

New Bufora Journal

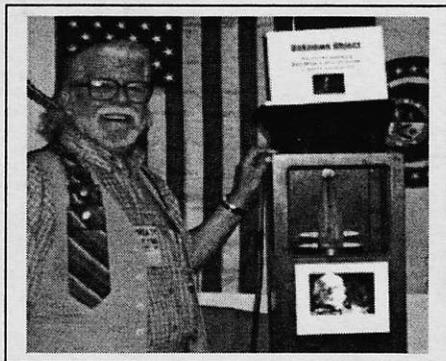
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Hessdalen : Science vs The Ufo



Case closed ?

*Time to close
the X-Files, say
UFO watchers*



Welcome to the Spring 2002 Launch Edition - NBJ 1-

*Also in this issue :-- Remote Overview ;--
Did Bob White find an "Alien" Artifact ?
Willenhall Watchers; A Twin Pupils
update; The Death of Ufology ?
Points from the press; Uforum*



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Spring 2002 Launch Edition

EDITORIAL



Hello Everyone,

Firstly, a big 'Thank You' to Brian James for producing the 'BUFORA BULLETIN' during his tenure as Editor. The positions of Chairman and Editor are each time-consuming and challenging on their own, and to have taken on both was a really tough task.

Brian has also had to stand down as Chairman ahead of the AGM. This is for personal reasons but he remains a member of Bufora and we hope he will continue to help out behind the scenes.

I am assuming the role I last filled between 1976 and 1981. I know there are members from that period who will recollect my 'stint' and be aware of my own approach to our subject. For more recent members I feel I can do no better than reproduce selected paragraphs from earlier editorials. Bear in mind, though, that whilst my personal proclivities remain unaltered, several references are considerably dated.....So.....

From the Autumn 1973 issue.....

"It is often suggested, and indeed on occasion I have wondered myself, whether it might be that media items/articles featuring UFOs are biased against the serious Research Associations: are poking fun or are 'out to get us', but is this really so?

We must remember that we – not unnaturally – have a vested interest in the way a programme is put out; the way in which an article is written. To the producer or feature writer, BUFORA or any other Society is just one facet of the UFO scene. A TV producer needs to obtain what he or she regards as 'a balanced programme'.

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..we're a small voice crying in the wilderness...

This may well involve such varied representatives of opinion as BUFORA, The Aetherius Society, The Ministry of Defence, Aunty Aggie, who's just seen a funny light wobbling about. An 'expert' who tells us 'saucers' can't exist because they're not aerodynamic and a schoolboy who thinks we're in imminent danger of a Martian invasion!

Small wonder that in the midst of this set-up we're a small voice crying in the wilderness, but, in my opinion, it is NOT a deliberate attempt to denigrate UFO research.....the post, too – letters aren't delivered: they arrive late: who or what is responsible? After considerable thought my conclusion is – The Post Office! You'll find the percentage of mail to ufologists going astray is near enough the same as that sent to everyone else!

Let us stop imagining and complaining of being singled out for 'anti-US' treatment by THEM, whoever THEM may be and instead exert our energies into channels that will show the authorities and media we are a body to be consulted and respected in the field of Ufology.

From July/August 1976.....

"One of BUFORA's aims is to encourage and promote unbiased scientific research into UFO phenomena. Few will quibble at this – certainly I have no such quibble myself. But – a point made on one of the 'INTO THE UNKNOWN' TV programmes some months ago sticks in my mind. It was said it is rare for those with apparent psychic or telepathic abilities to be able to produce these or their results under controlled scientific conditions, and the suggestion was put forward that such phenomena may not be susceptible to scientific investigation, or perhaps even the scientific method itself – Could this also be the case with UFOs?...and, if scientific method be abandoned, how then to proceed?

Stemming from the Latin *scire* – to know or discern, the word 'scientist' literally means 'one who seeks to know'. Its origins give no indication of how to pursue this – we have formulated our own methods. If – and it's a big 'IF' such methods do NOT apply in certain cases, including UFOs, then what method of enquiry should replace them? Any suggestions?

From Jan/Feb 1979.....

Are you a UFO 'Believer'. Well, are you? Do you? These questions are frequently put to me when lecturing or being interviewed, and my answer is 'No'. But before anyone, not to put too fine a point on it, demands my guts for garters, let me elaborate. 'No', I say, 'I'm not a UFO *Believer* – using the word in that sense implies an act of faith and I don't take them on faith. Rather I consider there is sufficient evidence to show UFOS *DO* exist. Indeed, such evidence in only ONE case is enough not to have to bring Faith into it! The

'UFO Believer' tag immediately suggests not just a 'belief' in UFOs, but also recognition they are extra-terrestrial vehicles, which does not necessarily follow. Certainly I admit I would LIKE this to be so, but we must always remember that if the answer to the UFO enigma were known and accepted there would be no need for us to research anyway! Hypotheses abound and, to give just one example, neither should we neglect implications raised by the not-inconsiderable number of cases evincing psychic effects of associations. Do YOU believe in UFOs?

Back to the present. As we all know, researchers generally – and that includes ME, will tell you that the vast majority of UFOs reported – between 90% and 97% according to the researcher, ARE explainable. However, that still leaves one heck of a lot of 'unexplainables', and many display characteristics of solid craft – whether spacecraft or otherwise! So far as contacts, abductions, time lapses etc. are concerned, let me just say I have at least a dozen friends here and in the USA who lay claim to at least ONE such experience and I have no reason to believe they're fabricating.

Perhaps the only thing I do NOT believe in – despite a current nod of approval from the O.E.D. is – splitting infinitives. One exception, though ----! To boldly go where no-one has gone before!

In a 'Farewell' message after editing 30 Journal issues I wrote in the first ever BUFORA BULLETIN of September 1981.....

".....Maybe at a future date when problems of time and finance are resolved I may once again have the pleasure – for despite the time involved it has been a pleasure – of again editing the BUFORA Journal in a format similar to the one it has hitherto maintained since its inception in 1964...."

Well, twenty years on that 'future date' has arrived. I've taken the liberty of changing 'Bulletin' back to 'Journal', but with a 'NEW'

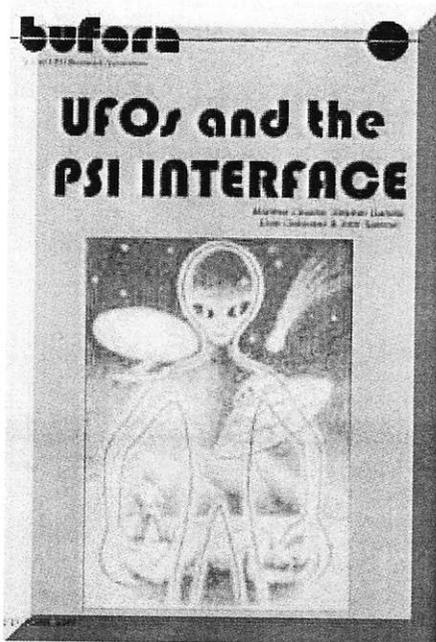
addition. 'Bulletin' was, I know, generally regarded as being somewhat ephemeral and understating, but no-one came up with a satisfactory substitute other than 'Journal'. So - the *New Bufora Journal* it shall be.

One last point. Since I last held the editorial reins, the production side of things has altered dramatically and I would like to say a personal 'Thank You' to Bob Digby for the amount of assistance he has given, and is still giving in this area.

NORMAN OLIVER

- o o o -

New Publication !



UFOs AND THE PSI INTERFACE

By Manfred Cassirer, Stephen Gamble,

Elsie Oakensen and John Spencer

In this publication, 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 experimenter) 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.

All members will have received a copy of this book, but further copies are available at £7.50 inc p&p.

Send cheques, postal orders or IMCs
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PROJECT HESSDALEN

Science v The UFO

By
Philip Mantle



While tales of alien abduction and government cover-ups are rife, little is heard of the most common of UFO sightings, that of the 'light-in-the-sky' (LITS). It is true that most LITS reports can be easily explained away, usually as aircraft lights, but also astronomical bodies such as bright stars and planets. But there is a small residue of such LITS reports that are not so easily explained. These often haunt certain geographical areas such as the Pennine Hills of Northern England, Marfa, Texas in the USA, and Hessdalen in central Norway. It was the LITS in Hessdalen that attracted the attention of UFO researchers from Norway and Sweden in the early 1980's, and since then many others from around the world. The Hessdalen LITS were the first to be subjected to scientific scrutiny using a whole host of hi-tech equipment. Hessdalen really was the scene of 'Science v The UFO'.

Hessdalen is a valley in central Norway. It lies southeast of Trondheim and about 30 kilometres northwest of the town of Roros. The whole valley stretches 12 kilometres in length and has only around 200 inhabitants. The valley is special for one very unusual thing; mysterious lights.

The First Appearance

In December 1981, unknown lights suddenly started to appear in the skies above Hessdalen. These lights could sometimes stand still for more than an hour. They were also seen to move around slowly before stopping, and sometimes they were observed travelling at a fast rate of speed. At one time the lights were tracked on radar and were estimated to be travelling at approximately 8,500 meters per second.

These lights were observed just about everywhere....

These lights were observed just about everywhere and more often than not they were below the horizon down in the valley and not high up in the sky. It has to be said that the vast majority of the lights were reported to be below the tops of nearby mountains. No one in Hessdalen could offer an explanation for these strange lights.

The Shapes of the Lights

The lights themselves appeared to have several different shapes. This was something that became quite apparent when the lights were photographed. The main shapes were; bullet shaped, with the sharp end down, a round football shape, and an upside down Christmas tree shape. There were other shapes but the above three were the main ones.

The colours of the lights were mostly white or a yellow/white. Sometimes a small red light could be seen amongst the white. On a few occasions the lights were made up of every colour in the rainbow. The lights could be observed several times a day, but they were seen more during the night. At the most they were observed four times a day. There were more reports of the lights in the winter rather than the summer. One reason for this might be the fact that in summer Hessdalen has almost perpetual daylight.

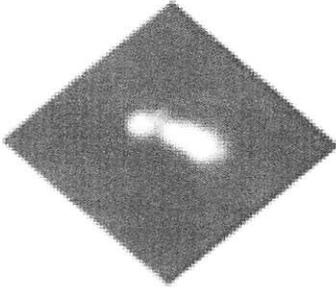


Photo taken by Arne Thomassen on 25th Oct 1982

The Colours of the Lights

The lights could be split into three groups:

1. Small and strong white or blue flashes which could show up everywhere in the sky.
2. Yellow or yellow/white lights. These lights were, more often than not, observed in the valley and below the horizon. Sometimes they were just above the rooftops and even down on the ground. They could appear stationary for more than an hour before slowly moving off around the valley, and sometimes they could show extremely fast acceleration and very fast speeds.
3. Several lights together at a fixed distance from each other. Mostly these were yellow or yellow/white lights with a red light at the front. These lights could move slowly around the tops of the mountains.

Continued Sightings

The reports of the strange lights carried on throughout 1982, but suddenly in the spring of 1983, sightings of them dropped rapidly. By the summer of 1983 there were no reports of the lights at all. However, in the autumn and winter of 1983 the sightings began again but in far fewer numbers than before. Things changed somewhat in the autumn of 1984 as the sightings began once more to increase.

As no official institute with governmental support in Norway seemed to be interested in these strange lights, five individual researchers began their own research project: Project Hessdalen. Their aim was simple, to discover what the lights in Hessdalen were. The project consisted of a working committee which had the responsibility of running the project, and an advisory committee to help the working committee in the theoretical part of the project. The advisors were also there to act as an 'expert' group to answer questions from others involved in the project.

Project Hessdalen Begins

Project Hessdalen managed to obtain good contacts in a number of institutions in Norway including the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment, The University of Oslo, the University of Bergen and also the University of Trondheim. Some of the Project's team had made contact with these establishments in the past in the course of other research.

The UFO research groups of both UFO Norway and UFO Sweden along with many volunteers began their field studies of the Hessdalen lights in January 1984. A wide variety of sophisticated instrumentation was to be used in order to try and get to grips with the unknown lights. Such instrumentation included a battery of cameras, radar, spectrum analyser, geiger counter, and much more.

No sooner had the field study began in snow-bound Hessdalen valley than the project began to obtain some positive results. On January 27, 1984, the lights were seen by project members and on radar. At 5.32 pm an oblong-shaped light was observed. The light was observed moving away over the mountains and out of sight. The light had a white and red colour to it which blinked at uneven intervals. On January 28 at 3.49 pm something was detected on radar but nothing was seen with the naked eye. On January 29 there was again an echo on the radar but again nothing was seen by the eyes of the

gathered observers. On the February 1st, numerous radar returns were made but again the lights remained elusive to the ground observers. Later that night an oblong-shaped light was observed by 11 people and it was also photographed. Throughout the remainder of the project numerous observations of the lights would be made and they were photographed on many occasions.

Instrumentation

The instruments used for the project were many and varied. They included:-

A camera with a special filter which could be used to analyse the light spectrum. A seismograph was used to measure any movements in the Earth's crust, just in case the lights were related to small earthquakes. None were registered. Radar recordings totalled 36, three of which coincided with observations made by the projects observers. Two photos of the radar screen were taken depicting the returns. The project also used a spectrum analyser connected to an antenna so that all radio signals could be monitored on a screen. At no time did this instrument pick up anything unusual. A magnetometer was used to measure any variations in the Earth's magnetic field. There were none. A laser was pointed at the lights a total of nine times. Eight out of the nine times the lights seemed to respond to the laser by altering the way they were flashing. Geiger counters were used to measure any radiation but nothing unusual was recorded. An infrared viewer was also used but on the two occasions when the lights were observed using this instrument there was no infrared radiation visible.

The camera was probably the most effective of all the instruments used. Dozens of colour photographs were taken. Those taken by using a long exposure showed the round or oval lights. All the cameras were tripod mounted to reduce blurring. The lights were photographed in the sky, just above the mountain tops and of course down in the Hessdalen valley itself. Computer analysis of some of the photographs was inconclusive.

UFO Laboratory

A similar exercise was attempted again in the winter of 1985, but due to extremely bad weather conditions it was not possible to repeat the success of the 1984 project. American UFO researcher, the late Dr J. Allen Hynek, who was at one time a consultant to the official United States Air Force UFO study, Project Blue Book, visited the 1985 Hessdalen project. It was to be one of his last field trips before he died later that same year. Dr. Hynek described the project as "a UFO laboratory" and was extremely impressed by the results of the 1984 project and of the efforts of all those involved.

Since that time Project Hessdalen has been discussed and debated in many countries around the world. The lights, although still there, are not in such profusion as they were in 1984. Some equipment still monitors the area and the researchers involved still hope to set up camp in the Hessdalen valley once again should the lights return in large numbers.

It has been speculated that the strange lights could be related to some kind of weather phenomenon, or to lights produced by faults in the earth's crust termed 'earthlights'. Some believe that a solid structure lies behind the lights, but no one knows for sure what they are. They remain truly unidentified.

Still Unidentified

In the spring of 1994 a group of 20 scientists attended a workshop in Hessdalen which lasted for four days. These included Professor Boris Smirnov from the Institute of High Temperatures in Moscow, Russia, Professor David Fryberger from the Stanford Linear Accelerator in the USA, and Professor Yoshi Ohtsuki from Waseda University in Japan. All agreed that the Hessdalen lights were 'real' and not illusions of any kind and that they were worthy of further scientific study. UFOs had been promoted into the scientific premier league.

UK based researcher Paul Devereux, who is part of the Project Hessdalen consultancy team and was at the four day workshop in 1994, continues to work closely with Project Hessdalen leader Erling Strand. Both have ventured far and wide to research similar types of light phenomenon in other parts of the world.

Today, 17 years after Project Hessdalen, where UFO Norway and UFO Sweden joined forces to complete one of, if not the most complete scientific study of UFO's conducted by any civilian UFO group, sightings are still being reported. The local population still regularly report sightings direct to UFO Norway. Local people have reported both lights-in-the-sky and apparent structured, cigar-shaped UFOs. Recent sightings (year 2001) include a report by Mr. F. Moen on April 13. In a valley west of Hessdalen his son observed a fast moving light for over 20 minutes. Throughout the sighting the light continued to change colour as it moved about the sky. Earlier in the year, on March 28 Mr Tor Gaserud was driving towards the town of Roros when he observed a blue-green light close to the mountain ridge. The light was observed for around 20 seconds. Right at the beginning of the year Mr Peder Gronas and his grandson Bjarne Lillevold were driving towards Hessdalen when they observed a bright light just above the mountain. Whatever these LITS are, they continue to be observed in and around the Hessdalen region as these few sightings clearly show.

Automatic Measurement Station

Equipment still monitoring the Hessdalen valley includes an Automatic Measurement Station (AMS). This is a video camera linked to a video recorder and a computer system. The camera takes photos at regular intervals but it is also triggered if a light source appears. An improved AMS is on the drawing board but funds are required to upgrade the equipment already there. When such plans can be accomplished is solely dependent on how much money can be raised from sponsors. The main sponsor today has been

Ostfold University College in Norway. The amount of money so far generated has not yet achieved the desired result: to solve the Hessdalen Phenomena. Further plans for Project Hessdalen include:

Expanding the Automatic Measurement Station.

Develop and run a database, with a web interface.

Analyse data and begin the necessary activities to find the answers to the Hessdalen Phenomena.

Develop small AMS that can be installed in other places with high UFO activity.

Become a sponsor of Project Hessdalen

Project Hessdalen is run mainly on a voluntary basis, with individuals spending their own time and money to try and resolve the puzzle of the Hessdalen lights. With proper funding so much more and even a resolution to this puzzle could be found. The AMS requires further equipment and without funding it is unlikely to be up-graded in the near future.

Financial assistance is required to purchase the right equipment, install it and set it to work. Money is also required to pay people to work on the project which in turn will speed things up rather than waiting for volunteers all the time.

Project Hessdalen, the "UFO LABORATORY" as termed by the late DR Hynek, needs your support. Donations and sponsorship both large and small are more than welcome. If you would like to become a sponsor you can contact Mr. Erling Strand on: telephone +47 41425 411, or fax: 0047 69168018. Or you can write to him c/o:
UFO NORWAY, PO BOX 124, N-31363
Borgheim, Norway.

More information on Project Hessdalen can be found on the web site: www.hessdalen.org

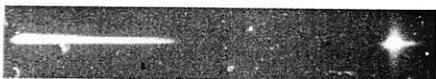
ON-GOING INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

In August 2000 and 2001 Italian astrophysicists joined their Norwegian counterparts in a joint study of the phenomenon. Again a whole battery of equipment was used as part of this study including radio spectrum analysers, cameras, video cameras and spectroscopes. The head of the Italian team is Massimo Teodorani, PhD, and astrophysicist from Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche in Bologna, Italy. The Italian Committee for Project Hessdalen financed his project. In a full interview with US researcher Linda Moulton Howe Teodorani concluded that the Hessdalen lights are "Thermal plasmas of unknown origin". This full interview can be located on the web site at: <http://earthfiles.com/earth301.htm>

The mysterious lights in and around the Hessdalen Valley continue to amaze and mystify. Attempts to pin them down scientifically have not yet fully succeeded, but information of a wide variety has already been obtained. With the right sponsorship it is hoped that an answer will be found. Until that time, the Hessdalen lights do remain truly 'unidentified'.

THE INSTRUMENTATION USED DURING PROJECT HESSDALEN

Camera with grating.



Special gratings were used in order to try and establish what kind of light source was present. Ordinary 35 mm cameras were also used to great effect. The cameras fitted with the special grating were used to try and obtain spectral analysis of the LITS. Only four photos taken using the special grating proved

to be of any use. The results of these pictures were inconclusive.

Seismograph.

A MEQ-800 portable seismic system was used in Project Hessdalen. It has been suggested that the LITS were the result of earth movements and the seismograph was used to check to see if there was any correlation between earth movements and manifestations of the LITS. No seismic movements were noted in connection with the LITS.



Radar.

Atlas 2000 radar was used as part of the project. It had a maximum distance of 33 kilometres and at times did make recordings. A total of 36 radar recordings were made.

Spectrum Analyser.

This piece of equipment was used to check and see if there was any electrical interference caused by the LITS. A Hewlett Packard spectrum analyser was used which swept from 150 kHz to 1250 MHz continuously. Nothing was recorded in connection with the LITS.

Magnetometer.

There were some suggestions that the LITS may be associated with a magnetic field. Could the LITS be caused by magnetic storms for example? A Fluxgate Magnetometer, model FM100, serial 73 was used. No correlation was found with the LITS.

Laser.

A 633nm laser from Spectra-Physics Inc. was used to see if the LITS would react to a strong light source aimed at them. The laser was aimed at the LITS on nine separate occasions. Eight out of nine times the LITS reacted as a result, usually changing the pattern of their flashing.

Geiger counter.

Used to measure background radiation they were also used to check for any increase in radiation readings in locations where the LITS had been seen close to the ground. None were recorded.

Infrared Viewer.

Two FJM, model 80045 IR - viewers were used to check for any IR radiation from the LITS. None was detected.

INTERVIEW WITH ODD-GUNNAR ROED

One of the leading researchers for UFO Norway and Project Hessdalen is Mr Odd-Gunnar Roed from Tonsberg in southern Norway. I recently caught up with Mr Roed in Norway and what follows is an extract from a much longer interview I conducted with him in August 2001.

Philip Mantle (PM).
Odd-Gunnar Roed (OGR).

PM: When did you first become interested in UFO's?

OGR: AS far back as I can remember, when I was about 4-5 years old, I can remember being the potato cellar with my Granddad, I can remember asking him about the universe and the possibility of life in space, and luckily he was interested in the subject and he did not put me off, so sometimes I feel as if I'm born with this interest in a way.

PM: What part did you play in the Project Hessdalen team?

OGR: My title was Project Co-ordinator. Mostly I was responsible for distributing the results of our research; being distributed to people in Norway and around the world. I prepared a bulletin which was distributed to selected scientists and large UFO groups.

PM: Have you witnessed the Hessdalen lights yourself?

OGR: Yes. I have. In 1984 during the project in January, everyone attending could see the lights; you could almost set your watch to the phenomena. For several weeks the lights appeared almost every 2 hours around the clock. I saw the typical orange-red light travel through the valley from south to north and I also observed a rare sight which appeared like a dozen flash bulbs going off within one and a half seconds and then nothing and then the same thing happened a little further to the north.

PM: What do you believe causes the Hessdalen lights?

OGR: Well that is almost an impossible question to answer. First these lights appear intelligent then on the other hand they don't appear to be that intelligent, as they are travelling through this remote valley doing absolutely nothing. We never witnessed anything of a structured nature, only lights. However, the local people have reported close encounter type cases and close-up UFO sightings of cigar shaped objects. We have had the lights react to us, for example, we decided to turn off our instrumentation and the sightings increased, when we decided to turn it back on again the sightings decreased. This was when we decided to do this, not when we actually hit the switch. So you can see, it is very difficult to answer this question but I would go as far to call these lights an intelligent natural phenomena.

PM: Do you think that science will find an answer to the Hessdalen lights or will they remain unidentified?

OGR: I think that science will find an answer. The question comes down to money. If we remove the term UFO and go down the route of trying to locate a new form of energy then companies from around the world will undoubtedly come on board. These lights could open up a new avenue of physics and we have had scientists from the USA and Russia comment on the lights and have ruled out conventional explanations such as ball lightning. The world of science must continue to study these lights without a doubt.

PM: Do you believe that Project Hessdalen has obtained enough evidence to prove the existence of such an anomalous phenomena to the scientific community?

OGR: Yes and No. We have several hundred photographs that baffle scientists to begin with. A number of these have been computer analysed and some of these showed that the lights illuminated the landscape beneath and we have regular photos taken by automatic field station there. Erling Strand of Project Hessdalen is the brain behind this and it really is worth a visit to our web site to see all these photos and more. So I am convinced that we have enough evidence to prove to scientists that these lights do exist and that they remain unidentified.

PM: UFO research in Norway is not just about Project Hessdalen, so what other significant cases are there in Norway?

OGR: Like most countries there are a lot to choose from. We had an interesting 2 weeks in November 1981 in Arendal, the same lights occurred there and then appeared in Hessdalen. Again, a lot of photos were taken in Arendal. If you could go further south in Norway we had 30 witnesses observe a 'necklace' of lights in-between the islands. It looked like a large ship all lit up. It went on and off several times and other lights seemed to land in the sea and a purple light

illuminated the seas from underneath. There were also 2 searchlight-like beams pointing inland but they did not seem to cast any shadows. The light was very bright and very puzzling. This has gone on for over 10 years and we can't figure it out.

PM: What is the most baffling UFO case that you have personally investigated?.

OGR: In the mountains of central Norway in the Easter of 1991 I was shown a picture from a newspaper showing some strange marks in the snow. Apparently there were 7 friends taking a vacation in the mountains over the Easter period, and they were staying in a cabin above the snowline. They observed this large orange circle of light with a red light underneath. It floated around in the air before it actually touched the ground 3 times all the while illuminating the snow. The next day they all went to investigate the area they located 3 marks in the snow. They were round marks which were circles within circles. They formed a triangular pattern. They were about 50cm in diameter and there was a yellowish-brownish colour to them as well. About 2 weeks later one of the witnesses took me to the site and I located the marks. I took samples from the marks, within the marks, and one from about 215 meters away. We had the samples analysed at a college and they stated that the control sample was fine, the sample between the marks was just about normal, but the sample from the marks was completely sterile, they suggested that this could have been caused by radiation. Our geiger counter showed no adverse radiation readings, so we were completely at a loss to explain it. This is probably the most baffling case that I have ever investigated.

PM: Are there any interesting UFO photos from Norway?

OGR: We have one taken by an elderly lady in 1983 of a 'flying dustbin'. The negative was originally sent to the authorities here who 'lost' it. The lady in question saw the object

and photographed it and it looks like a flying dustbin with a light on it.

PM: What cooperation if any have you had from the Norwegian military?

OGR: We have had quite good co-operation with them over Project Hessdalen so we can only compliment them. I believe they checked us out first just to make sure we were not a bunch of fanatics, but in Hessdalen they helped us a great deal.

PM: Apart from the Hessdalen lights, what do you believe is the nature and origin of UFOs?

OGR: This is another impossible question to answer. I think it could be a combination of things. Of course there is a large degree of unidentified natural phenomena but we must not rule out some of the testimony from abductees. Some of this information is very puzzling and if taken literally I would not rule out ET visitations but I can't be 100 % positive about this.

PM: Last but not least, what do you have to say to the sceptics?

OGR: Take off the blinkers and keep an open mind because there is something very strange going on and we must keep an open mind at all times.

END

About the author:

*Philip Mantle is the former Director of Investigations for the British UFO Research Association and was the MUFON Representative for England. He is a well-known international lecturer on the subject of UFOs and is the co-author of 'WITHOUT CONSENT' and 'BEYOND ROSWELL'. He can be contacted at: Philip Mantle, 1 Woodhall Drive, Batley, West Yorkshire, England, WF17 7SW. E-mail: philipmantle@email.com
Web Site: www.beyondroswell.com*

WILLENHALL WATCHERS

The following account was sent in by BUFORA member Mrs. J. in response to the recent questionnaire:-

"My sighting occurred way back, on 25th. September 1987....."

It was a Friday evening: I'd settled my baby son of 11 months on the sofa: he was fast asleep. I was watching Marti Caine on a talent show she was hosting and was looking forward to watching Penny & Vince after I'd popped into the kitchen for a cuppa and noticed a huge garden spider - which I hate - on the wall. So, from 8.30pm. I kept watching through the bay window for my husband, who had phoned earlier to say he'd be back about 9pm. - he'd soon get rid of that spider!

Our house was positioned on an embankment of a dual carriageway and I'd drawn the four curtains so that there was about a 4-inch gap between each of them. This particular dual carriageway up to the M5/M6 is usually quite busy, especially on a Friday night. On the farthest side is a little shop in a row of houses and, on my side, two houses down, is an Esso garage.



The weather that night was very good, though the sky was not clear enough to see stars and was very black against the lighting of the carriageway. There was not much traffic, just the odd car.

As I looked through one gap in the curtains, I caught sight of a large, extremely bright white light positioned about 10ft. above the shop roof. My first thought was that this was a light aircraft or helicopter about to crash into my house. So, I went quickly to grab my little son and high-tail it out of there, but, for some reason, I stopped short of picking him up and went back for another look.

The light was still there, in the same position: then it just disappeared and I was searching all around, up, down and across the sky. Then, within 3-4 seconds it was back, like turning on a torch light, in exactly the same place. There was no sound of aircraft. Then it dimmed and began to move towards the house. It was then I realised this must be a UFO and felt panicky. Silly as it sounds I thought, 'Don't beam me up, I have a little baby here.

Instead of tearing the curtains open - probably the normal response - to get a better look, I just moved from gap to gap in the curtains and caught sight of it in the last bay window as it crossed diagonally over the carriageway, only a small white light now visible.

I then ran quickly through to the back garden to get a better look and caught sight of the object passing very, very low over the next house but one. Whatever it was, it was very, very black and I could not properly make out the shape, but there were three small white lights positioned at the back and one at the front, the distance across from these being, in my estimation, around 6 to 7ft. Then it was away over the rooftops of the next lot of houses.

Later I learned from an acquaintance of my parents-in-law who had been on his way home about the same time, that he'd seen exactly the same white light passing over the carriageway farther up.

Since that night I've had many years to reflect. I do feel I was experiencing the 'OZ Factor' which I've read about - the light was

very hypnotic. The whole experience lasted about 5-6 minutes and I feel they were just waiting for me to observe them before moving on.

I used to find it quite disturbing to think that maybe a craft could be surveying you right outside your house at such a very low altitude and able to disappear totally, then reappear in the blink of an eye. Now I feel one of the privileged to have seen such an extraordinary sight, and even after 14 years, hope to see them again. Who knows, maybe to 'them', 14 years is just the blink of an eye!"

-oOo-

Further to her own experience, our member also mentioned that her brother-in-law had had a sighting of red and green lights darting amongst trees in the Cannock Chase area during the same month. She also enclosed two press cuttings of a UFO seen by two policemen, Sergeant Griffiths and Police Constable Powell over Willenhall in January 1988. This was of a large spinning object with flashing red and green lights around it's perimeter. The UFO flew silently overhead, then disappeared at high speed.

Our thanks to Mrs. J. for the reports.....

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REMOTE OVERVIEW

Steve Gamble

The new joint BUFORA/SPI Lecture programme has been issued and amongst the talks on offer was one on Saturday April 13th by Maxine Pearson on Remote Viewing.

Some time ago I investigated Remote Viewing and undertook some training. I wrote about these experiences in detail for Quest magazine, but thought it might be worth including a brief summary here.

The courses I attended were arranged by Mike Hall and Roy Farrell in Suffolk and were given by David Morehouse.



Left - David Morehouse.
Ran courses at Remote Viewing Technologies in Suffolk :-
RVT,
45, Spencer Way,
Stowmarket,
Suffolk,
IP1 4UB

So what is remote viewing? Well the definition that is in the manual we were given states "the acquisition and description, by mental means, of information blocked from ordinary perception by distance, shielding or time". But the best way I can describe it is a structured form of clairvoyance or Out of Body Experience (OOBE) directed towards a specific target.

Both the US and Soviet military had run psychic programmes during the cold war. Military remote viewing in the USA followed on from early experiments by psychic Ingo Swann. The military then placed contracts with research groups such as Stanford

David became aware of his psychic powers after being accidentally shot in the head..

Research Institute (SRI) to develop and refine the technique.

David had been a member of a US military remote viewing team and has written a book "Psychic Warrior" about remote viewing and his experiences in the project. When I read the book it struck me that many of the phenomena he described were just like the events many UFO abductees describe.

David became aware of his psychic powers after being accidentally shot in the head during a training exercise. He was later recruited into the US Army's remote viewing programme where his newly discovered powers were put to good use. The courses he gives are based upon the technique he learned whilst in the military. The idea behind the training scheme was that it would develop the dormant psychic abilities that it was proposed everybody had. The scheme was derived from that developed by SRI and consisted of six stages.

It appears that in the early 1990s several of these psychic programmes were transferred to civilian research organisations run by former military officers. After leaving the Army David formed, with Colonel Dennis Nagy, Remote Viewing Technologies (RVT). RVT specialises in providing remote viewing services to law enforcement agencies across the USA and in training remote viewers.

David explained that in parallel with the normal physical world there was what he called a psychic matrix. Remote viewing worked by tapping into this matrix. At this point I imagined that it would be like turning on a TV picture in your mind - certainly I never got any clear pictures like that. Whilst concentrating on what the target may be I did

get fleeting impressions of shapes but nothing I could firmly say was me locking into the psychic matrix David had mentioned. Therefore it was something of a surprise that a number of my results reflected to a certain extent the target picture. Given that David knew what some of the target pictures were you could argue that some form of telepathic process was going on, but surely that is a phenomenon worth investigating anyway. In "UFOs and The PSI Interface" I make a case for connections between these different paranormal phenomena.

The bottom line is that nobody really knows how it works, just that it seems to work. Whatever is picked up is sensed by the unconscious mind. Information from the unconscious is normally blocked by the conscious mind. David said that as people develop remote viewing ability pathways develop which let the information flow through. It could be that what comes through these pathways is pure fantasy, or it could be some telepathic process or it could be genuine new information. I don't think I know enough yet to work out which. But what is of more interest to me is that the imagery involved seems to be very similar to that which UFO abductees describe, so it gives me a possible means to investigate the UFO abduction mechanism.

Earlier lectures I had heard on remote viewing left the impression that there were no drawbacks and remote viewing was 100% accurate. However, David also discussed a number of drawbacks with the technique, which in my opinion gave a more balanced consideration of the subject. One was that the accuracy of any individual viewing session varied between zero and eighty-five percent looking at known targets. That seemed consistent with witness reports of any event, not just psychic events.

Because of this wide variability, several people working independently should view any 'unknown' target and the common elements extracted from their results. The military had only used the results of remote

viewing if it could be backed up with evidence from other sources – using it more as an indicator of where to look for an answer rather than a definitive answer in itself. Of course, one of the problems with using remote viewing as a method of investigating paranormal events is that it would be virtually impossible to obtain appropriate independent confirmation.

Certainly I had a good time on the courses I attended and David Morehouse made it both an interesting and enjoyable experience. Most paranormal phenomena are random spontaneous events. Remote Viewing seems to be a technique that can be taught to people with no apparent psychic abilities and can be turned on at will. This leaves remote viewing open to proper scientific investigation. I don't think I have enough information yet for me to finally decide if remote viewing is just fantasy, some form of telepathy or if I am really plugging into a psychic matrix, but I think it did give me some valuable insights into UFO close encounter experiences. But then maybe, as David would say, "Steve - you're being too analytical again!"

On a related topic, in April 2001 Lee Heather gave a very interesting talk about remote viewing at the BUFORA London Lecture. He explained how he had become involved in remote viewing and how Dr Courtney Brown had trained him. (Courtney Brown has also written a couple of books about remote viewing – *Cosmic Voyage* and *Cosmic Explorers*.) Several people approached Lee at this lecture and asked about training in remote viewing techniques. At that time he was unable to offer any training due to time constraints. Recently he contacted BUFORA and held a four-day training in genuine controlled remote viewing in West London at the end of February 2002. Interested parties can send their postal address and he will send them information, including a booklet describing the RV process and what to expect from training. The email address to send enquiries is:

leejh@breathe.com

Artifact or What ?

Bob White's
Strange Encounter
By Norman Oliver

During my annual visit to the Eureka Springs Ufo conference in Arkansas last April, I came across leaflets advertising 'The Museum of the Unexplained' in Reed's Spring, Missouri. A reference was made to the "Bob White" encounter which resulted in his obtaining a "Ufo Object", an artifact of some description, which was on display there.

The following week, my wife and I were staying with friends, Norm and Brigitte Mark in a place called Cassville, which was only 25 miles away from the museum. We decided to pay the museum a visit. Our choice of day proved not to be the best, since heavy rain slowed down our progress through the hills and Reeds Spring proved to be a "One Street Town" with only a few hundred inhabitants. Nevertheless, there were a number of shops, amongst which we easily located the museum.

Quite a number of exhibits were on display, mainly associated with Roswell, coupled with details of Missouri "Ufo Hotspots" such as the "Joplin Ghost Lights", a recurring phenomenon. However, the 'Piece de Resistance' was the 'Bob White' object contained within a transparent cover.

Bob himself founded the museum a few years back and was on hand to give Norm and myself full details of his experience. A likeable man of around 70 years old, Bob's career, coupled with that of his big brother, had centred on the entertainment industry and he had retired a few years previously.

We had an interesting chat and Bob told us the full story connected with his "Ufo object".....

This isn't a railroad light !

Prior to his experience, Bob was living in Branson, Missouri. He is unsure of the year that it occurred, but it must have been in the early 90's - probably 1991 or 92.

Bob waited until he retired in 1996 to have the object examined and analysed because he and his brother were working 'in tandem' and they did not want any media notoriety to interfere with their performances. At the time of the incident, he wasn't even interested in the subject of Ufo's and did not even consider the possibility of Extra - Terrestrial involvement. It was only later when he 'went public' that this was put to him.

As he says, the exact date was not important to him but what happened was this.....

Bob had been working at a nightclub in Denver, Colorado and had a few days to spare before his next engagement. He decided to go to Las Vegas for a break. A lady friend - Jan - who had been appearing at the same club, offered to drive him there overnight, as that was her destination also.

Jan was at the wheel and they were driving along Highway 6 just outside Grand Junction, Colorado at 2.30am. The road had been deserted for miles - something not uncommon even in daytime in many southern states.

Bob had dozed off in the passenger seat when Jan woke him to ask what the bright orange light ahead might be. As they were driving beside a freight line, he suggested it was "railroad lights" and promptly dozed off again. A minute or so later, Jan nudged him again, saying "This isn't a railroad light !".....



Photo shows Bob (Left) and Norm looking at the object.

The object was bright orange and appeared to be about the size of the Harvest moon. The skies were very clear and as there was no traffic Jan shut off the ignition and switched off the headlights. They coasted along the road with the light having moved from their right, now appearing on their left, due to a curve in the road. The size of the light had now grown to that of a large barn. It was about a couple of hundred feet up, very bright and ovalish in shape.

Jan stopped the car and Bob got out on the passenger side and went to the front to get a better look. It was so bright that he could not make out whether there was a solid object inside. He walked forward a few yards and then Jan turned the headlights full on. At this, the object shot up rapidly and connected with what looked like two blue neon tubular lights at around - maybe a thousand feet up. There was then a small explosion from the objects and something luminous fell from them.

Bob saw this object coming down and took cover as he wasn't sure where it was going to land. Fortunately, it came down on the other side of the embankment to where he was crouching. He clambered over towards it and saw that it appeared to be a symmetrically shaped piece of metal, still glowing slightly. From where he was standing there seemed to be little heat emanating from it though.

He went back to the car and found a large old glove in the boot of the car and returned to pick up the object. He dragged the glove over it and it did not seem hot. It was just a bit warm so he picked it up in the glove and put it in the boot of the car. Jan was almost having hysterics in the car and had not been aware of what he had done and Bob was not about to tell her !

A few miles along the road was an all night café and they stopped there for a coffee. They were talking about the occurrence when a couple of men from a nearby table came over and said "You saw something - didn't you ?"

They then went on to mention that strange luminous objects had frequently been seen in the vicinity. Also, that whether reported to the police or the military, no notice was ever taken.

The men suggested they phone in a report of the incident, since as strangers to the area that might lead to some action. As they left, Bob did so but was told that it must have been a weather balloon or a reflection. Bob did not mention the object he had as evidence.

The object was originally several inches longer. Over time, small sections have been shaved off, to enable examination by various people at various labs. Bob never liked to let the thing out of his sight !

It is certainly what I would term an "artifact" as there seemed to me to be a definite raised form of pattern all over it. This shows up ok when you look at it or on the video he has

made. It is not so clear from just a small photo.



A closer look at the "artifact"...

Over several years Bob has given many shavings to various laboratories, investigators and researchers for analysis. Indeed, he still continues to do so.

However, more often than not, he is frustrated by the lack of any positive response – or sometimes any response at all. The sample has been lost or mislaid by the recipient; test results have not materialised; analysis has not been followed up and so it goes on.....

Bob lists over a dozen individuals and labs involved with either inconclusive results or no results at all ! An X-Ray analysis revealed that it was a very pure form of Aluminium casting, verified by another source that also mentioned other trace elements.

To check the purity, Bob took the object round to a number of foundries in Missouri and elsewhere. Without exception, they could not duplicate the object.

Currently I am in correspondence with Bob to check the present position.

Interestingly, whilst he started out by not considering the object to be Extra – Terrestrial, following various rebuffs, non – examinations, misleading or totally lacking reports, along with various pieces of "advice" from all the sources he has used – he has come to the conclusion that it could well be Extra – Terrestrial ! I will keep you posted.....

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WHAT'S YOUR OPINION -?

This will be a regular NBJ feature. In each issue, I shall be including a report, maybe from the past, maybe nearer the present, which appears to be a "one-off". Readers are invited to send in their comments. Ed

This intriguing case was first published by me in the May 1980 BUFORA JOURNAL. I have heard of no developments or enquiries since then, though that is not to say there have been none. The events - insofar as the microbe itself is concerned - are, without question, factual. Whether it actually came from an alien craft is, of course, disputable. There is the obvious connection of 'Angel Hair' stated to have emanated from the craft, but it would probably be difficult to prove that the substance in which the microbe was found was in fact part of this, though it would seem to be the logical conclusion.

After the article was published I received a further communication from Mr. J.M Andrade in which he included a detailed analysis and description of the substance 'Angel Hair' - 'Fibrilvina'. This is appended at the end of the original account. Ed.

Unknown organism from 'Angel Hair'
(As originally published in the BUFORA JOURNAL of May 1980)

Mr. J.M. Andrade, UK representative of CEAFI - Centre for Astronomical Studies and Unexplained Phenomena of Oporto, Portugal - has recently passed full details to BUFORA of the extraordinary 'Evora' case of 1959, which was recorded by Raul Berenguel, author of UFOs - Door to the year Zero, and also Director of CEAFI's Special Studies Dept - in issue No.28, May 1979 of CEAFI's magazine Insolito.

Briefly, on 2nd. November 1959, an extraordinary event occurred in the city of Evora, Southern Portugal - an event which only came to light in recent years. Mr. Andrade tells me that for a long time this event was only known to a handful of people - partly because of the Portuguese political

situation, partly because of general scepticism on the subject of UFOs at that time. However, in mid 1976, CEAFI first came across details of the occurrence, a UFO report that also included the discovery of an unknown organism. Immediately, CEAFI commenced further investigations to try to discover the people involved: after two years they succeeded, and at the First Iberic Congress of Ufology, which took place in Oporto on 7-8 October 1978, there came to light via papers from Raul Berenguel and Joaquim Fernandes (Editor of Insolito), full details of the event, together with the names of Doctors, Professors and Biologists finally being presented. (These are on file).

Evora, about 80 miles east of Lisbon, is a main county town of Alentejo and, at about midday on 2 November 1959, two unidentified aerial objects flew over the town, one of them being observed telescopically by the Director of the Technical School. Then, on the town and its environs, there fell a rain of a white, gelatinous substance 'Angel Hair', or, in Portuguese, 'Fibrilvina'.

In all, this 'rain' continued over a period of about four hours. At the Technical School, they managed to gather up a few of these filaments and put them under microscopic examination and through a number of tests. During one of these examinations an apparently unknown microbe was discovered and a series of microphotos taken. The news was not released to the press, but the case aroused considerable scientific interest, since the opinion of the Professor-in-Charge inclined to this microbe being something completely new to the world of Biology.

Those involved included respected names both at Evora Industrial and Commercial College and the University of Lisbon, and one of the main personnel, 'Dr A' stated that 'the most extraordinary and enigmatic fact is the circumstance of the tentacles not appearing to come directly from the central body, but being located at a certain distance from it, apparently attracted to the body by a form of electro-magnetic phenomena.'

Diameter of the central body...0.375 microns
Width of the tentacles.....0.225 microns
Length of the tentacles.....2.000 microns
Total length.....4.375 microns

During the ensuing months the 'tentacles' of the microbe (Possibly a closer translation would be 'antennae') tended to become more and more shredded, and some two years after its discovery, the organism was no more.

Magnification of the photographs in the original report was x120 for photo(3) and x240 for (1),(2) and (4).

1. Aspect of central nucleus. Arrow at left indicates the small corpuscle body.
2. Detail of the trifurcation of the tentacles.
3. Aspect of tentacle extremities taken six months after 'capture'. Note 'shredding of extremities.
4. Aspect of bubble against the microscope preparation by the mysterious life form six months after 'capture'.

About Fibrilvina (Angel Hair)

(In translation by J.M.Andrade from the book 'UFOs - Door to the year Zero' by Raul Berenguel).

Fibrilvina (Normally known as 'Angel Hair' or 'Virgin Filaments'.)

A substance that falls from the atmosphere after the appearance of UFOs or with no apparent visual cause. During the fall they may form brilliant balls that, depending on the altitude of the fall, spread themselves, forming an extended veil.

It is an organic substance, with a great tendency for sublimation of reduced density, and its lightness takes it to distant points of its initial place of fall. There seem to exist more than one type of 'fibrilvina' as chemical analyses so far made often seem to differ.

The physical characteristics however, are

maintained and these show an extraordinary resistance to tension and torsion - an extremely low density which gives it a very strong tenuity.

In a group, as fibres, they distribute themselves in an aliatory, intricate manner and interstices are filled by a translucent and viscous gelatine. The filaments burn up very rapidly in a live flame, leaving an almost imperceptible residue. They are attracted to electrostatic charges and they adhere remarkably to wood.

Elements found in the various types of fibrilvina known up to now are:- sodium: carbon: hydrogen: oxygen; tin: boron: calcium and magnesium. The presence of silicon was also found. Its disintegration temperature was approximately 280 degrees Celsius for one of the analysed species.

As 'Angel Hair' is a somewhat simplistic term, it was decided to give the substance a more eclectic name as it is exactly like a specie of very fine white hair. Therefore the neologism 'Fibrilvina' has been used - derived from the Latin 'fibra' and 'albis' - white.

Known falls of 'Fibrilvina' in Portugal:-

1. Ponte deLima 12/13 October 1857 - first known case
2. Fatima, 13 September 1917.
Also 17 October 1957
3. Evora, 2 November 1959.
Also 26 June 1960
4. Tondela, 9 October 1961
5. River Douro, September 1977
6. Lisbon, 10 February 1977

Time to close the X-Files, say UFO watchers

Points from the press...

Some while back, because of the disproportionate cost, BUFORA ceased to subscribe to a Newsclipping Service. The items in this issue are consequently from a variety of other sources, some, therefore, being more than a little 'dated'. Many UFO items, however, originate from local press reports, so, if you come across one in a paper in your own locality, I'd be only too happy to make use of it in future issues. Should it directly concern a sighting or any other form of UFO experience the item would also be forwarded to Investigations. Should you not wish to part with a cutting or cuttings, a photocopy - or typed or e-mailed details - to the Editorial address would be appreciated. Please ensure, though, that the paper's full title and it's date are included - Thanks.

As from the next issue I hope to include a separate feature reviewing news from UFO web sites and giving web addresses of general interest to members.

Under the headline 'Are UFOs Threatening The Safety Of Our Skies?' the *Surrey Mirror* of Redhill - itself not more than a stone's throw or two from Gatwick Airport - referred in its issue of July 12th. last year to growing public interest in UFO 'near misses', particularly close to airports and regressed to the August of 1996 when numerous UFO reports had been received from surrounding areas.

These had included a 'huge, green, flashing light' at low altitude on August 15th. of that year and a silver cigar 'like an engine without a wing' on August 21st. Both had been seen from nearby Horley and another sighting had been reported on August 27th.

Further reports had included a 'sky-blue object like a ringed doughnut' and a 'sinister egg-shaped object' hovering above trees, the former on October 7th, the latter on November 4th, the article tells us.

The *Yeovil Western Gazette*, also on July 12th., recorded the claims of Antony Benton and Alan Colis of Marnhull who had witnessed nine orange balls of light above Wingreen Hill near Donhead St. Mary in Dorset. The lights had been steady and the two considered there was no way they were man-made. At one point some had merged into each other. They were observed soon after 10pm., not appearing all together, but one by one. A jet aircraft and helicopter - probably from Portland - were active in the vicinity shortly after the lights disappeared.

Of special interest to *Journal* readers was an item in the *Daventry Express* of July 26th. This recorded an interview on SKY TV's 'WHERE ITS AT' programme with Elsie Oakensen about her 1978 abduction at Church Stowe. Some readers may recall that the events leading up to this were first fully recounted in the *BUFORA JOURNAL* of April 1979 before all the implications of her time lapse experience were realised. She had been driving her car back home at around 5.15pm. when, after turning off the A5 onto the road to Church Stowe having just observed an 'hour-glass' shaped object, the car engine died. The car stopped and for a short while she was first in complete darkness, then bombarded by circles of light of an intensity she'd never before known. A resultant 10-15 minute time lapse precluded realisation of an abduction experience. (Covered in very full detail in *UFOs and the PSI INTERFACE* received by BUFORA members in December).

In its issue of September 5th, the *East Anglian Daily Times* referred to growing pressure on the MOD to hold a fresh enquiry into the Rendlesham Forest, Woodbridge/Bentwaters affair, quoting references from Georgina Bruni and Nick Pope, also mentioning the much-publicised memo from Lt. Col. Halt, the former Deputy Base Commander.

The headline 'WE ARE NOT ALONE' was carried by the August 29th *Nottingham Evening Post* for an article largely concerned with a UFO documentary for Carlton Television filmed by a Nottingham-based company – Four Sheet Films. Types of report presented in the documentary – the film makers being Owen Gaffrey, John Arnold and Trevor Howes – included sightings from the skies of Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and elsewhere. The *Evening Post* told us that amongst these were 'Bright, white lights': 'Triangular-shaped objects': 'Pulsating lights and dome-shaped craft' – plus a 'large glowing millstone'.

Omar Fowler, who many will remember as the Chairman of SIGAP, the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena and currently President of the Derby-based Unusual Phenomena Association, is quoted as saying that an American scientist's research suggests the possible presence on Earth of up to 15 different alien life-forms.

The *Evening Post* article also refers to the sighting of three miners from Shirebrook who had a bright, triangular UFO in sight for up to 20 minutes, managing both to film it and include a running commentary. An interview with Tony James, founder member of EMUFORA, the East Midlands Research Association was also given.

(NB. Tony currently presents an e-mailed UFO Newsletter, which may include meetings information in the Midlands and elsewhere. E-mails to AJames@emufora.freereserve.co.uk for further information – Ed.)

The Surrey town of Croydon featured widely in a number of articles last summer, the

Croydon Advertiser reporting two in particular in its issues of July 13th and 27th, relating the experiences of Mark Harwood of New Addington at the beginning of the month and the sighting of Claire Spencer of S. Norwood on the 13th. Claire's sighting had been of a 'shimmering ball of light' above her home whilst Mark had managed to videotape his own experience, eliciting the opening paragraph in the *Advertiser*, 'Fears that aliens are preparing to invade Croydon have surged.....'

The UFO Mark had videoed – and had also managed to include a commentary on – had appeared as 'a black ball of light' apparently moving back and forth and on occasion becoming a 'hazy, triangular shape'.

Roy Lake, of LONDON UFO STUDIES was quoted as being of the opinion that Croydon's high-rise buildings were very likely to attract extra-terrestrial interest. (*Why Croydon's in particular? Having been a frequent visitor, though, when living in S.London in earlier years, maybe an excursion or two in that direction is called for – Ed.*)

'A renewed hotspot for UFO sightings, with countless reports being received over the years' is how the *Keighley News* of August 10th referred to the town when presenting two reports. One concerned a retired fireman – Leslie Howard, who had seen a cigar-shaped craft flying over the town soon after 11pm one evening. The other came from Tony Reeds, in the Riddlesden area who, together with his wife had also witnessed a cigar-shaped object in the Keighley skies.

From much farther afield, the *Daily Record* of Roswell, New Mexico, recorded the death of one of the co-founders of the International UFO Museum and Research Center in its edition of October 17th in the following words by staff writer Jan Girand:

'Max Litell, prominent Roswell citizen, real estate broker and businessman died Tuesday. Litell, 85, was one of the co-founders of the Center. He was instrumental in the growth of the Museum and the driving

force in the location of the Center in the remodelled Plains Theater in downtown Roswell.....Walter Haut and Glenn Dennis, co-founders of the Museum with Littell expressed sorrow at the news of his death. Litell was born in Superior, Nebraska and moved to Roswell with his family at the age of 12.'

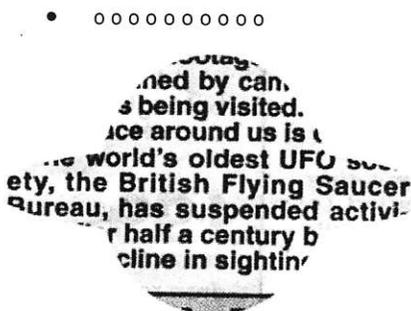
The 1973 account by Charles Hickson and Calvin Parker of their abduction experiences has seen a revival recently, both on the net and elsewhere. In its November issue, UFONs (UFO Newsclipping Service) carried an Associated Press release headed 'Navy Retiree Says He Also Saw Spaceship 28 Years Ago' written by Natalie Chambers. Hickson and Parker, some may recall, had claimed to have been abducted back in 1973 when out fishing. Hickson had described being taken aboard an oval, well-lit spacecraft, telling of three pale, ghostlike creatures with crab-like claws that had floated out to them from the craft and abducted them inside where an examination was given with some type of 'eye'. He believed they were robots. Parker, only 19 at the time, had had trouble dealing with the situation then and subsequently. No witnesses were then forthcoming, but Natalie Chambers tells the account of a witness who has recently come forward. '.....PASCAGOULA - When Charles Hickson and Calvin Parker told the world in 1973 they were abducted by aliens while fishing on the Pascagoula River, few people believed them. Now, after 28 years, it appears they weren't alone in their experience that October 11th night. A retired Navy Chief Petty Officer recently contacted the *Mississippi Press* about the sighting he can't forget.

Mike Cataldo, of Rotondo West, Fla. said he was on the pre-commissioning crew of the USS Tunney under construction at Ingalls Shipyard. Dusk was setting in as he and his crewmates Ted Peralta and Mack Hanna were on US 90 heading to Ocean Springs. Peralta was driving, Hanna was in the front passenger seat with Cataldo in the back seat.

'We saw a very strange object on the horizon going from northwest across Highway 90. It was going pretty fast. 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. We talked about it. Was it a shooting star, a meteorite? This was very different,' Cataldo said. He said the object looked like a large tambourine with little lights flashing on it. 'As quickly as we saw it, it just vanished,' he related.

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

Cataldo retired from the Navy 19 years ago. He has never met nor talked to Hickson.



Finally, under the headline 'The night of the flying saucer' an article in the *Daily Mail* of January 4th. this year reviewed the UFO phenomenon from the end of World War II, citing discs seen over Clacton in 1950 and silvery craft zigzagging over Putney amongst other accounts and referring to Winston Churchill's enquiry to the War Office, 'What does all this stuff about flying saucers amount to?' The answer being, 'Nothing to worry about!'

I found the full-page article to be unbiased – indeed, if anything, ‘pro UFO’, certainly in the sense of the literal meaning, concluding, as most will agree, that a small percentage of accounts DO remain unexplained, possibly being alien spacecraft: possibly some new phenomenon: possibly hoaxes. The one ‘minus’ point to me was that it included the sentence, ‘There are currently so few sightings over the UK that the British UFO society (*sic*) has been wound up’. This presumably referred to earlier press allegations (see UFORUM) about which protests have been made by others, including BUFORA Chairman Brian James, that the British Flying Saucer Bureau has ceased operations.. I wrote to the *Mail*, pointing this out, informing them that local and national societies are still going strong, and that numerous UFO reports ARE still coming in but also commenting on the general accuracy of their article.

My thanks to Lucius Farish, who produces UFONS,, the UFO NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE, for permission to quote. UFONS, which appears monthly may be obtained from him by sending to UFONS, #2, Caney Valley Drive, PLUMERVILLE, Arkansas 72127 USA. - \$7 per issue. \$80 annual subscription. Sample copy/information sheet available on request
Norman Oliver.

Reminder...
Please check your address !
Have we got it right ?
Have you told us correctly ?

A ‘TWIN PUPILS’ UPDATE

Norman Oliver

Readers will recall the experiences of former National Investigations Co-ordinator Larry Dale featured in the October 2001 Bulletin. I have been asked whether there were any developments subsequent to his ‘mental meetings’ with the entity ‘MI’ and also whether any more ‘disappearing ladies’ had been encountered. Also, you may remember, an – apparently – unique feature the entity possessed was that of having two pupils in each eye, and I remarked that I had never come across this before in connection with any type of alien experience or, indeed, in mythology or elsewhere.

However, Margaret Fry, a well-known and respected investigator in the field of UFO and alien research, who, indeed, has had experiences of her own, has sent me details of one such, that she has included in a recently completed book – one which, we trust, will rapidly find a publisher. She has kindly allowed me to present this account in the NEW JOURNAL pages. First, though, Larry’s further experiences.....

The previous account took us up to April 2001. On several occasions subsequent to that time he has again seen mysterious ladies who ‘disappeared’ before any attempt at contact could be made, but – there is one that stands out from the rest. The following is a quote from an e-mail sent to me by Larry on 27th. April 2001 shortly after I’d returned to England after speaking at the Eureka Springs Conference.....

“I was entering the living room from the kitchen one mid-morning before going on holiday, when there in front of me was the mysterious lady sitting on the wooden settee. I was about to ask the obvious question when I heard what sounded like a man’s voice seemingly coming from behind me. I turned, but saw no one. And when I turned back

towards the living room the lady had gone. She had been sitting there with the usual pleasant look on her face and a trace of a smile. There was no accent in the male voice that I heard – that is, it was 'English' English. It said, 'It is right in front of you three hundred years ago'. No emphasis was placed on any word or words, so there was no way of deciding about any punctuation. What could possibly involve me three hundred years ago?"

When I heard this from Larry one point occurred to me. The 'man's voice' had come from behind him, which would presumably have meant that the owner of the voice would have been facing the 'woman' on the settee. Could this woman – and indeed the same or other women he had previously briefly seen, be time-travelling, viewing the past – as it would be to them – from the standpoint of their own present? Maybe a 'passive' viewing that might be possible only for a few seconds at a time – which would account for the disappearances. The voice referring to 'three hundred years ago' might then have come from a futuristic 'Cook's Rep' and have been directed at the woman rather than Larry. Maybe a 'guided tour', a tour perhaps not normally visible or audible to anyone on our present-day Earth, but Larry's experiences with the entity 'MI' could somehow have created a link. However, of course, that is but one possibility.

The only other 'out-of-the-ordinary' thing that has happened to Larry in more recent months has been a 'blur'. He first mentioned this to me last June and referred to it in the following terms: - "I have not had any more experiences regarding the mysterious lady, but I do keep getting glimpses of something moving fast, either to my right or to my left, always in the form of a shaded blur. Sometimes the blur seems small and sometimes about the size of a football. Sometimes more than once a day, some days not at all." This latter type of experience continued for a month or so, and then ceased. Very recently, however, Larry has

mentioned that it has returned on several occasions.

Right – back to the 'twin pupils' and the extracts from Margaret Fry's manuscript. These refer to the experiences of 'Rae Fountain' – a pseudonym – and the following are direct quotes from Margaret's account. I feel it necessary to give his own full background – and, indeed his experiences make very interesting reading, so-----

THE RAE FOUNTAIN AFFAIR –by Margaret M. Fry. A series of close encounters investigated by Margaret Fry of Contact (UK) with the assistance of investigators Dave and Rose Chatterton and Timothy Good. An abridged version of an original 17-page report.

"This strange case came to light after I placed an advert for *Contact(U.K)* in a shop window in Lewisham, London in the summer of 1978. I subsequently received a telephone call from a rather nervous-sounding person who wanted to know if he could talk to me about some experience he had had years previously and which still troubled him. He had told nobody, he said, as people would think him a lunatic! But the advert he had seen said no-one would deride or disbelieve if he proved to be genuine. There then followed two or three phone calls from his place of work until it was finally arranged that he should come down to my house in Kent one evening after leaving work

On the 12th August 1978 at about 8.30pm, a taxi stopped outside my house and a man about 34 years of age with close-cut, straight, dark hair and in painfully neat, new clothes was on the doorstep. This man – Rae Fountain – entered the house and after a few introductory sentences sat down and plunged into an extraordinary narration. In relaying the following it was as though a door had burst within him and he was finally getting it all off his chest, something he had previously been unable to do due to his complete ignorance of the existence of UFO organisations. This, then, is Rae Fountain's story.....

'This happened a very long time ago when I was nine, but it will stay in my memory forever. It was the 30th June 1955, about 3.30pm. I was supposed to be going to play football after school hours. This took place in a village near Leighton Buzzard, Beds. and I was loitering down a small mud track in a country lane. There were hawthorn and other bushes on either side of the road and I was idly scuffing the ground with my boots when I noticed footprints quite close together in the mud., so I tried to put my foot in them and was tripping over as they were so close together. I then looked ahead and saw two men dressed in one-piece overalls.....I could only see them from the back and would not have bothered about them except for their odd behaviour. They had small foot-strides and also were stopping all the time and picking up earth, pebbles, leaves and weeds and placing them into something in front of them I could not see. I started stalking them, the way children do, by hiding behind bushes. Then, suddenly, a 'thing' just swished down across the path in front of them: it was a bluish-tinged metallic grey, a roughly bell-shaped craft. This hovered a few feet off the ground.

A door in the top half-slid open: there was a protruding rim just before the rounded top on which a man could stand. A sort of concertinering (*sic*) ladder came down and the two men climbed up this into the craft. The door closed, then the craft went straight up and across and swept into the sky'

I asked Ray if he could see into the craft. 'Yes, I could: there was someone in there at some sort of wheel or instrument.' Then he said, 'You know, it is funny. I said the colour was blue metallic grey; in fact it was like that - the way we would describe it, but in reality it was like no colour of anything I have ever seen on the Earth.' I asked what the underside of the craft looked like. 'It was absolutely flat, but when it rose a bit as it was leaving I could see three ball-like wheels with dark raised bands across the middle'.....

".....Before continuing with this narration I should like to go back to the 30th June 1955 when Rae was 9 years old - to when he saw the bell-shaped craft leaving. The next thing Rae recalled was his Headmaster shaking him and a number of teachers and pupils looking down at him as he lay on the ground at the side of the mud-lane. They had all been out looking for him and the Headmaster was telling him off. He was taken back to the school and put to bed, but the following morning the Headmaster sent for him and told him they had wasted a lot of their time: he had caused a lot of anxiety as he had been missing past nightfall - and why had he been so irresponsible and naughty? Rae did try to explain what he had seen, but was brushed aside and told he had had a bad dream. He told me that was when he became a loner. He wanted someone to explain and help him, and he knew even as a child, that no-one could. He knew he had not fallen asleep on the road and yet he could not account for so much time lost...."Rae continues.....

'The next occasion was on the 14th. August 1974 at Dover, Kent. I was working in an hotel at Dover. I told you I like walking. I used to go for long walks on the cliffs in the evenings when I was off duty. I seldom saw many people there. This time there were no people about that I noticed. I was looking out to sea when I saw three craft hovering in the distance. This time I felt afraid. I went down a cliff pathway and hid behind some boulders, peeping out on them at the same time. They gradually came in from the sea and one landed or hovered just above the sand on the beach below me and the other one came and hovered over it. They were exactly like the previous craft I had seen, metallic grey and bell-shaped. The central one, which somewhat resembled an elongated football, landed right on the edge of the cliff. If you have not been to Dover, the edges of the cliffs curve one after the other and this was on the curve of one of these edges, so that I had a side-angle view. I was surprised it (the UFO) was not the same shape as the other two. This really looked like a football. It was

standing on three tripod legs and there was a door open with the same concertineering (*sic*) ladder. Suddenly two people in enveloping silvery-white suits came down the ladder. I pressed back, afraid, as they started to come down the cliff pathway. They were talking loudly.'

I asked Rae if they passed the rocks he was hiding behind. 'Yes,' he said. Did they see him? 'I don't know. They appeared not to. They were talking to each other all the time. Their heads were completely covered by a whitish head-covering with a visor over the eyes. They passed down the path. One had a shining receptacle in his hand. One appeared much slighter and shorter – I thought it must be a woman.'

...'Why did you think the other person was a woman? Could you see any shape?'

...'No, the garments were loose – similar to what an American astronaut wears; not quite so bulging, but you could not distinguish the shapes of them exactly. They went down towards the two craft hovering over the beach, but when they went down there was a small pool in the rocks below where they stopped. They sucked up some water through a tube, then they looked for a few moments at the smaller craft.'

When asked about the craft's size, he answered:

'I'd say about 35ft, the same as on the other occasions, but the big one on the cliff was longer. They then turned round and started to walk back up the path. I felt very afraid and pushed well back. As they started climbing up the cliff path they were talking loudly all the time in their own language. I couldn't resist peeping as they came nearer. **All I noticed was the eyes, the visors over their eyes must have enlarged them because I could see them distinctly. They had two pupils – one was still and the other appeared to be moving.**'

...'Are you sure you saw this? They must have been a few feet from you.'

...'Yes, I know. I don't know why, because I've thought of this since, but I could see the eyes distinctly as they walked past me.'

The pupils were deep mauve and the part where we have white seemed green'.

I commented, 'My God! Surely you were scared?'

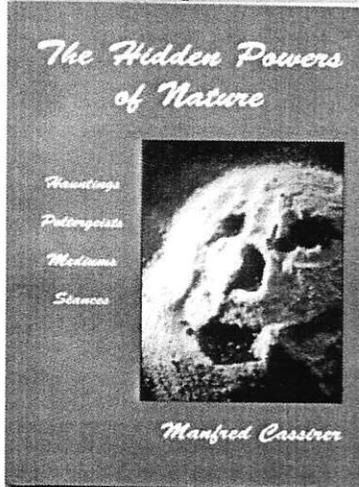
...'Yes, I was. I shrank back, but at the same time I felt compelled to look. They did not seem to see me at all, they just passed on up to the top of the cliff. Then I next saw them going up the ladder. I then pressed back again. Then the two craft on the beach rose and flew backwards to the sea. The larger one joined them and took up the same position in the centre, then they flew backwards in formation until they disappeared.'"

End of extract from Margaret Fry's account.

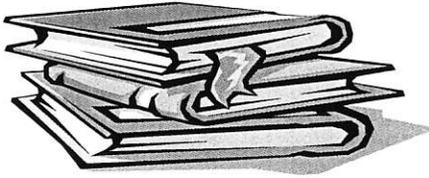
There is considerably more to 'Rae's' experiences than I have quoted, but I was specifically concerned here with the 'twin pupil' reference whilst at the same time giving background information on the man himself. Again my thanks to Margaret. I hope to include further contributions from her in later issues. Anyone else come across 'twin-pupilled' entities?

-o0o-

A New Book by Manfred Cassirer



(Further details on page 27)



BOOK REVIEWS

UFO a deadly concealment
Derek Sheffield.

I anticipated a somewhat monotonous 'rehash' of much of the ground already covered by Tim Good and others. Instead I was pleasantly surprised both by the quality of its composition and the presentation. Certainly some material already published elsewhere IS bound to be repeated, such as MOD correspondence, but there were a number of such letters in the chapter headed 'A European Parliamentary Question' I had not previously seen and they made for good reading.

However, the author does not confine himself to 'dry' official documents. Many interesting UFO reports from Belgium and the UK are presented, including a detailed 'Pilot/Control' conversation between Belgian Interceptor pilots and their NADGE radar control. Radar contacts themselves are also referred to.

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**Meetings with Linda Moulton-Howe** and cattle mutilations are mentioned as is correspondence between the author and BUFORA Chairman Brian James when he was connected with Contact International (UK).

All in all I found this to be a very good read and the general lay-out of text and letters (no magnifying glasses needed!) to be very readable. Recommended.  
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Manfred Cassirer has a new book out called "The Hidden Powers of Nature" 103pp £10.00 Available post free from :-
D.J.Ellis,
Fernwood,
Nightingales,
West Chiltington,
Pulborough,
West Sussex,
RH20 2QT

UFO CRASH LANDING? Friend or foe?
Jenny Randles.

Let it be said that books by Jenny Randles are always welcome and amongst the most readable and reliable on our subject. UFO CRASH LANDING is no exception, but, published in 1998, has now been somewhat eclipsed by Georgina Bruni's YOU CAN'T TELL THE PEOPLE published two years later, also concerning the events at Rendlesham back in 1980. That said, however, Jenny WAS, so to speak, far 'closer to the action' than Georgina, who came on the scene subsequently and, as Jenny writes in her introduction, 'As the UFO subject has now reached its 50th. anniversary, this is the right moment for me to put an important encounter into its proper context and free it from the hype and hysteria'. This she does extremely well, not only giving a detailed account of the case and subsequent investigations, but also providing some insight into the investigators themselves and taking a good look at the broader aspects involved in The Rendlesham Forest Affair.

The last sentence on the back cover reads, 'Jenny Randles considers all the evidence and theories and provides several possible – even sensational – answers to SOMETHING WHICH REALLY HAPPENED.' I consider this to be an accurate summing-up. A number of documents are printed as text but – unlike Derek Sheffield's book those shown on the illustrative pages may well require that magnifying glass!

~~~~~  
**THE ALIEN INTENT A Dire Warning**  
Raymond A Robinson

Let us, for the purpose of reviewing this book, accept that we ARE being visited by aliens. Indeed, on the back cover appears the following question:- 'Can anyone now deny the existence of a covert presence after so much data has been amassed by government departments, researchers and other agencies over the last fifty years?'

After examining well-known cases such as Roswell, Betty and Barney Hill, Valentich and others, the author goes on to discuss the aliens themselves, examining the possibility that we are being visited by at least nine species of aliens:- 'Nordics': 'Reptiles': 'Monsters': 'Goblins': 'Robots': 'Greys': 'Tall, thin, ephemeral types': 'Giants' and 'Bigfoots'.

From here he discusses altered states of consciousness, possible collaborations and conspiracies, lost memories and other facets of the enigma, including possible – probable alien intentions and sexual associations.

Robinson does not confine himself to the likelihood of what one might term – if it is not a contradiction IN terms – a 'conventional' alien presence, and includes mention of such associations as the Montauk Project, which, together with the claims of Al Bielek I hope to cover in a future JOURNAL. As is indicated by the author, such associations may well involve not merely 'space' aliens but also Time Travel and the concept of Other Dimensions. There is even a reference to the possibility of former US president Eisenhower actually having had a meeting with aliens. (Such a meeting has also been alleged on occasion by Remote Viewers.) Again, another 'easy-to-read' book: one to make the reader think, then think again.

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All the foregoing books were published by Blandford in 1996 and 1998. All are obtainable from Lionel Beer (Spacelink Books) – for address and other details See back cover.

UFORUM

Reprinted below are letters from Denis Plunkett of BFSB (British Flying Saucer Bureau) regarding statements by national newspapers and elsewhere that they had closed down. The first was written to UFO MAGAZINE, the second to Lionel Beer.

Both were included in an article in the December 2001 issue of TEMS NEWS by Lionel under the heading of **AN INNOCENT REMARK** as follows:-

"Denis Plunkett, founder of the British Flying Saucer Bureau in 1953 said in a letter to UFO MAGAZINE: '*An innocent remark to a local reporter that the BSFB was suspending lectures this summer had been dramatically transformed later by a national journalist into closure of the BSFB.*' I wish to categorically state that at no time, either to local or national newspapers, or during radio or television interviews did I say anything that could be misconstrued as closure of the oldest established FS/UFO organisation in the world. The letter goes on to mention that the BFSB assisted in the formation of BUFORA (in 1962).

Denis's further thoughts on this appear below.

Denis Plunkett, Founder/Chairman BFSB,
10, Branksome Drive, Winterbourne,
BRISTOL BS26 1LY
19.11.01

Dear Lionel,

...I must say I am convinced that the Bureau and myself have been subjected in the recent past to censorship and disinformation on a world-wide basis. Not only in regard to the negative events of last spring but by the complete rejection of positive information on the subject of ufology, which I have experienced personally from the BBC, ITV, and more recently, *THE MAIL ON SUNDAY*. On all these occasions, despite spending many hours in interviews, filming, supplying photographs and information etc., *nothing* was eventually broadcast or appeared in the media.

After being actively involved for almost 60 years in the subject, you can imagine my

feelings of disappointment and disillusionment, not only as regards the BFSB, which you will be aware has a long and proud record, but by the attempts of personal character assassination by certain individuals, for reasons best known to themselves.

In conclusion, as regards the censorship/disinformation *issue*, I have, on may occasions compared this policy to the *slider controls* used in studios where although the slot has a finite length, the position of the slider can move forward or backward before eventually reaching the end of the slot, and the establishment of timescale, with the release of information that UFOs are real and not of this earth. As the slider can move both forwards and backwards with positive information and negative disinformation, the release of information to the public at large can be completely controlled.

With very best regards, yours sincerely,
Denis"

"PS. I have attempted to get THE TIMES to issue a rebuttal of their article which caused all the trouble, but have been unsuccessful so far, having had my complaint to the PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION dismissed, even the Right To Reply!!"

Commercial Potential?

I am a new member and seem to have missed Bulletin No.23, which presumably contained Bob Digby's article seeking feedback on possible ways forward, although I have Bulletins 22 and 24. However, for what it is worth, may I offer the following suggestions.

I was amazed by the tiny turnover reported in the annual accounts. Quest International and UFO Magazine should be congratulated on realising the commercial potential of the UFO subject in the U.K. – but couldn't some of that money come to BUFORA to support its research? Could BUFORA and Quest not enter into some sort of partnership, one to supply high quality researched material and

the other to provide greater exposure and money? For instance, research reports and the updated Vehicle Interference Report could be serialised in UFO Magazine. Payment could be in the £500 -£1000 region. This would do both organisations a lot of good.

There seems to be a problem with high quality UFO publications in the U.K. Flying Saucer Review is not good enough. This is linked to the problem which seems to beset the UFO subject, which is that there are precious few results to show for 50 years of research. There may be hundreds of investigated cases, but this does not add up to knowledge. Difficult as it may be with limited resources and few properly qualified people, UFO research should aim to advance in the same way as other scientifically based subjects. One important aspect of this is a peer-reviewed scholarly journal.

One thing which drives scientific advance is money, which pays for scholarly research. I know that funds are non-existent for UFO research, but this is the problem. Perhaps BUFORA could partly devote itself to raising funds for UFO research and disbursing that money. Suggestions for fund raising are; dinners and events, publishing agreements, BUFORA having an Agent to maximise revenue earning potential, consulting on TV programmes, producing TV programmes and books, becoming a charity or trust to receive donations or bequests, partnership with Quest, soliciting donations from Rockefeller and other rich, interested individuals or organisations, forming a 'Friends of BUFORA' for financial supporters.

Perhaps BUFORA could continue the series of books started by Timothy Good – 'The UFO Report 1990' etc. This must have ceased publication because it was not commercially viable, but there will always be a market for this sort of thing of some size. I agree with the idea that people do not care too much what the structure of an organisation is, as long as it works.

Malcolm Stroud

The DEATH OF UFOLOGY???

Personal view of UNCONVENTION 2002

6-7 April 2002 -By Lionel Beer.

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Delegates were issued with wristbands, the type of item beloved by all-inclusive package tour resorts. But did the Commonwealth Institute on Kensington High Street deserve this? Sensibly, we were not pressed to wear them. However things started badly on the first day when several dozen people were turned away from Hall 1 (capacity 468) where Jon Ronson was speaking on "Secret Rulers of the World." Even so Hall 2, with some 400+ seats, was only one third full for Philip Walton, Chairman of ASSAP, explaining the "Paranormal Olympics."

At Fortean Times' conferences, since inception, a twin-track programme has run, which means that even if one attends every session, one could only cover 50% of the programme. And Hey, one goes to conferences to meet friends and personalities! Even buy some merchandise perhaps?

The 2nd talk in Hall 1 was veteran sceptical ufologist, Jim Moseley. He told us that American Airlines had mislaid his luggage on route to the UK. Very reassuring for other victims! He said that he had been writing a book since 1953, and it was now about to go on sale: "SHOCKINGLY CLOSE TO THE TRUTH!" (confessions of a grave-robbing ufologist); autographed copies for only \$19 says the flyer. His co-author is Karl Pflock.

Jim first came to the UK in 1964 on honeymoon, and in 1997 for the Fortean Times conference marking the 50th anniversary of ufology. He started his magazine, "Saucer Smear" in 1974 and was a close friend of Gray Barker, who in turn was a friend of Albert Bender, of MIB fame. Jim had fallen for THE TIMES tall-story that the British Flying Saucer Bureau founded by Denis Plunkett in 1952 had closed down. It hasn't!

Roswell was unheard of until 1978, although Aztec in New Mexico had been

mentioned in Frank Scully's book of 1950. He had interviewed many people including "Dr" Silas Newton and "Prof" George Adamski. Jim has dug up gold artifacts on the Nasca lines, and been party to composing hoax letters to well-known UFO personalities. He reckons that all the Ed. Walters photos were faked.

For a breath of air and sunshine, I joined Rick Gibson for a light lunch in the cafeteria in Holland Park. We started the afternoon listening to Colin Bennett on "Scepticism as Mystique". Sceptics, perhaps people with inflexible mind-sets, can retard progress. Colin cited cavalry officers opposing the introduction of tanks. He mentioned that inventors such as Leonard Cramp, Eric Laithwaite and Barnes Wallace, had been derided or ignored. Some of Cramp's devices worked, some did not, earning him the Fortean fix, "the partial explanation." Like Adamski, Cramp was a UFO contactee. John Keely's machines earned no explanations at all. Sceptics had made some silly claims about UFOs, he said. The point being that "sceptics hate bits that don't fit." They seem to provide universally mundane explanations for phenomena. Are they motivated by a cultural fear that their social group is doomed? Perhaps worse, "scepticism is an intellectual allergy!" John Rimmer and John Harney, sitting on the front row sporting MAGONIA press passes, barely twitched. Colin tends to write and talk in metaphors, and a member of the audience leapt up to say that his talk was boring. Actually I thought it was a good lesson for us all. Colin's book "Looking For Orthon" a new biography of George Adamski is now available in the UK.

Next on my list was Robin Simmons on "The Latest Developments in the Search for Noah's Ark." In 1906, the "Ark of Noah" was said to be visible emerging from the ice on Mount Ararat at 14,000 feet. Some remains have been spotted at 11,000 feet, having fallen over the side of the mountain perhaps, but remaining stuck in a glacier. Robin claims that key files on Ararat are missing from various archives. The problem is that the only

available photos are long distance shots. Since the "Ark" is in a sensitive military area, visiting is prohibited. The alternative solution is that the "Ark" is in fact an ancient temple structure that has subsequently become engulfed by the ice and snow.

Next up was Ken Campbell talking about Montanism and Gastromancy. He told us that the Japanese had learnt English through reading "Ann of Green Gables" which would have coloured their view of the West. Ken has a unique form of humour and presentation. This included demonstrations by four young men and two girls. When a pretty petite blond in a smart dark suit, took off her skirt, and (in the interests of gastromancy?).....I knew that I had seen everything!

Final item of the day was the screening of a 45 minute documentary film, with gaps for TV commercials, "The Search For Mothman." Not only did David Grabias' piece, tell us about the Silver Bridge disaster, but suggested that the alarming winged red-eyed Mothman image had turned up in other places prior to a disaster causing loss of life.

Hall 1 - Sunday:

Doug Skinner, a man of many talents from the USA, had already spoken on John Keel and the Mothman. He told us how "Data Gets Damned". Seems that there is a problem with "scientific method" which he compared with bees running their hive. "For every expert there is an equal and opposite expert." But can TV researchers always find one? He told us that our senses were designed by evolution for the survival of our species. They are subjective and are designed to protect our bodies; not to show us the world! There are more than the traditional five senses. How about balance, fatigue, hunger/thirst? We relay on memory which is often flawed he told us. The more complex the organism the more closely related it is to its environment. Science, he told us, is the social activity of scientists, so there is no typical scientist. Their work is influenced by instincts and social adaptability. They defend their territory and intellectual domain. They are slaves to

hierarchical patterning and fear ridicule. Consequently they may not be equipped for "scientific method." He told us that telepathy kicks in, in times of crisis. Scientific discoveries have come in dreams. "Nature does not make laws, scientists do!"

Lionel Fanthorpe gave two talks on Sunday, the second on "Mazes and Labyrinths" and the first on "The World's most Fortean Object" which turns out according to Lionel, to be the human brain.

Graham Hancock, whose Ch.4 TV documentaries on ancient sacred sites have been compulsive viewing, arrived in a nick of time for his 1.00 pm slot. He had just flown back from India. Since the last ice age, he said that 10 million square miles, had been inundated by melt-water. In places sea-levels had risen 400 feet. It had not always been a gradual rise. Glacial lakes built up in the Antarctic and led to sudden releases of melt-water. He thinks that there were a series of flooding peaks. Since ice packs can be two miles deep, major changes could lead to extra stress on fault lines and result in coincident volcanic upheavals. His theory is that pre- Ice Age civilisations are now underwater. He had been investigating under-sea sites off India and Japan. There is a Tamil tradition of a great civilisation that existed 11,000 years ago. It could have lain on the land-bridge that joined Sri Lanka to the Indian continent. Malta's famous cart ruts have been found underwater and are thought to be 3000 years old. Malta was once joined to Italy. His theory is simplicity. Exciting finds in India's Gulf of Cambay and elsewhere suggest that stories of catastrophic floods hide some awkward truths about the world's 'earliest' civilisations.

The final event was billed as "MEGA PANEL EVENT - The Death of UFOlogy?" The panel of eight consisted of: Colin Bennett, Peter Brookesmith, Paul Devereux, Dave Clarke, Andy Roberts, John Rimmer, Judith Ja'afar, and Jim Moseley. By my reckoning, that is 6« sceptics out of the panel of eight! Colin is middle of the road. Jim Moseley led off and

had probably realised that he would be shooting himself in the foot if he admitted that ufology was dead. After all he had a new book to promote!

Colin told us that he had had his own genuine UFO experience, and recognises that it is a complex but real phenomena. Judith thought that we might be looking at the phenomena the wrong way. We could be witnessing the birth of something far more interesting! Paul Devereux claimed that we are suffering from amnesia. However since his tone of voice can change from pompous to resigned in almost the same sentence, he lacked impact.

John Rimmer said that individual cases were not important. (He had told me on Saturday, that the mis-reporting by THE TIMES of the closure of the B.F.S.B. was merely journalistic licence! Had Colin Bennett's talk on scepticism been abjectly dismissed?) Judith commented that there had been an increase in close encounter cases in recent years. But she did not think these experiences were of an extra-terrestrial nature. Phenomenal events have changed and enriched the lives of witnesses. Panel members did not appear to dissent. Members of the panel made it clear that they did not accept the ET hypothesis. Questions from the audience relieved the debate. One Northern accent remarked that UFO waves preceded military conflicts and wars. One of the panel suggested that no new knowledge had been given to the world by UFOs.

Judith Ja'afar was the one bright spot and expounded on the perils of hypnotic regression. She pointed out that investigators often added to their general knowledge by studying related subjects to better understand UFO reports. The point of the debate was still lost on me when it ended. There was no cut and dried conclusion. I felt that we had been subjected to the same old boring sociological-psychological cliches and pointless put-downs that sceptical symbionts feel compelled to exude.

The majority of the seventeen stall-holders seemed pleased with their weekend despite the high cost of participating. Overall, I found this year's F.T.Unconvention stimulating and one welcomes the chance to catch up with old friends.

FORTEAN TIMES is now owned by 'I FEEL GOOD LTD', (London EC1V 0BQ) having been sold by John Brown Publishing Ltd. I FEEL GOOD LTD has retained Bob Rickard and Paul Sieveking as editors. CP:£ 2.80.

Stop Press!

Following on from the Editorial, we are pleased to announce the appointment of our new Chairman, replacing Brian James. The Council of Management has unanimously appointed Mr. Peter Doye with immediate effect and this was announced to the attendees of the lecture in London on 13th April 2002.

Peter's CV reads like a who's who? He is prolific in the City of London, where he is an Investment professional but his paranormal interests cover Dowsing, Crop Circles, Psychic research, Ufo's and many related phenomena. Indeed, he was invited to join the panel discussion at the lecture on Remote Viewing because of his knowledge of that subject.

Congratulations Peter!

AGM Postponement

The Bufera **AGM** will now be held on **6th July 2002** at The University of Westminster, Harrow. [NOT 11th May!!]

Start 1.45pm ahead of the "**Alien Autopsy**" lecture by Phil Mantle.

Please put the date in your diary - details will follow.

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 members 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.

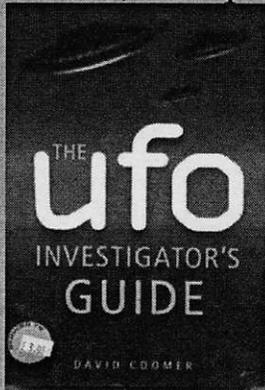
BUFORA operates the 'UFOCALL' information service which carries information about reports and updates on events (phone: 09068 121 886; Charge, currently 60p per minute.) These pre-recorded messages are updated regularly.

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

Lionel Beer, Spacelink Books,
115, Hollybush Lane, Hampton, TW12 2QY



All prices include Postage and Packing
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020 8979 3148

*Phenomenal Afternoons
in London*

Saturday May 11th.

**CROP CIRCLES AND ENCODED
INFORMATION**

Speaker: Carol Cochrane

Carol Cochrane, chairman of the Centre for Crop Circle studies is a qualified Cheirologist (Elemental Hand Specialist) with a special interest in dream analysis and other aspects of metaphysical influence including dowsing and vibrational healing. Her crop circle research began in 1993 when she discovered what appears to be a series of deeply encoded communications within the actual place names of sites of crop circle activity. This series, known as 'The Letters', speaks directly and profoundly to humanity whilst identifying originators of both 'The

Letters' and the circles. In her talk she will share the contents of some of these encoded communications with the audience and explain how they came to be located.

Meetings will be held at The Sol's Arms, 65-68 Hampstead Road, London NW1 2PN and will last from 3.00pm to 6.30pm. Nearest tube station is Warren Street on the Northern line.

Entrance: Public £6.00. SPI and BUFORA members £5.00 (Light Refreshments included)

Tickets available from our Box Office; Evolution: P.O.Box 633, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2GL. Advance Tickets call: 07949 178835. Tickets also on sale at the door. All cheques payable to Strange Phenomena Investigations UFOcall: Dial 09068 121886 for news, updates, forthcoming lectures, etc. Just dial and listen. BT Premium rate call charges apply

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