

Notts UFOs: Aliens or a big secret?

FLYING objects seen over Nottingham last week remain unidentified.

Dozens of phone calls began to flood into the *Evening Post* offices last Thursday morning and have continued.

Callers reported a strange series of lights in the sky last Wednesday night. So what were they?

Reports also went to the police, to East Midlands International Airport and to local radio stations.

These were not people seeking publicity for their claims — they were just baffled by what they had seen and wanted answers.

With very few exceptions, they were ordinary people who had seen something in the sky they had not seen before — and that concerned them.

They were people used to seeing and hearing aircraft at night, yet these lights immediately drew their attention.

All said they had never reported a UFO before.

Remarkable similarities

Their descriptions had remarkable similarities, as did the time of the sightings, but were not close enough to suggest a conspiracy.

From the reports, it appears that two very large objects displaying strange light configurations and emitting a constant low hum flew very slowly and low from Newark over Nottingham to the Derbyshire border and then back east over the south of the city.

Housewife Mrs Alison Evans, 26, of Henson Lane, Radcliffe-on-Trent, had friends visiting her at the time.

With Tollerton airport nearby, she is used to aircraft of all shapes and sizes.

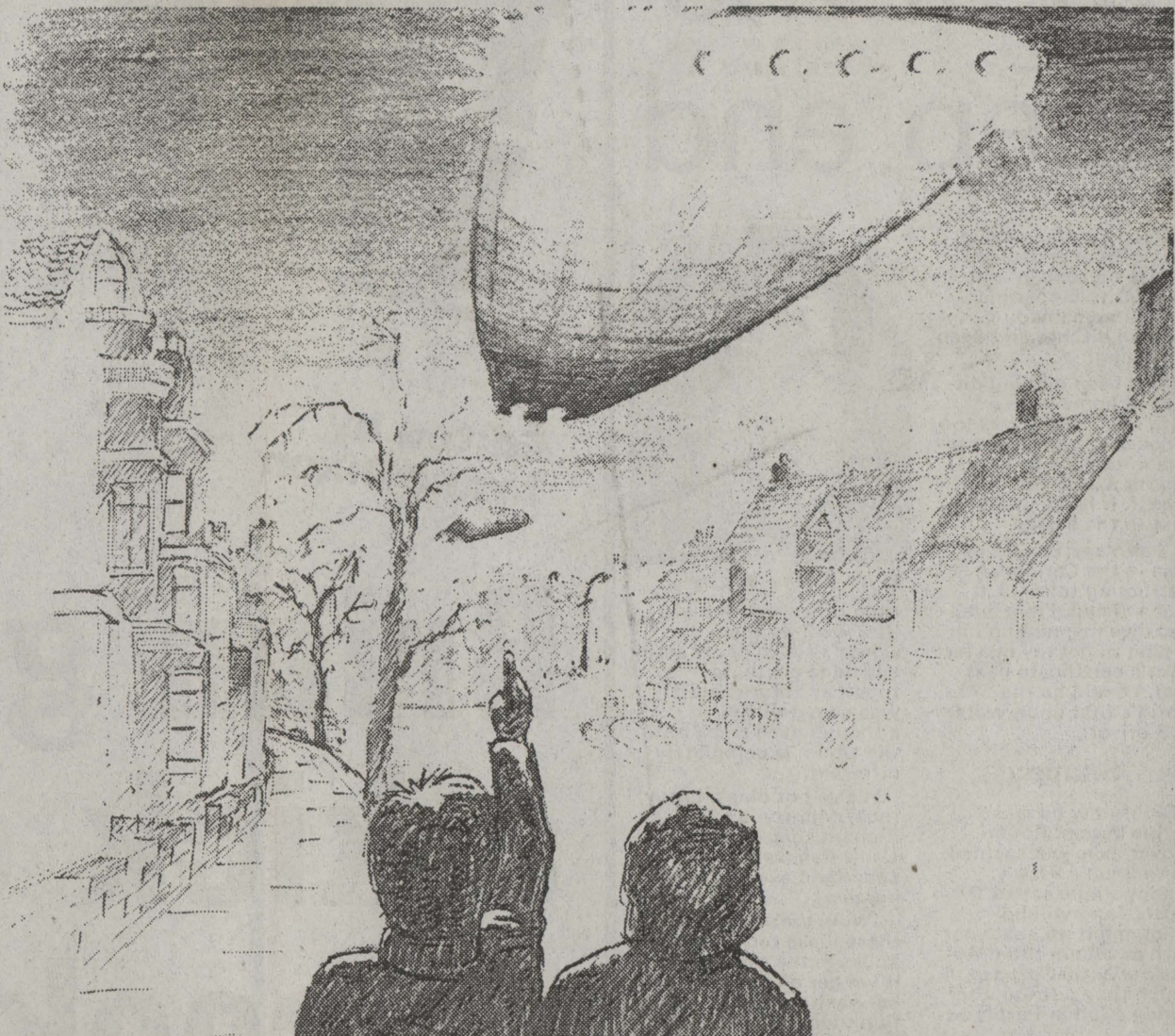
"My friend was leaving to go. I went outside as she was getting into her car and I saw the lights coming over," she said.

"We followed the lights coming over, walking round the side of the house.

"There were two rows of lights and red lights behind. It must have been quite low and was making a low humming noise."

They went back to the front and the friend, Mrs Lindy West, was about to leave.

"We saw exactly the same thing coming over



● Post artist Tony Rose's impression of the UFO which sparked off so much interest

AUTHORITIES ARE BAFFLED — OR SWORN TO SILENCE

By IAN STEWART

Nothing showed on the radar screens at East Midlands Airport and the RAF said nothing came up on their screens at West Drayton.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said 90% of UFO sightings turned out to be satellite debris, balloons, unusual cloud formations or aircraft.

The Civil Aviation Authority said there was no unusual aircraft activity at the time, but added

it could have been an aircraft straying into the area.

Few alternatives

But from descriptions given, it is unlikely it was a type of aircraft normally seen — which leaves few alternatives.

One is they were aircraft of a type not known and operated by persons unknown.

The usual speculation is that they were top secret military aircraft and

everybody from the police to the MoD are sworn to secrecy.

Americans are believed to have strange-shaped secret aircraft that are said to be "radar invisible".

But if you want to keep something secret you don't decorate it with strings of fairy lights and fly it low over cities unless you accept that people are going to see it anyway — and if it looks like the popular idea of a flying saucer all witnesses are discredited.

Then again, it could have been aliens...



● Alison Evans — "There were rows of red lights" POSTPHOTO P8232