

NOT much has appeared for this year's silly season, I am sorry to say. There have been a few sightings of monsters in lakes, but only in the US, as far as my certainly half-hearted researches have told me. There has been not a single sighting of the one in Loch Ness, which is disappointing and, in spite of the phenomenal temperatures reached in this summer, nobody has fried an egg on a car bonnet, a pavement or the wing of an aircraft at Heathrow.

The only event that comes anywhere near the required standard is the alleged landing of a space craft in a corn field at Alfriston in Sussex, near to Dennis Healey's garden. He is quoted as saying that he is baffled by the large ring of flattened corn with four attendant rings outside the big one. Local police say they are a mystery. Someone from the British UFO Research Association reported, darkly, that "so far, scientists have been unable to come up with a definitive solution".

As there are flattened paths through the corn leading in and out of the field and from the big circle to each of the smaller ones, I think that there is no need for panic or even a mopped brow. □