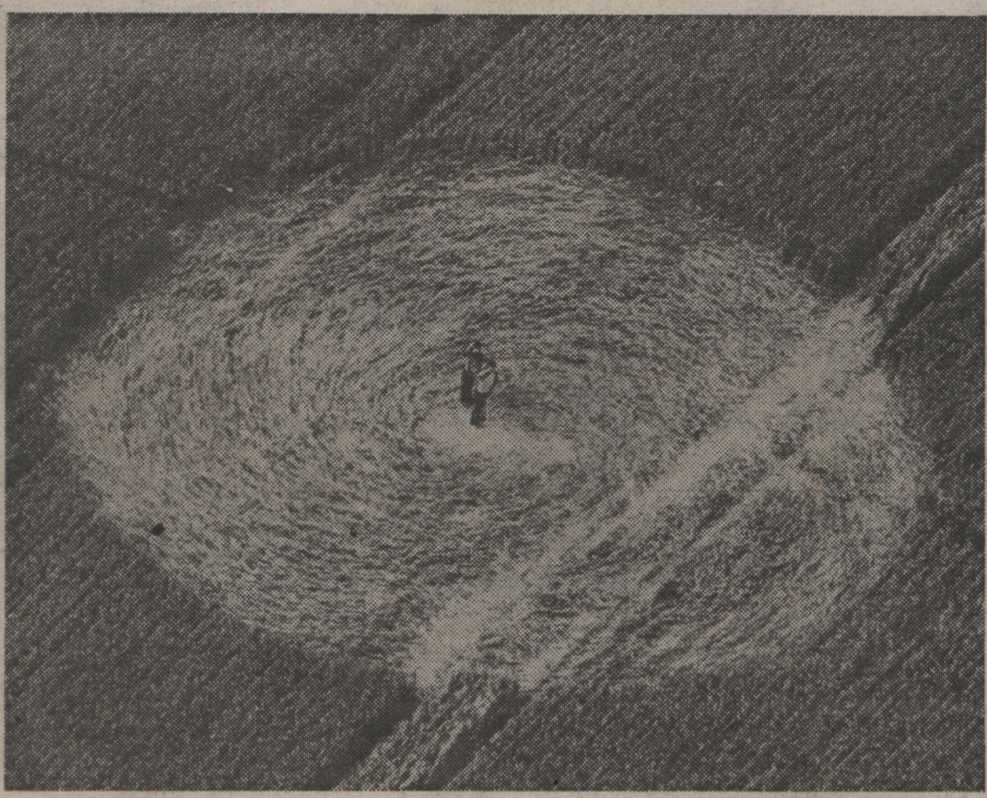


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OUT OF THIS WORLD EXCLUSIVE

DAILY EXPRESS

Monday July 11 1983 18p Weather: Sunny, hot THE VOICE OF BRITAIN



Touchdown for a space-ship? Or is it just a practical joke?

- THIS is one of five mysterious white holes in a cornfield that are puzzling people in a part of England, well used to witnessing strange sights.
- The holes, on a farm in Westbury, Wilts, look as though a spaceship has landed.
- Has E.T. responded to public demand and made an unannounced flying visit?
- One thing is certain. The holes are the most amazing sight in the Warminster Triangle for years.

ET, HAVE YOU COME BACK TO EARTH? — P3

Who knows the weird secret of Westbury's White Hole

- Blueprint to end 40-year monopoly
- Tories seek better deal for consumer

High speed sell-offs for gas and electricity

By JOHN WARDEN Political Editor

GAS and electricity are on a new agenda of State industries to be returned to private operation. The break-up of the two giants is the most ambitious act of denationalisation so far contemplated by the Government.

A blueprint already exists and the options are being actively discussed in the inner reaches of Whitehall. After nearly 40 years in public ownership, gas and electricity had been regarded as politically untouchable.

The Prime Minister, however, has put privatisation high on the new Government's priorities.

The official view is that "nothing is precluded." And she would like to see gas and electricity go private before the end of the present Parliament in 1988.

The main aim of ending the State monopoly in gas and power is to introduce

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competition and keep prices down. Gas and electricity prices have risen faster than most.

State prices are too high because nationalised industries charge on a cost-plus system. There is said to be a 30 per cent surplus of generating capacity.

The consumers pay for this, Page 2, Column 6

Clues to death crash mystery of the pilot tycoon

By GRAEME BOWD and COLIN BELL

THE plane crash which killed ex-MP Keith Wickenden was probably caused by pilot error or engine failure.

Those were the main theories yesterday, 24 hours after the flying tycoon's twin-engine aircraft plunged in flames near Shoreham, Sussex. Accident investigators have so far found no sign of engine failure, but the £20,000 plane HAD suffered problems.

Derek Graham, the managing director of Southernair Ltd., which looked after Mr Wickenden's De Havilland Devon, said it had been

bought from another company.

The starboard engine failed during a flight earlier this year—but the plane was landed safely.

That engine was replaced by a Shoreham company after Mr Wickenden turned down Southernair's quote.

Saturday's fatal flight was the first since the new engine was fitted.

Southernair's Mr Graham

said yesterday: "While it is true that the fatal flight was the first since the installation of the engine it was in no sense a test flight."

Witnesses also reported flames coming from one engine before take-off. But officials at Shoreham Airport said this was "a bit like giving your car too much choke."

But even if there was engine failure there should have been no disaster if he followed the correct drill.

"The plane was lightly loaded and it should have been quite possible for the pilot to return and land on the good engine," said one expert.

"This could well turn out to be a classic instance of a pilot being caught unawares."

Mr Wickenden, 50, who gave up his Dorking seat at the last election, had been flying for many years.

● City: Page 26



Wickenden . . . plunge

GET IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT WITH YOUR DAILY EXPRESS

YOUR VIEW ON THE TOPLESS BEACHES



HOW SAFE ARE YOU BESIDE THE SEASIDE?

Page 9

Centre Pages

Shark sets off scare among the heatwave sunbathers

A GIANT shark scattered bathers at Bournemouth yesterday.

Jaws crashed into a breakwater as holidaymakers ran up the beach screaming.

Onlookers lined the promenade and the shark came close inshore, chasing a shoal of mackerel.

Fog and low temperatures ruined the day for thousands of sunseekers elsewhere.

Families endured sweltering traffic jams only to realise they would have been better off in their own-sunny gardens.

The Kent resorts of Ramsgate, Margate and Deal were shrouded in sea mist.

And beaches in West Cornwall suffered from fog AND rain.

There was tragedy and trouble too:—

Swimmer James Manning, 18, drowned when he got

HOW SAFE ARE OUR BEACHES? CENTRE PAGES

tangled in thick weeds in a reservoir at Cransley, Northants.

Police later warned youngsters NOT to swim in reservoirs or rivers during the heat wave.

There were several bad accidents, including a death crash which closed the A31 near Ringwood, Dorset, for two hours.

At Weston-super-Mare, Avon, 47 youths were arrested when 1,000 scooter riders went on the rampage after a rally.

Holidaymakers were forced to flee and police were issued with riot shields as the scooter fans threw bottles and rocks at police.

Keeping cool in the nudist beaches row

COUNCILLORS may be hot and bothered but controversy seemed as scarce as three-piece suits on Brighton's nudist beach yesterday.

Peter Coleman, along with wife Barbara and son Stuart, 12, from Luton, took the wholesome family view.

"We were born like it, why can't we sunbathe like it?"

On the more conservative stretches of beach — which

THE GREAT TOPLESS DEBATE: PAGE 9

included many a topless sun worshipper — an equally tolerant air prevailed.

Nevertheless when the matter comes up at Brighton Council next month the vote for or against a cover-up is expected to be a close-run thing.

At Bournemouth over the weekend 20 people were in hospital for sunstroke and at Studland, Dorset, a man had to be given the kiss of life after collapsing in the heat.

Fairground fall kills boy

SCHOOLBOY Craig Bennett died in hospital last night 24 hours after a freak fairground accident.

Craig, 12, from Towyn, North Wales, tripped as he left a local fair "Scrambler" car before it stopped whirling and hit his head.



IT'S THE LATEST DARK SECRET OF UFO-LAND

E.T. phone the Express — have

you come back to Earth?

by JACK HILL

WHEN it comes to spotting visiting craft from other worlds, the earthlings of Westbury ought to know a little more than the rest of us.

For the Wiltshire town lies within the famous "Warminster Triangle," which is to UFOs what Cowes is to yachting.

But even there, five mystery circles that have suddenly appeared in a fresh green cornfield have got everyone guessing.

It looks almost as if E.T. has come back to earth.

The biggest circle is 50ft in diameter. The four others, 14ft in diameter, are neatly positioned around it to create four corners. Just as though a spaceship has landed there.

The corn inside has been flattened close to the ground in a swirling, circular manner, as if by a giant fan or whirling blade.

What has been baffling everyone since 40-year-old farmer Stan Pointer reported the strange sight is that there were no signs of entry by tractor or motor vehicle, except where his tractor had made regular patterns while spraying.

Sightseers

Theories have been flying around like saucers from outer-space.

Stan's wife, Janet, believes the circles were made by a whirlwind. "They can do funny things in a cornfield like this," she said.

But her husband said: "I've never seen anything like this in my life."

Some people say that deer are to blame. But Mr Alan Shepperd, on whose land the circles lie, says: "It is the wrong time of year for deer to be rutting, which could make them flatten an area."

Police in Westbury are not ruling out practical jokers. But a spokesman said: "Whoever did it, if they did, put in a lot of hard work and study to get the circles right."

Even that seems unlikely, though. There are several marks linking the circles now because sightseers have flocked to the field, on the B3093 Westbury to Devizes road.

But there were no clear marks at first, insists Mr Shephard.

Such weird goings-on will not trouble the folk within the Warminster Triangle too much, of course.

Since the first dramatic sightings in the sixties, they have reported seeing UFOs of all shapes and sizes.

And if it turns out that the five mysterious cornfield circles were left by E.T.'s spaceship they will be able to say to a doubting world: "We told you so."



Circles of mystery... the puzzling holes among the tractor marks Picture: CHRIS WOOD

THE ANGELS JOIN HUNT FOR MISSING £10m TYCOON Page 10