

IT'S GOING TO BE A
REALLY BUMPER
YEAR FOR UFOs

So why shouldn't flying saucers look like this?



"FLYING SAUCER," PHOTOGRAPHED BY MRS. OLDFIELD

HAPPILY just in time for the Easter holiday period flying saucers, those delightful but slightly speculative pieces of astral crockery, have indicated that the Season is now well under way.

Mrs. Joan Oldfield, from her seat in an Elizabethan airliner, has filmed an Unidentified Flying Object over Cannock, in Staffordshire.

An object shaped like an ice-cream cone has been seen hovering, appropriately enough, over South-end.

A 30ft long green saucer

has zoomed recklessly over a field at Wilmslow, in Cheshire, under the suspicious eye of Pc. Colin Perks.

And housewives at Christchurch, Hants, have pronounced themselves startled by overflying UFOs.

LIKE traffic jams, the weather, the Loch Ness Monster, TV and politicians' promises, flying saucers have become part of the conversational scene; to be discussed, distorted and, if you like, discounted.

Nobody has ever proved that saucers actually exist, or that they are piloted by some inter-galactical branch of the Munsters.

by MICHAEL HELLICAR

On the other hand, not even Mr. Kenneth Gatland, vice-president of the British Interplanetary Society, is prepared to dismiss them out of hand.

He prefers to keep "an open mind," but says that cloud formations, marsh gas, fireballs and shooting stars often go down as flying saucers.

Mr. Brinsley Le Poer Trench, chairman of the International Committee of the International Sky Scouts — they "log" all saucer reports — is rather more committed.

Yesterday he examined Mrs. Oldfield's pictures and enthused "Fantastic! A very unusual shape for a UFO. I've never seen one quite like it before.

"But that doesn't mean

it isn't one. After all, look at the wide assortment of car and aeroplane designs in the world today. Why shouldn't flying saucers look a bit different?"

Indeed, why shouldn't they?

It's that sort of logic that the scientists find awfully difficult to counter.

Enthusiasts like Mr. Le Poer Trench are convinced our progress, if that's the word for it, is being watched from outer space.

THE standard question is: "Then why don't the watchers make contact?"

To which the standard answer is: "They will, when they think the time is right."

There is also a standard variation to the standard answer.

Mr. Le Poer Trench gave that, too.

"I believe they did make contact — thousands of years ago," he said.

Mr. Le Poer Trench's views, as far as addicts go, are by no means extreme. For example there is the Aetherius Society which believes that a new Messiah will come to earth in a space ship.

Well, now that the saucer season is winging and swinging again, we may look forward to a bonanza year. The experts tell me that 1966 could be a record for UFO sightings.

It's a comfort to know that the saucers are friendly.

How can you tell? That's standard question number two. The standard answer to that one is:

"Because if they weren't they'd have blown us all to bits by now."