

# Kentish Times

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## DARTFORD and SWANLEY CHRONICLE

(Dartford Post)

28, LOWFIELD STREET, DARTFORD, DA1 1HD

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# STOP THIS HOSPITAL PLAN NOW!

EIGHT months after he was released from Bexley Hospital, psychopath Robert Potter, as reported last week, brutally killed a girl. He raped her. He strangled her. He stabbed her.

While still a patient at Bexley Hospital, Potter, described as a dangerous man, absconded from the existing secure ward. Only after one of the biggest manhunts the area has ever known was he recaptured on Dartford Heath.

Against that background, one can well understand the apprehension of people in the surrounding area at the fast-progressing proposal to build a new secure unit at the hospital. Up to 15 patients with violent histories, like Potter, will be housed there at any one time.

Can residents really be assured that the new unit will be any safer than present facilities when no guarantee has been given that doors will be locked at all times? Again we say — there must be a public inquiry before this madcap scheme progresses a step further. Tenders are already being invited for construction. The Government must intervene at once before it is too late.

A spokesman for South-East Thames Regional Health Authority attempted to argue last week that there had been no formal request for a public inquiry.

Nonsense. That request was made by Dartford MP Mr Bob Dunn. And he was given the astonishing answer that there was no need for an inquiry as small, scattered secure units were Government policy.

As we said then, we repeat now: That is a negation of democracy. Hospital authorities coyly point out that people can object on planning grounds. Much good that would do. Two precedents show there is little chance of successfully appealing against construction of a new hospital unit within existing hospital premises.

The key issue is that 2,000 people in the area, almost the entire population, signed a petition saying they did not want this unit in their midst.

That was the voice of the people, vigorously

# Sightings in the a paralysing exp

AFTER last week's report of a UFO sighting of "a large orange-red ball hovering in the sky" over Hartley Woods, I have heard of six similar local sightings in recent years.

My informant is Mrs Margaret Fry of Long Lane, Bexleyheath, who is Contact International's UFO investigator for Kent and South-East London.

● A pilot with 27 years' experience — who wishes to remain anonymous — was walking along the A2 by Northfleet on October 29, 1981, at 9.30 pm when he saw "a bluey-green fluorescent object looking like a brain hurtle across the sky." It came towards him and encased him in light for a few seconds, totally paralysing him. Then it receded backwards, he said.

A security man and a cleaner at the Britannia Lead Co., Northfleet, also reported seeing the object, to Gravesend police, who were "very sceptical."

● Mr and Mrs Brian and Marie Humphries, of Farm Holt, New Ash Green, and several of their neighbours reported seeing two round objects with bright, white lights — in a circle on the underside — surrounding two very bright red lights. The objects passed over their houses making "a terrible noise."

● In November 1976 Bexley Councillor Mr R. Allen was taking his dogs into the garden when his attention was drawn to three red glowing objects to the north, by his daughter.

## Hovered

The objects hovered over the rooftops and moved from left to right and up and down. Then one red light moved behind a tree and then returned.

With two others, Mr Allen watched the objects from an upstairs window for three hours, when they started to move towards Erith Road.

Mr Allen's daughter and her boyfriend followed the objects by car to Barnehurst golf course, to which the objects travelled at around 35 mph. The lights hovered there and then suddenly went out. The objects were a few hundred feet above the ground.

They all described the same thing, but the boy friend said he earlier heard "a loud humming or trilling sound, like millions of birds."

● On January 28, 1978, Mr and Mrs Simmonds and their children Tracey and Tony, of Alderney Road, Slade Green, were driving along the A2 towards Dartford from London when one mile from Gravel Hill,

wards Gravel Hill, they said. The object had wavy black lines all over it and a black streak down the centre.

● On March 29, 1978, Mr and Mrs John and Cecily Smoker, aged 61 and 56, of Keswick Road, Bexleyheath, saw from their house, coming from Gravel Hill, "a large orange ball" and went outside to watch it, just above the chimney-stack. Then it travelled over the house-tops and vanished in the direction of Woolwich, they said.

● In June 1978, Mrs Maureen Hall, of Trevithick Drive, Dartford, who used to be a special constable, was taking her dog for a walk on a very clear night, along Darenth Road, when she saw a bright orange ball stationary in the sky. She says she also saw it on three other occasions.

It pulsed and hovered for over five minutes and then became more brilliant, and slowly descended. It was so bright that it lit up the wood.

## The long-lost sister

A HARTLEY woman's love of dogs led to a reunion with a sister she had not seen in 33 years.

Miss Elizabeth Pratt-Campbell, aged 61, of Culcroft, is an expert on Pekinese who has bred two Crufts champions. She last saw her elder sister Mrs Mavis Shaw in 1944, shortly before a family quarrel.

After the split the two lost touch and Mrs Shaw emigrated to Canada. But when she and her husband returned to England last month to attend a farming conference she visited a dog show and was reminded of her long-lost sister.

Miss Pratt-Campbell told the Chronicle: "I've been keen on Pekies for years and when Mavis saw someone exhibiting one of the breed she went up and asked if they had heard of me. Of course everyone in the doggy world knows everyone else — and the person was able to put her in touch with me."

"She came to see and I will never forget my first glimpse of her on Longfield Station. Despite all the years she looked exactly the same to me — not a day older. "We were both very emotional. Mavis took one look at me and started to cry because she said that I looked so much like our mother."

Since the reunion Mrs Shaw has returned to Canada. But the two plan to keep in regular touch — and Miss Pratt-Campbell hopes to visit her sister later this year. Among things she

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