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'It's not a joke, I want to know what's up there'

ASTRO ANSWERS TO UFO PUZZLE

SCORES of awestruck stargazers spotted the mystery UFO reported in last week's Mirror.

The strange phenomenon - two very bright white lights shining from an object estimated to be nearly 200 feet in width - has been witnessed by people from as far apart as Redhill and Dorking.

But this week the mystery may have been solved. No, science fiction fans, it isn't a UFO but Venus and Jupiter in conjunction with each other.

Despite numerous UFO sightings and differing accounts of what was seen in areas such as Buckland, an anonymous caller said Venus was the brighter of the two planets, Jupiter being slightly dimmer.

"They are often mistaken for UFO's but it's unusual for them to be together like that," he said.

This simple solution was later confirmed by Mr Leonard Carter, Executive Secretary of the British Interplanetary Society.

But, Mr Joe Clarke, one of the UFO spotters highlighted in last week's article, is still not convinced.

by
**Michelle
Danielle**

He claims pilots at Gatwick Airport saw the object, which showed up on radar.

"The lights cannot possibly be planets because they do not show up on radar."

"People are treating this as a joke...but I want to know what's up there!"

Among the many sightings were those of four people who rang Redhill Police Station after seeing strange, enormous shapes over Buckland.

PC David Boyce duly arrived, had a look around and triumphantly declared it was "probably Uranus shining very brightly."

Mrs Lillian Brace, a 90-year old lady from School Hill, Morestham, rang the Mirror to say her friend

Jim Hooper, aged 80, had seen "very bright lights".

These were also spotted by couple Elizabeth and Robert Ford who were driving along Nuttfield Marsh Road towards Morestham.

Mr Norman Hatfield, a member of Redhill and Reigate Phenomena Group, said he had a good idea what the UFO was, but results of investigations would not be known for two weeks.