

R. Cotton

Balloon hit house, claims woman

LEICESTER MERCURY 13/10/86

A "dumbfounded" pensioner is today trying to solve the mystery of what she claims was a hot air balloon crash on her roof.

Mrs. Idina Watkiss was shocked when she heard a crashing sound on the roof of her Coplow Avenue home, yesterday.

And neighbours reported a low-flying balloon in the Stoneygate area near her home.

Mrs. Watkiss today relived the frightening incident which happened as she was cooking her Sunday lunch. "There was this terrible noise on the roof and I thought the roof was going to come off. I was absolutely dumbfounded and transfixed and couldn't work out what had happened."

"I carried on with what I was doing but I was in a state of shock. It wasn't until later that I went out and saw that coping plaster had fallen off the roof and was lying on the ground outside the house.

"Later on neighbours told me they had seen a balloon flying low and had had difficulty in gaining height, although no one actually saw the balloon hit my house."

Officials at East Midlands Airport traffic control have had no reports of any such incident and there have been no incidents reported to Stoughton Airfield.

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