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SUNDAY WORLD (DUBLIN)

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TEESSIDE EVENING GAZETTE

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KNOCK notched up another miracle last week when a 'UFO' was spotted hovering there.

The object, described by one astounded onlooker as "the size of a four storey house" was seen leaving the pilgrim mecca and heading toward the Nephin Mountains.

The man, who examined the strange object with binoculars, said bright lights shone from the bottom of the rectangular shaped object.

It eventually disappeared behind some trees.

STAFFORDSHIRE EVENING SENTINEL

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UFO watchers spot 'boomerang' object

UFO watchers have received reports of a boomerang-shaped craft hovering over homes at Clayton.

The recently-formed Potteries Organisation for Paranormal Investigation say the mystery object was spotted last week.

Spokesman Gary Cartledge said: "A lady saw a 'flying boomerang' which circled in the sky before it headed off towards Hanchurch. It came back several times - occasionally disappearing into cloud cover.

"She said it was black and solid in appearance, but gave the impression that it changed shape as it moved. No engine noise was heard and it did not bank as a conventional aircraft has to do as it changes direction in the sky."

Checks with local flying clubs in case it could have been a glider drew a blank.

Mr Cartledge would like anyone else who had sightings of the unidentified flying object to contact POPI on 01782 593719.

0AP Hazel spies UFO

It could be a case for Scully and Mulder of the X Files.

A sighting in the skies above Middlesbrough has convinced Hazel Stubbs she saw a UFO.

As the Normanby pensioner made herself an early morning cup of tea yesterday she spotted the "alien" object.

"I was looking out of the window and I saw a gold coloured object go rushing past at a tremendous speed," said Mrs Stubbs.

"It was going far too fast to be an aeroplane and it was not a flash but definitely an object travelling from north to south."

A spokesman for Cleveland Police said they had not been informed of any sightings. As for the weather there was light cloud cover but nothing abnormal.

SUNDAY INDEPENDENT (PLYMOUTH)

05 MAY 96

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Something fishy scares off anglers

TWO teenagers on a fishing trip dropped their tackle and ran when a strange black craft appeared in the sky above them.

Steven Wright, 17 and James Rawle, 16 from Wellington, said they were fishing near Milverton at about 8.30pm when the craft appeared making a low-pitched humming noise.

They described it as a large black triangle with a white light on each corner and another near the centre. It passed overhead at about 200 to 300 feet.

Steven said, 'It was pretty scary. We thought it was about to get us so we cut loose our fishing tackle, jumped

on our bikes and cycled away.'

Another strange sighting was reported by retired businessman Gordon Chamberlain, 64, of Bishops Hull, Taunton.

He was driving on the M5 near Bridgwater at about midnight when he noticed a brightly lit cylindrical craft apparently keeping pace with his car. It flew over Taunton and hovered above Kingston St Mary. When he got home he watched the craft through binoculars.

'I know what I saw and it was a clear night. It was not a star or a plane, it was some sort of craft,' he said.

GLOUCESTER CITIZEN

02 MAY 96

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UFO proves a mystery

MATSON: A PARANORMAL investigations team has declared Gloucester's UFO a bizarre mystery.

The investigations unit of Gloucestershire-based UFO group Circular Forum says it has carried out exhaustive inquiries.

But investigations into possible earthly causes of the mystery hovering object, first spotted in the night sky over Matson a month ago, have proved fruitless.

Witnesses described the hovering object as comprising a main white light, with a peanut-shaped red light beneath it, surrounded by blue-green lights.

"All our lines of inquiry have been exhausted," said investigator Robin Cole. "We have checked with aviation authorities, ballooning enthusiasts, Ministry of Defence installations, the Met Office in Bristol as well as 40th Gloucestershire police headquarters and the police helicopter unit at Filton - but without success."

Interviews showed the object hovered for three consecutive nights at Robinson Hill, hovering for two hours on each occasion. It reappeared three weeks later at the same location.

The UFO then moved to Charlton Kings, at Cheltenham, where it was watched separately by three women.

Mr Cole said: "We know at least five other people had seen it, as they mentioned our key witness, a man in his 50s, after the incident was first discussed. We would be very grateful if they would contact us."

He added: "We know that UFOs are rare but members of the public are unaware as to who they should report them to and to some extent they fear being ridiculed for unfounded reasons - they are not alone in their experiences."

Anyone who saw the Matson UFO should contact Mr Cole on 01242 772929. Circular Forum has also set up a 24-hour hotline for other UFO sightings on 0773 778906.

UFO 'looked like' helicopter wings'

'NO SENSIBLE EXPLANATION'
SAYS LARKSWOOD COUNCILLOR

BY AZRA SYED

A CHINGFORD councillor claims that he too has seen unidentified flying objects in his ward.

Following our recent coverage of unusual sightings in the Chingford area, Councillor John Walter, who represents Larkswood ward, called the Guardian to share his story.

Cllr Walter said: "I was walking along Larkswood Road at about 8pm when a car pulled up beside me and a man and young boy jumped out.

"The man rushed over to me and pointed up, where I saw a strange grey pattern against the evening sky.

"It was weird because it looked like the wings of a helicopter, but no heli-

copter was there."

The man and young boy had followed the strange sighting from Woodford and stopped the councillor to help them fathom the bizarre vision.

He added: "The man was really scared because he thought he was seeing things, but he was relieved when I could see the same thing as him."

The geometrical design stayed in the sky, hovering over a large area of the ward, claimed the councillor.

"I am not a gullible person by nature but I have not been able to find a sensible explanation of what I saw," explained Cllr Walter.

The sighting took place over two years ago in January 1994 and since

then the councillor has been trying to identify the object, but as yet remain fascinated though puzzled.

Cllr Walter's account is just one of many following our recent stories about the unexplained occurring in the region.

Roy Lake who runs the London UFO Studies group claims that for some unknown reason Waltham Forest and in particular Chingford is rife with possible X-Files.

● Have you seen a UFO in Chingford? If so, contact the Waltham Forest Guardian newsdesk on 4141 extension 212, or call Roy Lake on 270 9913

INVERNESS COURIER

14 MAY 96

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Couple's sighting of mystery object

A LIBRARY worker has opened a new chapter on the spate of suspected UFO sightings centring on the Highland Capital over the last few months.

Stonehaven-based Brian Grant contacted the Courier after reports by several other readers relating to remarkably similar sightings in the night skies.

Library service worker Mr Grant was out walking his dog with his wife on the same night that several people around the Highlands claim to have spotted something they simply couldn't explain in the sky some two weeks ago.

He told the Courier: "I just happened to look up and saw it. It was a bright object heading north west to south east and was a bright object. I remarked to my wife that it could not possibly have been an aeroplane or a satellite."

He said he had an open mind on the matter but was convinced that what he saw needed explaining. He added: "Whatever it was was so smooth and didn't make any noise at all." His wife saw the same object and was equally at a loss as to explain what she had seen.

Mr Grant's report ties in with an as yet unexplained sighting by a Newtonmore man; a coastguard; a weather observer and a Black Isle housewife. UFO researchers are known to be monitoring reports emanating from the Highland Capital.

STRATHSPEY AND BADENOCH HERALD

09 MAY 96

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Is it a bird...is it a plane...?

SIGHTINGS of a UFO in the Highland skies were reported by several local people last Wednesday evening.

Newtonmore man John Martin was on the telephone to a friend in Glasgow when he glanced out his kitchen window to see a brilliant white light glowing through the clouded sky.

"I said to him 'I've just seen a UFO' - it made the hairs on my neck stand on end," he told the "Herald".

Mr Martin, of Granite

House, said the object appeared to be travelling horizontally in a south-easterly direction. It was travelling too fast to be an aircraft or a meteorite, he said.

Mr Martin said his friend thought he'd "flipped his lid", but his description ties in with scores of other sightings across the Highlands at the same time - 10.20pm on Wednesday.

As Agents Scully and Mulder of the "X-Files" would say: "Somewhere, the truth is out there."

WALES ON SUNDAY
12 MAY 96

Not one, not two but three UFOs

CHRIS Fowler could hardly believe his eyes when he said goodnight to two friends early yesterday.

The Cardiff man is convinced he saw a bright white light whizzing through the air across the road.

Chris, who stresses he had not been drinking,

said 10 minutes later two more UFOs passed in the other direction past his Whitla Street home.

He said: "I've spoken to Cardiff Airport and the police, but there were no aircraft known to them in the air at that time."

Chris wants anyone who saw the lights to ring him on Cardiff 793217.

A HUGE meteorite shower in the skies over Scotland and Northern Ireland sparked hundreds of calls from worried onlookers reporting UFOs, weather forecasters said today.

Police and coastguards at between Stornoway and Greenock were inundated with calls when the spectacular light display started shortly after 10pm last night.

Meteorologists were today investigating her reports, but could not say if more meteorites would be visible tonight.

Witnesses, many in Inverclyde, spoke of seeing bright lights darting west to east leaving vapour trails behind them.

A Glasgow Weather Centre spokesman said: "We certainly took a lot of calls last night because when people see an unusual light in the sky they immediately think of UFOs."

"Apparently it was a very large and very bright shower which was visible over much of the country. It would have been quite spectacular."

Reports of the shower came from the Western Isles, Strathclyde and over to Ulster until early today.

GREENOCK TELEGRAPH

13 MAY 96

WELCOME once again to UFO Update. Sorry about the absence folks - technical difficulties.

However the only 'exclusive' to report in this week's column is that it is deadily silent on the UFO front.

Bill Eatock of Quest International said: "I can't understand it. There are normally reports of sightings every day. There has been nothing for 30 or 40 days now. It is very odd, to say the least."

"I think it is the lull before the storm. Something big is going to happen soon and that's not just my view".

Bill continued: "It has been the quietest month on record ever. I've been with Quest for donkeys' years and have never seen anything like it. There has been nothing."

"No flashing lights, no objects in the sky, none has seen a thing."

"Apparently something is heading towards the earth. It has just started slowing down and has changed course. It is currently near the sun and closing."

"It might be a comet or a meteor but they haven't been known to decelerate. I don't know what it is, but it will arrive some time next year."

UFOs callers jam airwaves

UFO spotters have been jamming the Bucks Advertiser switchboard with reports of unusual sightings around Aylesbury.

Last week the Bucks Advertiser revealed Peter and Sheila Davis's experience of what they believed was a UFO.

Since then several people throughout the area have confirmed their sighting and told us about others.

Mr and Mrs Davis said they saw a red object 'glowing like a football' shoot over their home at 9pm on Good Friday.

A group of youngsters travelling in three cars towards Wendover on the same evening say they saw it too.

Donna Stammers (17), of Manor Crescent, Wendover, said they were driving home past Hamoden Hall in Wendover Road at 10.10pm when they saw it over the rooftops and go down behind trees.

"It came up again for about 10 seconds and suddenly just disappeared, as if its glow had stopped," said Donna.

She was with her boyfriend John Lee (18), of Amersham, and they stopped their car to compare notes with friends in two other cars - Suzanne Hills (17), of Manor Crescent, Scott Beemey, of High Wycombe, a couple called Pete and Debbie from Aston Clinton, and Stephen Chilton, of Lee Common, Great Missenden.

"They'd all seen it and we were astounded," said Donna.

"We didn't report it to the authorities but we've all talked about it and told a lot of others ever since."

Jemma Coley (18) of Ringstead Way, Elm Farm, believed she saw something similar about four weeks ago at about midnight in Prebendal Avenue.

Was it a bird, was it?

FOUR PEOPLE who believe they saw a UFO over Aylesbury are having for anyone else who 'wakes in touch with them'.

"It was not dark, and we can see what we saw and none of us saw the same thing," said Peter Davis.

Mr and Mrs Davis (18) were at home in Aylesbury when they saw a red object 'glowing like a football' shoot over their home at 9pm on Good Friday.

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The police and fire service control rooms in Aylesbury said they had no calls.

Flashback to last week's Bucks Advertiser

She said: "It was more and looked like a great big ball of fire, but when I got home it had gone. It looked like the picture in last week's paper."

There seems to have been other activity in the skies above Aylesbury as well.

Doreen Fenwick, of Stone, was watching the total eclipse of the moon on April 5, when she saw a distant orange ball hanging in the sky over the Chiltern Hills at about 11.50pm.

"I knew it wasn't an aeroplane because it didn't move," said Mrs Fenwick, who watched it for about 20 minutes before it suddenly vanished.

And on Sunday night Elizabeth Wemyss, of Bishopstone, saw a luminous object shaped like a squashed egg and radiating light over in the direction of Ford.

It stayed still in the sky for about 10 minutes, then when Mrs Wemyss and her husband went indoors and looked out of the window it had vanished.

"It was chillingly spooky but absolutely fascinating," she said.

'It was chillingly spooky but fascinating'

WAS it a bird? Was it a plane? Was it a UFO?

The answer is the unusual sight in the sky above Aylesbury a week ago on Friday was a distress flare.

A group of power boat racers in the town were testing equipment at about 9pm and to make sure their distress flares worked they let one off.

One of the group said it looked exactly as the artist's impression in the Bucks Advertiser last week. "We couldn't believe it when we read in the paper that people thought it was a UFO, we thought 'oh no.' We have never done it before," he said.

Days after Bob Stewart, of Cupar, said he was disappointed at the public response after numerous sightings of mysterious lights over Tayside and Fife, he was contacted by video enthusiast Sam Page, Eden Place, Springfield.

Sam (60) usually films wildlife near his village, but on the evening of February 13 and again on February 20—the same nights as strange encounters by children in Broughty Ferry—he saw something in the sky, which neither he, his wife, Robert, the police nor four other witnesses in the village, can explain.

"It was like a glowing silver ball inside a jelly-fish," said Sam. "It changed shape in a liquid form from a sphere into a glowing ring, like a giant hula hoop."

"The second time we saw it, it appeared over Culls, moved over Cupar, back to the Culls and Springfield village and flitted about

over the Falkland Hills. "I estimate it was about 500 feet up and 150 feet long. It made no sound but moved unbelievably fast, covering miles in a split second. RAF Leuchars said there was nothing on their radar and no military or private planes in the area at that time."

He managed to film the object for only a few minutes on February 13 before his camera batteries ran out, but a week later he managed to track it for 15 minutes. The date and time are imprinted on the copy to show when the sequence was taken.

"It wasn't a quirk of the lens because I've been filming too long to know about these things and stars can be seen in the background as reference points."

Bob Stewart, now lives a copy of the tape and hopes to let astronomer Brian Kelly, of the Mills Observatory, Dundee, see it.

Bob said, "It may be coincidental, but it is interesting that this video was taken on the same nights as the Broughty Ferry sightings. The best brains in Britain cannot fathom out what is going on in our skies, so anything is possible."

Video joy for UFO hunter

AN APPEAL by a Fife UFO researcher for information on sightings of strange objects seen in the area in recent months has led a Springfield man to come forward with a videotape which may coincide with the Orchard Park sighting in Broughty Ferry.

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UFOs really do exist



POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS

TOP SECRET: Before their existence was officially acknowledged Stealth planes being tested were often taken for UFOs, but they could not hover and then accelerate.

CLOUDS: Atmospheric conditions can produce lenticular clouds which are sausage-shaped and metallic coloured but do not travel at high speeds.

SKY LIGHTS: All sorts of natural phenomena, from ball lightning to falling space debris, can create strange lights in the sky — but never follow a zig-zag path.

RECENT SIGHTINGS: Military personnel guarding an RAF base were startled by what they were convinced was a UFO and in March '93 reports flooded in from non-across Britain. Rather than the traditional hubcap shape, descriptions include a more angular vessel. As large as a jumbo jet but much faster, it follows an erratic flight path, alternately hovering, then zooming off.

second's glimpse but lasted for five minutes, long enough for the witness to estimate the size of the craft as about that of a jumbo jet. But as he and I knew, jumbo jets don't hover and they don't scan the countryside with searchlights. He heard the same low-frequency hum the family from Rugeley had heard.

What could I say to this man? He was a trained observer, considerably more familiar with the night sky than I was. On the phone I agreed with him that there was only one conclusion: whatever he had seen was unknown.

I carried out my usual checks, looking for the explicable, hunting for the mundane. I needed to cover my own back, to be ready for the media deluge. What were the Ministry's answers? There was no unusual civil or military aircraft activity that night that came remotely close to fitting anything that had been seen. There were no weather balloons in the area of the densest sightings and no unusual planetary activity, said the Greenwich Observatory.

Then RAF Fylingdales, in Yorkshire, came up with something. It confirmed that debris from a Russian rocket, Cosmos 2238, had re-entered Earth's atmosphere that night and might just have been visible from the United Kingdom. So that was it, the doubters said, orthodox science had triumphed again. But of course, it hadn't.

A piece of re-entering space debris would burn up, like a meteor, and produce a flaming trail which would last only seconds. This couldn't account for the five-minute sighting

from Shropshire or the low hum heard there and in Rugeley, neither would it be seen flying low over the coast near Haverfordwest because the debris didn't come down anywhere near Britain. Neither can a piece of even the smallest space debris hover — it falls with the speed dictated by gravity.

I took an unprecedented step and ordered a number of radar tapes to be impounded and sent to me. The results were disappointing. The blips faded in and out all night, like ghosts in the morning light. RAF radar defence experts explained these conventionally enough. Ground clutter, they said. Tall trees picked up now and again around one particular radar head.

But there were too many visual sightings and the reports were from witnesses too trustworthy to ignore. Whatever it was that zig-zagged across Britain on the night of March 30 and 31, 1993, that probed our fields and raced our cars, it was not picked up by radar. And consequently, with no radar track to set the procedure in motion, we hadn't even got our aircraft into the air.

Over the coming weeks I tried to find an explanation but every avenue led nowhere. Whatever it was had come and gone. It was time to take the whole problem 'upstairs'. Frankly, I didn't hold out much hope that my bosses would listen.

I drew up a carefully constructed report of the March 30-31 sightings

and sent it to my head of division. I deliberately avoided the emotive word 'UFO', insipid of prejudices, and opted, instead, for uncommitted target and 'unknown craft'. Government bureaucracies are sometimes accused of inventing jargon for the sake of it, but here I felt it was necessary, it paid off. The report was passed up the chain of command, until it reached the assistant chief of the Air Staff himself.

He noted my report — there was little else he could do. By now I had tried all possible lines of inquiry. There were no other avenues left.

So the official findings (mine) read: 'Type of craft — unknown; origin of craft — unknown; motive of occupants — unknown.' And, although it

Officials are staying silent to avoid being ridiculed

SINCE the Ministry started to keep records, in 1959, it has received from members of the public reports of 8,890 UFO sightings. Each one is examined and replied to by a civil servant — UFO desk officer (Air Staff 2a). This is the job I did for three years from 1991.

Many of the reports I received were explicable as misinterpretations of identifiable flying objects or even mere tricks of the light. But my experience there convinced me that Unidentified Flying Objects were a real and threatening phenomenon. I found this conclusion was supported by expert observers. While the Ministry itself was, by and large, sceptical, the same was not true of

the armed forces, especially the RAF. I had fully expected them to be dismissive of UFOs. They weren't. On the contrary, most of the personnel, with whom I had contact, were astonishingly open-minded.

One reason for this might well be that the RAF is more alive to the potential threat of superior technology than any other service. After all, if there were ever to be a hostile action from a UFO, it would be the fighters of the RAF that would be deployed to engage it.

The Civil Aviation Authority, too, requires commercial pilots to log all near-misses and some of them are convinced that what they have almost met with, on occasion, have

been UFOs rather than anything they could account for in other ways.

RAF pilots, past and present, have admitted that they have witnessed things in the skies, in all lights and weather and at all times of day and night, that they cannot explain. Two of those I spoke to were station commanders at RAF bases. Such people are impressive witnesses. They are trained in recognition techniques, and reports from such sources are worth taking seriously.

It is unfortunate, then, that on an official basis such reports are almost non-existent. The fear of ridicule is probably the biggest deterrent in public positions.

appears nowhere in the official documentation. I would have to add: 'Conclusion — unsatisfactory.'

The March 30-31 sightings brought about a marked change in my own attitude. I would play no further part in bland platitudes about UFOs being 'of no defence significance'. I sensed that some of my colleagues thought UFOs were only of defence significance if they aimed laser beams at cities. But any craft, conventional or otherwise, that can do what that triangle did, is of extreme defence significance in itself. Our radar couldn't trace it, our jets wouldn't be able to catch it. We can all thank our God — or our lucky stars — that whatever it was it was not, on that particular occasion, anyway, hostile.

IN THE Ministry of Defence, tours of duty last between two and three years. After that, in order to provide a breadth of knowledge and experience, personnel are moved on. In the course of my ten-year career to date, I have been involved in the debate over women flying combat aircraft (we won the debate and now they do); operational duties in the Gulf War and helping to organise the commemorations marking the 50th Anniversary of the end of World War II.

In autumn 1990, I joined the division whose basic role is to provide advice to defence ministers and senior air force officers on policy, political and parliamentary matters, relating to RAF operations. It was this division that was responsible for UFOs.

In July 1991, when an internal shuffle gave me the job of UFO desk officer — Secretariat (Air Staff 2a) — I became the man at the Ministry responsible for Unidentified Flying Objects. I was about to become the real Fox Mulder hero of the cult TV series The X-Files.

AT THE Ministry, I inherited a situation where any UFO report, however bizarre, seemed to be attributed to aircraft lights; case closed, and those who reported them were more often than not written off as weirdos. When I started I too was generally sceptical about the paranormal as you would expect a steady career civil servant to be.

I was certainly not the sort of person who subscribed to any sort of bizarre theory without first seeing some proof. I didn't believe in UFOs and I hadn't even heard of the concept of alien abduction.

But my next three years were literally a voyage of discovery. I was able to talk directly to those who have themselves witnessed UFOs and I had unprecedented access to the raw data on the subject — the files which some will tell you the Government is anxious to suppress.

By the time I moved on to another posting, having won an important promotion, my mind had been opened to the possibility that the universe is a very much stranger place than conventional science might suggest.

I believed I had clear evidence that craft of unknown origin were demonstrating a technology, apparently, far in advance of our own and were using it to penetrate our airspace. Our radar could only rarely detect them and even when it could, it seemed that our aircraft and missiles would not be able to stop them. Yet some of my superiors appeared to laugh the matter off. And when they realised I was serious, and they stopped laughing, I was told to drop certain lines of inquiry.

I made it my business to do everything I could to find rational

TURN TO NEXT PAGE

Firm admit UFO beam was down to them

THE GREAT mystery surrounding the strange lights in the night skies near Abingdon has been solved.

Scores of people came forward after reports of spooky phenomena seen near Culham two weeks ago.

A worldwide group of UFO researchers say they received 65 reports from members of the public describing the laser-like beams and green lights glowing in the cloud base.

After a thorough investigation, the group, Contact International, have confirmed that the half-hour spectacle was caused by lasers after all.

Mr Brian James, the Blewbury-based chairman and investigations co-ordinator for the group, said the beam was emitted by Oxford Lasers who are based on the Abingdon Science Park of Audlett Drive.

The company had civil aviation authority to test a green beam pointed to the south east at an elevation of 30 degrees as a demonstration for a customer.

Two new magazines promise objective UFO reporting

By Andrew Johnson

Two magazines promising objective investigations into UFOs and their related phenomena, such as abductions and crop circles, launch this month.

Sightings from Rapide Publishing and Ark Soundwave's first magazine, *UFO Reality*, aim to break away from the sensational by emphasising the quality of their research and experts.

Mike Klotz, editor of *UFO Reality*, said: 'We aim to present an optimistic view of UFO phenomena. There's a lot of strong information about it which is suppressed or lost for example, the Mex-

He said the magazine would cover stories only from credible witnesses, such as astronauts, soldiers and government officials, here and in the USA, where the magazine will also be distributed.

The magazine has teamed up with a national paper to launch research into UFO sightings in the UK. This project is to be unveiled later this month.

Mark Smith, editor of *Sightings*, said the magazine would take an 'objective and sceptical' look at UFOs. 'People are interested in the detail of these phenomena,' he said.

'We will have one reporter who c-

Features in the first issue include an interview with former MoD UFO agent Nick Pope and a look at the story behind the Fox film *Independence Day*.

Sightings is a £2.95 monthly with an initial print run of 50,000 and a settle-down circulation after a year of 25,000. It has four full time staff and is expecting to use 12 freelance contributors.

UFO Reality is a £2.50 bi-monthly with a print run of 33,000 and will also employ four full time staff. Klotz is hoping for a settle-down circulation of more than 100,000, including in the

U.S.A. one of five tabloid-

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

explanations. Was there military activity in the area, perhaps involving low-flying aircraft? Was there an astronomical explanation for a sighting? A phone call to the Royal Observatory at Greenwich could confirm this. And then there was R.A.F. Fylingdales, which provides early warnings of attack from ballistic missiles. Their equipment is sensitive enough to locate an object one foot square, hundreds of miles away in space. Radar returns from any R.A.F. base might also provide an explanation.

Satellites or satellite debris re-entering the earth's atmosphere also generate UFO reports and there is a well-researched catalogue of other natural phenomena regularly reported as UFOs. The planet Venus, viewed from a moving vehicle, especially through a screen of trees appears to hover and exhibit the blue-white light so often associated with UFO experiences. Aircraft seen during the day give rise to all sorts of reports. Flocks of birds, especially when seen in an odd light, can have a strange

appearance but the oddest illusions can be caused by lenticular clouds. These rare formations are disc-shaped and because of their vapour, appear metallic grey in colour. The most controversial natural phenomenon sometimes used to explain UFO sightings is ball lightning — a short-lived luminous mass usually associated with electric storms — but ball lightning itself is not a proven phenomenon.

DURING my tenure I received about 800 reports of sightings, ranging from the easily explicable to the genuinely perturbing but I only had one like the 'Capital' sighting.

There is usually a time-lag — hours, days, sometimes weeks — between a sighting and the point when a witness decides to contact someone 'official'. In this case, things were rather more immediate. The call came from Capital Radio's headquarters in Euston, London, and the voice on the other end of the line was very excited. The caller was staring out of his



Daylight sighting: Mystery discs in Switzerland, in March, 1976

window, giving me a running commentary on a UFO about to land in Revent's Park. He was grabbing his words jumbled, hysteria in his voice; a man on the edge.

'It's almost down... it looks a bit like — like a big kite, but it can't be. It's down! It's down! My God,

people are gathering round it... There was a pause. The voice seemed less strained, less panicked. 'It can't be a kite, can it? Oh. The people are putting it back in a box. It is a kite. Sorry for having wasted your time.' He hung up. God knows what agonies he had gone through in those few mad minutes. God knows how much he'll cringe at the memory of it.

Usually, my task was more demanding than that. When, late in the afternoon of December 9, 1991, several dozen people walking on Oda's Dyke in Hereford and Worcester, saw a very glow a few thousand feet up in the sky. I pursued my inquiries in several directions until I discovered the explanation: an American F-111 jet from RAF Upper Heyford in Oxfordshire, had been on a routine flight over the area when it was recalled to base because of deteriorating weather conditions. As a precaution, the pilot had jettisoned some of the jet fuel which was ignited by the plane's afterburners, leaving a spectacular fiery trail and the momentary glow they saw.

Everyone I contacted was grateful to know it: alarmed witnesses had their minds put at rest and the ever-seeking UFO groups were able to stamp this one 'Case solved' and concentrate their efforts elsewhere.

On the other hand, in the early hours of October 29, 1993, something took place at St Austell in Cornwall, which I was utterly at a loss to explain. The witness was a young naval cadet from the prestigious Britannia Royal Naval College, at Dartmouth, 40 miles away. He had 20-20 vision and was trained in careful observation.

He saw a bright object, glowing eerily in the sky over nearby houses, as it hovered silently over a sports field behind his home. In this position its shape was clearly that of a disc and it appeared solid, with a battery of different-coloured lights and three protrusions on its underside. The top seemed to turn anti-clockwise.

CHOING the story of the appearance of angels to Zacharias, or Mary and Joseph in the New Testament, the witness claimed that he received telepathic messages of greeting, telling him not to be afraid. The craft's lights had by this time gone out and it hovered in front of a set of goalposts 80 yards from him. A large bird, presumably a rook or crow, flew close to the object, then plummeted to the ground. A bright light glowed on the underside of the craft and it shot vertically upwards at great speed.

The cadet ran to wake his family. They saw the bird on the ground but no sign of the craft. Even the bird had gone by seven the next morning. The cadet was confused by what he had seen. He reported the incident to the local police at Launceston, the next day. They, in turn, contacted me and put the cadet in touch with local UFOlogist, Doug Cooper, who phoned me to discuss the case.

The cadet had also told his superiors at the naval college about his experience. They allegedly told him to keep quiet. Doug Cooper obviously believed that this, in itself, implied some cover-up. I suspected that the advice was well meant, designed to shield the cadet from the ridicule of colleagues. In any event, no one from the college spoke to me. The sighting was clear enough and the large bird, at least, was witnessed by several people. I was not able to come up with any

explanation — and neither was anyone else.

Disturbing as that was for the young man, it was by no means the most painful experience I had reported to me. In 1992 I received a letter from a woman whose husband had been missing in the Quantock Hills in Somerset, four years earlier, intent on photographing the scenery.

The sky was clear, the air still. This is one of those cases where the time lapse could be unfortunate, yet, even so, the woman's memory was vivid and so was that of her husband. He had heard a deep rumbling sound, ahead of him and above, and saw a huge black craft moving towards him, its body saucer-shaped but with two bat-like wings, one on each side.

It hovered for about five minutes, close enough for the witness to see that the main fuselage had two decks and a dome on top. He could even make out a small figure, wearing some kind of helmet, through the windows on one of the decks. The craft flew directly overhead, no more than 50 ft above the land. Instinctively, he threw himself to the ground and as the shadow passed over him, he felt a burning sensation. When he got home, he discovered that his clothes had been singed.

OVER THE next two years, the witness's health deteriorated. Like Antonio Micas Boas, the first known abductee (in 1957 he claimed to have had sex with a female alien) the Quantocks man found it difficult to eat and experienced waves of extreme nausea, from time to time. He also had severe pain in his head and back. Perhaps unfortunately, the witness told his GP the story of the black craft and the doctor immediately suspected psychosomatic symptoms and mental illness.

The witness's wife was terrified that he was suffering from radiation sickness and would die, unless somebody could help. Radiation sickness is highly unpleasant, ionising radiation, such as gamma, X-rays and ultraviolet, can cause nausea, vomiting, hair loss, diarrhoea, headaches, lowered resistance to infection, and skin burns.

The problem for doctors is that many of these symptoms have other causes too. Only a GP of some vision and sympathy would make the necessary connection in this case.

It was clear from the lady's letter that she and her husband wanted no publicity. They simply needed help and treatment and were desperate. Her husband had lost his job and she feared he would lose his life.

My bosses were not keen on proactive investigations but I could not ignore this cry for help. If I was unable to intervene directly — this man's health had no implications for the defence of the realm (though I would dispute that) — at least I now had the contacts who could.

I shared my concerns with BUFORA (the British UFO Research Association), who agreed that the main priority was to save the witness's life and that the case was not overstating the case. One of their top researchers intervened with the witness's doctor, having contacted Dr Ruma Labow of New York, from the organisation TREAT (Treatment and Research into Experienced Anomalous Trauma). The man's medical records are, quite rightly, confidential. That said, I am aware that he was treated, and recovered.

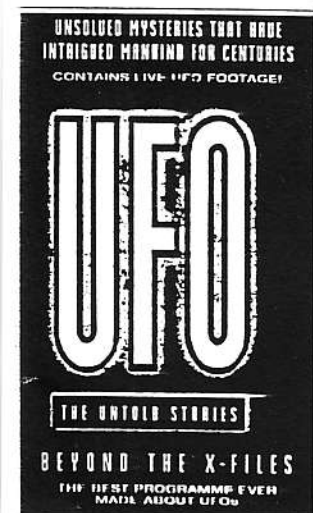
No explanation was ever found for that black craft over the Quantocks. Perhaps the man who had seen it would rather it stayed that way.

IT IS incidents like these, for which — try as I might — I could find no scientific explanation, that changed my view of the world. By the time I ceased to be UFO desk officer at Secretariat Air Staff 2a, I had formed the view that unidentified flying objects were potentially the most important issue currently facing the human race and that the military would be in the front line.

■ ABRIDGED extract from *Open Skies, Closed Minds* by Nick Pope and M.J. Trow, published by Simon & Schuster on June 3, £14.99. © Nick Pope and M.J. Trow 1996.

MONDAY: What are the UFOs doing and who controls them?

Odyssey's alien oddities



UFO: THE UNTOLD STORIES E DOCUMENTARY 8 SPECIAL INTEREST 8

VHE

ODYSSEY: JUNE 24:
£8.84/£12.99: 50 MINUTES

The success of *The X-Files*

seems to breed a new alien investigation tape every week, but true story specialist Odyssey has produced a level headed and un-sensationalist account which makes it a higher quality documentary than other bandwagon jumpers.

For saucer spotters, it promises some of the most stunning UFO footage ever filmed, and there are plenty of weird objects in the sky to be seen, although it may take a firm believer to decipher some of the fuzzy images as visitors from another world.

More revealing are the extensive interviews with (mostly cagey) military personnel and civilian observers, some of which are easily filed under fruitcake, but others seem to be more rational and harder to dismiss. The details of the personal 'visitations' are the most compulsive element of the tape.

Two separate events are singled out for special attention. Firstly, the incident at Roswell in America, which led to the infamous alien 'autopsy' footage. Whatever happened there, it is obvious that the authorities did cover up something, making it a delicious conspiracy theory for paranoids everywhere.

Secondly, Britain has had its own Roswell incident, when there was a widely witnessed sighting near Woodbridge in Suffolk, where again, something did occur that has never been properly explained.

It is a bit pricey at £12.99 for 50 minutes of documentary, but for the legions of 'out there' anoraks that have sprung up, it is one of the best presented looks at the phenomenon on offer. Recommending it in-store will be helped by the sleeve, which promises live UFO footage and also hints at the X-Files.

MP investigates UFO mystery

question the MoD would attempt to cover up information on the subject of so-called unidentified flying objects."

Mr Clifton-Brown said: "Earl Howe has gone into great detail in his letter on this matter, which I know is of interest to many of my constituents."

"I hope this reassures them, although I understand it might also disappoint them."

In recent years reports of UFO sightings in the area have been investigated but there has never been any conclusive proof that they were genuine.

government come clean on UFOs and give the public of this country the facts and show them artefacts from alien craft?"

The MP decided to do his own investigation and wrote to the Ministry.

Junior Defence Minister Earl Howe has now told him: "To date, we know of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena."

"We believe down to earth explanations are available for most of these reported sightings. There is no

THERE is definitely no thing as flying saucers the boffins at the Ministry of Defence have announced.

Cirencester MP Geoffrey Clifton-Brown has been told this officially after probing the mysterious objects on behalf of a constituent.

He took the matter up after receiving a letter which said that in July this year, the Japanese were set to open a museum devoted to UFOs which would exhibit parts of non-man-made machines, and an almost intact alien saucer.

The letter said: "Will the

Did you see a UFO?

Dear Madam
I am writing to you in the hope that you may be able to help me.

I have recently received a report through the British UFO Research Association regarding the alleged 'sighting' of two 'unidentified flying objects'. The incident occurred on the A82 between Tyndrum and Bridge of Orchy on February 1 1996 at approximately 7.15pm.

The incident is reported to have been witnessed by three cars on the above mentioned road - I am in contact with the occupant of one of those cars. The observed objects are said to have been triangular in shape with red and green lights. One of the objects came within close proximity of one of the cars, reportedly within 20 or 30 feet of the car's righthand door. I would therefore request that anyone, and in particular the occupants of the other two motor vehicles who may have observed these same objects, contact me so that I

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UFO claim for strange orange light

Another possible UFO has been spotted in Gloucestershire, this time near Tewkesbury.

Security guard Mr Tony Bryant from Bristol was working at the Group 4 offices in Ashchurch at about 2.45am on Sunday when he saw a cigar-shaped orange light move across the Tewkesbury-Evesham road.

by Dave Higgins

He said: "It was about 500ft above the ground moving at about the speed of an aircraft but there was no way it was a plane."

"The most remarkable thing about it was that it was completely silent, even though it was only half-a-mile away."

"The other strange thing is that the gulls which are roosting nearby went completely bananas, even though there was no noise."

The light, which he described as being about as bright as a street light, appeared to descend and disappear behind the trading estate in Ashchurch.

Mr Bryant, who said he has never seen anything like it before, has a theory on why there have been so many sightings in the area.

"It must be something to do with GCHQ. That's why they're here," he said.

Both Gloucestershire Police and the Royal Air Force said they had no reports of UFOs in the Tewkesbury area on Saturday night or Sunday morning.

Echo readers have been calling in with their sightings all over the Cotswolds and Cheltenham.

The flood of interest arose after UFO spotter Mr Ron Barrett of Little Rissington, near Bourton-on-the-Water, said he saw a strange formation of lights over the A40 at Northleach.

Last month, Tewkesbury and Cirencester MP Geoffrey Brown was told by the Ministry of Defence that there were down-to-earth explanations for most reported sightings.

Have you seen a UFO? Call the Echo newsdesk on 01242 526261.

Yorks UFO alert revealed

AIRFORCE personnel based in North Yorkshire spotted a UFO travelling at an incredible speed nearly 45 years ago,

according to a new book. Officers and aircrews at RAF Topcliffe near Thirsk watched a UFO follow a Meteor jet

which was approaching neighbouring RAF Dishforth near Ripon. The sighting took place at 10.53pm on

September 19, 1952, during the NATO exercise Operation Mainbrace. The episode is featured in Beyond Top Secret - The Worldwide UFO Security Threat, by UFO researcher Timothy Good.

Flight Lieutenant John Kilburn spotted the UFO as his jet was descending.

"The Meteor was crossing from east to west when I noticed the white object in the sky - silver and circular in shape about 10,000ft up, some five miles astern of the aircraft," reports Fl-Lt Kilburn.

He said as the Meteor turned to start its landing run the object appeared to be following it.

"Then it accelerated at an incredible speed to the west, turned south east and then disappeared."

The whole incident lasted only between 15 to 20 seconds.

"We are all convinced that it was some solid object. Our combined opinion was that it was something we had never seen before in a long experience of air observation."

One other pilot and four aircrew witnessed the object.

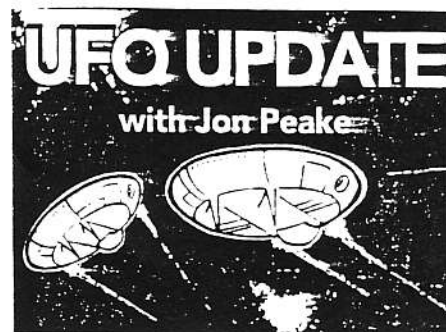
Beyond Top Secret is the fully revised and updated version of Above Top Secret which shot to the top of the best seller charts in 1987.

● Beyond Top Secret by Timothy Good (Macmillan, £16.99).

WIGAN REPORTER

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A MARSH GREEN man contacted UFO Update this week with an extraordinary tale. It happened two months ago and he has been scared ever since.

The 47 year old, who wishes to remain anonymous, told how he had seen a strange object hovering in the sky above Wigan as he walked his dog along the Leeds Liverpool canal.

What followed next is simply fascinating. "I heard a noise, it was like an ocean of waves," said the man. "A whooshing sound."

"Then the object started to plummet towards the ground."

He said he saw it drop to within a few feet of the ground then just stopped dead about a mile away.

"I was frightened to death and my dog was going nuts," he said.

The man described the object as a silver sphere shaped craft. It was about as big as a house and gave off a warm glow even from about a mile away.

He said, "I have never seen anything like it and I don't want to ever again."

"I have always thought that there must be something else out there, this confirmed it."

● IF you haven't got your entry in to win one of our fantastic UFO 'The Untold Stories' videos yet, get your skates on.

The closing date for the competition is June 14.

The 50 minute film, which contains five video footage, was described by the Daily Express as a staggeringly good documentary which attempts to shed some light on the great UFO mystery.

To win one of the copies answer the following question and send your entry into UFO Update, Wigan Reporter, Martland Mill, Martland Mill Lane, Wigan WN5 0LX.

Q: In what year did the famous Roswell incident happen. Was it A) 1947, B) 1957 or C) 1967.

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Flying triangle was definitely no aircraft

I MUST correct your reader's "correction" to the article on Flying Triangles, published on your letters page of May 29.

As President of the Charnwood UFO Research Group I have investigated many reports of UFO activity that have indeed turned out to be aircraft, dirigibles, laser-light displays etc.

However, the triangle sightings of May last year could not be explained in any such mundane way. Over 30 credible witnesses, some involved in the aviation business, sighted the craft and described it identically. Checks with Castle Donington and other local airfields confirmed the object sighted then was not an aeroplane or airship. To this day the sighting remains unexplained. Let PRB believe what he will; something large and triangular is flying. What exactly, is a matter for conjecture, but it is not an airliner and it is definitely not Venus. — KR Hargrave-Parsons, (President, CUFORG), Carendon Road, Coalville.

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The truth is out there

A POSTAL worker claims he has had a close encounter after two giant UFOs were spotted hovering over Burton in the latest of a string of sightings in the area.

Mr Tom Culleton has told how he lost 15 minutes of his life. He said he watched a craft "the size of a football pitch" gliding over homes in Winshill and had another dramatic sighting two nights later.

Now he wants to know whether any other people spotted the UFOs during the early hours of Wednesday and Friday last week.

UFO investigators say this was the latest of around 20 "flying triangle" sightings in the Burton and South Derbyshire area in the last month.

Mr Culleton has been a postal worker for nearly 30 years and is

representative for the Communications Workers' Union, which covers Burton.

He says he was travelling along the A50 during the early hours of May 1 to collect mail from Burton when he spotted a bright light in the sky. He stopped alongside Bretby Lane, and then saw "a great craft with lights all round it" gliding slowly over houses.

"It was like the body of a very large aircraft without wings, about 100 yards across. There were lights all round it, with windows at the side and a light at the rear was traffic light green."

"I'm a sceptic and am not interested in UFOs. But I saw what I did and that's it," said Mr Culleton.

He said he later realised he had

could not account for.

He says the second sighting happened near the Waterloo pub further down the road. He saw a massive triangular craft the length of a football pitch move towards him and bank to the left.

Mr Culleton says his second sighting was similar to the picture produced by the Derby-based Phenomenon Research Association, a worldwide organisation of around 70 members who have been investigating UFOs.

The case is now being investigated by the Association which says hundreds of "flying triangles" have been spotted all over the world since 1955.

Anyone who feels they may have seen one can contact group leader Mr

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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No UFOs here

ET is not about to make his home in the Cotswolds, an MP has assured his constituents.

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown was asked to look into the existence of flying saucers by a worried resident.

The Cirencester and Tewkesbury Conservative MP has now been told by the Ministry of Defence there is no chance of a close encounter with little green men.

Life? Not that we would know it

MANY people who spend their time researching UFOs and flying saucers seem to fall into one category — anoraks. writes *Justin Williams*.

Timothy Good is not one of them.

Mr Good, who is a profes-



NO ANORAK: Author Timothy Good

sional violinist who was educated at The King's School, Canterbury, and now lives in Beckenham, has, for 30 years, researched and written about UFOs and their possible explanations.

He has now become an authority on the subject and is often on television giving clear and well-argued responses to sightings of strange objects.

In his latest book — *Beyond Top Secret* — Mr Good attempts to show that not only is there a cover-up of evidence of extraterrestrial contact but that UFOs are increasingly presenting a threat to worldwide security.

His arguments are compelling. The book, which is a completely revised version of his 1987 bestseller *Above Top Secret*, is a thoroughly re-

searched and immaculately referenced work.

Ufology, as the study of flying saucers and strange objects has become known, is a weird subject attracting all kinds of weird and wonderful characters.

Many people who want to believe are turned off by the wild theories expounded without basis by the extreme believers in the subject. Mr Good does not fall into this trap and, as a result, his work has begun to move into the mainstream.

Turn the final page on *Beyond Top Secret* and the reader cannot fail to be swayed.

There is such a weight of evidence — some of it going back more than 50 years — that something is messing about in the skies above us

and the authorities in Britain, the United States and others know what it is.

Timothy Good presents evidence and arguments that seem to show that those authorities are deliberately withholding information.

Beyond Top Secret is a fascinating book on a subject which has seen very little in the way of proper unsensationalist research.

If you have only a passing interest in the subject you owe it to yourself to read this book. It is the most significant study of UFOs published to date.

Beyond Top Secret: The Worldwide UFO Security Threat is published by Sidgwick and Jackson price £16.99.

More than 10,000 sightings have been reported... I am convinced that these objects do exist.

Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding, Commander-in-Chief RAF Fighter Command, World War II



'The American public deserves a better explanation... we owe it to the public to establish credibility regarding UFOs'

President Gerald Ford



'If structured craft of unknown origin routinely penetrate the UK Air Defence Region, then at the very least this must constitute a potential threat'

Nick Pope, UFO Desk Officer, Ministry of Defence, 1991-94



GRANTHAM JOURNAL

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UFO spotted in Colsterworth

A SIGHTING of an unidentified flying object over Colsterworth is under investigation.

It was spotted by a woman from her window at about 2am three weeks ago.

Alan Smith, of the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association, said it was the second sighting in the Grantham area this year.

He said: "She was looking through her window and saw a strange formation of lights. It moved smoothly without a sound across the sky and then rose out of sight. It was wedge-shaped and covered with hundreds of lights."

On January 25, a Grantham family travelling home from Melton Mowbray spotted an object in the sky which was investigated and still remains a mystery.

Strange shapes in the sky seen over seafront

A SPATE of UFOs have been spotted in the Clacton area, it has been claimed.

Ron West, chairman of the Essex UFO Research Group, said there were five sightings recently.

Most were made on Clacton seafront and the first was at 10.10pm on Tuesday of last week when a person from Vista Road saw a triangular-shaped large object in the sky, and at the same time a resident from Peter Bruff Avenue saw a diamond-shaped object.

Then a person from Coppins Road saw a triangular-shaped object zig-zagging across the sky at 10.15pm last Wednesday and five minutes later a person from Talbot Avenue, Jaywick saw something similar.

If you spot anything spooky call Mr West on 01255 431291

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SCOTLAND ON SUNDAY

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Long and lonesome trawl through alien territory

photo: VHS 100 HVM Area 51 is a super-secret US Air Force test base north-east of Las Vegas. It also happens to be a hive of UFO activity, and the reclusive Mecca for ufologists. If an alien aircraft gets lost, all the navigator has to do is pull out the map and find it. An archive at <http://www.ratnery.ch/area51/ufophot.htm> contains some very satisfactory snapshots but none is later than 1978. Now we have cameras unceasingly sweeping our skies, you might expect an occasional UFO to appear on a satellite picture. If the weather forecasters have seen any, they are keeping very quiet. No doubt there is a handy conspiracy theory to explain the absence of UFOs from satellite images.

Under the Governor of Nevada recently named State Route 373 Extraterrestrial Highway. So what? It runs alongside Area 51. That's what. According to <http://area51.com>

Research Association at <http://time.med.nyu.edu/~cal/uforail>. It doesn't explain the purpose of its existence, but it is one of the few places which has pictures and news items among its offerings. The tone of the reports is neutral. A disclaimer accompanies the photographs of UFOs. Among the news articles is a report of a piece of metal found this year and alleged to have come from the Roswell crash. Curiously, the Roswell site doesn't mention it, which seems strange, as some at the Roswell UFO Museum say they have one. Believe that this bit of metal could be the smoking gun that will prove the alien aircraft theory.

The picture section, though small, is well done with thumbnails and file sizes. The thumbnails are enough as the full-sized images don't add much more to the usual array of UFO shapes on display. Whether the authors of this site are debunkers

If you want to know more about the Roswell incident in which an alleged UFO crashed in 1947 in New Mexico, look at <http://www.roswell.org/~a/site> dedicated to establishing what happened nearly 50 years ago. It takes the view that there is a cover-up over Roswell and is agitating for all US government information on UFOs and extraterrestrial intelligence to be declassified.

Believers seem to start from the premise that if a UFO cannot be explained, it must have come intentionally from outer space. This is a very large leap indeed, which credits science with more knowledge than it claims for itself. There is a newsgroup at <http://www.alienvisitors.com> where those who messages themselves from aliens will find a forum for their experiences along with those who enjoy arcane arguments.

A site which tries to have a foot in both camps is the Alberta UFO Society. It is an acronym, and writers such as Isaac Asimov among its founders. Its object is to inform the public of what the scientific community knows about paranormal experience. It does this mainly through its journal. It also posts archives of selected articles; for example, a surgeon's assessment of the Roswell autopsy film. There's a similar site with equally big names (Unibetro 1.0) at <http://www.stat.unibetro.com>

UFOs, unidentified flying objects — sound pretty innocuous don't they? There's a fuller and very earnest definition at <http://www.britain.com/ufos/bretnet/uforail.htm> and one for UFOs — same thing only water-based. The definition is more succinct. Doubtless there is more in heaven and earth than dreamt of in any philosophy, philosophy. And don't ask for proof of that statement. I have it got any. Back to UFOs. There are two camps, believers and sceptics. There's not much room for the don't know. Let's look at the sceptics first. There's a new group, www.1000000.com, which covers common questions about the paranormal, including a section on UFOs. Examples range from the basic, "What are UFOs?" to the sceptic, "Some UFOs have just passed a head of 'wings' from a UFO. What should I do?" It also discusses whether Uckel saw a flying saucer. What if

Circle closing in on crop mystery

THE hunt for crop circles receives its annual boost next month when expert Colin Andrews flies from his American base.

The former Andover resident, whose parents and daughter live in the town, will be joined by co-searcher, Reg Presley, famous Troggs singer who will be flying in from his villa in Spain.

They will join forces with Andover-based Busty Taylor, a third explorer for the truth.

There's a chance to quiz Colin and Busty at a conference in Cricklade College on 22 June, and also to hear from Hopi Indian, Robert Morningky.

In a faxed communication to the Andover Advertiser from America, Colin Andrews commented: "Reg, Busty and I are moving towards conclusion with the crop circles which we believe is very important to us all."

The local area has

provided vital data in Colin's research and last year samples from crop patterns in Andover, Whitchurch and Stockbridge were sent to a leading biophysicist in America.

Infra-red photographs taken from the air revealed some circles had been made by people but a significant number had not.

The American researchers have spent months studying the crop patterns, concentrating on two, including one at Cowdown, near Andover, and have appealed for aid to eliminate possible hoaxing before proceeding further.

In Japan a space and UFO museum has been developed with Colin helping with data on UFOs and crop circles.

In July he speaks at an international convention in Hakui city, followed by a briefing for government scientists in Canada and Helsinki before returning to his Connecticut home in late August.



MORE strange, unidentified flying objects have been spotted in the skies above Kirkcaldy.

Just weeks after a local couple videotaped a large, bright object hovering over their Templehall home, a resident in Dunblair spotted mysterious lights high above the rooftops.

The dad who saw 'the strange objects' says he's keeping an open mind while he seeks a logical explanation for the phenomena.

But he's ruled out helicopter or aircraft activity - and the appearance follows numerous UFO sightings across Scotland.

The witness, who asked to remain anonymous, stated: "Between 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. last Thursday night, three lights appeared in the sky.

"Initially I noticed two lights moving from west to east in line with the top of the houses but further back to the north of the estate.

Report by ANNA STEVEN

"They were going very slowly and moved back from east to west, then they were joined by a third light.

"Two of them then swept back over the same route again as if they were scanning across the horizon, then the third one went away.

"Scottish Power had advertised that they would be doing helicopter work recently but, when I contacted them, they said there had not been any activity last night - and RAF Leuchars said the same.

"The objects were definitely unidentified in that the motion was not like a helicopter motion and there was no noise. A friend of my daughter's had already said to her dad about the lights in the sky. She told me that two of them had crossed over - that was what I saw as well. It may be that others saw them too."

Mark Casali at the Royal Observatory on Edinburgh's Blackford Hill said it was "almost impossible" to say with certainty what someone had seen with a description like strange lights.

"If they are moving they are usually aircraft but if the light is moving very fast it could be a meteorite entering the atmosphere," he continued.

"If an object isn't moving it's likely to be a star or planet - we've had a number of calls recently about a bright light which turned out to be Venus."

He added that he was not aware of any unusual activity over Kirkcaldy.

Bizarre sightings puzzle residents

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'UFO' claims probed

UFO investigators Contact International have launched a probe into the sightings of a spooky beam of green light above Abingdon.

But after the Mail's story yesterday of the mysterious light, some eyewitnesses suggest it could have been a laser.

Carpenter Chris McClements, 29, of Sherwood Avenue, Abingdon, said he saw what seemed to be a laser beam shining into the night sky.

Bill Foley, an investigator with Oxford-based Contact International, said they were compiling reports on the phenomenon.

Anyone who saw the light can contact Mr Foley on 01869 244387.

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UFOs' good timing

AS The X-Files the cult TV programme about aliens, was showing on Australian TV, there were several reported sightings of UFOs over the Queensland city of Gladstone.

YORKSHIRE EVENING POST
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WORLD

The X-Files hit Australian TV last night, launching a spate of UFO sightings in the night sky over Queensland's coast.

Policeman Andrew Luhrs said he received several calls around 9 pm, in the middle of The X-Files, reporting strange lights in the sky. Luhrs said he and another officer went to investigate and found a strange, star-shaped light on the horizon. Meanwhile, New Zealand police are trying to unravel the mystery of a "blue" light also seen.