

# A ghost of Xmas past —or a UFO

From the 'light in the sky' interest of a few weeks ago, there came a story from a friend of mine. In the late 1950's, he and his family lived in a house which was later demolished.

It stood in St. James Square, Aberystwyth, adjoining the auction rooms and behind the big church.

by Llowarch

One night - in about 1958 or '59 - my friend's small daughter awoke in the night and her waking roused him. Going into her room, he noticed immediately that it was illuminated by a green light. Clearly, the little girl had been disturbed by the light.

My friend looked out of the window which faced towards the Angel Inn in the upper part of Great Darkgate Street. What he saw surprised him and he called his wife to witness the sight.

Hovering above the pub was what he describes as a "Christmas bell shaped object". The lower part of what he saw - whatever it was - was green. The upper part glowed red. And the light, in common with many UFO's pulsated.

I must mention that his wife had always been sceptical of such reported sightings, and to a certain degree she still is, but what she saw made her apprehensive.

My friend decided to leave the house and go and see if he could obtain a better view of the object. He pulled on some clothes over his pyjamas and went outside. He reasoned that the UFO could best be seen by heading towards the pier, for that was the direction in which the thing appeared to be.

Going down Pier Street, he stood to the right of the pier facing the sea. Out there, he again watched the object. Its light was reflected by the waters of Cardigan Bay, making a pathway of light to the shore in the same way the moon would.

He observed it for some time on that mild summer night. The UFO moved in some sort of pattern. It would rise, move across a little way, descend towards the water and then return to its original position. There was no noise to be heard and the sea was fairly still.

Then, suddenly and surprisingly, the light zoomed off at enormous speed as if towards North Wales. My friend re-

turned home, puzzled.

Nearby, there lived a policeman and my friend mentioned the incident to him, hoping to find out if there had been other witnesses to the sighting. A little later, the policeman neighbour told him that he should have a word with another member of the constabulary who had been on duty that night.

Seeing this other constable in the town, my friend approached him. At first, the young policeman was wary. He thought my friend might be ridiculing him. The reason for his reticence soon became apparent.

On the night in question, the constable had been on duty. He had indeed witnessed something odd in the night sky, and at about the same time as my friend. In fact, he reported the matter when he went into the police station.

Most of us can be sceptical at times. Our 'funny' comments can be hurtful to someone who has seen something which can't be explained. The constable reported not only seeing this peculiar light, but also that it had landed on top of Constitution Hill. His colleagues laughed at his report. Such things don't really happen, do they? Further, he was, for a little while, suspected of drinking on duty.

It is understandable that the policeman was reluctant to tell my friends what he had seen.

The matter was not reported generally, of course. Yet, though it happened a long time ago, I feel it should not go unrecorded. Remember that this happened to perfectly reliable witnesses and it was in the days before the advent of laser beams.

The subject of UFO' has brought me so much correspondence of late that I shall return to it in a couple of weeks. In the meantime, may I wish a happy wedding anniversary to my wife...