

4 AUG 1989

RIDDLE OF LIGHTS IN HORSHAM'S NIGHT SKY

Was this a UFO?

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ALL of these people witnessed the strange lights in the Horsham sky on Saturday night. They are all convinced that something strange was going on. The Copsale UFO spotters are, from left: Julie Chambers, Kevin Phillips-Hill, Jamie Chambers, Ann Chambers, Jessica Chambers, Jayne Phillips-Hill, Nicholas Phillips-Hill, Alistair Phillips-Hill and Jim Chambers with Karen Phillips-Hill in front.



THE SKIES over Horsham were lit up on Saturday night by what the Chambers family of Copsale and their neighbours are convinced were UFOs.

"I've never in my life seen anything like it," said Jim Chambers, head gamekeeper on the Ghyll House Farm Estate, Copsale, describing the Unidentified Flying Objects.

"We first saw the thing about ten past ten. The film had just started on the satellite channel and our daughters came into the living room and said there was a light outside shining into their faces.

"I told them I'd come and see. I looked out to the front of the house and there, across the lake and above the trees, about 300 yards away, was this great round, white light about 25 or 30 feet across with a series of lights around the edge."

His wife Ann continued: "It sat there hovering over the trees for two or three minutes and then went across to what we call The Wilderness. It went in a big circle, maybe a mile across, but all in a split second. It looked as though maybe it was mapping the area because it moved over towards Southwater and moved around in a circle again."

The Chambers telephoned their neighbours, Jayne and Kevin Phillips-Hill, who came out of

their house to see the bizarre sight.

"I've never seen anything like that before in my entire life," said Mrs Phillips-Hill. "The speed of the thing was absolutely incredible."

Mr Chambers said that they had also seen an airplane in the sky at the same time. "The difference between the two was remarkable. The lights were moving so quickly that the normal aircraft looked as though it was standing still. After it moved over towards Southwater another one appeared just above and to the left of the first one. They were each going around in circles at the same rate."

The object made no noise and Mr Chambers says they have seen no signs of any kind that it may have left behind.

by Jan Hatwell

"No burning or trampled grass or anything like that. And it was perfectly quiet. The children didn't hear any noise at first either. Jessica, our four-year-old, thought it was her mum shining a torch in through her bedroom window for a joke."

Both families, a total of ten people, sat and watched the phenomenon for about 45 minutes after which it disappeared in the direction of Broadbridge Heath. "We called the airport and Gatwick said they didn't have anything on their radar. The police gave us two numbers to call if we thought we'd seen a UFO, one in Dorking and one in Radhill, but they were both unobtainable."

Derek Head of Cape Copsale, Rudgwick, said he was travelling from Five Oaks towards Rudgwick on Saturday night about midnight. He stopped his car and got out to watch the sky.

"There were four white hazy lights and they appeared to be elliptical shapes radiating from a central point which wasn't moving at all." He said that there should have been a logical explanation but he couldn't see any lights from the ground projecting upwards on to a cloud.

Reports of a laser show on Saturday night in the Godalming area were confirmed by Surrey Police. A spokesman said that there had been a large party in Thursley, near Hindhead, a distance of about 20 miles as the crow flies from Horsham.

"We were inundated with phone calls. Godalming police station in particular. We despatched a unit to an address in Thursley where we found a noisy but orderly party, with the guests enjoying a laser light show."

"It consisted of a set of rotating lights and there was so much low cloud that the lower half of the beam wasn't visible. So it wasn't apparent that the lights were coming from ground level. The party continued and we had sightings of the lights reported from as far away as Haslemere and North Guildford."

But Kevin Phillips-Hill was adamant. "Nothing anyone can say will convince me that it wasn't a UFO. We're on the flight path here and we know the difference between a plane or a helicopter and what we saw."