

# Mystery of the Sussex UFOs

SUSSEX has long been a favourite spot for close encounters with "flying saucers."

It reached a peak in the mid and late 1970s when hardly a week went by without someone reporting seeing something strange in the sky.

Many, of course, turned out to be legitimate aircraft. Others were the result of elaborate hoaxes. However, a lot defied intensive investigation by experts and still remain a puzzling mystery.

In March, 1976, thousands of residents spotted flashing balls of light in the sky over Horsham. A few months later a Crawley mother reported seeing a star-shaped object flying over her roof.

At about the same time a "white light" was seen floating over Peacehaven Golf Course. In March 1977, low-flying stars surrounded by red and silver flames were spotted hovering low over Withdean, Brighton. The same month, a UFO like a "big white football" was sighted near Hastings.

## Objects

In April 1978 "objects in the sky" were reported shortly before a number of undergrowth blazes in Ashdown Forest. In November, 1980 a "red and orange glow" was seen hovering over Bognor Regis.

Since then Sussex sightings seem to have fizzled out.