

# 'Rugby ball' UFO seen over river

**RESEARCHERS** have been investigating a surge of UFO activity in the skies over Thurrock in the last ten weeks.

Strange lights and mysterious objects have been spotted with increasing frequency, says the East Anglian UFO and Paranormal Association.

"In the last two to three months we have had 18 reports of UFOs in this area," said investigator Peter Oliver. "That is a big increase on the number of reports we had been receiving previously."

The association has now set up a hotline so that members of the public who spot UFOs can contact them without delay.

Among the latest sightings have been a bright object described as a "rugby ball with a tail," and a brilliant green light hovering over the A13. Both are being investigated by the society which has ruled out the possibility of them being normal aircraft.

The "rugby ball" was seen by a man in Grays, at about 3am on April 12. It was covered in flashing lights and he watched it hovering over the river for half an hour

by Staff Reporter

before losing it in the clouds.

The object was seen by people in Canvey and Rettendon within hours of the Grays' sighting.

Later the same day, the brilliant green light was spotted by an elderly Grays woman at about 9pm as she was putting out her milk bottles.

She said she watched it for about ten minutes and during that time it changed from green to yellow and then to white.

The edges of the object gave off light similar to a Bonfire Night sparkler, she said. Eventually it moved off in the direction of the river.

Mr Oliver said he had interviewed the woman and it was certainly not a helicopter or any other form of aircraft that she had

seen.

"We would like to hear from anyone else who saw these objects in the sky," he said.

"We would also like to hear of any other UFO sightings or supernatural experiences.

"Many people are reluctant to talk about these kind of things because they fear ridicule by neighbours, workmates or even family and close friends.

"But we have carried out many interviews and take these things very seriously. The data we gather is processed and used to try to find out what these things are and where they come from."

Anyone with information should contact the society's hot line on Basildon (0258) 286079.