

# Encounters with the unknown

CONTRARY to public opinion, UFOs are regularly seen over major cities and Bradford is by no means an exception.

The Yorkshire UFO Society has on record many startling encounters over Bradford and its surrounding satellite towns and villages.

Reports of strange incidents is nothing new to this area, yet how real is the phenomenon and can it all be placed in categories which support a more down to earth explanation? The evidence suggests not, and we must point out that the following documentation has been analysed by some of the leading UFO researchers in this country and much of the data suggests an unknown intelligence.

Reports of UFOs continue to build up in our files relating to the Bradford area, but we must go all the way back to 1960 to find a classic example of how the subject displayed itself to a couple of innocent witnesses. This report, compared with recent encounters, will amply show how little the UFO has changed in the eyes of the un-knowing witness.

## Froze

Two women had left a house in the Low Moor area and were heading on foot towards High Fernley. Suddenly they became aware of a dark grey saucer shape just above a nearby hillside. Around the centre of the object a series of brightly lit 'portholes' were very evident. No sound could be heard even though the object was just two hundred feet away, hovering motionless just above some advertisement boards. The couple froze for a moment, and watched the very large craft move silently towards the Pennines.

There is nothing in the report to suggest a hoax or mis-identification of any known airborne object.

How physical is the phenomena and do UFOs constitute a threat to the public? A

MARK BIRDSALL, Research Director of the Yorkshire UFO Society, describes recent sightings, and concludes that Bradford is on a major UFO flightpath. Mark, a 28-year-old computer operative, formed the YUFOS with his brother in 1981. It now has some 200 members, 40 of them in Bradford.

terrified witness living in the King's Road recalls: "The year was 1967 and I was aware of a loud, pulsating, whirling sound outside my bedroom. The time was 2.30 a.m. I turned my bedroom light on and the sound grew louder. At this point my bedroom light started to flicker. I looked outside the window and couldn't believe my eyes! An enormous domed saucer was moving slowly across the street. It sent shivers down my back. It was bright silver and had a series of flashing lights around a raised dome. I would estimate its size to be no smaller than 150 ft. It was incredible."

The modern era of UFO sightings and the lengthy investigative methods and procedures YUFOS undertake to solve such mysteries are today 'dogged' by man's own advanced technological achievements in aviation. Today there are so many unusual objects to be seen in the skies. But could anything explain the object which hurtled towards Bradford on November 7, 1981?

Many witnesses as far afield as Huddersfield spotted a strange sphere cruising at tree top level and spinning rapidly. As it approached south Bradford, people observed a smaller sphere entering the large windowed ball.

1981 was perhaps Bradford's year in so far as UFO sightings are concerned. But few of the witnesses to the following daylight



## Playing it for laughs

ARE there little green men out there? The UFO investigators are keeping an open mind. But members of Bradford's Quasi Science Fiction Club just let their imaginations run riot.

Making science fiction masks (the ones illustrated are by Colin Thornton who recently won a two-week holiday to Hollywood on the strength of one of his creations) is just one of the activities of the club, which meets every Monday at the Bridge Project, 40 Piccadilly, Bradford.

The members are planning to make a S.F. film this spring, and to "twing" with a similar club in America, but meanwhile they've just brought out their first fanzine.

It's a lively duplicated magazine called The Chronicles of Quest.

John Hewitt

experience will ever forget the month of June. We had received calls relating to the sighting of a large saucer shaped craft hovering over the West of the city. Quite quickly our Bradford investigators hurried to the scene.

Perhaps as is always the case with UFO investigation, the object had departed! The story does not end there however. For at 7.30 p.m. the same evening further reports were made of the identical object.

Seven statements taken by our investigators related heavily towards each other, all the observers offered similar descriptions — a silver craft with a purportedly 'glass' dome being illuminated from inside.

Yorkshire has a great reputation in

relation to such encounters with the unknown and perhaps one of the most disturbing occurred near Haworth. We have tried to solve this mystery for nearly four years, but still we remain totally baffled by the strange incident at Cullingworth Moor.

On September 17, 1983 at 10.30 p.m., two women were driving over Cullingworth Moor towards their home in Haworth. The road was deserted when suddenly a cluster of multi-coloured lights took up a position directly in front of the vehicle and around 30 ft. off the ground.

The women, absolutely terrified, slowed down immediately to around 5 mph. As the vehicle passed under the lights they could clearly see a large dark structure which

emitted a brilliant white beam at the car. The driver was flooded by an intense white light, she lost control of the car. Just seconds before they plunged down an embankment, she managed to regain control. The vehicle stopped. The glowing object moved off slowly towards the Skipton area, and quite silently left the women.

Both extremely upset they raced for home. When they arrived home they noticed the clock. A journey which usually takes less than thirty minutes had seemingly taken nearly two hours.

Some four days later the women decided to re-trace the journey at exactly the same time. Both very frightened they started to travel on the same stretch of road. Their fears were to

be realised when at exactly the same locality they had encountered the UFO, a red mist appeared from thin air and engulfed the vehicle.

The driver pressed hard on the accelerator and cleared the thick red glowing mist. When they arrived home they realised they had lost some thirty minutes again.

## Mystery

UFO sightings continue in the Bradford area and reports are still well above the national average. Even now, as we endeavour to evaluate the masses of information, people still come forward to relate strange encounters and observations. Such was the case just before Christmas when two astronomers claimed they saw a UFO glowing brilliant yellow in the sky over Shipley. Why Bradford is witness to so many UFO overflights remains a bigger mystery than perhaps the phenomena themselves. Perhaps the key lies with the city's locality. Bradford backs on to the vast, open areas of Yorkshire and just a short distance away the Pennines, scene of the most intense UFO activity in the United Kingdom. Is that why we are on the UFO flightpath? Time will tell.

Tomorrow the Yorkshire UFO Society will be staging a major conference with leading figures from all over Europe attending. The meeting is being staged at Centenary House, North Street, Leeds, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (doors open at noon).

International speakers will be relating substantial evidence which will dismiss the sceptics claims of 'no material evidence'. The Society will be presenting some of the strangest incidents this country has ever seen, making Yorkshire the key in the vast jigsaw so aptly termed The UFO Paradox.

## Telegraph & Argus

### COMMENT

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## Ban these vigilantes

IT IS an indictment of the sort of society in which we live that as many as 60 people attended a meeting in Bradford to hear plans for fighting racism on the streets. Workers Against Racism wants to recruit members to its defence patrols, so-called vigilante groups, which will protect Asians from attack.

While any sensible and sane person abhors any kind of assault on the person and property of Asians in the city, there can be no excuse for setting up bodies of this kind. By opposing

## Letters

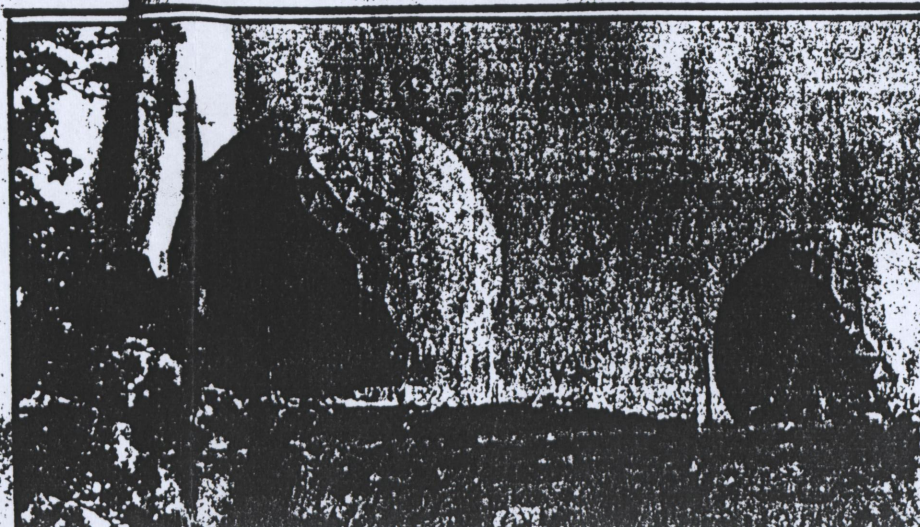
# Time to exert independence

SIR — With less than a fortnight to go before the county council is abolished, the future of the West Yorkshire Transport Museum is still undecided.

The problems caused by political posturing and horse-trading as each district sought to gain the most at minimum cost, and the fact that there is little love lost between the county and the districts have been compounded by the lack of decision within the county council both over the future direction of the museum and also the best means of securing the position of the staff.

The Museum Trust was established by the county council as an independent body; if the various districts are only prepared to see the project advance in a modified or reduced form, then it is time for the Trust to exert its independence.

Some of the politicians argue that because much of the funding has come from the local authorities then the project must remain under local authority control. A strange view, given the independence shown to companies funded by the Enterprise Board.



ren and to raise them properly and, if possible, to give them a better life.

And from conversation with children, one of their chief complaints is, that far from studying homosexuality or lesbianism, they still don't get meaningful tuition on heterosexuality, but just like us, have to "pick it up" as best they can from their equally ignorant mates or from books left lying around by parents.

A. G. Stephens, 1 Gardiner Row, Dudley Hill.

## Hands in pockets

SIR — I am wondering where all the great Yorkshire cricketers and ex-players have disappeared to now that Bradford Park Avenue Cricket Club is closing down. As an amateur cricketer for 25 years and a keen sports follower, I am amazed that the professionals who have had a comfortable life out of cricket can't put something back into it. Park Avenue, 66 Hutton, Trieman.



Up-market egg: 15lb. sheer indulgence for chocolate pioneers Lindt. It costs a mere £150.

# Sweet chunk of