

UFO NEWSFILE



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UFOs drive a wedge between European socialists

John Carvel in Brussels

PROPOSALS for a European centre to analyse sightings of unidentified flying objects provoked a row among scientist members of the European Parliament in Brussels yesterday.

Tullio Regge, an Italian socialist MEP and eminent physicist, produced a report for the energy, research and technology committee calling for a central office of information on UFOs.

After interviewing airline pilots and corresponding with the air forces of all member states, he said he did not personally believe in little green men in spacecraft. But plenty of people did.

An EC observation centre, like that at Toulouse in France, could help control the flood of rumours after reports of sightings. And it could have "an invaluable role in exploring the existence and nature of rare meteorological phenomena".

Glyn Ford, leader of the Labour MEPs and a former senior research fellow at Manchester University, described his fellow socialist's idea as "crackpot".

Mr Regge's report was commissioned by the co-ordinators of the political groups in 1991. "Sightings [of UFOs] are customarily thought to be due to the presence of aliens or visitors from other planets," he said. However, recent space exploration appeared to have found no evidence of a planetary civilisation and the distances involved in interstellar travel posed immense difficulties.

Most reports of UFOs seemed to spring from hoaxes, but there remained a few inexplicable sightings which had to be regarded as unidentified flying objects.

Mr Regge said he expected his report to go forward for discussion at a plenary session of the parliament. "It will be subject to a lot of flak," he said.

Mr Ford tried to have the report thrown out, but the chairman refused. "It makes it very difficult for people to take the parliament seriously when committees waste time like this," he added.

Guardian 17.02.93

Probing mysteries

A new club has been set up to investigate ghosts, UFO's, Bermuda Triangle and other phenomena.

Called "World Wide Mysteries," the group aims to gather information and unite people interested in the unexplained.

Details available from 678 3936.

Wallasey News 20.01.93

Research for books

I am undertaking research for two new books - the case for the existence of Unidentified Flying Objects and reincarnation and past lives.

Obviously, as the BBC Radio's astrologer, I have a lot of knowledge of the experiences of the famous, but I would very much like to include the stories and experiences of members of the public.

Perhaps readers would write to me via my publishers, PKN Publications, PO Box 141, Willenhall, West Midlands, WV13 3QR.

PHILIP SOLOMON

Willenhall

Shropshire Star 14.01.93

Shanghai skies filled with mysterious unidentified vision

Shanghai: Was it an angel? Or was it a flying mushroom? The sky over China's largest city was filled with a strange unidentified flying object for more than an hour on Tuesday, the *Xinmin Evening News* said.

The newspaper quoted witnesses who saw an orange-

red man-shaped object move and stop in the sky starting from 7.05pm.

After 20 minutes, the man's head gave off red light and his body glowed with a yellow aura as it sent out green tendrils, it said.

After 8.15 the light disappeared into the night sky.

Irish News 05.03.93

Land here, millionaire tells UFOs

AN eccentric millionaire has built his own UFO landing pad.

In case unearthly visitors miss the spot, 73-year-old Wesley Nunley has had "UFO Landing Base 1" printed in 2ft high red letters across the 100ft-wide concrete base.

Science fiction enthusiast Wesley, of Dallas, Texas, believes Earth is being observed from outer space.

"This could be big. No one has ever put up a UFO welcome message," he said.

Today 23.12.92

Earthlings are easy

Secret Life

Firsthand Accounts of UFO
Abductions

by David M Jacobs

Fourth Estate £14.99 pp336

Martin Cropper

At the close of this insane and possibly insanitary work — after drearily po-faced interviews with 39 American citizens claiming to have been abducted and sexually examined by aliens, after tabulation and “analysis” of their testimonies — the author gets round to listing the obvious objections, which are many and cogent. It’s rather like waiting until the end of shore leave before issuing prophylactics. Still, if these batty narratives could be shown to be mere human fantasy, swears David M Jacobs, “I would weep with joy. I want to be wrong,” he practically sobs — immediately before soliciting further nonsense of the same stripe, zip code appended. Coming from a man who has just devoted more than 300 pages to implying diametrically the opposite, it does look eccentric.

In the trade, the following sentence is known as a weasel: “No significant body of thought exists

Martin Cropper is a freelance writer and reviewer

that presents strong evidence that anything else is happening other than what the abductees have stated.” Couched in the language of an insurance policy’s small print, this is a pawky stab at an intellectual con trick. By affirming a denial it would have us believe that the evidence *in favour* of the abductees is “strong” and does constitute “a significant body of thought”. Perhaps Professor Jacobs, a historian and “leading academic authority” on UFOs, hasn’t read his own book.

Listen to Karen Morgan, a public relations consultant, describing one of many gynaecological assaults on her by an alien: “The instrument stays in a while, and then he pulls it out. I have the impression there’s a lot of goo involved, but I never remember feeling it . . .”

Jacobs, sedulous conductor of the hypnotic regression that unearthed this conundrum, helpfully adds: “Karen woke up in the morning with a sticky, gelatinous substance between her legs. She was puzzled about how she got it and washed it off in her morning shower.”

Now, if Karen was puzzled, how is the reader supposed to react? If the amnesiac screen between the two alleged phenomena was so potent as to induce Karen’s puzzlement, how can she be so sure that the second really occurred “in the morning” after the first, let alone was its consequence? Karen cannot now claim to remember having remembered. It really is a puzzle. Perhaps she doesn’t believe a word she says.

Those who enjoy a thought-provoking book may not see why they should be obliged to do all the thinking, especially to the extent of framing the supplementary questions that ought to have been posed by the investigator. Has Karen ever dreamt of her earthling gynaecologist? Has she ever been taken advantage of sexually while asleep? What is, anyway, her explanation for having had to waken from what she presents as a waking experience? Has she ever been to the movies? Why, after Jacobs thoughtfully provided a video camera to try to nail these pesky aliens for all time, did subsequent abductions occur only when she was out of town? What does she think of trained historians who are impervious to logic?

Between these covers, if nowhere else, all are agreed that the extra-terrestrials take a boundless interest in the reproductive arrangements of mankind; on occasion they present baffled women with instant babies. One of the token male abductees describes a sperm-sampling gizmo: “It looks like a piece of machinery that no good mistress of domination would be without” — a truly un-

earthly locution which passes unnoticed by the author. His lack of curiosity about his subjects as human beings is almost superhuman; for all he tells us of their lives, they might as well be aliens. But only a Martian schoolboy would view a sublunary female as an assemblage of mucous membranes with a droning voice emerging from one or another; even American academics must realise that women inhabit a cultural context, even if that context has been eroded to the point where it consists of little more than the scenery between the mall and the VCR.

The unsmiling pointy-heads, aptly enough, prove quite as boring as the humans they choose to abduct. No doubt they’re following specific instructions. On the other hand, if the former exist only as products of the latter’s imagination, this is the most alarming news of all, since it bespeaks an ideational bereavement that would make angels weep, let alone professors. It might, however, elucidate what Jacobs seems to regard as his ace in the hole. For, once you’ve pricked these confections of clinic and dreamscape, once you’ve junked the gynae-ward hardware and

Sunday Times 14.03.93

mopped up the bodily fluids, you’re left with an apparently irreducible problem, which is the consonance of independent testimony.

Subject after subject rehearses a very similar programme of unwilling molestation which taps the same sump of sexual anxiety. The resentment they express — always towards, you’ll notice, male power figures — might as well have been scripted for them by a committee of social workers. Where that script really originated may one day provide the theme for a serious evaluation of the material to hand; this book, risibly, is not it. What seems beyond doubt is that future researchers won’t lack for volunteers. Presumably, Karen Morgan wouldn’t have submitted to 26 professional debriefing sessions if she didn’t gain some satisfaction from the process, which is impressively cheaper than psychoanalysis.

In another respect the abductees don’t know how lucky they are. There was a time when the alien probers would have been recognised as incubi and succubi, and the poor sillies of either sex who bragged of their acquaintance dealt with accordingly.

SEVERAL READERS have asked me to write about leys. Well, certainly. The first and best book on them is *The Old Straight Track* by Alfred Watkins of Hereford, a real old gent with a native's knowledge of his own countryside and its traditional lore.

In 1922, when he was almost seventy, Mr Watkins discovered in Herefordshire a universal principle, that ancient people everywhere placed their shrines and monuments on straight alignments across miles of country. Between these sites he found stretches of ancient trackways, often with mystical legends attached to them. The existence of these forgotten alignments came to him in a flash of intuition, and so did his name for them, leys.

Archaeologists did not like leys, reasoning that ignorant savages could not have surveyed long, straight alignments. The subject was squashed, and when I raised it again in 1967, in a book called *The Flying Saucer Vision*, the old antagonisms were reactivated. Glyn Daniel, editor of *Antiquity*, worked himself into several intemperate rages against leys, and the lesser grave-robbers yapped disapprovingly in his wake.

I never quite understood what all the fuss was about, but I suspect that the idea of straight lines reminded the old hands of German archaeology in the 1930s, when ancient astronomical alignments were discovered across the Saxon heartland and were taken as proof of ancient racial superiority.

Watkins had no time for that sort of nonsense: his vision of England and the old straight track was Blakean and universal. There was, however, no specific proof that leys existed, and to provide that I published *The Old Stones of Land's End*, a survey of the aligned megalithic monuments in the toe of

Cornwall. This work was examined in a paper to the Royal Society of Statisticians, where the incidence of aligned sites was shown to be greater than could be attributed to chance. So there you are.

Granted that the ancient tribespeople occupied themselves in covering their territories with alignments of circles and great stones, why did they do so?

On that question I know even less than I thought I knew at the beginning. Many theories have arisen, involving UFOs, earth energies, ancient astronomers and the magical techniques of priests or shamans, but the most suggestive clues were followed up by that curious-minded scholar, Bruce Chatwin, who suddenly made his name as a novelist. His insight was that leys had their origin in tribal nomadic society, and this took him to Australia in quest of the fabled song lines or creation paths of aboriginal mythology.

The paths, he said, are invisible, but the tribespeople can discern them through the spirit which animates them. He did not put this in his *Song Lines* book for fear of upsetting the literary people.

From the fairy paths of Celtic folklore to the sacred dragon lines of old China, secret, mystical ways across the landscape are known to exist throughout the world.

There is a common principle behind them which does not yield easily to modern-minded inquiries; but if you frequent ancient sanctuaries with an inquisitive mind, you are open to the influence of ancient mentalities, and thus you become aware of their understanding that the earth is truly a living creature and a divinity.

Only when you share that understanding can you penetrate further into the sublime mysteries of ancient science and religion.

The Oldie 22.01.93

Riddle of UFO sightings

and Tuesday evenings, described it 'like a tadpole, with a round body and a long tail to it, all lit up.'

He says the object was there for over an hour on Monday and that it seemed to be in the area towards Nottingham.

But Mr Ford, who wondered if others had seen the object, thought it was in the Matlock area.

A Chesterfield-based investigator of UFOs, who is reporting the sightings to a UFO group in north Yorkshire, said there had been two other similar reports of sightings between Chesterfield and Matlock since the beginning of last month.

Reported sightings by Chesterfield people of a strange object shining in the sky have triggered off a UFO mystery.

Pete Ford (60) and George Graves (85), both of Hasland, spotted the object in the sky at the bottom of Hasland Road, Chesterfield.

Mr Ford says he and his wife saw it early on Monday evening. At first they thought it was like a big star but viewed through binoculars it was a 'big shell shape, like a woman's brooch with diamante all round the edge.'

Mr Graves, who said he saw the object on Monday

Derbyshire Times 14.01.93

PS Yorkshire UFO expert Philip

Mantle has been called in by the former Soviet Union.

The Batley lad has been made an honorary member of the newly-established Research Institute on Anomalous Phenomena (RIAP), which researches UFOs at Kharkov in the Ukraine.

Philip — a member of the West Yorkshire Independent UFO Network — has been travelling the country for the last 15 years interviewing people who claim they have seen UFOs.

And a trip to meet ufologists in the East is definitely on the cards.

Yorkshire Evening Post 10.02.93

Bright lights spark flying saucer claim

The Citizen 17.12.92

Joining up with the sky-watchers

ROCHDALE UFO fans are reaching for the stars.

A flood of applications have been made to join Rochdale UFO Research Group — but they are weeding through the newcomers.

Mr Mike Jones, group co-ordinator said: "We have had an amazing response to an advert we placed in Saturday's Observer, inviting applications for membership."

"As a result of that we have had a very hectic week interviewing potential members — not everyone is suitable."

Like all UFO groups in Great Britain, the Rochdale group is part of a larger network who share information with each other. This includes collating information for Quest International, Europe's largest information gathering service on UFO's.

Mr Jones said: "Quest Interna-

tional have a magazine of their own and we work very closely with them."

One of the group's members has recently moved to Scotland because of his work.

Mr Jones said: "This has been a bonus for us because there has been a lot of activity and a lot of UFO sightings in Scotland recently."

"A lot of the sightings in Scotland have proved to have been the US Air Forces secret spy plane the 'Aurora'. It has been flying out of the Macrihanish, and out of the Firth of Forth and because of its unusual engine and noise it has been causing some UFO sightings."

"It is part of the Stealth range of aircraft, and because of its unusual propulsion system, gas turbine, the popular consensus is that it is based on alien technology."

Rochdale Observer 20.01.93

A star of wonder

IF you see an unusually bright star in the sky over Manchester this Christmas, don't try following it to Bethlehem.

It's just the planet Venus, which is exceptionally visible in the south western sky at Christmas.

According to Tony Cross of the Manchester Astronomical Society, it's so bright people mistake it for a UFO — but it probably isn't the star that led to Jesus.

Astronomer Ian Morisson of the Jodrell Bank Science Centre believes that star was probably either a comet, or

else a conjunction of two bright planets, Jupiter and Saturn, which is known to have occurred around the right time.

Perhaps scientists should take a tip from the anonymous Manchester punter who laid a bet with bookies William Hill in the city centre on the date of the next Holy Birth.

The man bet £10 at 1000-1 that the Archbishop of Canterbury would declare the Second Coming before December 31st this year.

GABRIELLE HINSLIFF

Metro News

FLYING saucers and spaceships have been spotted hovering over villages in the Forest of Dean.

Spooky shadows have been seen drifting over Pillowell and Parkend according to residents.

Villagers have reported bright beams shooting to the ground and flashing red lights.

Bright

Terrified resident John Adolf Joachim made an emergency 999 call after he saw a giant flying saucer swooping down on trees near Whitcroft.

"It was bigger than an aeroplane and as bright as the moon and it shot beams to the floor," he said.

"It hovered for more than two hours at about midnight and every night it returns to the same spot," he said.

Mr Joachim (38), who lives at The Old Bakery, Pillowell, has pleaded with local police to investigate the mystery sightings.

And he claims he has evidence of people vanishing from the Bream area in recent years.

by Kath Knapp

"I know people have disappeared and I know I probably has something to do with these strange saucers coming to the Forest," he said.

Mr Joachim, who works at the Norchard Centre at Lydney, discovered patches of burnt earth on fields near his home where he says extra terrestrials landed.

Another Pillowell resident — who refused to be named — said he had seen alien lights over the village.

"The saucers turn their lights off over houses so you have to be looking at the sky in the really early hours of the morning to see them," he said.

Drifting

World UFO expert, Dr John Holder — whose parents live in Cinderford — claimed he spotted an alien craft drifting through the sky towards Speech House one evening.

A spokesman at Coleford police station confirmed they had received a complaint about UFOs in the area.

Not so close encounters

NEXT month a conference of UFO-spotters is to be held at Newcastle City Hall.

It seems an odd place to stage it when one considers that the North-East is a veritable desert when it comes to UFO sightings.

In the last 10 years there have been only two close encounters of the third kind: in April 1980 a widow from Jarrow was on her way to the chip shop when a glowing ball hovered in front of her; and in October 1990 a Redcar couple claimed to have

been abducted and experimented on by 18in aliens which landed in their garden.

Therein lies the reason why I remain sceptical about the existence of aliens from other worlds.

Why would any civilisation advanced enough for inter-stellar travel choose to visit a chip shop in Jarrow, or indeed anywhere in Redcar?

Surely they would rather go somewhere nice, like Bermuda or EuroDisney.

Tickets are still available for the First International Conference That Exposes A Global Deception, which is being held at Wembley Arena today and tomorrow. Mary Seal, the organiser, promises that before the weekend is out she will have unmasked the "secret elite" which "has managed to manipulate, infiltrate or buy most governments in the world". The conference will

also reveal the truth about UFOs - that they are hoaxes engineered by governments in order to spread fear of alien invasion. "This is provable," she says.

Visionary eccentrics always make good newspaper copy (IS DAVID ICKE OFF HIS BIKE? a *Sun* headline asked a couple of years ago), and there has been plenty of press coverage suggesting that Ms Seal is indeed a marzipan-lined fruitcake. But she seems to me no barmier than many supposedly sane citizens.

A couple of years ago Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, a former chief of the defence staff, contributed an admiring preface to Timothy Good's book *Alien Liaison*, which accused the defence establishment of "covering up" the fact that "alien spacecraft and alien bodies" had been captured by the Americans and held at a "super-secret centre in the Nevada desert". The Duke of Edinburgh, too, wrote a letter to Mr Good, agreeing that "there are many reasons to believe that they [UFOs] exist. There is so much evidence from reliable witnesses. The book *Flying Saucers Have Landed* has a lot of interesting stuff in it."

I wonder why Lord Hill-Norton and Prince Philip do not attract the kind of mockery dished out to Mary Seal. And why do the same newspapers that treat her as a joke run 16-page supplements offering "Your Horoscopes for the Year Ahead"?

Ms Seal's theories, loopy though they may be, are certainly no more idiotic than the belief that one's love-life and career are governed by the alignment of the planets.

The Independent 09.01.93

Aliens with a compass Or just happy hoaxers?

with. It also seems to be quite shamelessly fixed, which is a bit unfair on the four hard-working contestants, who are the only genuine thing about the show.

Gladiators is unlikely to present much competition for Noel Edmonds, who starts a new series of Noel's House Party this weekend (BBC1, Sat, 6.20pm).

There's not much evidence of higher intelligence in this show either, but Noel Edmonds has the rare ability to make dross lively and entertaining.

This week the guests include Jasper Carrott and Pat Coombs, and dancer Wayne Sleep earns himself a Goicha Oscar for trying to teach ballet to a strange pink Blobby monster.

The NTV cameras will also be hidden in some poor unsuspecting viewer's home, and the nation will learn the home truths of some unfortunate parents in Wait Till J | Get You Home.

GLORIA SCHOFIELD

Weekend highlights



6.15pm).

In this hyped up programme, a hyped up audience goes bonkers with excitement as ordinary but extra-fit members of the public (body builders, sports club owners etc) take on muscle-bound "Gladiators" with names like Panther and Jet in various tests of strength.

John Sachs provides the commentary but it ought to be Kent Walton, the former ringside king of wrestling.

Gladiators is as silly and sweaty and unsporing as anything Giant Haystacks and Co could have come up

causes of the circles, from pranksters to natural whirlwinds to visitations from outer space.

One problem is, if someone Out There IS trying to make contact, we are obviously far too dim to get the message.

It's not especially surprising if a higher intelligence is being frustrated in its efforts to get through to Earthlings. While the little green men are futilely sketching out advanced mathematical formulae in our cornfields, we're glued to a small box in the corner beaming out idiot fodder like Gladiators (ITV, Sat,

THE most fascinating programme of the weekend is likely to be Equinox: The Strange Case of Crop Circles. (Channel 4, Sun, 7pm).

It is a decade since mysterious circles of flattened crops were first noticed in fields throughout the world.

Yet although the circles, and other strange shapes, have been spotted on land from the United States to Japan, the phenomena is most obvious in the west of England.

It turns out than more than 50% of all strange circles discovered since 1980 have been in Wiltshire.

Attempts to dismiss the extraordinary and often extremely intricate designs as hoaxes have largely failed, especially after it was realised that some of the odder shapes demonstrated high-level mathematical knowledge.

Equinox very fairly puts forward all the possible

Western Daily Press 24.10.92

CONTACT CORNER

Want to meet BUFORA members in your area? Then Contact Corner is for you!

Write to:

Contact Corner, UFO Times, Suite 1, The Leys, 2c Leyton Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 2TL.

Close encounter of the UFO kind!

UFO experts will be in Bradford to prove 'we are not alone' at a special public meeting.

The Independent UFO Network will be at Bradford Central Library on November 28 to unravel some of the mysteries surrounding celestial visitors.

It will be the first public UFO meeting the organisation has staged.

Philip Mantle, who will address the meeting, said: "Until August this year, the IUN was very much a closed shop and membership was by invitation only."

"Over the last two years, requests to join the network have increased to such an extent that we have had no option but to 'go public.'"

The event will feature a presentation of some of the more curious UFO sightings

and close encounters which have allegedly occurred over the past ten years.

Mr Mantle is convinced numerous UFO sightings are genuine, and said the US Government still withholds information about alien space-craft crashes and other encounters.

He said the most celebrated example occurred in New Mexico in 1947 when an alien craft crashed in the countryside.

Despite more than 180 reported sightings of debris, the US Armed Forces urged locals to forget what they had seen, claiming it was a crashed weather balloon.

Immediately after the event, the military issued a statement to the local paper in Roswell — the site of the crash — confirming a craft had landed.

But this statement was later retracted.

Radar stations in the UK have also allegedly tracked unidentified flying objects on several occasions.

Mr Mantle added: "There will also be a viewing of various UFO documentary material never broadcast in the UK before."

"Anyone interested in attending the meeting can contact me or simply turn up on the day." He is available on (0924) 444049. The meeting starts at 1pm.

UFO investigator speaks of alien 'hidden invasion'

A LEADING UFO investigator has called for more research into what she claimed could be a "hidden invasion" by sophisticated aliens.

Jenny Randles, the country's only full-time UFO researcher, said people who believed they had sighted flying saucers and creatures from outer space could instead be having their minds probed from afar.

They believed they had sighted UFOs only because science fiction had left them impressionable to conventional images.

Miss Randles, director of investigations for the British UFO Research Association, told a conference of international UFO experts in Manchester that research should be more comprehensive.

At present, scientists and those who had experienced sightings tended to dismiss each others views.

"The phenomenon is vastly more widespread than people believe," said Miss Randles.

"It is as if aliens have decided they don't want to come here in a physical sense and have found a different way to select certain people to make contact with in this more subtle way."

"We have a kind of hidden invasion which we know relatively little about. We are in the early stages."

She said phenomena such as crop circles could be a "giant intelligence test" set by alien powers to gauge our reactions.

Evening Courier

Bradford Star 19.11.92

SHOCKED traffic cops thought they were seeing a UFO when they tailed an alien glow.

They followed a mystery motorist through a village after they spotted a strange orange light coming from her **HEAD.**

The baffled bobbies looked in vain for flying saucers.

But when they nervously flagged down the "space-ship" in the Somerset village of Dunster, they realised it was a Renault 4.

Curiosity

Inside was hat-maker Judith Cadney, wearing her latest fashion accessory — a fluorescent orange tam o'shanter.

Last night, Pc Paul Duncton told how he and colleague Steve Guscott thought they were entering the Twilight Zone.

He said: "We saw a glowing head through the windscreen."

"It looked completely out of this world and cer-

'Alien' in the head-lights

By MADELEINE PALLAS

tainly got the better of our imagination.

"Our curiosity overcame us and we decided to do a spot check."

"But when we realised it was her hat, we all had a good laugh."

Judith, 29, from Carhampton, near Dunster, said: "When they stopped me, they looked really bemused. I didn't realise

they thought I was an alien until they started talking about an orange glow.

"That's when I figured they meant my hat."

● A scientist in America claims to have invented a unique camera which can spot aliens posing as earthlings.

He reckons the photos show green halos round the extraterrestrials' heads — but a test run in a shopping centre detected dozens of them.

THE STAR 01.06.92

UFO NEWSLINE

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BUFORA AGM

3rd APRIL '93

London Business School,
Sussex Place, Outer Circle,
Regents Park, London, NW1.

APPARITIONS of ghost cars at Hell Fire Corner near Brighthouse are said to act as a chilling warning that yet another crash is imminent at this notorious accident black-spot.

Indeed, this eerie spot has a history of weird and spine chilling occurrences. A spectral headless horseman, a plague of hauntings and mysterious balls of light in the nearby woods together with hovering UFOs have all been reported at the location at the crossroads of the A58 and the A641.

Mysterious unexplained incidents. Or are there perhaps more logical explanations?

The tale is included in "Ghosts and Legends of Yorkshire", the latest book to be written by Brighthouse author Andy Roberts, who has been involved in researching strange phenomena and folklore since the 1970s and who reckons there is probably a quite rational reason behind such occurrences.

"I do not believe in most of what I research, which is quite bizarre," he laughs candidly. "I adopt what is called a Fortean approach, which treats all phenomenon as being inconclusive. I treat it all with a lot of scepticism and humour."

For someone who has been absorbed with unearthly subjects from an early age, his is an unexpectedly down-to-earth and honest stance.

"It started as a childhood interest when I was about 11 and on holiday with my parents

in Cornwall," recalls Andy, originally from Cleckheaton. "My mother suggested I read a Dennis Wheatley novel. From there I just started reading about strange phenomena or anything odd really."

"It continued through my teens and 20s until I was about 30 when I started being actively involved rather than just reading about it."

He joined a Bradford UFO group and within two years became editor of the organisation's magazine, "UFO Brigantia", which today has grown to become a semi-news stand publication.

His first book, "Catflaps", studied sightings of mystery animals in the North of England — the Harrogate Panther, the Rossendale Lion and the Skegness Cougar, to name a few.

Other books include "Phantoms of the Sky, UFOs: A Modern Myth", "Strange Calderdale" and "Heads and Tales" which was a joint project.

Despite his own cynicism, Andy does not doubt those who are genuinely convinced they

have seen or experienced something.

He also maintains: "Virtually everyone has had an experience of something odd in their life. It is almost impossible not to find someone who has not. Many people who have had an experience think there has to be a reason which usually involves an agency, for want of a better word."

"What interests me overall is what makes people believe in things which cannot be scientifically explained."

Thus, while some may attribute the appearance of strange hovering lights to UFOs, there could be some quite natural explanation which has not yet been figured out.

Indeed, some think there could be a reasonable geographical reason especially as certain areas such as the moors above Todmorden are prone to sightings.

"The world is a far stranger and more mysterious place than we give it credit for. Things happen which we cannot yet explain."

He also notes that the nature of experiences change with the passing of the centuries.

"Three hundred years ago, fairies were big business. With the Industrial Revolution it became the turn of nature spirits, who are no longer in the game."

"UFOS have probably been fading out in this decade and crop circles have come in. Ten years ago no one had heard of a crop circle."

"There will probably be something new in the run up to the year 2000. I do not know what it will be. But a millenium is always good for a new phenomenon."

Does he have his own theories or conclusions on strange happenings?

"I have theories on everything," he replies cheerfully.

For instance, he has a complicated meteorological explanation for those corn circles which are not due to hoaxers.

What about UFOs? "Ah, that is a long and complicated one," he deliberates. "People see things in the sky which they cannot explain at the time. To put it into perspective, you have to look back through history. Ancient Indians called them flying chariots. In the last century they were mystery airships. In 1947 they suddenly turned into UFOS."

"You have to look at all the evidence to the contrary. Are they unexplained phenomena or ordinary phenomena which people misperceive as they desperately search for a meaning?"

"Personally, I disbelieve in the extra terrestrial hypothesis. I do not believe there is anyone in the universe apart from us."

While not disparaging those who do believe, he asserts that experience is not proof of reality.

"It is mind created and fuelled by a creative mythology."

Another contributory factor could be that living in a secular society people have discovered



Sunderland Echo 27.04.92

UFO

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an alternative to the religious experience.

"In countries like France, Spain and Italy, which are hardened Roman Catholic countries you get very few UFO abductions, although you do get lots of visions of the Blessed Mary."

On ghosts, he is more circumspect: "Ghosts do worry me a bit. Often where you get a ghost, people have seen the same type of thing at the same location for 100 years or more often without knowing about similar sightings."

"Some of those people could be imagining it or it could be because they know about other sightings."

"I am open minded. We have always had ghosts. They are a long standing phenomenon. They do not change like fairies or UFOs."

The stone tape theory is just one explanation which has been put forward by those investigating ghosts though Andy wonders if it is rather "woolly".

"Most ghost stories deal with tragedy — unrequited lovers or murdered people. Because they are of such tragic proportions it is thought that the actual emotion of the moment impresses itself on the surroundings — on the house or whatever — and some people can tune into it."

Andy, himself, has had what he describes as "trivial" experiences such as knowing for certain that he was going to get a letter.

Ever the investigator, however, he ascribes many such things to instinct: "We have senses which are not properly developed."

Although much of his Andy's time is devoted to researching and writing about the paranormal, in "real life" he is a project worker with the Stonham Housing Association in Halifax.

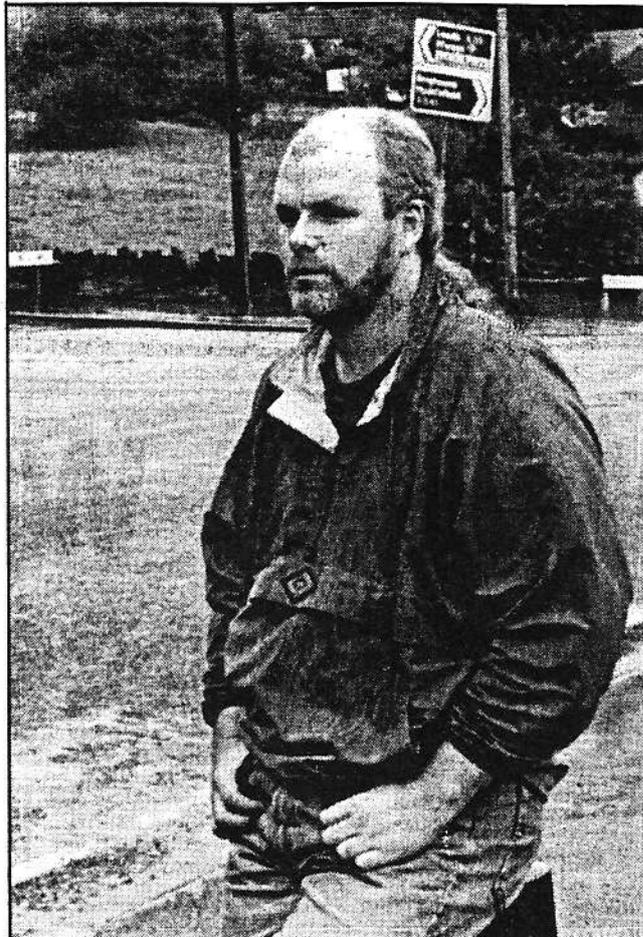
"My job involves working with homeless people. Getting them into accommodation and sorting out various problems like employment or giros. It is about as real as life can get."

It is a job he has done for three years. Before that he had a somewhat chequered career. An apprentice-trained gardener, he worked for Calderdale Council for four years before becoming a house husband for five years looking after his son, Kai, while his wife studied for a degree.

Besides publication of the book, Andy should also be appearing on our television screens in an "Everyman" programme on BBC1 in November.

Entitled "This Isle Is Full of Noises" — a quote from Shakespeare's play "The Tempest" — it looks at the continuity of Celtic beliefs which have passed down to us today through 2,000 years of being rejigged and retold.

Andy was filmed at various sites including the White Rock at Luddenden Dean, St Helen's Well at Skipton and The Strid



Andy Roberts at Wyke's "Hellfire Corner", scene of many a spectral warning of impending doom.

near Bolton Abbey — although he does not yet know which parts will end up in the completed programme.

Nor is folklore confined to the past.

He relates a story which he was told recently by two different people regarding a set of hand prints on a pillar at one of the entrances to the Halifax Piece Hall.

According to the tale, the police were chasing a suspected criminal through the town and

caught up with him at the Piece Hall gates.

Upon protesting his innocence and calling out to God to give a sign, an imprint of his hands were burnt into the plaster.

Sceptical to the last, Andy points out that the Piece Hall was refurbished in the 70s and that the handprints are probably due to a workman.

"It just shows, though, how quickly folklore springs up."

ONE day, predicts paranormal researcher John Spencer, school-children will wander into PK and ESP classes with as much nonchalance as they file into RE and PT today.

PK? ESP? Psychokinesis and Extra-Sensory Perception, of course. And if you think that's so odd it could never come about, imagine a medieval teacher grappling with the idea of giving lessons on video.

John Spencer's point is that much of what we call the paranormal today may one day be understood and taken for granted.

Psychic healing, premonition, clairvoyance, telepathy, spirit messages, dowsing, crop circles, crystal energy, out-of-body experiences, UFOs — all of these will still spark some odd

looks if brought into conversation.

But there's also hardly anyone who doesn't have a personal view on them one way or another — which goes to show that even the sophisticated 90s are as fascinated by the unknown as any superstitious peasant of old.

Once people told stories of meeting fairies and being taken off to Fairyland. Now they tell of meeting aliens and being whisked off to new planets in mysterious spacecraft.

It's much the same thing, says John Spencer, the author of a new book *The Paranormal: A Modern Perspective*.

"Perhaps this is the result of our science fiction culture," he says.

"Celtic writings have 'fairie-

folk' who took children, and often adults, into fairy rings where they would suffer missing time experiences similar to those of modern UFO abductees."

In fact, says John Spencer, he'd stick his neck right out and say that it's possible there never have been UFO abductions in the way we have come to read reports of them in the tabloid press.

"I think the reports have been described by the people of the time in the terms they could understand."

"The true meaning of these experiences may be misunderstood by one or the other culture; most likely no-one has yet found the right way to understand these experiences."

The Paranormal: A Modern Perspective is published in hardback by Hamlyn at £14.99.

Peterborough Evening
Telegraph 31.08.92

'RED BALL' IN SKY SPARKS UFO MYSTERY

RESIDENTS of several Co Down towns have been mystified by the sudden appearance of a UFO.

Witnesses have reported seeing "a red or orange sphere" in the sky above Rostrevor and Warrenpoint.

Pharmacist John O'Callaghan, from Carlingford, on the southern side of the border, says he snapped the mystery object on Easter Saturday.

The 34-year-old had been taking photographs of properties for sale for a friend in England, when he was shocked by a sudden noise.

Spinning

"I heard a terrible loud noise, my first reaction was to cover my ears with my hands. I then saw a dome-shaped object hanging and spinning in the sky and there was an orange colour all around it.

"After a few minutes it descended down to the ground. There were three bulges at the base of it and it had turned a bluey/purple colour.

"I am not into UFOs at all and have always been very sceptical about such things but there was certainly a craft of some nature hovering in the sky."

Kevin Woods, a sales rep for a tobacco company, lives on the southern shores of Carlingford Lough, facing Warrenpoint and Rostrevor.

His description matches that of Mr O'Callaghan.

'There was
a red ball
in the sky
then I lost
sight of it'

By LENA FERGUSON

"I am not into UFOs or moving statues or anything like that. I don't believe in flying saucers and anyone who knows me in this area would know I am not a crank.

"But all I'm saying is that it was a sphere and it moved very fast and I saw it and heard it. There was no smoke or blades. I didn't find it frightening. It was just extraordinary."

Red ball

Mr Woods said he heard a whistling noise and looked out to see what was happening.

"There was a red ball in the sky around the Rostrevor and Warrenpoint area. It was a sphere of some description.

"It stayed in the sky and moved at great speed. I then lost sight of it behind some houses."

Mr Woods says he knows of at least seven people who saw the unidentified flying object, at least two of them day-trippers from Northern Ireland.

"We stood and talked about what we had seen for ages. I was glad to see the photographs afterwards because they confirmed what I had seen."

Rocket

A spokesman for the Armagh Planitarius said the mystery object could be a meteor, ball lightning or a rocket.

"If I had to guess I would go for a large meteor. It would travel faster than sound so you would get a sonic boom and the splash of colours," said lecturer John Flynn.

"You would also get lots of colours with ball lightning. The weather conditions over Easter would make that a possibility.

"It could also be a flare or a rocket from either the British or Irish armies.

"It is easier for us to say what it isn't and it certainly isn't a craft from another planet.

"Anything like that is immediately tracked down by the Russians or Americans," he said.

Crop circle
no hoax,
says
expert

DORSET crop circle investigator David Kingston claims a circle that appeared in a field near Milton Abbey School was not made by schoolboys.

Michael Cox of Lower Farm, Hilton, whose barley field the circle appeared in, said it was a prank by pupils.

Mr Kingston has taken samples from 36 sites in Dorset since May and they will be analysed for the cell structure changes which he believes occur in real crop circles but not in hoaxes.

None has appeared since the one near Wyn Green, south of Shaftesbury, two weeks ago.

The results of the Hilton circle have not yet returned.

Last weekend Dr Levengood of the Grass Lake Institute in Michigan spoke at a conference on the phenomenon at the Centre for Crop Study Research in Winchester.

He urged Mr Kingston to look at the plant joints or nodes as well as the cell structure to try to spot the hoaxes.

Mr Kingston said: "You cannot bend barley and wheat at 90 degree angles without breaking it but we have had crop circles where the nodes have been bent at a full 90 degrees."

Western Gazette 23.07.92

Sunday Life 22.04.90



MYSTERY over Co Down — Carlingford pharmacist John O'Callaghan says he took this picture of a UFO last week. IRISH UFO RESEARCH CENTRE