, hazy glow around it.

"I keep an open mind on UFOs, but I have never seen anything like this before. It disappeared after about a couple of minutes at phenomenal speed."

Mr Mike Jones, from Wardle, who is a member of Quest International, Europe's most respected UFO organisation, said he had not had any reports about the incident.

He said: "Earlier in the year, I spotted something unusual from the Smallbridge area."

"It was definitely not an aircraft, because there were two planes in the area at the same time travelling at a much lower altitude."

"No pilot in the area reported anything unusual to air traffic control at Manchester."

"The Civil Aviation Authority didn't have any calls about this particular incident."

"The object was dullish red and triangular shaped, similar to the one reported recently by two pilots making their descent into Manchester Airport."

"I received a call from someone in Lanarkshire, who spotted a similar object on a different night."

mystery

A STENHOUSE-MUIR pensioner has filmed what could be a UFO over Bonnybridge.

Margaret Ross (63) spotted the very bright light on April 27. She grabbed her camcorder and taped it for around 20 minutes.

The light was, she says, much bigger than neighbouring stars, and appeared to revolve.

It also grew bigger and had diagonal lines across it. This week Margaret said: "I was getting ready for bed when I looked out of the window and saw something strange in the sky. I've seen nothing like it before. I was so scared at first that I hid behind the curtain. I don't believe in UFOs really."

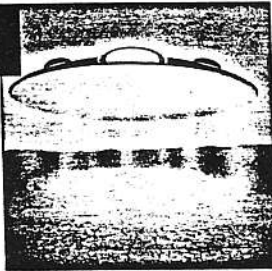
But she added: "I felt it was something alien."

A physics and astronomy professor at Glasgow University has also been shown the mysterious pictures.

Professor Archie Roy said: "Around 92 per cent of sightings can be easily explained. But this is one of the eight per cent of the phenom-

WITH its terrifying tales of aliens, flying saucers and ghoules, The X Files has become the unluckiest TV hit of the Nineties. In the BBC series, reports of the FBI's findings into the paranormal are buried in special files. But the fact is investigators Mulder and Scully's fictional adventures are often based on real-life claims. Now Daily Mail Investigators have compiled The X Files UK, a dossier of strange events that have occurred all over Britain. Today, we bring you the second part in our fascinating series on bizarre, unexplained happenings and the people whose lives have been changed for ever...

CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH AN ALIEN ...



RETIRED Army captain and former publican Ernest 'Scottie' Scott was a lieutenant when he saw a UFO 32 years ago. He reported it to his superiors, who said that if he valued his career he should forget it.

He duly kept silent about the experience for more than ten years. Nevertheless, he can still recount it with military attention to detail. Spreading maps across his dining-room table, he shows you the exact spot where he saw strange lights on the road between Berkhamsted in Hertfordshire and Wendover, Buckinghamshire.

'I had just come back from Cyprus and had fallen for a RAF nurse called Frankie,' he recalls. 'We'd been out for a drink at a pub called the Three Horseshoes at Letcnmore Heath near Elstree aerodrome. I was driving Frankie back to her quarters in my brand-new MG Midget — she had a curfew of midnight. It was about 11.05pm when we stopped to talk by the side entrance of a golf club near some woodland. It was a moonlit night with clear skies.'

'At about 11.40pm I pulled up the hood of the car because it was getting chilly and lit my pipe before getting ready to drive Frankie back to her camp, which was about a mile along the A4011.

'I was about to start the car when a huge light descended slowly, at roughly the same speed as a parachute. It was so blindingly bright I could hardly look at it. It travelled in a controlled arc and was revolving.

'I was astonished and intrigued, but not in the least frightened. Frankie grabbed my arm and we watched in absolute silence until whatever it was disappeared behind the trees in a wood. I wanted to go and look.

'This is the point at which it becomes difficult to come to terms with what happened next. I recall getting out of the car and Frankie screaming. She was terrified, hysterical. I remember running across the road, coming to a wire fence and thinking: "This wood is thick."

THE NEXT thing I recall was sitting in the car and saying to Frankie, who was still hysterical: "I want to investigate this."

Frankie was demanding to go. 'I tried to start the car. It was only a couple of weeks old but nothing worked. No electricity. No lights. I turned the key and nothing happened. (A couple of days later I took it to Middlessex Motors at Stanmore and had it checked over. They could find nothing wrong.)

'I got out of the car and pushed it down the one-in-ten hill, heading north. It cruised down a couple of hundred yards to the T-junction with the A4011, when everything started working again — as inexplicably as it had stopped. We got back to RAF Halton within a couple of minutes and the guard at the gatehouse gave Frankie a roasting. He said it was 2am and she would be on a charge.

'At that moment the significance of the time did not strike me. Then, after I'd dropped Frankie at her quarters, I asked the guard if he had seen a very bright light. He said: "Yes, I did. That was hours ago." I asked him the time again. He said 2.15am. I replied: "It can't be." Two hours were simply unaccounted for.'

Ernest drove back to his aunt's home, where he was staying on leave. Unaccountably, although he was very fit, he felt debilitating tiredness which remained for several weeks. The next day he reported his sighting at the police station closest to the incident. 'The policeman made some notes but I

suspect he thought I was an idiot. Two weeks later I picked up Frankie and we went back to the police station to see if there had been other reports of the strange lights. The duty officer said there had been none. When he checked the incident book for entries, the page on which my statement had been taken was missing.

'I spoke to some senior people in my regiment about it and they said: "If you want to pursue your career, forget it." So I did.'

Although Mr Scott did not speak further about the strange lights, he is still plagued by a recurrent dream. In it, a dwarfish creature crouches under a steel couch on which Mr Scott is lying and looks up at him with a disconcerting grin.

FIVE OR six years later Mr Scott was driving home on the A4155 from Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, to Marlow, Buckinghamshire, just before 1am when he saw more lights — dazzling and multi-coloured, emanating from an object the size of a telephone kiosk with a conical top.

'The thing hovered and touched the ground 20 yards away from me. There was a whistling or humming. I remember thinking: "I am going to get out and look at that." I put my foot on the brakes.

'The next thing I remember, I was driving through Marlow. The trip from Henley to High Wycombe used to take me 40 minutes. That night I lost about an hour and a half.' Mr Scott, 54, who has a degree in physics, could offer no explanation for the strange lights or the lost hours.

'At the time I did not equate the two incidents. Often I thought I must be going nuts. How can two hours just disappear?'

It was not until four years later when he overheard a group of people talking about UFOs in the Sussex pub he used to own that he revealed his experience. 'I was surprised that they took me seriously — and rather comforted,' he says.

He has studied martial arts since the age of seven and is a second dan and instructor. Although he already possessed healing and comforting skills, he believes they have been enhanced and extended into a spiritual dimension.

He cannot prove that there is a link with his close encounter, he only knows that he now has the ability to cure by touch.

'After the second incident a friend had a painful shoulder, he says. I went to massage it but before I had even touched it, he said: "That's better."

Mr Scott makes no extravagant claims about the sightings. To sceptics, he says simply that he is telling the truth. 'I don't talk about it often, neither do I care if people laugh. I know what I saw,' he says.

The huge light descended very slowly, just like a parachute — so blindingly bright I could hardly look at it

A HAUNTED HONEYMOON — OR THE GHOSTLY



COLIN MITCHELL and his bride of just a few hours giggled their way upstairs to their hotel room.

They hadn't planned a honeymoon but Maureen's father had presented them with a three-day stay at The Bell, a beautiful Tudor hotel in Thetford, Norfolk.

It was 7pm on a Friday evening in March 1992 when Colin and Maureen checked in. They were in high spirits, although exhausted, and couldn't wait to get up to the privacy of their room.

'We collected the keys for Room 10 from reception and went up. I noticed it was freezing cold just outside our room but didn't think anything of it,' says 39-year-old Colin, a printer from March in Cambridgeshire. 'It was a beautiful room with black timbers, a four-poster bed and a very old mural on the wall locked behind a glass case.'

After dinner, Colin and Maureen talked over their big day until finally drifting off to sleep at about 11pm. Colin woke first. He could hear footsteps outside the door. It sounded as if someone was running back and forth. Soon Maureen was also awake. It was 2am and Colin put it down to somebody clowning around. But

then the footsteps started inside the room.

'Maureen had gone back to sleep and though the footsteps were inside our room, I thought it was some sort of echo or the floorboards expanding. Anyway, the footsteps soon stopped and I tried to get back to sleep.

'By then it was about 3am and as I lay there an orange glow, about 2ft in circumference, suddenly appeared in front of the mural. I immediately dismissed it, thinking it was the traffic lights outside reflecting on the glass. It lasted for about five minutes and then the temperature suddenly plummeted. It was icy cold and there was a young girl standing in the middle of the room.'

'SHE looked about 14. She was wearing a white, short-sleeved dress that came down to her ankles. She had a sash around her waist and a garland of blue-and-white flowers around her blonde hair. Her face was completely expressionless. She walked straight across to the window as if she was unaware of the furniture and, as she got to the window, she disappeared.'

Up to the moment the girl vanished,

Colin had assumed she was a member of the hotel staff. Then it hit him. He had seen a ghost, in a state of panic, he turned to wake Maureen but, as he did, he felt the sheets being lifted up over his head and the sensation of someone tucking him in.

Colin dozed until it was light, then got up to look at the mural. He found a small handprint inside the glass case.

'Maureen's reaction was that we should tell the manager. He listened and then asked: "Do you believe in ghosts?" Apparently, other guests staying in Room 10 — and the room next door — had experienced similar disturbances.'

Colin and Maureen decided they would stay in the room. The second night, both woke up and felt the temperature soar until it seemed as if the air was being sucked out of the window. An orange glow appeared again on the mural but this time there was no girl. In the morning Colin checked the mural and found a second handprint. A different manager was on duty and Colin repeated what had happened. 'He took us into the lounge, where there was a portrait over the mantelpiece, and said: "This is Betty Radcliffe. She used to own the hotel." I nearly fainted. The

Interviews: FRANCES HARDY, MARY KEMP AND TIM WALKER