

**A motorist had a close encounter with a mystery figure that left him fearing aliens had landed.**

Mike Skinner is convinced he saw an extra-terrestrial at the roadside as he came home from work early Monday morning.

"He was driving alone the A435 near the Gotherington turn-off when he spotted a strange figure in the headlights.

"At first I thought it was aessian sack on two poles, like a temporary sign," said Mr Skinner, 55, of Delabere Road, Bishop's Cleeve.

"Then it suddenly dropped, even though there was no wind.

"It seemed to be trying to conceal itself in the grass verge. As I went past, all I could see was this round face and these huge ears. It was pinkish-brown in colour.

"I'm used to being in the dark by myself," said Mr Skinner, who works for Moog Controls in Ashchurch. "But I've never seen anything like this. It looked like it was staring straight through the window at me.

"I've never been scared in my life but I was sure. I still get goose pimples thinking about it."

Mr Skinner said he had since driven back to the site during daylight but has not seen anything unusual.

The Echo has been flooded with sightings of unidentified objects since UFO spotter Ron Barrett said he was setting out to prove that aliens had landed.

Mr Barrett experienced his own close encounter over the A40 at Northleach.

He is now being trained as a UFO investigator by BUFORA the British UFO Research Association.

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE ECHO**

14 JUN 96

Page 3

**ALIEN watchers have landed in Swansea.**

For a group of UFO enthusiasts are logging every report of passing spaceships.

The research group, Global UFO Investigation Systems, has launched a branch office in the city, whose job is to monitor UFO activity in the area.

Members say they believe it is important for every sighting to be reported so that they can measure how intense UFO activity in the area actually is.

"It is true that only one in 20 of all UFO sightings reported turn out to be the ones which are truly unidentified and those are the ones

we are interested in hearing about," said a spokesman.

"We are especially interested in hearing from readers who have witnessed a large unidentified triangular shaped craft in the area, as this is the most frequent of sightings reported nowadays.

"We want to hear from anyone who has had a UFO encounter at any time during their lives or are in possession of any photographic evidence.

"We are hoping to create a substantial body of evidence in favour of the UFO phenomena."

✉ **The Swansea branch is available on (01792) 234312.**

**SWANSEA SOUTH WALES EVENING POST**

11 JUL 96

Page 15

**CAMBRIDGE EVENING NEWS**

20 MAY 96

Page 4

**Olivia's encounter**

**CAMBRIDGE-born singer and actress Olivia Newton-John has claimed her car was buzzed by a UFO in the Australian desert.**

**Newton-John, whose father was headmaster of the Cambridgeshire High School for Boys, said: "It was brilliant silver and yet seemed to glow with a halo of colours, went at tremendous speed and changed shape as I watched."**

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE ECHO**

13 JUN 96

Page 10

**Yes, the Martians are here**

Madam - I would like to thank everyone who has responded to my plea for UFO sighting reports. Please keep them coming in and I will examine all of them carefully and reply to individuals as soon as possible.

Most of the cases involve lights in the sky which usually hover and then move off at incredible speed. These are "classic" sightings which have been reported many, many times since the 1940s. They indicate the presence of craft "not of the earth".

My case of the week, received on your UFO Hotline, comes from Lucy Allen of Evesham. What starts off as a "lights in the sky" case ends with a very important statement.

She says: "The objects were rounded in front tapering off at the back and had no markings." Lucy appears to be describing solid objects. I hope she can draw them!

Philip Green's "motherhip and scoutships" sighting is well documented in UFO literature and is typical of this phenomenon.

There remains one other avenue of investigation which so far I have not mentioned, that of alien abduction. This involves a person or persons being taken aboard an alien craft and subjected to an often painful medical examination. The most common symptoms are time loss and amnesia. Victims only reveal the event under hypnotic regression.

In many reports the aliens are described as small and grey.

**KEIGHLEY NEWS**

02 AUG 96

Page 1

**Experts in a scramble over UFO sightings**

Keighley has been gripped by UFO fever over the past week.

Unexplained activity in the night skies above Keighley - and Britain in general - is at an all-time high.

UFO experts are monitoring developments and say the RAF has scrambled aircraft to intercept the alien craft.

The Keighley News has been inundated with calls about sightings of strange objects above the town.

The interest was sparked by pensioner Ken Ryder who spotted a strange bright light in the sky above Morton moor on Thursday morning last week.

Jean Myers, of Strong Close Road, saw an intense bright light high above Riddlesden, with two yellow lights travelling around it in a circular motion.

Lynda Cordoux, from Long Lee, said her step-mum from Bridlington watched a gold octagonal shape disappear to the size of a pin head in a matter of seconds.

Britain's leading UFO investigator Tony Dodd - who lives in Grassington - told the Keighley News the current amount of unexplained activity in the heavens is "incredible."

He added: "I have been in the business 20 years and this is the biggest build-up I have seen."

"This is not pie in the sky. We are talking about triangles the size of football pitches hovering - jets have been scrambled."

However, local astronomer Eric Yaffey believes the answer to the mystery may be more mundane. He suggests that many people may have seen the planet Venus which is extremely bright and appears over Morton moor at the moment.

"There is a illusionary line running down the planet where the light side meets the dark side," he explains.

"Together with the flickering effects of seeing through Earth's atmosphere - imagine a heat-haze - this can make Venus look a variety of shapes."

Mark Birdsall, of UFO Magazine, adds: "We think most of the sightings are of astronomical phenomena, but we cannot explain all of them. Some are not conventional."

**WIGAN REPORTER**

11 JUL 96

Page 21



UFO Update issues an appeal this week.

We want people who have had a recent clear sighting of a UFO over Wigan to come forward and tell us.

Please don't be afraid. Sighting a UFO in this day and age hasn't got the 'loony' tag it once had attached to it. The stigma has all but dissolved.

Once we have a suitable description we will get together with a computer graphics/design expert who will re-create the UFO on screen using modern day technology to come up with a fantastic likeness of your craft from your description.

The end result will be amazing. If you would like to volunteer for this unique experiment and have genuinely seen a UFO in the skies above Wigan, and are able to describe it in great detail, contact Jon Peake, tel 228000.

Meanwhile, a man called Mike from Worsley Mesnes recounted an incredible story to me earlier this week.

He was prompted to call after reading about Sheila's encounter with a being in her bedroom which appeared in UFO Update a fortnight ago.

His amazing story is...truly amazing and far too complex and bizarre for a normal family man to sit down and simply make-up!

**Painful**

Deadly serious Mike says he was 17 when he had his encounter and it was the most frightening and painful experience of his life.

What Mike says he saw in his bedroom all those years ago was, rather than little green men, little men - about 2ft tall in height - dressed in green suits with almost "angelic" faces.

Mike recalls becoming totally paralysed and feeling an excruciating pain at the back of his skull where the little men had gathered round as he lay on his bed.

They went about their business like machines. They showed no remorse at causing Mike so much agony and disappeared as quick as they had appeared.

"I was terrified" said Mike. "I have never felt pain like it since and I am 44 now."

"I saw them once more a short time after that incident and my dog was barking like mad - but I haven't seen them for 27 years."

"I don't know what they were and I don't know what they did to me but I know I wasn't dreaming because I had a heli of a lump on the back of my head afterwards."

Who were those ruthless "little men" that attacked Mike all those years ago. Aliens...?

Who knows?

Please feel free to submit any material for inclusion in BUFORA UFO Newsfile to BUFORA Newsfile, 70 High Street, Wingham, Kent CT3 1BJ. Fax 01227 720774 or e-mail mhudson@oriontrade.win-uk.net

### Olivia Newton-John was stunned to spot a UFO in the middle of nowhere

Singer and actress Olivia Newton-John was struck dumb when her car was buzzed by a UFO in a lonely Australian desert.

The 47-year-old Grosse star was travelling back with a friend watching a motor race and their route took them along an isolated desert road.

There was nothing and no-one around for miles, says Olivia. 'I suddenly became aware of a strange sensation, as if there were something extraordinary nearby, but I couldn't be certain of what it was. It was like a

prickling sensation, the kind that you get from static electricity.

'Looking across the shrub I couldn't see anything, and there didn't appear to be anything behind us, either.'



Olivia stopped the car and she and her friend got out and looked around.

'For some unknown reason, I peered up at the sky, which was clear

EVA  
22 MAY 96  
Page 18

## uzzed by an ALIEN!

blue,' she says. 'I was completely stunned by what I saw. There was this object which appeared to be quite small at first, but then it increased in size incredibly quickly.

'It was brilliant silver and yet seemed to glow from time to time with a halo of different colours.

'This thing also went at tremendous speed and it was moving about in the sky unlike anything else that I've ever seen before.

'For instance, it could change direction very quickly and it would just hover about for a while, practically motionless like a

friends that it was a genuine UFO. I know that it wasn't an aeroplane because I've certainly seen enough of those to know what they look like, and it definitely wasn't some sort of a balloon either because it couldn't have moved at that



UFO convert: Olivia's now sure there's life up in the skies

**'It seemed to glow with a halo of colours'**

bright star, before accelerating right across the sky.

'It changed shape as I watched. It was triangular to start with, then it turned into a ball, then it went back to its original form.'

Olivia stood watching the object until it sped out of sight. She says: 'Ever since seeing it, I've been trying to convince all my

speed. Also, this object wasn't in any of the accepted air lanes.

'I even checked out whether or not there'd been any weather balloons in the air that day, and there hadn't.

'Before the experience I was in two minds about whether or not to believe in UFOs, but now I'm absolutely convinced that

### QUESTION: Did the ancient Greeks or Romans spot any flying saucers or similar extraterrestrial activities?

THERE is good evidence that there have always been sightings of what we now term UFOs. For example, an illustration in the Swiss Library in Zurich depicts globes of light being seen by amazed onlookers above Basle on August 7, 1566.

Perhaps the most intriguing story concerns the Dogon tribe of Mali in Africa. Earlier this century two French anthropologists spent 19 years living among them and discovered that the Dogon possessed extraordinary knowledge about astronomy. They knew of the rings around Saturn and the moons of Jupiter, despite these being relatively recent scientific discoveries.

Sceptics claim such knowledge came from missionaries. The Dogon say the information was given 10,000 years ago by an alien race that came from a planet around Sirius. They were reputedly given details of the Sirius System, which was not formed from a single star like our sun. Seemingly the Dogon were aware of the detail that only modern astronomical techniques have begun to verify — including some detail our science still has to confirm or disprove.

Almost every ancient culture recounts visits by a race from the stars. One of the most scholarly researchers — albeit rather unsung — was Sunderland man Raymond Drake — whose book during the Fifties and Sixties preempted Von Daniken. Drake found various

references in Greek and Roman writings. The terminology was typical of the day with blazing swords, shields and the like crossing the sky.

The big problem with ancient UFO reports is that few people were able to read or write so things weren't documented properly. Much went by word of mouth and became distorted over the centuries.

*Jenny Randles, Paranormal Researcher, Fleetwood, Lancs.*

DAILY MAIL  
31 MAY 96  
Page 52

THE Cornwall UFO Research Group has said the village of Trispen appears to be something of a hot spot for UFO activity.

According to its researchers in the village, there have been a number of reported sightings since the group was formed last year.

Past sightings have included a silver disc and a silent golden ball of light seen hovering over Trevella Woods. While in November last year a mysterious cigar-shaped object with portholes was seen by six people.

CUFORG spokesman Dave Gillham, of Newbridge Lane, Truro, said the latest incident occurred earlier this year but had only just been reported.

'Two men claim they were listening to the car radio at 2am on New Year's Day when they noticed three red lights flying overhead in a triangular formation. They flew out of sight but returned a few minutes later as three disc-shaped objects with multi-coloured lights, flying low over the village.

'The largest disc, which one of the witnesses estimated to be about 150 ft wide, hovered silently to the east of Trispen while the two smaller discs flitted around it. It then dropped down behind Trevella Woods for three minutes before rising back into view again, prompting speculation that it may have landed somewhere east of Trispen.'

Mr Gillham said the men watched the objects for 45 minutes, but "fled home" when they started to move closer.

Mr Gillham said other people who were seen driving past at the time must have noticed something strange going on and he would like to hear from them. He can be contacted on 01872 76381.

BARNSELY CHRONICLE  
31 MAY 96  
Page 7

## Call for UFO sighters to give information

GARY Steadman's appeal to Chronicle readers who have seen a UFO to stand up and be counted has been answered by retired nurse Eileen Nightingale.

But her description of her UFO differs significantly from that of Mr Steadman who made his appeal after recording his UFO on video.

While his was a bright light which moved fast and erratically, Mrs. Nightingale says her's hardly seemed to move at all and just faded away to the north.

Mrs. Nightingale, 78, a widow, says she saw her mystery object several times during a 12-day period which ended last Friday.

'I was looking through the window of my flat in Summer Lane, Barnsley,' she said. 'When I first saw it. It was beautiful, bright and glistening and I was enthralled.

'The best way I can describe is is like a dragonfly with long body, round head and wings.

'I have asked friends and neighbours if they have seen anything but they haven't. I was beginning to wonder if it had only appeared to me when I read that Mr. Steadman had seen something at about the same time and not too far away.

'I thought I should answer even though I don't know if what I saw was animal vegetable or mineral. It looked more like a giant dragonfly than a spaceship.'

## UFOs arrive in time to watch 'X-Files' on TV

The *X-Files* was showing on TV, broadcasting speculation about alien visits to Earth, as UFOs lit up the night sky over the Australian Queensland central coast city of Gladstone.

Police Senior Constable Andrew Luhrs said he received several calls around 9pm, on Wednesday, in the middle of The programme, reporting strange lights in the sky over Gladstone, some 265 miles north of Brisbane.

An Air Services Australia spokeswoman said a rescue helicopter was searching the ocean off Gladstone and could have prompted some reports.

The search began after aircraft in the area picked up faint noises on their emergency frequencies on three occasions.

But there were no aircraft reported missing and the search didn't turn up anything," the spokeswoman said.

"It appears there was some kind of static on the signal.

It's not something that I've dealt with before — it's unusual."

## DUNFERMLINE PRESS & WEST OF FIFE ADVERTISER

17 MAY 96

Page 1

# Close encounter leaves Gary with an eye on the sky

A QUIET Tuesday evening last week turned into a close encounter of the first kind for a Scorguie man.

Gary Davies saw what he describes as an orange glowing ball just above the Kessock Bridge at around 8.30 to 8.45pm.

But Gary insists it was NOT the planet Venus that he saw from his house at 70 Balnafettack Crescent, describing the object as being the size of a small bungalow which remained stationary.

And he is not alone in having witnessed the UFO — a nearby bunch of kids also spotted the strange object.

Gary (25) said: "It was just a glowing light. I was outside the house to take my cat Patch in for the night. We have got a good view of Inverness and the object was sitting there for three or four minutes then it dashed off. It was orange and glowing.

"I don't know what it was but it was not like a star. This was just hovering there above the

bridge. I just assumed it could be a UFO but it couldn't have been something like a flare because a flare falls and this was just sitting there.

"It was there for about four or five minutes, it was just hovering it was not doing much, just sitting there in the air. It just blipped, and-pow, it was away. One younger guy definitely saw it.

"I'm not into these things but I have never seen anything like that. I have witnesses as there were some kids who tend to gather by the watertank behind my house who saw it too."

Gary said he saw a SECOND UFO around 9.30pm — but this time he reckons it was the planet Venus, which at this time of year is a particularly bright light in the sky.

"I think it was Venus that I saw a 9.30pm, it was very bright and was over by the forestry on the Black Isle. My wife doesn't believe me as she was inside and didn't see it!"

HIGHLAND NEWS

11 MAY 96

Page 8

## ANNANDALE OBSERVER

10 MAY 96

Page 7

# No wonder their eyes were like saucers!

STEELEND bar stewardess Margaret Mellon nearly lost her bottle when she had a close encounter for the first time.

Margaret (58), 22 Milfield Terrace, was preparing to go to bed around 3am last Thursday after watching a video with her sister-in-law, Janet Duffy.

She had just got into bed when Janet, who sleeps with her curtains open, told her to come into her room.

The pair saw the sky above Saline Hill light up — orange,

tinged with pale blue. They then watched in amazement as a massive craft started to fly towards their house.

"It was not a meteorite. It was definitely a craft of some kind as it had flares as if some kind of gas were coming out of the bottom," Ms Mellon said.

"I was absolutely flabbergasted and Janet was out for the count, because she was so frightened that it was going to hit the house. I just wish that I had had a film in my camera so that I had some evidence to show

everybody."

The strange craft took no less than three-quarters of an hour to reach their house before it flew over the rooftop and disappeared in the direction of Oakley, she suggested.

Margaret, who works in Steelend Miners' Welfare Club, admits she was reluctant to report the phenomenon for fear of being ridiculed.

"I have always been a sceptic as I have always thought that seeing was believing," she said.

"I definitely believe now!"

## Strange lights

HOUSEWIFE Margaret Potts, who lives at Parkfoot, a hamlet set in a countryside near Lochmaben, has asked us to point out that the UFO, with the bright lights she and her son saw go over their bungalow roof, was at 1.55 o'clock in the morning in January, 1981.

Mrs Potts, whose account was featured in our special UFO feature last week, recalled a more recent incident when she and her husband were awakened by a burst of intense bright light one night during the winter of 1994/95.

She added: "We both got up and looked outside but could see nothing which we could explain such strong light coming through the window."

# Residents foxed by close encounters

## MYSTERY GROWS OVER LIGHT IN SKY

**SOMETHING is out there...**

Following our story last week which revealed that more unidentified flying objects had been spotted in the Chingford area, a nearby resident rang to say that she too had spotted something strange in the sky.

The woman, who lives in Chingford and asked not to be named, claimed she had seen UFOs in the Pole Hill area.

She said: "I don't want people to think I'm mad but I witnessed something very strange with my husband about three weeks ago. My husband called me into the garden when he spotted a long orange light above him.

"We thought it might be the moon but we went to the front of the house and the moon was there and the orange light was there - it

BY AZRA SYED

was about three feet long and then the strip started to get wider and wider until it became a triangle."

The bizarre sighting was made at 11pm and the triangle remained in view for more than 30 minutes before suddenly disappearing.

"It was the way that it suddenly disappeared that fascinated me and that was what made me think I had seen something really strange," said the UFO spotter.

The sky watcher was further surprised when days later she and her friend saw a star-like object that kept changing colour.

"The star kept changing from red to blue to yellow. It was too high to be an aeroplane but this time I really thought I was seeing things," said the woman.

"So I made my friend say

out loud exactly what she was seeing and I was relieved when she saw the same as me.

"We stayed up till 3.15am watching it and sometimes it moved from the back of the house to the side of the house."

The two women were unable to stay awake any longer and so could not tell how long the strange object remained in the sky.

"I am just an ordinary person who's seen something I can't explain that's all I can say," added the lady.

This week Carlton television has been filming in the local areas where these strange sightings have taken place.

Have you seen a UFO in Chingford? If so, contact Waltham Forest newsdesk on 531 4141 extension 212 or contact Roy Lake who runs the London UFO studies group on 270 9919.

## UFO experts to check on spooky green light

UFO investigators, Contact International, have launched a probe into the sightings of a spooky beam of green light shining down from the clouds above Abingdon.

Police received two calls from people who had spotted the strange light, which shone horizontally in the sky before rotating downwards towards the ground.

Mr Bill Foley, an investigator with Oxford-based Contact International, was driving along the A34 past Abingdon on Tuesday evening last week when he noticed the beam.

Now experts at Contact International, which compiles material on UFOs for a worldwide database, is to investigate the puzzle.

OXFORD TIMES

31 MAY 96

Page 4

BUFORA UFO NEWSFILE ISSUE 42 - PAGE 4

# UFOs arrive in middle of the 'X Files'

THE X-Files was showing on TV last night, broadcasting speculation about alien visits to Earth, as UFOs lit up the night sky over the Australian Queensland central coast city of Gladstone.

Police Senior Constable Andrew Luhrs said he received several calls around 9 pm, in the middle of The X-Files, reporting strange lights in the sky over Gladstone.

An Air Services Australia spokeswoman said a rescue helicopter was searching the ocean off Gladstone and could have prompted some reports.

The search began after aircraft in the area picked up faint noises on three occasions.

Emergency frequencies on three occasions. Meanwhile, New Zealand police in Napier, a town halfway up the east coast of the North Island, are trying to unravel the mystery of a "huge" blue light seen travelling across the sky north of town last night.

Senior Sergeant John Lovatt said four people reported the light heading towards land early in the evening.

Checks with airport staff revealed no links between the light and aircraft known to be in the area.

# Village buzzed by UFOs

by EMMA HARTLEY

THE Cornwall UFO Research Group (CUFORG) says the village of Trispen, near Truro, has been at the centre of a series of mysterious sightings over the past few years.

Silver discs, silent golden balls and cigar-shaped objects have materialised in the night sky - as well as your common or garden flying saucers.

CUFORG spokesman Dave Gillham, of Newbridge Lane, Trispen, said: "For me, it started last October. I was looking out over Nancevallan Woods one evening at about six o'clock and I saw a bright light hovering over the treetops. After a while, it sped off and just left me wondering.

"I was right in the flight-

path for helicopters travelling to the hospital, but it wasn't one of them because I know what they look like.

"Seeing something like that yourself is the only way to appreciate it. If you haven't seen anything, then it's important to have an open mind on the subject."

Mr Gillham has found himself at the centre of a groundswell of interest in the subject.

"After the first incident, I had a meeting with three other people at my house to discuss it. The last time CUFORG had a meeting, it was in Truro at the Richard Lander School. We attracted 70 people."

Other Trispen sightings include a silver disc and a silent golden ball of light seen hovering over Trevella Woods in the

early 1980s. Last November, a cigar-shaped object with portholes was seen flying in the area by six people, who say they saw figures inside it.

Mr Gillham said: "The most recent incident happened earlier this year, but has only just been reported to the group.

"Two Trispen men claim they were listening to the car radio at 2am on New Year's Day when they noticed three red lights flying in a triangular formation overhead.

"They flew out of sight and then returned a few minutes later as three disc-shaped objects with multicoloured lights, which flew low over the village.

"The largest disc, which one of the witnesses estimated to

be about 150ft wide, hovered silently to the east of Trispen while the two smaller discs flitted around it.

"It then dropped down behind Trevella Woods for three minutes before rising back into view again, prompting speculation that it may have landed.

"The shape of the objects, the manoeuvres they performed and the fact that they flew silently at such a low altitude rules out any conventional aircraft or aerial phenomena as an explanation."

Mr Gillham would like to collect details of other people's sightings and said that CUFORG has a witness form for anyone who believes they have seen a UFO to fill in. He can be contacted on 01872-76381.

# UFO captured on video by Springfield resident

A SPRINGFIELD man, who has recorded two mysterious sightings of an unidentified flying object on video, has asked for expert opinion on his film.

Sam Page, 1 Eden Place, filmed the UFO above Springfield on two separate occasions in February.

"I'm not saying it's a flying saucer because I don't know what a flying saucer is," he said. "But it's a solid object. I would like someone to explain it to me because I have never seen anything like it."

He first noticed the object, which he describes as a "giant glowing football," after he dropped his granddaughter off at her home in Springfield at about 7.30pm on February 13.

"I was just turning the car and I notice a bright light over Cults Hill," he said. "I slowed up and stopped and watched through the window of the car.

"It shot right across the length of the top of the Cults beyond Cupar and went totally out of sight. It took a split second and within a couple of seconds it shot back again before my eyes. It was still over Cults Hill, but a lot nearer and a lot larger.

"I sat for at least one minute watching it. It began to travel directly towards me. I was standing leaning on the car roof. It came right across the village in a sort of arc and came right up in line with the main street."

He said the object was about 150 ft in length and looked like an oblong sphere.

"You could not actually distinguish a metal object inside it," he added. "The glow was so dense you could not see through it. It was silent. There was no sound whatsoever off it."

Mr Page, a keen amateur wildlife filmmaker, went back to his house to get his video camera.

And, although he had no fully charged batteries to hand, he managed to capture the object on film for a couple of minutes as it hovered over the Falkland Hills.

He decided to telephone Cupar Police Station to report the sighting and they in turn contacted police in Auchtermuchty and Fife headquarters, but no-one had seen anything.

Leuchars air base also found nothing on their radar and said there were no military or private planes in the area at that time.

Mr Page contacted his brother-in-law, Bill Oliphant, who came out with his binoculars.

"He could see what we saw but saw it better," said Mr Page. "You could see a ring of red lights around the centre of the ball. They were pulsating on and off."

He said they watched the object for 50 minutes that night and he then got out his Ordnance Survey maps to try to trace any places of interest in the area. He found the object was probably hovering over the early warning radar tracking station at Kinross.

The second sighting was exactly a week later, at about 9pm, when the object was seen hovering in the same area.

Mr Page again filmed it - this time for

about 15 minutes - and noticed it changing shape from a sphere into a ring.

"Actually watching it was uncanny," he said. "My wife was getting a wee bit scared."

Mr Page, who has served in the RAF, said he had never seen anything like it.

"I have seen pieces of film on TV about UFOs. Some of the film they show was very similar to that. People either believe it or they don't. I'm not asking people to believe it. I'm just showing them what I took."

He said his sightings had convinced him that there was something out there, and have since led him to read up on the subject.

UFO investigator Bob Stewart, of Watts Gardens in Cupar, has handed the video tape over to Dundee astronomer Brian Kelly to get a scientific opinion.

"There are a lot of things that need to be explained," he said. "I'm convinced that tape shows something. I don't know what, but it could be a UFO."

A police spokesman said they had not been able to come to a conclusion about Mr Page's two sightings.

But he added Cupar police had received two more reports of sightings within the past couple of weeks which were confirmed by RAF Leuchars as being the planet Venus.

"It was being seen as a bright light in the sky," he said. "The officers at Cupar looked through binoculars to see what it might be. They thought it must be Venus and checked with RAF Leuchars. They verified this."

## Mystery light was UFO, says video man

**SKYWATCHER.** Gary Steadman grabbed his video camera to record what he thinks could have been a UFO hovering above Barnsley town centre.

He spotted the mysterious bright light as he stood at the door of his Bismarck Street home a fortnight ago. Now he has decided to release the film in the hope other people who may have seen the UFO will come forward.

His own enquiries to solve the mystery have drawn a blank - with RAF bases in Lincolnshire telling him no military aircraft were in the Barnsley area on the night.

West Yorkshire Police have also confirmed that the force's helicopter - which has triggered several UFO false alarms in the past - was nowhere near Barnsley.

"The light was too big and too bright for it to have been a helicopter," said Gary. "It seemed to be shining through the clouds and the flight was too fast and erratic for a plane."

The UFO was first spotted at around 9.30pm but vanished within a few seconds. It reappeared a few minutes later and was then clearly visible for more than 10 minutes before vanishing.

## UK PRESS GAZETTE

14 JUN 96

Page 20

### UFO Reality

Sector: Alien Phenomena

Frequency: Bi-monthly

Price: £2.50

Publisher: Ark Soundwaves

First launch from the UFO video distribution company. Aims to present an 'optimistic' view of alien visitations, and reveal suppressed information.

Editor: Jon King

### Contact

PO Box 1998 Glastonbury, Somerset, BA6 8YB  
Tel: 01458 834112

## Investigation launched after strange beam of light seen above town

UFO investigators Contact International have launched a probe into the sightings of a strange beam of green light shining down from the clouds above Abingdon.

Police had received two calls from people who had spotted the strange light, which shone horizontally in the sky before rotating downwards towards the ground.

Mr Bill Foley, an investigator with Oxford-based Contact International, was driving along the A34 past Abingdon on the evening of May 21 when he noticed the beam. He said: "At first I thought it was a very small gap in the clouds where the background light of the sky was coming through."

"When I looked away my son Liam said: 'My God, did you see that?' He had seen a beam of light shoot down to the ground for a split second."

Mr Chris McClements, 29, of Sherwood Avenue, Abingdon, a carpenter, also

saw the beam, and he rang the Abingdon Herald to say he had solved the X Files-style phenomenon. He said he drove around looking for the source of the light and saw what seemed to be a laser beam shining up from the Oxford Lasers building in the Barton Lane science park.

He said: "It looked much further away than it was and it appeared to be shining down rather than going up."

But Mr Barry Morley, sales and marketing executive at the company, which makes copper vapour lasers for use in high-speed imaging, said it was impossible for laser light to escape from the building.

He said: "No such thing could happen. The tight safety regulations we operate under simply don't allow it."

Anyone who saw the light can contact Mr Foley on 01869 244387, or Mr Brian James, chairman of Contact International, on 01235 851319.

## CYNON VALLEY LEADER

16 MAY 96

Page 5

### UFO's have been sighted in the sky over Cynon Valley.

The strange craft were spotted by Rita Mahagan, who is convinced that she has witnessed an inexplicable phenomena.

"I have seen the objects at various times of the day and night," said the 45-year-old mother of three from Penywaun.

She describes the craft as being small, silver and moving quite fast.

Rita also reports having seen an object with many lights, which were suddenly extinguished.

"On one occasion it came out of the clouds, did a somersault and then vanished back into the clouds," said Rita, of Heol Caradoc.

Her most frightening close encounter

was when she was in the bedroom at her home and a strange humming noise from overhead seemed to fill the house.

"I would like to know if anyone else in Penywaun or in Cynon Valley has seen or heard these strange sights or sounds," said Rita.

In recent weeks UFO's have been spotted in the Brecon area, where the local newspaper focused on the spooky tale of a ring of bright lights.

A mother and her two children saw a vertical ring of lights approach their car, hover overhead and then move slowly away.

But a spokesman for the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association (BUFORA) in London said that there had been no increase in reported sightings of UFO's over Wales in recent months.

● Have you witnessed any strange or spooky happenings in the skies over Cynon Valley? If you have, then please contact the *Cynon Valley Leader* on 01685 873136.

## Reports of UFOs baffle boffins at base

**BIZARRE** reports of UFOs dropping parachutes over farmland at Acol are baffling Manston officials.

Several members of the public contacted the airbase after four huge Hercules transport planes were spotted in the skies on Monday morning.

Large parachutes were seen descending from the green monsters, but there was no sign whether it was an **INVASION** or just supplies being dropped.

RAF Manston officials were unable to confirm the flights or what the aeroplanes were doing.

One eyewitness said: "I don't know what they were. There were these big blobs in the sky and suddenly big green things started dropping all over the place."

# Nick on trail of Silent Vulcan

UFO author Nick Pope intends to get to the bottom of the mystery of Flight Number BA5061.

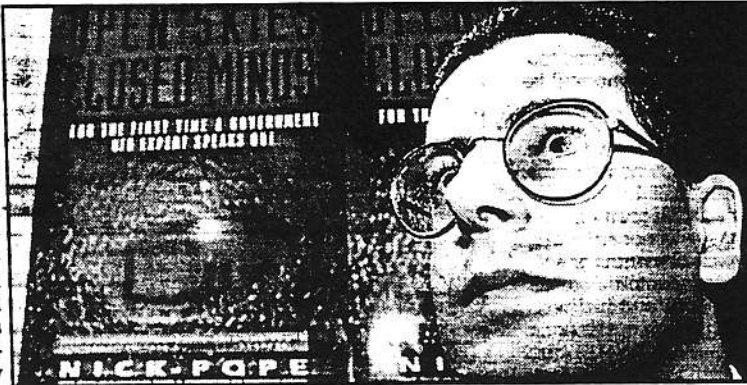
Eighteen months ago the British Airways flight from Milan to Manchester was "buzzed" by a mysterious V-shaped high-speed craft over Saddleworth Moor as the crew prepared for their landing at Ringway.

The bizarre occurrence has still to be satisfactorily explained — but a favourite theory is that the Boeing 737-200 had emerged from a close encounter with The Silent Vulcan — a UFO which has apparently made several well-documented appearances over the Low Countries.

Last night in Manchester writer Nick celebrated the launch of his first book, *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, at Waterstones bookshop on Deansgate.

He spent 11 years with the Ministry of Defence and from 1991 to 1994 was responsible for investigating and handling the MoD's policy on UFO sightings.

Having started out as a sceptic, he became a firm



■ WATCH THIS SPACE — Nick has his sights on UFO riddle

By Peter Sharples

believer in the reality of UFOs. Now, he says, he has irrefutable evidence that the United Kingdom's air defences are routinely breached by extra-terrestrial craft of unknown origin, whose technology is vastly superior to our own.

The mystery of flight

BA5061 does not appear in the book, but Nick intends to make it a major component of a second book which is already partly written.

He said: "I would dearly like to speak to all the crew members and as many as possible of the 60 passengers on board. It is my firm belief that if a civil aircraft comes within a matter of feet of being

blown out of the sky, it is a matter of extreme defence significance.

"In all air miss cases, the Civil Aviation Authority must produce a report giving an assessment of the risk but in the case of the Manchester flight, the report gave no categorisation as to the degree of risk."

Nick still works for the Ministry of Defence.

THE truth is out there — in Abingdon.

Strange happenings have been reported in the skies in a spooky echo of TV's *The X Files*.

Mystery surrounds the strange lights seen in the night skies near Abingdon by several people.

Police received at least two calls, from six miles apart, about a beam of light stretching up into the air in the vicinity of Culham.

One caller rang from Berrinsfield, while the other rang from Abingdon.

An officer already out on an inquiry was diverted to Villebois Close, off Hadland Road in Abingdon, but the lights had vanished by the time he arrived.

One resident of the close, Jason Treeby, watched the phenomenon with neighbours.

Mr Treeby, 21, told the Oxford Mail's Ox Files desk: "It was at aeroplane height and like a thick horizontal beam of green light, and then a strip of light beaming down to the ground at an angle of about 45 degrees."

"There were six or seven of us and we watched it for around 15 minutes at about 10pm."

"We couldn't see any outline shape, just this beam of light, and it appeared to be stationary."

"It was absolutely magnificent, whatever it was, and very strange."

Computer engineer Steve Cartmill, 45, of Norris Close, Abingdon, said: "My friend spotted it and called me outside."

"There was an intense green glow in the clouds."

"At first I thought it looked like an aircraft vapour trail. It was stretching out to one side as far as we could see — it was bright white."

OXFORD MAIL

24 MAY 96

Page 3

## WORTHING HERALD

24 MAY 96

Page 10

## Venus was the culprit

I READ with interest the front-page article 'UFO sighted near to college' (*Lancing Herald*, May 17).

Almost certainly, the object observed was the planet Venus, brightest at the beginning on May 4

with it reaching its maximum north-west setting point.

With darkness falling about 9.30pm (BST), the planet would come to prominence about that time and would set around 11.30pm (BST). This would explain the 'UFO' being observed from such distant places as Lancing and Somerset and taking a long time to traverse the sky.

The strange 'lights' reported by your correspondent would almost certainly be the result of atmospheric turbulence and 'muck' in the atmosphere distorting star light — something we poor amateur astronomers are quite used to!

Brian Halls,  
committee member,  
Worthing  
Astronomical Society,  
104 Brighton Road,  
Lancing

## Venus steals lime light

A STRANGE light in the western sky over Edinburgh is not a space ship — it is a planet.

Amateur astronomer Gerry Taylor, of Lasswade, said a spate of UFO sightings — which led to the city being dubbed the UFO Capital of the world — were actually sparked by Venus.

"Venus's height at sunset is much higher than it's been for eight years," said the former president of the Astronomical Society of Edinburgh.

"And that makes it much more visible. It appears brightly like this in eight-year cycles and it always causes a spate of UFO sightings."

But Mr Taylor warned stargazers that the planet was on the wane.

Impressive

"It's been on view for a couple of months but is coming to the end of this year's cycle — it will be as prominent again in another eight years time but if you miss it then it won't be until the 23rd century before it will look as impressive," he said.

Ron Halliday, a leading ufologist who named Edinburgh the UFO capital after dozens of sightings recently, said: "We would all accept that something like Venus does generate UFO reports but we are seeing other reports that can't be explained by Venus or natural phenomenon."

Mr Halliday, chairman of Scottish Earth Mysteries Research, said: "My own view is that there is something strange going on that can't be put down to natural phenomenon."

"Until we have proof, we can't say these are space ships from another planet or dimension."

He added: "All I'm saying is that we should consider this as a possible explanation."

"It wasn't moving. We were looking at it for about 30 seconds before it just disappeared."

"Then the bit I thought looked like a vapour trail just switched off, as if someone had switched a light off. I have never seen anything in my life like it."

Fireman Anthony Mundy, 36, of Villebois Close, claims the mysterious object was not a spaceship but a laser beam.

He said: "It held its position in the clouds, stretching for about a mile and a half. It obviously came from the ground at some point."

# Now I'm a believer

**T**here is a sober-suited government official who investigates every reported UFO sighting, about 250 a year, and responds to each with a letter explaining, more often than not, that the suspected Martian craft seen hovering in the skies over some suburban back garden was in fact a weather balloon, an unusual cloud, or an aeroplane reflecting light in a peculiar way.

The Ministry of Defence post of Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a - otherwise known as the UFO desk - is the perfect job for a prosaic pedant who takes pleasure in pouring cold water on excitement about the paranormal and the unexplained. Perhaps that's the sort of person Nick Pope was when he was assigned to the post five years ago. But he has traversed galaxies since then. "I came in as a sceptic and I came out as a believer," he says today as he launches his book *Open Skies, Closed Minds, A Government UFO Expert Speaks Out*.

Pope has gone from being the MoD's official "Flying saucers! Don't be silly!" man, to a leading har-binger of the extra-terrestrial threat. He believes in the probable existence of extra-terrestrial life forms and that they visit Earth by stealth in spacecraft whose technology far outstrips our own. He is now being dubbed "the real Fox Mulder" after the ruminated sleuth who investigates unexplained phenomena in the cult TV series *The X Files*. His book is being billed as the MoD's "real X Files".

When he joined the civil service a decade ago, he naturally assumed that he would be "writing reports and pushing papers around". The job suited him. Everything about Pope is sensible, cautious even, from his dark jacket and moderate tie to the way he speaks. His sentences are all neat and ordered and whatever he says comes out sounding like a well-rehearsed briefing. He also seems quite a shy and private man. The only time he falters is when asked his age. First he says 31, then he says 30.

After a variety of MoD postings, including a stint working on RAF training policy and another at the joint operation centre during the Gulf War, Pope was assigned in 1991 to the UFO desk - a post neither he nor most of his colleagues even knew existed.

Superficially, Pope's life remained unchanged. As before, each morning he filed with thousands of other government bureaucrats into the vast, expressionless MoD building. Hurrying down its labyrinthine corridors Pope would be seated at his desk by 9am. But from one minute past nine through to 5pm, he found himself in what amounted to a parallel universe.

## Nick Pope's job at the MoD was to pour cold water on UFO sightings. But the one-time sceptic has seen new light.

By Emma Brooker

"People came straight through to me on my direct line, so my phone could ring and it could be a member of the public on the other end saying 'I saw a UFO last night.' Indeed that happened on a daily basis," Pope explains. "There was a regular stable of 'interesting' characters who would phone up often. I got to know them all," he says with a reserved smile.

"I took a healthily sceptical attitude to the people phoning in. Ninety-five per cent of all these sightings do have conventional explanations, so it's very important to keep your feet on the ground when investigating cases," but Pope never dismissed any callers. "I interpreted John Major's Citizen Charter in a full and liberal way and felt that if people wanted to talk to me, even if their views were very off-beat, I would give them a fair crack of the whip."

And the more he listened, the more Pope was drawn into what he now calls *The UFO Mystery*. "I found that I was talking to witnesses who claimed they'd been abducted by aliens ... people who were certainly traumatised by their experience ... and I was having to impound radar tapes from the RAF to see if we could track any of these UFOs."

Pope's scepticism was being gradually eroded by "persuasive" reports, particularly from RAF personnel. The turning point - when he actually started to believe in the existence of intelligent life "out there" - came in 1993. "There was a wave of sightings," he says, a glint appearing in his previously calm eyes. "We were besieged with calls and I carried out a very detailed investigation. We had clear evidence that a structured craft breached the UK air defences. It was seen by dozens of witnesses all over the country. Many of them were police officers and military personnel."

After weeks of exhaustive research, Pope, in his capacity as the Government's UFO expert, reached his carefully considered conclusion. "We checked for aircraft movements, but there was absolutely nothing up at the time. I think it was an extra-terrestrial craft," he declares.

Pope started to talk to leading ufologists and groups such as Contact International and BOFURA. Overcoming their initial hostility and suspicion, Pope cultivated good relations with the UFO lobby and regularly exchanged information on sightings. But Pope found that the more diligently he investigated unexplained sightings, the more uncomfortable his bosses within the MoD became. "I was never actively blocked by my superiors," he writes in his book, "but there were times when things were made difficult for me; times when I was quite deliberately given one-off tasks to divert me from a UFO case."

At this point, the American series, *The X Files*, started appearing on British TV. By some uncanny *doppelgänger* effect - the sort of phenomenon which would take up a whole *X Files* episode - Pope seemed to be turning into its lead character, Fox Mulder. Their blandly pleasant looks are not dissimilar. The family geekish, earnest manner is ~~similar to Pope~~ Pope walked down the corridors of the MoD, people would whistle the programme's haunting theme tune. He even acquired Mulder's nickname, "Spooky". Both Pope and Mulder certainly subscribed to the same motto, *The Truth is Out There*.

"Yes, I do identify with him," says Pope. "I developed a reputation as a maverick within the ministry as throughout my three-year posting I was increasingly persuaded by the evidence." His promotion out of the UFO job after three years into the financial planning department, is viewed by some ufologists as evidence of a government cover-up.

Pope dismisses such rumours, but admits that a lot of the changes he made on the UFO desk are being "quietly undone" by his successor. Certainly there was a lot of resistance among some of his former bosses to the publication of his book. "I took the view that if the generals could write their books on the Gulf War, then I would write this book. I think the public has a right to know what's going on," says Pope.

Which is what? Sadly, Pope himself has never seen a UFO or had a close encounter ("I live in hope," he grins). Still, he has no conclusive evidence that there is intelligent life in outer space. The real X files contain no revelations. Pope's book, which has had

by JON WHITE

### A STRANGE phenomenon that has baffled experts countryside is sweeping Essex.

Weird sightings of alien craft are booming and glimpses of shadowy beasts that stalk the countryside are becoming positively common place.

And it appears that that televisual enigma, *The X Files*, could be to blame for a sudden supernatural surge recorded by enthusiasts.

According to the Essex UFO Research Group, headed by Ron West, glimpses of unidentified craft have rocketed sky-high this year.

"The sightings have quadrupled. Since the start of this year we have had in the region of 620, that's not counting the sightings in the last week," he revealed.

Ron, who has the entire X Files collection on video, says the popularity of the programme and publicity about the unexplained could be the answer.

"It is possibly because people are more observant and more aware of the UFO phenomenon and they are looking at the skies," he says.

Numbers attending the group's monthly meetings are also on the up. Once again the rise could be attributed to the BBC2 series or the release of controversial "factual" films like *The Roswell Incident*.

In the last few days there have been more sightings.

On April 4 a Witham resident, observing that night's eclipse of the moon, saw three lights in the sky and promptly rang the group's hotline to report his finding.

Since 1996 began there have been dozens of glimpses of a triangular set of lights hovering above various parts of the county.



X Files TV stars Gillian Anderson as agent Dana Scully and David Duchovny as Fox Mulder.

phenomenon that appears to be a consistent UFO riddle.

On Saturday Mr West and 11 of his colleagues, held a sky watch in Weeley Woods, and reported an orange ball of light appearing for two minutes at 9.45pm.

He is convinced they are more than mirages conjured up by viewers worked into a fever by too much Scully and Mulder.

"The ones that we investigate all seem quite genuine. It could be related to television and we have had a lot of stories in the papers. We haven't had any noxes thank goodness," he said.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said *The X Files* was making the issue a hot topic.

## The truth is out there

"Numbers of sightings go up and down. A few years ago they were up, then they went down and now they're up again. It's a topical subject. Perhaps people are watching *The X Files*," he said.

The MoD will send a courteous reply to letters concerning UFOs but the spokesman said so far they were no nearer the truth of the matter.

Meanwhile, dozens of people claim to have seen the shadowy Beast of Essex, thought to be a puma, roaming the countryside.

Answers to such mysteries continue to elude us. We are left to speculate.

Mr West, whose favourite X Files episode is *The Unopened File*, has his own theories for the UFOs.

"There is a possibility they are space travellers but there's also a possibility that they are from another dimension. There's another possibility that they could be time travellers.

"There's one reason why they won't make contact - the human race is too brutal," he says.

There is another theory, however, that the visitors, wherever they come from, hover above us with just one purpose, to tune their aeras into BBC 2 on Monday nights in the hope they can catch *The X Files* and join in the fun of the eternal quest for *The Truth*.....

• UFO hotline 01787 223306 or 223605

MID-ESSEX EXPRESS (BRAINTREE WITHAM MALDON) 10 JUN 96

### SPECULATION is mounting that alien beings could be observing life in Lincolnshire from mysterious flying craft.

Since Michael Clipsham's photograph of a bright white light glowing over the tree-line near the Stag's Head pub in Knaith Park, near Gainsborough, three more Echo readers have reported sightings in the Lincoln area and Boston.

Charlie Pollard saw the UFO hovering over Lincoln's Arboretum as she was walking there with her boyfriend one evening.

And Adrian Rowley saw an unexplained bright light in the sky over his North Hykeham home.

The latest sighting was by a Boston man, who also saw a mysterious white light.

But not everyone believes in the alien spacecraft theory.

#### Ghosts

James Harvey, of North Raucoby, near Sleaford, told the Echo he believed there was a far simpler explanation.

"This particular picture looks to me like a photographic hoax you sometimes see in books on the subject."

"And if there are other people out there they could just as easily be puzzling about UFOs as our spaceships and satellites pass their planets."

But Mr Harvey is certainly no stranger to unusual sightings himself.

The music teacher has seen several ghosts in his county home.

by Katherine Moran



"I once saw a pair of horn rimmed spectacles staring at me in my kitchen, just floating in mid-air around shoulder height," he said.

"And when I checked back to see who had lived in the house before me, I found one of the previous occupants was 5ft 6in and wore horn rimmed glasses."

Have you seen a UFO in the county or a ghost - do you have an explanation for the current sightings? Call the Echo hotline on (01522) 540001



# Ex-Editor's X-File is re-opened

## Alan recalls being 'gagged' on UFO siting

A FORMER Editor of the Heywood Advertiser has had a personal X-File reopened by BBC Television.

A flying saucer story he wrote nearly 40 years ago has attracted the attention of a team from the BBC1 *Out of This World* series on the supernatural and other unexplained mysteries.

Alan Fitzsimmons came out of retirement on Monday to relive the events of 1957... and an investigation which came to an abrupt end when the Ministry of Defence brought the Official Secrets Act to bear, stopping the publication of further stories.

Alan retold his story to TV reporter Chris Choi and a film crew.

Alan said he had spoken to between 40 and 50 people, most unconnected, who had seen the object over Birch Hill Hospital, Wardle, in February '57.

Alan said: "Their descriptions were exactly the same. They all said the object was spherical with an indentation and a smaller sphere underneath which kept changing colour."

"One of the witnesses was a policeman, but he didn't want to be named because he thought it might bring the force into disrepute."

"They just wanted to know what it was. We never really got an answer although it was suggested it was a weather balloon, but everybody who saw it agreed it wasn't."

"We checked on aircraft flights, and there were none in the area. There was no real explanation."

● The first programme in the BBC series is on Tuesday 23 July, and is expected to feature Alan.

"Then after a few weeks a man came from the Ministry of Defence to see the then editor of the Rochdale Observer, Mr Harry Tweedale.

"I was told that under the Official Secrets Act it was agreed that no more stories would be published — although I didn't sign anything or agree to anything — and that was the end of it."

"It's still a mystery to me. I think there was something, but whether it was actually visitors from another planet I don't know. I can't believe it, yet it seems strange."

There is no mystery about why the team wanted to talk to 66-year-old Alan.

Interviewer Chris Choi said it was one of the few documented cases where it could be proved a Government department had invoked the Official Secrets Act to keep a UFO sighting quiet.

When the object was seen, Alan wrote: "For the record the object was viewed for 15 minutes. The night was clear and slightly frosty, but there was no snow on the hillsides."

"It was quite dark and the object stood out plainly against both the sky and the hill (Birch Hill). When it moved, the disc was perfectly steady and moved with absolute certainty in straight lines."

"There was absolutely no sound as it passed within a few yards of the Fittons (two witnesses Alan spoke to) there was no rustle of air, as one might have expected."

None of the witnesses believed in "flying saucers" before, but after seeing such a strange sight their disbelief has been badly shaken."



● ABOVE RIGHT: BBC soundman Robin Swain, cameraman Bill Broomfield and interviewer Chris Choi bring back memories for Alan. (Q1032)

### Heywood siting of '89

THE last time Alan spoke of his strange experience was to Advertiser readers in May 1989.

It followed an incident reported to the paper as taking place on Birch Hill street at the site of the former ambulance station.

Two ambulance men had seen three objects directly over the station which went 'haywire' when they turned their vehicle lights on.

The ambulance station phone went dead and a police constable followed the objects for a mile.

However, talk of a close encounter with the UFOs was dismissed by the traffic controllers and the police.

### Editor's Notebook

Why would Spacemen want to visit us here in Heywood?

Do you know your Heywood?

COULD Heywood be the best place to visit? It's a question that has been asked many times over the years. The town has a rich history and a beautiful landscape. It's a place where you can enjoy the best of both worlds. Whether you're looking for a quiet retreat or a bustling town, Heywood has it all.

## THE WEEKLY NEWS (SCOTLAND)

15 JUN 96

Page 3

### Under My Hat

Bryan Mosley writes for you every week

THE MOD is pooh-poohing UFOs and some of the stories of aliens and saucers they read about in their ivory towers in Whitehall.

Which reminds me of a strange experience Norma and I had after visiting friends near Chorley a few years ago. We left late, and were driving home in the dark when suddenly the whole area lit up in dazzling white light.

The birds began to sing but there was no other sound apart from our motor. The flash lasted only a second or so, but was much brighter than lightning.

The local papers reported it, as many people saw it, but it was suddenly all hushed up. We weren't drunk or tired, and we still wonder what caused the flash.

## ANDOVER MIDWEEK ADVERTISER

14 JUN 96  
 Page 18

### Reg uses chopper theory to axe crop circle claims

CROP circles, they're all due to the antics of helicopter pilots and freak weather conditions.

That's the down-to-earth judgement of Sutton Scotney resident, Reg Temple, who says: "I am convinced the circles are caused inadvertently by modern man and his equipment, namely the pilot or trainee pilot and a helicopter."

"In the late 1950s I had a workmate from the Wildhern area and quite often he came to work tired and complaining about red lights in the sky at night and helicopters keeping him awake."

Mr Temple expands his theory to include exercises in hovering, allowing specially trained troops to abseil from the aircraft.

He also points out that as a farm worker he remembers wet and stormy weather flattening the corn, predominantly in circular patterns where the wind has roared through a hedge gap and then swirled around.

And modern corn crops tended to carry heavy ears of grain, made heavier by dew or rain, with stalks collapsing in a 'domino effect'.

# Is anybody out there?

**SIR** - Since September last year, there have been a number of UFO sightings over the Bangor-Anglesey-Penmaenmawr area.

Some of these local sightings have been quite spectacular and it is important that investigative bodies receive corroborative testimony from other potential sources who may have witnessed these events.

A lot of this phenomena probably has a feasible explanation eg space debris, meteorites, plasmaballs etc.

Officially, the jury is still out on the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis which suggests that we are being visited/watched/experimented on by interstellar travellers.

Paradoxically, if the countless written and verbal testimony of the last 50 years relating to extraterrestrial encounters was presented in a public court, the evidence in favour of this hypothesis would be overwhelming to say the least.

People are often reluctant to report strange phenomena for fear of being branded eccentric or for fear of having their careers jeopardised.

This does not have to be the case as there are national and international civilian networks such as the address below, which will treat your experiences with complete confidentiality.

You may be a farmer who has noticed some abnormal mutilations of livestock, a policeman who has inexplicably lost several hours on a nightshift or you may just plainly and simply have seen lights in the sky that do not conform to normal flight patterns.

Whatever your experience, it is important that we hear from you.

**A HERMIDA**

Director of Investigations  
Global UFO Investigation Systems  
4 Coronation Buildings  
Ham Road  
East Worthing  
W Sussex

## OXFORD MAIL

10 JUN 96

Page 6

# Strange light riddle solved

THE mystery surrounding the strange lights in the night skies near Abingdon has been solved.

Scores of people came forward when the Oxford Mail's Ox-Files desk reported the spooky phenomena seen near Culham two weeks ago.

Thanks to our publicity, a worldwide group of UFO researchers said it received 65 reports from the public describing laser-like beams and green lights glowing in the clouds.

After an investigation, the group, Contact International, confirmed that

the half-hour spectacle was caused by lasers after all.

Brian James, the group's Blewbury-based chairman and investigations co-ordinator, said that initial inquiries had revealed no known air traffic movements or any laser shows taking place in the locality at the time.

But after speaking to Oxford Lasers, based on the Abingdon Science Park of Audlett Drive, he said: "The green beam was a demonstration for a customer. It was carried out with civil aviation authority clearance."

THE Oxford Mail's Ox Files desk has received further eye-witness reports of the strange lights which were seen in the night sky near Abingdon.

Since our report published on Friday, May 24, several people have confirmed that they too saw the spooky celestial phenomenon in the Culham area.

The latest reported sight-

ing comes from Catherine Dennfald of Abingdon, who told us that she had witnessed the laser-like display with her son Allen.

He had spotted the strange lights while driving home from Tilsley Park sports ground in north Abingdon where he works as an instructor.

"He arrived home and called out to me to come

**By PHIL CLEE**

RETIRED detective John Hanson has appealed for information from the Scunthorpe area to help him solve his strangest case to date.

For he is trying to build a comprehensive record of UFO sightings in the region during the 1970s.

Father of three John (50), spent 27 years in the West Midlands force, the last 15 as a detective.

Now he is using his investigatory skills to write a book based on UFO sightings made by people between 1974 and 1980 including those in North Lincs.

John, who has set up his research centre at his home in Alvechurch, said 50 per cent of sightings could be scientifically explained and he did not believe in extra-terrestrial life.

But he said there was a case to be made for another intelligence using Earth energy to metamorphasise itself into cloud vapour, blobs of light and other objects.

John said he had already received reports of objects being spotted, first on June 21 1974 close by the Appleby-Frodingham steelworks in Scunthorpe and next on November 5 1978 near the coke plant at the former Normanby Park steelworks.

He now wants further reports and photographs if they are available.

The detective turned UFOlogist could have untapped a rich vein in going back to the 1970s in Scunthorpe - the decade was a real boom time for UFO sightings.

In 1977 the town's then MP Coun John Ellis pressed the Ministry of Defence for a full inquiry following a spate of mysterious flying objects seen in the skies around his constituency.

The town's strangest organisation the Scunthorpe UFO Society was also active and paved the way in 1982 for a Riddings teenager Phil Wilkinson to set up as Humberside's first-ever official UFO investigator.

Anyone with information about 1970s sightings should contact John at 3 Redditch Road, Alvechurch B48 7RS or on 0121-447-7091.

into the garden," said Mrs Dennfald, who works as a personal assistant to the boss of Crowcon Detection Instruments on the Abingdon Business Park.

"It was incredible, and it certainly wasn't a helicopter or aeroplane.

"The end of the beam which was at 45 degrees seemed as though it was over Didcot. It was a fantastic sight."

Mrs Dennfald added: "I wouldn't say I was frightened, but since it happened I haven't forgotten it, particularly when it becomes dark."

●Have you any spooky stories about lights or UFOs? We're looking for weird and wonderful tales from around Oxfordshire for a regular Ox Files feature. Write to us at the Oxford Mail, Oxford & County Newspapers, Newspaper House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0EJ. Let us have any strange photographs too - we will return them if you want.

**OXFORD MAIL**

04 JUN 96

Page 9