



There it is!—Keith Pearce and daughters UFO-spotting on Cley Hill, Warminster.

# Space Eyeball—or blinking illusion?

IT was to be the highlight of the UFO spotters' calendar. The return of The Thing — the 'human eyeball' in the sky spotted 16 years ago from the peaks of a couple of Wiltshire hills, a few miles from Stonehenge.

Every two years since, people have reported seeing everything from cigar and saucer-shaped crafts to humanoids wearing gold sashes. So why not the return of the original Thing during the four-day festival of UFO spotting?

Keith Pearce, a 43-year-old welder, was among the local enthusiasts — and sceptics — who left Warminster to climb the two miles to the top of Cley Hill.

He said he was really there to protect his daughters Sharon, 16, and 18-year-old Lorna from the attentions of the local lads who were out spotting earthly bodies.

By 11 p.m. bottles were clinking, a bonfire was blazing and young lovers were kissing under the stars.

Before the 'witching hour' Mr Pearce had had enough. 'I've lived here for 16 years and never seen anything,' he said.

No sooner were the

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words out of his mouth than he saw it... a deep orange-coloured light in the South Eastern sky.

It started to weave erratic patterns across the sky. The smooching turned to shrieking. The light vanished, only to reappear in another part of the sky. Two smaller ones joined it and hovered.

By now everyone was spotting strange lights. A red ball emerged over the Eastern horizon.

'It's amazing!' shouted Mr Pearce, peering through his binoculars. 'There's a small yellow light heading for it. Now

they've flared up into a bright orange ball.

Attempts were made to record the official sighting with the British UFO Society. The only member present was snoozing in a sleeping bag.

When roused he mumbled: 'You've seen one, you've seen them all'—and went back to sleep.

At 2 a.m. Corporal Robert Kirk, 25, from nearby Battlebury Barracks climbed the hill to put the remaining 20-odd skywatchers right. Lights? 'They're usually flares, helicopters or planes. And anyway when we're out here at night watching for the "enemy", even the bushes start moving after two hours.'