

# Christmas lights start UFO alert!

OLDHAM'S space age Christmas lights have been causing a stir all over the north of England!

For the bright searchlights designed to draw attention to Oldham's town centre have been confused with UFOs hovering over Manchester by worried sky gazers who can see the lights from miles away.

The beams caused quite a panic in the small Derbyshire towns of Hadfield and Padfield near Glossop.

Villagers coming out of local pubs thought they had had one too many when they saw bright lights in the northern sky - but they became really worried when sober police Sergeant Robert Davidson could see them too!

A major UFO alert was started with calls to the Civil Aviation Authority - but things soon quietened down when the red faced men of Derby realised that they were gasping at Oldham's illuminations.

Council publicity boss

Chris Andrews was behind the scheme to bring the special lights to Oldham.

He said: "These lights have had a far better effect than we ever thought they would - they were supposed to be seen from around the borough but now people from far and wide are looking in our

direction."

Chris had to get special permission from Manchester Airport's air traffic control before the powerful searchlights were switched on.

He said: "We were worried about confusing aeroplanes but we didn't think about people on the ground."

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