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OPINION

Things from another world

THERE is a theory that the kind of ghosts seen at any particular period in history vary in their behaviour and significance according to the beliefs of society at the time.

Ghosts, spectres and other manifestations of the allegedly supernatural are still occasionally reported today, but rather more frequent are UFOs. This may be the result of the interest in the fictional or real-life possibilities of space travel. It may also be an indication that some people, deprived of spiritual beliefs, have a subconscious desire to see evidence of a world other than this one.

The reported sighting of unidentified flying objects usually creates two kinds of reaction. One is to confirm in the minds of the believers the existence of extra-terrestrial objects. The other is to provide a little light relief to everyday life.

It is probable that the reported appearance of flying objects, looking like jellyfish, in the skies of East Devon will — unless further developments result in their being taken with great seriousness — be regarded generally as a matter of levity rather than levitation.

However, objects seen in the Devon skies can result in quite a major sensation. Such was the case a good many years ago when two police officers followed a fiery cross in the sky for many miles across the county.

Devon has no area like that at Warminster on the edge of Salisbury Plain which for many years appeared to be the point for UFO sightings.

All the same, an object that looks like a jellyfish rather than a flying saucer or cigar might indicate that a new breed of beings from outer space could well be watching us. Or it might not.