

The Gazette reopens the great debate on the UFO mystery that has

JUST PIE IN THE SKY

CURIOUS extra-terrestrial activities have been stirring up controversy in the Fylde for decades. The "Gazette" library has cuttings on hundreds of UFO sightings, dated back beyond 1980, confirming local interest in the strange subject. In the early 1960s, chief photographer Ray Hoyle was at the centre of a UFO mystery as one of his pictures showed a saucer-type object hovering next to Blackpool Tower. The bizarre incident has not been resolved. Was it a camera quirk or extra-terrestrial spaceship?



WELL, is it a flying saucer? Just one of the many mysterious sightings captured on film over the years.

Or is there really something there?

MYSTERIOUS UFO sightings are on the up and up on the Fylde Coast, it is claimed.

As nationwide controversy rages over extra-terrestrial activity, reported sightings in Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre have taken off.

Blackpool and Fylde UFO Society claims since last summer many more people have had encounters, which can't be explained.

"It seems the number of sightings is getting

stronger in this area," said the society's president, Mrs Hazel Shanley. The group even has a hotline to report sightings.

Extra-terrestrial encounters have been reported from all over the area, particularly over the sea and close to the M55 motorway.

"There's always been quite a lot in the Blackpool area," continued Mrs Shanley. "Now more people are coming forward about experiences."

Only last month a close encounter was reported in the "Evening Gazette". A Merseyside musician claimed to have seen an unidentified flying object outside his home.

The man saw a pulsating yellow light, descending in stages. As it approached him, the spherical object began spinning at high speed, emitting blue, red green and white light before disappearing out of sight.

Mrs Shanley said there had also had reports of UFOs dropping "angel hair" -- can-dy-floss-type strands, which turn to crystal before evaporating.

She started the society over two years ago, after a close experience with extra-terrestrial life.

She was returning to a hotel

By RICHARD BAGULEY

day farm in Sussex when her car was followed by a UFO. The dome-shaped object, with red and white lights, passed right overhead.

"It was still quite high up, but passed over the car, then disappeared without trace."

She said the Government had many secret files on UFO sightings. "It's a cover-up," she continued. "They won't let us know anything."

The local UFO society, which has 35 members, investigates all reported sightings.

"There's been a lot of interest recently," said the president. "Members are quite excited about it. It's bringing the whole issue more out into the open."

The group's hotline number for reporting sightings is 56821.

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