

DAILY MAIL

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Are aliens being cut off by gas in the galaxy?

IF little green men really are trying to call Earth, they may be having problems getting through. According to a new theory from astronomers, signals from alien civilisations to mankind are likely to be disrupted by vast clouds of gas, deep in the heart of space. If the theory is right, we may have already been contacted by extra terrestrials — but failed to recognise the message. Every year, intriguing radio signals are picked up by U.S. scientists working for SETI — the Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence. But because the signals have been fleeting, and have never been repeated, they have been put down to random noise from space or glitches in the equipment rather than calls from another civilisation. Now some of the most respected astronomers in America say those

brief messages might herald tantalising clues about deep space. Few radio signals picked up by SETI have ever lasted more than 20 or 30 seconds, supporting the old random origins theory. But a new academic paper says the signals may be distorted by electrically charged gas between the stars. This could alter a reading by 20 times, either boosting it or reducing it. That means scientists would have to search a patch of sky tens of thousands of times before they had a chance of recording a repeat signal, whatever its origins. According to Joseph Lazio, one of the paper's authors, current SETI data is inconclusive. 'It's compatible with both zero and tens of thousands of ET civilisations,' he said. 'Many more observations are needed before we can say anything concrete.'

THE STAR (SHEFFIELD)

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Is there anybody there?

I WAS very interested to read in The Star (16 December) about the UFO spotted by people in Crane Moor near Barnsley.

On November 30 at about 5pm I went out to my car to buy petrol. Just above me I saw a beautiful very bright light over the fields across from where I live. It reminded me of Halley's

comet it was so bright.

About half an hour later I got back home and saw it had slowly moved position. I kept going outside to look at it. At 6.20pm my brother and sister-in-law came. I pointed it out to them, they noted where it was, and confirmed it was unusual, and not a plane or helicopter.

When they left at 8.05 pm it

was even further away, in the direction of Frecheville area.

By 8.45 pm it was almost out of sight and looked like a small star in the distance.

I could not stop talking about it for days afterwards. I would be interested to know if anyone else saw it that night.

J Sheppard, Skelton Lane, Woodhouse

SOUTHERN REPORTER (HAWICK)

25 SEP 97

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Borders put on UFO alert

Flying saucer cult suicide fear

About 100 members of a Taiwanese cult have left for a meeting in Dallas, Texas, where officials fear they plan to commit mass suicide.

The members include many children because the cult encourages entire families to kill themselves so that their bodies can be picked up by flying saucers.

A METEORITE which flashed across the Borders skyline on Tuesday morning sparked a 999 panic.

Emergency services were contacted with reports that a plane had crashed on a Berwickshire moor, that there was a meteoric shower, and even that aliens had landed!

The phenomenon was witnessed by people as far afield as the Western Isles and the north-east of England, and several sightings were reported in Berwickshire.

Bright lights were reported falling from the sky before disappearing close to the Earth's surface and according to astronomers, a meteorite shower which had not been due to reach the atmosphere until next month must have arrived early.

Secrets

The Ministry of Defence originally issued a statement saying that it was the Kosmos 2343 satellite, a Russian spy satellite which was blown up by the Russians last week to protect military secrets. However, yesterday (Wednesday) the ministry altered its statement and confirmed it was in fact a meteorite.

Coastguards, the RAF and police were bombarded with calls on Tuesday morning with reports of bright flashes and bangs. The sightings sparked a full-scale emergency when a Greenlaw woman reported what she thought was a possible plane crash while driving on the A6105 between Gordon and Greenlaw. She thought she saw a burning aircraft crashing somewhere in the area north of her position, towards Greenlaw Moor.

Dr Hendry's UFO Casebook

The world's secret organisations

DECEIVING the people is a very dangerous game to play. Yet the orthodox priesthood, political and scientific world play this very game.

There exists no modern state without a secret service entrusted with keeping many classified documents hidden away from the public.

In our war-ridden world, it seems that certain things must be concealed from the public, otherwise an enemy might obtain the plans of sophisticated weapons and aircraft.

The trouble is that Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) might be confused with Unconventional Flying Objects (UFOs) which are on the Government secret list.

In Britain, secret files can be released after 30 years, but only at the discretion of the Government and then only if there is not a demonstrable need to protect the information in the interests of national security.

To give an idea of the sheer magnitude of secret organisations, I give here lists of British and American Intelligence Communities which, by their nature, may not be complete.

BRITAIN

MIS is based at Millbank and is responsible for counter-intelligence and counter-terrorism. It employs 2000 staff.

The Secret Intelligence Service (SIS), or MI6, based at Vauxhall Cross, is responsible for spies abroad. Both were founded in 1909 as the Secret Service Bureau.

The Ministry of Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS) is also based in London. The Government Communications HQ (CGHQ) works with America's National Security Agency (NSA) and the Service Intelligence Branches (Army, Navy and Air Force), which were replaced in 1964 by the Directorate of Service Intelligence (DSI).

The Director General of Defence Intelligence has 90 departments, divided into four main branches, Service Intelligence, Management and Support of Intelligence, Scientific and Technical Intelligence and Economic Intelligence. He collates and analyses intelligence reports from agents worldwide, and briefs the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC), which is served by Current Intelligence Groups (CIGS) for daily analysis, and an Assessment Staff for long-term intelligence estimates.

JIC members include the Chief of SIS, the Director General of MIS, the Director of GCHQ, the Deputy Chief of the Defence Intelligence Staff and the Coordinator of Intelligence and Security, who reports on the JIC's assessments to the Cabinet's most secret

intelligence committee, the Overseas and Defence Committee, chaired by the Prime Minister.

The Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), Cheltenham via Menwith Hill, North



Yorkshire, is based on two locations in Cheltenham, but with worldwide listening posts. It has four directorates 1. O&E (Organisation and Establishment) 2. SIGINT (Signals Intelligence) and two operational directorates, the largest being 3. SIGINT Operations and Requirements (processing and analysis) and 4. Communications Security (COMSEC).

GCHQ (and NSA) specialise in intercepting and decoding communications on a worldwide basis, notably diplomatic traffic, military communications, radar intelligence (RADINT) and broadcasts.

Commercial telex and civilian telephone calls do not escape. All phone calls entering or leaving Britain are automatically monitored by computers for sensitive names or numbers.

PORTON DOWN: The Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE), Porton Down, Wiltshire, provides science-based protection services to ensure that the UK Armed Forces could survive a chemical or biological attack and operate effectively afterwards.

It has two sectors - the Chemical and Biological Defence Sector (CBD) and the Chemical and Electronics Sector (CES, formerly part of the DRA).

The CBD sector has five divisions. Hazard assessment, Detection, Protection and

Decontamination, Medical Counter-measures and Operations.

Current employees number 920, with an annual budget of £65 million.

The list goes on: the Civil Aviation Authority and the Joint Airmiss Working Group (CAA); the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Scotland Yard, London; the National Criminal Intelligence Service of Scotland Yard and the National Crime Detection Service.

If you have got through all this list, you may now know how your precious UFO record got lost!

AMERICA

In AMERICA, the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), was passed in 1976 but also at Government discretion. The CIA (Central Intelligence Agency), FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation), Air Force, Navy and Defence Intelligence Agencies all routinely invoke one or more of the nine exemptions which exist to justify the continued withholding of documents considered unreleaseable.

The CIA (Central Intelligence Agency), Director, Lt Gen Bedell Smith (Chief of Staff to Gen Eisenhower at D-Day), has several departments.

The Office of Scientific Intelligence (OSI), investigated UFOs. Chairman is, Dr Samuel Abraham Goudsmit, theoretical physicist and chairman of the physics department, Brookhaven National Laboratories. The NSA (National Security Agency) was established by Harry Truman on November 4, 1952. HQ is at Fort George, Meade, Maryland. Its current budget is \$30 billion.

It has no law-enforcement responsibilities, which are the duty of the FBI, whose agents intimidate subjects by quoting the espionage laws carrying the penalty of life imprisonment, or even death.

Personnel include code-breakers and mathematicians. There are several units in the NSA; Electronics Intelligence ELINT, Human HUMINT, Radar RADINT, Signals SIGINT.

Activities of private citizens, especially "protest movements" are closely followed.

NSA closely works with GCHQ at Cheltenham via Menwith Hill, North Yorkshire, and the Australian Defence Dept at Pine Gap.

Others are NORAD - the North American Air Defence organisation. FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) was a secret government set-up by Jimmy Carter, Oliver North, George Bush et al concerned with a build up of armaments in secret. Was this the strike force for a New World Order?

The Air Materiel Command (AMC) was commanded by Lieut. General Nathan F. Twining. 'Project Moon Dust' involved the examination of non-US space objects or objects of unknown origin.

The official Department of the Air Force document dated November 3, 1961, states: "Moon Dust teams comprise three men each, to include a linguist, a tech man and an ops man. All are airborne qualified."

Peacetime employment of AFCIN intelligence team capability is provided for in UFO investigation (AFR 200-2) and in support of Air Force Systems Command (AFSC), Foreign Technology Division (FTD), Project Moon Dust and Blue Fly.

These three peacetime projects all involve a potential for employment of qualified field intelligence personnel on a quick reaction basis to recover or perform field exploitation of UFOs, or known Soviet/Bloc aerospace vehicles, weapon systems and/or residual components of such equipment.

UFO SIGHTING: Charlie and Moira Lippett of Bournemouth saw a cluster of blue and green lights in the sky above Claipe Heights shortly after midnight on Monday. Mr Lippett, 62, said: "It was most peculiar. I have never seen anything like it in my life."

He watched the 'object' as it hovered for about 30 minutes before sinking slowly behind the wooded slope. He added: "I thought that it must have been an aeroplane at first, but why was it up there for so long and why did it descend so slowly?" The RAF had no knowledge of any nighttime flying exercises in the area and Kendal police said they had not had any reports of mysterious lights.

Mum and son chase UFO in car

AN Ipswich teenager believes he saw a UFO as he and his mother drove home late at night through the Suffolk countryside.

Richard Tatterton, 16, and his mum Myrtle were on their way home to Spring Road when they saw a strange object in the sky over Bromeswell, near Woodbridge.

The pair had first noticed something was amiss as they watched television at the home of family friend David Caley in Eyke earlier on Tuesday night.

"It was about 10.30pm. There was some interference and the TV kept going blank and turning from a picture into a black screen," said Richard, a pupil of Farlingaye High School, Woodbridge.

Two minutes later, Richard and Myrtle left to begin the drive home to Ipswich.

Gliding

"At about 10.38pm, we were driving through Bromeswell and I saw a grey saucer-shaped object in the sky. At first I thought it was a piece of dirt on the wind-screen," he said.

"Then I saw it again and it was gliding fairly fast towards the Woodbridge air-base."

Housewife Myrtle, 54, stopped the car at a T-junction in Bromeswell and she and Richard watched the object hover in a field before it moved off towards the air base.

Richard confessed to being "anxious" as he watched the saucer, but fearless Myrtle drove after it in the direction of

A STUNNED worker who saw mysterious lights in the North-east sky believes he had a close encounter with visitors from another planet.

Hydro worker Ian Taylor, 47, was fixing an electrical fault with four colleagues in a field near the Loch of Skene on the Dunecht Estate when three bright lights started darting about the sky.

The group watched the speeding white lights for nearly 30 minutes before the objects separated and took off into the night sky at midnight on Tuesday.

Ian of Provost Stewart Place, Stonehaven, said: "I didn't believe in any of that before but, after what I saw the other night, I certainly do now."

"What we saw were flying saucers, UFOs or whatever you want to call them. They definitely weren't from this planet."

"The speed they moved at was incredible, faster than anything I've ever seen. The lights would

by Alan McCabe

be white when they were moving then red when they hovered.

"There's no way they could've been planes. They were too fast, too high and they were silent."

Ian said the objects, which looked slightly bigger than stars, gathered in the middle of the sky before disappearing in different directions.

He claims two lights sped off in the direction of Fort William, while the other flew towards the Black Isle.

He said: "I phoned RAF Lossiemouth the next morning to see if anyone else had seen the lights but they said there's national UFO lines that people tend to phone."

"This is the first time I've ever seen this but I know other people who've seen almost identical lights, so there must be something out there."

"If we could see them with our eyes the Government must know

about them with all their hi-tech equipment. They're definitely hiding something."

Jim Anderson, RAF Lossiemouth community relations officer, said they had no aircraft in the air at that time, while low flying runs tended to stop at 11pm.

But he added: "The RAF has a neutral stance on UFOs and members of the public shouldn't be reticent about reporting this sort of thing."

UFO expert Brian Wilson, of the Edinburgh-based Scottish Earth Mysteries Research Group, said that sightings of this kind were not unusual.

"It is a scenario I recognise. It's more common in the Central Belt, but we do have quite a few sightings in the North-east."

Amateur photographer Jebrail Atabay has produced a photograph that shows a bright object in the night sky over Edinburgh city centre. Another picture taken a 15th of a second later shows a clear sky.

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Hollesley, even getting out of the car to get a better look.

The object then changed into a triangle of lights with the bottom-left corner flashing and glittering, said Richard.

The pair stopped again at Wilford Bridge and watched the object, and saw it again near the Red Lion pub in Martlesham before finally losing sight of it near Suffolk police headquarters.

"I have been interested in UFOs for

about three years, and I have always wanted to see one," said Richard.

"It definitely wasn't a figment of my imagination. If the bases at Woodbridge and Bentwaters were still open I would have said it could have been an aircraft but it was definitely a UFO."

"If I saw it again I wouldn't be scared. I will be keeping my eyes open and watching the skies."

■ Did you see the strange object? If you did, call our newsdesk on 01473 282257.

IPSWICH EVENING STAR

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UFO above Dorset could be Russian space station

THE Mir space station could be the answer to sightings of a mystery object in the Dorset skies.

Weymouth carpenter Luke Morris witnessed the Russian-built craft fly over Weymouth Bay on the same night a Dorchester woman reported seeing a UFO over the Ridgeway.

Luke, 23, from Broadway, spotted the Mir — closely followed by its supply ship — after hearing from friends that it could be seen.

After last Monday's spectacular 15 minute firework display off Weymouth, Luke stayed on Preston Beach and watched the space station glide through the night sky at just after 10pm.

By MARTIN LEA

He said: "I never thought that you could see it with the naked eye. It was quite a surprise soon after the fireworks had finished."

"It looked like a satellite in the sky and it moved quite quickly and I think a lot of people may have mistaken it for a UFO."

The space station, launched from Russia in 1988 and now carrying three astronauts, has been plagued with problems recently, and London based space expert Richard L S

Taylor said that more people have been looking out for it over the past few months.

Mr Taylor, a member of the council of the British Interplanetary Society who often advises science fiction film makers, said: "Mir orbits the Earth every hour-and-a-half and if you are in the right place at the right time then you will see it. However, it doesn't appear in the same place in the sky every time."

"A lot of people are keeping tabs on it at the moment because of all the accidents and mishaps. Personally, I believe we can learn a lot from the mistakes that have been made."

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Everyday tales of ordinary madness

Why People Believe Weird Things: Pseudoscience, Superstition, and Other Confusions of our Time

by Michael Shermer

W. H. Freeman: 1997. Pp. 306. \$22.95, £16.95

John C. Marshall

Michael Shermer is the California-based publisher of *Skeptic* magazine and director of the Skeptics Society. He is, according to the foreword by Stephen Jay Gould, "an important figure in American life", defending science against modern irrationalism and pouring justified scorn on those who take advantage of the gullible.

But before we say (a resolutely secular) amen to Shermer's book, it may be pertinent to cast a sceptical eye on the sceptics. There are many different reasons why people believe weird things and indeed many different weird things that they believe. Shermer rounds up the usual suspects: the paranormal, near-death experiences, alien abduction, Satanism and the 'recovered memory' movement, Ayn Rand, and creationism. And what a mixed bag they are.

Shermer seems to have spent a very bad day at Edgar Cayce's Association for Research and Enlightenment. Cayce (a deceased Kentucky psychic) has already been worked over by Martin Gardner and James Randi. All Shermer adds is that Cayce's followers seem quite remarkably incompetent at designing and statistically analysing experiments on extrasensory perception (ESP). Would it not have been more revealing to look at some of the many eminently respectable scientists who are conducting kosher research on guessing those little symbols on Zener cards?

On near-death experiences, Shermer cannot, of course, deny that people report leaving their bodies, passing through a tunnel towards the light, and there seeing their loved ones. But the strangely dichotomous question that Shermer then poses — is it more likely that these experiences are "an as-yet-to-be-explained phenomenon of the brain" or evidence of immortality? — is irrelevant to any genuinely scientific issue. Could not both be true?

An acquaintance of mine, an atheist neuroscientist with no belief in (or desire for) immortality, found his near-death experience spiritually rewarding. Perhaps the real question should be: How can arcane brain states be transcendently fulfilling?

Certainly the number of currently unexplained brain states is more than enough to keep neuroscientists busy for some time yet. For example, when friends tell me that they have been abducted by aliens, taken off to UFOs and there experimented upon, I am



Unconventional behaviour: alien costume contest at a meeting held earlier this year to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the "Roswell incident", the alleged crash-landing of a UFO and its unearthly passengers in New Mexico.

happy to explain that their experiences arise from subclinical temporal lobe epilepsy. But when they ask *how* such overactivity produces those specific experiences, my ums and ers cause them to shake their heads sadly at my credulity.

On satanic abuse, in the Middle Ages it took the rack and the thumbscrew to make people confess that their father drank babies' blood. Now, a couple of sessions in an air-conditioned psychotherapist's office seems to suffice. What needs explaining here is how we have become such wimps.

Above all, and despite the title of his book, Shermer refuses to engage deeply with why beliefs are held (or indeed what beliefs, as opposed to scientific hypotheses, actually are). Creationists, I would divine, are lamenting the loss of a monolithic religious culture that never existed. If so, no amount of lecturing from Michael Shermer and Richard Dawkins could reconcile them to their fate, and the latter's attempts to present science as if it were a religion will only make things worse, on both sides of the divide.

Shermer, at least, appreciates well enough the conjectural nature of science "aimed at building a testable body of knowledge constantly open to rejection or confirmation". Yet he seems puzzled by the existence of such common beliefs as Holocaust denial and racism. Surely it is only too depressingly obvious why some people need to believe that the Holocaust never happened, or that people with darker skins than their own are intrinsically stupid?

Similarly, he describes objectivism as "the unlikeliest cult in history" when one would have thought it tailor-made for its time and place. Alisa Rosenbaum (aka Ayn Rand) emigrated from post-revolutionary Leningrad to New York. There she wrote a best-seller, *The Fountainhead*, that preached the ethics of self-interest and the politics of unbridled capitalism. She gathered around herself a coterie of handsome young men who somewhat assuaged her vociferous appetites, and were also called on to spread her fame as "the greatest human being who ever lived". I cannot imagine what Shermer finds "weird" about this everyday story of lust, money and power.

By contrast, in the very university in which I work, there are people who claim that an occult force linking the Earth and the Moon provokes the tides to ebb and flow, and that minute creatures too small for the naked eye to see are capable of causing disease. Only this week, I heard that pink worms are dining on solid methane at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico. And that if you send one member of a pair of simultaneously created photons to Bellevue and the other to Bernex (two villages near Geneva), each one knows what the other is doing and itself does likewise.

To believe in ESP and little green men seems fairly tame in comparison. □

John C. Marshall is at the Neuropsychology Unit, University Department of Clinical Neurology, Radcliffe Infirmary, Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HE, UK.

A London man is hoping for a £1 million payout today for being abducted by aliens near Swindon . . . MICHAEL REID investigates



THE GREAT UFO MYSTERY



IF THE truth really is out there, nobody seems to believe it.

News of a £1million insurance payout to a London electrician abducted by aliens in a field near Swindon has been greeted with muted enthusiasm by most.

The Association of British Insurers is bemused but not bothered, the British Insurance Brokers Association is totally unimpressed, and UFO investigators Quest International are annoyed, worried and bitter.

"Some people can be so gullible," said the extra-terrestrial investigators. The abductee, Joseph Carpenter, now wishes he'd stayed with the little green men who so rudely interrupted his October evening.

"I'm sick of the whole thing," Mr Carpenter told the Adver. "I don't give a toss what anyone says. I just want to go back to bed."

Mr Carpenter stands to collect a cool £1 million on a £100 alien abduction policy he took out with an insurance company called GRIP, run by Simon Burgess.

His alleged seizure by aliens in a field near RAF Lyneham on October 10 has prompted the payout.

Mr Carpenter denies he is a friend of Mr Burgess and rejects claims the whole affair is a hoax.

"Well, they would say that . . . but once the footage is released . . ." he said. The footage is a recording made of the UFO by Mr Carpenter using his camcorder, being held by the policy underwriters.

Which are . . . ? "A consortium of European companies," replied Mr Carpenter.

And Mr Burgess? "I don't know what he is. I've only known the guy for two weeks," said Mr Carpenter.

"But if the cheque bounces I'll go around and kick his head in."

But Mr Burgess himself said the alien abduction policy is legitimate.

"I've sold over 1,000 of these since August. I take £90 for each one so I've made about £90,000," Mr Burgess



Flashback . . . Flying Officer David Pepper and police officers check out an object found in Chippenham in 1967

told the Adver yesterday. Mr Carpenter brought forward "compelling evidence" which was DNA tested by a top Cambridge research fellow, Mr Burgess claimed. He said X-Files star Gillian Anderson would present the cheque to Mr Carpenter at a top London hotel today. Coverage rights has been sold to a Sunday paper.

Scurrilous rumours about an elaborate hoax damaged his reputation as a legitimate insurer, he said.

But the British Insurance Brokers Association sees things differently.

"He used to be a Lloyds broker and one of our members, but he decided to de-register two months ago," said the association's head of com-

munications Sharon Holt. Brokers must be registered with the Insurance Brokers Registration Council and must adhere to a strict code of conduct. Mr Burgess said insurance regulations required him to voluntarily de-register to set up GRIP as an underwriting agency.

But the association is still unimpressed. "It's all a bit silly really. We're getting a bit bored with it," said Sharon Holt.

The Association of British Insurers is not so bothered by the story. "Swindon is obviously an area of paranormal activity. It must be all those music roundabouts," joked spokesman Malcolm Tarling. Mr Burgess's intentions, he said, had to

be considered. "He has said he's always looking for gimmicky ideas to raise his profile."

But using the serious matter of alien abduction to get publicity is abhorrent to . . . well, the experts.

British-based Quest International, the world's second largest UFO investigation organisation behind American giants MUFON, are upset.

"This kind of thing does us no good at all," said director of investigations Tony Dodd. "When the lid blows off, the public might think the whole lot of us are a lot of waltzes."

Besides, it's obviously a hoax, he said. "I can usually tell whether it's a potential abduction."

■ X-Files are to blame, page 13

'Lights in sky' UFO scare

A LATE-NIGHT laser show sparked fears of a UFO invasion in the Notts countryside.

Police in West Bridgford received a number of calls about lights in the sky over Cotgrave.

But when they investigated the complaint, they discovered laser beams from an open-air theatre event were to blame.

Lights and special effects from the production of *Quatermass and the Pit* at the British Gypsum quarry at Cropwell Bishop could be seen across the sky for up to 30 miles.

A Cotgrave woman who asked not to be named, said she saw bright lights in the sky on Saturday night.

"I've never seen anything like it before — it was like a seeing a searchlight through the fog."

"Beams came up from the ground, and there were lights rights above us."

The show was put on by Nottingham-based Creation Productions, the theatre group which last year put on *Frankenstein* at Papplewick pumping station and next year hopes to stage *A Clockwork Orange* on a derelict RAF housing estate.

The show at the disused quarry is set to continue until August 30.

MYSTERIOUS white lights spotted speeding through the night sky could have been a new prototype aircraft.

Unidentified Flying Object researchers believe tests are responsible for puzzling locals who have reported strange sightings during the past 20 years.

Four white lights, three in a triangular formation, were seen over Shepshed and Kegworth on Saturday night at about 11pm.

Eye-witness Fiona Bilby said: "I could not believe it."

"The lights had an erratic flight path and juddered from side to side — I haven't got a clue what it was."

Tim Matthews, a consultant for the British UFO Research Association, said other sightings had been reported in the East Midlands on Saturday night.

He added: "Prototype aircraft have been given permission to test in parts of the country. Some are American and at least one is British that's been developed by British Aerospace."

"People believe they are seeing alien spacecraft and have been specially chosen to see them. The powers that be would like people to believe that so they can get away with more."

"There may or may not be alien craft out there but we are more interested in what is really going on and try to identify objects with sensible research."

Kirk Hargrave-Parsons, from the Charnwood UFO Research Group, admitted: "Triangular UFOs are seen with some regularity over the Derbyshire area."

"There are a lot of things flying around up there and we are very open minded. We accept any explanation until it is proved to be false."

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Woman reports UFO

A WOMAN has reported an X-Files style encounter with a mysterious flying light on Ridgeway Hill, between Weymouth and Dorchester.

UFO researcher David Kingston, 59, says no logical answer can be found to explain the sighting.

He said the 50-year-old Dorchester woman, who does not want to be named, spotted a pulsating sphere in the sky when driving up the Ridgeway Hill.

Suspected UFO sightings can be reported to Mr Kingston, from Weymouth, on (01305) 760213.

Riddle over Notts UFOs

A MAN and his sister said they were left puzzled after seeing lights in the sky over Home Pierrepont.

Bahart Ahmed, 29, and his sister Iran, 16, of Avondale Road, said they saw six objects with bright lights "doing strange manoeuvres" on Tuesday night just after midnight.

Bahart, a clerk for Prudential Insurance, said: "Some of them were stationary and the others were shooting past."

"This went on for a long time. At first I thought they might be planes, but no plane can stay in one spot for five minutes."

Carlton police said they had no record of any other sightings.

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Im the Vinny Jones of the paranormal,' says Paul Southcott, director of investigations for the Ufology and Supernatural Society (USS). 'I get very angry with people who cast doubt on what we're doing. In the past I've been known to have a pop at people who come along to our talks just to take the piss.'

Tall and wiry, with a Hoxton background and 21 years in the army behind him, few would argue with Southcott's convictions - not to his face, at least. He is standing in the The Shakespeare, a Stoke Newington pub which has recently been the focus of some major weirdness. Objects have been moving inexplicably, strange noises have been heard in the dead of night and shafts of light without any identifiable source have been seen. The mysterious goings-on have coincided with residents in nearby Shakespeare Walk separately describing the same dreams.

'I never used to believe in ghosts. I thought it was all bollocks,' says Adam Hathaway, laconic landlord of The Shakespeare. 'The USS brought in cameras and measuring devices and got results straight away. Now I'm convinced the place is being haunted.' The nervous look in Hathaway's eyes seems genuine and Sarah Bailey, who lives above the bar, is certainly scared. 'I'm a bit shaky about the whole thing at the moment and haven't been sleeping well,' she says. 'I never used to believe in ghosts but these goings-on have been too strange.'

'We don't believe these particular ghosts - we think there are four of them - are malevolent,' says Barbara Fennell, a former prison warder and now a USS special investigator. 'If these were poltergeists they'd be throwing things

around. But they seem quite friendly. It's just a bit scary if you don't know what you're up against. But I don't think the people living here have anything to worry about.'

Southcott and Fennell met at London UFO Society (LUFOS) meetings but soon decided that it was a little too stuffy. They created USS to modernise the unusual work. Fennell had joined LUFOS after experiencing the 'mother of all sightings'. 'Two years ago I went to Cornwall with some friends. One evening, while cliff-walking, we saw two amber balls fly across the sky. When we returned to our caravan it was covered in seaweed. After making detailed checks we discovered that no aeroplanes had flown over that night, nor had there been any sea rescues. I'm convinced that the balls were extra-terrestrial.'

Back at The Shakespeare, the USS leave nothing to chance; they employ the 'Gizmo' designed by USS member professor Stephen Clemence to react to changes in electro-magnetic density. If a ghost, or spirit, as they prefer, comes into contact with the Gizmo it screeches like a banshee and flashes its lights. Out

'To those who need us, we are the only emergency service. I must stress that we're extremely cynical ourselves about most sightings.' Barbara Fennell

come the cameras, thermometers suggest erratic temperatures and USS excitement erupts. The goings-on have manifested themselves in three distinct phases.

On the USS's first visit they established that the pub had a great deal of paranormal activity. The Gizmo 'went

mad', and some of the photographs taken in the bar and upstairs contained irregular bright shapes. The strangest of these was a distinctly face-like shape, floating at about head-height beside the juke-box. They also caught what Hathaway described as a 'floating head' on video in a cupboard upstairs. The USS were thrilled, yet suspected they had only scratched the surface. On another occasion, their equipment reacted so powerfully and frequently that even Fennell confessed to being frightened. At one point, a heavy steel table jumped an inch into the air.

Gradually, a slightly unpleasant edge was manifesting itself: it had been thought that the spirits were harmless, but recently this cosy notion has been threatened by feelings of intimidation. They are easy to scoff at in the light of the afternoon bar, but darkness puts a new complexion on things. In order to investigate further, the USS recently staged a night-long vigil at the pub. As we speak, Southcott hopefully waves the Gizmo around. 'It was really making some funny noises the other night,' he reports.

Both Southcott and Fennell dismiss suggestions that they are Hackney's

answer to Mulder and Scully. Nevertheless, they have been the target of plenty of media attention, most of which they find insulting. 'We turned down the *Guardian* and Jonathan Ross,' says Fennell, 'because we knew they were just going to take the piss. As we are talking, a south London press agency rings to

nbeat

by Piggott and Alan McEwan
by Karen Robinson

ask him to embellish the story of ghostly apparitions at The Shakespeare in return for financial reward. 'Once we start down that road we get into the same kind of trouble as other UFO organisations. The temptation to "discover" things where they don't exist will become too strong. I get very angry when people try to manipulate the truth in that way! I'd rather be broke than compromise,' he says.

Southcott reserves particular scorn for a recent local-paper front page devoted to The Shakespeare haunting. Though the piece itself was fine, a photograph of Hathaway and Bailey standing outside the pub was tampered with, an unconvincing ghostly presence added, floating above their heads. 'That sort of thing makes us a laughing stock,' fumes Fennell. 'We don't have any need to tamper with film, we have enough real evidence. We gave them loads of Polaroids we took here, but they didn't use any of them.' Southcott produces a series of pictures for inspection. 'The thing is with Polaroids, you can't doctor

them,' says Fennell. 'Some of these we took ourselves, some were left to go off automatically. None of these things were visible when the picture was taken.'

The pictures, some of which appear to show faces, others clouds of smoke, may not be enough on their own to convince a cynic. But as neither Southcott nor Fennell seems to be making any money, and neither has any strong religious beliefs, it is hard to see why they would want to fabricate evidence. 'We are very serious about our work,' says Fennell. 'We don't get funding from anybody because we don't want to be compromised. We're both single parents yet we make a promise that if people approach us with genuine worries about something they believe has happened we will go anywhere in the UK to investigate. We've been as far as north Wales to look at a UFO case. To those who need us we are the only emergency service. I must stress that we're extremely cynical ourselves

about most sightings. I personally believe that 99.9 per cent of UFO sightings can be easily and rationally explained. On the other hand, some sightings are genuine mysteries.'

As the millennium approaches, interest in paranormal activity has intensified. Could the reason be a yearning for some kind of meaning in a post-religious world? 'Groups like Heaven's Gate [the Californian UFO cult which committed mass suicide last year] and stuff, that's just really sad,' says Fennell. 'That's just basically a load of mixed-up people who lost touch with reality. A lot of these people who claim to see or experience things are in fact on drugs. Neither Paul nor myself ever touches them.'

This leads to a discussion on what ghosts actually are. Fennell goes more for the idea that they are a form of energy, whereas Southcott believes they are 'recordings'. 'It's now thought that things like walls can actually soak up noise and light,' says Southcott

'There was this pub where they put devices to the walls, and heard the sounds of the pub from hundreds of years ago. Perhaps that's why it's so often pubs that are seen as haunted, simply because they're so old.' Which leads us to a possible explanation for many of the ghostly goings-on in Shakespeare Walk.

According to the USS, the area was once the site of a plague pit which they believe is the reason for the locals' recurring dreams. 'Five separate people have come forward to us with the same dream since we came here,' says Southcott. So, what was the dream about? 'Death,' he says. Meanwhile, Hathaway is wondering how the spirits are going to be evicted from his pub. Southcott and Fennell have several suggestions, including bringing in a medium and exorcist (though how an atheist exorcism would work is a real mystery).

Southcott and Fennell seem happiest with the notion that the ghosts should

just be left in peace. We are invited to another all-night vigil, but later the offer is withdrawn. Hathaway, the publican, has become suspicious that it could just be an excuse for a 'lock-in'. As consolation, Southcott and Fennell invite us to another all-night investigation, at a small village in Kent. 'You'd better dress warm,' says Southcott. 'You'll be in the back on a pick-up truck.' His eyes gleam with zeal at what seems to be a military-style operation, though Fennell complains the trips are usually just an excuse for consuming too much beer. As we leave the pub, Southcott is waving his Gizmo around with a frown on his face. ●

If you believe you have experienced ghosts, UFOs or other supernatural events lately, and would like it to be investigated contact Paul Southcott of the USS on 0378 455 088.

Close encounter in a Chelsea flat



FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES: Sir Peter, circled, was close to the Queen and Prince Philip. Picture: DAVID O'NEILL

MILITARY giants don't come much bigger than Air Marshal Sir Peter Horsley.

A war hero who flew Mosquitoes against the Germans, he has held one of the highest ranks in the RAF and has been an intimate adviser to the Queen and Prince Philip.

He has also, he claims, met a visitor from another galaxy.

RAF chief's memoirs on a man from outer space

By Fiona Barton

Sir Peter has kept his close encounter with the mysterious man he calls Mr Janus in a London flat a secret for 43 years. But now, at the age of 76, he is ready to go public. He is writing a book about the sighting. He says he was startled by newspaper reports at the time. He joined the Royal Household in 1949 as a squadron leader who

encounter came in 1954. At the end of my tour at the Palace, I had a very strange experience, he recalls. He is writing a book about the sighting. He says he was startled by newspaper reports at the time. He joined the Royal Household in 1949 as a squadron leader who

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I don't care what people think it happened

I never saw him again. I have no reaction to my experience with Mr Janus. I don't care what people think - it was what happened.

His extraordinary testimony in his autobiography, *Sounds From Another Room*, to be published in the autumn - and his uncompromising belief in unidentified flying objects will no doubt ruffle the sangfroid of the men at the Ministry. For, incredible as it seems, it is the evidence of a man who once ran the country's front line defence at RAF Strike Command, and was a Buckingham Palace aide for six years.

At his riverside cottage in Hampshire, where Christmas cards from the Royal Family hang in the lavatory, he discusses the presence of alien spacecraft with unwavering nonchalance.

I would say they come from another planet somewhere in

had been decorated for his work as personal pilot to Major General Sir Miles Graham during the Normandy Invasion.

Sir Peter says he talked to Prince Philip of his interest in UFOs. He was quite interested, as always his mind was open. He agreed I should do a study on the subject in my spare time as long as I kept it in perspective and didn't bring the Palace into dispute. He didn't want to see headlines about him believing in little green men.

Sir Peter started by interviewing people who claimed to have seen UFOs and invited a BOAC captain to visit him at Buckingham Palace. His own

THE STAR (SHEFFIELD)

06 JAN 98

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UFO was planet Jupiter

IN REPLY to: "Is there anybody there?" letters, December 23: J Sheppard's UFO was in fact the planet Jupiter! Jupiter is very bright, disappearing below the horizon at 9pm that evening. Jupiter moves through the sky for the same reason the Sun does - the Earth is rotating once every day.

D Baskill, President, Leicester University Astronomy Society.

LINCOLNSHIRE ECHO

22 AUG 97

Page 3

'Saucers' sighted

UFO watchers have reported bizarre sightings of "flying saucers" above the county's cornfields.

One couple claimed to have been followed from Spilsby to Freiston by an alien craft about three feet in diameter.

Skywatch member Sue Gregory said: "They were so terrified they nearly drove their car off the road."

"We have also had several reports of disc-like objects emerging from fields of ripening crops."

The couple's experience has hardened the Skywatch group's resolve to stage an open meeting later this year - probably in Mablethorpe where the group was formed four years ago.

Anyone interested in contacting Skywatch call (01790) 763534.

HEYWOOD ADVERTISER

18 DEC 97

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Flood of strange sky sightings

LITTLE did I realise by what I said in last week's Advertiser - in which I stated predictions made by myself that major events are due to take place within the skies above Heywood - that I would be adding more evidence and credibility to that statement so soon. Barely had two days passed before I began to receive reports of sightings and encounters with objects unknown in origin.

The most recent of these took place on Sunday 14 December, at around 4 pm, and, it was fascinating to say the least. The witness told of a diamond-shaped object with crystal clear outlines, brightly lit and hovering totally motionless above Pillsworth for

no less than one hour. The object was said to have been quite low in altitude. I appeal to other witnesses to this sighting, of which I'm sure there must be many, or of any other sightings, to contact me without delay and in total confidence.

At this very moment in time, Heywood is seeing an increase in aerial activity, as I predicted. These predictions are not mere fantasy but have been drawn from facts, through reported sightings, encounters, times, dates etc. Here are those facts: Heywood has over a 30-year period had three major UFO waves: 1972-74; 1982-86; 1984-97. From reports received it appears that 1998 may be the year to end this wave of high

activity and certainly a year in which to take notice of the skies above us.

Of a final note, and to people in Heywood who find interest in what I have to say, I would like to have what appear to be, from my files and reports, the best times to skywatch: July to October seem to be the best months; the best days Sunday to Friday and 11.00-11.45pm the best times.

Thank you to those who have supported my investigations and work within the field of UFOlogy throughout the year.

PAUL WILLIAMS

UFOlogist (Address supplied) Heywood

SOMERSET & AVON GUARDIAN

14 AUG 97

Page 1

UFO mystery

A MIDSOMER Norton woman wants to know if anyone else in the town saw and heard a strange light during the early hours of Sunday morning.

Mrs Lillian Lewis, who is 85, lives in Church Court, Midsomer Norton.

She said: "I was woken up by a buzzing noise. I looked out of the window and, from the Clapton direction, saw a very bright rectangular object. It came hurtling across the sky and disappeared over Withies Park."

UFO group probe into white light

A WHITE light seen over Burnley on Sunday night has cast doubt in the minds of UFO experts.

Five men who were on Pendle Hill on Sunday phoned the Pendle and Hyndburn UFO Network to say they had seen a mysterious white light over Burnley and the Forest of Trawden.

It hovered in the area for about 10 minutes before disappearing.

Members of the UFO group have got several ideas as to what the light was but would like some more information.

Vice-chairman Mr Andrew Pate said there is a slight possibility that it could have been a police helicopter but would like to hear from anyone else who can offer any more details, on Burnley 457670.

THE CORNISHMAN

16 OCT 97

Page 2

Madron UFO?

AN unidentified Flying Object was spotted over Madron on Friday morning and reported to the Cornwall UFO Research Group by three local people.

David Gillham of the research group said that a father and daughter at Madron spotted a bright light in the sky, which they first thought was an unusual aeroplane.

"The gentleman, who doesn't want to be named, noticed it when he was collecting the milk from his doorstep," said Mr. Gillham.

"He then looked at this bright light through binoculars and saw that it was a tear shaped object with black lines through it moving very slowly," said Mr. Gillham.

A woman in Penzance also reported seeing the same object flying through the sky at around 8.30am last Friday, which she said flew over the sea from the Madron direction and over St. Michael's Mount.

Said Mr Gillham: "When the sightings were reported to me, I contacted RNAS Culdrose, who said they had no aircraft flying at 8.30 that morning and knew of no aircraft in the area at the time."

Mr. Gillham would like to hear from anyone else who might have seen a bright object in the skies over Madron and Mount's Bay, last Friday. He can be contacted on 01872 276381.

We saw the light! Did anyone else?

I WAS coming home from Jarman Park on Saturday, October 4 at about 11.20pm after taking my daughter to see a film and, as I was near approaching the M1 after going past the last roundabout on the main road, we saw something unusual.

It was large white, round, bright light (the size of the moon) which looked like a fireball appeared and shot across the sky at a tremendous speed above a field near the motorway.

It went a short distance and then vanished. It was not lights from the motorway and we do not believe in UFOs. In fact if only one of us had seen it we would have doubted it.

Did any of your readers, perhaps driving on the motorway or like us near that last roundabout, see it? I would be interested to know what the light was as we found it very puzzling

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

16 OCT 97

Page 4

A MYSTERIOUS object which hovered in the sky today left a group of Midland workers baffled.

Several staff at a design firm in Leamington spotted it on the A452 Balsall Common to Kenilworth road as they travelled to work.

Engineer Tom Leavesley said: "It was the size of a jumbo jet, but was far too low to be an aircraft. I'm a bit of a sceptic over UFOs, but this was very strange."

White lights

Design engineer Richard Hamilton said: "I was driving to work when I suddenly saw what I at first thought was a low-flying aircraft.

"When I got closer, however, I noticed this thing was just hovering about 200ft from the ground above some houses. It was pretty dark, but it had continuous white lights on each corner."

A spokesman for Birmingham Airport said that as the sightings were on a flight-path, it is possible the 'UFO' could have been an aircraft.

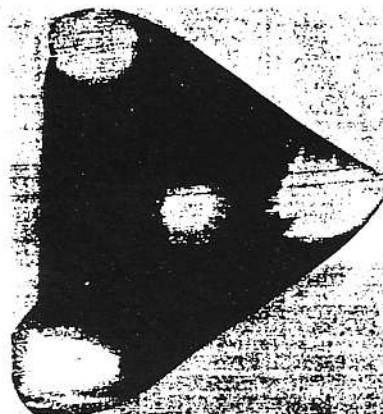
West Midlands police said they had received no reports of unusual objects in the area.

SOUTHPORT MIDWEEK VISITOR

19 DEC 97

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They're back!



FLASHBACK • This strange object, with four glowing lights, was spotted hovering over Southport by a number of readers in September 1996. Have the "visitors" now returned to our skies? Code NA

December 2, if you remember, was a frosty morning, and as the sun was rising at about 8.30 there were long pink clouds on the horizon.

I was very busy removing condensation from my windows on the opposite side of the house from the sunrise so was looking at a bank of grey clouds. Suddenly an object, a perfect oval shape, with a silvery sheen appeared against the grey clouds, followed by a second one directly behind it. There was no vapour trail or sound.

They were quite beautiful, I had only moments to watch them before they disappeared from sight.

I didn't know what I had seen, but thought they were possibly UFOs.

Has anyone else reported seeing something similar on that day?

FULL NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

BIRMINGHAM EVENING MAIL
 31 DEC 97
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Roswell Revisited

Family reveal their close encounter

UFO experts in London yesterday revealed the Roswell-like case of a Chard family who claim they encountered an alien.

The family, who have been given anonymity by the British UFO Research Association, say they were approaching Windwhistle Inn when they saw a huge orange light left of the road.

The light appeared to be cigar shaped and about 70 to 100 metres long and around 25 metres off the ground.

The mother became uneasy and asked her husband to put his foot down. She remembers little more and thinks she lost about ten minutes of memory.

But her son, then aged seven, remembers his father tried to drive away but the engine died and the headlights went out.

He realised there was something behind the car and put his hands over his eyes but saw a white light filtering through his fingers. When he looked up the light was everywhere.

He says: "It was like being inside lighting but it didn't hurt my eyes. My last memory is of seeing a dark shape outside the car beside the window. It was very tall and bending forwards looking in."

"The shape was mostly human but I knew it wasn't, which is why I felt so afraid. My next recollection is of seeing the orange light and then it was gone."

A few days later, the family were on the same road when, about 200 metres

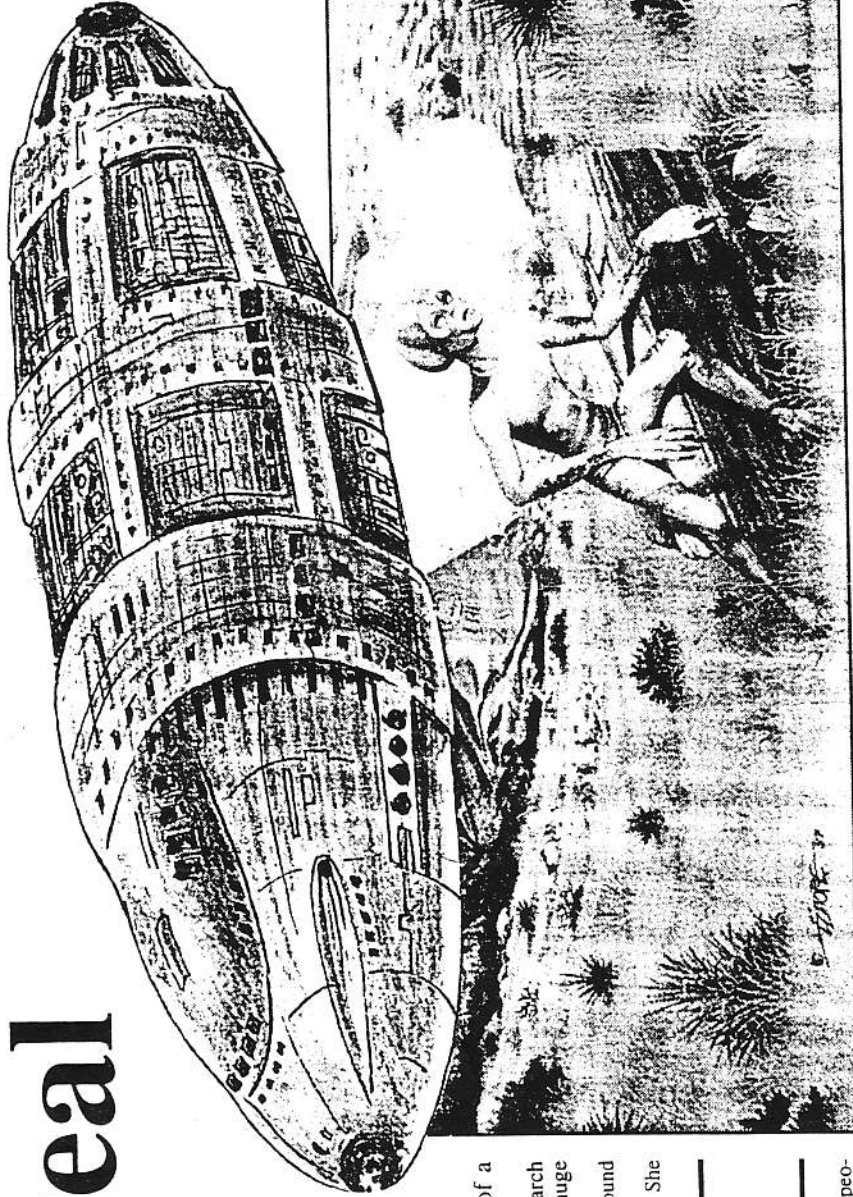
from the first sighting, they saw two people, one who appeared to be lying down.

At first they thought someone had been injured but to their horror, the standing person stepped out in front of them, leaving one foot on the grass verge and placing the other across the middle of the road.

The father swerved to avoid the figure and kept driving without looking back.

The two incidents occurred in September 1977 and the mother has since moved to Yorkshire where she admitted the experience for the first time two years ago.

Report by Lisa Bailey



● **ALIEN ENCOUNTER:** Artist Gary McKie's interpretation, top, of the UFO the family saw at Windwhistle Hill, between Crewkerne and Chard, and Fantasy artist Larry Elmore's painting, above, of an alien survivor from the purported incident at Roswell, New Mexico.

"I thought there would have been something in the paper about someone being injured or being taken ill up there but there was nothing," she said.

"I find it incredible, thinking about it now all these years later, that we could have dismissed what we saw so casually at the time. We never discussed it and life

went on as usual. It has been a great relief to tell someone."

BUFORA director of investigations Gloria Dixon said: "I've interviewed the family at length and have been intrigued by the detail in which they recall the two incidents. I would like to hear from anyone who remembers anything unusual from that time to write to me so I can fur-

ther my research."

Anyone who can recall an incident at Windwhistle Hill is asked to write to BUFORA, FAO Gloria Dixon (Somerset Case), London WC1N 3XX.

A BUFORA conference will be held on Saturday and Sunday 16-17 August at The Pennine Theatre, Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield.

AS EXPERTS MEET AT A WORLD UFO CONGRESS, A STARTLING THEORY FROM A TOP WRITER

COLIN WILSON is one of Britain's most eminent authors. He has written dozens of plays and books, covering subjects from Mozart and Rasputin to Tolkien and Hermann Hesse, and has been a visiting professor at leading American universities. But it was for his studies of real-life crime, in particular serial murder, that he acquired an international reputation. Possessed of a first-rate sceptical mind, he prides himself on solving forensic problems. It is in this context that what follows is an extraordinary testament. For here, as experts from all over the world meet in Mexico for the second World UFO Congress, Wilson reveals for the first time why he believes that there are, indeed, aliens among us.



by COLIN WILSON

THREE years ago in Washington DC, at a conference on unsolved mysteries, I heard a professor named David Jacobs lecturing about UFO abductions.

I could hardly believe my ears when he said that thousands of Americans believed they had been kidnapped by aliens, taken on board spacecraft, and often subjected to some kind of medical examination.

What, was more, Jacobs said, the aliens usually destroyed all memory of the abduction, and the victims came to suspect that something was wrong only when they became aware of 'missing time'.

After the lecture, I asked Jacobs: 'Do you think these people are sane?' He nodded. 'I've interviewed hundreds, and most of them are as sane as you or I.'

The whole thing sounded so absurd that I pushed it to the back of my mind. But a year later, when a publisher asked me to write a book about extra-terrestrial life, I decided to return to the subject.

At first what I learned made me wonder whether the human race was going insane. It seemed vast numbers of people were telling the same story: they had been taken from their beds by little grey men with huge wrap-around eyes, often floated through the wall, and taken aboard flying saucers.

Women often said that they were subjected to some kind of examination, and that foetuses had been implanted in their wombs. When they woke up the next morning, they were often puzzled by red marks on their navels, yet had no memory of anything happening during the night. But their ordeals often returned in dreams and many consulted a doctor or psychiatrist, who recovered memories under hypnosis.

AND WHAT happened to the babies? This was the weirdest part of the story. According to the women, when the foetuses were a few months old they were taken away during subsequent abductions and brought up by the aliens.

What was going on? Was all this some kind of mass hysteria? Over nearly three years, I progressed from being a sceptic to a believer.

I talked to John Mack, a friend who is a professor of psychiatry at Harvard University. He has studied hundreds of cases and has written a book called *Abduction*.

John assured me that it was happening. It was not hysteria or imagination. He also felt that many of those he had examined had been made 'spiritually stronger' by their experience.

But surely little grey men were not kidnapping human beings to make them stronger?

Mack admitted that he had no idea of their motive. All he knew was that something strange was undoubtedly happening.

I had never taken any deep interest in UFOs. But in the Seventies I had been friendly with Uri Geller and his mentor, Andrija Puharich.

Professor Puharich had written a book called *Uri*, in which he claimed that all kinds of miracles had happened in front of their eyes: UFOs swooping out of the night sky, metallic voices speaking from thin air, tape recorders that switched themselves on and off

with messages that claimed to come from 'the Nine' — aliens who were anxious to help humanity.

The aliens told Puharich that they were preparing for a mass landing on Earth in the Seventies. But, of course, it never happened and Puharich's book flopped, virtually destroying his reputation.

Now, for the purposes of my book, I decided that I had to start from the beginning and study UFO phenomena that had been appearing all over the world since a pilot named Kenneth Arnold saw nine 'shining discs' in 1947 and invented the term 'flying saucer'.

The first thing I recognised, as I studied hundreds of reports, was that the whole subject of UFOs had to be taken seriously; that it was not some strange fad or superstition.

There have been millions of sightings and most have been made by perfectly ordinary, reliable witnesses with no reason to lie. And the number is incredible. When an American called John Keel decided to collect newspaper cuttings about them in the early Sixties, he

was astounded to receive more than 2,000 in a month.

Then the nature of the cases began to change. In 1967, 16-year-old Shane Kurz was puzzled when she woke up one morning to find her feet covered in mud and her muddy footprints going downstairs and across the street.

She began to show signs of pregnancy — but that was impossible, because she was a virgin.

UNDER hypnosis by Dr Hans Holzer, she remembered being summoned from her bed by some inexplicable compulsion, being taken aboard a spacecraft, and being impregnated by a humanoid alien. When she struggled, the aliens rubbed some ointment on her body that made her sexually excited.

A month or so later, her pregnancy vanished as suddenly as it started.

That was the beginning of an

apparent wave of abductions. And throughout the Eighties they became increasingly frequent.

Budd Hopkins, a New York artist, wrote a book about 'missing time' and received hundreds of letters from people who were certain they had been abducted. He is now a world expert on abduction and his meticulously documented cases are disturbingly convincing.

French astronomer Jacques Vallee, studying UFO sightings in the Fifties, came to a very strange conclusion: that the aliens were attempting to accustom human beings to the idea of beings from space coming to Earth.

But were they beings from space? After 20 years, Vallee reached an even more amazing conclusion: they were not. Rather they existed in a kind of parallel dimension, more like poltergeists than aliens.

Their craft, a kind of UFO, can do things that no normal spacecraft can do. They can turn at right angles at a thousand miles an hour, appear and disappear at will, communicate with those they abduct by telepathy. I have known

Jacques Vallee for many years, and I found his evidence overwhelming. There is a sense in which the UFO entities behave like the traditional ghosts — except that they are very obviously not ghosts, but highly evolved beings.

If they are so highly evolved, why are they bothering with us? We must strike them as little better than Neanderthals?

Slowly, as I researched my book, which will be called *Alien Dawn*, I began to see what I believe to be the only explanation.

Ever since I wrote a book called *The Outsider*, 40 years ago, about the mystical states of man, I have been convinced that mankind is on the point of some great evolutionary change. We possess inner powers that we scarcely begin to understand, but which were glimpsed by the Romantic poets of the 19th century.

Now I became totally convinced: the aliens are interested in us because we are what they were once. I believe that the task they have given themselves is to act as midwife to us as we go through the next stage of our evolution.

What first convinced me was the number of cases in which people who have had UFO encounters have been deeply changed.

A woman who stopped her car to look at a UFO as she was driving to Oxford said that, for the rest of the drive, it was if a mental explosion was taking place. Knowledge and insight seemed to flood into her mind. She told Vallee: 'All I can say is that in the course of a few hours, I changed from an agnostic to a gnostic.'

I, too, have come across dozens of such cases. Sometimes the change is interesting but minor.

ONE British couple who later realised they and their family had been abducted experienced personality changes. They became vegetarians. The husband suddenly became interested in art and religion. A smoker, he gave up overnight. Their backward child became brilliant at school.

In other cases, there has been a deep and permanent inner transformation of awareness.

An American, Beth Collins, realised that not only had she been abducted since childhood, but so had her father, her grandfather and her children. And when she asked a grey alien why he was inserting a needle into her navel, he replied: 'For the sake of change.'

H. G. Wells once wrote a novel suggesting that humans were slowly being changed into 'Martians' by some higher beings who were bombarding our genes with cosmic rays from space. I have come to believe that Wells was snowing the amazing prophetic insight that was part of his genius.

I rank Andrija Puharich, not long before his death, to ask him what he was working on. He told me that he was studying super-normal children. 'You wouldn't believe how many of those kids there are out there,' he said. 'They seem to be on genius level. I know dozens, and there are probably thousands.'

I have also come to believe this. I am convinced that the aliens are using many methods to 'seed' the human race with different types of being: alterations in individual consciousness, genetic engineering, even the creation of people who do not realise that they have two personalities — as a human being and as an alien.

The aliens know that the human race is at a dangerous point in its development, that we are creating a chaos that will be hard to disentangle.

Nostradamus foretold that the coming millennium would bring about some frightening changes.

But if I am right — and the study of a vast body of evidence I have compiled has convinced me that I am — then we are also close to a change that will alter the course of human history.

Why I'm now convinced there are aliens in our midst

