

BUFORA BULLETIN

Journal of the British UFO Research Association

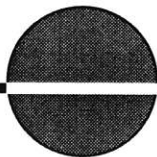


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New President
Annual Report

No: 17 & 18

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Officers and Council Members 1999-2000

The British UFO Research Association (BUFORA Ltd, by Guarantee) Founded 1964. Registered office: 70 High Street, Wingham, CANTERBURY, Kent CT3 1BJ. Registered in London 01234924. Incorporating the British UFO Association (founded 1962) & the London UFO Research Organisation (founded 1959)

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Malcolm Robinson

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BUFORA NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE (NIC) INVESTIGATIONS REPORT

The NIC comprises sixteen investigators at the present time, with several more enrolled on the PTC.

POSTAL TRAINING COURSE

Dave Pointon, the national co-ordinator of the PTC has had to step down from this role due to family and work commitments.

Because of this and as a temporary measure, I have taken over the administration of the course together with Judy Jaafar, who has kindly agreed to help tutor this course with me. At the present time, we have two new trainees, enrolled on the course from Mid Glamorgan in Wales and from Kent which are areas we have no cover at all at the present time..

SIGHTINGS

BUFORA have logged 217 reports for 1999, which shows a decrease in sighting reports to BUFORA during last year. During 1998 293 reports were logged, which indicates a twenty-five percent decrease in reports to BUFORA for 1999 in comparison to 1998. Many of these have been ex-

plained, but within the resources that we have there are a residual that do remain unknown at this time.

Of these reports 28 can be defined as high strangeness or close encounter experiences, so therefore we are looking at about twelve and half per cent of reports last year as being perceived in the more exotic framework of alien encounters. This indicates a steady increase in this type of report. In 1997/1998 the more extraordinary range of reports were logged at about 10% of the total figure. There is no doubt that BUFORA continues to receive a diverse spectrum of reports that lie within many areas of extraordinary human experiences, reported to our organisation due in part to a perception of these experiences as being linked and related to the UFO mystery. These can involve anything from strange balls of light to puzzling bedroom dream like experiences or car journeys which involve curious time discrepancies after seeing unusual lights. Also integrated into reports are those cases once interpreted as paranormal events now being perceived as UFO and alien encounters.

We are also looking at a different way of viewing these strange events as people and our advanced technology become ever inexorably linked. As we look to the skies, and assimilate endless informa-

tion from the internet and the media addressing these issues each with their very own theories, this can sometimes prevent us from having to search for answers. Why look for answers when we can shape what we've seen or experienced with the imagery now so readily available to us. In our quest, both witness and researcher must go beyond the image makers and learn to fit one piece of the puzzle at a time combined with the scientific disciplines that can be so revealing in learning about ourselves, the human consciousness and the mysteries of our universe

About thirty reports to BUFORA during 1999 were not recent sightings. Most of the thirty were from 1997-1998. Others included reports from 1960, 1969, 1971, 1973, 1981, 1989 and 1994. Therefore people still report sightings which can go back thirty to forty years and more. This creates many difficulties of course, but they are still important for research purposes and should be logged with a BUFORA questionnaire. Some of these can be explained in terms of aircraft, astronomical phenomena, satellites, weather balloons, airships etc.

These figures do not include the sighting reports which are emailed directly to the BUFORA web-site.

Anomalous lights in the sky continue

to be responsible for a majority of all sighting reports with investigations made more difficult when people add solid objects to these lights without actually having seen an object...only a light or lights. When questioned closely it can be determined that the observer has only actually seen lights in the sky. This is a very important issue in investigation and has to be very carefully evaluated in trying to elicit accurate information from the witness. To illustrate this major problem during December of last year I received a worried call from the Police in Cleveland as they had received several calls from people in Middlesbrough reporting UFOs on the Estan Hills. From the description the police gave me the reports were highly indicative of a laser light display, but they informed me that they would have known about this. I explained it was probably unlikely they would know about various light shows. One of the witnesses called me and I asked where the nearest pub, or nightclub would be. He suggested a pub in Guisborough, several miles to the south east of the Eston Hills. I asked him to get in touch with them and check out whether there was a light show going on. He called me back to tell me this was indeed the case. Mission accomplished and the police were none the wiser! Simple and mundane answers to perceptions of spaceships and flying saucers.

We had several reports to BUFORA last year, which turned out to be airships. These are often described in very exotic ways and often will give

the game away because of the highly glossed descriptions.

Satellites have also created UFO reports to BUFORA in 1999. Satellites can be seen as a point source of light moving slowly and smoothly usually in an easterly direction with a viewing time of anywhere up to 20 minutes. Autokinetic effects can sometimes appear to make the satellite appear to jog off course and zig zag. This is due to involuntary jerky movement of the eye when you look at a point source for a period of time.

Iridium satellites, 66 in orbit, can be observed as a glint in our early evening or predawn skies. Their large flat antennas act like giant mirrors and can reflect a narrow beam of sunlight to the Earth which can be extremely brilliant.

Due to some excellent investigative work. Tony Eccles, has identified specific satellites as being responsible for a sighting report from October 1999, which gives further new information to the BUFORA NIC. The name given to these specific satellites are **NOSS**, which stands for **Naval Ocean Surveillance System**. Meteor observers became familiar with the **NOSS Trio** of satellites which are observed in an equilateral pattern and are part of the US Navy's Spaceborne Electronic Intelligence System, which tracks the position, speed and direction of all military ships at sea. Three satellites can track these ships more accurately than a singular satellite by measuring the time difference of a sig-

nal receipt.

Unusual atmospheric phenomena such as ball lightning have possibly been responsible for two cases reported to BUFORA during the last two years, and which have been documented in the Bulletin as this a very interesting and rare phenomenon.

More information on ball lightning has been reported very recently and information on this comes via the Daily Record and Sunday Mail. Two Scottish climbers on Ben Lomond ran for their lives after being zapped by a flaming ball of dazzling, bluish-white, which came down touched them causing a shock right through their bodies. It then flew off at an angle and vanished with a deafening explosion. They describe a tremendous noise that shook them off their feet. Dr. Terence Meadon of the Bradford Upon Avon based Tornado Storm Research Organisation commented that they could have been killed.

PHOTOGRAPHS/VIDEO FOOTAGE

With regard to laser lights and their misidentification, BUFORA investigators Judith Jaafar and Malcolm Robinson viewed footage from the London area during 1999. The photographer was convinced that he has captured an 'object' not of this earth. He had never observed an object either on or off camera only lights moving within cloud coverage. After viewing the footage Judith and Malcolm explained to him that these were laser lights, but he did not wish to

hear this. He had captured a 'UFO' on camera and did not want it to be identified. This, of course is a fairly common problem with photographs and video footage that come into BUFORA

BUFORA have also received stills from Video footage taken during the Sierra Madre fires in Mexico in 1998 and video footage taken from an aircraft window showing what the photographer thought were two UFOs moving around the wing of the aircraft. In both cases these have been analysed and evaluated by Bill Rose.

In the Mexico case, there were inconsistencies with the footage, due to long exposure times causing 'star trailing' and possibly light trails from moving sources such as helicopters or fix wing aircraft. The latter case was probably due to shooting through a double layer of non-optical quality glass/plastic at an oblique angle, which is an invitation to record dirt marks and minor optical defects etc. Slight repositioning of the camera can also make small nearby optical artifacts appear and disappear. The two small objects recorded by the wing actually appear to move across it, suggesting parallax (difference in position when viewed from different points) created by camera movement/position adjustment, which was another strong indication that nothing more than small window smudges are involved.

Photographs taken by a lady on Balham High Street at midnight with

clear shots of the full moon proved definitively to be optical artifacts, which are a very common problem when working at night. The cause is the presence of bright light sources, although these secondary images are rarely apparent to the photographer at the time of taking the pictures.

On behalf of BUFORA I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Bill Rose for his time in conducting analysis on the video film and photographs.

Research & Investigations Meeting – 12th February 2000

Minutes of the recent R & I meeting have been distributed to all investigators and researchers in addition to being posted on the BUFORA Web-site for all BUFORA members to access. This will be a regular feature on the web-site for future NIC meetings.

On behalf of the NIC, I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to all investigators for their time and dedication in their work for the BUFORA NIC. I would also like to extend my thanks to Judy Jaafar in her role as Secretary to the NIC particularly for her concise and coherent writing and distribution of the minutes at all these meetings. This has been a real contribution to the NIC.

BUFORA and the NIC would like to extend their considerable thanks and appreciation to Dave Pointon, who has recently stepped down from his long-term role as National Co-ordinator for

the PTC. Over the years he has revitalised the course, setting high standards for potential investigators and has contributed a great deal of time and energy to this very important foundation for UFO investigation. However I am very glad to report that David remains as Deputy Director of Investigations.

To conclude this report and on behalf of the BUFORA NIC, I would like to express our deepest thanks and appreciation to Steve Gamble for his constant support to the NIC through many years, attending nearly all of our meetings no matter which part of the country they were held in, and for organising them in Cambridge on several occasions. You are greatly missed Steve.

On a more poignant note and on behalf of the NIC, I would also like to express how much we all miss Arnold West.

Gloria Heather Dixon

STRANGE PHENOMENA INVESTIGATIONS

Founded by Malcolm Robinson in 1979 now has a branch in England

SPI England, 41 Castlebar Road, Ealing, London, England, W5 2DJ.

E-mail: spi_spi@hotmail.com

Bufora Ltd

Report of the Directors

The directors present herewith their annual report together with the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st August 1998.

The company is a private company limited by guarantee and without share capital.

Principle Activity

The principal activities of the company during the financial year have been to encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying object(UFO) phenomena throughout the United Kingdom and to co-operate with others engaged upon such work throughout the world.

Directors

The directors who held office during the year were as follows:-

M Cassirer	J Spencer
G Dixon	S Gamble
J Ja'Ar	
A West(Secretary)	
R Lindsay	R Moore
R Digby (Treasurer)	
A Eccles (Appointed 4/4/98)	
M Hudson(Appointed 4/4/98)	

Directors Responsibilities

Company Law requires the directors to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing those accounts, the directors are required to

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make Judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Political and Charitable Contributions

During the year the company made no political or charitable contributions.

Accountants

Messrs N O'Brien & Co Chartered Accountants have continued in office

for the current year.

In preparing the above report the directors have taken advantage of special exemptions applicable to small companies provided by part II of schedule 8 of the companies act 1985

DONATIONS RECEIVED

**1st September 1998 to
31st August 1999**

The Council wishes to express its thanks to the following members who have generously supported the work of BUFORA during the past year:

D.J.Addison
G.F.N. Knewstub
P.D. Corbett
P.J. MacCarthy
Miss F. Farquharson
J. McGilvray
G. Frey
R.Stamp
B.P. James
S.M. Winslade-Rafter

Council also notes with gratitude the countless hours contributed to the Association by its officers, investigators and researchers, whose voluntary efforts are the life blood of BUFORA.

A. West, Secretary

[Note: This list was prepared by Arnold before his recent death. Treasurers report contains an update]

Treasurer's Report for the financial year to 31st August 1999

My report includes the accounts currently lodged with Companies House on 30th June 1999 for the previous year. These are in the format required for that purpose. I have elected to present our finances in a simplified form for the year ending 31st August 1999 as I did last year.

We started the year with £3,662.64 at the bank but with around 2/3rds already spoken for by outstanding liabilities. Our income in the year from all sources was £6,750.59 but was outstripped by expenditure of £8,088.25 meaning a shortfall of income over expenditure of (-£1,337.66). Therefore, we ended the year with £2,324.98 at the bank, having made up the difference.

In the previous two years, our accounts have been distorted by Conference expenditures. Although income is well down on previous years, so is expenditure. I make the following comparison with last year :-

Category	1998	1999
Admin	5848	1966.85
Publications	4022	3400
Lectures	1908	2044.94
News Cutting	2792	300
Newsfile	364	376.46
Totals	14934	8088.25

I have simplified the categories of ex-

penditure and no longer try to apportion monies to Research or Investigation. These activities are reflected across all categories in so far as they can be adequately captured.

We still have £200 allocated for special investigation purposes and £1500 was allocated for a book publishing project. This arrangement may have to be reviewed but although finances remain tight in a declining market, essential services are still being delivered.

I would like to thank my fellow directors for their help during the year, especially Steve Gamble and Arnold West whose efforts made a big difference to the bottom line in saving us money. Jenny Randles continued to run the UFOCall service which brings us in a regular income. I also acknowledge donations from G. Knewstubb, S.Gamble, Mr.McGilvray, G.Frey and P.Corbett. Also, our officers, Researchers and Investigators whose voluntary efforts are the lifeblood of Bufora.

I propose the accounts be scrutinised by Messrs O'Brien and Company as in the past two years. The legal form of them to be lodged with Companies House prior to 30th June 2000 based on the figures I have presented today.

Robert Digby, Hon.Treasurer, Bufora Ltd., 1st April 2000

Bufora Ltd

Revenue Account for the year ended 31st August 1998

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Turnover	16796	17766
Less Prime cost events	6300	9044
	----	----
Gross Surplus	10496	8722
Less		
Research & Investigations	-	945
Administration Costs	9276	24236
	----	----
	9276	25181
	----	----
Operating Surplus(Deficit)	1220	(16459)
Interest Received	-	7
	----	----
Surplus (deficit)to General Fund	1220	(16452)
Balance of General Fund at 1st September 1997	(78)	16374
	----	----
Balance of General Fund at 31st August 1998	£1142	£(78)
	----	----

The directors have taken advantage of special exemptions conferred by part 1 of Schedule 8 of the Companies Act 1985 applicable to small companies the preparation of the accounts and have done so on the grounds that , in their opinion, the company qualifies as a small company.

For the financial year ended 31st August 1998, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 249A(1) Companies Act 1985, and no notice has been deposited under Section 249B(2). The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 221 of the Act and preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of the company as at the year end and of the profit for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 1985, so far as is applicable to the company.

Bufora Ltd

Balance Sheet as at 31st August 1998

Tangible Fixed Assets

Equipment at cost at 1st September 1997 & 98	3848	3848
	----	----
Less		
Depreciation		
At 1st September 1997	3848	1729
Charge for the year	-	2119
	----	----
	3848	3848
	----	----
<u>Net Tangible Assets</u>	-	-

Current Assets

Cash at Bank	3662	2385
Sundry Debtors & Prepayments	-	3444
	----	----
	3662	5529
	----	----

Current Liabilities

Creditors	2520	5907
	----	----
Net Assets	£1142	£(78)
	----	----

General Fund

Balance at 1st September 1997	(78)	16374
Surplus /(Deficit)for the year	1220	(16452)
	----	----
Balance at 31st August 1998	£1142	£(78)
	----	----

Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors.....

Dated 30th June 1999

Bufora Limited

Accountants Report

year ending 31st August 1998

As described on the balance sheet, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the accounts for the year ended 31st August 1998, as set out on page 3 and consider that the company is exempt from an audit and a report under section 249A(1) of the Companies Act 1985. In accordance with their instructions, we have compiled these unaudited accounts in order to assist them to fulfil their statutory responsibilities, from accounting records and information and explanations supplied to us.

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs at 31st August 1998 and of its result for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies act 1985 applicable to small companies.

N O'Brien
151 Farnham Lane
Chartered Accountants
Slough Berks SL2 2EW

Bufora Ltd

Notes to the accounts
31st August 1998

1. Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

(b) Cash Flow

The accounts do not include a cash flow statement because the company, as a small reporting entity, is exempt from the requirement to prepare such a statement under Financial Reporting Standard 1 "Cash Flow Statements"

(c) Tangible Fixed Assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates to write down each asset over its estimated useful life. Equipment -25% of net book value

(d) Taxation

The Company is a mutual trading company deriving its income from its members. Deposit interest is taxed at source.

(e) Research and Development

Expenditure on research and development is written off in the year in which it is incurred.

2. Capital and Members Liability

The company is limited by guarantee and in the event of winding up the liability of each member would be limited to £1

BUFORA LIMITED

COMPANIES REGISTERED NUMBER 1234924

Turning UFOs into IFOs - NOSS

by Anthony Eccles

During October of 1999, a UFO case had come to my attention from the Thingwall area of the Wirral on Merseyside. A fifty five year old sales engineer called John was walking his dog in the fields on the Tuesday night of the 5th of October. John and his dog were located to the north of Prenton Brook, and to the east of far Lower Thingwall Lane. It was ten o'clock at night and the sky was slightly covered with cloud, it was not raining and there was no wind. In fact, John could see a clear night sky. A slow moving point of light had caught his attention, and it appeared to pass through the constellation of Cassiopeia. The man believed that what he was looking at was a satellite. However, another detail had caught his eye, he noticed a second light and then a third appearing together to form a triangular formation, with one light being the lead light and the others forming a base line, an isosceles triangle formation. All three lights were moving together simultaneously. Satellites? Moving in formation? His feeling was that he was observing three individual objects and not three lights that were fixed onto a single body. They appeared to move at the correct speed for a satellite and at the correct height. The lights disappeared from view "as they entered the Earth's shadow". Normally, most investigators, like myself, would probably connect the sighting of triangular lights with suspect

prototype military aircraft. However, because the witness had submitted a number of important observational details on his sighting form, I was able to focus the investigation on astronomical phenomena.

My first point of call was my computer skymap and reference books of the Merseyside night skies, which are published by the Liverpool Astronomical Society. With this in hand I was able to locate Cassiopeia. From John's description of the lights the witness had observed them travelling from the west to the east. I had never heard of satellites travelling in formation before so my next move was to contact the British Astronomical Association - Artificial Satellite Section, and also to look on the Internet for a satellite tracking site called Heavens-Above GmbH, which is based in Germany. From this website I was first able to locate a satellite called Cosmos 1943 rocket which was close to the estimated object altitude and location. It is a single object which passes at 22:03:05 at a magnitude of 3.9 and first appears in the south west. This object fails to account for the lights witnessed, firstly because it produces a singular light in the sky, secondly because it appears below Cassiopeia and not through it, and finally because it moves in the opposite direction, from the south west to the north east.

Not the right solution, I know, but I was certain I was on the right track. Soon after, on the 25th October 1999, I received an email from the BAA with an explanation that it could well be

NOSS. The email carried with it the following information.

"A couple of summers ago, meteor observers certainly became familiar with the 'NOSS Trio' of satellites, which were in an equilateral pattern. Onboard sensors apparently allowed researchers to measure precise distances between these, and how they were affected by gravitational perturbations over time. The NOSS satellites were also comparatively faint - visual mag. +3 or thereabouts."

Searching carefully through the net I had come across a piece that had been written by CNI News, it was continuing a story that had appeared on the 1st September 1996 in the Toronto Star newspaper regarding the annual Perseid meteor shower. During the nights of the 8th, 9th and 10th of August of that year a set of three "unblinking" lights in triangular formation had "cruised across the star fields." These lights had never been seen before and were described as being fainter than the constellation of Ursa Major. The article goes on to say that Ted Molczan, a satellite orbit expert based in Toronto had figured out what the three lights were...they were NOSS, and there was not just one set but there were actually three sets of satellites travelling in formation. They were code named Parcae, after the three daughters of Zeus, and were a part of the US Navy's spaceborne electronic intelligence system. NOSS was the name given to these satellites by non military satellite specialists and stood for Naval Ocean Surveil-

lance System. Until 1996, the US Government had denied all knowledge of these satellites ever existing.

Each group of satellites, apparently, fly at an altitude of 1100km and in formation approximately 100km across. The satellites are meant to track the position, speed, and direction of all military ships at sea. This is done by detecting communication, navigation and weapons control signals that are emitted almost continuously by naval ships. Three satellites can track these ships more accurately than a singular satellite could by measuring the time difference of signal receipt. According to this CNI News article three sets of satellites were launched in 1990, 1991 and 1996. Each satellite measures approximately three meters in length, larger than the earlier versions of this system.

You can look at this page if you go to its original file name which is CNI: Triangle of Stars??

<http://www.cninews.com/Search/CNI.0475.html>

This sounded fascinating to me because it indicated that any ship belonging to any nationality could be identified and located anywhere in the world. It has some interesting implications with the use of satellite technology. I conducted a further search and found a number of question and answer pages from satellite enthusiasts. They not only enquire as to whether these satellites can remain in tight for-

mation and how they manoeuvre in orbit. These satellites move with a leading satellite first and the remaining two following behind, they are not capable of remaining in tight formation but will appear in a triangular formation as well as a formation of lights that travel in a straight line. This actually ties in with a couple of other cases which fit just that description. One of the answers given states this;

"The NOSS constellations consist of three visible satellites, each of which moves in a roughly geocentric orbit. The shape of the triangle formed cannot be maintained because the orbits must intersect one another when viewed from Earth's center. Thus from time to time the satellites will even appear to be in a straight line from that point of view. All other times they form some sort of triangle, but its shape must vary continuously. I tried viewing them from above in simulation in Starry Night. It is possible to do so, but it is very difficult."

I recommend the following pages;

<http://www.satellite.eu.org/sat/seesat/Aug-1997/0296.html>

<http://www.satellite.eu.org/sat/seesat/Aug-1997/0299.html>

<http://www.satellite.eu.org/sat/seesat/Aug-1997/0303.html>

Out of curiosity I wanted to know a bit more and fortunately found a few pages from FAS, Space Policy Agency: Military Space Programs. From here were pages which described White Cloud (NOSS). Its

opening sentence begins;

"The White Cloud Naval Ocean Surveillance System (NOSS) performed wide area ocean surveillance, primarily for the Navy White Cloud which is used to determine the location of radio and radars transmissions using triangulation. The identity of naval units can be deduced by analysis of the operating frequencies and transmission patterns of the emitters.

Each NOSS launch placed a cluster of one primary satellite and three smaller sub-satellites (that trail along at distances of several hundred kilometers) into low polar orbit. This satellite array can determine the location of radio and radars transmitters, using triangulation, and the identity of naval units, by analysis of the operating frequencies and transmission patterns.

NOSS used the ELINT (Electronic Intelligence) technique called "time difference of arrival", TDOA, rather than true interferometry. Conceptually, TDOA and interferometry are very similar, though distinct, techniques. They may also use the frequency-domain version of TDOA, FDOA, which exploits doppler shifts somewhat in the way the COSPAS/SARSATs do."

The initial phase of Operation White Cloud was in operation from 1976 right through to 1987 when 9 satellites were sent into orbit. This phase used one main and three sub-satellites and used Atlas F rockets to project them into orbit. It is not explained how these satellites remained in formation flight, it is

suggested that extremely long wires held them together but that these would have been several hundreds of kilometres long! From 1983 to 1987 a total of five groups of modernised SSU-1A satellites with upgraded stabilisation and data transmission systems were launched to replace failed satellites. By 1990, these satellites were launched using only three bodies. A number of infrared sensors were incorporated into these, and these had been manufactured by a company called Martin Marietta. By 1996 these satellites were using a stronger and more reliable Titan 4#17 rockets.

More details can be gleamed from the following:

<http://www.fas.org/spp/military/program/surveill/noss.htm>

Finally, there is also a paper given by a Russian military advisor called Major A. Andronov entitled "The U.S. Navy's "White Cloud" Spaceborne ELINT System". This gives an excellent explanation as to why three satellites are used. The first has a wide observation swath, but by itself cannot determine the coordinated of radio emitters. The second satellite, with the first, gets a fix on the shipborne emitters, the position of the ship is obtained, but with some ambiguity. The third body gets the fix of the emitters' signals, enables their coordinates to be determined precisely and then transmits the information to Navy ships for weapons employment. You can therefore take out an enemy surface craft

long before it appears on Radar.

The targeted information is not only relayed to US Navy ships but also to land stations such as Blossom Point in Maryland, Winter Harbor in Maine, Edsel in Scotland, and smaller stations in the Pacific such as Guam and Adak.

Major Andronov states that a satellite group is able to receive signals from a zone with a radius of about 3500km on the surface of the Earth, and under clear conditions can monitor the same object 108 minutes later. A system of four satellite groups enables any region at a latitude of 40 to 60 degrees to be monitored more than 30 times a day. This spaced based ELINT system is one of the basic means for over-the-horizon targeting for warships equipped with Tomahawk cruise missiles. Today, these information receiver systems are employed by nuclear submarines.

For further details please see the following;

http://www.fas.org/spp/military/program/surveill/noss_andronov.htm

My interest in the field of UFOs entails the possible identification of satellites as an origin of the sighting. With this case, I feel that I have done so. I am now aware that certain satellites do travel in formation and they also create different shapes of lights. For me in Merseyside it also means solving a number of other cases which have been previously labelled insufficient data.

CASE FROM USA

[I recently received this report from Mike Harman which I reproduce in full. Mike invites feedback SG]

April 6th, 2000

Two, bright Green Lights, traveling at a High rate of speed with an orange companion dancing back and forth behind the lead object

Arlington, Texas

9:35PM Central Standard Time.

This is the first time I have ever seen anything quite like this. Did anyone else see this strange sight? If you saw it please email me.

I had gone outside to observe the stars for a while before going to bed, I was standing facing south and looking at the Orion Nebula, when something caught my eye coming over our house.

Looking almost directly straight up and just slightly south, I observed two bright green circular shaped lights, or objects coming fast over our house, one behind the other. The objects were green in color, the same color as the green of a traffic light and about the same brightness, or possibly slightly brighter. The color of the green was very rich, intense green, almost a florescent green, like a green highlighter. The size was about the same size or slightly larger than Venus looks in the night sky, or about the same size that a small car would look at that altitude. When viewed through binoculars the object

appeared larger and you could clearly see the round shape of both objects. The objects were traveling at a very high and constant rate of speed except for just prior to it dropping below the tree line when it seemed to gain speed rapidly. The speed was what looked to be about four times the speed of aircraft passing over the same area during most of its trek. Aircraft often fly over this area as it is one of the final approaches to the DFW Airport.

The object took about 12 seconds to go from almost straight up and about 10 degrees south to completely out of sight over some trees down the street looking north. As the objects traveled across the sky, they did not leave streaks, tails, sparks and there was no sign of flaring, the way a Meteorite does. The size, shape and color of these objects remained constant throughout it's trek across the sky.

When I spotted the first green light I noticed that there was another object just like the first one and of the same color and brightness, this second object was also traveling in the same direction and at the same speed. This object was just to the right of the first object, and slightly behind it. I remember thinking, "is this a low-flying aircraft?" "It sure is moving fast for an aircraft", however there were no normal aircraft lights or strobes visible on either object. I grabbed my binoculars to get a better look at the objects, as I viewed the leading object through the binoculars, I noticed that I could see the clouds behind the object and that

there was no sign of a body or wings or any structure connected to the objects. I could clearly see the clouds behind and around both objects. The clouds were also illuminated by the city lights, which made the clouds seem to glow a dim whitish color. I could clearly see the clouds contrasted against the objects as they moved under them. The clouds were patchy and scattered, and spread out fairly evenly across the sky except for further north, where they were denser. You could also see many stars between the clouds.

These objects did not look anything like stars, since they were moving at a high rate of speed. They were also moving under the cloud cover therefore could not have been stars or satellites.

There was one aspect to this sighting that I thought was a bit strange, the objects seemed to be gaining speed rapidly, just prior to dropping down and disappearing behind the trees, which were about a quarter of a mile away.

Early in my observation, when I first spotted the leading object looking through my binoculars, I noticed an orange much smaller light or object that seemed to be dancing very rapidly back and forth going past the lead green object in either direction, from side to side, not a tight zigzag but a much more exaggerated movement, and quite rapid, more so than what would be expected from eye movement or movement of the binoculars. I

could see the lead green object at the same time as the orange smaller object and could tell that it was moving past the green one in a rapid movement. I was also able to pan the green object fairly easily allowing me to view the orange object as it danced around or back and forth. The orange object otherwise kept pace with the leading green object as it traversed the sky.

This whole episode caught me totally by surprise, I had gone outside to do some star gazing, and had not planned on looking for UFOs. This incident has left me totally spooked and quite excited, definitely High Strangeness. This is the first time I have ever seen anything quite like this; looked like something right out of the movies.

What I have described above was not the planet Venus or Jupiter, or a star. I was able to see both planets during this sighting. It also was not an aircraft, balloon or a helicopter as there was no sound at all, emanating from this object., and it moved much too fast and smoothly.

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SKYWATCH REPORT
MALCOLM ROBINSON & JUDITH
JAAFAR.

Being involved with UFOlogy can take many forms. You can either have a passive interest, or you can have a more vested interest in matters pertaining to 'what's going on'. Most people who take an interest in UFOlogy want to get to the bottom of it and may join any one of the many British UFO groups that are currently active at the moment. Some people are interested in joining a group to become an Investigator, or basically just want to join to be kept informed by reading any of the literature and magazines that that group may publish.

There is no denying that UFOlogy in the UK was helped along by numerous T.V. shows that featured our subject over the past few years, shows like the X Files, Strange But True? and Sightings, to name but a few. There is however another aspect of UFOlogy which equally holds a place within the ranks, and that is participating in skywatches. This as we know, comprises of members of the various societies, all grouping together on some bleak hillside or designated area staring skywards in vain hopes of seeing something which doesn't conform to normal conventional air traffic. Seasoned UFOlogists have been there, and it can at the very least, prove beneficial to those hardy souls who take great reverence of 'being there'. It gives them something to do, they feel part of not only being with other like minded individuals, but it gives them a sense of purpose, (dare I say it, be-

longing !) It can of course be productively 'boring' and I myself have spent many a night watching the bleak Scottish skies with fellow Scottish UFOlogists in expectant hopes that something might happen, all too often it usually doesn't. But it's the thrill of the possibility that because you are situated in a 'UFO Hot-Spot' or 'Window Area', that you feel that something might give, that something may manifest and enforce your reason for being there. To others this may sound fanciful or idiotic, (and who can blame them), but as I say, to the individuals who firmly believe that something is indeed going on in the skies throughout the world. It's the being there that counts, and if you don't put yourself in the ball park you won't get anything out of it. It's like, if you don't buy a lottery ticket, you have no chance of winning the lottery.

So, in setting the scene, I decided to take part in the British UFO skywatch which was scheduled for Saturday the 18th of September 1999. The organiser was Philip Walton a BUFORA member. Philip spoke to numerous members of the various UFO societies throughout the UK asking them to become involved. I explained to Philip that I would organise a UFO skywatch in Scotland and would hold it in Scotland's alleged UFO Capital, Bonnybridge. Bonnybridge has seen a wealth of strange UFO sightings over the years which has catapulted it into the minds of UFOlogists the world over.

I asked numerous Scottish UFOlogists to become involved and sadly only a few responded. Billy Devlin and Brian

Allan from SPI Scotland. (the society I founded back in 1979) kindly agreed to take part, as did John Paul Grey from the Lanarkshire UFO society. I must admit, I was surprised by the lack of their support and enthusiasm. Councillor Billy Buchanan from Bonnybridge, who has been assisting me with these UFO reports over the years, notified various Scottish Newspapers and their coverage was extensive leading up to the day of the skywatch, indeed, I even conducted a radio interview with Central F.M. (a Stirlingshire radio station) here at my home in London just prior to my departure to Scotland. My partner Judith Jaafar and I traveled up to Scotland where we met up with a group of people at the arranged designation point in Bonnybridge High Street. From there we all jumped into our respective cars and headed off into the dark and cloudy Scottish night towards our skywatch location which was on the moors behind the town of Bonnybridge.

At my suggestion, we all parked our cars at the entrance to a local farm which I thought would not pose us any problems, not so, for a few seconds later an approaching figure came out of the darkness with a flashlight and headed towards our position. A voice boomed out, "Who is the organiser" ? I approached this lady and said it was I, whereupon she quickly and very vociferously, launched into a shouting-match stating that we were trespassing on her land, and that we were upsetting the cattle in the adjoining fields and we would have to leave immediately. I eventually got a word in and

gave my apologies to this local farm owner and said that we would vacate her land immediately. This we did, and we travelled a short distance to a new skywatching position. The sky at this point was heavily overcast and the forecast of rain which had been assured by the national weather men seemed not that far off. I had come prepared with my trusty kagool which admittedly had seen better days but thankfully I didn't require it as the rain did not appear. Gathered around me were around 30 hardy souls from different parts of Scotland who had all decided that they wanted to be there on the night, some of them had seen the massive publicity, whilst others had heard about it through friends. At this point I decided to explain all about the UFO sightings from this part of Scotland and went into numerous cases that I was aware of. Local UFOlogist and video photographer Craig Malcolm was also there, and I gave him the opportunity to inform the assembled people all about the many strange UFOs that he had captured on film. Craig wasted no time in going into numerous stories about all the strange things that he had seen and filmed around the Bonnybridge area.

A short while later, we were joined by local councillor Billy Buchanan. Billy suggested moving on to higher ground where we would have a better chance of not only viewing a better skyline, but it would give us a commanding view of the Forth Valley, and boy was he right !! The new location we visited was much higher than where we were previously and sure enough, the view was far better. I then asked Billy

to inform those assembled about how he became involved with the UFO sightings over Bonnybridge. As Billy was informing the assembled audience, I noticed that my partner Judith was avidly inspecting the skyline with her trusty binoculars where she seemed interested in a particular segment of skyline which I also noticed that some other people were gazing at too. I then noticed that there appeared to be a couple of unusual lights which were moving around in the sky. My partner and fellow UFOlogist Judith Jaafar now takes up the story.

The night was chill and damp, and the almost total cloud cover very low. I hadn't been on many sky-watches before, and the inclement conditions only served to remind me why I didn't make a habit of this kind of thing. I had never in my life seen anything that could be dubbed a "UFO", and certainly wasn't expecting to change my non extra-terrestrial craft opinions on this murky Scottish night.

After Billy had joined us and we had changed locations, I let Billy hold court while turning my back on the group and surveying the unfamiliar skyline. Over the next twenty minutes or so I acquainted myself with the lights, treelines, in and out flightpaths to Cumbernauld airport and the general lay of the land over 360 degrees. I had noticed a very bright white light just above the horizon in a general WNW location, and made a mental note to ask some of the local people what this was.

The next time I looked it had vanished, somewhat to my surprise. Another smaller light just to its right still remained visible, and Billy assured me that this was a farmhouse on the Kilsyth Hills which were completely obscured by the thick, low cloud.

The bright light then proceeded to appear and disappear over the next half an hour or so, sometimes remaining in the same spot, other times being visible in different locations both to the right and left of its original position. All the while I was trying to identify this light - could it be an aeroplane, a helicopter, car lights, even a tractor on the hillside?

Then it started to change, and my interest increased. Several times the white light disappeared and was replaced by up to six small, pulsating red lights which would quickly disappear into the cloud cover. During these times the bright white light would become invisible, but its beam could clearly be seen reflecting along the underside of the clouds, almost as if the object had turned its back. I thought this sufficiently interesting to alert some others in the party, and consequently several of us watched the object both with the naked eye and binoculars.

At this point I was only mildly interested, as I was still pretty sure that whatever it was had a mundane explanation. Then all my theories went out the window. The single white light made a reappearance back at its original location and promptly divided into two white lights which rapidly flew off in opposite directions and then shot up into the clouds!

Over the course of the two hours or so that we watched this object it had traveled back and forth on the horizon, but in dark, cloudy conditions it was impossible to judge distances. I then determined to come back to this location in daylight and see exactly what the topography was like and if there would be any visible clues as to the possible nature of this light.

So it was, three weeks later, that Malcolm and I were back in Scotland and we made a return trip to the Bonnybridge moors. It was a cold, clear, sunny day and we could see for miles. The back drop had indeed been the Kilsyth Hills which were now clearly visible, and I could judge that the object I had viewed had been moving either in front of the hills or perhaps just along the crest. We estimated its left and right trajectory to have been a total of 1 and a half to two miles, its distance from us about three miles and its height no more than 1000 feet.

The land there was rough grazing for sheep, and there was no sign of any kind of arable farming where a farmer might have been out ploughing on the hillside at night. And what a night to pick anyway, with the visibility so poor!

That left me with perhaps a police or rescue helicopter repeatedly traversing the same area, a very satisfying theory until one remembers the division of the light into two lights going in opposite directions. The same would apply to a light aircraft perhaps up to some illegal business, an explanation beloved of UFO skeptics these days.

I pondered this event for some time afterwards, but up till now I have not come up with a logical answer. Even earthlights do not fit the bill—they don't have powerful directional beams that illuminate the clouds. As far as I'm concerned, this remains an unknown, the first one I have ever seen. Of course that does not mean that it is unknowable, just that I haven't been able to identify it. J.J.

All in all then it had been a productive night, the rain had stayed off and we all had witnessed something unusual in the skies near Bonnybridge. So dear reader, the active participation of going along to a skywatch can prove productive, 99.9% of the time it does not, but thankfully on this occasion it did. I spoke with skywatch coordinator Philip Walton a few days later who told me that all the other groups in the UK had still to respond to him but he was sure that this was down to the abysmal weather that the whole of the UK had been experiencing that weekend and that they had nothing much to report. So, at the end of the day, UFOlogy is more than participating in UFO research, talking to the witnesses etc, it's equally about getting out into the field (as it were) and taking part in skywatches which allow the individual to feel part of a society which continues their interests. So for those who haven't participated in a skywatch, I suggest that you give it a try, it can be a cold but enjoyable experience.

© Malcolm Robinson, Judith Jaafar,
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I am interested in purchasing old UFO books and magazines. Any reasonable offer considered.

Replies to: Mr. Mike Hudson
C/o: PO Box 471
Canterbury
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EDITORIAL

The Moving Finger

Steve Gamble

And having written, so the story goes, moves on. So it must be with editors. This is my final edition of the Bulletin in the editors seat, having done my stint, I move on.

But of course being editor allows me to take more space than usual. This being a double issue of the Bulletin this parting shot will be twice the length of the usual editorial. Before we get into the main thrust of the editorial let me explain why issues 17 and 18 of the Bulletin have been run together. The new millennium did not start well for me and personal matters required most of my time. This resulted in Bulletin 16 being a little late and prevented me starting work on Bulletin 17 when I should have. This was then further compounded by technical problems with the machinery. The Council felt that running Bulletins 17 & 18 together into a double issue would bring us back more or less on target. Hence the current mighty tome.

I have decided to cut down drastically on work I do in the fields of UFOs and the paranormal. To do that I have given up all my official positions in BUFORA and several other UFO organisations to which I belong. Not an easy decision after twenty nine years of involvement.

Although I had already made the decision that I would be standing down this year, I must admit that the death of Arnold West was a big blow. Arnold had been one of the first people I came to know in BUFORA.

But I am not leaving the field entirely. I will be continuing my own researches in the background and hope to contribute the occasional article to the Bulletin and other publications. At the moment I am continuing to be a member of the BUFORA contribution to the SETI@HOME project. At the time of writing the team had completed work on over 1200 sets of data. I also plan to put in the occasional appearance at various events organised by BUFORA.

I am not sure if the field of UFOlogy has moved forward much in the twenty nine years or so that I been involved. Theories about the origin of UFOs come into fashion, then disappear only to reappear again several years later.

Certainly when I became involved things were more gentlemanly. Now it seems more important to shout down everybody that doesn't agree with your view— it is more important to be right rather than to look at the facts. We have researchers who make a habit of being rude to witnesses, then object when the witnesses don't want to play.

But it is not all a one way street. There are witnesses who object to researchers asking questions about their

UFO report. Yet it is only by questioning, by examining that we will make any progress.

The truth is that the researchers and the witnesses need each other. Without witnesses, the researchers would have nothing to study. And without researchers, the witnesses would have nobody to take an interest in their report. The witnesses know a great deal about their individual case, but probably don't have the whole picture. Researchers know a little about individual cases, but are able to piece parts from each together to get a feel for the overall picture.

There is also an element in UFOlogy who seem to make a profession out of wasting peoples time. I am no longer prepared to deal with these people. Football hooligans seem to be distributed these days through many branches of society.

I would like to thank all those that have helped me and who I have worked with during my time(s) as Editor, my time on Council, in the Research and Investigation teams and in my periods in office as Chairman. They would obviously be too numerous to mention.

I would also like to thank all the friends I have made whilst being a member of BUFORA and look forward to continuing these friendships over the coming years.

In closing, I wish my successors in various jobs good luck for the future.

Arnold West Remembered or LOVE AT FIRST BITE!

BUFORA Vice-President, Arnold West died at 1 pm on Wednesday 8 December 1999, from a sudden heart attack while working away from his home. He was 73. Some 40 people attended his funeral.

My records suggest that Arnold joined BUFOA (as it then was) in July 1963. John Cleary-Baker, then editor of the BUFORA JOURNAL, notes briefly in the Spring 1967 edition "At the time of writing (28th February), a suitable vehicle has been purchased and Mr Arnold West is in the process of fitting it up for use. This has been the cherished dream of mine since LUFORO days and I am glad that I was able to interest Mr West in assisting me to implement it." The reality was that Arnold converted a battered Thames builder's van into a mini-caravanette. He finished it in a BUFORA blue livery with the BUFORA acronym done in gold letters.

The "Mobile Unit" as it was known, saw service in Devon during the flying cross flap in the Autumn of 1967, and SPACELINK published a photo of it parked outside Okehampton Police Station. I believe that Arnold took it to Warminster several times and it took part in the National Sky-watch Day (organised by Edgar Hatvany) at the No.1 watching point, on Pewley Downs above Guildford in

1968. In June 1968 I took the Unit on tour to Scotland, and the BUFORA blue made a contrast with the green Bedford vans used by the Loch Ness Phenomena Investigation Bureau. In those days it was possible to park the van in central London without fear of a parking ticket!

The idea was good, but the reality was that finding a driver to take the van to a UFO sighting in another part of the country at short notice, did not compute. The Unit was specially refurbished by Arnold so that it could be the focal point for the large BUFORA stand at Daily Mail NEW YEAR SHOW in January 1969, visited by 130,000. The Mobile Unit was an example of Arnold's practical abilities, and his technical knowledge gained in the RAF, qualified him to work on radar for the Civil Aviation Authority at Gatwick Airport. Later he moved on promotion to the head office in London's Kingsway, where I sometimes met up with him in the lunch-hour. Incidentally, during the years when Warminster was an major tourist trap for ufologists, Arnold maintained a caravan nearby, which was rented out occasionally. He was a good friend to John Cleary-Baker who organised a "Warminster Week" study project. The Bedford UFO Society also had a caravan in the area.

Arnold was co-opted to the BUFORA committee about mid-1967 along with Ivar Mackay and Norman Oliver. Later that same year, Norman Oliver took over as Hon.Treasurer from Stephen Smith. In 1969 Arnold, bear-

ing the title "Field Unit Officer" took over the position of Hon. Treasurer, a post he held until 1975.

Sometime in 1974 Arnold had taken on responsibility for BUFORA publications. In fact in the 1970s the Association had an interesting range of in-house booklets and softcovers including the BUFORA INVESTIGATOR'S HANDBOOK. He helped set-up the BUFORA stand at the Psychics and Mystics Fayre at Alexandra Palace, 27-28 September 1980. The Fair organiser wrote to me inviting participation on 10 July. This was the same day that the Great Hall burnt down! In 1981 Arnold took over as Vice-Chairman from Norman Oliver. When Bob Digby got a job in Saudi Arabia in 1984, Arnold took over his post as Council Chairman and held it until 1989.

When his wife, Enid, was disabled by a stroke in 1989, Arnold dropped everything to care for her. Love at first bite? He often told the story of how he saw Enid in the NAAFI canteen while doing his National Service in 1947 and made the decision there and then, "That is the girl I am going to marry" which he did six months later. He came out of the Air Force as a full Sergeant. On occasion one of his daughters, Avril, (and not forgetting Rosemary) came with him to meetings, where she helped by collecting the cash. In fact Arnold often had his children (3 sons and 3 daughters) stuffing envelopes at home for a BUFORA mailing and paid them out of his own pocket!

After Enid died in 1996, Arnold took on the Association's day to day office work, dealing with every sort of enquiry - AND also handled the distribution of the BUFORA BULLETIN. It is probable that he, together with Steve Gamble and Bob Digby, saved BUFORA from extinction following the 1997 Sheffield Conference debacle. At the time of his death he was the Company Secretary and his house served as BUFORA's registered office.

He will be remembered as a mild-mannered, but eminently practical person and a good friend to many of us. The Association owes him a considerable debt for the man-hours he gave it over many years.

Lionel Beer - April 2000

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FROM HERE AND THERE

Arnold West Memorial Fund

The Council wish to record their thanks to all those people who donated to the fund in memory of Arnold West. This fund is now closed. Bob Digby collected £170 which he forwarded to the British Heart Foundation. In reply he received the following letter.

“Dear Mr Digby,

Thank you for your kind gift in memory of Mr Arnold West. Kindly pass on my thanks to everybody who contributed.

We at the British Heart Foundation find it such a tragedy that heart disease still takes so many lives. We are committed to doing all we can to help make heart disease a thing of the past, which is why BHF is the major independent provider of funds for heart research, patient care and public education in the UK. Of course, this would not be possible without the thoughtful generosity of people like you because, as a charity, we rely solely on donations.

Once again, many thanks for your generous gift at this time,

Yours sincerely,

James McCarthy
In memoriam Administrator”

All Change

Following the death of Arnold West there have been a number of changes in the administration of the association. Michael Hudson was appointed at the Council meeting on 8th January 2000 to take over as Company Secretary. In addition Michael has offered to take on the running of the office. Therefore the registered office will be relocated as below :

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Steve Gamble had previously indicated that he would stand down as Chairman at the AGM. However he stood down on 14th January. He states “I feel it is better that both the new Chairman and Secretary take over at the same time rather than wait for the AGM so they can start work together. I have every confidence in Brian James and Michael Hudson and wish them well”.

Bob Digby stood down as treasurer at the AGM and has been replaced by Simon Rose. Many members will be aware that Simon has been treasurer before and so brings a lot of experience to the post.

Bufora Strategy Conference 24th June 2000

Nearly three years on from Bufora's Policy meeting in Hampton and 53 years on from the Kenneth Arnold UFO sighting it is time to review the future direction of the company into the 21st century.

This meeting is open to all members of Bufora Ltd., and entrance and participation is * free of charge. However, entry is by ticket and so pre-registration is required. This also allows documentation to be sent out to participants ahead of the conference. The final venue is to be confirmed and depends on the size of the participating audience.

The meeting will be facilitated by a former Bufora chairman - Bob Digby, who recently stood down as Treasurer at the last AGM.

The purpose of the meeting is to consult with members and to map out the direction the company should take in the 21st century, given the very different environment to when the organisation was originally founded in the early sixties.

Interested parties should write in, enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope, size D4 (for folded A4 size or around 24cm x 11cm) to :-

Evolution,
P.O. Box 633,
Beaconsfield,
HP9 2GL

and mark the top left hand corner of the envelope "Conference".

Those members that remember the last one in Hampton can expect a similar participative style. Later on, a report and recommendations will be produced based on the findings of this conference.

Please ACT now to avoid disappointment. The first response mail to those registering will be at the end of May.

* This event is being jointly sponsored by your present Chairman, Brian James and the consultancy Evolution, managed by Bob Digby.

BUFORA'S NEW PRESIDENT



BUFORA President Lionel Fanthorpe with his wife Patricia

Photo: Lionel Beer

As announced at the AGM, Lionel Fanthorpe has kindly agreed to become the President of BUFORA.

Lionel will be well known to readers as the presenter of Channel 4's Fortean TV programmes. He is the author of a wide range of books on many different aspects of the paranormal. He has also lectured widely on the paranormal and, I believe started his TV career with presentations about the paranormal on Anglia TV in the late 1950s.

As well as the paranormal, his other great passion is motorcycles.

Lionel is already President of AS-SAP, the Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena. His appointment as BUFORA President will strengthen ties between our two organisations.

Speaking at the AGM, Lionel expressed his thanks to BUFORA for inviting him to be President and his great pleasure at accepting.

[The President's post had been vacant since the unfortunate death of Major Sir Patrick Wall last year]

OBITUARY

Howard Barkway

(alias Bellevue Books)

Howard Barkway, died suddenly on 7 February, while leaving his book storage unit near Ashford. Born 1 October 1939, he was only 60. His wife Kathy observed that a measure of his popularity was the fact that over one hundred people attended his funeral!

Those of us interested in mysteries will know of him through BELLEVUE BOOKS, as both a publisher and distributor. In 1991 he published the UK edition of Lionel Fanthorpe's book, RENNES-LE-CHATEAU.

Howard had been a member of the "Rennes Group" and was in a good position to probe the mystery of Saunière's treasure, having gained a degree in French at Aberystwith University. In 1994 he published GENESET TARGET EARTH by David Wood and Ian Campbell.

He was also obsessed with the so-called PHILADELPHIA EXPERIMENT and had tracked the USS ELDRIDGE to Greece. Books fascinated him and he thought nothing of staying up half the night pursuing some mystery in his eclectic collection.

He acted as a consultant to Gazelle Book Services based in Lancaster. His career in publishing spanned four decades and about 15 years ago he formed ELECTRONICA specialising

in the distribution of material issued by associations or societies in the USA.

When not attending conferences (eg. F.T. Unconvention) and occasionally TEMS talks, he delighted in playing jazz piano and accordion and indulging his passion for New Orleans music and blues.

He was noted for his self-deprecation but was good at linking people together. I owe him for putting me in touch with Lionel Fanthorpe, who has recently become both President of ASSAP and BUFORA. One wonders if he should have tried his hand as a publisher's publicist? Howard spread himself widely and consequently, he will be missed by many.

Lionel Beer - April 2000



The BUFORA website can
be accessed at :
www.bufora.org.uk

To The Editor - BUFORA Bulletin

In response to Kate Taylor's theories. Yes certainly, small, very small Sections of Society mainly in London, Southern Counties and main cities who do have access to all TV Channels, and huge selections of magazines and books on every subject going in most Newsagents- who could be influenced by what she says "belief in abduction by aliens has almost reached the point of hysteria". A gross exaggeration and lack of knowledge of how working class people, even Londoners, city dwellers, and more especially rural and small urban areas live and think.

Its football, fashions and one night stands, if more adult and stable, how to survive when New Labour are corroding everything Ernest and Aurein Bevin ever stood for. Worries about Jobs, road rage and muggings in everyday lives. That is what the majority of the UK and I should imagine any country thinks of. For women, such mundane matters as Juniors interests and schooling, plus ferrying them to and fro by car to their hobbies, they haven't time for any of their own! How many people attend UFO Conferences? 200/300 is a good turn out, insignificant compared with a population of millions. Ufology is a way out subject that only a very small minority ever give a thought to.

In the early 1970's, the then Essex UFO Group and I started getting abduction cases. By the mid-1970's Alan Hilton and I formed the 1st UK

Victim Support Team. Never once, did the people who had this frightening experience of Missing Time or bed-room experiences, ever say they had read about, seen on T.V or anywhere else, anything to do with UFO's. Indeed, they had never entered their mundane thinking until that moment in time. But the reaction was always the same. Why don't people know about this? why don't they believe me? Why isn't the Government doing something about it?. My silent response was "because people are like you, vaguely before you thought UFOs and ETH were a myth, only for the loony fringe, not for the likes of you, an ordinary person". So the Governments of this world get away with hiding their sinister research and more, for whatever nefarious reasons they have. They don't need to be heavy handed and put themselves in an awkward light. Intelligent thinking people such as Kate Taylor, Susan Blackmore, Budden etc. you name them, and some UFO organisations committees, are doing the dirty work for them. Together with occasional deriding, sarcastic newspaper reports, fantasy Children's TV programmes manufacturers of ET balloons and so on. The public are nicely deluding themselves, thank you!

It simply isn't possible for people in all walks of life, cases living in African huts in remote villages or in Bhutan, to have the same hypnagogic state dream. The same lucid dreams, or temporal lobe illusions however fragmented. There is absolutely no logic in these grandiose theories.

Contrary to what some people have been telling BUFORA and other Conferences up and down the country, I am and always have been, a most careful UFO investigator, taking copious notes into methodically dated Note books at the time. From 1965 onwards I have registered with police stations and county libraries. Hence hundreds, possibly over a thousand and more UFO witnesses, abductees, repeaters have come to me. Most I have counselled and helped over a period of years.

Yes, my colleagues Alan Hilton and latterly Nick Garvey who are professional hypnotists have helped people over the years with me. Very few wanted to be hypnotised, but if they did, the Service was there free for them. It doesn't matter a jot what a UFO investigator makes afterwards of information received through hypnosis, in comparison to the relief a Victim may get through this medium. If they come to you the UFO investigator for help, because there is no one else to turn to, you are letting them down if you impose your views of disbelief in the ETH upon them. If they have really had an abduction experience, believe me, people know positively it is an experience external to them; and who are you to say they haven't, and advance these theories which upset them still more.

It is a great pity people like Kate Taylor, Susan Blackmore and others have not had this abduction experience themselves, as unfortunately they write or speak on radio etc. intelligently and seemingly thoughtfully,

and are hindering ETH research. I see a thread of common sense logic lacking from all this psuedo-intellectual stuff.

I started/ investigating UFOS for myself from the time I joined BUFORA in 1965. It was not till Brinsley, the Earl of Clancarty asked me to join and investigate for his newly formed Contact International UK (1967) that a couple of years later I started officially to investigate for them. In October 1993 together with Gary Rowe I founded the Welsh Federation of Independent Ufologists. All bar one of our coordinators and investigators believe in the ETH. Nick Garvey is a WFIU member and until recently when he moved to Yorkshire our resident hypnotist.

It will be of interest to BUFORA readers that in September 1998 Nick and his daughters were motoring along the A5 by Oswestry, when his daughter first noticed a circle forming in a corn field to the left of them. This was in broad daylight in the afternoon. She exclaimed and they slowed down, then stopped to watch in amazement as a perfect large circle was forming. They looked to see if there was anything above making this, but there was absolutely nothing to account for it. Here is Nick's article on Hypnosis.

I sincerely hope you will publish both in BUFORA BULLETIN both topical views BUFORA members are debating.

from Margaret-Ellen Fry

HYPNOSIS

Walking a Tightrope over a Minefield

NICK GARVEY

That's one way of describing the role of a hypnotherapist working in abduction investigation. How do I know? I've done it.

I am involved in Dowsing and Healing and sometimes, albeit rarely, use hypnosis with abductees. I would refer to myself as a dowsing healer but in the past, have may been called 'a quack', witch doctor''dabbler' and accused of using 'a tool of the Devil'. I really do not care as I have been involved in the field for over twenty years and know what I can do. People come to me when all else fails, when they have travelled the 'traditional' route to no avail. When the case is hopeless they come to me- and I have a fairly high success rate.

I first became interested in the 'alternative' approach when I attended a Hypnotic Research Society meeting and found it absolutely fascinating. I needed to know more and so, over the course of two years I trained as a hypnotherapist and over the next twenty-odd years have carried on learning. How I became involved with dowsing, etc. is interesting but this is not the place to go into it.

Hypnosis - the "nuts and bolts" of which can be learnt in a day - is the induction of an altered state of awareness. It is merely a tool which can, like any tool, be used either properly

or improperly. Anyone can pick up a chisel and knock chunks out of a piece of wood, but very few can cut a neat, clean mortice. A grounding in hypnotherapy will take several years of hard study and, as I've mentioned, you never stop learning.

The use of regression in abduction investigation is not a parlour game' and MUST NEVER be treated as such. Nor is it a form of entertainment for interested parties. I would only ever use it with a person who has problems which may be abduction related. My early research led me to believe that there are situations in hypnosis where the subject may subconsciously access information from the memory of someone present. In fact, Russian researchers came to a similar conclusion when investigating telepathy. Add to this that the mind cannot differentiate, in memory terms, between and vividly imagined one and the waters start to get muddy.

In my early days life was relatively simple. Abduction had not hit the headlines and in fact few of the general public had even heard of it. However, the few people one did come across recounted, in therapy, alarmingly similar scenarios. Now, it seems that everyone has seen films and/or television programmes and read a book or two on the subject and is quite well versed in a typical story. The practitioner has also absorbed more and more information. The minefield has now been laid.

Let us now throw in 'recovered memory' for good measure. Yes, some

practitioners have, by their question format, put suggestions into the mind of their hypnotised clients. Some amateurs have done this through ignorance and bad therapeutic practice. However, I believe that some misguided souls have mis-used hypnosis to serve their own ends. This has led to many Court cases in the United States and to some Bodies - like the Royal College of Psychiatrists- virtually banning the use of regression therapy. Have you noticed that psychiatrists are often included in the UFO forum and have been since the early days? It seems that many television programmes touching on UFO phenomena have one on their panel. There are those who might see a "plot" in this. Link psychiatrists with UFOs in the public mind and then anyone who sees a UFO may either feel for themselves, or be considered by others, to be in need of psychiatric help.

However, I always remember listening to a group of eminent psychiatrists discussing ECT (Electric Shock Treatment to us ordinary mortals). They all argued most forcefully for the right to pass a range of electrical currents, via electrodes attached to the head, through the brains of selected patients. They wanted to continue to be allowed to do this even without consent, and even if the patient should be begging and screaming for mercy and for the course of treatment to end. They did admit that some equipment used was out of date and badly calibrated and was often operated by untrained and unsupervised junior doctors - but "so what?" Science cannot

be thwarted because a few patients have been badly burned or had their hair singed by poor administration - it's still a wonderful form of treatment! Do not ask for whom. They know best, so perhaps it is just as well that their professional body has limited their activities in an area which could affect abductees. I can't help wondering who is in more danger, an abductee at the hands of an alien or a patient at the mercy of an ET-loving psychiatrist.

I am often asked if abductees have, in fact, been abducted. My answer, "I do not care" is often misunderstood. If someone is referred to me and feels or believes that they have been abducted and this is adversely affecting their well being, I try to help. My first thought is not the reality or otherwise of the experience but how to alleviate any problems.

If you ever consider consulting a hypnotherapist, please bear a few things in mind. Always check out the credentials of any therapist and ask a few questions about the training they have undertaken. Find out which professional body they belong to and ask about any experience of dealing with others who share your problem. Finally do not call me!! if you are reading this you are highly unlikely to be a suitable candidate for hypnotic regression and I have more than enough tightropes and minefields already.

EDITORS COMMENT

Thank you Margaret for your letter and permission to reproduce Nick's

article. In the interests of balance, I am reproducing an article Stuart Campbell wrote some years ago for BUFORA's magazine JTAP. I am not sure if Steurt or any of the people he mentions have modified their views over the years, but it serves to illustrate some of the potential dangers in relying on hypnosis.

Whilst some people may object to the original case made by Kate Taylor that UFO abduction reports may be related, in at least some cases, to hypnagogia, it has to be said that there is a growing body of scientific evidence that this might be correct.

Witnesses may feel some relief from their experiences after undergoing hypnosis, that is therapy rather than research. Organisations such as BUFORA are not qualified to offer therapy to people, that must be left to qualified professionals.

People point out that in some cases the police have used hypnosis to obtain information about a crime. However, because of its unreliability any data has to be verified independently. In UFO cases there is no way of verifying the accuracy of any information. IT might be good, on the other hand it might be totally bogus.

In many cases hypnosis may do no long term harm. But it is the few bad cases that are important. We have no right to mess up people's lives. In the UK we banned people using handguns for sport not because of the responsible majority but because of a couple of serious irresponsible acts.

This article was originally published in BUFORA Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena pp52-55 Volume 2 No. 3, July 1982.

HYPNOTIC FANTASIES

STUART CAMPBELL

TALES OF UFO ENCOUNTERS TOLD UNDER HYPNOSIS PROLIFERATE, AND IT IS IMPORTANT NOW WHAT RELIANCE CAN BE PUT IN THE HYPNOTIC TECHNIQUE. WORK IN THE USA SHOWS THAT BOTH FANTASY AND FABRICATION STRONGLY INFLUENCE THE STORY TOLD BY HYPNOTIZED SUBJECTS AND THAT NOT EVEN EXPERTS CAN TELL FACT FROM FICTION. GREAT CARE IS NEEDED IN ORDER NOT TO INFLUENCE THE SUBJECT AND TO CAUSE HIM TO TELL A STORY THAT THE HYPNOTIST WANTS TO HEAR. SOME PROCEDURAL RULES ARE NOTED, AND THE OPINION OF AN EXPERT THAT HYPNOTIC RECALL SHOULD NOT BE USED IN SO-CALLED UFO ABDUCTION CASES.

At the 1982 BUFORA Conference in Edinburgh, Harry Harris introduced a woman who claimed to have encountered aliens (associated with a spacecraft). Her account derived partly from alleged memories 'recalled' under subsequent hypnosis, and Harris believed that these 'memories' were genuine. During discussion, it emerged that he had not heard of the

Lawson experiment in America, and Jenny Randles doubted the relevance of the experiment to UFO cases.

This matter is of considerable importance to ufology. It is important to know whether or not we can trust hypnosis. Already I have claimed that the account of the Janos People is derived, not from real events, but from a fantasy which evolved under hypnosis. (1)

In May 1977, the UFO movement's growing reliance on hypnosis to support tales of UFO abductions was shaken by a paper published by Alvin H Lawson, a Professor of English at California State University, Long Beach. (2) He reported on an experiment in which imaginary UFO abductions were induced hypnotically in a group of subjects who were then questioned about their experience. The hypnosis was administered by William C McCall, an MD with clinical experience in its use. Writer John DeHerrera was also associated with the experiment.

Lawson reported that not only were the subjects able to improvise answers about what had happened to them aboard the imaginary flying saucer, but their stories showed no substantive differences from tales in the UFO literature by persons who claimed to have actually experienced an abduction. This prompted Lawson to observe, "The implications of the study for future hypnotic regression of Close Encounter cases and for abduction cases now deemed of the highest

credibility, are unclear at this time".

The controversy that then erupted was reviewed by Philip J Klass (3). James A Harder of the University of California at Berkeley (engineer) claimed that Lawson's paper might lead naive readers to think that there is a strong case that all UFO abduction reports are imaginary, and criticized Lawson for failing to point out that while 'real' abductees were convinced that their experiences were real, 'imaginary' abductees were not so convinced.

Lawson offered a revised paper on the same experiment at the August 1978 meeting of the American Psychological Association. He stuck by his original report that there were 'no substantive (sic) differences' in the accounts given by 'real' and 'imaginary' abductees. But he added that despite the many similarities, there are crucial differences - such as alleged physical effects and multiple witnesses - which argue that UFO abductions are separate and distinct from imaginary and hallucinatory 'experiences'. However, Lawson also warned that, "One should be cautious about the results from hypnotic regression in UFO case investigations ... A witness can lie, or believe his own lies, and thus invalidate any investigation. A more common result may be that hypnotized witnesses subtly confuse their own fantasies with reality -without either the witness or the hypnotist being aware of what is happening."

Martin T Orne, past President of the International Society of Hypnosis and Director of the Institute of Pennsylvania

Hospital's unit for experimental psychiatry, is an internationally recognized authority on hypnosis. He has completely demolished the basic premises upon which some ufologists (e.g. Harder and Sprinkle) have operated in using hypnosis in an effort to substantiate tales of UFO abductions. (4) While he did not discuss the misuse of hypnosis in UFO cases, it is obvious that his warnings and recommended safeguards apply to ufology as well as to forensic science.

Orne cited experiments showing that "It is possible for an individual to feign hypnosis and deceive even highly experienced hypnotists ... Further, it is possible for even deeply hypnotized subjects to willfully lie!" He warned that psychologists and psychiatrists are not particularly adept at recognizing deception, and that the average hotel manager is considerably more adept. Relatively few of those who are experienced in the use of hypnosis have been trained to become adept at recognizing manipulation and deception. "Consequently, they have little experience or concern about being deceived or used".

Orne cautioned that "Hypnotic suggestions to relive a past event, particularly when accompanied by questions about specific details, puts pressure on the subject to provide information for which few, if any, actual memories are available. This situation may jog the subject's memory and produce some increased recall but it will also cause him to fill in details that are plausible but consist of memories or

fantasies from other times!" He added, "It is extremely difficult to know which aspects of hypnotically aided recall are historically accurate and which aspects have been confabulated ... There is no way ... by which anyone - even a psychologist or psychiatrist with extensive training in the field of hypnosis - can for any particular piece of information determine whether it is an actual memory versus a confabulation unless there is independent verification". He cited experiments by others that show that "Free narrative recall will produce the highest percentage of accurate information but the lowest amount of detail. Conversely, the more an eyewitness is questioned about details, the more details will be obtained - but with a marked decrease in accuracy", (Examination of transcripts of hypnosis sessions with 'abductees' reveals that great pressure was applied for details rather than allowing the subject to use free narrative).

Orne's paper suggests that the use of hypnosis by pro-UFO investigators can generate what he calls 'pseudo-memories' which may enable a subject to tell a convincing story later when not under hypnosis: "Pseudo-memories can and often do become incorporated into the individual's memory store as though they had actually happened ... If a witness is hypnotized and has factual information casually gleaned from newspapers or inadvertent contents made during prior interrogation or in discussion with others many of these bits of knowledge will become incorporated

and form the basis of any pseudo-memories that develop. Furthermore, if the hypnotist has beliefs about what actually occurred, it is exceedingly difficult for him to prevent himself from inadvertently guiding the subject's recall so that he (the subject) will eventually 'remember' what he, the hypnotist, believes actually happened".

Orne noted that: "The more frequently the subject (describes) the event, the more firmly established the pseudo-memory will tend to become. In the experimental demonstration, we are dealing with an essentially trivial memory about which the subject has no inherent motivations. Nevertheless the memory is created by a leading question, which, however, on casual observation, seems innocuous Orne warns, Hypnosis has not resulted in-accurate memories but rather has served to produce consistent memories."

Orne suggested four important procedural safeguards:

- 1) Hypnosis 'should be carried out by a psychiatrist or psychologist with special training in its use'.
- 2) The hypnotist 'should not be informed about the facts of the case verbally; rather he should receive a written memorandum outlining whatever facts he is to know, carefully avoiding any other communication which might affect his opinion ... It is extremely undesirable to have the individual conducting the hypnotic sessions to

have any involvement in the investigation of the case'.

- 3) 'All contact of the psychiatric or psychologist with the individual to be hypnotized should be videotaped from the moment they meet until the entire interaction is completed. The casual comments which are passed before or after hypnosis are every bit as important to get on tape as the hypnotic session itself. (It is possible to give suggestions prior to the induction of hypnosis that will act as post-hypnotic suggestions). Orne also recommended that tape recordings of prior interrogations be made "because the interactions which have preceded the hypnotic session may well have a profound effect on the sessions themselves". He cautioned that a subject may unwittingly have been given clues to certain information "which might then be reported for apparently the first time by the witness during hypnosis".

- 4) "Nobody other than the psychiatrist or psychologist and the individual to be hypnotized should be present in the room before and during the hypnotic session. This is important because it is all too easy for observers to inadvertently communicate to the subject what they expect, what they are startled by, or what they are disappointed by".

The Editor of *The Skeptical Inquirer* asked a noted hypnosis expert, Ernest R Hilgard (Professor Emeritus of Psychology at Stanford University, a former president of the International

Society of Hypnosis and a member of the National Academy of Science), to comment on the use of hypnosis in UFO abduction cases. Hilgard wrote, "The use of hypnotic recall as evidence in UFO abduction cases is an abuse of hypnosis. It is an abuse, first, because of the role that fantasy plays for all hypnotically responsive subjects and, second, because abundant evidence exists that fabrication can take place under hypnosis. For example, under hypnosis I implanted in a subject a false memory of an experience connected with a bank robbery that never occurred, and the person found the experience so vivid that he was able to select from a series of photographs a picture of the man he thought had robbed the bank. At another time, I deliberately assigned two concurrent - though spatially very different - life experiences to the same person and regressed him at separate times to that date. He gave very accurate accounts of both experiences, so that a believer in reincarnation, reviewing the two accounts, would have suspected that the man really had lived the two assigned lives. These particular examples have not been published, but many similar accounts have been. For example, it has been shown experimentally that, while acting the part of a spy, a subject can hold a 'cover' when posing as a citizen of another nation and in an occupation not his own. Under hypnosis, the person does not give himself away. (5) The role of fantasy in hypnosis has been amply documented by Josephine R Hilgard". (6)(7)

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- (6) Hilgard, J R (1979) *Personality and Hypnosis: A Study of Imaginative Involvement*, 2nd ed., Chicago, University of Chicago Press
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AGM PAPERS

Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting of Bufora Ltd., held in the lecture theatre of the University of Westminster, Marylebone Road, London, NW1 on Saturday 10th April 1999.

The meeting opened at 14.12hrs with 16 members present. Apologies for absence were received from Jim Danby, Robin Lindsey, Gloria Dixon and Robert Bull.

1. The notice convening the meeting was read by Steve Gamble. The secretary, Arnold West confirmed no proxy votes had been received.
2. The minutes of the previous AGM were circulated and there were no matters arising. These were proposed as an accurate record by John Spencer. Seconded by Chris Miller and unanimously accepted by the members present.
3. There was no President's address. The Chairman explained that sadly, there were a number of deaths to report. Firstly, that our former President Patrick Wall had died during the last year. This meant that the post was presently unfilled. Ralph Noyes had also died during the year and was well known to many, particularly for his role at the ministry of defence. Manfred Cassirer represented Bufora at an SPR memorial service in his honour.
4. The Chairman's report had been previously circulated. Particular attention was drawn to progress on our new web site. A new Internet Service provider (Oaktree) had been selected. Steve Gamble, Phil Walton and Richard Conway were maintaining the site. It was noted that the Bufora Bulletin had appeared regularly and on time having been free of the previous problems. Bob Digby pointed out that the problems with the web site had been bought about by the sudden closure of the previous web site by EPINET ahead of what had been agreed. Whereas it had been free, the company had sought to impose commercial business type tariffs that we could not afford. The rates now paid to Oaktree were very reasonable. In addition, Bob pointed out that the previous site had been deliberately targeted with Pornography and other members had conducted abusive dialogues, contrary to the spirit of having a members forum. The culprits had all, sadly, been identified as members of Bufora who had since left. The council would not readmit them to membership in the future. Bob had identified six aliases for the member who posted pornography and offensive comments. Chris Miller asked if more could be done to attract new members. Ideas put forward included using the World Wide Web, Advertising, Leaflets etc. Bob Digby commented that Advertising expenses had proven to

be money not well spent and he had stopped it because it exceeded the original directive to Mike Wootten. UFOCall continued to generate income for us but had not been greatly affected by the cessation of its advertising. On publications, Bob pointed out that we simply could not afford the A4 format UFO Times and that the Bufora Bulletin now appeared regularly and to budget, which was a big improvement on the previous situation. Comment was received that members did not want us to compete with bookstand publications and that regular news was the real issue. Kate Taylor asked if there could be more regional meetings for those not living so close to London.

5. Bob Digby presented the Treasurer's report and Accounts to the meeting and explained that the legal format of the Accounts lodged at Companies House was different to the way he was presenting them to the meeting. This was for clarity and to spend more time on what we spent money on compared to actual income within the year. The Current registered Accounts were also circulated. Much of the Accounts had been simplified and Bob had dropped the category of Research and Investigations. This was because it had attracted unfair criticism as a barometer of work being done by the Association in these areas. However, the reality was that if the real cost of effort could be

captured, then it would be more like £20K - £30K. Mr. Hendon commented that a lot of time could be wasted trying to categorise expenditure when what mattered was controlling costs in the first place. The meeting was asked to approve the Accounts and the appointment of Nick O'Brien as auditor and the Treasurer given leave to fix his remuneration. Proposed John Spencer and Seconded by Brian James with unanimous acceptance.

6. Steve Gamble presented the Director of Research Report and clarified that this was his outgoing report on the basis of John Spencer now taking over the role. Steve stated that he would be continuing as Chairman but would retain an interest in Research matters. He thanked all who had assisted the department. Lionel Beer asked if Jenny Randles still held files from the Great British Casebook project and Steve said this was still the situation. Lionel also asked about new initiatives and John Spencer stated he intended that work would be done to review Hypnosis and Memory retrieval to find alternatives.
7. Gloria Dixon was not present to give her Investigations report. Steve Gamble stated that she had resigned the previous week over the Max Burns lecture controversy. The meeting unanimously asked council to make every effort to get her back into the role.
8. The publications report was cir-

culated. Kate Taylor had some criticism of the readability of the Bulletin but stressed that the regular contact was important. Other issues had been dealt with under the Chairman's report and Treasurer's report.

9. Adoption of the Reports was proposed by John Spencer and Seconded by Mrs Sweeney with unanimous acceptance.
10. The appointment of the auditor was previously dealt with during the Treasurer's report.
11. Appointment of Council members - Bob Digby introduced Steve Gamble, Robin Lindsey and John Spencer as candidates for re-election. This was proposed by Lionel Beer. Seconded by Chris Miller and unanimously accepted. Malcolm Robinson introduced himself and his rôle as lecture programme organiser and publicist. Proposed by Chris Miller and Seconded by Mike Lewis and also unanimously accepted.
12. A-O-B John Spencer thanked those present for taking the trouble to attend and pointed out that for the second year running, non of those who criticised the efforts of council bothered to come to the AGM which rather showed it up to be posturing rather than serious concern for the meeting to address.
13. Close - The meeting was closed at 16.30hrs by Steve Gamble.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31st AUGUST 1999

The past two or three years have been difficult for BUFORA, but as I indicated in my previous report I believe that we have turned the corner. The organisation and structure of the organisation are now more stable. Due in no small part to the efforts of the members and the Council we are now on a sound financial footing. I should particularly acknowledge the efforts of our office manager Arnold West and Treasurer Bob Digby for their efforts in controlling and structuring costs.

Unfortunately, the interest in the paranormal and UFOs in particular seems to continue at a low level. However, when the upturn in interest comes about BUFORA will be in a better position to handle it. I must also make mention of the work of Richard Conway, Jay Loring and Bob Shrewsbury in redesigning our website and Malcolm Robinson who has taken over the organisation of the London Lecture season. Unfortunately, the current level of interest means that frequently audience numbers remain low despite high quality speakers. In the next year I hope that all members will put their efforts into recruiting new members and encouraging friends and colleagues to support the lecture sessions.

Throughout the year we have been

able to issue the BUFORA Bulletin on a regular basis. Thanks must go to all the contributors and to Robert Moore who edited it between September and May. Particular thanks need to go to Arnold West, who supported by his daughter Avril handled both the production and distribution of the Bulletin efficiently and played a large part in getting it out on time.

Note should also be made of the continuing efforts of our Research and Investigation teams. Gloria Dixon has continued as our Director of Investigations. This is an onerous job, a bit like painting the Forth rail bridge, a task that seems never ending and our thanks should go to Gloria. John Spencer has taken on the role of Director of Research and, together with Gloria, has undertaken a major review of our Research and Investigation activities. Having done both these jobs myself in the past, I know just how much they can each take and I think we should extend the thanks of the Association to both John and Gloria.

I joined BUFORA in 1971 and the Council in 1977. Over the years since then I have made many good friends in the Association. One of the first people I, and many other members, got to know was Arnold West. Having known Arnold for about 28 years as both colleague and friend, it came as a great shock to me to hear of his sudden death at the beginning of December 1999. Arnold had served BUFORA in many capacities over the years, indeed it is difficult to think of a job that Arnold didn't do. He had

been editor, publications manager, office manager, vice-chairman, chairman and vice-president - to mention just a few. Two other long term colleagues and friends also died within the period of this report. Graham Knewstubb had been the first President of BUFORA and was a Vice-President for a number of years. Despite advancing years, Graham attended meetings and conferences as much as he could and was always happy to discuss his latest work with people. Wilf Grunau had been treasurer of BUFORA for several years. Although he lived in the USA for the last few years he always made a point of visiting BUFORA when in the UK. They will all be sorely missed.

This will be my last annual report as Chairman. As most of you will know, when I was asked to take back the Chairman's job I did so on the basis that this would be for a maximum of three years. Now the major problems which faced BUFORA at that time have been overcome I have decided to step down early so that I may pursue other interests. I would like to thank all the colleagues who have helped and supported BUFORA and me during my time as Chairman. I hope that both BUFORA and the Council can count on your continued support into the new millennium.

Director of Research Report

Since taking over as Director of Research I (in tandem with Gloria Dixon in the Investigations Dept) have been concentrating on trying to build a world-wide community of researchers contributing to major UFO-related questions of today. I mentioned this at the last AGM, and the proposals got the AGM's approval. It also had the approval of the BUFORA Research Group.

However I can only say that the Projects have not been contributed to by anything like the number of contributors around the world that I would have hoped. Several prominent UFO researchers in the UK have also signalled their 'appreciation' or 'support' for the projects, or indicated that they believe them to be good ideas, but in the end they have not put in any effort, which is regrettable. Several people who had shouted loudest about the use of hypnosis, for example, eventually contributed nothing when given the opportunity to do so.

I believe that these attempts to enrol the energy of others should therefore be put on the back-burner in favour of the BUFORA research group going it alone. I envisage a number of groups of small numbers - perhaps just three or four people - working on a topic and then publishing their views. I hope that might trigger some wider-spread involvement but I am no longer so optimistic about that. We will though, as in the case of such as the BUFORA Vehicle Interference Report, be putting valuable work into the

public domain. Such projects will include the Hypnosis Project, (an essential review that must be assembled); the Pilots Project, Astronaut sightings; and an updated Vehicle Interference Report which Geoff Falla (the original author) has volunteered to work on. There are many other projects underway.

I am therefore very optimistic about the future of our research, and happy with the internal efforts of BUFORA. I am sorry to be somewhat gloomier about the wider view in the UK and abroad, but I am sure that that too will come around in future years.

John Spencer
Director of Research

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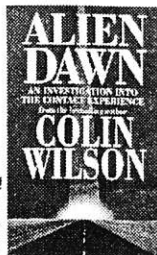
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Meetings are held at the University of Westminster, 35 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5LS starting at 2pm and lasting until approximately 5pm. (We are currently looking at alternative venues, but if nothing suitable can be found it may be necessary to raise admission to £2-50 (members); £4-50 (non-members) from the new season).

Saturday 6th May, 2000.

Billy Devlin and Brian Allan

Scottish UFO and paranormal mysteries - From north of the border we have Scottish UFO and paranormal researchers Billy Devlin and Brian Allan, who will be lecturing on some of the more interesting cases that have come their way over the past several years. These cases will clearly show what a strange world that we do indeed live in.

Saturday 3rd June, 2000.

Chris Evers

A personal perspective on British Ufology - Chris will be lecturing on a number of interesting cases that he has worked on over the years. Cases from East Yorkshire to North Lincolnshire and will be informing the audience on not only how he got involved with the subject but how he sees it progressing through to the new century.

Please note : There are no London Lectures during July and August. The new lecture season will start in September. The Council are looking at alternative venues, so location and times may alter for the new season. Whilst it is not anticipated that meetings will have to be changed or cancelled without prior notice, the Association reserves the right to do so. The views expressed by lecturers are their own views, unless otherwise stated they do not reflect the views of BUFORA, its Council or officers.

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