

# 'We too saw UFOs above Pendle.!'

ARE UFOs hovering in the skies above Pendle?

Last week we told you how local woman Andrea Varley was convinced she saw a flying saucer over Brierfield on Bonfire Night.

And this week we have been inundated by Leader-Times readers swear,

ing... "we too have had a close encounter with an unidentified flying object."

Could the bizarre phenomena be craft from another galaxy?

Or are they the delusions of witnesses who have mistaken low flying aircraft or unusual atmospheric manifestations for ships from outer space?

Whether you believe in

## Stuart Draper reports

flying saucers or not, there have been reports of strange illuminated shapes in the skies throughout history, from the Bible onwards.

The prophet Ezekiel had one of the earliest extraterrestrial experiences on record at Chebar, when the Israelites were in captivity in Babylon.

"I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about," (Ezekiel 1, 26).

Later, in 1290 abbots at Byland, Yorkshire, saw "a large round silver wheel fly silently over".

But it is since World War Two that sightings of mysterious objects have taken off.

Allied airmen continually reported that they were accompanied by lights in the sky on their missions to Germany. They nicknamed them "Foo-fighters".

However, accounts of Luftwaffe pilots also refer to similar mystery lights which they believed were British and American aircraft!

So here are a few samples of eye-witness accounts of UFOs soaring around our skies. All the reported sightings were within the past three weeks.

They come from:

● Mrs Dorothy Baker, of Highgate, Nelson, who claims she saw the same object as Miss Varley.

She said: "My husband Ralph used to be in the RAF and he said that it was definitely an aeroplane.

"It was very unusual. It was very long and flying so low. All its lights were on and you could see all the portholes."

● Mr Ronald Jackson, of

Barkerhouse Road, Nelson, was just taking his dog out for a walk one evening when he looked up and saw a bright, stationary light.

"I looked at it for four or five seconds and then it set off in the direction of Colne.

"Its lights were in a banana shape. It was very fast and made no sound. I have never seen a plane like that."

● Mrs Ruth Dewhurst, of Lancaster Gate, Nelson, was in her kitchen on Sunday when she saw something in the sky.

Mrs Dewhurst said: "It seemed so ridiculous I just dismissed until I read your story.

"But the object I saw matched the description in your story.

"It was so plain and near. One minute it was there and the next it had gone."

● Mrs Kathleen Bottomley believes she saw the object that Miss Varley encountered.

She was coming back from Blackpool with her daughter Hilda Crossley early one Sunday evening.

Mrs Bottomley, of Dalton Street, Nelson, explained: "We were on the road through Samlesbury when we saw a little spot which became brighter and brighter.

"There was no noise and it never moved. It just stopped and we watched it for ages before it started going in an easterly direction."

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NO