

Inside your celestial Star

★ YOU'RE in for a close encounter of the very best kind with your heavenly Oxford Star this week.

★ We've boldly gone where no others have gone before to bring you out-of-this-world news and features.

★ Sandra Bingham, Oxford's dynamic queen of fitness and exercise writes the first of her monthly health and fitness columns this week. Shape up and keep fit with Sandra on page 14.

★ Have you got something important to say? The Star's letters pages have long been acclaimed for the opportunity they give our readers to get their opinions into print.

★ Now we are going one step further with The

Oxford Platform, a large area of space regularly set aside for one reader to expound on his or her pet subject.

★ For the Oxford Platform, Your Letters and Jim Needle's weekly cartoon Murphy's Law, please turn to pages 10 and 11.

★ Oxford United are under way in the second division and aiming to blaze a trail straight to the top. Follow United each week in the Star in our new regular sport spot on page two.

★ How well do you know Oxford? We're sure there's an awful lot about this ancient and famous city that will amaze and astound you. And beginning this week our Believe It Or Not snippets scattered through our news pages will keep you informed.

★ Add all this to the other fresh new features already introduced in the Star this year: Dear Fiona's advice column (this week on page 6); your weekly horoscope (see page 15); our widely-acclaimed and comprehensive guide to leisure at home and out and about (this week beginning on page 17); and our much-loved Man About Town (as always, on page 4).

★ Last but by no means least, there's our excellent news coverage — with about 100 items of local interest every week.

★ It's an unbeatable package... and we're not finished yet! Watch out for more bold new ventures in the Star in the weeks ahead.

★ The message to our readers and advertisers is loud and clear. The Oxford Star is the best paper in the galaxy that money can't buy.



Jesse James goes missing

AN elderly widow is broken-hearted at the disappearance of her brave little dog after burglars broke into her house.

Mrs Henrietta Hooper was in her bedroom when she heard a noise and saw the handle of the door moving. She rushed to the door, opened it and saw three youths run downstairs and out of the front door. But her little Yorkshire Terrier called Jesse James has also vanished.

Mrs Hooper's daughter Charlotte said: "Jesse James is my mother's life since my father died a year ago. "She is absolutely heartbroken. If the youths took him with them, she is begging them to let the dog go without hurting it.

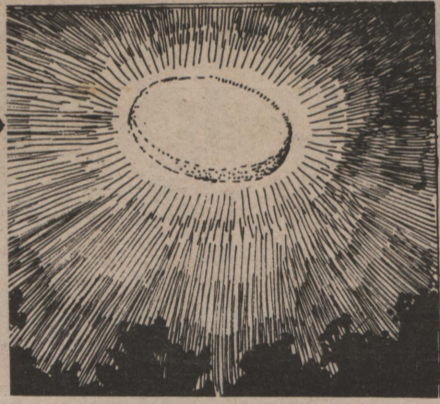
"And if anyone sees Jesse James I would be deeply grateful if they could phone me on Oxford 245017."

Charlotte said Jesse James usually barked furiously. It was possible the raiders had grabbed the dog in the kitchen to keep it quiet.

It was also possible the brave little Terrier had rushed out after the intruders, chased after them and had got lost.

UFO boom in skies over Oxon

Wheatley sighting the first of many



★ An artist's impression of the Wheatley sighting.

FLYING saucer experts are reporting an incredible series of sightings in the skies over Oxfordshire.

They say the mysterious UFOs, which built up their activities through August, could be heading for a new peak next month.

The sightings range from as far apart as Wheatley, Oxford, Faringdon, Wantage, Finstock and Chipping Norton.

Others have been seen further afield, and amazed witnesses have included couples, managers and a fireman.

"It has been quite a build up," said Derek Mansell of the UFO Data Research Centre in Wheatley — who himself saw a strange object in the sky at the end of July.

Since then members of the public have reported 14 other sightings in the Oxfordshire area.

Many of them were referred to the centre when they reported strange lights in the sky to the police. Mr Mansell is compiling a catalogue of sightings, and detailed ones will be investigated.

He used binoculars to watch a silver metallic disc flying east from Wheatley.

"After a while it tilted on its side, but carried on in the same direction and at the same speed, which was about the speed of an airliner," he said.

But that was just the beginning. Nearly two weeks later, in the early

Landlord silent

BARONET Sir Michael Hodson has refused to comment on the effect his four new student houses will have on neighbours.

Sir Michael has invested over £100,000 from the sale of a business into four homes in one street, Otlands Road, in West Oxford.

He has told the city council he will be putting students into all four this month — in spite of protests from local people that it will ruin the community.

But he has refused to say anything about the fears of neighbours.

Lady Hodson, speaking to the Oxford Star from their home in Woodstock, "I have talked to my husband about it, and we have no comment to make."

Green scheme delay

WORK on the £15 million Gloucester Green scheme has been delayed again.

Only last week it was announced that developers will not move in until after the New Year — at least three months late.

Now the city recreation committee has agreed to have another look at plans for the Old Fire Station Arts Centre.

The arts centre say they will be worse off under the present plan, which will turn the building round and let off the top floor as offices.

They have drawn up a minimum scheme, which needs more money from the council, to keep their facilities up to the same standards.

Sports centre price pledge

AN 18-month wrangle between four councils over Kidlington's sports facilities is ended — with a pledge that no price rises are planned.

On October 1 Cherwell District Council will take over the village's swimming pool, squash courts, sports hall and all-weather pitch.

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EXCLUSIVE By DAVID BOYLE

minutes of July 26, there were more than eight separate reports of coloured lights in the sky, some from as far as Swindon, Reading and Worcester.

Reports varied from red and blue, to red and green or green and blue, but all agreed the lights were stationary except for a wobble, before moving slowly off to the South.

Later sightings include:

- A spherical object over Wheatley one morning;
- A large red light, like a small full moon, over Oxford, moving slowly to the north-east;
- Flashes in the sky over Headington, reported by a very frightened woman;
- Exploding searchlights in the sky over Wantage;
- A round object with revolving sides moving over Finstock.

The strangest sighting came at the end of last month, when an elongated shape was seen over Chipping Norton, with a yellow light at either end and a long red light in the middle.

It disappeared, then was suddenly there again in the same place a few minutes later, Mr Mansell said.

The Unidentified Flying Saucer Data Research Centre can be contacted on Wheatley 2071.

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