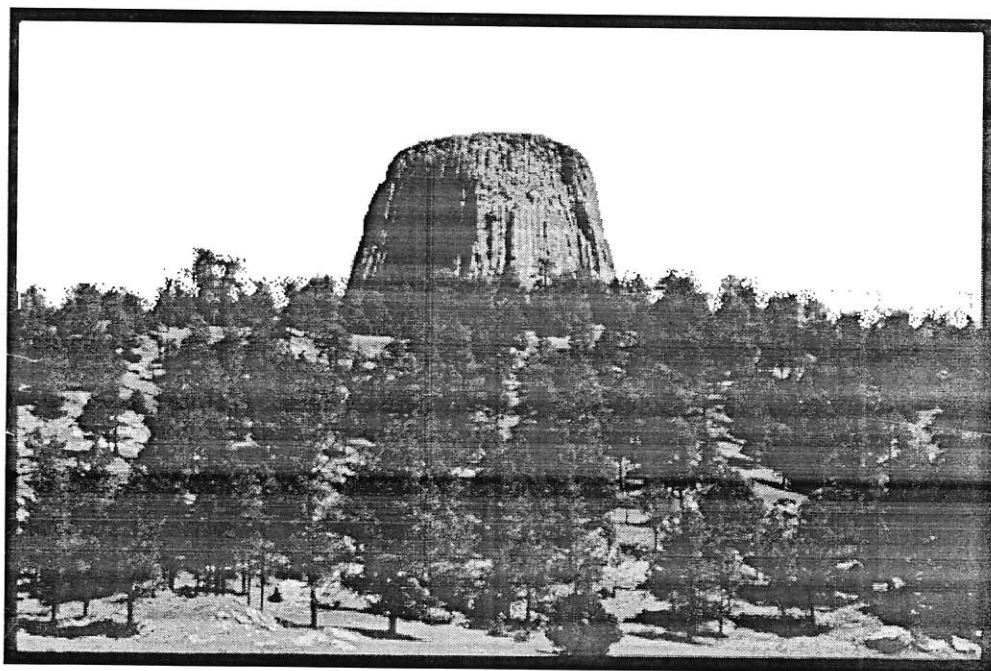


New Bufora Journal

ISSN 1476-5314 - January 2005 - Issue No.13



In this issue :—

Men In Black on Merseyside
UFOs, Interference & Crop Circles
The Eureka Springs UFO Conferences
Are we the Martians?



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Editorial



Welcome to the latest issue of the BUFORA Journal.

Unfortunately production problems continue to slow down the rate at which Journals are produced. Copy for issue 12 was complete a few days after issue 11 hit doormats, but then it was sometime in production. The copy for this issue was completed a couple of weeks after issue 12 distribution. Hopefully we have now cracked the production problems and this will arrive sooner.

As many of you will know it is my plan to stand down as editor of the New BUFORA Journal with the completion of issue 17. As part of this process I am glad to announce that Graham Inglis has been appointed assistant editor. The plan is that Graham will take over as editor when I stand down. Graham currently works in the BUFORA office alongside Jon Downes and has wide experience in all aspects of magazine production.

This issue also contains an obituary for researcher John Mack who was killed recently in a tragic accident. It seems of late that we have had to report the death of too many researchers and old friends. In a way I guess it shows that the field is maturing (or is that just a polite way of saying getting old?).

Reflecting on things, BUFORA itself is now over forty years old and the subject, if we take Kenneth Arnold's report of 1947 as the start of the modern era, is well into middle age.

Even Steven Spielberg's film Close Encounters of the Third Kind (which made the Devil's Tower, shown on the front cover famous in Europe) is over 25 years old.

As we are getting older we should be looking to a younger generation to take on the study and research. In the forty years of BUFORA's existence the access to higher education has bloomed. We should be looking not only to a younger generation, but also to a more scientifically educated generation to take up the baton.

By finding the right people and giving them the right resources we will make even bigger progress than we have made already.

As they used to say at the end of the X-files TV programmes –

The Truth is Out There!

Steve Gamble

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John Mack Killed

The death of Professor John Mack in a tragic road traffic accident on 27th September 2004.

John Mack was professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and was also famous for his study of UFO abductees.

In 1977 Mack won the Pulitzer Prize for his biography of Lawrence of Arabia "A Prince of Our Disorder". He had attended a conference of the T.E.Lawrence Society in Oxford, where he presented two papers, before travelling to London to visit friends.

Whilst returning from dinner at his friends he was struck by a car in Totteridge Road and was pronounced dead at the scene. He was 74.

John Mack was born in New York city. After obtaining an undergraduate degree at Oberlin College in 1951 he went on to study medicine at Harvard Medical School, from where he graduated in 1955. His early clinical work involved the study dreams, nightmares and teen suicides. It is, perhaps, interesting that some features of dreams, nightmares and other sleep disorders have some features in common with the alien abduction phenomenon which he was later to study.

Despite the scepticism and criticism he received from some sections of the academic community, Mack carried out extensive research into the UFO abduction phenomenon working with over 200 witnesses.

He published two books on his alien abduction work, "Abduction" in 1994 followed by "Passport to the Cosmos: Human Transformation and Alien Encounters." His work also formed the basis of a documentary "Touched" made in 2003.

Like other researchers he found that many abductees reported heightened interest in the environment and increased spirituality. He also found that very few of his abductee

subjects showed evidence of any form of mental illness.

In 1994 Harvard Medical School set up a peer committee to review Mack's abductee work. After a 14 month investigation they determined that Mack should be free to investigate whatever he wished. During the investigation Mack was represented by attorney Roderick Macleish. On hearing of the news he is reported by Associated Press as saying "I am just so devastated by this news. This is a great loss. John was one of the kindest, most compassionate mental health clinicians I have ever met, and I have represented many psychiatrists."

Predictably, the conspiracy theorists came out and suggested that 'the authorities' had arranged Mack's death. Outside the world of UFO researchers Mack's UFO work was largely forgotten. If he was going to be taken out it would have been ten years ago when it was raising a fuss. I think it was most likely just an unfortunate accident where somebody who was tired after a long day, perhaps looked the wrong way and didn't see a car coming. .

So despite the efforts of his academic critics Mack was somebody to stick his head above the parapet and be counted. In assessing anybody's life you have to consider is the world a better place for them having been here. Certainly Mack contributed greatly to both his academic studies and to UFOlogy. So I think he passes the test.

Certainly, he will be missed in many quarters.

Steve Gamble

Betty Hill

Following the news in 2004 of the death of veteran UFO abductee Betty Hill, there will be more in issue 14 of this Journal.

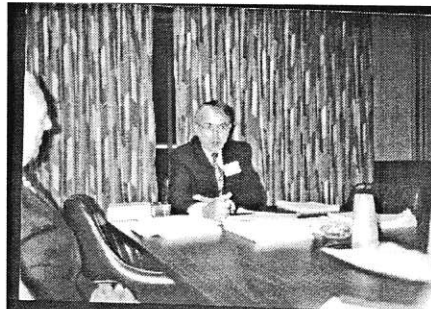
The Eureka Springs UFO Conferences

Norman Oliver

Towards the end of the 1960s, soon after I had developed a strong interest in UFO phenomena and was actively involved with BUFORA, I began to make contact with overseas researchers. One of the first of these was Lucius Farish, who, from his home in Plumerville, Arkansas has now produced UFONS – The UFO Newsclipping Service every month as regularly as clockwork since he took it over from Rod Dyke in 1977. 'Lou', though not seeking the limelight himself, is one of the most prolific sources of information on our subject you could ever hope to find. I recall, for example, that he gave me outline details of the Rendlesham Forest events before I was aware that Rendlesham Forest even existed! He is held in high regard by UFO researchers worldwide, and, indeed, must be one of very, very few ufologists (if indeed, there are any others, myself included!) who I have never heard spoken of badly by anyone!

Following an initial two-day Conference at the town of Eureka Springs in North West Arkansas in 1988 organised by Bill Pitts from Fort Smith, it was decided by Arkansas MUFON – the Mutual UFO Network – members and other researchers to hold a second Conference in 1989, but this time a three-day one with a view to it becoming an annual event. Accordingly, towards the end of 1988, Lou, together with Ed Mazur (MUFON's Arkansas State Director) and others, began to put together a major programme for 1989, the Inn of the Ozarks hotel being the venue. As it turned out, on each of the three days there was an audience of between two and three hundred and Conferences in later years have raised this regularly to around four to five hundred. The Conference also gives MUFON Directors, particularly from the more southern

states, an opportunity for a general 'get-together' and a small conference of their own.



Pictures from the 1989 Conference

**Top – Walter Andrus
International Director of MUFON**



Pictures from top down

1. Lou Farish in 'Myrtie May's'
2. Jean Siefried and Tim Good
3. The New Conference Hall

It was not intended that the Conferences should be an outlet for scientific papers showing how 95% of reports can be explained away, nor was it anticipated that those attending would come away having completely solved the UFO enigma! Its objectives were to provide a forum for dedicated researchers to present their own ideas, experiences, findings and conclusions and to provide a

diversified and informative programme for all attending.

Eureka Springs itself is situated in an extremely beautiful holiday area of the Ozark mountains which run from central Arkansas well into neighbouring Missouri. Said to have been given its name over a hundred years ago by a U.S. businessman who exclaimed 'Eureka' after his son had been cured following drinking from the numerous local springs, whilst Eureka Spring's population is only a little over two thousand, it makes up for that with its attractions, which include the local 'trolley cars'; the 'Christ of the Ozarks' statue 1500 feet up on Magnetic Mountain, second only in size to the one overlooking Buenos Ayres and an amphitheatre set into the hills where, every night between May and October each year, a 'Passion Play' similar to that of Oberammergau is re-enacted. It also boasts more than a dozen large modern hotels apart from the 'Inn of the Ozarks' venue booked annually for the Conference. The fascinating downtown area is largely composed of homes and buildings built in, or restored to a Victorian architectural style. This entire downtown shopping area is, in fact, on the U.S. National Register of Historic Buildings

The Conference Centre, part of the Inn of the Ozarks complex, is only a stone's throw from the hotel itself with its couple of hundred rooms and has hosted the Conference each year from 1989 onwards with the exception of 2001. In that year, less than two months before it was due to be held, there was a disastrous fire, and whilst the Inn of the Ozarks still accommodated most of the delegates, an alternative location centre had to be found for the Conference itself and The Victoria Inn, a few miles away was substituted at the last moment with very little time to spare. A new Centre, very much on the lines of the old one, was built just in time for the 'Inn' once again to be the venue in 2002

This Conference is noted for its 'non-combative' attitude. Though its speakers

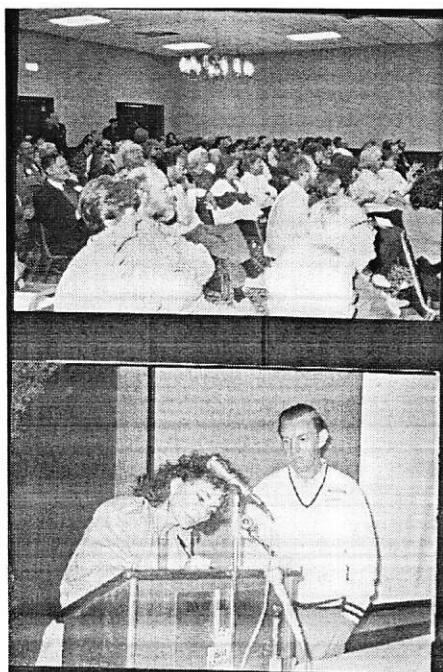
present a spectrum of ufological thoughts and beliefs, as indeed do questioners at the Saturday night 'open' sessions when all speakers assemble to provide – or try to provide – answers, a 'confrontational' approach is discouraged. Beware adopting one or you could find yourself barred from future participation! It is also noted for its 'regulars' – speakers who have been invited to return year after year. Two – Linda Howe and Antonio Huneus are, I believe, well into double figures on the number of years they have given presentations. Joe Lewels of El Paso, Texas has also been on the platform on quite a few occasions, giving talks on 'Man's Historical Link to the Serpent Race' in 1996 and 'UFOs over Mexico' in April 2000, whilst that veteran researcher Wendelle Stevens has several times been amongst 'The Platform Party'. I was myself the first overseas speaker at the first main Conference in 1989 and have spoken on half a dozen occasions since as also, I believe has Tim Good. Tim, indeed, had hoped to be at that first Conference, but was working hard on completing one of his books at the time. From the U.K. too, Graham Sheppard and George Wingfield have both made more than a few appearances. Indeed, it's somewhat of a standing joke that one place we are all pretty sure to run into one other is Eureka Springs!

Retrospectively I'd have liked to have been at that first two-day 'introductory' Conference in 1988 which, so to speak, 'kick-started' the whole thing, particularly so as the speakers then included Charles Hickson. Hickson, you may recall, together with Calvin Parker, had claimed back in October 1973, to have been abducted into a craft whilst they were fishing together near Pascagoula, Mississippi. A bright object had descended behind them, they said and, as the craft settled down, three creatures emerged from it and came towards them. Hickson and Parker were both 'floated' into the object and a form of medical examination was given to them both, a large 'eye' device being in evidence, after which they were 'floated out' again.

Corroborative evidence has been lacking until comparatively recently and when a retired Navy Chief Petty Officer, Mike Cataldo, of Rolondo West, Fla. related how he, at the time of Hickson's Pascagoula encounter, was on the pre-commissioning crew of the USS Tunney under construction at Ingalls Shipyard. Dusk had been setting in as he and crewmates, Ted Peralta and Mack Hanna were on US 90 heading to Ocean Springs. Peralta was driving and Hanna was in the front passenger seat with Cataldo in the back. Cataldo related, "We saw a very strange object on the horizon going 'pretty fast' from northwest across Highway 90. It went down into a wood area and into the marsh. It hovered over the tree line, I guess, maybe a minute. We actually pulled off the road and watched it..we saw it, no question about it. Was it a shooting star, a meteorite? No it was very different." Cataldo said the object looked like a large tambourine with little lights flashing on it. "As quickly as we saw it, it just vanished," he said.

The following morning Cataldo contacted his executive officer on the submarine and made a report. The next Monday he contacted Keesler Air Force Base and left his phone number. "My Executive Officer and crew members thought we were just lunatics", he said, "Keesler never called or did anything....."

That first three-day Eureka Springs Conference in 1989 will always remain in my memory, particularly so as I had a luggage problem, my cases, which should have been sent on from Dallas, not arriving at Fayetteville, the airport – then – closest to the venue. Fortunately they were retrieved the following morning, especially fortunate as in one of them were some three or four dozen copies of *Quest International*, the forerunner of *UFO MAGAZINE*, that the late Graham Birdsall had asked me to sell and display.



Pictures above

(Top) View of Conference
(below) Linda Moulton Howe

Apart from myself, the 1989 line-up of Conference speakers included Jim Williamson: Robert Reid: Robert Swiatek: Rosemary Decker: Bill Clenendon: Danny Gordon: Linda Howe: Antonio Huneeus; Dr. James Deardorff: Vicki Cooper, then editor of the US. UFO Magazine and Dan Fry. The late Cynthia Hind, that inveterate ufologist from Zimbabwe had also hoped to be present but in the end was unable to make the journey. Though unable to attend, Time Good had nevertheless sent over some interesting video material.

I recall my introduction both to the Conference and the American way of life very vividly. It was a bright, sunny day and I'd just stepped out from my room to walk down to register at the Conference Center some 100 yards away,

when a car pulled up beside me and speaker Danny "Don't Look Up" Gordon (he'd just had a book published with that title) from West Virginia invited me to get in his car for a lift! I've kept in touch with him from time to time since then. Danny has been the news director of WYVE Radio in Wytheville, Virginia since 1984 and is also the news and sports editor of *The Southwest Virginia Enterprise*. Most of his UFO experiences took place during late 1987 and included numerous sightings both of saucer and cigar-shaped craft. Talks he had given about these experiences, together with media probings had apparently resulted in his offices being searched and intimations being given that another consequence would be that his phone would be tapped and his car 'bugged'. He was even warned that should he speak at a particular UFO Conference (not Eureka Springs) he would contract a skin virus. He was further told 'he was in danger of being eliminated'! To the best of my knowledge, however, he is still going strong, though UFO experiences are no longer in evidence.

Though I have since met and heard her speak many times, I was then most impressed by Linda Howe, whose in-depth investigations into cattle mutilations and their UFO associations were, as they always are, extremely detailed and well-documented. Also she always manages to include the 'human' aspect of the effects of their various encounters on the witnesses themselves. Latterly, of course, she has also become involved with abduction scenarios and ever-expanding phenomenon of crop circles.

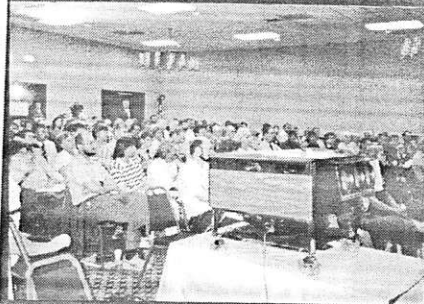
One speaker I was particularly pleased to hear back in 1989, since I had first met him some twenty-five years previously when he visited London, was Dan Fry, now regretfully no longer with us. In 1989 he was into his 80s and had intended to talk about developments in his own life since his 1950 experiences, but his audience wouldn't allow him to, insisting instead that he go over those experiences in detail again.

Many readers may recall his book *The White Sands Incident*. This mainly concerned his first 'abduction', one with a difference, since not only was it of a rather more voluntary nature than one anticipates nowadays, but he didn't actually see anyone, alien or otherwise!.

His claim was that on July 4th, 1950, near the then White Sands Proving Grounds in New Mexico an 'oblate spheroid' about 30 feet in diameter settled on the ground more than fifty feet away. He'd approached it and had been startled to hear a 'deep voice from the air beside him' say 'Better not touch the hull, pal, it's still hot'. He had then been invited by the 'voice', which gave the name of 'A-lan', to enter the craft and he'd been taken on a thirty-minute lone trip to the skies of New York and back. Dan claimed four contacts with 'space people' in all, but these were very different types of experiences to the – now almost 'standard' – encounters with the 'Greys'. He subsequently produced the magazine *Understanding*, the contents of which evolved from information given him on that first contact and subsequently.

This 1989 Conference took place just as the events and photos taken at Gulf Breeze were getting into the headlines and Ed Walters – at that time just known as 'Mr. Ed' – attended under an alias. However, I met him during the Conference and we exchanged addresses. The following year he was, with his wife, to attend as a speaker and give a synopsis of events that had occurred. His book on the Gulf Breeze events had then also just been published and I again had a long chat with him.

I hope to present a comprehensive article on Ed and Gulf Breeze in a forthcoming NBJ, so I'll leave details of Ed's experiences and the 'flap' in the area – which, indeed, like Warminster is still ongoing, until then.



Pictures from the 1989 Conference

(top to bottom)

1. Danny Gordon with Jean Siefried and friend
2. Conference Auditorium
3. Meeting of MUFON Directors

On this second visit to Eureka Springs in 1990 – the Conferences are always booked to be held over the second weekend in April of each year, irrespective of the dates on which Easter may fall – I found its opening was marked by the presence of the Mayor of Eureka Springs – Robert Schoeninger – and, when introduced by Ed Mazur, Arkansas MUFON Director, he gave a light touch to the proceedings when, after formally welcoming delegates to Eureka Springs, he announced that he would certainly arrange honorary citizenship of Eureka Springs to be bestowed on the first alien visiting the city – and for that alien also to receive a free trolley pass! (Believe me, should that alien decide to explore the city on foot – or whatever limbs he/she/it might be equipped with, the benefit of a trolley pass would soon be discovered!)

That year saw both George Wingfield and Tim Good joining the 'regulars' for the first of their many subsequent appearances at the Conferences, the other 'regulars' including Linda Howe, Antonio Huneeus and myself. Probably, though, the main attraction was Ed Walters on the afore-mentioned Gulf Breeze events.

My own Conference contributions over the years have included talks covering the South Wales 'Flap' of 1976: the Winchester encounters of Joyce Bowles and Ted Pratt: British contacts and entity encounters in general and latterly making a presentation of the controversial Mind Control/Time Travel claims centred on Montauk and its alleged connection with the Philadelphia Experiment where the U.S.S Eldridge was said to have become involved following invisibility experiments. Since 2000, also, Larry Dale, a former BUFORA National Investigations Co-ordinator and close friend who gave me considerable assistance when I edited the Journal in the 70s and early 80s himself had a series of strange experiences at his home in Thailand. These had occurred next to the house I had myself lived for several years in during the mid-90s. and I made his experiences the subject of talks at a couple of Sunday morning 'mini-sessions' in 2001 and 2003. These were also featured at length in

the October 2001 issue of *The Bufora Bulletin* when it was under the editorship of Brian James.



Esen Sekerkara (above)
at the 2003 Conference

These Sunday morning 'mini-sessions' at the Conferences are always devoted to short presentations of anything from ten minutes to half-an-hour's duration. They can be about personal experiences: investigations of reports that do not warrant a full 'session': reports from MUFON State Directors and so on. One such experience – I believe at the 1996 Conference – has always stuck in my mind

I cannot now recall the name of the speaker, but he was an ex army 'recovery' man, and he related an incident he had been called out to.

A householder had been sitting in his lounge watching TV when he heard a 'crack' and a round object about the size of a tennis ball shot through his roof and ceiling, landing on a carpet. Tentatively, he approached it and was astonished to find it was not even warm. On attempting to lift it up, though, he found this was impossible since, despite its small size he couldn't move it. This was even more remarkable since it was resting on the pile of the carpet and making no impression on it.

Further attempts proving futile, he contacted the authorities, the result being that our speaker turned up in a heavy duty recovery truck complete with various forms of lifting equipment. Eventually the 'tennis ball' was retrieved by the lifting gear, though not before a window and a large part of a wall of the unfortunate recipient's home had had to be removed. The 'ball' was then driven back to the Army depot.

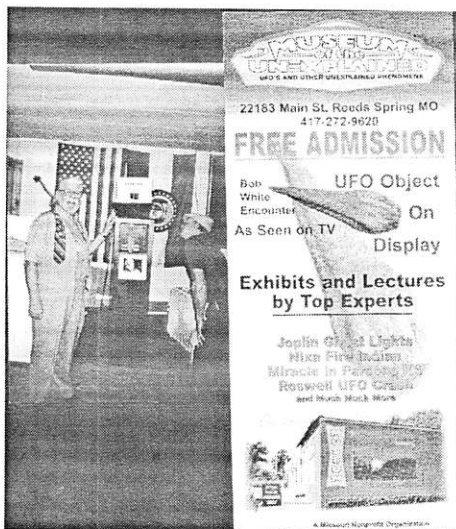
Enquiries regarding its whereabouts and what had happened to it were met with the response, 'It's been taken away for laboratory examination' and nothing more was ever heard of it. One has to wonder exactly how it WAS examined! Whether true, false or a mixture of both, the account was certainly well-presented and fascinating.

Over the years The Conference has hosted many well-known speakers from a number of different countries including Russia and Turkey, one from this latter country, Esen Sekerakar, giving an informative talk in 2003 on events occurring there over the previous few years which have included many different types of UFO incidents and multiple reports from Turkish Airline Pilots

It isn't, though, only the speakers that are of interest. Many of those who attend have had strange experiences of all descriptions themselves and, indeed, it is often of interest to follow up other 'leads'. In the lower area below the Conference theatre there are always many vendors displaying all types of UFO and UFO-associated material, from books to statuettes and badges. It was here

that, at the Conference in 2001 I first came across leaflets about Bob White's UFO 'Museum of the Unexplained' in Reeds Spring, Missouri in which, amongst many other exhibits is an artifact picked up by Bob following a UFO experience. (An article in NBJ1, April 2002 covers the events in their entirety).

Jean and Richard Siefried, both former MUFON State Directors have, I think attended every Conference and they also host one of the numerous book and other stands in the lower vendors' area. Richard himself spoke in 1990 about a time-lapse experience he had had when out on a mountain trip (The Steen Mountain Odyssey) and he is also the author of several books. On 27th April 2002, both he and Jean were the recipients of what must have been the first 'blow-by-blow' account of the sighting of an unknown craft.



Bob White's UFO Museum

These are excerpts from an e-mail they sent me the following day. (See NBJ3 August 2002 for the full account)

28/4/02. 20.42.24 GMT Daylight Time

'Last night (April 27,2002) about 10.45, I received a call from Mr. X, one of my UFO watchers. He was out at Grand Lake O' The Cherokees in NE Oklahoma observing a UFO. He gave me a blow-by-blow description of what he was seeing.....

'It was a round object hovering just above the shoreline and about 100 feet inland..... The UFO appeared to have a row of round portals round the outer edge spaced maybe 10 feet apart. Oddly, they were not lit up..... It had a red bottom and blue top, a possible reflection of red and blue lights revolving round it. He was observing from a hill overlooking a large cove on the lake. The UFO was below him. He watched balls of light come out of a hole that opened in the top of the object. They ziz-zagged back and forth along the edge of the water..... the larger UFO followed, then moved away about 500 feet back from the shore. When at the eastern point of the cove the big one moved towards them over the balls. Then he said, 'Hold It! It's coming in to pick them up. There they go. They're going straight into the thing from the bottom...up into it. Oh, oh, it's leaving. It's going up.....

(By this time Richard and I had reached our front porch). Mr.X said, 'Look just to the left of the Big Dipper. It's almost gone.' We were looking by then ... Suddenly we saw a slow but short 'strobe-quality' flash. Then, 10 seconds later, another one just higher and further north than the first. Then, 5-7 seconds later, another..... Mr. X was exclaiming something with each blink, JUST AS WE WERE. We were obviously watching the same thing from some hundred miles distant.....

(Report by Jean and Richard Siefried)

In the course of my six or seven visits to Eureka Springs, I've met many people with

thought-provoking ideas and experiences including – aside from those already mentioned, Dolores Cannon, who gave a new twist to the numerous 'translators' of the Nostradamus 'Centuries' and 'Quatrains' by claiming actually to have met a 'time-travelling' Nostradamus – or maybe one 'alive and well in his own linear time' as is suggested in Jory Sherman's Foreword to Dolores' 1989 book *Conversations with Nostradamus*: In this, Dolores explains that Nostradamus was speaking from HIS time to OUR time, warning us about *where* and *how* we should concentrate our energies during the next fifty years or so to curtail some of the more disastrous events.

To quote Dolores: *"..Nostradamus believed, as I do, in the theory of 'probable futures' of nexus on the lines of time with many possible courses branching off in all directions. He believed that if man had the knowledge he could see which time line his future was headed down and reverse it before it was too late."*

John Foster of Lincoln, Nebraska was another extremely interesting personality. His experiences were somewhat reminiscent of the returning memories of those involved in the claimed time-travel events at Montauk. Not even previously interested in UFOs or Aliens he suddenly had a 'total recall' of numerous meetings with various races of aliens. He has produced two fascinating fully- illustrated CDs. about his experiences. However, unlike the Montauk 'survivors' whose memories returned over a period of time, his own came so suddenly and completely that for some months he was overwhelmed by them and could only gradually assimilate their implications and 'tie them up' with previously known events.

I also enjoyed meeting up with Linda Eastburn, of the Midwest Research Society whose own particular interest is Remote Viewing. The Midwest Society holds monthly meetings covering a variety of subjects and she invited me to speak a couple of times at

the Society's meeting place in Springfield, Missouri whilst I was visiting in the area.

Staying on occasion with author Norm Mark and his wife in Cassville, Missouri also provided me with the opportunity to visit Bob White's Museum at Reeds Spring previously referred to, as well as an attempt one evening to see 'The Joplin Lights'. These, the subject of one of the talks in 2003, have been observed for many years in a particular rural area on the borders of Missouri and Oklahoma some miles south-west of the town of Joplin: maybe for as many years as the Brown Mountain Lights in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, sightings of which pre-date 1800! Visiting the Joplin area one night we found an atmosphere reminiscent of the Warminster skywatches in the 60s and 70s. One enthusiast armed with a telescope and other equipment had regularly been visiting there for over ten years and claimed that, on one occasion, a silvery ball of light had zoomed only a few feet above the heads of those watching, more or less following the line of the hedge at the side. Others had seen unexplained lights in various configurations on a number of occasions. Indeed, 'coasting' along on a downhill slope with all lights off we ourselves saw a number of unusual lights the source of which we could not identify.

When in Springfield I did, also, attempt to locate the site of the unique 1897 'Adam and Eve' encounter with a craft and occupants claimed by a Mr. Hopkins at that time. (See the full account in NBJ2, June 2002). Well, I may have done so, but if it's where I think it could have been, then the site's now occupied by a Walmart!!

UFOs aside, having visited many of the attractions in the Eureka Springs area itself, I can personally recommend, in addition to those previously mentioned, a visit to such attractions as the Onyx Cave, with its stalagmites and stalactites: a short trip on the three or four-mile length of the Eureka Springs and North Arkansas Railway (the only passenger railroad you'll find anywhere in Arkansas!) and a trip to the Beaver Dam with

a two-hour hire of a boat to explore the lakes. Any of these and many more will fill up whatever spare time you may have whilst attending the Conference. For meals, Myrtie Mae's restaurant and take-away, which forms part of the Inn of the Ozarks recreation area is to be recommended, as also is a weekend evening 'get-together' of Conference attendees at the 'Lone Star Bar' in the Inn's compound. When in Arkansas, however, beware. Though it isn't the case in Eureka Springs itself, in many of its counties one might think they were back in the 1920s, for they are 'dry' and no liquor will be sold anywhere!. Indeed, in some areas of both Arkansas and Missouri even dancing may be banned!

When you're catching the plane back from Northwest Arkansas- the airport currently serving the Eureka Springs area - remember that, prior to his election, George Bush had promised to reveal 'the truth about UFOs', since, on November 5th. 2002, I received an e-mail from UFO researcher Charles Huffer which ran as follows:-

"Today, as this afternoon 4 November 2002, President George W. Bush attended a Republican Campaign Rally at the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport (XNA) in northwest Arkansas. After the rally was over, while on the way to Air Force One, President Bush shook hands with some of the people at the rally. My hand was one of those. I took the opportunity to remind President Bush that he had promised ME over two years ago that he would tell us the truth about UFOs. I then asked if he intended to keep that promise. He answered 'YES'

Unfortunately, this time I did not have my recorder with me, so the report is no better than hearsay. BUT IT DID HAPPEN."

So - if you're able to visit any of the future Conferences at Eureka Springs, enjoy them as much as I have. You'll be glad you went, even if it isn't quite the same as being in New York or California!

Rendlesham Revisited

Michael Lewis

Saturday 14 August saw a bold BUFORA initiative in the form of a field trip to Rendlesham in the company of Larry Warren, the former US air force policeman who witnessed the landed UFO in Rendlesham Forest in 1980.

Old hands will recall the furore generated by this case and the involvement of BUFORA investigators Dot Street and Brenda Butler. BUFORA devoted much time and attention to the case, and the investigation was detailed in Jenny Randles' book "Skycrash". One of the problems with the case was the veil of secrecy which descended once enquiries began to be made. Larry Warren returned to the States where he was questioned and threatened not to reveal what he had seen. Local witnesses were told not to reveal what they had seen and even given inducements to move away from the area. Over the years it became increasingly difficult to distinguish fact from fiction.

Larry Warren returned to England and co-authored a book "Left at East Gate", but had largely withdrawn from the lecture circuit until persuaded by BUFORA to return to Rendlesham.

Thus it was that a party of members set out from Central London in a minibus chauffeured by John Wickham, and headed for the Cherry Tree pub at Bromeswell in the forest, where they were joined by other members from far and near. Then it was on to Bentwaters Air Base for Larry's talk. This featured a Sci-Fi channel documentary on Rendlesham which for once portrayed the case in a favourable light. The talk enabled those present to assess the credibility of the witness at first hand, and immediately many preconceptions fell away. Although Larry's outgoing personality was apparent, it was pretty clear that here was an honest man trying to come to terms with what had been a traumatic experience. I for one would not doubt his sincerity.

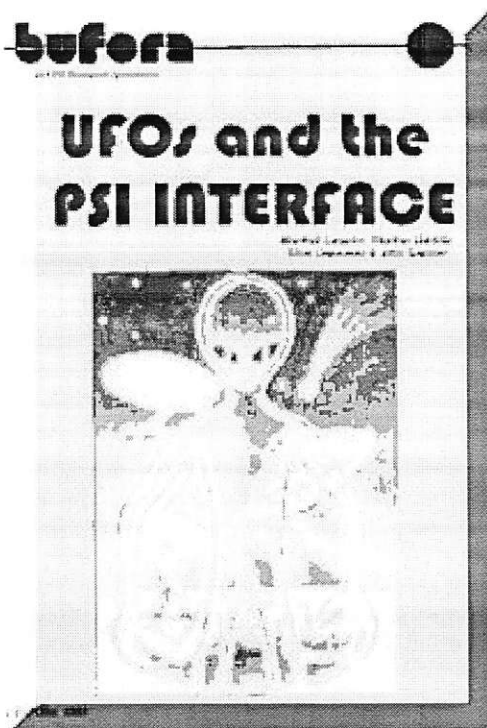
During the talk there was a dramatic incident which unfortunately I did not witness, as I was listening intently to Larry. A ball of light, about the size of a tennis ball, swept in an arc over Larry, and was witnessed by several members of the large audience who gasped audibly. The blinds to the windows were down, in order to keep the sun from interfering with the viewing of the video, so it does not seem likely to have been a reflection from outside. To explain this light, it would be necessary to try to replicate the light conditions, but there was no time for this as the party decamped to the forest, where Larry Warren retraced his steps on that fateful night.

It was a revelation to hear a detailed account of what happened that night (the second incident, as Larry worked a shift system and was not on duty the night of the first landing). The intense activity in the forest, the strange lights from two different landing sites, all came vividly to life. Larry was present at the Capel Green site and saw a brilliantly lit cone shaped craft in a field at close quarters. Lights were darting round it. Top officers from the base were present, and when beings emerged from the craft, went to meet them. At this stage lesser ranks were ordered back into the forest and Larry saw no more. He felt that the officers were acting according to a protocol, which implies this was not the first contact.

Meanwhile, things were happening in the forest. An airman in a vehicle saw a light coming towards him and a figure appeared to float through the windscreen, which the airman smashed in his panic. Another airman grappled with a flying metallic object which swooped low over the track. Larry emphasized the psychological effect this incident had on base personnel, and how the authorities had used a truth drug and other techniques to ensure they had full details of what had happened that night. Needless to say all witnesses were told to forget what they had seen. Larry himself left the air force after two years, and after the passage of some twenty four years now talks freely of his

experiences. If you are interested in learning the full story, read his book "Left at East Gate", published by Marlowe of New York . It is fitting that BUFORA should be behind this latest initiative, as the association has always been to the fore in investigating this case and informing its members of what is known. Critics of BUFORA take note! It was certainly an eye-opener and demonstrates how unwise it is to make judgments from an armchair! In my opinion there is a smoking gun here, and more revelations may follow as interest grows.

Watch this space.....



UFOs and the PSI Interface

By Manfred Cassirer,
Stephen Gamble,
Elsie Oakensen and
John Spencer

In this publication, (shown left) four contributors – all of whom have different backgrounds and viewpoints into the subject – have assembled current ideas on the possible interaction/crossover between UFO reports and PSI experiences.

- Manfred Cassirer presents a research paper – UFOs and the PSI Interface - in which examines the main theories revolving around the subjects.
- Stephen Gamble (who has carried out many roles for BUFORA) compares UFO and Psychic Entities.
- Elsie Oakensen (a fellow experiencer) describes Life After a UFO Close Encounter – and this includes life-changing events.
- John Spencer (Renowned author, and BUFORA's Director of Research) examines and discusses UFOs and the Paranormal Interface.

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Men in Black come to Merseyside

Tony Eccles

(notes taken from the book 'A Different Sky' by Tony Eccles 2003, Bluecoat Press)

One of the most intriguing aspects of the UFO phenomenon is where entities pretend to resemble human beings and they appear co-incidentally when people report seeing UFOs. Here lies a particularly sinister alien related phenomenon, and often, it becomes an unwanted visitor. The 'aliens' I am going to be talking about here, are better known as the Men in Black (or MIB). The Men in Black normally come to pay a visit to UFO witnesses, either at their home or by 'bumping' into them in the street. Just as they appear out of nowhere, they also mysteriously disappear. Their clothes are generally black, so too are their hat, trousers, jacket and tie. They seldom appear alone. They drive black vehicles. Their appearance is strikingly odd, as is their behaviour in front of the witness they are visiting. It has been reported that they appeared with facial make up as if trying to hide something from their visitor. At times, in West Virginia for example, they were described as looking oriental with a dark olive skin. Their actions, at times stiff like or robotic, suggest that they are not at all human, just pretending to be like one. Their behaviour and dress mode could all be faked, by why go through so much effort to scare a witness and the answer is basically simple, anything that looks odd and acts different is noticed more or less immediately and this itself can provide the fear, it is psychological.

It seems as though the purpose of the MIB is to terrify the witness into keeping silent so that they refrain from talking about their UFO sighting. This is usually accomplished by threatening the witness. Believe it or not, terrified UFO witnesses have actually reported the sudden appearance of these MIBs since the 1950s. It seems so odd that in the end the witnesses do talk about their unwelcome visitors, it is as if whatever force is lurking behind the MIB is trying, in a very indirect

manner, to get the witness to inform others of their experience, a strong method in which the content of the story stands out so much that people will take notice. Their visit is a means to inform others of its existence and that it is real. Whether it is extraterrestrial or not is another question.

In recent years, the public were exposed to a blockbuster movie that carried the very name, Men in Black. Here, we have an ultra secret US Government organisation whose agents' sole purpose was to protect the earth from aliens and ensuring that those aliens living here on Earth obeyed the law and kept the peace. Actors Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones played the characters K and J. Indeed, these two characters were portrayed as being 'cool'. The film's publicity had a great key line 'They are our best, last, and only line of defence. They work in secret and the dress in black.' Only the latter part of that phrase bore any sort of resemblance to those apparently genuine reports of these frightening visitors.

MIBs have come to our attention as early as the 1950s, a few years after the first nuclear bomb was tested and the Second World War drew to a close. The world was to take a big step into the future; it had entered the nuclear age and the decades of space exploration to follow. It can sound very exciting, but it must have been slightly frightening too. A war has ended that has killed millions of people, and almost everyone else was living off food ration, clothing and oil coupons to survive. A war ending meant that countries could start rebuilding, especially those in the West, it also meant that the world could begin to prosper again, but not in an atmosphere of 'peace' as we know it today.

As the world came away from the Second World War, the USA also entered into a Cold War, and a social era of anti-Communism began (commonly known as the McCarthy Era). Here, it was feared that the promotion of communism was threatening the existence of democracy and the American way of life. Whilst many were being persecuted for being

members of the Communist party or sharing a communist ideal, a small number of people were also becoming victims of government surveillance for their belief in flying saucers, or because they had claimed to have observed one of these craft themselves. Normally, a UFO witness does not undergo any form of surveillance, but from the late 1940s through to the 1960s the US and British Governments were concerned. This concern was due to a fear that flying saucers were Russian in origin, and if this was true then the USA had to find a way of preventing these new secret weapons from penetrating US airspace. The USA wanted to stop the Soviet Union from becoming a dominant world power, and one that would threaten the growth of the USA. It was a real world of suspicion and cloak and dagger. If we went back to that time then we would notice how different the attitude was then.

Initially, the US Government asked the agencies of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency, to look into UFO sightings(1) and to keep a secret eye on witnesses (it was normal for an American citizen to report anything unusual to the local sheriff, army or air force base, thus making it easy for the authorities to know who the witnesses are). Especially as the witness might possess vital intelligence information regarding these suspicious flying saucers. What made things worse for the Government was that crewmen and officers from the US military were also making visual and radar sightings of UFOs themselves. The flying saucer was perceived, at first, to be a threat to national security. What the US Government could not tell the public was that it was very interested in the flying saucer sightings, and that it was taken as seriously. Flying Saucers were given a high priority; information about it remained top secret, until the origins of the flying saucer could be determined.

UFO investigators and witnesses did not know what to believe the MIBs were, either government agents trying to conceal secret military experiments or ET force trying to cover up alien activity. The first explanation seems to offer more of a rational explanation,

the latter does not. However, in some cases we have documented evidence to show that witnesses were interviewed by intelligence officers, especially in the this country(2)

This is the sort of background we are dealing with when we come to discuss the first appearance of those mysterious Men in Black. Their history appears in a number of good publications(3) and it seems obvious that the MIB is seen as an American phenomenon, but it is not. The MIB has been seen in different parts of the world including Russia and France.

Here is the perfect opportunity for me to discuss one case from the Merseyside area. This rare case begins on a summer afternoon of 1978, on the beach at West Kirby. What happened on that day was kept totally secret for fourteen years, it was only in 1992 when James Bartley was interviewed for the first time by a local investigator named Mark Glover. James found his circumstances frightening and so unusual that he told his family and friends but wanted no attention from newspapers. In Mark's case preamble he writes, "in this case we have, if true, elements that at first sight seem to indicate the so called 'Men in Black' (MIB) phenomenon being involved or implicated."

James was eleven years old at the time, and he remembers taking his dog for a walk. It was a hot sunny summer day and the sky was a wonderful blue. It must have been two or three in the afternoon heat and James was walking along the promenade. Walking along its length, James spotted a bearded man using a pair of binoculars, he was holding them looking out towards the sea. James describes this man as being an older man in his late thirties and he was very tall, over six feet in height and his skin was quite freckly. James clearly recalls what the man was wearing because he thought he appeared quite odd. The man put down his binoculars and turned his head, he was looking right at James.

The man called over to him, beckoned him to come over and look through his binoculars, for he was looking at something strange in the sky.

James approached the man and peered through the man's binoculars, it was no trick, for his sight was directed to a point where a strange silver ball was hovering over West Kirby beach. After a few minutes the object appeared to shoot straight up into the sky at an incredible speed. James watched as the silver ball reappeared. James described the ball's movement as jolt like. The silver ball continued to hover for a few minutes before it zoomed across the sky to the boy's left hand field of view. The ball then returned to its original position, hovering over a rocky island not far away. It began to change colour from a silver hue to a reddish green and then it suddenly shot straight upwards into the sky. James then felt a strong unexplainable urge to walk over to one of the nearby rock islands called the Red Rock. This island is one of a number of sandstone rocks, which is accessible on foot once the tide has gone out. The older man, who was still standing next to him, wanted to go along with him.

For no apparent cause, James's attention was drawn to the road behind him. To his surprise, he saw three cars nearby parked close to the kerb; these were old Jaguars and very official looking. A man got out of the nearest car and walked towards the young boy. James's dog began to bark furiously at this man. He did not say much, James was just intrigued and, at the same time, frightened by a man who was wearing a black suit. James noticed that the man's grey hair was all neat and combed back, he also had pale skin, but James makes a point of recalling that what frightened him was that the strange man towered above him, his eyes were very odd, the man in black appeared to have make up around his eyes. This man, then told James in a very serious manner, that he 'had best go home.'

James headed towards the island, and started moving quickly away from the strange man over the sand. With him was the man with the binoculars. They both approached the island,

but to their dismay the silver ball was not in view. When they returned to the promenade, both the cars and the Man in Black were gone! James went home, but he had noticed something else, his watch was not working, it had stopped some twenty minutes after his UFO sighting!

In the nights that followed, James began to experience disturbing dreams; "ever since that night I have had recurring dreams of nuclear explosions over Liverpool and Birkenhead...and as it happens, I feel myself burning as I turn away (I seem to be in a high position). I know that this is no ordinary dream because it is so, so real."

Many close encounter witnesses have described these very visions, either appearing in their dreams or they were actually shown the devastation of nuclear warfare on small TV like monitors during their close encounter. Scenes such as these were more popular in the early 50s and 60s when the possibility of nuclear warfare was becoming more of a reality. This is not a coincidence, there is a genuine underlying reason for this, a fear of world destruction was being carried on a huge scale in society all around the world. It is the intensity of this fear that may have triggered such 'contactee' or close encounter experiences.

Furthermore, what makes James's MIB case so interesting is that area of his sighting consists of sandstone, which also contains a number of fault lines! As we have seen, it is not only the UFO sightings that take place near to fault lines, now close encounters occur very near to some of these geological faults too! Does this mean that the land itself is causing people to hallucinate? Despite tests conducted on the sides of the brain called the temporal lobes to see if by stimulating these with an electro-magnetic field has produced some symptoms, which could be described as paranormal, I do not think the land creates false images in the brain. I do believe that a new unknown energy may be being generated far below our feet and that this, when released, may be

responsible for also creating close encounter events. I feel that this may be done by a person feeling unknowingly drawn to a location just prior to this energy release. Once the energy is free it interacts with the person and opens up a door of new experiences to them. These experiences are completely real but do not belong to our time or our space, the witness may actually be drawn into another reality, another plane of existence for a short time only. Why? I cannot answer that, however, when I look back into Britain's past of certain tracts of land being revered or respectfully believed to be sacred, things make a lot more sense. I can only briefly state here that one must turn their attention to ancient customs and folklore to provide some of the many needed answers.

There is one intriguing element about the MIB that I have touched upon, that the MIB is not a new phenomenon that began in the Twentieth Century but one that may have its roots in the historical past and, of course, folklore. The most famous past connection begins with the late Nineteenth Century sightings of a creature called Spring Heeled Jack. This very strange malignant black creature was often seen attacking young women and then escaping all forms of capture by taking great bounds and leaps onto people's houses. This reminds me of the story where the Devil had allegedly visited Devon when people had discovered a single set of hoof prints that went everywhere, including over the roofs of people's houses. Sightings of Spring Heeled Jack in Liverpool co-incidentally took place during the Jack the Ripper murders. I feel that a horrendous real event was being highlighted by a real supernatural event, which took place more or less at the same time.

If we go back further into Britain's history there are those people who were believed to have been witches. Witch hunting also created a sense of paranoia in society, and an unnatural feeling of suspicion and fear, the perfect atmosphere for the paranormal and close encounters to exist. Few people who really did confess that they lived according to the old ways, had always made claims that they belonged to a secret coven of witches who

met in the woods and were led, by none other, than a Man in Black, who was believed to be the Devil. There he would command them and give them powers. He would appear for the nightly ceremony and, when it ended, the Man in Black would suddenly disappear going to the place from whence he came. One of the Somerset witches in 1664 confessed that after being anointed with a specially prepared oil for the Sabbat that she had "'been carried to the place of their meeting,' and that at the end of the assembly, their leader, the Man in Black, departed and 'the rest were on a sudden conveyed to their homes.'"(4) This sounds remarkably similar to what people refer to today as an 'abduction.' I wonder if the Liverpool witch Widow Bridge, who lived in Castle Street in 1667, had the same sort of experiences?(5)

However, this is one clear example of a recorded incident where a 'witch' is specially chosen, prepared for the witches main ceremony to meet her supernatural leader and is returned to her home, as if by magic, a pattern reflected by people's experiences of today. I wonder indeed if people had close encounter experiences then with MIBs and believed them to be related to the Devil than creatures from space. And if they also had psychic abilities is it no wonder that they believed themselves to be witches as witches were thought of as people who had remarkable, even frightening, powers. They were feared more than respected, and often social outcasts, again very similar to how abductees may feel today. The suggestion here is that some of those people who were believed to be witches may have actually been unwittingly in contact with another form of intelligence; at that time it was misperceived as being the Devil.

Maybe these few people were the contactees of their time. It just maybe possible that those same types of people exist in our world today and they are not labelled as witches (nor should they be) but are now labelled abductees!

The Man in Black exists in other parts of the world and in other forms too. In the Chiapas region of Mexico, the Tzeltal Maya of Tenejapa in Mexico have, for many years, reported confrontations with a frightening black entity. Apparently, it has been observed immediately after strange lights have appeared in the sky.(6) According to local stories, this creature has been observed on numerous occasions, one such peculiar light was following a lone man, which was only five feet away. The man readied his machete and, after several attempts, finally managed to plunge his blade through the sphere. All that remained, after his strike, was a substance composed of ash. These creatures have been known to attack and frighten people. Reports claim that these beings resemble small black hairy humanoids. Witnesses say that they have encountered these creatures flying around propelled by a form of rocket on their back. It is claimed that some people have often felt paralysed when they encountered the Ihk'al, very much akin to the Close Encounter tales of Europe that I investigate. Furthermore, and more disturbingly, the Ihk'al stories also include tales of these creatures carrying off small children and animals to their lair, a similar event to the abduction story of people who believed they are being taken against their will and into a spaceship. The physical locations may differ but the processes involved are not.

To us here in the West, this sort of story could sound absurd, but no more absurd than tales of flying saucers and Men in Black. And yet in the highly developed first world countries such as the the United Kingdom these stories are being related as actual experiences in the Twenty First Century. However, the Ihk'al is not out of context for Mexico. In fact it is quite appropriate, for these stories may also have their origins in the ancient mythology of the Maya. The creature itself is believed by people to come from a place outside of this world. According to one piece of literature there was a spate of Ihk'al sightings around the mid-1940s, possibly at a time when Kenneth Arnold observed his unusual aircraft in 1947.(7)

Just as the Ihk'al probably has its roots in Mayan mythology, the Man in Black of the Western World may have its roots in witchcraft and the numerous early medieval folklore stories of Britain. If we look at faeries, they were in themselves a reflection of human beings, there were good faeries and bad faeries. These faeries were often black and lived in the heart of a forest or large caves underground where they would take seduced and kidnapped people. There is also the added warning that if a person was offered faerie food and they ate it then they would remain in the fairy land forever. The faerie tales were obviously stories for children, similar to the Mexican Ihk'al, where they would present tales of morals and guidelines for behaving in society. However, I feel that there is something else happening here for the stories of encounters with faeries bears an uncanny resemblance to today's encounters with aliens. I am merely suggesting that these magical creatures were like the Men in Black of today, they were real but they belonged to another reality, clearly not of this Earth, but not from a distant galaxy either. They belong to the Earth itself!

To be honest, I cannot be certain if this latter statement has any basis in fact or not. In fact, I decided to contact the anthropologist who was told these stories when he was researching the Maya language in the Chiapas region of Mexico. His name is Brian Stross, a Professor of Anthropology at the University of Texas. His research began back in 1967, and he is not alone in collecting such stories of the Ihk'al(8), or Black Man. The Mazatecs of Oaxaca in Mexico, and other Maya, such as Tzotzil, and have their own Black Man stories. Stross believes that Tzeltal people have spoken of the Ihk'al for hundreds of years at least, maybe thousands. He says 'My reason for this belief is the widespread incorporation of similar types of small and often black beings into the oral narratives of many American Indians (not to mention into the stories of many other peoples of the world).'

In the same way that I am making a connection with the modern interpretation of the Man in Black with the witchcraft Black Men of the Seventeenth Century, I am comparing the Ihk'al stories of today to those ancient beliefs in Mexico, and the comparisons are relatively similar. The comparisons relate not to the physical descriptions of the creature, but to the significance and beliefs in what these creatures represent to the culture these people belong to. I have claimed that human beings have never changed throughout history, only technology advances, and the belief systems employed with the Men in Black have never really changed, it is only their image that adapts to cultural perception.

There is another added element to the Man in Black and his connection to the occult, the smell of sulphur. In a number of reports the witness has often smelt something strikingly pungent in the air when the MIB leaves the home of the witness. It is either described as smelling like sulphur or like ozone, and these smells are also connected with unexpected encounters with the Devil. Are the MIB demonic? I accept that the Men in Black phenomenon, like encounters with alleged alien beings, belong to a game of deception in which we humans are ones being deceived, and that we are the pawns in a cosmic game, of which we know little about. In my view, it may not be a good idea to search for a Close Encounter, it may be wise to avoid one.

So what do researchers, such as myself, try to study if science has not found the much-needed data in trying to solve the UFO enigma? I feel that the best science begins with the amateur, look at many of the scientific disciplines from archaeology to physics; these subjects began with the work of many an amateur. Unfortunately, whatever science lies behind the UFO subject, it has yet to be developed properly for it is still in its infant stage. Since the late 1940s, only small pieces of true science have emerged, such as earthlights and ball lightning, so it will be a while before the scientific community has yet to be convinced. Matters are also made worse by the media who often sensationalise and promote the poor understanding of the

subject. So really there is still a lot more work that needs doing before any tremendous breakthroughs are made.

Initial investigations tended to focus on the UFO itself and there were many attempts at trying understand how these alien craft worked, there were a number of theories put forward to explain how their propulsion systems worked. The major problem with this method of investigation is that we do not have access to a physical alien craft, something tangibly real that scientists could study. Any useful information comes from the witness's statement or available photographs and film footage. Some might argue that this has already happened at a crash site near Roswell back in 1947. However, there are many cases that suggest that the UFO itself either has the ability to manipulate the physical world that we live in so that it becomes semi-corporeal, or that the UFO itself is not at all physically real. These 'craft' have been described as dematerialising in front of witness's eyes, they vanish, or they act like ghosts and have been reported as being seen passing through a cliff face. Many believe that UFOs are solid 'nuts and bolts' spacecraft, and in some reported incidents the UFO itself appears as an apparently solid craft, which reflects the sunlight from its polished metallic looking surface.

People who have such encounters are still ridiculed in society, in the 1950s these people were known as 'contactees', because they claimed that they were in direct contact with intelligent beings from another world. These people have in the last twenty years been relabelled as 'abductees', because it is believed that people are having contact with intelligent beings but have little or no choice in their encounter. They say that they have literally been abducted. Reported close encounter experiences rarely appear to be consistent in their accounts; they are individual experiences, sometimes good, sometimes bad, but as a rule not all

witnesses have the same experience. This I feel is very important.

The question remains...where are the aliens? The word alien is too subjective a term for me. In the Twenty First Century society of science fiction that we live in it means, a creature that comes from outer space. I personally have a serious problem with the idea of an intelligent physical being travelling a vast interstellar distance just to visit this planet. Then it seems like the UFO occupants find a lonely traveller, or a person who is comfortably asleep in bed, and selects them for an unexpected confrontation, which results in the people being traumatised by their experience and the UFO shooting away and vanishing out of sight. It does not make sense and I am not convinced by current beliefs. In truth, if there is another intelligence at work here then we do not know where it comes from, if it comes from anywhere at all. Instead of searching the skies maybe we need to be looking at the very landscape we live in, maybe deep below our feet lies a much-needed answer. If anything can be said, the aliens in their spaceships, faeries, Sabbath black men, the Mothman of Point Pleasant, Virginia, Spring Heeled Jack, the New Jersey Devil, the Chupacabras, and the UFO Men in Black, may all be one and the same entity, the same 'alien' intelligence that people are often unexpectedly confronted by.

References

1. British Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, did the same thing in this country. In an enquiry dated 28 July 1952, Churchill asked the Secretary of State for Air why the 'flying saucer' was causing such a stir in the United States. (Serial No. M. 412/52) He wanted to know if they were in anyway significant? The British Government relied, in the main, upon the US Intelligence for answers to this question.
2. For example, the Ministry of Defence sent two agents to visit Carlisle fireman Jim Templeton in 1964. They arrived in an old fashioned Jaguar car and they wore

bowler hats. They referred to each other only by a number and asked Jim Templeton to show them the exact location of where he had taken the photograph. After answering their questions they left him stranded on the moor whilst they drove away in their car.

3. The reason why I am not covering the MIB history is because they are better detailed in the following books, which I recommend;

Gray Barker, 1956, They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers T. Werner Laurie

Robert Bull, 1997, Men in Black: A Preliminary Report British UFO Research Association (from BM BUFORA, London, WC1N 3XX or www.bufora.org.uk)

John Keel, 1970, Operation Trojan Horse London: Souvenir Press

John Keel, 1975, The Mothman Prophecies E.P.Dutton & Co.

Jenny Randles, 1997, MIB: Investigating the Truth Behind the Men in Black Phenomenon London: Piatkus Press

4. Christina Hole, 1977, Witchcraft in England London: Book Club Associates p.33
5. Christina Hole, 1977, Witchcraft in England London: Book Club Associates p.39

(I'm very curious to see if there is any truth to her living in Liverpool at that time. Apparently, she was living as a tenant of Sir Edward Moore).

Jacques Vallee, 1988, Dimensions: A Casebook of Alien Contact

London: Souvenir Press Ltd p.85

The only other UFO author to have briefly mentioned this creature is John Keel

John Keel, 1970, Operation Trojan Horse London: Souvenir Press p.231

- 7 Jacques Vallee, 1988, Dimensions: A Casebook of Alien Contact London: Souvenir Press Ltd p.135

- 8 Other researchers include Robert Laughlin, Susan Blaffer, who wrote a book called 'The Black Man of Zinacantan, and Victoria Bricker who has also written 'Ritual Humour in Highland Chiapas.'

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UFO Reports, Interference Effects, and the Crop Circle Link.

Geoff Falla

Reasonably acceptable explanations can be found for most reported UFO sightings, but some of these reports are much more difficult to explain in any conventional way. There are many cases, for example, in which sightings are reported to be accompanied by strange physical effects.

Some of the most puzzling of these cases include reported effects on vehicles, involving the temporary malfunction or failure in the normal operation of the vehicle's engine, lights, or radio equipment. This is reported to happen while the unknown object is in apparent close proximity, with the vehicle returning to normal operation when the object has moved away. Additionally, there have been many similar incidents involving aircraft, mostly with reported effects on navigation and communications systems.

The events have evidence of what has been termed EM effects, as they appear to be electromagnetic in nature. In the case of vehicles, the effect is usually noted to interfere with the electrical system. The exception is in the case of diesel engines, which do not depend on electric ignition, and are reported to be usually, unaffected in such incidents. Magnetic effects are also apparent in some of the reports, these in particular in some cases involving aircraft navigation.

With more than 600 of these reports recorded globally - the earliest of these dating from 1944, the reports of interference effects from many different countries are found to follow a very similar pattern, helping to confirm the reality of these events.

In Britain, a summary of these cases has revealed a total of more than 80 reported incidents, with the earliest dating back to 1955. The location of these reports also indicates that they are not completely random events, but that some pattern can be seen.

The interference effect incidents in Britain are found to be more concentrated in the southern counties of England. More particularly, there is some concentration of these incidents in the counties of Wiltshire and Hampshire. No other two counties have quite as many reports and the fact that they are adjoining counties forming one area, adds to the possible significance.

It may not be just a coincidence that these two counties of Wiltshire and Hampshire have also been the major location for many of the strange crop circles, and more complex shapes. Although many of these have been revealed to be hoaxes, there are reported to be remaining unexplained features, and complexity in many of the crop circle shapes which would appear to defy the abilities involved in any hoaxing.

The mysterious crop circles and patterns are reported to have been largely unknown until around 1980, although a few were known before that date. At first, the circles were reported to be concentrated in Wiltshire, in particular near Warminster. Also, and in more recent years, a favoured location has been the Winchester area of Hampshire.

A check of the reported vehicle interference effect locations in Wiltshire and Hampshire now shows that half of these cases have been reported from the same areas as for many of the crop circles - near to Warminster and Winchester. It looks as if there is some definite link, as this seems unlikely to be just another coincidence.

The earliest of the vehicle interference effect incidents in Wiltshire and Hampshire were also reported from the Warminster area, dating from 1965, and preceded the

appearance of the crop circles in the same area. Consideration should therefore be given to the possibility that the interference effects were some kind of forerunner to later events.

There have always been occasional reports of UFO sightings including luminous objects in relation to crop circle sites, but it looks as if there is this further definite link, with the identification of similar locations for the interference effect cases and the crop circles.

The following summary of reported vehicle interference effect incidents in the counties of Wiltshire and Hampshire will, it is hoped, help towards a better understanding of what this apparent link may be. It could be related perhaps to geophysical anomalies at particular locations, giving rise to luminous objects, and strange effects, or it could be part of the answer in the case of something even more remarkable.

Most of the evidence is towards an indirect link of some kind, but the last two cases in this summary or reported events does provide some evidence for a more direct link. The interference effects noted in these two cases actually appear to have coincided with the appearance of crop circles nearby.

The summary of incidents consists of the fourteen presently known interference effect cases in Wiltshire and Hampshire, with seven of the cases reported from locations near Warminster and Winchester.

One case in particular, the November 1967 incident on the A338 road in Hampshire, is in rather more detail. This case involved two vehicles, a large luminous object which was reported to have produced significant effects on the vehicles and surroundings, and was followed up by a police investigation.

Some of the features described in these interference effect summaries may also be of particular relevance, in cases where similar reported effects, for example on watches, and on batteries, heating effects or unusual sounds can perhaps be compared with what

has been noted also at some of the crop circle sites.

Summary of Vehicle Interference Effect cases in Wiltshire and Hampshire.

20 August 1965. 23.00 Warminster, Wiltshire.

A couple were riding a scooter-type motorcycle between Warminster and Dilton Marsh, near Westbury. They were near Colloway Clump when the engine stalled, and could not be restarted. Two large spheres of light were then seen. These hovered, then went spinning across the sky. The lights changed colour, and approached again before they disappeared. It was noted by the couple that both of their watches stopped at 11.02p.m. They reported feeling waves of hot and cold air during the sighting, which lasted for about 40 minutes.

After the objects had disappeared, the scooter started again without any difficulty. More than a dozen other eyewitnesses also reported seeing the strange objects 'like car headlamps' moving around in the sky that night.

(The Warminster Mystery, pp 78-79.)

7 September 1965. 20.00 Warminster.

Major William Hill reported that his car engine cut out suddenly while he was driving at about 45 m.p.h. between Warminster and Westbury. After the car came to a halt, it seemed to be shaken by aerial vibrations, and the headlights flickered. When he got out of his car, the air vibrations could be felt. He could also hear a whining and crackling noise. After about three minutes everything seemed to return to normal, and the car started again without difficulty.

(The Warminster Mystery, pp 93-94.)

8 October 1965. 00.25 Warminster.

The driver in this case was travelling past the village of Norton Bavant, about two miles southeast of Warminster, when she saw a bright glowing orange object like a ball. The car engine started to misfire, and the headlights dimmed - 'flickering like a candle in the wind'. The engine stopped completely, then a dark object was seen taking off from near the road, and then spinning across the sky. Red and blue sparks came from the object's rim. It then became bright crimson in colour, and left a trail in the sky. The witness stated that she passed close to two figures standing in the road, but the car engine had by then recovered its full power, so she drove away from the area as quickly as possible. (The Warminster Mystery, pp 132-133.)

24 September 1966. 21.20 between Tilshead and Shrewton, Wiltshire.

The car engine, lights, and radio failed. A red haze or mist descended a short distance behind the vehicle, and settled on the roadway. A light humming sound was then heard by the two witnesses, and the mist started rising up and down. The mist then vanished, the car lights and radio came on again, and the engine could be started normally.

(Flying Saucer Review Vol 12, No 6, p 18.)

26 October 1967. 04.30 Hook, Hampshire.

The vehicle's electrical system failed suddenly, and a dark object was noticed stationary over the road ahead. After a few minutes the engine could be started again, but a short distance down the road the same failure occurred, and the same dark object was noticed ahead. The object was shaped like a squat ice cream cone, with a rim in the middle. The witness noticed a change in pressure in his ears, and an oppressive smell. After a further few minutes the object moved away silently at moderate speed, and the vehicle's engine started normally again.

(Flying Saucer Review Vol 13, No 6, pp 6-7.)

6 November 1967. 01.00 between Avon and Sopley, Hampshire.

Carl Farlow was driving his diesel lorry on the A338 road in clear weather conditions when the headlights began to dim, then failed completely. He pulled up, with the engine still running, then saw a large egg-shaped object moving slowly across the road from the right. The object, estimated to be about 80 feet long, was described as magenta in colour with a whitish area underneath, and became stationary over the road ahead. A continuous humming sound could be heard, and there was a pungent smell in the air. After several minutes the object began to move away, slowly at first before it accelerated and disappeared in a few seconds. It was then realized that another vehicle was also involved - a Jaguar car which had been travelling in the opposite direction. The driver confirmed that both his engine and lights had malfunctioned as the object approached. He suggested that they should telephone the police from a nearby call-box to report the incident. The telephone box light was not working, and the Jaguar driver - a local veterinary surgeon, found that his torch was also not working, although it had been used the previous evening without any problem.

When the police vehicles arrived, it could be seen that the scrub land and hedge where the object had hovered appeared to be blackened, while the road had a shiny appearance as if the tarmac surface had been melted. The men were taken to the police station at Christchurch for questioning, then to another police station at Bournemouth where they were later interviewed by a man from the Ministry of Defence.

When Mr Farlow was driven back to the area of the incident to collect some belongings, he noticed men taking instrument readings at

ong the road, while a bulldozer was levelling the area of blackened scrub, and the telephone box was being repainted. About a week later, it was also noticed that the road had been resurfaced for about 200 feet at the scene of the incident. Examination of Mr Farlow's vehicle revealed that most of the lorries electrical system was useless, needing replacement, including the batteries which had been newly fitted about four months previously.

(BUFORA - Vehicle Interference Project Report pp 44-45, FSR Vol 13, No 6, p 4, Daily Express 7/11/67)

- 1967. Cley Hill, Warminster.

A businessman driving past Cley Hill, about a mile north of Warminster, felt the interior of the car suddenly become very hot, and there was a high pitched whining noise. The car engine faltered, then cut out completely. He got out of the car, and saw a glowing white disc directly overhead. The object sped away after a few seconds, and disappeared northwards.

(BUFORA Journal Vol 7, No 3, p 22.)

25 August 1975. 01.00 near Warminster.

A serviceman returning to his military unit stopped a police patrol vehicle south of Warminster, to report the sighting of a bright red light which had hovered level with his car. The car window had been open, but no sound was heard. The car headlights had failed, the sidelights became intermittent, and the engine cut out for short periods.

(BUFORA report.)

14 November 1976. 20.50 near Winchester. Hampshire.

A car driver and passenger were on the A272 road when they saw an orange glow in the sky. Turning into a lane to their destination, the car began to shudder violently, and could not be controlled. It moved diagonally off the road on to the grass verge, and stopped. The

engine then started again by itself, and 'revved', even though the driver had removed her foot from the accelerator. The car lights were also much brighter than normal. A glowing orange cigar-shaped object, about fifteen feet long, was then seen just above the ground a few yards in front of the car. The car ignition was then turned off. Jets of vapour were seen beneath the object, and three figures were visible through a window. One of the figures then emerged, appearing to pass through the side of the object - there seemed to be no door, and approached the car. The figure was described as wearing a silvery coloured suit and had pink eyes, but otherwise seemed to be of normal tall appearance. The passenger's clothes felt very hot at this time. After about two minutes the figure moved away, and the object had disappeared.

The incident had lasted about seven minutes, and the driver remained very shaken for several days. Describing the events, she reported that her watch had started to gain time considerably, and that she had also experienced paranormal phenomena for many years.

(Flying Saucer Review Vol 22, No 4, p 22, and Vol 22, No 5, pp 3-14.)

30 December 1976. 18.30 Winchester.

Mrs Joyce Bowles was driving home with two friends, and travelling on the B3404 road, when a light was seen going in and out of the clouds. A high pitched whistling sound was then heard. The car started to rock in all directions, and they reported that they then found themselves apparently in a craft of some kind with silver-suited occupants. They next remembered being in the car again, in an area which they did not recognize. After driving around for about half an hour they were able to find their way home, arriving at 8.15 p.m.

Mrs Bowles and one of the other witnesses had been involved in a previous incident, also

near Winchester, on November 14th.

(BUFORA Journal Vol 5, No 6, pp 15-17.)

7 March 1977 10.00 Nether Wallop, Hampshire.

Mrs Bowles, a witness in the previous cases experienced at Winchester, was driving with a companion when the car engine spluttered. A humming noise was heard, and a bright glowing oval object was seen. A figure was then seen, and Mrs Bowles reported that a message seemed to be communicated to her. The being then returned to the object, which took off with a whistling and humming sound, moving parallel to the ground while gathering speed.

(BUFORA Journal Vol 6, No 1, p iii of cover.)

7 November 1978. Portsdown, near Portsmouth, Hampshire.

A family of four were travelling towards Droxford when a bright light was seen in the sky. Two red lights were noticed, then the shape of a large dome-shaped object became visible. There were green lights around the bottom, like windows. The object then appeared to hover low over the car. The driver found that even with the full use of the accelerator, and going downhill, no speed could be gained. The object moved away at speed after a few seconds.

(BUFORA Journal Vol 8, No 2, pp 14-18.)

- 1980. Winchester.

A local resident was out walking with his dog at Cheesefoot Head one summer evening when he saw an object land in one of the cornfields. He described the experience to the Winchester Gazette some years later, in connection with the appearance of mystery rings in the fields. He reported that he had heard a humming sound before seeing a large grey object moving across the cornfield, and landing for about five minutes. It then took off,

moving away much faster than an aircraft, and leaving a flattened ring in the field. There were two other eyewitnesses - a woman who had also been walking, and the driver of a refuse van emptying a nearby rubbish bin. All of the vehicles - his own car, the woman's vehicle, and the refuse van would not start while the object had been standing in the field.

(Flying Saucer Review Vol 32, No 6, pp 15-16.)

10 July 1990. Alton Barnes, Vale of Pewsey, Wiltshire.

A heavy buzzing noise was heard during the night, and on the following morning many residents found that they could not start their cars. The batteries of cars, vans, and tractors were all found to be dead. It was then discovered that a large and elaborate formation of crop circles had appeared in a field adjacent to the village. A few miles away an almost identical pattern had also appeared.

UFO Magazine June 2001, p 21.)

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The "storm" that wasn't

Ernie Sears

(Elsewhere in this issue is an article by Geoff Falla making very interesting links between UFOs, vehicle interference and crop circles. Many of these cases occur in Hampshire and Wiltshire. Therefore, I thought this tale of abnormal weather from a similar area might be both relevant and of interest....ED.)

Thursday the 25th March..a heavy, cloudy, day. 4.00pm approx. Sat on my lounge settee here in Netley Abbey I felt the room "vibrate" and heard a rumble at the same time as a "flash" illuminated EVERYTHING! The whole sky. At the same moment my door chimes sounded, the fire alarm too, and I leapt out of the settee wondering what the hell was going on! No one was out there but I saw that ALL the fire doors had shut themselves. Puzzle, I went looking for a fire or whatever..only two people standing at a window who had also seen and heard the incident described. BOTH said it was weird"..Not the 'usual' thunderstorm. All over in seconds. I phoned a UFO Group colleague on the far side of Southampton who, yes, had heard and seen the incident..also described as 'strange'. Her TV had gone off.

I rang the Police Central Control to see if any other reports. The phone stayed silent ... no

ringing tone. I tried the standard 0845 045 454 45 police number. Nothing. Silence.

Next morning I rang the Southern Daily Echo Newsdesk. No reports. No headlines envisaged. They would 'enquire around'. Nothing came back from them. Later that same day our SUFOD founder and magazine newsletter editor Steve Gerrard rang me. He spoke about the "storm" and confirmed the police phones 'went down'. He had been "out" in it when the event occurred. Described it as "strange". Met hailstones too. Next day I rang the Echo newsdesk again. No reports! Normally this kind of incident would make the front pages even. I spoke to our sheltered flats complex manageress... she confirmed she'd encountered the huge flash and 'strange' single roll of thunder while some two or three miles away in her car..it 'soared' her, she said. I came across a close friend who was dozing in bed before going on her hospital nightshirt who was aroused by the thunder and flash of lightning plus the sound of her front door opening!

She went out into the passage and, yes, the locked door was open to the full stretch of the security chain! I sent an email to Meridian TV on the Monday..29th March..asking for any information and WHY had it not made the news. No reply..then or since. Nothing! I later said to Southampton. UFO Group's Steve Gerrard..he'd heard NOTHING from anyone..since he is connected with the Hampshire Police Authority, this was unusual. His comment was 'just a storm'.

Today ... 7th April..my TV Meter man came. He is into and interested in UFOs and the Paranormal..has had .. experiences"! I casually mentioned I was 'up to my eyes' in the stuff and mentioned also the 'funny storm'. Before I could go on he said he'd had something strange happen that both he and his wife had no answer for. Went on to describe a recent occasion when his wife went out the back door and locked it, taking the key with her. When she came back

she walked in asking why he had left the door open. He went and looked..sure enough the locked door WAS open to the extent of the security chain! I could hardly wait to tell him, amid my own chuckles, of the strange 11 coincidence" with my friends door! I also asked him WHEN did their experience occur. He thought..and then said it was on Thursday 25th March.! He was SURE since it was some sort of date that was important to him. I'd casually said it was about two weeks before. I then spoke about certain so far unfounded suspicions I had about the matter and my ongoing communications". This, eventually, brought about some discussion on the Iraq problem. HE came back with a late night News item..about TWO WEEKS AGO..that had Bush promising an 'experts' examination of the 'UFO Enigma' right NOW! Something I didn't know! DO YOU? I reminded the TV meter chap that Blair and Bush are due for a meeting to discuss Iraq in the next week or so..was there a connection or is this all speculation. I have now also recalled the email from our Steve Gerrard that gave information from the Dorchester Conference of the 4th April that alleged UFO MAGAZINE would resume publication in May' Coincidence? I also recalled, today, that I'd told our Steve that the sky 'looked different' and something had changed' following that instant storm. I still feel that. Strongly!

I rest my case! IF ANYONE can add anything on all this I would be happy, indeed, eager, to hear.

By the way, our fire doors here, covering 54 flats in two blocks, all out, took three days to replace the 'burnt out' system. I refuse to believe NO ONE else suffered damage in the area... the search goes on. My next stop is the Chief Constable of Hampshire. Who I have a casual and infrequent acquaintance with.

By the way. My TV meter man lives at Wimborne. just east of Bournemouth, which possibly confirms the witnesses who saw the lightning being right about it covering the whole sky!

A 1970'S sighting I had of an orange "globe" hovering over Wimborne..the local Bournemouth Echo had one other confirming report when I rang them.. maybe another "odd" coincidence when I found where my meter man lived about a year ago.

OK. Why am I interested in that "storm"?

It's the SECRECY!

NO ONE ... but no one. is replying, even..over a week later.

Ernie Sears

PS; There's often a "PS" on my offerings! 'Cos it's all ongoing stuff as I write and VERY intriguing too I reckon.

Following that "storm" incident there's STILL SILENCE from all authorities, the media particularly. However, Tuesday the 6th April, hard on the heels of my foregoing article, MERIDIAN TV at Southampton shocked me to hear the weatherman suddenly ask the two Six O'clock News presenters to guess where the most number of UFO sightings take place, in Hampshire? The answer was Bedhampton, a suburb of Portsmouth and very near to the Admiralty highly secret complex atop Portsdown Hill, the site of a number of UFO reports over the years, my first one too in 1960!, and the scene of HUNDREDS of those filmed by a local man Anthony Woods whose recent video I've seen in company and alone with my Southampton UFO Group ... which I find very impressive, compared to the rather negative viewpoints of others! The very next morning, April 7th, the weather girl trotted out a whole list of "hotspots" over the UK where UFO's were most likely to be seen! My question is, WHY the weather people? You get my drift?

(Continued on Page 30)

BUFORA's 40th Year AGM VICE-PRESIDENT's ADDRESS

Please give my apologies to members. Colleagues will know that my partner, Joy, had a heart attack at the end of May and this has meant re-arranging my calendar in recent weeks. The good news is that we are hopeful of her full recovery.

Technically BUFORA was founded on 25 January 1964, which means that it has now been running for 40 years. In fact the Association was founded on 22nd September 1962 as the British UFO Association. I helped organise the inaugural convention held in the Lecture Theatre of Kensington Central Library. In my opinion 1964 was little more than an administrative tidying-up. So you have the choice of 40 or 42 years. Given that the majority of UFO groups have a fairly short half-life, BUFORA can be proud of having lasted thus far.

In the past decade BUFORA has had to put up with some insidious assaults on its credibility. Certain people using the camouflage of challenging standards, have diverted officers attention away from running BUFORA in a cohesive manner. We are all volunteers and I suggest that few of us expected or even grasped the devious nature of these attacks.

Half-truths and libellous statements have been circulated on the internet and there seems no obvious remedy. Should we use our time to challenge this rubbish or merely continue with research? Taking a neutral position as the Association has done in the past is seen as a sign of weakness!

Merely saying this leaves me open to accusations of censorship by devious individuals. Those who know me, know better. I am in favour of informed and reasoned debate. What we have seen in recent years goes well beyond the normal cut and thrust of such things! So what is my message?

It is that I hope that both members and officers will recognise that we need more unity

of purpose. This will go some way to defeat the cynics. It is difficult to appreciate the time and effort given to the Association over forty years by members, particularly our volunteer investigators. Work is currently being done by officers led by our Chairman, Judith Jaafar, to put our case files onto a rapid access format. This huge task pays tribute to our forty+ years of research.

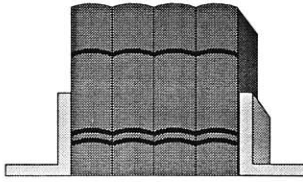
Lionel Beer

The Storm that never was ...conclusion

Things suddenly exploded in the next few days with items in THE TIMES (a very small paragraph but listed all the "UFO hotspots"..Bedhampton included!) Followed by my DAILY EXPRESS with a "map" complete with little stick thin men and tied in with a Russian built "saucer" purchased by the US Authorities when the Reds ran out of money!..Strictly an earth technology craft aimed at carrying troops to needed areas FAST! Still..that, again, raises questions, eh? The Sun newspaper also carried a similar item on the same day and the "source" was named along with a very factual TV advertisement for Grosch Beer! Featuring our familiar "GREYS"! Meridian TV also said the info, came, originally, for the Grosch company, from 'an ex ufo MOD person'. No guesses as to who that was! I conclude by asking, inevitably, WHY NOW? My "communicants" have already told me the reasons in advance, even to that weather phenomenon If NM members were also alerted..not an unreasonable suggestion..share it, if you can, or dare. Your thoughts, your knowledge, can change things! They ARE changing things!

This communication will be going out to my worldwide colleagues. Plus various authorities.

BOOK REVIEW



The Journey of My Soul

Author : Alan Hilton

Reviewed by Norman Oliver

Readers may recall from articles in earlier Journals that Alan organises the yearly UFO Weekend event held at Hourne Farm in East Sussex each October/November which I have been privileged to attend as a speaker on a number of occasions

As Alan tells us: "There are not many books like *The Journey of My Soul* that will be found in print since so many controversial and varying topics have seldom been brought together before in the way they are here" This is true, for amongst topics included are Past Lives: Sai Baba: Astral Projection: Alternative Therapies: UFOs and Alien Abduction. Alan himself claims experience of the latter on a number of occasions, details of one such in Spain in February 2003 having been given in NBJ8, whilst reference has also been made in NBJ to the occasion in Scotland when a companion was apparently also involved in an abduction— to his considerable annoyance - the location delighting in the well-remembered name of Betty Hill. Several chapters are also devoted to the possible intentions of The Greys.

A number of chapters give accounts of early well-known contactees such as Howard Menger (who Alan has personally visited) and George Adamski, the background to both men being given in some depth, together with correspondence between Alan and Adamski.

Possible 'UFO-connected' areas such as Cattle Mutilations: The Philadelphia Experiment and the 'Inner Earth' claims of Richard Shaver are also examined in considerable detail.

Alan has, as I can vouch for, an excellent sense of humour and this is well brought out in Chapter XIV 'ET –The Musical'. In the late 1990s Alan decided to put together a stage play, which was finally performed at the Players Theatre, Villiers Street near Charing Cross. The plot was that of alien entities abducting human beings aboard UFOs in order to help produce a hybrid 'human/alien' race. Despite his own experiences Alan managed to bring the 'comedy' aspect of things well to the fore, this being well illustrated by using music from Gilbert and Sullivan: for example, their two policemen duet 'We run then in, we run them in' becoming 'We beam you up, we beam you up'!

Alan's first visit to India to see Sai Baba in person and to discuss his teachings and general background is well documented and amongst the many other topics discussed in this wide-ranging book are Remote Viewing: Spiritual Healing: Psychic Surgery: Anti-Gravity and the Electric Voice Phenomena research pioneered by Dr. Konstantin von Rauidive.

Alan is a qualified pilot and has his own light aircraft, his UK training having commenced in a *Tiger Moth* plane. The final chapters of *The Journey of My Soul* are devoted to an extremely entertaining account of what certainly reads like a most hazardous air journey to Malta and back via Rome and numerous other cities and places in a *Prentice* light aircraft with Alan piloting five passengers. He refers to this as taking place 'some considerable time ago', though no year appears to be given. In view of the numerous untoward incidents occurring throughout the flight, though, I would think 'some considerable time ago' is pretty accurate!

Alan has published the book himself and it is an extremely well-produced, well-printed hardback, excellently set out with numerous pictures and illustrations relative to the particular chapters. Whilst the subjects in the book are serious and are dealt with as such, Alan manages to touch on their lighter side also. It's well worth reading – you'll enjoy it!

The Journey of My Soul: ISBN 0954097505 Alan Hilton £19.99 (inc.p&p)

From:

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OR

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FROM HERE AND THERE

A Roundup of world events

UFO Theme Park

The Scotsman newspaper for Monday 16th August 2004 reports plans to build a £850m UFO Theme Park near Bonnybridge.

UFO near Bristol

Just after midnight on Sunday 8th February Tim Lock observed a strange white light whilst in woods in Bristol.[2]

Scottish Reports

On Wednesday 21st April a witness reports two strange lights over Livingston. [1]

Crop Circles

As usual this summer there were a number of reports of crop circles. Amongst the most interesting was the report of a formation like a Mayan symbol near Silbury Hill in Wiltshire. [3]

Reports from Wales

Reports continue to come in from many parts of Wales.

On 18th April three silver spherical objects were seen at about 7pm were reported from the Cardiff area. They were moving in a triangular formation. The lower rear object broke away and moved in front of the other two objects at high speed before disappearing. The other objects disappeared two seconds later. [1]

BBC News for Friday 6th August reports that 26 year old Allison Moore took a video of a strange object seen above her house in Trehafod in south Wales. [3]

Balloon Sparks UFO Scare

BBC News report that on Sunday 2nd May a number of witnesses contacted Humberside Police to report a strange bullet shaped object floating in the sky. The reports were closed after police received a further report that a balloon had broken free. [3]

Northern Ireland UFO

The Belfast Telegraph for 26th June reports that two men working on a radio mast in County Monaghan reported seeing a strange triangular object cross the sky at great speed.[4]

One of the witnesses was Miles Johnston of the Irish UFO Research Centre. (Many readers will know Miles as he is a former BUFORA investigator and frequent attendee at meetings and conferences). Miles was working with Dublin based rigger Terry Malone when they spotted the object which headed north towards Belfast..

- [1] Filer
- [2] UFO Roundup
- [3] BBC News
- [4] Belfast Telegraph

MAYBE WE ARE THE MARTIANS!

Steve Gamble

One of the early ideas in the modern era of UFOs was that all UFOs were extraterrestrial spacecraft.

Given that humans have long had a fascination with the Red Planet it was not long before some people started associating these extraterrestrials with Mars. Indeed, I believe it was one of the early destinations mentioned by George Adamski.

Since Adamski's alleged encounters in the 1950s we have found out a great deal about Mars and have sent a number of unmanned probes there. So is Mars a haven for exotic life?

There is at least some evidence from recent years that conditions on Mars may at least at some point in its history to have been suitable for life. Even more exciting is the possibility that life on Earth and any potential Martian life could be closely related.

We now know that the solar system was formed around 4600 million years ago. Although the basic planets were formed at this time they were still extremely hot with molten surfaces. Also there was a great deal of debris left around in the solar system, so the planets were under intense bombardment from massive meteorites for many thousands of years.

The Earth did not cool down enough to have liquid water until around 3800 million years ago. However, the earliest signs of life on Earth are found dating from 3500 million years ago. In geological terms a relatively short time after the Earth cooled. Life seems to

have started on Earth at the earliest possible opportunity, which could mean that, however it happens, life starts very easily.

These early remains are of clumps of unicellular organisms. There must have been even simpler organisms predating this which have either left no trace or the traces have not been found yet. In the early solar system, Mars is thought to have had similar conditions to the Earth.

The planet Mars may have been able to get ahead of Earth in the race to start early life. Being further from the Sun means that it would have cooled earlier. Its distance from the Sun would have less effect on its ability to retain heat than its smaller size compared to the Earth. Both these factors mean that the surface of Mars would have solidified much earlier in the life of the Solar system than the surface of the Earth did. And if it had water, that too would have been around earlier.

Water is essential to all life as we know it. It has been known for sometime that there is a certain amount of water locked up in the ices around the Martian poles. (Although, most of the polar ice seen is actually frozen carbon dioxide.) Over the past couple of years there has been growing evidence that there was much more water on Mars in the past.

Photographs from orbiting spacecraft have shown a number of large valleys similar to river valleys on Earth. The photographs have also show the exposed faces of cliffs which seem to be made up of multiple layers of sediment, similar to sedimentary rocks found in areas on Earth which used to be sea. However, Mars has frequent dust storms. It is not clear if the valleys and layering seen are produced by the sand blasting effects of these storms.

There have been several reports recently that methane has been discovered in the Martian atmosphere by various spacecraft that have been sent there. Given that methane in the atmosphere is broken down over a short

period of time by the action of ultraviolet light, there must be some process going on which replaces it.

The reports suggest that the methane could be produced by living organisms. On Earth there is a group of bacteria called methanogens which release methane into the atmosphere as a waste product.

However, methane is also something which is given out by volcanoes. Although there is no direct evidence of major current volcanic activity certainly this has occurred in the past. For example, Olympus Mons is a huge extinct volcano near the Martian equator which is several times the height of Mount Everest.

It is possible that there is still some underground volcanic activity from which methane gas is escaping through small vents in the Martian surface.

Methane can be produced by reactions involving water and hot volcanic rocks. Frozen deposits of water have been found on Mars and the highest concentrations of methane have been found in these areas. But then a living organism is likely to require water, so maybe they would be around these areas. Also set against the volcanic theory is that NASA's Mars Odyssey orbiting spacecraft carried an instrument to look for volcanic hotspots and did not find any.

A recent paper in the Journal Nature by Charles Cockell of the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) shows that bacteria and lichen can survive in temperatures below -50 degrees centigrade sheltered under translucent rocks. It is proposed that this could be evidence that (microbial) life could survive on the surface of Mars, which has a similar mean temperature. Cockell is a past chairman of the Association of Mars Explorers and was with NASA before joining BAS.

The discovery of the meteorite ALH 84001, thought to have come from Mars, created great excitement. It is one of about a dozen such meteorites. It is thought that impact by

meteors on Mars might cause some of the stones from the surface to be ejected into space. Because Mars has a much lower gravity and a thinner atmosphere, this process happens more easily than it could on Earth. Over a period of time these rocks get drawn inwards towards the Sun, where some of them are captured by the Earth's gravity and land as meteorites.

The greatest part of the excitement about ALH84001 was that when broken open it appeared to contain microscopic fossils of bacteria like organisms.

In the early 1970s astronomers Fred Hoyle and Chandra Wickramasinghe from Cambridge University put forward the theory of panspermia. This proposed that life spread throughout the universe by micro-organisms transferring between planets as spores in the interplanetary medium. More recent work by Wickramasinghe and colleagues at Cardiff has shown unexpectedly high numbers of bacteria in the upper atmosphere. Are these bacteria escaping into space or bacteria entering the atmosphere?

Recent work by Mark Burchell at the University of Kent has shown that bacteria can survive the acceleration of being shot into space by a meteor impact.

The research into Panspermia and the work on suspected Martian meteorites raises an interesting possibility.

If meteorites from Mars can reach the Earth and those meteorites can contain life forms, then life on Earth might originally have been seeded by one or more of those Martian meteorites. This would certainly account for why life took hold here so soon after the Earth gained a solid surface and liquid water.

And if through evolution humans have descended from Martian bacteria, then we are all really Martian colonists.

Any form of life found on Mars I think is more likely to be bacteria or algae. If there is any more advanced form it is unlikely to be more complex than simple worm like creatures. (Although I would be very interested in seeing the evidence that proves me wrong!)

Almost certainly we will not find the murderous Martians dreamt up by H.G.Wells or Adamski's guys with the neat Flying Saucer runabout. This in a way brings us to another great Martian myth, the Face on Mars.



The Face on Mars

A small part of one of the pictures taken by a Mars probe nearly 20 years ago appeared to show, after image enhancement, a human face. This was taken up by some people who thought that the Face was some form of artificial monument built by some intelligent race. The image seems to have been repeatedly enhanced using a variety of different algorithms. One problem with multiple enhancements is that they can give rise to enhancement artefacts – create things that are not really there. More recent higher resolution pictures have suggested that the area might be a partly collapsed volcanic cone.

The real way to answer all these questions will be rather than send very limited robot spacecraft, will be to send a properly planned manned mission with the time and the tools to investigate the Martian surface properly. And for once the UK is up there with the leaders. Following on from the ill fated Beagle 2 (but then it was the UK's first attempt, it to the Americans and Russians several attempts each before they got a successful probe) the same team have announced plans for a Beagle 3 spacecraft. The Open University is strengthening its space and planetary science team including the appointment of the previously mentioned Charles Cockell as Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences.

Perhaps our current obsession with visiting the red planet is that we are returning to our very distant ancestral roots.

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Gamble, S (1998) Contact with extra-terrestrials? The story of George Adamski. BUFORA Bulletin No 2, April/May 1998 pp 11-16.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BUFORA LTD.

The Thirty-First Annual General Meeting of BUFORA Ltd. will be held at 2pm in the 1st Floor Function Room at the Sols Arms Public House, 65-68 Hampstead Road, London NW1 2PN on SATURDAY 16th July 2005 to receive the Chairman's Report, the Report of the Council of Management, the Accounts of the Treasurer, and to appoint the Auditor according to the Articles of the Association.

Signed on behalf of the Council of Management

Judith Jaafar, Chairman, 1st December 2004

NOTE:

Please note that a Member entitled to attend and vote at this meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy who need not be a member of the Company to attend and vote in his or her stead. Instruments of proxy must be lodged at the Company's registered address, Bufora Ltd., 15 Holne Court, Exwick, Exeter, Devon, EX4 2NA not less than forty-eight hours before the time appointed for the meeting. Members wishing to nominate persons for election to the Council of Management shall give to the Secretary such nominations in writing at the registered address, signed by the person proposed, stating their willingness to be elected, not less than four, nor more than twenty-eight clear days before the time appointed for the meeting in accordance with Section 52 of the Articles of Association. Nominations must show clearly the name of both the proposer and seconder.

Whilst visitors are welcome to attend the following lecture, only members of the Association in good standing and accredited proxies may attend and vote at the AGM. Only members in good standing may nominate or be nominated as members of the Council of Management or propose resolutions. Please bring membership cards as this will speed checking against the current membership list

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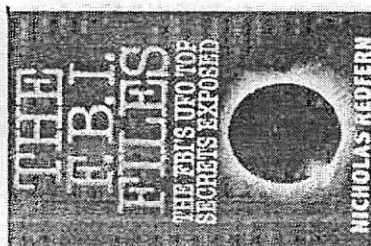
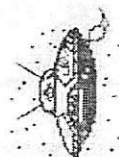
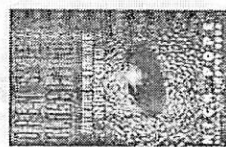
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About BUFORA

BUFORA was founded in 1962, as a federation of regional UFO groups throughout the UK. Many of these groups were formed in the 1950s. These included the British Flying Saucer Bureau, founded in 1952 (which is believed to be the UK's oldest UFO group), and the London UFO Research Organisation formed in 1959 and the largest UK organisation at the time. In 1962 the group was known as the British UFO Association, changing its name in 1964 to the present British UFO Research Association. BUFORA became a company limited by guarantee in 1975. This means that in the event of BUFORA being wound up each member's undertaking to cover any outstanding debts is limited to £1. It was intended to be a prelude to seeking charity status. BUFORA is registered under the U.K. Data Protection Act, and amongst other things membership records are held on a computer database. (It is the policy of BUFORA NOT to release membership records to third parties.)

BUFORA is run entirely by volunteers, relying solely on its members to fund and carry out its investigation, research and educational activities. The day to day running of BUFORA is in the hands of a Council of Management drawn from the members.

Membership of BUFORA is open to all who support the aims of the association, and whose application is approved by the Council of Management.

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AIMS OF BUFORA

The three aims of BUFORA are:-

- To encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying object (UFO) phenomena throughout the United Kingdom
- To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to unidentified flying objects
- To co-ordinate UFO research throughout the United Kingdom and to co-operate with others engaged in such research throughout the world.

ACTIVITIES OF BUFORA

BUFORA organises a regular programme of lectures on a variety of UFO related topics. As dates, times and locations can vary it is best to enquire about the current programme.

Members receive free of charge, six issues per year, of its regular publication 'New Bufora Journal', which carries details of investigated reports and results of research projects.

BUFORA operates the 'UFOCALL' information service which carries information about reports and updates on events (phone: 09068 121 886; Charge: currently 60p per minute.) These pre-recorded messages are updated regularly.

PUBLICATIONS OF BUFORA

Details of publications currently available (including back issues of Journals) can be obtained from the registered office (enclose S.A.E. please).

Some BUFORA publications are also available through Spacelink Books, 115 Hollybush Lane, Hampton, TW12 2QY England



BUFORA LONDON LECTURES 2005

The British UFO Research Association is pleased to present a new series of bi-monthly lectures for 2005.

All lectures are held in the function suite of the Sols Arms public house, 65-68 Hampstead Road, Euston, London NW1 2PN – 3:00pm till 6:00pm. Nearest Tube is Warren Street, and Euston Tube and mainline are a few minutes walk.

Tickets, which can be purchased at the door and include a mid-lecture buffet, are £5 for members, and £7 for all others.

SAT MARCH 12TH – Gary Heseltine “Police Reports of UFOs”

SAT MAY 14TH – Dr. Gail-Nina Anderson, “Vampires”

JULY 16TH - AGM, speaker TBA

SEPT 10TH – speaker TBA

NOV 12TH – speaker TBA

The above is a provisional listing at the moment and may be subject to change. Please check the website and Journal for updates, or use the contact information below.

AUGUST 19TH – 21ST - CFZ Weird Weekend, Exeter. BUFORA will be hosting a series of lectures and manning a stall in partnership with the Centre for Fortean Zoology. Details later. Call CFZ/BUFORA on 01392 424 811 for further information.

For more, or updated information on any of these London lectures, call Judy Jaafar on 020 8998 4936, email: judy@gaia66.freemove.co.uk or email John Wickham on jwufos@aol.com

BUFORA cannot be held responsible for a speaker cancelling, but should this occur, we will endeavour to provide a suitable alternative lecturer. Views expressed by any speaker are his/hers alone, and do not necessarily reflect the views of BUFORA, nor any individual director of BUFORA Ltd.

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