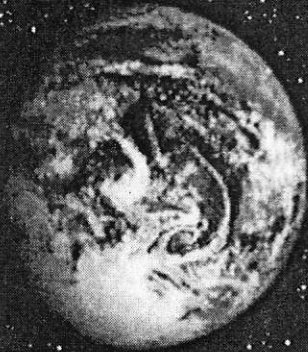
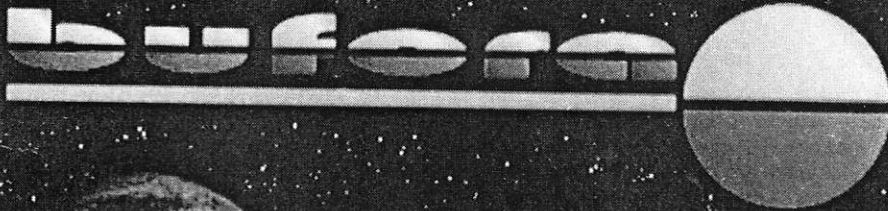


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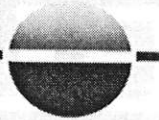
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THE OZARK UFO CONFERENCE

No. 19

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British UFO Research Association

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Editorial

Just as Steve Gamble used the editorial to say "farewell" last time, hopefully you will forgive me doing likewise this time to say "hello", and express a few thoughts. I inherited the chairmanship back in January, and now have taken on the editorial/producer role (I hope on a temporary basis) for the Bulletin. My first thoughts are to express thanks, on behalf of all the council and membership, to Steve, for all of his efforts and achievements down his many years of work for the association, which has included many roles and offices on council. I must say thanks as well to Bob Digby, who has also given many years to various council offices, most recently as Treasurer - Bob stood down from council duties at the AGM, but he is still looking at commercial areas and advising council.

In terms of the Bulletin, you shouldn't see too many changes in content or style, but please do send in your comments - after all, this is **your** magazine. This issue has seen the 're-introduction' of the Investigations Diary, just to keep you all up to date on what reports are coming to BUFORA and its investigations team. We are assembling a new editorial board, and welcome back some people such as Norman Oliver (a former *BUFORA Journal* editor, amongst his many roles on behalf of the association). If you feel you have authoring, editorial, graphics or DTP skills - and want to get involved, then please do get in touch via head office. We are looking at possibly reducing the number of Bulletins to six per year (this will relieve some of the pressure on the production team), but we are planning to re-introduce a Research Bulletin, to provide the same sort of data that we used to see in the JTAP.

Perhaps I can also take this opportunity to think about how BUFORA might develop into this new millennium? Certainly the past few months have seen changes on council, with the sad loss of Arnold West, then both Steve and Bob retiring, and these were three people who had been key to the association for so many years. We now have some new faces, with different ideas, and hopefully

we will continue to steer BUFORA in the direction that these people started.

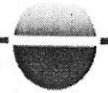
I first became interested in UFOs around 27 years ago. Back then it seemed simple – UFOs must be extra-terrestrial in origin, and it was only a matter of time before we had the proof – how wrong I was on both counts! So where has UFOlogy evolved? Certainly in the past we had more reports of things seen in the sky – the UFOs, whether these were LITs, 'flying saucers' or whatever. The numbers of reports of aerial objects **being reported** to organizations such as BUFORA is generally decreasing, but I suspect this is because far more are being related over the Internet, amongst chat rooms etc. However, one very clear trend, as demonstrated by DoI Heather Dixon's *Investigations Diary*, is that we now receive many more high strangeness cases – these include claimed abductions, implants and night-time visitations etc. - many of which do not involve any sighting of a 'UFO'. Reports also go right through to things of psychic and paranormal nature – do these have any relevance for the study of UFOs? Well, there isn't space in this one magazine to fully debate that thought! It has become more apparent to researchers that it is ever more difficult to attempt to study just one subject, such as UFOlogy, without straying into other areas of 'overlapping' phenomena. Certainly many, if not most, members of council, and indeed the R&I teams, have concluded that we do need to widen our scope of 'interest', in order to encompass all possible research avenues to try and get us nearer to answering questions on what increasingly seems to be a human/'otherworld' interaction – for want of a better term. This may mean that as an association, we begin to study 'the paranormal' (itself a somewhat vague term!) much closer than before, or perhaps we will work more closely with other groups who already study aspects of 'the paranormal' – these issues will be explored in the coming weeks and months.

I hope to see/have seen (depending on just when you receive this Bulletin) as many of you as possible at the Strategy & Planning Conference, as we do want to have as much feedback as

possible on why/whether we should change, and if so, to see what you want from the association. On a personal basis, I can see that the role of groups has evolved greatly since I first joined BUFORA in 1973. At that stage one had to join BUFORA (or similar group), or subscribe to FSR to get to know what was going on – who had seen what and where - who had which theory etc. Now, in the days of the Internet and www, this sort of information is quickly and widely available, so BUFORA doesn't need to perform the exact same role as it did a quarter of a century ago. However, we still have a reasonable level of membership, so obviously the association, and its publications, fulfil a significant role for interested people. It is also pleasing to see the increasing number of new members who are coming to us via the BUFORA website - so we will be looking at the 'marketing' of aspects of BUFORA as a research group, as we balance the requirements of the membership against our potential global audience on the web.

Brian P James

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PETER WAIN REMEMBERED

By Lionel Beer

A BUFORA colleague of long-standing, Peter Wain died on 4th April, having had his 85th birthday on 5th March. He had a stroke at 2pm on 3 April and died the following day.

My records show him as a member of BUFORA in 1965, although his own notes suggest that he may have joined in 1962. Late in 1965 he joined the Executive Committee holding the post of Librarian and Archives Officer. In 1967 he joined Mrs. Lee Lloyd as an Assistant Secretary. The Summer 1967 BUFORA Journal, with new glossy cover, carried a half-page advertisement headed: M. L. G. followed by: This does not mean Meteors, Light Years or Gas. In fact it has nothing to do with the

Universe at all. It went on to explain that Peter Wain's company, M.L.G. Trading Ltd. sold plywood and chipboard, etc. Relating to this, Peter donated a pair of plywood table-top folding panels. These were used by the Association as publicity boards at meetings and exhibitions. Before Amstrad introduced the concept of the cheap home computer, BUFORA had done a pilot project using a data-card system. To select an item of data, a rod or knitting-needle was inserted into one of the holes punched around the border of the cards. Cards containing a common factor would then drop-out. Peter made a donation to advance this project and he was understandably miffed when the Research Section lost interest in it.

He resigned from the Executive in 1967, rejoining it in 1971 following Ivar Mackay's resignation as Chairman. He continued to serve until BUFORA became a company limited by guarantee on 24 November 1975.



Peter gave a number of talks on UFOs, (eg. to Rotary and Women's groups) although his lecture notes suggested that he sometimes slipped up on detail. He once spoke to over 400 scouts at a meeting in Hammersmith. He even gave a talk as recently as April 1999 to The Trefoil Guild.

He was President of the Alouette Flying Club at Biggin Hill and was still flying in recent years. In fact he liked anything fast. That included cars and motorbikes. So you might wonder why he also owned two Sinclair C5s! Perhaps he was starting to slow down? Two months prior to his death he had had a cataract operation.

OOB Experience

Peter was a keen advocate of the Christian faith, and mooted the possibility that some UFO events might have Satanic or evil implications. Although not directly related to this, he described the time he was driving with his wife Kay. to Brighton in a van he called Lucretia, possibly in 1975. While

(Continued on page 21)

INVESTIGATIONS DIARY

By Gloria Heather Dixon (BUFORA DoI)

UFO Investigation in the 21st Century - where do we go from here?

The last Investigations Diary was carried in UFO TIMES, issue 45 published in October of 1997. From the beginning of 1998 the BUFORA Bulletin took the place of UFO TIMES. Therefore, this will be the first time that I have written an Investigations Diary for the last two years. I hope that I can bring you up to date with the state of play within the NIC (National Investigations Committee) with regard to sightings, the Postal Training Course and some interpretation of the UFO subject at large.

The BUFORA NIC now has twenty-one investigators consisting of thirteen Accredited Investigators and eight Provisional Investigators.

Dave Pointon, the National Co-ordinator of the PTC has had to step down from this role due to family and work commitments. However, Dave still remains in his role as Deputy Director of Investigations.

With regard to the PTC and as a temporary measure I have taken over the administration of the PTC together with Judy Jaafar, who has kindly agreed to help tutor this course with me. Judy also remains as Secretary to the NIC.

Before documenting details of some the sightings coming into BUFORA during the last year I would like to give our members and readers some wide ranging information and definition relating to sightings and the UFO subject at large.

There is no doubt that the high profile of this subject has started to slide and it is also evident that more and more nonsense and lack of logic is developing around the subject. This is getting us all precisely nowhere in our understanding of the

issues involved with the UFO mystery.

What is becoming increasingly clear is the fact that we need look at another part of the equation and explore the reasons this subject captivates the imagination of people, particularly one which is open to such individual beliefs. Does an association with the pot-pourri mixture that appears to surround UFO subject fulfil an inner need for both researchers and witnesses and does this explain why there is a lack of any real understanding or indeed a need to understand what these phenomena are and mean in terms of human issues? Many anomalies have been dumped into the UFO pot during recent years including remote viewing, close encounter experiences, aliens, ghosts, visions, near-death experiences and all manner of what used to be understood as paranormal or anomalous events. This is creating more confusion and continuing divides within the UFO community in general and therefore not actually isolating what constitutes a UFO sighting or event. Here we are getting into very stormy waters.

Let us first look at the word UFO meaning unidentified flying object. Unidentified that is, until it is actually investigated by various UFO researchers and organisations within exceedingly varied resources. This is very significant because the structures and investigative procedures of the individual UFO group are very dependent upon the belief system of the investigators themselves. Therefore this will directly affect the way the UFO sighting report is followed up and whether the report will actually be explained in rational terms.

Ninety-five per cent of all sighting reports can be explained; how often have we all heard this expression and indeed used it ourselves as investigators and researchers. Unfortunately, although this may be true, with an even higher

percentage probably being the case, it is rare that we can actually definitively explain this high a percentage of reports that come into BUFORA and organisations for some of the reasons listed below.

(1) The case has been reported a long time after the sighting or event therefore it is difficult to check with the specific agencies that could help. In addition to this, there is the problem of witness memory being accurate a long time after the event and there is also the consideration of how the ever present UFO imagery has been absorbed and used in perceptions of some long ago remembered sightings

(1) The various agencies, such as airports, military bases, police, coastguard etc., who could help identify the sighting are often unhelpful or disinterested about responding to our enquiries. They have had more correspondence and telephone calls from 'UFO investigators' over the last few years than they are interested in dealing with and in some cases view us as cranks which is, in my view, totally understandable. The Ministry of Defence sends out their standard letter to most enquiries made by UFO researchers so it is often a time wasting exercise when we write to them.

(1) We then move on to a significant problem that is not understood by some investigators. This problem encompasses reports of unusual lights in the sky (LITS). These account for a large percentage of all UFO reports and have to be very carefully evaluated in trying to elicit factual information from the witness. In some of these cases, witnesses have actually only observed what they term as unusual lights, but will go on to talk about objects as well as lights. Careful questioning will establish that they have not actually observed a structured object' but only lights in the sky. The image of an object to which these lights are attached emerges only as their brain completes the picture to add definition to the lights and create a solid image. An example of this are

laser light displays, as the lights rotate and move within the clouds often with inner and outer circles this will give the illusion to people that these lights are actually part of an object although they never really observe an object only the lights. Furthermore these displays can be seen within a radius of many miles cutting out the possibility of being able to locate the source of the show. A case from London last year clearly illustrates this point. The person concerned had captured laser lights on his camcorder and was convinced he had taken video footage of an object not of this earth. Of course he had never observed an object either on or off camera. This case was followed up by two BUFORA investigators, Judy Jaafar and Malcolm Robinson, who after viewing the footage explained to him that these were laser lights. Unfortunately the witness did not wish to hear that the lights he had captured on his video camera had a perfectly rational explanation. This has become a fairly common problem with photographs taken by people, who are convinced they have caught a UFO on camera. To give a further illustration of this lights in the sky problem I would like to mention a worried call I received from the police in Cleveland during December of last year. 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 and insisted this was not the case. I explained it was probably unlikely they would know about various light shows and it was approaching Christmas when there would be many light shows on-going. 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..

- (1) Sometimes investigators are not aware of the amount of traffic technologically, astronomically and atmospherically, that can be seen in our skies, hence some sighting reports remain unexplained, when with the correct knowledge and consultation in the specialist areas, they would have an accurate evaluation or at least a realistic possible cause of the source of the sighting.

I hope this gives our members some idea of the problems that prevent a reliable assessment of the REAL figures coming into organisations, that remain as UFOs, which of course is not synonymous with an alien spacecraft or flying saucer. UFO is indeed a very unfortunate term and has led to much misinterpretation as to what actually constitutes a UFO. The term represents many things to many people and has become immersed and absorbed into the culture of alien encounters. If we can stand back and look at the subject without preconceived notions and with an understanding that UFO actually means an unidentified flying object or more succinctly unidentified aerial phenomena, we could change the way we view our perceptions of the word UFO.

Let us take a look at some statistics logged for 1999. I know that these have already been documented in the AGM Investigations report, but please bear with me. BUFORA logged 217 reports for 1999, which shows a decrease in sighting reports to BUFORA during last year. During 1998, there were 293 reports logged, which indicates a twenty-five percent decrease in reports to BUFORA for 1999 in comparison to 1998. Many of these have been explained, but within the resources that we have there is 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.

About thirty reports from 1999 were not recent sightings and some of these included reports from the 60s, 70s and 80s, and it is interesting to note that people will make reports that can go back thirty or forty years. This can be very problematic for the investigator to check and they are time consuming, so priorities have to be made as to whether the case could be exceptional enough to warrant this type of investigation and research. In addition questions should be asked as to whether this will add some valuable or vital information to our knowledge of this subject for research purposes.

The major culprit for UFO sightings still remains as aircraft, both civilian and military. In the case of military aircraft there is no doubt that some UFO reports are actually secret testing of new military prototypes and there is no doubt that the governments and military establishments are quite content that these UFO reports are followed up by the voluntary organisations world wide. In fact I would say they encourage this. The second biggest culprit for UFO sightings is astronomical phenomena in the form of bright stars, planets and meteors. In fact if there was a 'UFO Misidentifications' equivalent of the 'Charts', then the top ten misidentifications could possibly run in the following order.

1. Military and Civilian Aircraft
2. Astronomical phenomena, bright stars, planets and meteors, bolides and fireballs.
3. Laser light displays, which can be seen within a thirty mile radius of the show.
4. Airships
5. Satellites and space debris re-entries.
6. Balloons, weather, prank, helium, etc.
- 6 Reflections emanating from ground lights, the sun, windows etc.

7 Mirage effects caused by temperature inversions

8 Flares

9 Birds

There are of course rarer misidentifications, such as the moon and other unusual atmospheric phenomena (UAP), an example of which is ball lightning, ever controversial, but certainly there are a tiny percentage of reports to BUFORA, which are certainly indicative of ball lightning. Earthlights could also be responsible for some UFO reports, often seen prior to seismic activity.

To muddy the waters further we now come to the close range sightings or close encounters experiences ...or alien abduction as they have come to be known by some in the UFO community and more often in the media. This of course makes really good coverage and sensationalism in the tabloids and various television late night discussion programmes notwithstanding some very real exploitations of the witnesses themselves, who are asked to appear in some of these programmes and in the press! Furthermore it adds to the ever powerful and persuasive imagery of the reality of alien abductions. Of course the big question that remains to be answered is whether the high strangeness cases reported to BUFORA and other UFO organisations have anything to do with UFOs at all or belong very firmly in the paranormal field of study, folklore and mysticism. People who undergo unusual experiences need to explore and identify what is happening to them but their perception of these experiences, reinforced by some investigators and exploited by the media does not create any real understanding at all of what these experiences are. In other words more questions than answers and meanwhile extraordinary human experiences go on and there is little that is meaningful emerging either scientifically or philosophically. These perplexing and profound experiences are all a question of present day interpretation of anomalous and inexplicable phenomena being perceived in today's Space Age and our view of the ever expanding universe, as we look to our skies in the hope of an answer and go on to access

endless information on the subject via the internet and the various publications and programmes which surround us.

The grey aliens of today will no doubt become the folklore of tomorrow as we struggle to understand extraordinary experiences and beliefs and what they mean in terms of human issues. UFO and alien encounters have taken over from traditional tales containing beliefs about ancient times. And so the modern day mythology has been born and in some ways these beliefs have formed the basis for new age religions, as we look to life from other planets to help us in this brave new world we have created. Our apprehensions and fears about our environment, new medical technology, cloning and genetic manipulation are ever evident and no doubt many of us have real reservations about the moral and ethical implications of all this and worrying concerns about a futuristic world scenario

Is it possible that some of these experiences are an ever elusive connection with an external source operating just beyond the parameters of our view of reality, or can these inexplicable events be explained in terms of the unexplored potential of the human consciousness? Roger Penrose, the British Physicist in his best selling book 'The Emperor's New Mind' looks at the vast panorama of modern science and asserts that for all its power and richness this knowledge could not possibly account for the ultimate mystery of existence... the human consciousness. This of course raises a whole host of other questions, but I believe there is no doubt that the richness and vastness of the human experience can and does in many ways transcend what modern science can explain. Therefore in order to address the nature of these strange experiences, we need to isolate the real mysteries from those that can be explained within the correct resources and scientific disciplines.

Jumping ahead here on the issue of high strangeness events, I would like to talk briefly about the use of hypnosis, which is sometimes used as a tool to extract information about close encounter events. It is becoming increasingly

evident with the medical literature to hand on recovered and false memories that there are major problems with using hypnosis to elicit accurate and objective information about close encounter experiences. There is also the possibility that this could cause psychological harm to the witness and this is why the BUFORA NIC holds a continuing moratorium on its use by all investigators. This has been in effect since 1988 and was pioneered by Jenny Randles.

To give you some insight into research by psychologists studying this area of the human mind, I would like to illustrate the research being conducted into the fallibility of hypnosis and memory retrieval.

In an article in Scientific American in 1997 Dr. Elizabeth Loftus, Professor of Psychology at the University of Washington states that "Researchers are showing how suggestion and imagination can create 'memories' of events that did not actually occur" and in an article from the International Journal of Peer Commentary and Review, Elizabeth F. Loftus and Steven E. Clark, comment that 'it is not surprising that the number of abduction stories has increased at an exponential rate as the abduction myth is weaved ever deeper into our cultural fabric.

On the question of hypnosis they write *'decades of research on hypnotically induced memory reveal that hypnosis does not result in increased memory accuracy but merely increased output. Hypnotically induced testimony has been ruled inadmissible in most courts, because it greatly increases the witness's vulnerability to suggestion and because it based on a false theory of memory.*

An extract from the British Journal of Psychiatry on the psychology of memory states.

It is popularly believed that memory operates as a video recorder with events being recorded and stored, awaiting recovery essentially as they were laid down. Memory is, however, a much more complex and less efficient process. Bartlett showed that biographical memory is essentially a

re-constructive process in which only some elements of past experience are stored and are retrievable. Far from being recovered unchanged, he demonstrated that memories may be reconstructed and elaborated by all kinds of subsequent influences.

It is obviously becoming more and more apparent that we need to understand the functions of memory and memory retrieval in a much more comprehensive way in order to realise the unreliability of hypnosis and accurate memory retrieval specifically in relation to an understanding of close encounter experiences

During the last few years BUFORA and other UFO organisations have received an escalation of reports of inexplicable sightings and curious human experiences from people searching for an answer to these compelling and profound events. Encounters with ghosts and paranormal activity are often interpreted as alien contact, as powerful imagery enters our consciousness and produces culturally visual models that we access in trying to comprehend what these experiences mean.

And so to some of the sightings that have been received by BUFORA. I will continue to document sightings in future issues of the Bulletin in order to give you some continuity on sightings reports as they come in. I thought it might be interesting in this issue of the Investigation Diary to look at some of the more curious reports and have chosen a random selection of these. To begin thought, I thought I would give details of a case investigated last year by Al Mick Broad of Sheffield. This case does indeed add a note of humour, which may be inherently familiar to some BUFORA investigators.

Location: Doncaster

Date: #10th September 1999

Inv. Mick Broad

A report was made by Mr. R. to BUFORA on 15th September relating to a sighting of five lights in the sky, which the witness described as being like stars, but moving. Mick forwarded a questionnaire to the witness and at the end of

October received a late evening telephone call from Mr. R indicating that this report was the 'tip of the iceberg'. The witness went on to elaborate on these comments with further details of how his wife, father and himself may have been abducted by aliens, which would account for subsequent strange encounters. He claimed his father had a separate abduction some years ago.

Mr. R also went on to tell Mick about one incident that happened to him whilst driving his Ford Granada Car when a UFO landed nearby and a twelve foot naked alien ran alongside his car at speeds of 120mph, looking at him with vivid blue eyes. He also claimed to have become a mechanic overnight due to this encounter, but did not know what a heater matrix was when asked by Mick! He went on to claim that the lights he saw were not in our atmosphere, but actually travelling star to star distances of 30 million light years in seconds. He also claims to scan the airwaves, collects UFO books and has a book on how to cook in space.

In his report, Mick commented that in his opinion Mr. R had some social problems, as he had become verbally aggressive when questioned on any subject, subsequently withdrawing from the investigation after he realised that Mick had detected a hoax. Mick made some recommendations in his report as to the location that this file should be placed! As he is an ex-Police Officer, I feel he has interpreted this situation very well!

Location: South Vietnam

Date: 1970

Inv. Gloria Dixon

This case came to BUFORA via a letter from South Australia at the end of 1996. JB wrote to BUFORA after reading John Spencer's UFO Encyclopedia. His letter reveals some information about a very unusual incident during a patrol of a five-man team in Lone-Jon Island, Vietnam in 1970. According to his letter JB claims they were stalked and chased by circles of four inch by four inch bright lights with 'black eyes', which zigzagged, diving and hovering as

close as five feet away. When the team returned fire at these lights/objects, they turned glowing red and the 'black eye' part glowed bright green. These incidents occurred during daylight and at night over a five day operation and JB went on to say that he had two very good slides of these lights, five lights captured on one slide and two lights, at seven feet away, on the other slide.

This was a very frightening experience for all five men in the team and when they reported the events to their Company Headquarters they were told to forget the incident. However, they were then questioned by CIA personnel from Saigon at a debriefing four weeks later and their equipment from that day was searched by American Military Police and two men, who stated they were from Alaska Barge Company stationed in Vung Yau, Vietnam. JB commented in his letter to BUFORA that he believed these two men were with the CIA.

Several months later, JB's parents were questioned by two Americans asking for any film that he may have sent to them, which was deemed to be classified material. His father refused and told them to go away or he would call the police.

JB then went on to say that he would document six other events from his notes and forward them on to BUFORA and could we put him in touch with David Summers a man who he described as knowing about this subject, who apparently resides in Australia.

His letter also gave details of a mobile phone number.

The follow-up to this letter was very unsatisfactory and so unfortunately, we shall never know how much substance there was to this report. I responded with a letter to JB enclosing a BUFORA Questionnaire and asking if he would consider sending us some prints of these lights he had captured. As I did not know of David Summers I gave him details for Keith Basterfield an Australian researcher and also emailed Keith to let him know of this report with the mobile phone number etc. However, I never heard from him

again and Keith Basterfield was unable to get in touch with him via his contact address or mobile. So this fascinating story unfortunately remains just that because without any response, corroboration or checks with the witness or his colleagues during that time, it is impossible to make any kind of assessment on this report. He did however quote his military number in his letter to BUFORA

Location: Cardiff
Date: 1st May 2000
Inv. Nicholas Kern

Just after 03.00am in the early hours of Monday 1st May 2000, MC was awoken by a strange sound and got out of bed where she observed a circular object with flashing lights flying past. She felt this was not a helicopter or a plane and emailed BUFORA enquiries. This sighting report was passed to investigator Nicholas Kern in Mid-Glamorgan.

In his excellent report, Nicholas points out some of the features of this area, particularly the fact that Cardiff Airport is nine miles Southwest of the sighting location with RAF St. Athan also in the area. Eastmoors Heliport lies to the east of the location of the sighting catering also for the South Wales Police Helicopters, in addition to routine helicopter traffic.

In his conclusions Nicholas states that although he cannot definitively identify the object observed, he feels all the available evidence indicates that this was an airship, specifically with the description given by the witness. Its relatively slow speed and height are very indicative of this solution together with the noise emitted by the object, which was described as a muted hum. Nicholas also makes a significant point that the time of day is very relevant in this case, as although the witness appeared intelligent and rational, when someone is suddenly awoken in the early hours of the morning, their senses are not yet fully alert. He comments that had she been fully awake and had more time to observe what she had seen she may well have realised the identity of the object. I fully agree with his evaluation and

comments.

Location: Carmondean, Livingston, Scotland
Date: 12th October 1999
Inv. George Niedzwiedz

In a letter to BUFORA dated 17th October 1999 and a subsequent telephone call from me, Mr. L. gives details of a very unusual incident, which occurred during the evening of 12th October 1999. He was out walking his dogs at about 7pm in a field, which is next to Deans High School, Livingston. It was dark and there are also some woods here. He then saw something in the distance on the open ground, which he initially thought was another person walking their dog. However the figure seemed to be coming closer and he noticed that the figure was a luminous yellow in colour. He describes the figure as being very tall possibly close to seven feet with the luminous yellow colour on the head, hands and feet. His dogs started barking at the figure and one ran away. At this point Mr. L comments that he was no more than eight to ten feet from the figure and he called out 'hello, can I help you'. The figure appeared to turn his head, but there was no response and Mr. L became more aware of the luminosity emanating from the head, hands and feet of this figure. At this point the witness felt frightened and decided he was going to get away from there as quickly as he could.

During my telephone call with Mr. L. it became apparent that this incident had been disturbing for him and when I spoke with his wife, she claimed that when her husband had returned from his walk, he was very upset and felt that he had seen something very unusual.

George Niedzwiedz followed up this case with a Questionnaire and a telephone call, but due to other commitments at that time could not follow this up any further so it was passed to David Colman of Scottish Unexplained Phenomena Research, who is in the area. He has visited with the witness and been to the area.

Mr. L. was certainly aware of the Robert Taylor incident from 1979, but not in any great detail.

Certainly Livingston and the surrounding areas of Central Scotland have generated many unusual reports of unidentified phenomena. However nothing further has come to light in this report to date. I will update readers when there has been some further investigation into this incident.

Location: Hedgerley, Buckinghamshire

Date: 1974/1975

I received a telephone call on 24th May 2000 from CM regarding an unusual incident that occurred in Hedgerley, Buckinghamshire in 1974 or 1975. The witness is unsure of the year. At the time CM was ten years old at the time and his mother had collected both he and his twin brother from school. They lived on a farm and upon walking down the path to their front door, they observed a silver saucer shaped object hovering above their home which they estimated to be about twelve feet across and at an approximate height of forty feet. CM claims they saw two silver coloured figures on top of the object.

According to CM their mother saw this first and panicked pushing both boys to the ground. They heard a humming noise for about thirty seconds while it was hovering above the house and then it disappeared. CM actually has no memory of this event, but it is remembered very clearly by his mother and twin brother and there have been discussions about this incident over the years.

A questionnaire has been forwarded to CM, but to date this has not been returned. Obviously it is crucial to get corroboration from both the brother and mother and CM is trying to establish the specific year of this sighting and course a more specific date. This sighting will be updated as and when further information comes in.

Location: Manningtree, Essex

Date: 13th October 1999 Approx. date.

SR and his son were out by the river, near a new bridge being constructed in Manningtree at about 8.10pm. He was looking for rabbits and shining his night light on them. He then noticed an unusually large object in the sky, which he

describes as three quarters the size of a football pitch. Of course estimation of height and size is always difficult particularly as it was dark. As the witness had been in the RAF he was puzzled by the size. He then turned back to his son and the rabbits, but about twenty minutes later turned to his right and saw the object again. He estimated it to be only about fifty feet above the ground and heading directly towards them. He felt that it was about to crash and grabbed his son running across the field with him while the object was directly overhead. He then describes the object rising up over some trees and moving out of sight.

The witness estimated the speed to be about twenty to forty MPH with a green/yellow light at the front and back. His drawing depicts a cigar shaped object. There has been no definitive explanation for this object, but I would suspect he might have observing an airship.

To conclude this rather lengthy diary for this issue, I would just like to comment that the last two or three weeks have seen an increase in sightings reports to BUFORA particularly the high strangeness reports of perceived abduction claims. We have also received a report and photograph of an unusual anomaly taken from a Virgin Transatlantic flight in January of this year. There will be more on this, as it is followed up and when some analysis has been conducted on the photograph. Analysis will also be conducted in the United States, as the photographer is an American, but the photograph was taken about an hour to an hour and half into their flight from Gatwick back to the States, which why they contacted BUFORA.

I am hoping to arrange an NIC meeting for October and Dave Sankey, who lives in the Doncaster area has kindly offered to look at venues in Doncaster, South Yorkshire for possibly the 7th October or 14th October. Would investigators please let me know if these dates and location would be convenient for them. It is always difficult to choose a venue that is accessible for everyone, but any suggestions would be most appreciated.

THE OZARK UFO CONFERENCE

By Norman Oliver

The 12th. annual Ozark UFO Conference was held - as ever - in the Conference Suite of the Inn of the Ozarks, Eureka Springs, Arkansas, in the southern USA over the weekend of April 7th. - 9th. Eureka Springs has been the venue since its inception in 1989. A spa town with a population of under 2000, but boasting numerous hotels and other accommodation, its claim to fame include its spa status and trolley cars, its preserved Victorian downtown appearance, a yearly passion play to rival Oberammergau, and a magnificent 'Christ of the Ozarks' statue dominating the hills around, the second largest such statue in the world.

This Conference owes much to its Director, well-liked and respected U.S. UFO researcher Lucius Parish, who produces UFONS - The UFO Newsclipping Service, a monthly 'digest' of U.S and worldwide UFO and Fortean reports, which has come out with unflinching regularity now for around forty years. Under his guidance the Conference, which attracts a daily attendance of 400 to 500 has always had a friendly atmosphere, with controversies conspicuous by their absence. Having known Lou since the late 1960s I was fortunate to have been invited by him in 1989 to be the Conference's first speaker from England. Since then I've returned in 1990, 1996 and again this year, speaking on a variety of themes such as the 1976/77 South Wales 'silver-suited spacemen' flap, the Winchester contact claims of Joyce Bowles and Ted Pratt - I've always regarded Mrs Bowles' west-country accented response, 'That's What Hitler Said' after allegedly being abducted, car and all, into a craft and told by an alien they 'meant no harm' as being a real gem - whilst on my 1996 visit I recounted the 'Artisan' encounters serialised in the Bufora Journal back in 1979. This year my subject was Zecharia Sitchin's theories and ideas as put forward in The Twelfth

Planet and others of his books. More of this later.

This Conference is noted for its non-confrontational attitude and has always had a history of continuity with its speakers. Aside from my own appearances, regular contributors have included Antonio Huneus, who has the best world-wide knowledge of UFO events over the last twenty years or so of anyone I've ever met. Antonio was telling me that he'd only missed speaking at one of the twelve Conferences and he can always be relied upon to introduce interesting new material. This year his theme was UFO reports from Chile and China. Linda Moulton-Howe, whose speciality is in the field of cattle mutilations, but who also speaks knowledgeably on crop circles and UFOs, is another regular speaker. Though down to speak again this year, unfortunately she had to pull out because of illness. Linda is well known in the U.S. as a radio and TV presenter: she is also a writer and produced the video 'A Strange Harvest.' George Wingfield, from England is another frequent visitor and though present, was not amongst the speakers this year. Apart from his all-round crop circle knowledge I recall his excellent 'expose' of the Roswell 'alien autopsy' film in 1996.

This year's other speakers included Joe Lewels, who gave a most interesting talk on recent UFO events and alien encounters in Mexico. Wendelle Stevens, whose subject, 'A History of UFO Photos,' speaks for itself, Jim Marrs with an insight into Remote Viewing techniques and their possible use in connection with UFOs and E.T.s, and John Foster, from Lincoln, Nebraska, relating a series of personal strange encounters when a schoolboy, the full variety and significance of which had only been revealed to him in later years.

During the Conference I renewed acquaintance with Jean Siefried, a former MUFON (Mutual

UFO Network) director for Oklahoma, now moved, together with her husband, also a former MUFON director, to Eureka Springs. This year, I was fortunate to make the acquaintance of Norm Mark and to stay with him and his wife, Brigitte, at their Cassville, Missouri, home. Norm is another ex-MUFON director, his former 'patch' having been Alaska before moving south. On the last night of my stay we all attended a meeting of the Midwest Research Society at Springfield, some thirty miles away and I was promptly pressed into service as one of the evening's speakers. Springfield itself brought to mind a 'contact account' there dating back to the 1897 'Airship' flap. This was of a meeting with an 'Adam and Eve' couple and their craft, allegedly from Mars. Quite a lengthy and detailed account actually, and one I may be able to present in a future issue.

But - to return to the Conference. About a year ago I'd re-read several of Sitchin's books and had decided that, with some 'back-up' material from my own sources, his 'Twelfth Planet' theory would make an ideal presentation. I have a reasonable astronomical background and to me his theories, taken in conjunction with his acknowledged expertise in ancient Sumerian, make quite a lot of sense. As an aside, I'm a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society (F.R.A.S.), though, especially following an 'ego-puncturing' response I received back in the seventies I seldom use this. At the time I was organising a lecture programme for BUFORA in Kensington Central Library. I wrote to them to book dates and signed the letter, 'NORMAN OLIVER, F.R.A.S.I.' I was duly cut down to size when their reply arrived....'To N.O. FRAS Dear Mr. Fras!! But ... back to Sitchin...

What impresses me with Sitchin is not just his knowledge and interpretation of ancient writings and scripts, but when he refers to UFOs, Stone Circles, and so on, which are not primarily his subject, he gets his facts right. This leads me to trust his interpretations in other directions.

Sitchin holds that originally our planet did not exist in the Solar System. There was Mercury,

Venus, then a planet called TIAMAT, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. No Earth. No Pluto! Then, the Solar System had a visitor from Outer Space - a planetary body called Nibiru by the Sumerians and Marduk by the Babylonians, this being drawn into an extreme elliptical orbit around the Sun - NOT with the Sun at its centre, but near one end of an ellipse, similar to cometary orbits but longer than many and taking three thousand six hundred of our years to complete. So - Marduk would then cross the orbits of other planets, though fortunately in a different plane, so that rarely would it interfere WITH those orbits. However, Sitchin believes that on at least ONE occasion it DID, and had an encounter with the planet TIAMAT, where the asteroid belt is now. Unlike other writers who consider the asteroid belt to be the break-up of a former planet, Sitchin postulates there were two - or rather three - results from this encounter. Half, say, of TIAMAT was broken up into little pieces to form the Asteroid Belt. The other half remained in one piece, but diverted to an orbit between Venus and Mars, becoming our own planet, Earth. At the same time, a satellite of TIAMAT was similarly diverted to become our own Moon. Then, on the way back, Marduk influenced a satellite of Saturn's to change position and become the now - outer planet, Pluto, with its remarkably eccentric orbit. All this, of course, millenia ago.

Later, in some way, intelligent life developed on Marduk - probably considerably earlier than on Earth. Eventually, this civilisation discovered space flight but to maintain this needed more of one particular substance - gold. In exploring the Solar System, they discovered this on Earth, mined it, but got tired of doing the work themselves, so they genetically manipulated prehistoric man to do it for them, thus creating Homo Sapiens. Then, apparently, Man got too big for his boots, and an unspecified natural disaster which the Nefelim, Marduk's inhabitants, were aware was going to take place, was supposed to wipe Mankind from the face of the Earth. However, a split amongst the Nefelim arranged for some to survive - hence practically all religions referring to a great flood and indeed, survivors.

It is really impossible to do justice to Sitchin's theories in a few short paragraphs, one has to read a book or two of his to appreciate fully his great depth of knowledge. He really dots the I's and crosses the T's... Nevertheless I would certainly not claim that he has THE answer to Earth's and Mankind's beginnings, just that, to me, his answers are more believable than many.

Let us, however, take a look at things from an angle we are more directly concerned with - UFOs and Aliens. Firstly, if the Nefelim are still around and are still visiting this planet, either from their own planet or from bases on other planets/satellites in the Solar System, it rather cuts the ground from under sceptics who constantly churn out "Why should Earth allegedly be being visited from 1001 other star systems?". And, if they ARE visiting us from within the Solar System, there would not be the same necessity for FTL - Faster Than Light - travel, especially since Sitchin postulates that the Nefelim live to great ages - one of their 3600-year orbits equating with one Earth year. Also, should they have genetically modified humanity millenia ago, they would surely by now be capable of creating many of the alien life forms claimed to have been seen over the years. From our own point of views too, if the Nefelim ARE still around and keeping an eye on, or genetically manipulating some of us again possibly animals also, might this not account for any number of abductions, cattle mutilations and so on - indeed, might not the so-called 'Greys, be a life-form designed to do their dirty work for them?

A frequent point against contact claims also is that contactees/abductees are often spoken to in their own language - whatever that might be. Now, if it IS the Nefelim doing the visiting this shouldn't be a problem since THEY would have introduced us to all our languages in the first place! One last point along these lines. If - as Sitchin believes - we WERE genetically changed into Homo Sapiens many thousands of years ago: in view of the vast seemingly quicker and quicker expansion of our knowledge and technology over the last hundred years or so, might it not be that we have been, or are being so manipulated again and

currently they're checking progress? And if so, in the final analysis, are they doing it for OUR benefit, for THEIRS, or for both?

I would emphasize though, that whilst I've recounted thoughts and ideas which may be in Sitchin's favours this does NOT mean I exclude all others, nor that I have fixed ideas on UFO explanations and/or origins, or indeed, on alleged alien encounters. My intention is to be thought-provoking, not dogmatic.

However, as a final point, which some might well consider to be pro-Sitchin, we have the OORT CLOUD. Back in the 1950s, a Dutch astronomer Jan H.Oort predicted a cloud of comets and cometary material would be found 'on the extreme rim' of the Solar System. This proved to be so, and it has been named the Oort Belt or the Oort Cloud. It was discovered at an approximate distance of one light year from the Sun. To quote from a 1988 book by Kendrick Frazier and the Editors of Time-Life books..... "There, the vast majority of comets, scientists estimate around a hundred billion, move in a spherical area of space a thousand times further away than Pluto. Held in the Sun's weak gravitational pull, comets in the Oort Cloud circle in immense orbits that take thousands of years to complete. Occasionally, a gravitational disturbance - maybe caused by a nearby star, nudges a few comets out of their Oort Cloud orbit and sends them plunging towards the Sun. Some take up elongated elliptical orbits that loop the Sun and return ..."

Though it would have to have a really remarkable orbital speed, is it not just possible that Sitchin's Marduk's orbit might actually stretch out near to this belt? Sitchin, after all, claims that Marduk has a comet-like orbit dissimilar to all other planets. Astronomically speaking at one light year from the Sun the Oort cloud really is well on the way to the nearest star - Proxima Centauri at around 4.5 light years distant. A pretty fair distance for a planet to reach, even with a suggested orbital period of around three thousand six hundred years'. But - who can tell?

Think about it!

As a 'P.S.' to this year's Conference: it was originally expected to hold next year's on the weekend commencing 13th. April, until it was realised that not only would it start on a Friday,

but it's also the 13th. Conference. Accordingly it will now be held on April 6th - 8th. 2001!

FT's EXPLAINED?

By Brian James

Those of you who scan the aircraft magazines in newsagents, might have been surprised by the cover of the March issue of *Aircraft Illustrated* – namely with revelations of a delta-planform aircraft seen flown out of Groom Lake (Area 51) by aviation enthusiasts. It has to be said that this is not the obvious magazine that would feature such revelations about black projects, since it usually concerns itself with commercial aspects of aviation. In fact the magazine has now run specials on 'Area 51' in the past four issues.

The article was mainly composed of a curious account of three 'watchers' based on Tikaboo Peak, who made little effort to conceal their presence from the security 'camo-dudes', by lighting a campfire at night to cook food! It would have been very evident to the authorities that either UFO or aviation enthusiasts were watching, yet apparently, they chose to fly out a hitherto unknown aircraft in broad daylight. The description was of a fairly large (30m length) dense black delta-planform aircraft, with no visible cockpit, nor visible engine intakes. When a rear view was afforded to the observers, the engines were not in the wings like the SR-71, but were in the central fuselage – and were two large rectangular exhaust nozzles, which suggested thrust-vectoring capability. These exhausts were glowing white, as if on reheat, but the observer's didn't report the loud engine roar, as might have been expected for an aircraft of this size.

The accompanying artists impression was perhaps more of a hybrid of the observed vehicle, and the

reputed A-17 'Switchblade' – effectively a swing wing variant off the stealth aircraft programme, although many observers question where such an aircraft would fit into the USAF'S inventory.

Interestingly, retired aerospace engineer Roy Dutton was not overly impressed by the artists impression, as part of his work had been to analyze reports and photos of 'secret' aircraft to evaluate their potential flight performance. As Roy points out – none of these reported secret aircraft, or artists impressions, are remotely similar to the 'real FT UFOs' seen for the past 20-odd years around the world, and do not demonstrate the flight characteristics or envelope of 'FTs'. For instance, the various claims for 'Aurora', and indeed Groom Lake suggests the need for a 5km runway and take-off run – this doesn't indicate a high performance aircraft, and certainly doesn't fit with reports of FT's in vertical flight!

After viewing the 'evidence' presented in *Aircraft Illustrated*, I would agree with Roy Dutton that it doesn't come close to explaining the reports of delta-aircraft that defy our 'laws' of aerospace and physics – such as silent hovering, instantaneous supersonic flight, right-angle turns and shape-changing to name but a few!

Case not closed...

A STRANGE ENCOUNTER IN FARTHING WOODS

by Gloria Heather Dixon (BUFORA DoI)

In the early hours of the morning of 14th April 1995 a peculiar incident occurred in Surrey...

Ken was heading home from shift work in his truck. He lived on the top of a very steep hill in old Surrey. Half way up the hill he had signed off on his cab computer at exactly 0400 and at the same time became aware of a deafening turbine like drone accompanied by an ear piercing high pitched whine or whirr. We have to bear in mind here that he was driving a turbo diesel truck that was pulling up a very steep hill at the time, which would make the truck engine very noisy, but the other noise drowned the sound of his labouring engine. He wound down the window whilst travelling and this deafening noise appeared to be heading south towards the direction of nearby woods. On reaching the brow of the hill and turning right into the road in which he lived, he switched off the engine and coasted on to his drive in order to avoid waking his family.

He then realised he could still hear this puzzling noise very close by and extremely loud. He felt it was emanating from his next door neighbour's garden, and in trying to use a frame of reference for how the noise sounded. He says, 'It sounded like a Concorde in full reverse thrust, but with an extra electrical alarm type noise.'

Feeling that there must be an explanation for this noise, maybe a helicopter that had come down in the woods behind the houses, he walked down the alleyway at the side of his home and climbed onto some building blocks beside his garage to look over his neighbour's fence.

He explained that upon looking behind his neighbour's hedge to the left of his oak tree, he nearly fell off the blocks in sheer panic because here he could see a brilliant ball of light glowing and hovering just above the ground behind the

hedge.

In his own words he goes on to say

'At this point I was petrified and was balanced over the fence staring at this glow with the noise piercing my ears. I thought to myself "why aren't my dogs barking and why aren't the neighbours out?" I wanted to run indoors and tell my wife, but I couldn't seem to pull away from the scene. After, what seemed like a couple of minutes, the noise stopped and up popped this aluminium looking saucer shaped object and proceeded to hover about 15 feet above the ground to the left of the oak tree. It was now silent and hovering in the air. And emitting a light around its centre and I couldn't decide if the object was spinning or the light was flashing on and off in a circular motion.'

I just stood there in total disbelief and thought to myself "I'm dreaming". This is ridiculous". After what seemed like a couple more minutes, the object moved off diagonally away from me in a southeasterly direction gaining height, and to my surprise, it went over the rooftops of the neighbours' houses. I ran up the alleyway out of my drive and into the middle of my road and froze when I gauged the width of the object by the rooftops, making it between 18 and 20 feet wide and roughly 10 feet deep. From ground level, it was about 50 feet high and around 120 feet away. I stood there in total shock and then walked nearer to it even though I was petrified, because it fascinated me. I got to about 100 feet from it and I could see under the object, the bright lights and that the underside was slightly concave. (After a couple of minutes, the silent motionless object sped off at an unbelievable speed towards Croydon without making a sound. I couldn't believe it'

Ken goes on to say that he ran into his house and shouted to his wife and went into his front bedroom and looked out of the window where he

could see the brilliant ball of light in the crystal clear night sky over Croydon in the distance. He checked the time and it was now 04.26. He had observed this light for about 15 to 20 minutes, but it had only seemed like a couple of minutes during these events. His wife checked the following morning to see if she could see anything that would appear unusual behind the back garden and oak tree, but saw nothing that she felt would be relevant to her husband's sighting.

This sighting was not reported to BUFORA until mid 1996, and Ken cannot understand why he took so long to report it, but he had only mentioned the sighting to his brother and a few colleagues as he felt embarrassed to tell anyone else what he had observed and did not wish be ridiculed in any way. He told me that he felt that he was trying to deny what he had seen. A few months prior to him contacting BUFORA it was on his mind a lot and he feels that after the incident he was hoping to hear or read that another person had observed this too.

Unfortunately he was unable to trace any other witnesses, who had observed this light or object and never managed to learn of any other information about this night.

George Hicks, an ex-BUFORA investigator in Surrey followed up this case and met with Ken in 1996. Due to the fact that this sighting was not reported for over a year after it had occurred, it was difficult to check for any corroboration. Furthermore, when Ken first contacted BUFORA he was not sure of an accurate date for his sighting, although he managed to track this down later via his log book with the company he worked with at that time. Therefore, this sighting remains unexplained at this time.

Should any BUFORA member know of information that might be related to this report, please contact me.

Thank you.

STILL GOING ROUND IN CROP CIRCLES...

Well, by my reckoning, by the time you receive this bulletin, we should be well into this year's crop circle. We've certainly had a mild winter, so all the winter crops are well advanced, and will be at an 'event maturity' early. Obviously the first formations will be in rape/canola, but what sort of developments might we expect in 2000?

☉ One feature of last year in barley and wheat was the '3D' suggestion in the crop - will this be translated to the rape crop this year? One possible evolution would be 3D versions of fractal patterns. Indeed, will there be a development of the 3D effect - it may be difficult to conceive, but perhaps we may see an evolution into 4D representation or beyond?

☉ One feature that I'm sure will return was the swiftly defaced 'basket weave' at Stanton St Bernard - the Circlemakers will certainly want us to have another go at solving that puzzle, as they did in 1994 with the second 'Galaxy' formation at

West Stowell. Hopefully this time the 'weave effect' will appear in a field of a 'friendly farmer'!

☉ Hopefully we will see much less of formations centred on tramlines. Sorry if I seem to harp on about this, but the real Circlemakers should not need a ruled canvas!

Perhaps it is time to publish a 'challenge' to all of the Circlemakers, that I have had for some time, as a means of giving strong evidence of a real phenomena?

If the true Circlemakers are able to manipulate energies (subtle or otherwise) to create the patterns via an energy flow, then why not 'reverse' the flow effect. Why not cause an entire field of crop to be flattened, but leave a standing formation? Okay, this might not give us absolute proof, but it sure would be difficult for hoaxers to perpetrate!

LECTURE REVIEW

Montague Keen - The Scole Experiments BUFORA Lecture Report - 6th May

For those that have not had or read media reports on the Scole sittings, they centred around the claims of a group of mediums in Scole, Norfolk that had alleged to have had various physical phenomena occur during their sittings.

Montague Keen described much of the phenomena he and others were witness to during the SPR's research with the mediums, concentrating on aspects of the phenomena that seemed related to UFOs. The most remarkable aspect of this was what has been termed by paranormal investigators as 'spirit lights'. These lights were described by some of the investigators and witnesses to the events as being the size of a pea, blue-white in colour. Frequently they would be seen to fly from one side of the room to the other and unusually flying into peoples hands and bouncing on their fingertips or moving from one hand to the other. Firstly they would be able to pass through solid matter. The lights themselves would frequently pass through the body of many of the participants of the séance and be seen by others to come out the other side. Some of the conference delegates described certain feeling associated with this. Many said that they felt as if they had been charged like a battery would get charged and others claimed that pressure was felt on their palm as the light entered their chest. Professor Fontana saw one of these lights pass through his glass of water and remain there. It is worth remembering that strange lights are also frequently associated with one of Montague's other areas of interest, namely crop circles.

As much as possible the Scole experimenters used controlled conditions to verify that either some of the effects or all of the effects they had seen were not hoaxed. Unfortunately the experimenters themselves were guests in the house of the mediums and the mediums were adamant that the spirit group wanted the séance to take place in

complete darkness. In order to facilitate the controlled conditions the experimenters used two Velcro wrist-straps for each person present in the séance. These were illuminated in the dark so that every movement of a hand could be seen by the experimenters themselves.

One other instance of experimental control was through the use of a sealed box, which contained an unopened film still in its shrink-wrapped packet. The box was provided by the Scole team and the film was provided by the mediums. It would have been impossible for the film to have been tampered with and then rewrapped in shrink-wrap plastic and the cardboard case to be restored without being noticed by the Scole team. This film was then put in a box and the box was padlocked. Images that when developed showed that they were full of symbols and foreign writings from obscure books

Other accounts covered the stories of phantom dogs brushing their tails against their legs underneath the table. There were many other physical phenomena that occurred, which due to their extent, and the limits of time for Montague's lecture, remain unmentioned in this account. For those with more interest in the subject of Scole, please contact the SPR to obtain the detailed report of the experiment and of the experimental conditions, the physical phenomena, and include of many fascinating accounts of those present during sittings.

Richard Conway (who chaired this lecture), then went through a review, and Q&A session between Montague and the audience, which produced some thought-provoking ideas, and gave some positive feedback to Montague.

With thanks to Richard Conway, for most of the material in this report.

(Continued from page 5)

driving the 30 miles, he found himself a few hundred feet above the road in a different existence. He pinched himself to ensure that he was driving safely and could feel pain. He says he had had no drugs nor alcohol and his mind was relaxed. He had a better view of the road than that from the driver's seat! He kept monitoring the episode and decided it would be safer to go back into his body when the van reached the precincts of Brighton! This was his only experience of that nature.

Peter had several books on the HOW TO SUCCEED IN LIFE theme and perhaps they paid off? He had medals for ballroom dancing,

trophies for rallying, and regularly gave to an assortment of charities. Flying a private aircraft does not come cheap, so one must conclude that MLG TRADING, his timber merchanting business was profitable at times! Peter also had time for several girl-friends over the years, which did not go down too well with his wife Kay, now in a nursing home in Caterham. But this shows that he was good at getting on with people, and was always ready to lend a helping hand. He will be remembered with high regard by enduring members of BUFORA.

Its always nice to get some feedback from members, here's a letter from Stuart Fraser Martin

As a relatively new member, I'd like to say I've found the Bulletin very interesting already - particularly the article by Anthony Eccles on the Naval Ocean Surveillance System - the three satellites travelling in triangular formation.

That's answered my big question of the month - a colleague and I had been working late at night in Castleton in Derbyshire, and had spotted these satellites drifting across the sky. We've been wondering what they were for ever since, so thanks to Mr Eccles for solving our puzzle! I'm already learning!

Thanks Stuart. Who else can remember the three satellites in formation in the mid-70s? Namely Skylab and two of its booster rockets, which went over in line astern for many months. If any of you are out skywatching, and see what you think may be a satellite, for those of you with Internet access, I can recommend the GSOC site on <http://www2.gsoc.dlr.de> This covers satellite tracks and visibility for all naked eye satellites on any day, and includes special sections for MIR, the ISS, and shuttle missions.

We also had some comments after Heather Dixon's Ball Lightning article (which also

appears on the BUFORA website <http://www.bufora.org.uk>)

Richard Badger relates his own ball lightning experience on his web page: <http://www.propellor1.cwe.net>

For those of you with more interest in the phenomena, you may be interested in the work of the Tornado & Storm Research Association (TORRO), currently based at the Brookes University in Oxford. TORRO maintains a database of ball lightning cases, but their database only contains **actual confirmed reports** - rather like BUFORA discarding all explained UFO reports, leaving us with the 5% or so that remain unexplained. You can visit the TORRO website at <http://www.torro.org.uk>

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SPACE & ASTRONOMY

The 6th April 2000 Aurora Display

As you will hopefully know, the night of April 6th saw an interesting triple conjunction of Mars, Jupiter and Saturn, along with a thin crescent moon. Many stargazers were out to make the most of the first clear night for nearly two weeks, and saw a lovely sunset, and then emergence of the planets as the sky darkened, and their eventual setting in the southwest. I made the trip to Avebury - to be in a good setting for the evening. Mind you, my efforts to photograph the event were hampered by failures of no less than three cameras!

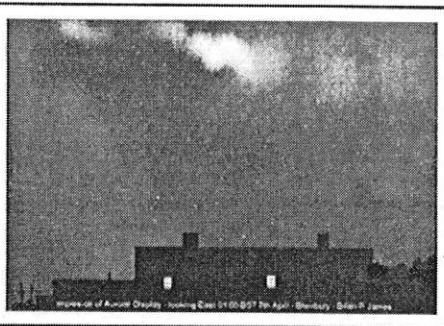
Those stargazers who stayed out just a little while longer will have seen the start of what was perhaps a once in a lifetime auroral display in this country, and certainly the best for well over a decade. (I tried phoning people that were in my mobile's phone book - just in case). The display lasted from 9.00pm on the 6th till at least 3.00am on the morning of the 7th.

From my initial position at Avebury, the skyline over Swindon took on a very strange look, with a very distinct arc of white/green light, that looked like a defence shield out of science-fiction! Various long white/green rays emerged from this arc. Large expanses of cherry-red glows began to emerge to the northeast, reaching high up towards the zenith. For the next two and half hours, there were very bright white, green and cherry-red glows, rays, ribbons and streamers. At this point I thought the display was ending, and made the journey home.

However, as I neared Blewbury in Oxfordshire at 12:30am, I noticed the red glows starting to appear again, and as I turned a corner in the road, and so was facing north, I was amazed as the sky literally lit up with white, green and red glows - it was starting again! For the next hour and half, most of the sky was lit up with the green arc, and rays and ribbons, with the intense cherry-red glows over huge areas of the sky. It was difficult to know just where to look for the best 'action'!

At times there was a bright blue/white lightning-like flashing from the arc to the north.

Until one observes an aurora of this intensity, it is difficult to appreciate the scale and speed of the constant changes in patterns. One of my own humble artists impressions is reproduced here, although it will probably not look that impressive in prevscale. For the colour version, see <http://www.apra.org.uk/news.html>. For wonderful photographic images (obviously not all of us had camera failures!), see <http://www.spaceweather.com> for links.



The annoying thing was that people who were subscribing to news alerts for such aurora, did not get email alerts in this country until after the display had started! There have been a series of coronal mass ejections from the solar corona (which subsequently cause the aurora) in recent weeks as we move towards a solar sunspot maxima, so there may be other opportunities to see one of nature's spectacles. To subscribe to the mail alerts, see the Spaceweather website, listed above.

The recent IMAGE space probe has started a study of the Earth's surrounding electromagnetosphere, and its changes with the fierce solar winds that effectively 'buffet' our planet. What has this got to do with UFOs? Don't forget that many years ago, a statistical link was found between the frequency and number of

UFO sightings and the Solar sunspot cycle, and this is of course what drives the solar winds that hit our planet's magnetosphere, and cause aurora, and who knows what other light phenomena? Clearly we need to look at the results of the study into this 'space weather', as a *possible* cause of some UFO reports.

Yet more 'aerial fireworks', and with the potential to cause false UFO reports...

In January, 2000, a seven meter, 200 metric ton rock from space streaked across the skies of western Canada. The *meteor was at least as bright as the Sun* before it exploded over the Yukon Territory.

Scientists have recovered fragments of the carbon-rich rock, which researchers say is the most valuable meteorite find in at least 30 years. Scientists have discovered that the fragments possibly contain amino acids and other organic compounds.

It is perhaps easy to think that meteors 'only occur at night', simply because that's when we see them. However, the Earth is bombarded by millions of micrometeoroids every day, and many significant meteor showers occur during our daylight hours, and are therefore 'invisible' to us. During the second week of June thousands of meteors streaked through the sky, but it is doubtful if you will have seen many of them. These were the Arietids and Zeta Perseids - the most intense daytime meteor showers of the year. The best way for many meteor enthusiasts (who do not have access to sophisticated radar!) to enjoy the show is by listening to meteor echoes on a common FM or ham radio.

Exotic propulsion systems?

During all the years of UFO study, and the ideas of ETH, there has always been much speculation about various 'exotic' propulsion systems in use by the supposed alien technologies utilised in constructing 'flying saucers'. Of course such concepts as 'hyperspace' and 'warp drives' have been in the realms of science-fiction for many

years. These two branches of 'speculation' have always seemed far in advance of our own efforts at space travel, which to be honest are little more than large fireworks - they are crude, but effective for our current needs

Strange how science fiction is catching up with science fiction, and the ideas for UFO propulsions! Those of you who browse the internet regularly cannot fail to have missed the references to BAE's acknowledgement of research into 'anti-gravity' propulsion, nicknamed *Project Greenglow* (is this a Freudian reference to an effect of the system?). There has been much lively debate over the viability of any such system, but the indications are that scientists are looking seriously at such concepts.

However, even 'anti-grav' may be crude compared to other concepts being studied by NASA, in their advanced propulsion research, unofficially dubbed the *Department of Warp Drive and Wormholes* (DWDW). Who knows what sort of vehicles we may build in the near future, I saw one report that suggested an anti-matter engine would be running within 10 years - it would be small, and perhaps inefficient, but a quantum leap (if you'll forgive the pun) over chemical rockets. Don't forget that Ion engines (as so beloved in *Star Wars*) have been running in test form since the mid-1960s, although they have only recently been incorporated into small space probes. Some maverick scientists such as Jack Sarfratti are working on concepts for true starships, capable of traversing our galaxy, which Sarfratti suggests could become reality in 20 years.

When you consider that man has been capable of powered flight for less than one century, we are making huge strides in areas of possible propulsion that could take us to the stars. Suddenly, ETH doesn't seem so far-fetched! Even as I write this piece today (June 7th), I have seen web news that scientists have now observed, under certain conditions, light particles that have travelled at 300 times the 'acknowledged barrier' of the speed of light...

UFOs, Behind the Veil A Re-examination (part 1)

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Introduction

The controversy regarding the reality or otherwise of UFOs is surely one of the main ingredients that guarantee this enigma a permanent niche in the imagination of the general public. Since biblical times and before, people have seen signs and portents in the skies and, according to the prevailing social, cultural and religious beliefs, placed their own interpretation upon them. Today, thanks to cynicism in the media, particularly tabloid newspapers, it is difficult, if not impossible, to obtain any form of objectivity concerning the subject. Nowadays, anyone who reports a sighting of anything unusual in the sky is likely to automatically attribute it to an extraterrestrial spacecraft, which is of course utterly and totally wrong. This erroneous opinion is largely due to the sensationalist manner in which the subject is portrayed.

If you examine the typical style of presentation employed by tabloid editors and their sub-editors, it is usual to find the report surrounded by pictures of 'traditional' spacecraft, stills from sci-fi films and the obligatory almond eyed 'grey'. A UFO is exactly what it says it is, an Unidentified Flying Object, nothing more. It is certainly not of necessity a spacecraft, nor should it be presented as such. Unfortunately, this does not sell newspapers. Regrettably, this is often the only method by which researchers can get their message across to the public and maintain an interest in the phenomenon, risk of ridicule notwithstanding.

It is my intention to comment, beginning with the earliest reports, gradually moving forward in time to the present day, presenting a case for and against evidence that has been amassed concerning the existence of extraterrestrial

interaction with human beings. Obviously, one cannot examine the pros and cons of every single instance, but I have concentrated on a few of the better known, high profile encounters that have become recognised as landmarks. I have deliberately chosen accounts and personalities that, in my opinion, epitomise both irrefutable proof and accidental or deliberate mis-interpretation. From the outset, I should state clearly that the early protagonists of UFOs and UFOlogy were and to a great extent still are their own worst enemies.

In the course of this research it has become evident that certain reports and sightings from late 19th century America closely mirror current sightings, speculation and denials. The eventual outcome of my investigation will, hopefully, lay before you a view of current levels of technology and how, because of official denials, they have become synonymous with extraterrestrial craft. We are, as a race, rather more technically accomplished than we give ourselves credit for. It is self evident that television programmes epitomised by the 'X' Files have presented, among other aspects of the paranormal, the case for the UFO in an interesting and credible manner. This too helped to embed UFOlogy in the public psyche. Initially, Chris Carter, the instigator of the series, denied that they used actual case histories and descriptions as source material for the individual episodes. He appears to have changed his mind and now agrees that this is exactly what happened. His admission was superfluous, because it was self evident that this had been the case from the outset.

Some of the earliest evidence of what may be depictions of extraterrestrials were found carved in granite on an island in Hunan province, China. These carvings, which feature cylindrical objects

and what appear to be their occupants, are dated at *circa* 47,000 BC. There are many other instances of anomalous carvings and cave paintings apparently depicting elliptical outlines with figures inside, that could also be interpreted as flying machines and beings wearing helmets and suits. These images are not confined to one race, culture, or period, but are instead widespread throughout history and indeed the planet. It is perhaps important at this early stage to present an alternative perspective on what has just been described.

Interpretation

While it is quite possible that these carvings represent extraterrestrial craft and their occupants, it is equally possible that they do not. A powerful image common to ancient people was the almost magical process of birth. In a procedure which, although natural, was by no means well understood, these ancient people may well have wished to create an image of the unborn child as a totem to encourage fertility, and since they were essential to the survival of the group, protect pregnant women. This was vital, because numerically, these early tribes or clans tended to consist of perhaps twenty, or at the most, thirty people rather than hundreds. Correspondingly, since life was short, harsh and brutish anyway, it was important that the young were nurtured and cared for. Therefore, a perfectly acceptable alternative interpretation of these carvings is a depiction of a child in its mother's womb.

The 'Ancient Astronauts'

Much of the information concerning this fascinating re-interpretation of ancient history has been brought into the public domain by, amongst others, the much-maligned researcher and author Erich von Daniken. To be sure, he cannot be 100% correct in all his deductions, but, nevertheless, it was his efforts and determination that unearthed and collated otherwise ignored archaeological and cultural anomalies that tend to embarrass the establishment. One of his best known finds, - or perhaps that should be re-interpretations, - is the depiction of the Mayan 'Astronaut' snug inside what, with the best will in the world, appears to be some form of spacecraft.

Other items that have been brought to light by fellow researcher Dr Ivan Sanderson include what had previously been described as 'ceremonial items' and 'jewellery' discovered in ancient Colombian tombs. These 'ceremonial items', which are made of gold, had previously been labelled as representations of moths or bees. Even a cursory examination of them will reveal their striking similarity to modern jet aircraft. The artifacts were shown to a German fighter pilot and engineer, J.A.Ulrich, who had no prior knowledge of them, for his opinion. His immediate conclusion was that the object depicted a F102 fighter aircraft. Interestingly, at a conference, scale model gliders made to the specifications of the objects were projected into the air and actually flew. Alternatively, the fact that these scale models flew, although interesting, should not - depending on interpretation - in itself be too surprising. If the official explanation is correct, and these are items of jewellery representing moths or other flying insects, then a scale model - if made of the suitable materials - should be able to become airborne. On the other hand, it is also fair to point out that I do not recall an insect - or bird for that matter - possessing distinct tail wings and a fin.....HMMMMM.

Ancient Egyptian Sightings

One of the earliest written accounts of a sighting can be traced to the reign of the Pharaoh Thutmose III who ruled between 1504-1450 BC. The hieroglyphs translate as: *In the year 22, of the 3rd month of winter, sixth hour of the day, the scribes of the house of life found it was a circle of fire that was coming in the sky. It had no head, the breath of its mouth had a foul odour, its body one rod long and one rod wide. It had no voice, their hearts became confused through it. Then they laid themselves on their bellies.....they went to the Pharaoh.....to report it. His Majesty ordered...[an examination of] all which is written in the papyrus scrolls of the House of Life. His Majesty was meditating upon what happened. Now after some days had passed, these things became more numerous in the skies than ever. They shone more in the sky than the brightness of the sun, and extended to the four supports of the heavens....Powerful was the position of the fire*

circles. The army of the Pharaoh looked on with him in their midst. It was after supper. Therefore, these fire circles ascended higher in the sky towards the south....The Pharaoh caused incense to be brought to make peace on the hearth.... And what happened was ordered by the Pharaoh to be written in the annals of the House of Life....,so that it be remembered for ever. [Brinsley Le Poer Trench, *The Flying Saucer Story*, pp81-82].

Interpretation

These accounts, although produced by a much more sophisticated culture, must still be treated with as much caution as those in pre-history. It did not serve the cause of UFOlogy well, that pioneering researchers such as Brinsley Le Poer Trench, used any and all early reports of aerial phenomena as justifications for extraterrestrial visits. Based on current scientific knowledge, it is now known that there are many formerly inexplicable atmospheric anomalies that can now be identified and categorised. Likewise, a modern understanding of aerodynamics can explain the odd flight characteristics of meteorites and bolides entering Earth's atmosphere. Therefore, unless we have a good knowledge of contemporary religious beliefs and what the people understood about the world around them regarding natural phenomenon, it is difficult to evaluate these reports. The only givens here are,

- 1)The events were witnessed,
- 2)The events were recorded and
- 3)The events describe some form of aerial phenomenon.

Other than that there is little to suggest that they describe the manoeuvres of an extraterrestrial craft. It is more likely that what was observed was either an optical illusion, a bolide, the aftermath of an earthquake, or some form of atmospheric electrical disturbance. The mention of its breath as having a 'foul odour' indicates either a sulphurous compound or methane gas, which helps to underline the suggestion of some naturally occurring phenomenon.

Biblical Accounts

An arresting early biblical account of an alleged, flying machine and its occupants is attributed to the prophet Ezekiel as he writes of 'a strange

vehicle' landing near the Chebar River in what is now Iraq. This can be accurately dated to 592 BC in the reign of Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon. The scripture tells us: '*As I looked, behold, a stormy wind came out of the north, and a great cloud, with brightness round about it, and fire flashing forth continually, and in the midst of the fire, as it were gleaming bronze*'. He continues: '*...and from the midst of it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had the form of men, but each had four faces, and each of them had four wings. Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the sole of a calf's foot; and they sparkled like burnished bronze; Under their wings on the four sides they had human hands...and each had the face of a man in front; the four had the face of a lion on the right side...and the face of an ox on the left side...and the face of an eagle at the back...and their wings were spread out above; each creature had two wings, each of which touched the wing of another, while two covered their bodies. And each [creature] went straight forward...without turning as they went...And the living creatures darted to and fro, like a flash of lightning*'. What was he describing, people wearing environment suits and a device that allowed them to fly? He goes on: '*Now as I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel upon the earth beside the living creatures, one for each of the four of them*'. As for the appearance of the wheels and their construction: '*Their appearance was like the gleaming of a chrysolite...being, as it were, like a wheel within a wheel...The four wheels had rims and they had spokes; and their rims were full of eyes round about. And when the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and when the living creatures rose from the earth, the wheels rose*'. This description appears to refer to specific machines, devices, with which the 'living creatures' interacted. Could the eyes perhaps refer to portholes? The story finishes: '*There was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire; and seated above the likeness of throne was the likeness as it were of a human form. And upward from...his loins...I saw as it were gleaming bronze...and there was brightness...Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the*

appearance of the brightness that was round about... And when I saw it ... I heard the voice of one speaking'.

Interpretation

This account is entirely different because of certain, much earlier, corroborating details recorded elsewhere and as such deserves a much closer look. In spite of the best efforts of translators, scribes and writers, who, with their own particular instructions and prejudices assembled the bible, there is still a remarkable wealth of detail. This is probably accidental, and due to there being nothing in the original records that specifically ran counter to contemporary church dogma. Make no mistake about it, if there had been the slightest hint of perceived heresy, then this section would have suffered the fate of many others, and been excised or altered beyond all recognition.

The description tells us that the 'living creatures' possessed 'four faces' and 'glittering bodies'. This is significant and reminiscent of even earlier biblical references in the Book of Enoch, to a race of beings known as 'The Seraphim', the highest ranking amongst the angels, whose name translates as 'the burning ones'. If we compare Ezekial's description of them 'Gleaming like burnished bronze' and 'I saw as it were gleaming bronze...and there was brightness' with the accepted earlier Enochian description of, 'the burning ones', we can imply a similarity.

The old testament describes how God dispatched his lieutenants, these Seraphim, to destroy the bastard, hybrid offspring of the fallen angels and human women, 'The Nephilim', and retrieve their souls. This action was deemed necessary, as, - depending on which translation you read - in the course of being conceived, this mis-matched union of human and angel became distorted mutations who possessed in their deformed human bodies, the soul of an angel, and this could not be tolerated. The Seraphim therefore came to earth and set about their murderous business. The souls were retrieved and the luckless Nephilim destroyed, their eyes burned to cinders, having gazed on the power and majesty of God's lieutenants.

This version of the process cannot have been totally successful since the book of Genesis tells us: 'And it came to pass when men began to multiply on the face of the Earth, and daughters were born unto them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair and they took them wives of all that they chose. There were Nephilim on the Earth in those days, and also after that, when the sons of God came unto the daughters of men and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of wisdom'. The Book of Enoch specifically tells us that 200 angels, also known as 'Watchers', or 'Anunaki' rebelled against heavenly laws that required them to accept man as an equal. After either being forced out of 'heaven', or leaving voluntarily, they took wives amongst human women and produced offspring 'The Nephilim. The term 'Nephilim' is translated from ancient Hebrew and means 'those who have fallen'. The Greek translation is 'Gigantes', remember the biblical phrase 'In those days there were giants'?

The main problem with this line of reasoning is that the dates are wrong, these reports are much too early, unless - as reported by Ezekiel - these beings had returned to observe the results of their earlier endeavours. This interpretation addresses both the description of the 'Living Creatures' and the anomalous dates. The description of the 'wheels' also sits well with the ancient texts and their interpretation of the 'gleaming wheels'. There is also a comparison with our own attempts at space flight in the reports of incredible noise, fire and smoke. If you have ever been privileged to witness the spectacle a spacecraft taking off from Cape Canaveral, then you will know exactly what they are talking about. The Hebrew researcher and author Zecharia Sitchin tells us that, according to his translation of ancient Hebrew texts, there is a 12th planet 'Nibiru' whose orbit crosses that of Earth every 3,600 years and the 'Watchers' or 'Anunaki' were from this planet. He also posits that the biblical descriptions of their flying machines where, 'a stormy wind came out of the north, and a great cloud, with brightness round about it, and fire flashing forth

continually' mirrors a technology not too far removed from our own.

The Early Sightings Continue

The reports continue through the Roman era, with records of unusual sightings in 216 BC, 99BC and 65BC. An early chronicler, Conrad Wolfhart in 1567 records anomalous sightings in AD 393, which describe a swarm of bright lights 'like bees', that eventually coalesced and 'blended together as one awful flame, a horrible two edged sword'. Sightings are again reported, this time in Japan on the night of September 24th 1235. And again on September the 12th 1271 and then in 1361, there are reports of an object 'shaped like a drum'. There is a further sighting dated March 8th 1468 of a large, dark, object which made a 'sound like a wheel' which flew from Mt. Kasuga toward the west at midnight. [Jacques Vallee, *Passport to Magonia*, pp5-6]

The reports of unusual sights in the sky continued in Europe throughout the 14th and 15th centuries. In 1322 AD a pillar of fire was sighted near Uxbridge, England. It was described as being 'the size of a small boat, pallid and livid in colour', it rose from the south, crossed the sky 'with a slow and grave motion', and went north. Out of the front, 'a fervent red flame burst forth with beams of light..... its speed increased and it flew through the air.' Then, in 1387AD, during November and December, we find 'a fire in the sky, like a burning and revolving wheel', or, 'a round barrel of flame, emitting fire from above', and others in the shape of long fiery beams were seen through a great deal of the winter, in the county of Leicester and over Northamptonshire. In 1461AD at Arras, France, on November 1st, 'a fiery thing like an iron rod of good length and as large as one half of the moon' was observed for around 15 minutes. The object was also described as being 'shaped like a ship, from which fire was seen flowing' [Jacques Vallee, *UFO's in Space: Anatomy of a Phenomenon* p9, Harold T Wilkins, *Flying Saucers on the Attack*, pp187, 188]

Interpretation

We now seem to be back with fairly standard displays of natural phenomena, probably meteoric in origin. It is a great pity that once again, mid

20th century researchers in their quest for information, were not a little more selective in their choice of material. They persistently attempted to attach significance to many sightings that are certainly unusual, but not *unnatural*. Although people like Jacques Vallee and Watkins were guilty of this, they were by no means the worst offenders. Hailing from America came a personality who was perhaps both the best and the worst representative that UFOlogy ever had. I refer of course to 'The professor from Mt. Palomar', George Adamski. If Adamski did in fact actually have a series of close encounters with ETs, they rapidly became bogged down in his self-aggrandising publicity machine. Some of his statements, in hindsight, were quite frankly, ludicrous. A prime example of this was his description of the moon having lakes and forests, and we must not forget the cows as well, although to be fair, they were quite small.....quite! Perhaps it serves to demonstrate the level of naiveté of the public that they were led so convincingly 'up the garden path' for so long. He certainly had many supporters and probably still does. Many of them act as apologists for him and justify his colourful description by mentioning his poor eyesight. We will return to Adamski and his colleagues in detail later.

The Eighteenth Century

This unusual report from the end of 18th century is worthy of note. 'On Sept 19th 1799, all England saw at 8.30 PM, a beautiful ball, blazing with white light, and which passed from N.E to S.E. It moved rapidly with a gentle tremulous motion, and noiselessly. The light cast by it was very vivid, and a few red sparks detached themselves from it.... On Nov. 12th something like a large red pillar of fire passed north to south over Hereford, and alarmed people in the Forest of Dean some miles away. "Flashes of an extremely vivid electrical sort preceded its appearance, and at intervals of half an hour, several hours before. This was at 5.45 am. On this night, the moon shone with uncommon vividness, when, between 5 and 6 am, bright lights in the sky became stationary. They then burst with no perceptible report, and passed north, leaving behind them beautiful trains of floating fire. Some were

pointed and some radiated. Some sparkled and some had large columns...." Nov 19th, at 6am, folk at Huncoates were alarmed by vivid flashes lasting 30 seconds from a ball of fire passing in the sky. [Harold T Wilkins, *Flying Saucers on the Attack*, p211]

Interpretation

In this selection of reports, we begin to see a gradual recognition of the forms, a familiarity in the sightings that we are nowadays accustomed to seeing reported in the press. This is doubtless due to increasing familiarity with developing technology, which, although relatively primitive by our standards, encouraged observers to view the phenomena as being some form of vehicle rather than a spiritual manifestation. Although these accounts are still more likely to be a misrepresentation of electrical phenomena, the trend was starting.

Part 2 of this fascinating re-examination, will appear in the next BUFORA Bulletin...

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SPECIAL BOOK BARGAINS FOR YEAR 2000

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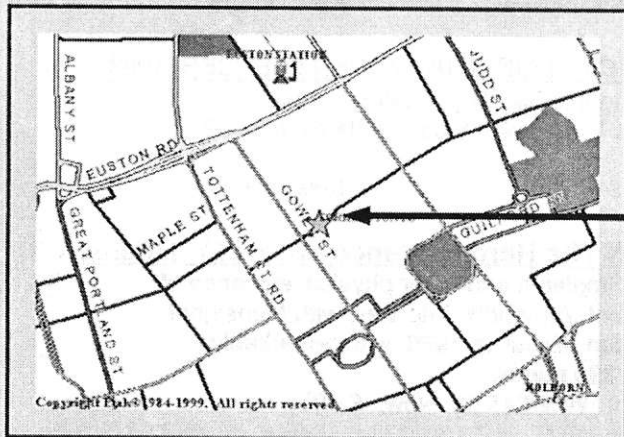
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Monday 4th September 2000. GEORGE WINGFIELD. *New Perspectives On The UFO Phenomenon.* George will be discussing all his latest findings in regards to the mysterious 'black triangles' that have been sighted throughout various parts of the United Kingdom. What's going on? Come to this lecture and find out.

Monday 2nd October 2000. JERRY ANDERSON. *UFO Sightings Over Kent.* Jerry will be discussing numerous cases from Kent, Burmarsh, and Gravesend, looking at cases from as far back as 1954. He will be looking at close encounters of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd kinds and showing various segments of video accompanied by slides. There is even a case in which the then Home Secretary, Michael Howard, was involved. All in all, Jerry's talk aims to be 'thought-provoking'.

Monday 6th November, 2000
New speaker to be arranged.