

'Alien infiltrator' Jesus and his UFO

THE STORY of Christmas could have originated from a real-life version of Hollywood sci-fi blockbuster movie Independence Day - with baby Jesus playing the lead role!

According to a pamphlet published by Waltham Abbey born-again Christians, the Star of Bethlehem could have been a UFO which attracted the attention of wise men and shepherds as it landed to drop off alien infiltrator Jesus.

The theory - accepted by 'ufologists' for years - would explain scientists' problems explaining the appearance of a 'new star' in the east and its slow travel across the Arabian sky to the west.

Some have claimed it was the yet-to-be-discovered Halley's Comet, while others - notably Cambridge-based Prof Colin Humphreys - say it was another comet recorded by Chinese astronomers in 5BC.

Historians argue over the exact

'CHRIST WAS A VISITOR FROM ANOTHER PLACE' SAYS CHURCH

BY BEN DUNCAN

time of Christ's birth, but 5 BC is a widely accepted suggestion that would seem to bear out Prof Humphrey's theory.

Members of the Lea Valley Church admit their 'alien invasion' theory is a tongue-in-cheek explanation, but say the version of events in popular carols is just as wide of the mark.

"The Wise Men weren't kings, the idea there were three is a guess from the number of presents, and the names Casper, Balthazar and Melchior are just a tradition," the Gazette was told.

Spokesman Mike Tobin said: "The Star of Bethlehem was definitely an unidentified flying object in the usual sense of the phrase.

"A lot of people have suggested it was of alien origin, and even that

Jesus himself was an alien. Our leaflet was just playing with these ideas.

"It's a humorous discussion but at the same time quite serious. Beyond anything else, we believe God got involved over 2,000 years ago.

"Jesus was a visitor from another place - that's for sure."

But Mike Wootten of the British UFO Research Association dismissed the theory. He said: "Too many people try to pin the UFO subject on everything.

"Just because someone sees a light in the sky in 1BC, it's very difficult to look back and say it was a UFO.

"Personally, I don't think there's anything in it. I don't believe Jesus was an alien - I'm not much of a Jesus believer at all, in fact.

"At the end of the day it's a matter of interpretation, and it's down to people's personal beliefs."

Man saw object speeding through the sky

A CAITHNESS man spotted an object speeding across the sky as he was letting his dog out in the early hours of the morning. Mr Kenneth Arrow-smith, of Strathmore Place, Thurso, described the object as "a slightly yellowish round ball" which appeared from a southerly direction last Friday morning.

"It was moving towards the north and flew across the skyline in a few seconds before it went out of view," said Mr Arrow-smith.

But he did not think it was a UFO. "No, I am sure it was a satellite," he said.

Mr Arrowsmith saw something similar more than 10 years ago when he was working outside the PFR at Dounreay. On that occasion the object was a silvery colour and flew at speed across the sky. "It maintained a level flightpath and did not change in intensity or light," he said.

Dunbeg UFO was a star of wonder

A STAR in the heavens is part of the Christmas story, but one Christmas-time star has been mistaken for a UFO.

Dunbeg Primary School janitor Thomas Sharp was fascinated by a light he saw hovering above the village, flashing red and green.

The light stayed put and when he got home his wife, Shona suggested he video record the light.

But UFO-ologist Dennis Hardley who has set up a group to study the phenom-

ena said that he believes, after talking to Mr Sharpe, that this close encounter was a very bright star or planet in the night sky.

The group has attracted a great deal of interest from people of all ages and walks of life; it will hold its first public meeting in January.

Oban Coastguards say that from December 9 - 14 we have been seeing more shooting stars thanks to increased meteor activity, with 'a reliable shower of strong intensity.'

JOHN O' GROATS JOURNAL
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UFO fever grips Italy

Italy has been swept by UFO fever after witnesses reported a strange green light flash through the evening sky near Rome's main airport. But Air traffic controllers said last night's mystery sighting at Fiumicino airport was probably the result of an optical effect caused by the light.

Winking lights seen in the air again

STRANGE things appear to be continuing to happen in the skies over Teynham.

Mr Howard Rodway, of The Moorings, Conyer, believes he witnessed a fresh UFO sighting on 21 November — more than two weeks after the incident that sparked off the controversial report in the *Gazette and Times* three weeks ago.

Mr Rodway was mystified by the lights he saw in the sky as he walked from Conyer to Teynham station on

his way to see *The Craft* at Sittingbourne cinema.

Mr Rodway, who specialises in Tarot and rune readings, said: "It was just after 5pm and the object was stationary, just beyond the station over Teynham itself, all the time I was there. It was about 500ft above the ground and was almost circular.

"Clearly it was not a plane and the white, raspberry, green and yellow lights, continually winking, went right around the outer rim."

• Mr Jeff Haynes (49) of Minster



■ Unexplained sighting: Howard Rodway, who believes he saw a UFO.

Road, Minster, says an incident similar to those reported in the pages of the *Gazette and Times* over recent weeks happened to him last year.

He spotted a colourful firework show in the direction of Shoeburyness in November, 1995, which culminated in a laser show.

Using binoculars he could see the dancing lights in the sky and faint light beams linking the lights to the ground.

"As far as I am concerned the mystery is solved," Mr Haynes said.

Sky-watchers need Swale UFO monitor

A UFO research team is keen to hear from star-gazers who spot unidentified objects looming over Swale.

Recent reports in the *Gazette and Times*, of sightings of lights in the sky above Teynham and Conyer have prompted UFO Monitors East Kent to appeal for information through our pages.

Spokesman Chris Rolfe said the group has few reports of sightings above Swale.

Mr Rolfe said: "We have about 50 members, but none from this area. We are totally unaware of what's going on around here. We would like to drum up more members and hopefully get someone from Swale who can look into the sightings."

The group, which has bases in Folkestone and Canterbury, relies on reports from the public to carry out investigations.

Most of the time, sightings can be

explained — nearby laser shows or unusual aircraft — but sometimes it's not quite so straightforward.

"We are not ones for turning round and saying every sighting is an alien spaceship," said Mr Rolfe, "but lots of people have reported a triangular object with lights all round it, the size of a football pitch and we haven't a clue what it is."

Volunteer investigators take on the role as a part-time interest. Knowledge of aircraft, astronomy and the weather are obviously important.

UFO Monitors East Kent holds meetings in Canterbury every other month and publishes a bi-monthly newsletter.

If you would like to find the truth behind the sightings, or to report one, call 01227 728480 or 01303 254774. All reports are treated in the strictest of confidence.

HOWICK: ANOTHER report of strange lights in the night sky over North Northumberland, first seen just over a month ago, has come forward from a Howick resident.

Sixty-three-year-old Peter Atkinson was waiting at the Howick bus stop when an unusual array of lights passed overhead, just to the

west of where he was standing.

The sighting took place on Monday November 18 — the same night two Alnwick residents observed lights in the shape of a "tick" flying silently over them as they walked on the Rothbury road.

And it happened within the same space of time — between 6.00 and 6.15pm.

Mr Atkinson also described what he saw as V-shaped, with four red lights along one side and three along the other.

He said: "It was flying at what I would say was under a thousand feet, heading towards the coast, towards Boulmer, to the south-east. It was a 'V' shape, outlined with red lights, and there was a vague noise — not like a jet engine at all, more of a whirring noise. It wasn't going as fast as a plane — if you had a car, you could have kept up with it.

"Just from the spread of the lights, you could tell that there was something big and bulky up there."

Newcastle Airport said that they would be investigating the matter further.

Another UFO..?

ANOTHER UFO has been seen — this time in Bretforton.

Following reports of 'weird lights' in Harvington and Chipping Campden, another mysterious sighting has been reported by Yvonne Lewis.

She and her husband Gary were at home at their New Larkborough Farmhouse last Tuesday when they saw a 'flying saucer' through a window.

Mrs Lewis said: "I

know it sounds crazy, and perhaps there is an explanation for it, but it really did look like a flying saucer.

"It was going very slowly and we followed it for about 40 minutes through binoculars.

"I rang the police and they said that somebody from Rous Lench had also seen it."

However, Inspector Ian Browning, of Evesham police, said he did not know of any such reports.

Aviation experts are baffled by a fast-moving, shining object seen by two policemen as it flew over North Norfolk.

Air traffic controllers have no logical explanation for the luminous oblong shape which the pair tracked for 10 miles.

Sgt Steve King and PC Andy Collier stared in disbelief as the UFO with red, white and blue lights darted across the sky, but they lost sight of it when it hovered over Cromer and then sped out across the North Sea.

The policemen, stationed at Fakenham,

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UFO puzzler for police

MYSTERY surrounds a reported sighting of a unidentified flying object which hovered silently in the sky above Ulverston.

An Ulverston business-woman and her son spotted what they think might have been a UFO while driving along Urswick Road at around 5.30pm on Tuesday.

The woman's husband contacted the Evening Mail to find out if anyone else had reported seeing the UFO.

Ulverston police said they had not received any reports of a UFO sighting.

By EILEEN DORAN

were left "mystified" by the object, which they followed from near Holt to the coast.

The sighting is the latest in a series in recent weeks that have not been satisfactorily explained.

Just two months ago a tanker crew tracked two sets of strange coloured lights hovering in the sky off the East Anglian coast.

The sightings by the tanker Conocoast near the Wash prompted an investigation by the Ministry of Defence.

But UFO sleuths accused the MoD of staging an X-Files style cover-up and dismissed the official explanation that the mystery lights were caused by a combination of the 200ft Boston Stump church tower and an electrical storm over the North Sea.

There has still been no conclusive explanation for the so-called Boston Stump UFO.

Meanwhile, colleagues of the two officers were so intrigued by the craft with bright white and red lights that they contacted Norwich Airport.

An air traffic department spokesman said yesterday: "They phoned up and spoke to the controller at about 6.15am on Sunday.

"It certainly wasn't anything from the airport. It's recorded in the book as a possible UFO sighting."

Colleagues at Fakenham police station say the two officers are treating the sighting seriously.

PC Collier and Sgt King were not available for comment yesterday but would like to know more about the UFO sighting at 4.40am on Sunday.

Anyone with information which could help explain the phenomenon can ring the police on 01692 407222.

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Second UFO sighting report

UFO sightings are causing a stir in South Devon with a second sighting of a mysterious object flashing through the skies.

Torbay Police confirmed today that a woman had reported seeing a bright diamond-shaped object soaring across the heavens in Kingskerswell.

The woman, who did not want to be named, rang officers to say she and her husband saw the puzzling phenomenon at 4.30pm on Sunday. It was seen heading towards Torquay.

Yesterday the Herald Express revealed how Newton Abbot newsagent George Husband of Bradley Barton Stores witnessed an "amazingly bright" light speeding through the air at 3.25am on Monday.

MYSTERIOUS lights in the sky caused consternation with hundreds of travellers on the south bank as they were followed by swirling shapes and lights.

In a real life X-File, hundreds of people heading towards Scunthorpe witnessed unusual and unexplained sightings high in the sky, starting at 8.15pm on Saturday night.

Curious callers jamed telephone lines all day Sunday to enquire about the mystery sightings. One Evening Telegraph reader, who was travelling from Limber to Melton Ross, said: "I was amazed because there seemed to be a big daisy in the sky. It looked as if the vapour in the sky was lit up."

She said: "I was amazed because there seemed to be a big daisy in the sky. It looked as if the vapour in the sky was lit up." "It was very weird. It was turning as it moved and seemed to follow us all the way to Melton Ross. A lot of other people saw it as well and many of us stopped to watch it.

"It was very strange."

She added: "We didn't want to say anything about it because people think you're strange if you report seeing strange sightings in the sky." "However when I contacted the police they said they'd had hundreds of enquiries." The mystery was solved when the police told her it had simply been a strobe light display and nothing sinister.

She said: "They told me it was a strobe light display but we still don't know where it came from. It caused a lot of confusion." Another witness from the Barnetby area, who wished to remain anonymous, said: "There were lights sweeping the sky, but they did not appear to be coming from the ground."

"There was not a reasonable explanation for them as there did not appear to be any aircraft in the area at the time." "They were there for some time and could be seen for several miles."

NORTH WEST EVENING MAIL (BARROW IN FURNESS)

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UFO claim is shot down

YEARS that Cardigan Bay is a possible target for an extra-terrestrial invasion were shot down in flames this week.

On Thursday, 21 November, several eye-witnesses saw strange lights in the sky above Cardigan Bay.

The lights, which were said to be quite unlike lightning, led to speculation that UFOs were involved. Elfed Williams, of Llanawais, Aberystwyth reckoned it could have been the Northern Lights after reading an old article of the Cambrian News in November, 1936, had an uncanny resemblance to the report which appeared in last week's edition of the Cambrian News.

The report tells of a sighting by Mr E.D.James, who was stationed at the coastguard's look-out station in the castle grounds, Aberystwyth, of "a brilliant ball of fire" above the Bay, on the 14th November, 1936, 60 years ago, almost the day of the recent sightings.

Another "sighting" was reported in Aberystwyth in October, 1981, when at 9 pm a meteor of a type known as a fireball was said to have been observed for about five minutes above the sky.

Mr Williams reports that the sightings were in the natural phenomenon of the Northern Lights, not simply lightening, and at the same time, and at the same time, a more sinister scenario involving alien intervention.

UFOs could well be kites



I AM pleased that Mr White (*Opinion, November 21*) maintains an open mind on the question of UFOs. However he appears to keep his mind

firmly closed to the possibility that the mysterious craft is a kite.

His assertions that kites must be light, need plenty of wind to fly and couldn't possibly hoist an array of lights into the sky are quite erroneous.

I can supply a kite, triangular of course, having a wingspan of 20ft, weighing 8lbs and which will fly in a wind as low as 3mph (a mere breeze). The pull of this kite is such that a flying line of 600lbs breaking strain is required. Lifting a modest payload, such as lights, would present no problem.

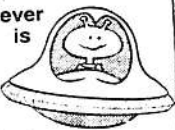
The power of the wind is tremendous and harnessing it with a kite can produce spectacular results. Kites were lifting people into the air centuries before powered flight. Kites were pulling carriages hundreds of years ago. Present-day kites can zoom across the sky at up to 120mph!

D. Beresford,
Derby Kite Centre,
Main Centre,
Derby.

Local News

Orange UFO mystery on Winter Hill

A LITTLE Lever schoolboy is hoping BEN readers might be able to throw light on a mystery UFO he spotted above Winter Hill.



Daniel Sergeant, aged eight, of Beech Avenue watched spellbound as a brilliant orange beam hovered over the famous TV mast hill for several minutes at around 8am on Saturday.

The Mytham County Primary pupil was staying at a friend's house in Ladybridge when he spotted the phenomenon from a window.

He said: "I'm sure other people must have seen it. It was a long, very bright orange beam pointing up into the sky and it definitely appeared on aircraft."

Alien abductees can get help from Eric

By LINDSEY SHAUGHNESSY

UFO expert Eric Morris has added another unique satellite to his very own space station.

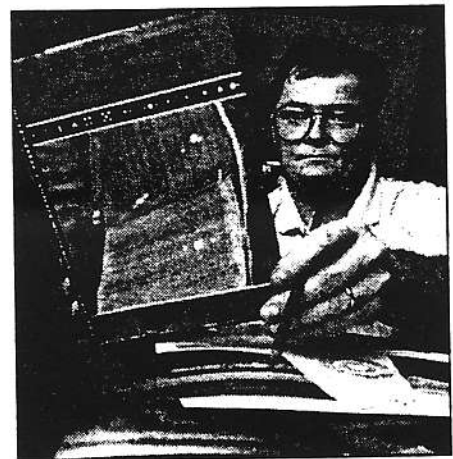
The Winsford based British UFO Studies Centre, has widened its horizons by starting the world's first counselling network for people who claim to have been abducted by aliens.

Mr Morris, who started the BUFOSC from his home in Dart Walk, Wharton, more than two years ago, has introduced the confidential counselling service to cope with the growing number of people who are afraid to tell anyone else their tales of the unexpected.

He said: 'When people think they have been abducted, they are often in desperate need of the chance to talk to someone who is not instantly going to refer them to a psychiatrist or label them a crank.'

'They can't talk to their GP and are often worried about telling anyone of their experiences because even today, people might think they are nuts. They aren't.'

The BUFOSC is now the UK's most highly respected team of UFO investigators and Mr Morris has appeared on TV to talk about the group's work. He says the TV exposure, and circulation of the group's own magazine *Intelligence*, is helping convince thousands of people of his controversial paranormal findings.



UFO EXPERT: Eric Morris is counselling people who claim to have been abducted by aliens.

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He said: 'We are finding more and more people are beginning to respect our work and ideas.'

And since the ARCC - the Abduction Research Counselling Centre - was started in May, Mr Morris, who is a trained hypnotherapist, has counselled 20 witnesses.

'I believe about one fifth of the people we have regressed are people who have been abducted,' he said.

BUFOSC is looking for support from local businesses to enable it to develop its work through its magazine and aims to organise a weekend UFO conference at the Civic Hall.

Truth is out there?

FOUR in ten people have witnessed or experienced something supernatural or extra-terrestrial, according to a study today.

The survey by Rolling Rock beer and the *Fortean Times* journal of strange phenomena discovered Britons were far from sceptical about strange goings-on.

The survey found 41% of the 201 people questioned said they had experienced or witnessed inexplicable phenomena.

Seventeen per cent claimed

to have spotted a UFO, while 22% said that they had seen ghosts.

Researchers said they believed cult TV science fiction series *The X Files* may have influenced public attitudes.

The survey found 44% of those questioned believed past UFO crashes had been covered up by government officials.

Last month Carlisle United chairman Michael Knighton claimed he had come into contact with telepathic aliens in 1977.

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Riddle of 'cigar' in night sky

BY DAVID TOMNEY

AN unidentified flying object has been captured on film by an amateur cameraman.

Weetabix worker Cliff Linnell, pictured right, spotted the UFO at about 11pm on Wednesday from the back garden of his Corby home.

The father-of-three rushed indoors, grabbed his video camera and filmed the cigar-shaped light for about 15 minutes.

Mr Linnell, 45, of the Lodge Park estate, said: "I first saw it as I locked up my pigeon loft for the night. It was a bright cylinder of light, cigar or saucer-shaped, hovering in the sky.

"I couldn't believe it. At first I just stared at it. Then I went for my video camera and binoculars."

The light remained still most of the time but pulsed slightly and at times appeared to be purple and green. A still from the video is pictured above.

Mr Linnell said: "Just before it disappeared it shot over to the right, stopped, then shot straight up. I looked around for it, but it had disappeared."



Mr Linnell telephoned the police and was told an officer and another person had also reported seeing the object.

He said: "I don't believe in UFOs, but I can't explain what I saw."

Diane Shepherd, chairman of the Northants UFO Forum, said: "This certainly sounds like a classic UFO sighting. UFOs are often this shape and do sometimes appear to change colour. The object didn't behave like an aircraft, or helicopter and it has all the characteristics associated with a UFO."

"Our group has been established for about three years and we have recorded about 150 sightings in the county."

■ If you saw the object telephone the ET's Corby newsdesk on 01536 203505.

DAILY MAIL

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Copped, one flying saucer

TWO policemen who spotted a UFO trailed its red, white and blue lights for ten miles before it vanished over the North Sea near Holt, Norfolk. The local airport ruled out any planes.

Did you see mystery light?

DID YOU see a mysterious blue light plummeting Earthward in the Dursley area at around 11pm on Saturday, November 23?

A mother from Upper Cam did and she wonders how many other

people saw the phenomenon.

The woman, who asked not to be identified, says she saw the blue light dropping vertically from the sky as she drove up Tait's Hill. The light disappeared

behind Stinchcombe Hill. She described it as like a spark falling from welding equipment and was definitely not a meteorite. Her 16 year old son in the car with her confirmed that he too saw the light.

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Police college is baffled by UFO sighting

By HUGH CADMAN

A UFO was sighted from the Police Staff College at Bramshill but an *Independence Day* alien invasion seems to have been averted as the mystery object disappeared into the night sky.

Security man Eddie McBride stood at the lodge gate with Roderick Brooks, a police estates manager.

For ten minutes they watched a cigar-shaped object carrying lights drift across the sky.

"It was perfectly bizarre - the most unusual thing I have ever seen," said 54-year-old Mr Brooks. "It was almost fish-shaped. It had lights on the top, covering a third of it.

"But I have no idea how far away it was, or how high. There was no sound."

He and Mr McBride, a former RAF police officer, called the attention of four of the college's young trainee policemen who were walking out to a local pub.

They saw the silvery-white object but it had turned and was fast fading away into the darkness.

Mr Brooks, who works for Norfolk constabulary and was on a course at the college

continued: "I'm a former plane spotter and I have never seen anything like this before. It appeared to be illuminated from inside."

"At first I thought it was the moon because it was trailing about the same speed. It was quite bulbous."

"If I did not know better, I would have thought it was a dirigible."

The sighting took place around 9.30pm last Wednesday.

Both men were flummoxed by what they had seen. "Neither of us as far as I know could provide an explanation to it," said Brooks.

KETTERING EVENING TELEGRAPH

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EASTERN EVENING NEWS (NORWICH)

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TWO police officers were left "mystified" after tracking a UFO for 10 miles over Norfolk.

And air traffic controllers at Norwich airport can offer no explanation for the luminous, oblong shape with red, white and blue lights that darted across the sky.

Sgt Steve King and PC Andy Collier, based at Fakenham police station, followed the fast-moving shape from Holt before losing sight of it as it hovered over Cromer.

The officers' colleagues called Norwich Airport to find an explanation for the phenomenon.

An air traffic department spokesman said: "It certainly wasn't anything from the airport. It is recorded in the book as a possible UFO sighting."

Sunday's experience is the latest in a line of unexplained sightings over Norfolk and its coast.

Just two months ago a tanker crew reported two sets of strangely coloured lights a few miles off the East Anglian coast.

The incident was investigated by Ministry of defence officials who said it was caused by a combination of the 200ft tower of the Boston Stump church and an electrical storm but UFO sleuths scoffed at the explanation.

Colleagues at Fakenham police station said the two officers were taking the sighting seriously.

■ Anybody with information can call the station on 01692 402222.

Sharon Dale meets the local Scullys and Mulders whose close encounters convince them we are not alone

The success of The X Files is no great surprise - the TV programme which features agents Scully and Mulder investigating alien activity and the paranormal is feeding a ravenous appetite for the unexplained.

The growth in interest has given rise to a flood of magazines devoted to the topic and groups dedicated to delving into the unknown.

Russell Kellett, 33, of the recently formed Bradford UFO Research Network, says: "There are about ten magazines now dedicated to UFOs alone. The interest is phenomenal. People say it heralds a new dawn in time, when people are more open minded."

The UFO Research Network was started by a group of friends who spotted a "phenomenon" about 20 years ago when most of them were aged 12. Russell, of Springfield Avenue, Bradford, said: "There were about ten of us who used to play together in Heston and we saw the UFO one night when we were about 12."

"It was a round ball of light in the sky which moved away from us and then moved back again and then it split into three balls of light and they moved off. A few of us met up recently and found that the incident had fuelled our imaginations and we were all still interested in the subject. We decided to meet and that's how the group was formed."

The Network, which is one of a number of organisations in the



UFO-watcher Russell Kellett with his infrared camera

Picture by Steve Bostle

West and North Yorkshire area, now has more than 200 members worldwide, including police officers, doctors and ex military men and women. The group is set to be featured in UFO magazine. "We aren't anoraks," says Russell, who is disabled after contracting ME. "Investigating UFOs is all about having an open mind. Unidentified

Equipment includes walkie-talkies for sky watches, image intensifying lenses, infra-red cameras, gelimeters, binoculars and soil sampling kits, not to mention radio equipment to check on aircraft and a laptop computer which details the location of satellites - lest they be mistaken for a UFO. The network

centres, to see if there were any aircraft travelling across the area at the time when the UFO was spotted. We are very thorough and very professional.

"There have been reports of abductions and implantations, although we haven't investigated anything like that here. There are also other unexplained phenomenon like mutilated cattle, for which there is no rational explanation."

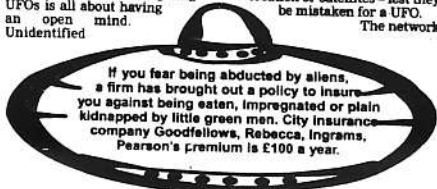
Since his childhood experience, Russell has sighted two other UFOs - "the most impressive was a green glow in the clouds, which turned out to be a big triangle glowing green."

There are trends it seems in UFO sightings. In the 70s it was mainly flying saucers; then it was flying saucers shaped like a whip and top, and in the early 80s it was bigger saucers.

In the 80s it was multiple lights and cigar and diamond shaped craft, and now flying triangles are among the most common shapes seen.

And the best places to see a UFO? According to Russell, the area is alive with "hot spots" and for those who are interested in sky watching, they are: Ilkley Moor; Baildon Moor; Carleton Moor; Haworth; Wilsden, Todmorden and Wake.

The Bradford UFO Research Network can be contacted on (01274) 412512.



If you fear being abducted by aliens, a firm has brought out a policy to insure you against being eaten, impregnated or plain kidnapped by little green men. City Insurance company Goodfellows, Rebecca, Ingrams, Pearson's premium is £100 a year.

also pays Bradford University expert Roger Green to enhance photographs and videos.

Russell says: "The image enhancing really helps, because you can often tell what you are looking at is an aircraft or even a hoax and we do get those unfortunately."

"We investigate sightings, by taking witness reports and doing surveys on the area to see if the soil has been disturbed or whether there is any radioactivity."

"We also do all the checks with the airports and the weather

FILE 1: SAMANTHA'S STORY

Samantha, 30, from Bradford, was petrified when she saw a big ball of silvery light hovering over the Richard Dunn Sports Centre one evening in April this year. She and others who saw the UFO rang the Bradford UFO Research Network to inform them of the sighting. Network co-ordinator Russell Kellett said: "We contacted the

Odsal Top stadium to see if they had anything going on that night which could have created such a light. We also rang the weather station and the airport and there was nothing passing overhead at that time. It was and still is a complete mystery, but there is no doubt that it was there, because at least six people that we know of reported it to us."

'We are not alone in the Universe...'

MORE and more people believe that we are not alone in the Universe, according to a new report.

A survey carried out for the Fortean Times, the Journal of strange phenomena, revealed that:

- 41 per cent of those questioned say they have experienced or witnessed something beyond explanation
- 17 per cent claim to have spotted a UFO
- 22 per cent believe they have seen a ghost.

And the public also believes that a conspiracy exists to cover up crashed UFOs, UFO sightings and alien abductions.

When asked for explanations of UFO sightings, people cite



everything from craft from other worlds in space and time through to demons and other supernatural beings.

Mike Dash, Fortean Times contributing editor, said: "There have been many signs in the last year that interest in strange phenomena is at an all-time high."

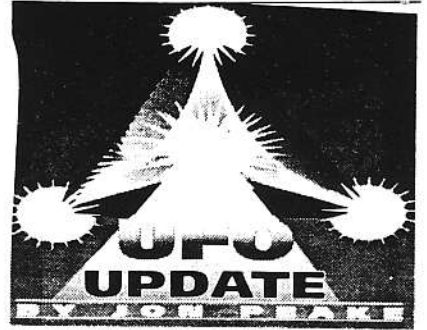
"This suggests not only that more sightings may be occurring, but also that people are less willing to believe what governments, science and other

authorities tell them."

• For real-life stories of UFO sightings and close encounters from across Yorkshire read the Y-Files book which has been specially written for The Yorkshire Evening Press.

Copies, priced £3.95, are available from the Press offices in York, Selby and Malton and from bookshops and newsagents in our circulation area.

To order by credit card telephone 01904 653051 ext 280 or write with a cheque for £4.45 (including 50p postage and packing) to the Commercial Department, The Yorkshire Evening Press, PO BOX 35, 76-86 Walmgate, York, YO1 1YN.



WELCOME UFO fans once again.

This week in the column, as promised, another sighting, this time in Appley Bridge, of the famous black triangle.

The letter comes in from a lady named Samantha and reads: "It was a clear night, on November 4, and myself and three friends were just about to pull out of Hullett Close, in Appley Bridge, when one of my friends spotted a UFO.

"We all looked up and behind the trees an unexplainable object started moving upwards, then it shot to the side in a jagged manner and across Back Lane.

"Within a few seconds it had gone, well out of sight.

"The object looked like a triangle, or even a hexagon.

"I say a triangle because it had three search lights in the shape of a triangle.

"Underneath the craft it had about six rotating red lights which looked like a hexagon shape.

"It was not a helicopter, it was far too big and I've never seen an aircraft so low over anything like we saw that night."

Did anybody else see such a craft on Monday, November 4? It was there for all to see.

If you did see anything contact me, tel 228000 or write to UFO Update, the Wigan Reporter, Martland Mill, Martland Mill Lane, Wigan WN5 0LX.

YORKSHIRE EVENING PRESS (YORK)
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Beam them up

A woman rang police today saying she and her seven-year-old daughter had been abducted - by aliens.

She said her daughter had seen bright lights in the sky and then they were beamed up into a space ship.

The woman told Wiltshire police she and her daughter were later transported back to their home in Swindon.

A spokesman said: "It sounds like she must have had some sort of nightmare."

Lights in sky show

THE LIVERPOOL Coastguard was inundated with weekend reports of mysterious lights in the sky during the night.

Calls came in from along the west coast, stretching from Scotland through Cumbria to Wales.

A spokesman said that the callers spoke of long tailed lights sweeping across the sky, and breaking up into smaller lights.

Coastguard staff believe it was shooting stars caused by meteors burning up in the Earth's atmosphere.

One Longtown woman saw what she thought was a comet at around 11pm.

"It was glowing with a little blue tail. It appeared and shot right down really fast. It was amazing."

SOUTHERN DAILY ECHO

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TAUNTON EXPRESS & STAR

05 DEC 96

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Intriguing UFO tales

I WAS interested to see the subject of UFOs in the Letters page (November 26). In spite of all the "little green men" jibes, or those "Martians", etc, UFOs haven't "gone away".

Your correspondent mentions Bob Price's book "UFOs over Hampshire" and may not know that there is, currently, an updated reprint of it.

As to Joyce Bowles' "close encounter of the fourth kind" (ie: actual alleged contact with UFO occupants), the year of 1977 was indeed a busy one for "ufologists", as was 1978, although many of us didn't realise it until later in our investigations.

1977, in fact, was one of my own "watersheds" in my 50 years of UFO study and experiences, when a "metallic triangle" hovered and then shot away from over my then home in Portswood, Southampton, all in absolute silence, on November 28.


I was extremely fortunate, for my sanity, to find, after much telephoning around the various authorities including the Echo, to find five witnesses who were travelling along the M27 at Bursledon. One of them, Monty Worlock, a wellknown jazz musician still playing, confirmed my sighting, backed up by his fellow travellers, describing the "craft" as hovering and speeding off in a short burst of incredible velocity.

Joining the Southampton UFO Group a few years ago I discovered the general opinion that there is NOTHING the authorities can DO about this phenomenon, so they either issue denials or keep the mouths tightly shut!

The Echo letters only serve to show us more pieces of the jigsaw, in a total picture of cosmic proportions. It is now up to us, for the next move.

ERNIE SEARS, Netley Abbey.

UFO sighted

 RETIRED businessman Raymond Hampson says his days of being a UFO sceptic are over after seeing a large circular object with rings of blue, orange and red lights circumnavigate Taunton. He saw it from his bedroom window in Palmerston Road at 3 am on Friday, November 22.

DAILY MAIL

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EVERY Monday Hazel Courteney prints your letters on the paranormal.

NIGEL Lea-Jones, 48, of Chelsea in London, recalls: 'In 1972, a friend and I were diving from a rowing boat in the Caribbean close to the shore. Suddenly I turned and saw a silver and orange spherical object about six feet in diameter on a stalk-like limb, just above the water. It was about 50 feet behind us and was closely following our zig-zag course. After about a minute the surface of the object opened to reveal a dark circular window about two feet across. We glanced nervously at each other and when we turned back the object had disappeared without a sound. I never found any answer and the origin of the sphere remains a mystery.'

AN AMAZING story and for anyone wanting more information on UFOs, read The Complete Book of UFOs by Peter Hough and Jenny Randles (Platkus, £12.99). To order call 0171-836 2182.

MONTROSE REVIEW

19 DEC 96

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Norman sees UFO

DID anyone see a round silver object in the sky over Montrose at around 3pm on Saturday?

The Review was contacted by Norman Mitchell, Roseacre Caravan Site, who told us of his UFO sighting, and asks if anyone else had a similar experience around that time.

Mr Mitchell says he looked out of his caravan window and saw the mystery object, which he describes as round and silver, coming from the south.

It was travelling at a fair speed, but made no audible sound.

He immediately went outside and looked north to where the craft had gone, but it had disappeared from sight.

THE GUARDIAN

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Scientists track heavenly flasher

Tim Radford
Science Editor

AMERICAN scientists have obtained images of a UFO on the edge of space — an Unidentified Flashing Object. A team from Stanford university told the American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco yesterday that it has begun to track down a mysterious force that has baffled high-flying pilots for two decades.

The "UFO" was a celestial light of a class called "elves" — luminous rings 55 or 60 miles high that grow to 160 miles across in under a thousandth of a second.

Other heavenly flashers include "blue jets", streamers of light that stretch as far as 30 miles above the clouds, and "red sprites", diffuse blobs of light that exist for a few thousandths of second, 25-55 miles above the clouds. For a while, cosmic rays were blamed. Now all of them are thought to be a kind of afterglow from lightning.

They have been described as momentary glows in the upper sky. Some of the ghostly phenomena last for such a short time that nobody is sure they can actually be seen with the naked eye at all, others occur at subliminal speeds. There have been so many explana-

tions for them that one researcher began talking of a theory of the week club. Most of the evidence comes from going back over videotapes made by stratosphere investigators and shuttle astronauts. Until airliners and military pilots began flying regularly at stratospheric heights, they were not seen at all, and they were unexpected: lightning should go from clouds to ground, rather than clouds to space.

A team led by Professor Umran Inan, an electrical engineer at Stanford, built a camera called a Fly's Eye to capture the fleeting flashes of elves. The instrument has a dozen 18 inch barrels, each pointing to a different part of the sky. It can "fix" time to 30 millionths of a second, so it can map what happens to elves in their brief lifetimes.

"Certain events in the upper reaches of the atmosphere, like solar storms, can affect the lower atmosphere, resulting in significant consequences like power blackouts," said Professor Inan yesterday. "Now we are learning that certain events in the lower atmosphere can affect the upper atmosphere. Because about 1,000 lightning strokes occur each minute around the world, it is not unlikely these effects may have a global impact on the atmosphere."

Pub display gets our hotline glowing with your calls

What a swizz! The UFOs were lasers

SORRY folks — they weren't alien lights, but laser lights.

News & Star phonelines have been jammed this week with calls from prospective alien spotters all across Carlisle.

Residents in Denton Holme, Currock and Harraby were conned into believing they spotted signals from another planet when they saw rotating rings of lights in the night sky.

But the *News & Star* can reveal today it wasn't aliens calling them — it was a local pub.

The recently opened Whitehouse, in Warwick Road, marked its new lease of life on Tuesday with a laser light display from the outside veranda.

Landlady Debra Rowlands said yesterday: "Four laser beams will be shining into the sky every night until Saturday, and that's what everyone has been seeing. They are reflected up there; I've seen them myself, but it's just to attract people to the pub. It's not aliens!"

More than 30 people phoned our UFO

By Victoria Brenan

hotline saying they had seen the "circular ring of rotating lights" hovering in the sky since Tuesday.

One Currock mum said she'd seen them driving home one night and was "absolutely terrified."

She didn't realise what it was until she called the paper yesterday and believed she'd had an "alien experience."

She joked today: "I was worried when I got home and had to check I hadn't lost any time — you hear of abductees doing that sort of thing."

Another Denton Holme man saw the lights from his window. He said: "I went round to the neighbours and we all watched them."

Another told the *News & Star* today: "They were spinning round and I genuinely thought it was a UFO. I feel a bit foolish to tell you the truth; and I'm also a bit disappointed."

Gloria Dixon, director of investigations for the British UFO Association, said laser lights were one of the most common explanations for UFO sightings.

Doctor who talks to aliens says UFOs are heading for Carlisle



How local UFO watchers started the story

'Alien craft' spotted bobbing along in Longsowerby night sky

CARLISLE United chairman Michael Knighton is not alone with his visions of UFOs, according to Longsowerby residents this week.

Eight residents say they saw alien visitors "bobbing" along above Waldegrave Road and Prescott Road on Tuesday night.

A Prescott Road mum told the *News & Star* she saw a ring of lights hovering above houses in Longsowerby at 10 pm.

She said: "It was spinning round for about 20 minutes and then moved off towards Denton Holme."

She said more than eight people gathered to see the craft, which she described as a circular

shape, with dull white lights — "like lightbulbs".

She said: "I was frightened, but I know what I saw. I'm not some kind of nutter. I've never seen anything like it before."

The woman was visiting her mother in Waldegrave Road when her husband phoned from neighbouring Prescott Road and told her to go out and look at the sky.

She said: "My mother and I went out and saw the lights. I was terrified and hammered on the neighbour's door to get them out to see it." She said they all stood there for nearly 20 minutes and watched the lights.

She added: "I was out shop-

ping the next morning when I met a friend from Denton Holme, and before I could say anything she told me she'd seen lights in the sky at 10.30 pm."

Gloria Dixon, of the British UFO Research Association, thought the Carlisle sighting was laser lights.

She said: "Everything described is indicative of them. It's a classic phenomena and always appears as a circle of lights which spins round." Mrs Dixon said laser displays could be seen up to 60 miles away.

● Have you seen a UFO or strange lights in the sky this week? Give our newsdesk a ring on 01228 23488 ext 255.

UFO back on the go

A PROBE is underway into another sighting over Scotland's UFO capital.

Strange lights were spotted on Saturday night above Bonnybridge, Stirlingshire.

Ann Scott, 44, and husband Brian, 47, from Tullibody, Clackmannanshire, spotted the blue and white lights hovering above them as they drove home from Lanark.

Ann said: "It was eerie." UFO expert Ron Halliday, said: "We are very interested in researching this sighting."

COAST GUARDS in Great Yarmouth co-ordinated the whole exercise spanning Scotland and the east coast of England to track the unexplained lights. The Evening News has obtained a transcript of a conversation between coastguards, RAF stations in Norfolk, Scotland and London, police and North Sea tanker Conocoast about the unexplained lights. This is the recording taken at Yarmouth Coastguard HQ:

0314 Skegness police: "We can see a strange red and green rotating light in the sky directly south-east from Skegness. It looks strange as it is stationary and there is no aircraft sound in the area."

0326 RAF Kinloss: "Northwood have a radar contact bearing 221 degrees at 16 miles. It looks to be stationary and there is no way of determining its height but it must be quite a size to be visible from Skegness."

0331 Kinloss: "Neatishead now confirms a couple of radar contacts in the area but no height. They seem to be stationary. There are definitely no military aircraft in the area and no notified civil flights should be there."

0346 Conocoast tanker: "We have these lights on visual, now they are flashing red, green and white. Cannot identify it as an aircraft as it looks stationary and it is approximately one mile high."

Yarmouth Coastguard: "Did you see from which direction it appeared?"

Conocoast: "No, it just appeared and is stationary."

0353 Kinloss: "Neatishead say it could be caused by the weather."

Coastguard: "I don't think so as we have visual contact."

Kinloss: "Well, Neatishead and Northwood report that there is no transponder on this object and therefore no means of interrogation. It is obvious that whatever it is it does not want anyone to know that it is there."

Also Neatishead report its position as directly over Boston."

0408 Conocoast: "It is still stationary and flashing red, green, blue and white. It looks very high, north of us, and there is no engine noise."

0417 Coastguard: "Skegness, can you get video footage as the RAF are very interested and may require it later."

0427 Kinloss: "Neatishead are keeping a log of what looks like clutter on the radar."

0445 Yarmouth Coastguard: "Conocoast, can you give us an update?"

Conocoast: "We can see two lights flashing green and red."

0501 Coastguard: "Give us both bearings of the two lights."

Conocoast: "There is one stationary light at 345 deg true and the other at 160 true. The lights are both visible with the naked eye and both exhibit the same characteristics flashing red, blue, green and white."

0517 Boston police: "We can still see the light. It is towards the south-east and seems about 40-45 degrees up in the sky it is just a bright light to us."

Sighting so exciting for researcher

THE sighting excited UFO researcher Alex Clarke.

"I am a sceptic by nature and I don't believe in little green men but this is the best lead I have seen so far in my career."

We showed Mr Clarke the transcript of the conversation.

And Mr Clarke, 20, of Hevingham, has been interested in the subject for years and spent 18 months working full-time as an aerial phenomena researcher.

He said he believed the sightings were unlikely to be Venus rising. He said: "The average man in the

street often mistakes Venus, it is the queen of UFOs, but something showed up on radar, there were multiple witnesses on land, sea and air, and they were all professional observers who should recognise the difference between Venus and a UFO.

UFO sighted over East Anglia

Skegness Police
Saw multi-coloured flashing light in the South-East

Skegness

Tanker
Saw two multi-coloured flashing lights one in the North and one in the South

BOSTON

Hunstanton

RAF Neatishead

NORWICH

Great Yarmouth

Boston Police

Saw bright light in the South-East

Great Yarmouth Coastguards
co-ordinating sightings

Mystery lights: were they UFOs?

MYSTERIOUS bright lights in the sky were today being investigated by the Ministry of Defence to see if they posed a threat to national security.

The MoD said it was taking seriously several sightings of two large unexplained objects hovering in the skies over the Wash.

Mystified personnel at RAF Neatishead, near Wroxham, spent hours tracking the lights of the UFOs, sighted over Boston on Saturday.

And coastguards at Great Yarmouth was kept busy co-ordinating reports from police, shipping, and the RAF.

Nigel Sergeant, spokesman for the MoD, said today: "We don't know what they are. We are investigating to see whether they are a threat to our security."

Skegness police called the coastguard 3.1.0m on Saturday after seeing a number of objects flashing in the sky, they later took video footage of the UFOs.

Boston police also reported a light in the sky.

EXCLUSIVE
by ANDY RIVETT-CARNAC and ANDREW STRONACH

Ft Lt Keith Sweatman, of RAF Neatishead, said: "The number of independent reports we have had suggest there is something to follow up. We will be investigating the matter thoroughly and we are already collating all the information we have."

Sightings later came from a tanker and a civilian aircraft and two military radar stations verified "strange" traces.

The UFOs were described by witnesses as large, a mile up in the sky, and with blue, white, red and green flashing lights.

A spokesman for Skegness police said: "We had calls overnight which suggested a large bright object over the coast. In the past, sightings like this have been either a plane or a weather balloon."

But Yarmouth Coastguard records show a force four wind was blowing at the time. The objects were monitored in the same posi-

NIGEL Sergeant, Ministry of Defence spokesman, said: "We don't know what they are. We're investigating to see whether they are a threat to our security."

"We're trying to prove that it does not represent any sort of security threat and that it was not an aggressive intrusion into our airspace."

"This is one of the bigger sightings recently and has caused quite a bit of interest."

tion for at least seven hours.

The objects did not carry transponders, the electronic equipment which gives out a signal identifying civil or military aircraft.

Witnesses reported no aircraft noises in the area. Military radar reported no aircraft, civil or military, in the area apart from the civilian flight which reported "strange lights."

Military officials said late on Saturday morning that no airforce planes had been scrambled to investigate as the objects were not seen as a threat.

But a military jet was seen heading up the Norfolk coast towards the area at 9am on Saturday.

UFO spotters are investigating a couple's early morning encounter with a dome-shaped object with flashing lights.

Lawyer's wife Mrs Sally O'Brien kept the UFO in sight as it flew past her hilltop home and eventually disappeared in the distance.

Mrs O'Brien, of Blagdon Hill, near Taunton, Somerset, said she and her husband

watched in amazement as the UFO, flying erratically, approached before dawn on Monday.

"My husband saw it first from our bedroom window at 6.30 am and we watched it for about five minutes," said Mrs O'Brien, 42.

"We get lots of helicopters and planes flying over here,

but I have never seen anything like this before. It came around the back of the house and meandered off down the valley towards Devon."

Flashing

"It was about the size of a helicopter but seemed to be a solid semi-domed shape.

"I could not see its colour because it was dark, but it had

different shades of flashing lights whizzing all around the centre as if they were revolving at high speed.

"I opened the window but we did not hear any noise.

"People may think I am a bit of a wally but there was certainly something unusual there. I am sure others must have seen it but may be afraid to report it in case of ridicule."

A Fleet Air Arm spokesman at RNAS Yeovilton said they had no helicopters or other aircraft flying in the area at that time.

Ufologist Doug Cooper, an investigator with the British UFO Association, said: "A number of similar sightings involving small dome-shaped objects with flashing lights have been reported in the area."

Lawyer's wife says truth is out there

'UFO' on film

AN UNIDENTIFIED flying object has been captured on film by an amateur cameraman.

Weetabix worker Cliff Linnell spotted the UFO from the back garden of his Corby home.

The father-of-three rushed indoors, grabbed his video camera and filmed the cigar-shaped light for about 15 minutes.

Mr Linnell, 45, of the Lodge Park estate, said: "I first saw it as I locked up my pigeon loft for the night. It was a bright cylinder of light, cigar or saucer-shaped, hovering in the sky."

"I couldn't believe it. At first I just stared at it. Then I went for my video camera and binoculars."

Mr Linnell telephoned the police shortly after he spotted the object at about 11pm last Wednesday and was told an officer and another person had also reported seeing the object.

SUNDAY INDEPENDENT (PLYMOUTH)

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Why we are not alone ..

ALIENS are taking over the public imagination, a new survey claims.

With the X-Files riding high in the television ratings and the movie Independence Day conquering all at the box office, more and more of us really believe we are not alone.

According to the research we are a nation of believers!

- 41 per cent have experienced or witnessed something beyond explanation
- 17 per cent claim to have spotted a UFO
- 22 per cent believe they have seen a ghost

Today, Lancashire UFO investigators confirmed the growing interest in

By MATTHEW EDGAR

extra-terrestrials and the unexplained.

Simon Lewis, of the North Lancashire UFO Investigation Group, spends much of his time probing alleged sightings in the Morecambe bay area and beyond.

He said: "We are getting more calls. You can put it down to the fact that a lot of people have always believed it, but because of the X-Files and certain films they are a lot more open about speaking their minds on the subject."

"We as a group have got people who have contacted us who would never have

dreamed of revealing what they had seen in past times because they were frightened of being made a fool of."

The claims come after the Evening Post published a photograph of a mysterious object captured on film flying over Rivington Pike, near Chorley

However, UFO experts who have examined the picture believe it is more likely that the white triangular object is Britain's own version of the top secret American Stealth bomber, rather than a craft from outer space.

Mike Dash, contribut-

Times which published the survey, said: "There have been many signs in the last year that interest in strange phenomena is at an all time high and more and more reports of bizarre incidents are flooding into our offices."

"This suggests not only that more sightings may be occurring, but also that people are less willing to believe what governments, science and other authorities tell them to. With this in mind we would expect the number of reports to keep on rising for at least the next few years."

WHAT YOU SAY



"I would have to see one to believe it myself. We live near Chingle Hall which is supposed to be haunted and kids always go there."

Malcolm Lewis, 51, of Goosnargh



"I don't know whether there are any more people than before who believe in UFOs. I have never seen a ghost, but I wouldn't say that I don't believe in them."

Diana Shaw, 48, of Preston



"I believe in ghosts but I don't really believe in UFOs. I watch the X-Files and in a way I think there must be something else out there."

Diana's daughter, Georgina Shaw, 16.



"It is hard to decide one way or the other. The photo published in the Evening Post recently looked like Concorde to me."

Gordon Clayton, 64, of Ingol, Preston.

EVESHAM JOURNAL

Two out of three UFOs X-plained

TWO recent UFO sightings in the Vale appear to have been explained, although another remains a mystery.

The Journal received reports of 'weird lights' in Harvington and Chipping Campden on the night of November 11.

Now Paul Young, a partner at Wyre Quality Cars in Waterloo Road, Bidford, says the lights in the sky came from a light show which the garage put on for about six nights last month.

He said: "We put the lights on top of the garage.

By ROBIN JENKINS

"There were 16 cylinders of light in a revolving pattern. They were very high density and must have gone between 500 and 1,000 feet into the sky. You could see them for miles."

"They certainly got us a lot of attention. We had complaints from the parish council and were contacted by the police, environmental health and planning officers - so we decided to take them down."

However, a third UFO sighting remains unexplained. Yvonne and Gary Lewis said they saw a 'flying saucer' from their Bretforton home on November 26. The lights at Wyre Quality Cars were taken down on November 14.

Phillip May, a member of a worldwide group called Global UFO Investigations, says he plans to investigate the Bretforton incident.

Mr May, from Honeybourne, said: "It sounds interesting and I will be looking into it."

HAMPSHIRE CHRONICLE

Another one joins the crop-writing circle

A new booklet, *Crop Circles of Wessex*, is the latest outpouring about the crop circle phenomenon. American author—and Wiltshire resident—Kent Goodman describes all of the major theories, gives a brief historical overview and goes into some detail of the most well-known crop circles in the Wessex area. The 32-page booklet lists many of the formations that have appeared in the area since 1983, and also features a centre map for cross-reference. "We wanted to produce a book that would introduce people to the subject and give them a basic, all-round education quickly and painlessly. I think we've done that," claims Goodman. *Crop Circles of Wessex*, is available for £3.99 postage paid. Make cheques payable to Wessex Books, 2, Station Cottages, Newton Toney, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 0HD.

It is not only in America that strange UFO sightings are made, or stories of abductions by aliens told.

They happen here in Hampshire, says Robert Price, in his updated *UFOs over Hampshire and the Isle of Wight—Files on the Unexplained*.

Paul Fuller, co-editor of the *New Ufologist*, writes in the foreword to this fascinating collection of illustrated case histories: "It contains a plethora of strange, often bizarre experiences, gathered from all over the county, some dating as far back as the early 1950s. Reported by people in all walks of life, they clearly illustrate that UFOs can touch the lives of everyone, irrespective of rank or title."

Some of these events are well-known and have been reported extensively in UFO literature and the media. But many more are published here for the first time.

Giving his own viewpoint on the subject, Price says: "I'm now absolutely positive that events relating to the phenomena are escalating so rapidly in the world that a shattering revelation regarding UFOs is imminent."

"The long patient wait for enlightenment may soon be over. The old century is drawing to a close, with a bright new beginning beckoning in the year 2000. If all the evidence is correct, historians will mark the 21st century as the time the UFO mystery was finally solved and the human race discovered it was not alone."

UFOs Over Hampshire, by Robert Price, published by Halsgrove, price £6.95. B.H.