

# Opinions vary over UFO stir

**MIXED reaction has greeted the UFO sightings which caused such a stir in the Horsham area last week.**

Unidentified Flying Objects were reported from locations around Godalming in Surrey, Rudgwick and by a family in Copsale, near Horsham.

All reported a large white light with a series of lights around the edge sighted during the late evening of Saturday, July 29.

Surrey police were inundated with calls but said the UFO's were, in fact, nothing more than a laser show at a party in Godalming but as there was a lot of low cloud the lower half of the beam wasn't visible, hence the UFO effect.

But Kevin Phillips-Hill, called by neighbour Jim Chambers, of the Ghyll House Farm Estate at Copsale, to witness the phenomenon, was adamant, as he told the County Times last week: "Nothing anyone can say will convince me that it wasn't a UFO."

And the reports and descriptions reminded Raymond Webb, of East Street, Rusper, of a similar experience he had in Essex when working as a minicab driver in 1977.

"The circumstances were identical," he said.

He had two passengers in his car at the time. They stopped the car for a closer look at the UFO by a large quarry area.

This time visibility was "very, very good," and they could clearly see a large white light with others circling it,

Mr Webb said.

"The woman was scared and asked her husband to get in the car."

He said it remained constant for about five or ten minutes then started moving, disappearing then appearing again about ten minutes later some distance away.

Of the latest sighting Mr Webb said: "It is the description of the lights that is an exact parallel of what I saw and the way the things behaved is the same."

He and his passengers reported it separately to the police.

## Practical joke

"They thought it was a practical joke," Mr Webb said, but pointed out that in 1977 there were no laser lights around to offer as an explanation.

But someone who is convinced the laser lights explanation is the correct one for the most recent sightings is Frances Elworthy, of Toat Lane, Pulborough, who was with her family and neighbours.

She said: "We also saw this sight and the lights were, as it appeared, above cloud level."

But Mrs Elworthy said they got some binoculars "and then you could see there was a beam going up".

She had originally reported it to the police before seeing the beam and again afterwards when they told her they had been in touch with Gatwick Airport and been told there was "nothing" on the radar screen.

So there you have it. UFOs or not UFOs? According to some that still remains the question.