

# DEAD OF HABIT

PRICE: £1:50.

issue 3 Jan 95

ufo update



Devil Dogs

Country



THE PROTECTORS OF THE ARK



Pendle

Lancashire's Witch

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ISSUE 3 DECEMBER 1994

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📧 MYSTERIOUS PLACES OF  
✂ BRITAIN: CREDIT FOR ALL  
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# EDITORIAL



December is a trusted friend,  
I always recognise her face...  
It's a plague of fools threw aside forever,  
By the soft and silent grace.

December. The Waterboys.

Let me just say at the outset, I would never have believed it possible back in September when we launched 'Dead Of Night', that before the year was out, I would be bidding you welcome to issue 3.

Things have certainly taken on an almost dream-like quality these past few months. Since our inaugural issue 'hit the news-stands' (and I don't think) events have snow-balled to such an extent, that the editorial staff and contributors alike have been all but swept along in its wake.

To be perfectly honest, I half-expected to be publically burnt at the stake for daring to publish a fan-zine dealing with what most would term; 'Weird-as-hell stuff'.

The fact that, on the contrary, most readers elicited a positive response, has still to sink in with me yet...I've recieved letters of support, articles, original artwork, fellow fan-zines to exchange/review, and been invited to attend lectures on Strange phenomena. A close friend once asked me as he was helping me prepare issue 1; 'Aren't you afraid you're gonna run out of ideas and material before you reach double figures???'

He seemed to think, we'd crammed so much into the publication that we couldn't possibly be already planning to cram even more into our 'Halloween Special'. Not being aware of the huge volume of potential data relating to Strange Phenomena, I guess he had a fair point. Most small, low-budget magazines, have great difficulty in going to press any more than 6 times a year...The vast majority only publish QUARTERLY.

That is not intended to be a criticism. Far from it. Subscriber deadlines, lack of funds, and a dearth of cheap printing facilities play their part in such strict limitations. I was determined to overcome these restraints though...Or at the very least, exhaust myself trying...

The need to be more prolific, and up-to-date with our material has become almost an obsession with me now. As a result, we've had to cut a few corners to ensure this issue reaches you prior to the start of the Christmas festivities...For a kick-off, 'A Carnival Of Monsters: Baal to Behemoth, has had to be held over until issue 4 (due out sometime in February). Secondly, we've also had to temporarily do away with 'The Road Of Dreams As Mirrors' (Cosmic Jokes Clippings) and cut down on the number of letters we've recieved...

Don't worry though. As I've already hinted, these changes are only temporary. All the regular features will be back in February...If it kills me.

Hope you like the new format/print layout. More pictures too, I hope you notice...

Hope too, you enjoy issue 3.

Have yourselves a very merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

All the best,

# DEVIL DOGS OF THE BRITISH ISLES.

*" .....it was not the sight of Hugo Baskerville lying near her which raised the hair upon the heads of these three daredevil roysterers, but it was that, standing over Hugo, and plucking at his throat, there stood a foul thing, a great black beast shaped like a hound yet larger than any hound that ever mortal eye has rested upon. And as they looked, the thing tore the throat out of Hugo Baskerville, on which, as it turned its blazing eyes and dripping jaws upon them the three shrieked in fear and rode for dear life and were broken men for the rest of their days..."*

Extract from Sherlock Holmes and the hound of the Baskervilles, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

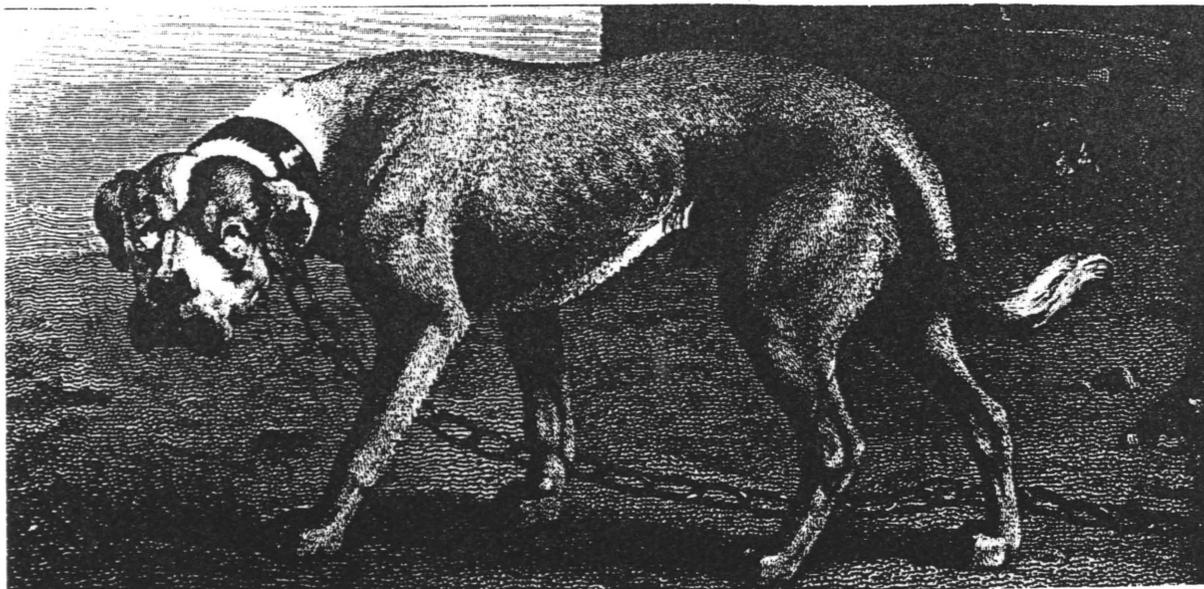
I'll never forget the first time I read the ' Hound of the Baskervilles ' as a child the story filled me with awe as I followed Sherlock Holmes progress in the tracking of the beast and of its eventual destruction on grimpen mire , but it was the film adaptation featuring Basil Rathbone in the leading role which etched the tale firmly into my mind, those creaky old films were so atmospheric, the terrible shimmering form of the hound was so real for me in fact I remember having nightmares about the hound for some time afterwards especially when visiting my nan who still lives in an old terraced house in Tuebrook Liverpool, the rows of houses were backed by a network of sinuous alleyways one of which contained a large black hound called 'Caesar' , this dog was supposed to have been owned by an old lady who nobody ever saw, the dog in fact used to roam up and down the alleyways frightening all the children with its hanging dripping jaws and stumpy back leg, the thing was hideously ugly!, it was my Hound of the Baskervilles. Sometimes when staying overnight at my nans house I could hear Ceasars howling echoing up and down the brick alleyways, (didn't he ever go indoors?) Alas old Caesar is now dead, but I wonder if I would still hear his ghostly howling whilst lying in bed if indeed it ever was Caesar....!

It was whilst reading a book of true ghost stories ( the name of which escapes me ) in my old school library that I happened to come across the phenomena of ghostly hounds, a subject I have spent a good deal of time looking into, this time the hound isn't just a story, according to the accounts from people who were confronted with the beast it was real and terrifying, now I find myself like the great fictional detective on the trail of the Devil dogs of the British Isles.

The phantasmal ' Black dogs ' of British folklore are amongst the more terrifying manifestations, cryptozoologically speaking of course and are amongst the most frequently reported ghosts of animals. These creatures were sighted mainly in earlier days although they are seen occasionally in the present. According to tradition, they bring death to anyone who touches them.

## Appearance:

The appearance of these ' Black dogs ' can be quite terrifying to the observer. According to legend they have the ability to materialise and vanish apparently into thin air in front of the astonished witness, this is suggestive of a possible inter-dimensional entity rather than a true cryptozoologic animal such as a living dinosaur in an African swamp, etc., they resemble a large Mastiff or black Labrador ( see below )



A large Mastiff, the most common type of Devil dog forms, only Devil dogs have a black coat.

many of which possess long shaggy or woolly black coats, they have a willingness to follow or to brush against people, they can pass through solid objects ( again an indication of an inter--dimensional entity ) ,they are reported to have very unpleasant sulphurous breath and sometimes the sounds of rattling or clinking chains or the sound of water splashing can be heard accompanying them. The most startling feature of these mysterious animals is that they are reputed to possess huge saucer shaped glowing eyes, predominantly red in colour, a feature that is attributed to many paranormal entities ( see past and future issues ).

The following is a collection of some of the more interesting encounters with the ' Black dog ' phenomena in many of its guises including the infamous ' Black Shuck ' or ' Old Shock ' so sit tight and read on.....

## Leeds ' Padfoot '

When Leeds was less built-up and the countryside encroached on to the town the legend of a ghost hound was common amongst the towns folk. In 1866 the Leeds ' Padfoot ' was described as about the size of a small donkey, black, with shaggy hair and large eyes like saucers; and it followed people by night, or waylays them in the road which they have come to pass. The locals were terrified of it and stayed in there homes especially on wild, windy nights for fear of an encounter.

## **Headless dog.**

In 1825, a man named Drabble had a frightening encounter with a very large headless ' Black dog ' near Manchester old church, apparently the dog had followed Drabble all the way home with its front paws resting on his shoulders, Drabble was far too terrified to do little else but to keep on walking, however he obviously escaped with his life to tell the tale.

## **The seance.**

An eleven year old girl in Suffolk woke one night to see what she described as a ' wolf ' at the end of her bed, two years later she again awoke to see it there again, this time its eyes were ' blazing '. The third time she saw the creature was in the dining room, it was sitting under the piano, the fourth time it appeared was whilst she was having a seance with a few school friends and a voice in her head said ' *do not have any more seances* '. The final time she saw it was when she was in the school playground, twice she shouted at the thing to go away, the second time it vanished. The girl had apparently worked out that the dog/wolf appeared every ten days and the next time it was due to appear was on Halloween and indeed on Halloween night she had a vivid dream about the creature.

## **Packs of Devil dogs.**

In Warwickshire until the middle of the last century packs of Devil dogs could be seen roaming the countryside accompanied by a mysterious horseman, sometimes depicted through paintings as Herne the hunter. These apparitions usually took place on either Christmas or New years eve. The pack of hounds only roamed during the hours of darkness and they were reputed to be very dangerous if approached. It was essential that the horseman and his hounds be ignored as anyone who spoke to or helped him in any way were placing themselves in grave danger.

There were a few stories around at the time as to the identity of the horseman, one story has it that he was a huntsman who tormented his hounds and one day was torn to pieces by them. Another story claimed that he was the devil in corporeal existence and his hounds were his demons.

## **The Devil in disguise.**

Throughout folklore, the ' Black dog ' is one of the many forms assumed by the Devil, and in 1577 was described in a pamphlet as ' ....a dog as they discern it, of a black colour.....or the Devil in such a likeness.....an horrible shaped thing! ' The association of the devil with playing cards is one that appears in traditional folklore, the Devil is thought to have haunted card players and appears wherever cards are played, he sits under the table during a game and if anybody should swear or curse, he would leap out from underneath the table taking the form of a big Black dog.

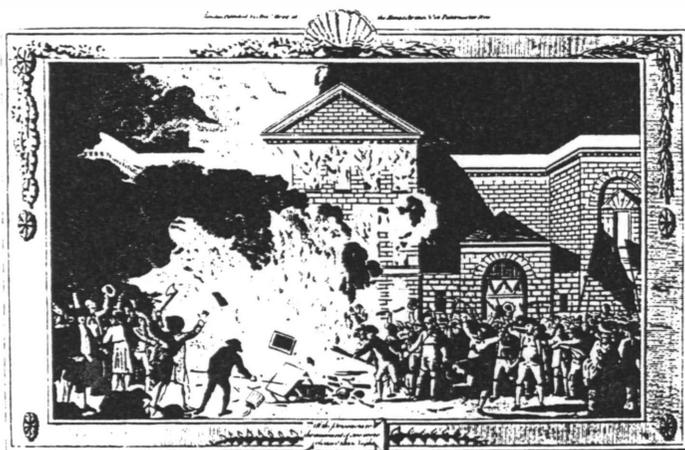
## Lyme Regis Black Dog legend.

There is a farm house standing near to the town of Lyme that was once part of an old mansion, the mansion was destroyed during the parliamentary wars leaving only a small part still existing. The sitting room now used by the farmer and also various other owners before him going back a century or so still has the original large old-fashioned fire place. The fire place has a fixed seat on each side, and many years ago when the old master of the house settled himself down for the evening on one of the seats, a large Black Dog appeared and took possession of the opposite one, the dog became a regular visitor for many nights, weeks, and months, just sitting quietly on the seat in the corner by the chimney. The farmer at first became unsettled by the dog as it cast a gloom over his evenings enjoyment, but after a while felt unthreatened by the presence of the dog and eventually looked upon it as one of the family. His neighbours however took a different view of the dog and advised him to get rid of it, thinking that it could only be a bad omen bringing only evil to the house, the farmer replied ' *Why should I ?, he costs me nothing and he is the quietest creature in the house!* ' But one evening the farmer had travelled to a local Inn with a friend and after drinking plenty of ale and having put up with taunts from his neighbours about his spectral canine companion, he returned home in a state of excitement deciding that he would show his neighbours he had courage and rid himself of the dog. The farmer had no sooner entered the house when he saw the dog in its usual place by the fire, in a rage he seized a poker and rushed with it towards the dog, the dog jumped off the seat and fled into the attic with the farmer in pursuit, just as the farmer entered the attic he saw the dog spring from the floor and vanish before his eyes, furious at being foiled by the animal he brought the poker down hard on the part of the floor where the dog had last stood and down fell a small old fashioned box, which on being opened was found to contain many silver and gold coins of Charles 1st reign. The dog was never seen inside the house again, but it is reputed to haunt a winding lane leading up to the farmhouse, the lane bearing the name of ' Dog Lane ' The dog has been seen as recently as 1856, and local legend has it that anybody wishing to see the dog can quite easily do so providing they quietly conceal themselves in ' Dog Lane ' at around midnight and wait patiently, the spectral form of a shuffling hound will pass them by.....probably!

That this Black Dog was apparently the keeper of a treasure chest is interesting in that there are many accounts of Black Dogs guarding treasure of one kind or another such as the ' Guardian of the stone in Perthshire ' ( see a future collection of Black Dog tales for the full story ) many tales of Black Dogs in Scotland has them as treasure guardians not unlike the dogs in Hands Anderson's ' Tinder box '. Dogs acting as guardians creates a new dimension and possible categorisation when compiling Black Dog accounts.

## The ghost dog of Trollers Ghyll.

There was a ghostly beast roaming Trollers Ghyll at night and was encountered by a travelling cobbler, the cobbler described the beast 'as big as a littlish bear', the thing passed so close to the cobbler giving him a chance to observe more detail, the dog was dirty yellow in colour, with great eyes like saucers, the cobbler also described 'a shaggy sort of smell as ee went by' (I'd be tempted to say, what a load of old cobblers) The cobbler was lucky on this occasion however the hound was more successful on later dates when a man was found dead after traversing the gorge at night, indeed marks were found on the dead mans breast, some miners discovered a colleague lying dead with unnatural marks on his throat. A man named as John Lambert foolhardily went in search of the hound armed with a mere stick. He was found dead by morning. The legend of the ghost dog of Trollers Ghyll remains to this day.



Above: Newgate Prison, here shown being set on fire by a mob, was reputedly haunted by a 'Blacke Dogg'. Eighteenth-century print. British Museum, London.



*Diabolical Reading* by David Teniers. A black dog was traditionally one of many forms assumed by the devil.

## Peel castle.

A legendary phantom dog haunts the underground passages near the guardrooms of the castle. The guardsmen saw the dog so frequently that it became a part of their daily lives. The story has it that a single guardsman entered the guardsroom and ran out back to his colleagues in a very frightened state and he was never able to speak of what had frightened him so terribly in the short life that he had left. The guardsroom is now bricked up, but doglike howls can still be heard from where the guardsroom had been.

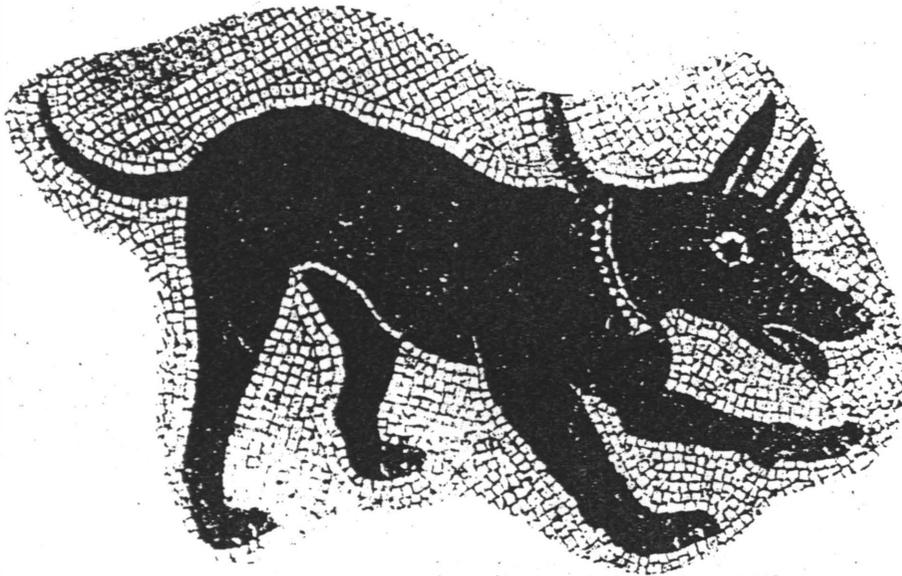
## Dartmoor.

A farmer on Dartmoor heard an animal from behind him which as he turned he found was a large black dog. Foolishly the farmer tried to stroke it, he found the creature to have substance and as he touched it

the dog ran off issuing a stream of sulphurous vapour from its throat. the farmer again foolishly gave chase to the animal which exploded in a blinding flash! I'm sure somebody out there has seen a connection with bursting into flames with fireballs / ball-lightning and other kinds of energy phenomena.

### **Suffolk.**

On the morning of Sunday 4 August 1577, there was a violent thunderstorm. Many of the towns population were inside a church when a black dog appeared, the dog was illuminated by lightning flashes and observed by all the congregation. The dog apparently ran down the central isle of the church and through the people, as the story goes, two people were struck down dead by the dog as they were praying, the dog then apparently then ran into a third person who just ' shrivelled up like a drawn purse ', unfortunately this shrivelled person remained alive. The dog proceeded to demolish the church clock and left its mark on the stone and metal work of the church doorway, which apparently is still visible even today, however the church remembers the incident by way of a weathervane which shows a hideous demonic black dog.



A mosaic floor of a private house depicting a black dog. Such mosaic pictures bear the legend ' Beware of the dog '

### **Other ' Black dog ' reports.**

A black dog was seen in Bud Leigh Hill, Somerset in 1907, the dog had ' great big fiery eyes ' similar to the yellow dog of Trollers Ghyll and others. Also in Somerset, a black dog reportedly haunts the road from St Audries to Perry Farm and appears to folks just prior to there deaths. Black Shuck is a Norfolk black dog which has a solitary eye in the centre of its forehead that burns like a lantern, wherever Shuck has been seen there is a lingering smell of sulphur. Two more cases of exploding dogs similar to the Dartmoor farmer ( see above ) A Buckinghamshire farmer struck out at a black dog with glowing eyes, the dog instantly vanished. A driver of a wagon hit a large black dog standing in the middle of an Essex road, the dog exploded setting both

him and his wagon on fire. Old Shock is another variety of black dog who has been described as ' A mischievous goblin in the shape of a great dog ( or even a calf )'. Old Shock haunts the highways and footpaths of Suffolk after dark those unfortunate to encounter Shock are attacked by the animal and at the least bruised and thrown down, many escape with nothing more than a sprained ankle. Pendle is notorious for its legends of the Lancashire witches but it is also a place where black dogs have been frequently seen running up and along church yards, and as black dogs were sometimes believed to accompany witches as familiars ( in a similar way to black cats ) in this light, the town of Pendle is a fitting abode for these Devilish creatures. Skryker was a Black dog with spreading feet and drooping ears, with eyes like fiery dishes spitting forth fiery breath from its gaping jaws. And just to prove that the ' Black dog ' phenomena is not solely confined to the British Isles. A writer named Peter rented a house in a French village as he needed peace and quiet to finish a book. One day going down stairs from his bedroom; he saw a huge black dog at the foot of the stairs, he spoke to it thinking that it had wandered in by mistake, the dog then growled at him menacingly and he noticed that it had only three legs, he called for a maid when suddenly before his very eyes the animal vanished.

So there you have it, some legendary accounts of the Devil dog phenomena, again from the Arthur Conan Doyle story ' The Hound of the Baskervilles ' Sherlock Holmes reply to Dr Mortimer when he asks him whether he finds the account of the legend of the hound interesting was simply ' *to a collector of fairy tales* '. But are these fascinating accounts of ghostly dogs nothing more than just fairy tales? or are they something more?

### **Return of the hound.**

The Hound of the Baskervilles was inspired by the story of the ' Black dog of Hergest, Conan Doyle heard of the creature and of how it terrified locals whilst staying in a village on the Welsh borders in Powys twelve miles from Clyro. He agreed with the Baskerville family to set his story on Dartmoor to distract attention from the family and the area. In August 1889, many sheep were found with their throats ripped out in farmland near Clyro, farmers armed with various weapons were making nightly searches for the beast, according to Pamela Harmsworth, landlady of the Baskerville Arms Inn at Clyro, said ' *At least two people have seen it. Its bigger than a fox and dark in colour. Many think its a large dog.*'

David Williams 94.

Credit list :

Ghost legends of Yorkshire by Andy Roberts, JARROLD Pub.

The Encyclopedia of Ghosts and Legends by John and Anne Spencer, HEADLINE Pub.

True Ghost stories, Author and publisher unknown.

Fortean Times issue No: 53, P 9.

Witchcraft and Demonology by Francis x king, HAMLYN pub.

Witchcraft and Magik by Venetia Newall, HAMLYN pub.

A Dictionary of British folk tales by Katharine Briggs, ROUTLEGE Pub.



# CHASING THE UNKNOWN:

By Daily Post  
Correspondent

## 'Priestess claimed there was no pain'

A DEVOUT Muslim who has admitted killing her sister in a two-day beating to drive evil spirits from her body, yesterday described the religious life of her family.

Mother-of-two Rabiya Patel, 25, a former Metropolitan Police administrative officer, said her family were "quite religious" Sunni Muslims.

She and her sister, Farida, attended almost-daily meetings, many given by Mona Rai who was described at the Old Bailey as "a priestess and religious woman" much respected in the community.

Rai, 47, of Stratford, East London, Siraj Tutla, 37, and Hafiz Patel, 19, both of Ilford, Essex, all deny the manslaughter of 22-year-old Farida Patel last December.

Rabiya admits the charge.

Julian Bevan, QC, prosecuting, has alleged Farida's family became convinced she was possessed by evil spirits, known as djinns, and called in the priestess to exorcise them.

Led by Rai and Tutla, Farida's brother and sister - Hafiz and Rabiya - beat her with sticks and a Hoover pipe, slapped and kicked her and Rai jumped up and down on her stomach in a series of beatings over two days.

"The beating was administered not through anger, not through revenge, but because it was believed by those who took part that Farida was possessed by an evil spirit," said Mr Bevan.

"The beating was accompanied by prayers and readings from the Koran."

Rabiya told the court Farida was the most religious member of the family.

Mr Bevan told the jury the case was unusual and "will introduce you to the ways and customs and beliefs of people whose world, no doubt to most of you, is entirely alien."

The day after the first beating, Farida was still behaving oddly. Rabiya said she went to Rai's home and on the way back stopped at the school where Rai addressed 60 Muslim girls.

"She told them she had beaten the djinn from Farida and three had left her body last night. One girl asked whether it hurt Farida and Rai said 'No, it doesn't harm the human being,'" said Rabiya.

The trial continues.

DEMONOLOGY.

And here's yet another case of Religious mania taking its toll upon the more credulous/unhinged members of our (ahem) civilised society.

And there was you thinking that 'Demonic Possession' was the province of 'The Dark Ages' and a film about a twelve year old girl in Georgetown, Washington...

Daily Post. 13th October.

SEA MONSTERS.

'Unidentifiable carcasses are quite often found washed up on remote shore-lines right across the globe.

We have on record hundreds of the dog-blamed things. They invariably generate much excitement amongst both 'The Experts' and 'Monster Hunters' alike...The media gets a whiff of the story, anticipation reaches a peak...And then, the corpse is promptly 'identified' as being that of a badly decomposed Basking Shark, Beaked Whale, Giant Squid, or something similarly (to most of us at least) mundane. Sadly, this proved to be the case yet again, deep in the white wastelands of the Russian Arctic...

Liverpool Echo. 24th October.

11th November.

Daily Mail

**Penguin probe:** The mass slaughter of more than 100 fairy penguins, many of them chicks, on the island of Tasmanian off mainland Australia was being probed today by wildlife officials.

The Liverpool Echo

## Penguin chicks disaster

ABOUT 20,000 rare king penguin chicks have died mysteriously in the South Atlantic.

They were discovered at St Andrew's Bay, South Georgia, by a British film crew researching breeding grounds.

One theory is that the parents could not find enough food after a particularly harsh winter.

Naturalist Tony Chater said: "This ornithological disaster will have serious implications, particularly as this species breeds only on South Georgia and two islands off Cape Horn."

18th November 1994

MYSTERIOUS DEATHS.

Sad news indeed. Another mystery 'plague' has reportedly wiped out 20,000 Penguin Chicks in the South Atlantic, and off the coast of Tasmania.

These are by no means isolated occurrences.

The briefest of glances through our files reveals a whole bunch of similar types of unexplained mass deaths amongst the populations of other marine creatures such as Seagulls (Cleethorpes, Humberside. 1990. and the North Yorkshire coast, also 1990). Dolphins (North-Western coast of Spain. 1990), Dugong - Sea Cows (Eastern coast of Australia. 3rd November. 1992). And various species of Scotland. 26th February. 1994).

The usual explanation put forward is the most entirely unreasonable assumption that the animals are victims of pollution, chemical poisoning, scarcity of food, or climatic changes...The fact that environmentalists and wild-life experts seldom acquire proof that anything that simplistic is in fact responsible, justifies its inclusion amongst the annals of the mysterious...

## Monster find

THE body of a dinosaur-like sea animal has washed ashore in the Russian Arctic. Specialists at the Rybichy Meteorological Station near Cape Nemetsky, discovered it yesterday, ITAR-Tass news agency said. The Murmansk Marine Biology Institute is sending scientists to attempt to identify it today. It was 37ft long and 5ft wide.

Daily Express.

# Is this boy Mary Queen of Scots?

V HYPNOTIST Paul McKenna has been invited to test claims that schoolboy is Mary Queen of Scots reincarnated.

By Joanna Bale

details, I couldn't ignore him. I saw a picture of the young Mary and it was just like Scott."

She added: "He pours out facts he couldn't know. I don't believe in reincarnation, but I would swear Scott is who he says he is."

Scott Knill has unshed his family for four years with very-day details of his past life as the doomed 16th century monarch, even though he has never read a history book or been to Scotland. "I believe him. It's been going on so long here can be no other explanation," said seven-year-old Scott's mother Helen, 30, of Swansea.

"I'm happy for him to see Paul McKenna or any other hypnotist. I've find it chilling, but we plan to take him to Scotland where he may remember even more." Mrs Knill added: "He used to babble 'Queen Mary Scot'. Children say silly things but as he came out with more



DOOMED: Mary

"My bed has four big wooden posts and colourful net curtains. There's pictures on the ceiling."

His parents, who have three other children, tried to catch him out. Mrs Knill asked what trainers he wore. But Scott said: "I have black velvet shoes with big buckles."

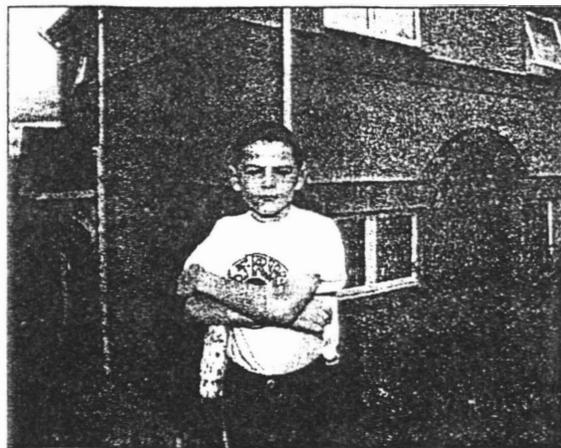
### Puzzled

He told his father Ken, 32: "We have porridge and oats and sometimes meat and fruit."

Mrs Knill said: "Mary was beheaded in 1587. That's one detail Scott has not come out with."

Scott looks puzzled when asked what happened to him. He said: "I had a crown but didn't wear it much. I was young when they made me go into the tower. Was I naughty? I don't remember."

## Bizarre links to tragic monarch's every-day life



MEMORIES: Seven-year-old Scott Knill outside his Swansea home yesterday

### REINCARNATION?

Hypnotic regression is notoriously ambiguous to say the least. Witness the recent spate of Budd Hopkins inspired UFO/Abduction cases. Who can tell the limit of false images: the unconscious mind can dream up???

As Dr. Holden (Dana Andrews), say's in the classic horror movie, 'Night Of The Demon';

"In each case, we must ask ourselves the question...Do hypnotised people always tell the truth?"

Sunday Express. 13th November.



TEST: Paul McKenna

## HAS E.T. LANDED IN THE WILDS OF WEST YORKSHIRE? 'APPEN HE HAS

# The alien of Ilkley Moor

Daily Mail Reporter

IT stepped out on Ilkley Moor baht 'at.

However, it probably couldn't wear a hat because its head was triangular and its antennae would tend to get in the way. Its fingers were also rather unusual — sausage-shaped and webbed, dangling from the end of its long arms. Oh, and there were only three of them.

And if it looked somewhat shifty, it's hardly surprising — the creature had just abducted a policeman. The unnamed officer took the picture of the

Alien of Ilkley Moor after it released him and started following him across the West Yorkshire beauty spot, according to researcher Jon Beckjard.

The American investigator of the paranormal showed the 1985 photograph yesterday to the fourth annual Crop Circle Conference in Glastonbury, Somerset. It is part of a picture file which, he says, proves that extra-terrestrial creatures regularly visit Earth to kidnap inhabitants for temporary examination.

Mr Beckjard, who runs a UFO museum in Los Angeles, told the convention: "Hundreds of people worldwide claim similar abductions. Usually it occurs during the night and they believe they are dreaming."



Detailed: Sketch of the alien

Watch this space creature: The barely discernible shape of the Ilkley Moor alien, photographed by a policeman whom it is said to have kidnapped in February 1985

### ALIEN ENTITY.

Featured here is an encounter with an other-worldly creature that reportedly took place in 1985 (the full details of which will be comprehensively covered in a future issue).

It was back in the news again this Summer due to its inclusion and presentation at the Annual Crop Circle Conference in mystic Glastonbury...

The reproduction above is a little unclear. But then too is the original...Make of it what you will.

# THE HEDGE THAT VANISHED IN THE NIGHT..



**JUNE Williams drew back the bedroom curtains and sleepily rubbed her eyes — then rubbed them again in disbelief.**

For the 40ft-long conifer hedge shielding her house from the road had vanished overnight.

Was she still dreaming? Was it a friend's idea of a prank?

No, a call to the police informed June that she had just become the latest victim of hedge thieves.

Three times in as many nights householders have woken to find their neatly trimmed Leylandii hedges mysteriously spirited away.

Police yesterday admitted they were baffled by the bizarre crime wave in villages within a few miles of each other in south Oxfordshire.

## Joking

June, 46, of Cray's Pond, near Reading, said: "I could not believe it when I got up and opened the curtains.

"My husband thought I was joking when I told him the hedge had disappeared overnight."

Clutching a branch that is all that remains of her conifers, the solicitor's assistant added: "When I told my colleagues at work, they could not stop laughing. I've had a good laugh too, but it's going to cost me £400 to replace.

The police just shook their heads in disbelief."

Another Leylandii hedge — 15ft long and 5ft tall — disappeared from the home of Lynette and Brian Milligan in nearby Woodcote.

Lynette said: "I heard some voices and the sound of a lorry or car in the night.

"But our security lights didn't come on so I assumed it was nothing to do

## Tree rustlers strike again

by **EDDIE FITZMAURICE**

with us. When I awoke in the morning, the hedge had gone. We had had it for two years."

A third hedge has also gone missing in nearby Streetley.

Sergeant Michael Hart, of Reading police, admitted officers were puzzled and had no clues to go on.

"This may be someone with a ready-made outlet for large conifer bushes," he said.

But botanist Adrian Whitley, of the Royal Horticultural Society, said: "It is completely barmy to try digging up conifers now.

"If the roots are disturbed they will just wither and die.

"Anyone buying these bushes is bound to be terribly disappointed before very long."

"The local bobbies may be baffled — perhaps they should call in Special Branch.

"It maybe that somebody has found a market for a large amount of hedging grown to a certain height.

"I can only think they are complete cowboys.

"The local bobbies may be baffled — perhaps they should call in Special Branch.

"The local bobbies may be baffled — perhaps they should call in Special Branch.

## STRANGE DISAPPEARANCES

In the midst of the crazy, lazy days of last Summer, some of the most bizzare, and ultimately pointless, cases of 'theft' on record, took place in and around the South of Oxfordshire.

Assuming the story is not a hoax ('Today's reporting of the 'Paranormal' cannot be regarded with anything less than a fair amount of suspicion in the wake of their infamous 'Crop Circle' exclusives a few years back), we have to ask just HOW the 'thieves' managed to steal a 40ft hedge in a few short hours? And as for the question of motive...

Today. 14th July.

## SCIENCE STUMPED AGAIN.

And here's evidence that all those smug know-it-all 'Daily Life Science' books we were forced to wade through during those boring Chemistry lessons at school, are at least partly erroneous. In my mind's eye I have this mental image of a group of dome-headed Dr. Bunsen Honeydew lookalikes in white lab coats, crying buckets and holding each other for consolation as the demolition team move in to raze yet another set of towering monoliths of stone, each engraved with an indisputable edict of 'Scientific Fact'.

Liverpool Echo. 27th October.

# Hubble bubbles the Big Bang theory

ASTRONOMERS are a step nearer to discovering the true age of the universe, it was announced today.

Latest findings from NASA's Hubble Space Telescope reveal it may be younger than was originally thought.

This has placed a question mark over the age of stars and the Big Bang theory.

An international team of astronomers has made their breakthrough by accurately determining the Hubble Constant — the measure of how fast the universe is expanding.

They include Dr Shaun Hughes of the Royal Greenwich

By **Echo reporter**

Observatory in Cambridge and Wendy Freedman, of the Observatories of the Carnegie Institution in Pasadena, California.

The unprecedented clarity with which the Hubble Space Telescope can view distant objects has allowed Freedman and her colleagues to measure the distance to the stars.

The telescope has helped the team observe Cepheid stars, which are very useful to scientists because of their variable brightness.

Astronomers need only measure the period and the

observed brightness, and the distance to the stars can be determined.

The data was published in Nature magazine today.

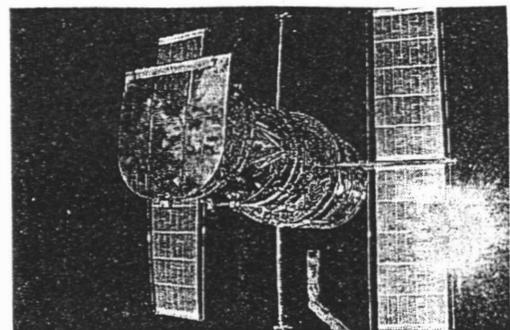
While this result marks the end of an era of uncertainty, the numerical value of the Hubble Constant is bound to cause trouble for cosmologists.

Something must have been wrong with astronomers' previous model for some stars to be dated as older than the universe now appears to be.

The questions now are:

● Are the ages of stars too high?

● Or is the Big Bang theory incorrect?



● Hubble trouble . . . the telescope has given cosmologists a headache with its new findings

# WOMAN 'CURED BY A MIRACLE'

A MERSEYSIDE woman will feature in a Granada TV documentary investigating religious miracles.

The programme focuses on stigmata — where marks which resemble the wounds of the crucified Christ have appeared on the hands, feet and sides of people throughout the world.

## Faith

Alice Jones, of St Helens, claims that the Church's most famous stigmatist Padre Pio

## Alice tells of vision on TV programme

By Peter Grant

and her own faith have helped cure her.

She believes that her severely damaged spine was mended after she saw a vision of Padre Pio when she was visited by faith healer Father Eric Fisher.

Alice said: "He began to pray and put his hands on my withered leg.

"Suddenly there was

a severe pain and my leg started to grow — it was filling out and I cried out: 'Father — stop!'

"As I looked down, there in front of his face was the face of an old man with a beard.

"He took me by the hand and said, in a loud voice, 'Arise in the name of Jesus and walk' — and I did!"

Alice says she saw a photograph of Padre Pio and instantly recog-

nised him as the bearded man.

A Granada spokesman said: "Medical examinations since Alice's recovery show her spine still to be wasted and damaged beyond surgical repair — medically it still should be impossible for her to walk."

A Modern Miracle will be screened on March 29 (10.4pm) on the ITV Network.

## STIGMATA.

The alleged Holy marks that are said to appear on the body of 'Sainthood' people, and from which blood is said to flow copiously in sympathy with Christ's wounds upon the Cross, have been reported since the Crucifixion. There are literally hundreds (probably thousands) of such cases on record, a good chunk of them occurring in recent times.

The account featured here is only one of a whole welter of claimed 'Miracles' reported to have taken place this year alone...Indeed, they seem to be on the increase.

This begs the question; is the whole phenomenon nothing more than a desperate attempt by the church to regain its long lost flock? Or are we guilty of becoming increasingly reliant upon our once abandoned Faith as we drift inexorably toward the Millennium? The old cliché about 'paying money and 'taking choices' springs to mind...



## GHOSTS AND HAUNTINGS.

One can't help feeling just the teensiest bit cynical when dealing with cases of 'Haunted Pubs and Hotels'.

Try as I might, I have great difficulty in driving from my mind the very real possibility that the respective landlord's might be engaged in a touch of 'Customer Attraction'... After all, there's no surer (or more importantly CHEAPER) way of ensuring a dramatic increase in clientele than letting it be known the pub/hotel has a resident GHOST... Sunday People. 24th September.

# Kitchen ghosts rattle staff at haunted hotel

By BEN McCONVILLE

was previously St George's Hospital, where Crimean War heroine Florence Nightingale worked.

*The ghosts of nurses and patients are said to haunt the historic rooms of the building, which re-opened as a hotel two years ago after a push refurbishment.*

"I'd be working in the kitchen and pots and pans would rattle for no reason," said one former employee. "There were

strange noises and things would just fall over — it was scary."

Far from putting guests off, the thought of spending the night in a haunted hotel has proved a bonus for tourists.

American dentist Chuck McCarrol, 29, from Chicago, said: "I realised there was a lot of history behind the hotel and for me this just adds to the glamour.

"Of course I'm not frightened. It's the most beautiful hotel I've ever been in. I'll definitely be coming back."

Deputy manager Michael Naylor-Leyland denied that staff had left as a result of poltergeists.

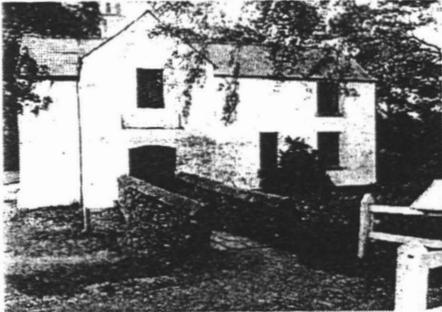
"There is the ghost of a nurse called The Grey Lady who wanders the top floor," he said.

"But we've certainly had no staff leaving for something as silly as that."



Psychic put in charge of spooky historic hall-

# SALLY VISITS AN OLD HAUNT



● Chingle Hall... haunted house

By Jane Gallagher

PSYCHIC Sally Wallbank has been inundated with calls to spend the night at one of Britain's spookiest homes.

The dustbusting ghostbuster who works as a cleaner by day has been appointed by Chingle Hall owner Professor Trevor Kirkham to supervise the running of the building.

## Overnight

Sally, 38, from Burscough, claims to have seen 14 ghosts during her own 41 overnight stays in the building including the spirit of English martyr St John Wall who was tortured to death during a visit to Chingle Hall, near Preston, in 1679.

She has even written a book about the place. But Sally fears new spectres may emerge literally from the woodwork following the hall's first major refurbishment.

She said: "Professor Kirkham has put me in charge of the Hall until he can move in at Christmas.

"He is quite prepared to continue the overnight stays and share his home with us and the many spirits.



● Professor Kirkham... owner



● Sally Wallbank... dustbusting ghostbuster

"We start our first series of overnight stays in January and are fully booked."

In July, Professor Kirkham and his wife Judy claimed the Hall's former owner John Bruce misled them about the building's tourism potential and were awarded £71,000

at Liverpool High Court.

After the hearing, Professor Kirkham said: "I don't believe in the paranormal."

But Sally said: "He was over recently and said he hadn't seen anything but had felt as if somebody was watching him."

## GHOSTS AND HAUNTINGS.

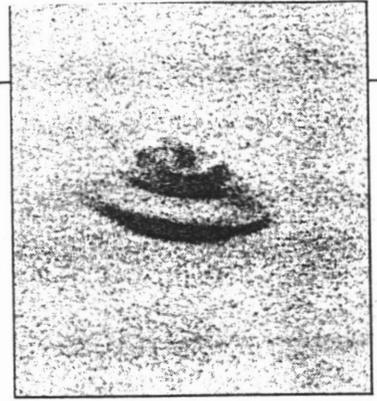
The age old superstition that 'Household Spirits' are apt to get well cheesed off if buildings are structurally altered against their express wishes, raised its head recently at Chingle Hall, near Preston. Ms. Burscough, an apparent psychic who's been left in charge of the house could be in for a rough ride between now and Christmas.

Liverpool Echo. October.

## WARMINSTER HOAX?

No sooner does someone decide it's high time they came clean over the faking of a photo of an apparent anomalous object ('The classic Surgeon's picture from Loch Ness. 1933) than somebody else elects to spill the beans over the infamous 'Warminster Thing'. A recent issue of 'The Fortean Times' however, cast a fair degree of doubt upon 'the confession', not least because the photographer, Gordon Faulkner, can not for the life of him recall anyone named Roger Hooton...The person who claims the whole thing's a giant fake...So the plot thickens...

Daily Mail. Summer.



Identified: The heaven-sent hoax

# Why they never cottoned on to the Thing

IT was the photograph that launched a thousand spaceships.

The blurred image of a flying saucer turned the Wiltshire town of Warminster into a mecca for UFO spotters, and claims of other sightings came thick and fast.

By BILL MOULAND and DESMOND ZWAR

But yesterday, almost 30 years later, the picture was exposed as a hoax — by one of the two men who hatched the plot in their local pub.

The Thing, as it was christened, was nothing more than a milk bottle top, a cotton reel and a button.

Retired print worker Roger Hooton, who now lives in Adelaide, owned up after reading in UK Mail, the Daily Mail's international edition, that another famous photo — supposedly of the Loch Ness Monster — was of a model mounted on a toy submarine.

## Alien

'I decided it was time to come clean, although I don't know why no one ever spotted it in the first place,' said Mr Hooton. 'It always seemed obvious to me because it looked so stupid.'

'But it fooled everyone at the time and earned on fooling them. The flying saucer was even accepted as genuine by the British UFO Research Association and is listed in the UFO Encyclopaedia.'

Mr Hooton, 52, and his friend Gordon Faulkner, a factory worker, hit on the plan in 1965 after reading about alleged UFO sightings in their local paper.

'We went out to a field and made a flying saucer out of the cotton reel and milk bottle cap with the button on top,' said Mr Hooton.

'I was dropping it on to the ground and Gordon was photographing it as it fell. There was nothing to indicate speed or size and the background was

blank. When we got the film back from Boots, there it was — a flying saucer.'

After the photo appeared in the Warminster Journal, the Thing took on a life of its own. A national newspaper took up the story and Warminster throbbed with hundreds of people hoping to see an alien. The town even spawned its own UFO Newsletter.

'The joke had got out of hand,' said Mr Hooton. 'It had sparked a whole new industry in Warminster and it seemed a shame to stop it.'

He has now confessed the hoax to John Spencer, vice-chairman of the British UFO Research Association, who included the Thing in two of his books.

Mr Spencer said: 'It was the picture that first got me involved in the subject. I was 11 at the time and it got me terribly interested. It had always been regarded as one of those photographs that could be or could not be.'

'Mr Hooton felt terribly guilty about it. He wanted to put the record straight.'

Despite knowing the truth, Mr Spencer's faith is unshaken. He said: 'I don't believe in flying saucers or aliens, but I do believe in UFOs. There are things we don't understand in our skies.'

Warminster Journal editor Diana Watkins, whose grandfather published the original photo, said: 'I always used to say that when I saw one I would believe it. I still haven't seen one.'

# Saga of the Recollections

## Hoylelake Monster!

THE place: the Irish Sea. The time: just after dawn. Out of the waves comes an oval body,

topped by a long neck with a dark coloured head. Travelling through the water, the head and neck rise and

fall in the waves. Would the hardy fishermen live to see another sunset, or would they be swal-

lowed up for ever? The saga of the Hoylelake Monster begins in 1948 .... but let skipper W H Jones take up the story.

"On September 26, 1948, at 7.20am, BST, while 8 miles NW of Hilbre in the fishing

boat Ivy, LL108, visibility 6-8 miles, calm sea, along with two other members of the crew, A Baker and C Leatherbarrow, we all saw an object 30 yards away, which at first we thought was an upturned dinghy or a moored mine.



Photo: From the D and M Young collection

**THE IVY** • This 42-foot nobby was first brought to Hoylelake at the turn of the century by Thomas Dodd. She was next owned by Arthur Dodd and then by Harry Jones.

The colour of the neck was the same brownish-black as the back, with the exception of the throat downwards, which was dirty white. The head was a rounded oval; the eye of which reminded me of a horse's eye, the nostrils also like those of a horse, and although it did not open it, we could see its mouth.

"I have been fishing the Irish Sea and the Liverpool Bay for more than 40 years, and I have never seen anything like this before."

It always amazes me how little snippets of information like this, that may be added in passing, turn out to have a greater significance, and it was this comment that gave Ellison the clue he needed, although not immediately; he records that at first he was as puzzled as Skipper Jones.

Ellison came across a picture taken in 1908 of a leathery turtle captured in Pwllheli harbour, and realised that this was the same

beast as skipper Jones and his crew had seen. In sea turtles, the limbs have evolved into flippers, for easier swimming, and these could well appear to be fins at a distance.

The leatherback is the largest of the living turtles, and grows to at least seven feet long, although insubstantiated reports claim almost 10 feet.

As leatherbacks are omnivorous, eating almost anything, it is probably all to the good that none of the crew fell overboard in fright that September morning.

### ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN SEARCH.

News of yet another attempt to track down the maddeningly elusive B.H.M.'s across the globe, was announced by the Chinese this November. We wish the newly formed 'Committee For The Search Of Starnge And Rare Creatures' the very best of luck...

Daily Mail. November.

### MORE SEA MONSTERS.

This clipping appeared in a local paper and was said to have occurred in 1948.

It's unusual, because you don't often hear many reports of Unknown Sea Creatures off the Merseyside coast.

The 'identification' of the 'animal' as being a Leatherback Turtle, is spurious to say the least. Butwith nothing further to go on, 'The Experts' guess is as good as any, I suppose..

Wirral News. 21st September.

### WEIRD WINGED CREATURES.

A real rarity, especially here on Merseyside. An account of an 'Out Of Place Eagle'??? Or something even more exotic???

Liverpool Echo. 4th October.

## Mystery bird swoops in

MYSTERY surrounds a high flier that is paying daily visits to farmer Arthur Holbert.

For the past three weeks Mr Holbert has been visited daily at his Curlew Farm in Bur-sough by a large bird with a huge wing span.

He is convinced it is an eagle.

But experts at nearby Martin Mere wildfowl reserve say they have not seen the bird nor heard of any reported sightings.

## SCIENTISTS MOVE A STEP CLOSER IN HUNT FOR ELUSIVE CREATURE



HAIR-RAISING: How the Yeti may look, based on peasant sightings

**EXPRESS REPORTER** ... FOR years scientists have tried to track down the elusive Yeti - but without much success.

Suburban sightings by peasants, huge footprints, and a few hair samples are the closest they have come to identifying the legendary half-man-half ape.

Now Chinese scientists hope to move a step closer. Yesterday they set up the Committee for the Search of Strange and Rare Creatures.

The wild human-like apes are said to exist in remote mountain areas of China.

Locals, who have hunted the creatures snowmen, claim they are nearly 7ft tall, covered with long hair and have huge feet that leave lion prints.

Chinese scientists have concentrated their searches in the Shennongjia Mountains in central China and the Himalays in Tibet.

They are said to have found hair samples of an 'unknown primate, possibly the offspring of a branch of anthropoid ape who is said to have been extinguished on the planet or even a group of ape men who have lagged behind evolution', according to reports.

**Monster** The Xinhuas news agency says: 'Rural people who get glimpses of them said that they walk by two legs and their bodies are covered with long hairs.'

Residents in central China have reported hundreds of sightings of a creature they call Yeti or Wild Man.

The locals in the forested region there described a tall beast, which stands erect like a man but is covered with reddish ape like hair.

Four years ago Western scientists were allowed into the region and collected hair samples for analysis.

Tests revealed the hair was not human or ape - but a crossbreed.

They also found that the hairs had a 24 times higher ratio of zinc and iron than human hairs - and eight times higher than animal hairs.

Gene Pauer, professor of anthropology at Ohio State University, said: 'We have established that the animal does not fall into any known category.'

# Find the Yeti

"This is the first ever evidence of the existence of a new higher primate."

As the committee, including top scientists from the Chinese Academy of Sciences debated the riddle another mystery was solved yesterday.

A sea animal thought to be a prehistoric monster, whose remains were washed ashore on Russia's Arctic coast, was in fact a sperm whale.

Initial reports it might be a sea cow, the first creature was so named in legends of wool, sparking wild rumors that humans might have its own last New monster.

"To the great disappointment of experts the 'monster' turned out to be an ordinary sperm whale," the Russian news agency says.

The whale died of natural causes three months ago in the Atlantic.

But the body's decomposed flesh was brought by the Gulf Stream around the North Cape and deposited on the coast close to Murmansk, where locals reported it.

# Take cover! It's another comet

**A** NEWLY-discovered comet is heading Earth's way and will probably miss, but a collision could wipe out the human race, says renowned British physicist Stephen Hawking.

News reports last weekend quoted astronomers as saying fragments of a new comet, Machholz-2, discovered by an American last month, are believed to be on a collision course with Earth.

"I think it's almost certain the comet will miss Earth," said Prof Hawking in Malaysia, answering questions from reporters through his computerised voice synthesiser.

"If it did hit, it would probably mean the end of the human race," he added.

Prof Hawking suffers from a motor disease called amyotrophic lateral sclerosis that has left him almost totally paralysed

by Liam Christopher

and confined to a wheelchair.

He arrived in Kuala Lumpur yesterday for a five-day visit during which he will give lectures relating to cosmology.

At the weekend, astronomers observed five fragments hurtling into the solar system on a path that would take them within Earth's orbit.

Duncan Steele, of the Anglo-Australian Observatory, said the fragments would probably not hit Earth for another 100 years, if at all. "We might be wrong. It could happen in the next few decades," he added.

Prof Hawking said scientists believed comets hit the earth about every 10 million years or

so. "The last time Earth was hit by a comet, it created the Gulf of Mexico and wiped out the dinosaurs," he said.

His greatest fear was that the human race would be eliminated by nuclear war, a genetic accident "or some other means".

"If we can get through the next 100 years, we can probably spread into space. So, if a disaster did hit Earth, it wouldn't mean the end of the human race."

Previewing a theme he will pursue in his lectures, Prof Hawking said humans were on the brink of a revolution in which it would be possible to "design our evolution".

"It's now possible, or soon will be, to alter the genetic code to select for characteristics of intelligence, or longer life. I'm not saying that's desirable, but

it is likely to happen. We will be designing our own evolution."

Author of the best selling Brief History of Time, he has also written a book on his favourite subject entitled, Black Holes and Baby Universes.

"I'm currently working on what happens to black holes when they give out radiation, causing them to evaporate and eventually disappear completely," he said.

"I want to know how the universe works," he said when asked what motivates him as he sits immobile in his wheelchair.

He was able only to move two fingers to manipulate a hand-held device that chose words or a computer screen propped up in front of his face. "I want to know why it works, indeed, why it operates at all. One can define God as the answer to the question, why does the universe bother to exist?"

### ARMAGEDDION TIME (Again)?

Hot on the heels of Sister Sophia's predictions regarding the Comet 'Shoemaker-Levy 9', and its dire consequences for the not-so-good people of Earth if they failed to mend their ways (I guess we did just about enough... 'cos as you may have noticed, we're still here... Can you give me Hallelujah), comes news of another Heavenly Body headed our way, bringing with it a trail of terrible destruction... And, according to Sophia, God means it for sure this time...

Let's just hope the good Sister's prophecies are way off the mark. I was kind of planning on sticking around at least long enough to see if I can get past First Base with that gorgeous secretary from the office down the road...

Daily Mail. 15th September.

# Riddle of the crying Virgin at the post office

By TIM JOTISCHKY

THE rust-coloured stain on the face of the plaster statue of the Virgin Mary measures no more than an inch.

But it has led thousands of pilgrims many miles to the semi-detached home of pensioner Mary Murray.

They arrive by the busload and crowd into her living room to see what she calls the 'Miracle of Our Lady'. Tourists from America, New Zealand and Australia have found their way there.



The statue: Pilgrims tell of an aura of peace

The door of Mrs Murray's home in the County Wicklow village of Grangecon, near Carlow, is open from 8am to 11pm to cope with the rush.

The extraordinary story began two weeks ago. Mrs Murray, 78, formerly the village postmistress, and her daughter, Aithea, say they noticed that the statue's eyes had filled with tears.

Drops of what they believe to be blood trickled from the left eye, leaving a brown stain, and moisture seeped from the other, leaving a small pink mark.

## Peace

Mrs Murray said: 'I cradled the statue in my arms. All I could say was, "Why, why? Mother of God, why have you come back to us in this way?"'

The news spread and the rush to the Murray house, which doubles as the village post office, began.

The statue stands in a glass case surrounded by religious literature.

Many visitors claim to have seen the eyes water. Most say a sense of peace radiates from the statue.

'I'm not making any claims,' said Mrs Murray. 'But my door is open and people can see for themselves. It's not my house now, it's Our Lady's.'

The parish priest, Father Gary Doyle, has been away on retreat and has not yet seen the statue. 'The Church is slow to give its seal of approval to things like this,' he said.



Above: Mary Murray, who says she first saw the tears two weeks ago. It's not my house now, it's Our Lady's.



Left: The Murray house. Thousands of pilgrims, some from across the world, have crowded into the living room.

'It's meant to be a sign of God's presence in the world. I would think the events in South Africa are a much stronger sign of that, but I can't see any great harm in this.'

Another local priest has called for scientific tests to be carried out.

But pilgrim Paddy Hynes, who made the 35-mile trip from his home at Sandycroft, is already certain.

He said: 'If you believe, no explanation is necessary. If you don't believe, none is possible.'

Another pilgrim, Margaret Molloy, making her fourth visit, said: 'I saw tears. Her eyes were full of them.'

Catherine Breen, former housekeeper at

the priest's home, said: 'If it was to happen anywhere, it couldn't happen in a better place. Mary is incredibly religious.'

The pilgrims were still crowding into the house as I left. Mary gave me a farewell kiss. 'Are you converted?' she asked. I smiled and said nothing.

## IMAGES THAT WEEP AND BLEED.

More Religious Phenomena manifesting itself in these essentially faithless times...

So what then are we to make of this account of a Crying Virgin Mary statuette???

Cynics will doubtless suggest we're dealing here with nothing more than a pretty callous attempt to cash in on people's willingness to believe in the 'miraculous'.

And maybe they're right..But then again...

Daily Express. Summer.

## — MYSTERY OF 120ft HOLE THAT APPEARED OVERNIGHT

### WHO PULLED THE PLUG OUT?

LOOKING like a monstrous plughole in a huge bath, this crater appeared mysteriously overnight in a remote part of Florida.

Baffled officials flew over the 180ft deep chasm as they tried to discover why it opened up suddenly in a 430-acre stack of gypsum which had built up during years of mining at a phosphate plant.

Now they want to know where they can buy a 120ft-wide bung — and a hefty chain.



# Early-morning quake a shock for thousands

THOUSANDS of people were woken by an earth tremor that shook buildings and rattled doors and windows today.

Measuring 3.1 on the Richter Scale, the tremor hit the Midlands just after 2am, but there were no reports of damage.

According to the British Seismological Society the epicentre was around Stratford-upon-Avon, in Warwickshire.

A West Mercia Police spokesman said officers on duty overnight at the police headquarters near Worcester felt what they described as a violent tremor at 2.09am.

Telephone calls to neighbouring police headquarters in Warwickshire and Gloucestershire confirmed that the tremor had also been felt there.

Police stations across several counties said they had received numerous calls from people worried by the shock.

A senior officer at Worcester police station said: "Initially we thought it was something wrong with our boiler room. Then we started getting a number of calls and we realised it must have been an earth tremor."

One Northants resident said he was woken by the tremor to find windows rattling and the dressing table mirror shaking. It lasted a few seconds.

Warwickshire police received calls from worried residents living in the south of the county reporting rumblings, shakings, explosions and intruders in their house.

## EARTHQUAKES IN BRITAIN

The Fortean Times (that fine upstanding publication) would doubtless file this clipping under their 'diary of a mad planet banner'... and well they might...

Is it me or does it seem that earth tremors are on the increase (once fairly uncommon) within these isles...there was a fairly substantail one just recently in the Midlands (I'll include the details on the next issues batch of clippings...

Liverpool Echo Thursday May 12, 1994

## LIVING MAMMOTHS

Are mammoths roaming in the land of the 'Yeti?' Reports of the continued existence of whole herds of these creatures continue to filter through from the misted peaks of the Himilayas and the great white wastes of the Siberian Tundra...we live in hope.

Daily Slur Tuesday June 21, 1994

# JURASSIC TUSK FORCE

AN intrepid explorer is hot on the trail of a Jurassic Park relic.

John Blashford-Snell is mounting an expedition to track down a herd of hairy elephants living in remote foothills of the Himalayas.

The retired army colonel believes they are a vital missing link in the evolu-

## IAN READ

tion of the elephant and could be a close relative of the mammoth, extinct for thousands of years.

It is believed they are bigger than the Asian elephant but smaller than its African cousin. Blashford-Snell, known as "Blash-

ers", said: "All I've seen is a picture of a footprint and a distant snap of the elephants."

"The tusks are very curved and I'm sure this is a new creature which has not been seen before."

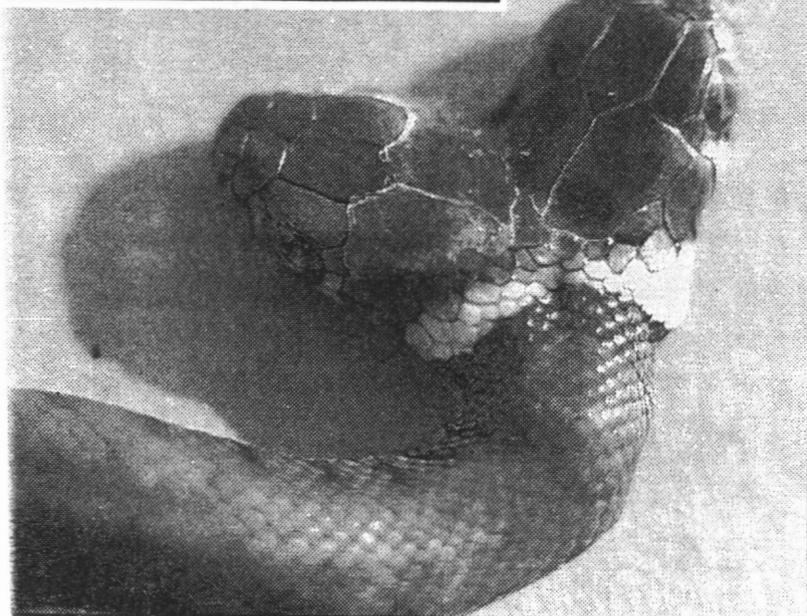
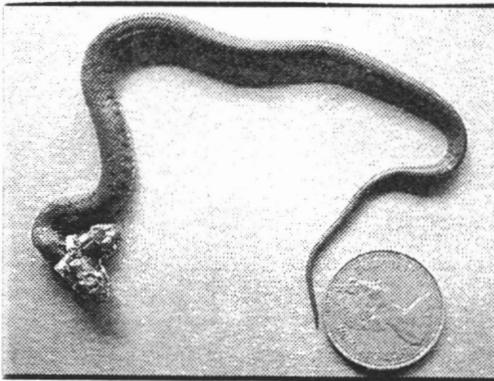
He and his team hope to get samples and prove a link by DNA testing.

**ECCENTRIC** Katerina Clement has left £400,000 to her favourite house plant. The 78-year-old millionairess, from Geneva, Switzerland, described the jade plant as her "best and only friend" for the last five years of her life.

## WEIRD HUMAN BEHAVIOUR

Another totally over-the-top reaction from that hot-bed of normality: China

Daily Slur October 6, 1994



## Headed for record books ..

IT'S not quite the sort of thing you'd want to see as you come out of the pub. A two-headed snake.

The month-old grass snake, found on a compost heap, is being cared for at the Living World centre in Seaford, Sussex.

Experts say it seems to be managing to use both heads — and all four eyes. So far it is less than six inches long. But it is thriving, and expected to reach the full 3ft length.

"Its only problem might be when the time comes to shed its skin," one zoologist said. "Then the skin might get tangled up in one of the heads."

## Waitress is boiled alive

A RESTAURANT owner who killed a waitress by pouring boiling water on her for working too slowly has been sentenced to death.

Jia Jiqin was arrested after the 21-year-old Zheng Chenfeng died from the horrific attack in Beijing, China. Zheng suffered burns on a third of her body and also had 34 scars from old wounds.

Jia had previously been commended by the government as a "model worker". Executions are by a bullet to the back of the head.

## ANIMAL ABERRATIONS

Here's another of nature's freaks. a two-headed grass snake from Sussex. Apparently this unfortunate creature is likely to have problem when it comes to shed it's skin... watch this space for further natur anomalies

# Strange Phenomena Of The 20th Century

1903.

## RAINING STONES IN THE JUNGLES OF SUMATRA.

A man by the name of V.G. Grottendieck, was living deep in the depths of the Sumatran jungle sometime in late September, 1903.

Quite what he was doing there hasn't been elaborated upon by any of the authors of this report, perhaps he was an explorer or a scientist in search of some fabled lost city of gold...

Or maybe he just got hopelessly lost on the way to the shops...

What we DO know for sure, is that at around one o' clock in the morning, he was awoken by the sound of something falling outside his Mosquito net. The sounds continued irregularly for a few minutes until they reached such a pitch, W.G. reluctantly climbed out of bed to see what was the cause of the noises.

He discovered, with some degree of astonishment that the things falling to the ground were in fact small black stones 1/8 to 3/4 of an inch long. By the flickering light of his kerosene lamp he could make out that 'the stones were falling from nowhere in a parabolic line close to my head pillow.

Somewhat perturbed, he left the room and awoke a young Malay-Pelambang coolie, who was sleeping right next door. He told the boy to walk out into the jungle for a certain distance, before W.G. illuminated the dense undergrowth with his small 'Ever Ready' electric lantern.

He could see quite clearly that the stones were STILL falling, even the only other person present in full view.

The boy eventually returned to the hut and, deciding that discretion was the better part of valour, he was sent on a solitary search of the rooms by brave ol' W.G. He entered the kitchen whilst W.G. stood in the sleeping quarters watching in awe as the stones continued to rain down unabated.

He then knelt near the head of his bed and made a vain attempt to catch the stones whilst they were still airborne, but the pesky things refused to be caught. 'It seemed to me that they changed direction in the air as soon as I tried to get hold of them. I couldn't catch any of them before they fell to the floor.'

Now totally exasperated, he climbed up the partition wall that lay between his room and the boy's quarters in an attempt to check out the roof and see if there was any way the stones could be emanating from there.

'They came right out of the "Kadjang", but there were no holes in the "Kadjang". When I tried to catch them there at the very spot of coming out, I also failed'.

He could still see the boy standing outside at this time, whilst stones fell behind him. The stones he discovered, were hotter than you would expect from say, being kept in a pocket for some time...And, get this, Sports fans...They fell SLOWLY.

'It seemed to me that they were hovering through the air; they described a parabolic curve and then came down with a bang on the floor'.

He also stated that the bang the stones made upon reaching the floor was much louder than it should have been.

How on earth could this be???



THE BEST OF THE REST FROM 1903.

DATE: November.

LOCATION: Iowa, Kansas, USA.

PHENOMENON: B.H.M. Sighting



A bunch of miners working the dreaded 'Night Shift' were terrified by the sight of a strange creature that was described as having 'Horns and long hair, with big eyes and an inhuman look, although standing erect like a man'.

It has been suggested that this account may well have been a misperception of our old friend 'BIGFOOT'. However, I have my reservations. The mere mention of the word 'horns' is enough for me to strongly suspect that this may very well qualify as a possible DEMONIC ENTITY case.

DATE: May.

LOCATION: The Bronx, New York, USA.

PHENOMENON: POLTERGEIST.



Following the suspected burglary of an apartment belonging to the Koch family. (clothes, jewellery, and cash were stolen), a light was seen in the same apartment two days later, when it was known that the occupants were out. Detectives immediately converged on the building expecting to find a couple of hard faced criminals in the act...But when they burst the door open in typical 'Miami Vice' style, they found...Nothing. No-one was there.

Later however, Mr. Koch found the stolen clothing was back in its rightful place in the closet.

DATE UNKNOWN.

LOCATION: Loch Ness, Scotland.

PHENOMENON: Lake Monster.



No real details here I'm afraid. All I can tell you is that 'Nessie' was reportedly sighted sometime during this year, and seeing as how there MUST exist a detailed account within the pages of some dusty publication, I'm bound to include this briefest of mentions for the simple reason that I'm fascinated with the subject, and any report of the MONSTER(S) in Loch Ness, especially pre-1933, and its subsequent catapulting into World-fame. Not to have done so would seem too much like heresy on my behalf.

DATE: 10th August.

LOCATION: St. Croix River, New Brunswick, Canada.

PHENOMENON: Sea Monster.



A group of fishermen on the banks of a place called Bayside, saw a MONSTER with a set of fins 20ft and 50ft apart. They later reported seeing a huge head with large, green eyes.

Sadly, there are no further details in my files.

DATE UNKNOWN.

LOCATION: Hermanus, South Africa.

PHENOMENON: Sea Monster.



Another group of fishermen were working four miles off the coastline when they encountered a SEA MONSTER that they subsequently described as; 'The most awful looking monster with a head about 4ft above the water, that rapidly approached the fishing boat. When it was approximately 10 yards away, the snake-like creature raised its head still further to a height of more than 20ft and looked down on us with eyes like saucers - not once, but three times - for periods of about 15 seconds. It was at least 120ft long, had a head the size of a paraffin tin, and was covered with long hair that looked like sea-weed.

It appeared to be the thickness of an 8-10 inch water pipe. The body was a black-brown in colour, with a throat that was whitish-brown. It swam very fast and then very slowly. It suddenly made one terrific dive and that was the last we saw of it'.

#### THE BEST OF THE REST OF 1904.

DATE: April 13th.

LOCATION: Sussex, England.

PHENOMENON: Ball Lightning.



During an early morning thunderstorm of a fairly severe magnitude, there was a blinding flash followed by a loud explosion. One witness recorded that he saw a 'ball of fire explode, casting darts in all directions'.

With the rising of the sun, three sets of circular holes were found in a field ranging from 9 inches to 1 inch in diameter. 'They were clean cut as though bored with an auger'.

DATE: April 15th.

LOCATION: Wimbledon, Greater London, England.

PHENOMENON: Unusual Darkness.



For some totally unexplainable reason, the whole of the Wimbledon area was plunged into darkness during the midst of normal daylight hours. It was an unnatural gloom that was described as 'a tunnel of darkness with light at either end, that lasted for ten minutes'.

It was apparently far too dark for people to walk abroad...And no, we're not talking here about the kind of semi-twilight that precedes a storm.

This was the real McCoy.

An impenetrable blackness that can't be attributed to the dense acrid smoke of a raging fire or the detritus of a dust storm.

The only theory put forward in an attempt to shine some degree of light (absolutley no pun intended, Otto old bean), on the mystery was that perhaps the sun had been temporarily obscured by a passing comet.

Well...

Maybe...

DATE: December 17th.

LOCATION: Rosehall, Falkirk, Scotland.

PHENOMENON: S.H.C.



A possible case of Spontaneous Human Combustion (hence the initials; S.H.C.) was reported in the 'London Daily News'. A Mrs. Thomas Cochrane was burned to death in her armchair, surrounded by pillows and cushions that were untouched by the 'fire'.

Apparently, she never uttered a cry...Perhaps she didn't have time to.

The corpse was burned almost beyond recognition, and investigators were puzzled by the fact that there was no fire in the grate.

DATE: December 29th.

LOCATION: Cumwhinton, Cumbria, England.

PHENOMENON: Out-Of-Place Animal.



The body of a Wolf, 5ft long, was discovered dead on a railway line.

None of the locals had any idea as to where it had come from. Needless to say, Wolves became officially extinct in Britain sometime in the late 18th Century.

So what was one doing in the middle of Cumbria???

DATE UNKNOWN.

LOCATION: Tibet.

PHENOMENON: Fireproof People.



During Francis Young's expedition to Tibet, he was witness to the amazing sight of a bunch of Buddhist monks who could stand motionless upon blazing fires for varying lengths of time. When they chose desist from this course of action, he was even more astonished to find their skin was completely unharmed. These same monks could also sit for hours on end in sub-zero temperatures clothed in nothing more than a saffron robe.

Quite how they could achieve these startling feats is a mystery bettered only by the question of WHY they would WANT to do anything so blatantly nuts in the first place...

DATE: Sometime in the Autumn.

LOCATION: Hoe Benham, Near Newbury, Berkshire.

PHENOMENON: Demonic Entity.



A man named Albert Thorne, claimed to have heard a 'noise like a whizzin of leaves, and I saw summat like a calf knuckled down about two and a half feet high and five feet long, with glowing eyes'. It slowly faded away as he stared in disbelief.

The area has a long history of encounters with similar entities, more usually in the shape of a Phantom Pig...And so seriously were the reports taken that the much respected 'British Society For Psychical Research' (SPR), undertook an exhaustive investigation.

We'll be returning to this fascinating sequence of events in a future issue.

DATE: Winter.

LOCATION: Hexham, Northumberland, England.

PHENOMENON: Mysterious Mutilators.



Good ol' Charlie Fort recorded that during the Winter of 1904/05, and against a background of religious revivalism in Wales, there occurred wave after wave of dreadful attacks on animals. In Hexham, (the site of a whole welter of ghostly phenomena in the early 1970's, including a possibly relevant WEREWOLF report...See future article on 'The Hexham Heads'), SOMETHING was killing sheep night after night. On certain occasions this happened on both sides of the River Tyne, on the same night. There was more slaughter at Gravesend, Kent, and Badminton in Gloucestershire, inflicting terrible losses on both livestock and the poor farmers.

DATE UNKNOWN.

LOCATION: Marlpit's Hill, Near Honiton, Devon, England.

PHENOMENON: Ghost.



A group of schoolchildren were walking up Marlpit's Hill, informed their teacher that they'd seen a 'tall, wild-looking man' coming down the hill towards them. They further stated that he was dressed in a broad-brimmed hat and a long brown coat. All his clothes were torn and heavily mud-stained. He looked as though he'd been through hell and back and was staring straight ahead, not unlike the survivors of terrible disasters who are suffering from severe shock. The teacher was unable to see him (along with animals, children are often attributed with the power to see things that are obscured from the more cynical eyes of adults), but the kids were insistent and their descriptions were as clear as the proverbial bell. It was later discovered that back in 1685, the year of the battle of Sedgemoor, a man who'd fought and survived the action became a fugitive, and was returning home to his cottage on Marlpit Hill, when he was shot in the back by army troopers.

So did the children see the GHOST of this man over 200 years later???

DATE UNKNOWN.

LOCATION: Egryn, Barmouth, Wales.

PHENOMENON: U.F.O.'s.



A local reporter, Beriah G. Evans, and four other witnesses, saw three brilliant rays of dazzling white light stride across the road from mountain to sea. After walking for approximately half a mile, they saw a 'blood-red light' within a foot of the ground, in the centre of the village.

Eventually, the red light disappeared as suddenly and mysteriously as it had appeared.

A correspondent from 'The Daily Mail', saw the same or similar lights at 8:20 pm, when he saw what he at first thought to be a ball of fire above the roof of the Egryn chapel.

It came from nowhere, and sprang into existence instantaneously. It didn't move and had a steady, intense yellow brilliance. He called a passing local over, and he too saw the light which was approximately twice the height of the chapel, (50ft). Suddenly, it vanished (the light, not the chapel). The sighting had lasted for one and a half minutes.

DATE UNKNOWN.

LOCATION: Near Rolling Prairie, Indiana, USA.

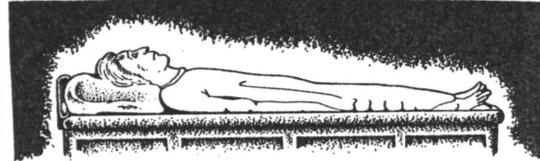
PHENOMENON: U.F.O.'s.



Three witnesses observed two whitish-blue UFO's hover within 15ft of of the ground. The objects flew towards a barn, approached each other, and then disappeared behind a hill.

DATE UNKNOWN.

LOCATION: Ars, France.



PHENOMENON: Incorruptible Corpses.

When the body of the Cures of Ars, was exhumed, 45 years after his death, it was found to be unaccountably well preserved. This fact of course, was taken to be proof that the Cures was indeed a Holy man.

DATE UNKNOWN.

LOCATION: Lough Erne, Co. Fermanagh.



PHENOMENON: U.F.O.'s.

The first of several sightings of large, round lights, 'like motor car lamps', that were seen near the Lough, between 1904-12, was reported this year.

DATE: July 31st.

LOCATION: Philadelphia, USA.

PHENOMENON: Weird Nature.



A strange 'magnetic cloud' (not unlike the 'weird fog' that engulfed Scott Carey turning him into 'THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING MAN'), enshrouded the steamship 'Mohican', as it sailed off the coast of Philadelphia. It was said to be of a phosphorous nature, and it played havoc with the ship's on-board compass, before drifting out to sea.

DATE: December 2nd.

LOCATION: Memphis, Tennessee, USA.

PHENOMENON: Unnatural Darkness.



Another spell of anomalous darkness descended upon Memphis, lasting for about 15 minutes and causing widespread panic...No explanation forthcoming.

# A Long Way From Heaven

## INTRODUCTION:

The following piece is the first in a series of articles devoted to on-the-spot location reports, direct from one of the many Mysterious Places Of Britain. Over the course of subsequent issues, we'll be featuring visits to ancient sites of mystical significance such as Glastonbury, Avebury, and Stonehenge, field trips to so-called 'Window Areas' like Falmouth Bay, Cradle Hill, and Chanctonbury Ring., and relate first-hand investigations of 'Haunted' places like Bluebell Hill, Glamis Castle, and Loch Ness.

The intention is to provide those readers who've never had the opportunity to visit these sites for themselves, with SOME inkling of the rick vein of history and folklore (to say nothing of the natural beauty) that thrived within the ethereal borders of our island's 'Secret Country'.

One of my all-time favourite authors, Richard Cavendish, once asked the question; "Is it perhaps true, that in some way not yet understood, when a place is held sacred the emotions focused upon it over the years impress themselves upon it and create a spell-binding atmosphere that is intangible yet real?"

With the benefit of recent experience, I would have to say, the answer can only be YES....

## 1

PENDLE HILL, LANCASHIRE, ENGLAND.

THE HISTORY OF THE LANCASHIRE WITCHES: 1612.

We start this brief history with the merest of sidetracks into my old 'Shamelessly Self Indulgent Nostalgia Corner....'

I first heard of The Lancashire Witches when my brother stumbled upon a creased and battered copy of Harrison Ainsworth's popular novel of the same name, in some seedy second hand shop. I remember he'd left it lying around one grey, rain swept Sunday afternoon, a few weeks before Christmas...And with the whole house seemingly asleep and having nothing better to do, I curled up on the living room sofa and lost myself in its faintly musty smelling pages.....

It was without doubt, one of the most engrossing books I've ever read, either before or since. It had much the same magical effect upon my young, enquiring mind as Tolkein's 'Lord of The Rings' and Dinsdale's 'Story of The Loch Ness Monster'.

And when finally I'd finished it, at school some days later, I made myself a silent promise that I would some day pay a visit to the book's eerie, Witch-haunted setting....Pendle Hill.

In the meantime, I learned all I could about the characters involved in this real life horror story, and eventually I built up a fairly concise picture of what had occurred in a time when superstition was rife and the

reality of Witchcraft was accepted without question.

The following, is an admittedly condensed attempt to chronicle the tragic events that have long since passed into the misted realm of legend...

In the dark days of the early 17th Century, the whole of Lancashire was terrorised by the grim spectre of religious intolerance. Although the population was largely made up of Roman Catholics, the Protestants held all the aces. This was post-Reformation England, and the bulk of the Protestants were either rich, fat cat landowners or members of the local government. The fact that they formed the vast minority, inspired a kind of siege mentality, and they were quick to mete out severe punishment to those they suspected of clinging TOO fervently to 'Popish and heathen practices'.

Little wonder then that the Jesuit ministers deemed it wise to conceal themselves in a variety of well-hidden 'Priest Holes', several of which are still to be found in many a building dating from this period.



(Above): A woodcut depicting the Lancashire Witches en-route to the Sabbat in Pendle Forest.

The apparent prevalence of Witchcraft in this region was also a major source of discomfort to the ruling classes. So much so in fact, that hot on the heels of passing 'The Elizabethan Witchcraft Act of 1563, the government deemed it necessary to rush out a further, more stringent act of parliament in 1604.

It's perhaps true to say though, that the REAL catalyst for the outbreak of Witch mania that overtook the county in the year 1612, was the biggest work of credulity and misperception since Greame Souness's final match programme notes. Namely, James the 1st's treatise entitled 'Daemonologie'. Published in 1594, nine years before this loony ascended to the throne, it's pages contained such golden pearls of wisdom as; 'How to tell if a person be a Witch or not. How to locate the Witches Mark. And, most damaging of all, How the practising of Sorcery was considered to be an act of high treason against the King.

He also gave his blessing to the acceptance of the testimony of very young children and people of a less than honest nature when they chose to bear witness against suspected WITCHES.

Of course, once James WAS crowned King in 1603, he immediately began to put these insanities into practice. In so doing, he callously opened the door to the Path Of Unreason. The net result was that all the assorted power-mongers, con-men and marble-less crazies came crawling outta the woodwork in a swarm of damn near Biblical proportions...

You can doubtless guess what happened next. Witch-Mania overtook the towns and hamlets of Britain. Suddenly, NO-ONE was safe from the accusations of self-appointed Witch-Finders...Farmers, landowners, even clergy were labelled evil-doers and were duly charged with 'having unlawful discourse with Satan'. And if you were an old woman person of ill-repute, you may as well build yourself a scaffold, place your head in the noose, and ssswwiiinnnggg...Thereby sparing yourself the untold agonies of the torture chamber and the confession that would inevitably follow.



(Above): One of the most popular accusations against Witches was that they sacrificed children as offerings to their master, The Devil).

In this atmosphere of deep mistrust and superstitious fear, it's not surprising that wild, out of the way places should acquire a sinister reputation.

The parish of Whalley, in East Lancashire, had more than its fair share of such desolate areas. It was also home to a pair of rival families who, according to local tradition had sold their souls to The Devil in return for magical powers.

The families were headed by a couple of hideous old crones, both of whom were widely believed to be Witches. One was a blind 80 year old named Elizabeth Sowthern, the other was an equally ancient looking hag named Anne Whittle. They are both better known by their local names however; 'Old Demdike' and 'Old Chattox'.

They lived with their kinsfolk in the dark depths of Pendle Forest and eked out a living by a combination of begging and poaching. Their very appearance was enough to inspire terror in all who beheld them, and some authors believe that Chattox and Demdike used this all-too apparent fear to their advantage. Certainly, their trade in selling rough and ready made items was rendered a good deal more successful than would otherwise have been the case...After all, the people of Pendle likely assumed they were being made an offer they couldn't very well refuse...Not unless they wished to run the risk of being made the victim of a curse that is...

(Below): Another woodcut showing a Witch attacking a local peasant with her Hazel wand to work a magic spell.



During the Winter of 1612, Elizabeth Whittle, daughter of Old Chattox, was accused of theft from the home of Old Demdike. Elizabeth wound up spending some time in Lancaster Prison, but not before she'd taken the opportunity of making the allegation that the person who'd accused her, Alizon Device, (aged 11), Demdike's grand-daughter, was a Witch.

Alizon, seeking to absolve herself, blamed her grandmother for initiating her into a 'Coven' against her will.

A tit for tat bout of allegation and counter allegation ensued with the result that both families were implicated in Witchcraft right up to their not-so-pretty necks.

To cap it all, young Alizon had the dreadful misfortune to curse a passing pedlar. As luck would have it, within a few minutes, and after complaining of severe pain in his legs, he collapsed to the ground unable to walk. What seems likely to have been a stroke was described thus by Thomas Potts, the Clerk of the Magistrates before whom she was duly brought to answer for her crimes.;

'By the Devilish art of Witchcraft his head is drawn awry, his eyes and face deformed, his speech not to be well understood, his thighs and legs stark lame; his hands turned out of their course; his body able to endure no travail'.

Alizon confessed to this crime, and almost inevitably, Old Chattox, Demdike, and certain members of their respective broods were also indicted.

Demdike it seems, FREELY confessed her guilt. Without interrogation she stated that she'd been approached by an Evil Spirit whilst begging near Gould's Hey, in the Forest Of Pendle, many years earlier. It appeared in the shape of a little boy dressed in a black and brown coat, and after telling her it's name was Tib, promised her 'all that her heart desired' in return for her immortal soul. Tib would often appear in the shape of a large brown dog that would suck blood from beneath her left arm. It assisted in the murder by Witchcraft of the child of Richard Baldwyn after he'd made serious threats against Demdike and her grand-daughter.

Chattox wasn't quite as ready to admit to ANY amount of guilt however. She heaped all the blame upon Demdike, who she asserted had all but dragged her kicking and screaming into the circle of Witches. She then accused Demdike and Elizabeth Device, who in turn accused Anne Redfearn, (Chattox's own daughter) of the murder by Sorcery of a local landowner, Robert Nutter.

The magistrate, Roger Nowell, satisfied that there was SOMETHING in the allegations, committed the four prisoners to Lancaster Castle to await trial.

The remainder of the Demdike/Chattox families buried their differences for once, and called an emergency meeting at a place known locally as Malkin Tower, the house of Elizabeth Device and her mother. The conference was set for Good Friday, April 10th, exactly eight days after the arrests of the Family Heads. A grand total of seventeen Witches and three Warlocks turned out for what has since been referred to as 'England's First Ever Witches Sabbat.'

They apparently plotted to kill Mr. McCovell, the governor of Lancaster Castle, and to ensure the escape of their kinsfolk by blowing the building to smithereens. They also intended to christen the Familiar of Alizon Device, and to bewitch a Mr. Lister, a resident of Yorkshire who had caused trouble for one of the Witches present, Jennet Preston.

Their business concluded, they then, according to their own subsequent testimony, each mounted his or her Spirit which was in the form of a young horse, before quickly vanishing.

Once Roger Nowell was made aware of this plot, he immediately had nine more persons arrested and sent to the grim confines of Lancaster Castle. Elizabeth Device, James Device, (the simple son of Elizabeth and brother

of Alizon), Jennet Device, (Jame's 9 year old sister), Alice Nutter of Roughlee Hall, Katherine Hewitt, alias 'Mouldheels', and Alice Gray (both of Colne), Jane Bulcock and her son John (both of Moss End), and Margaret Pearson of Padiham, were all locked up in cold, dank cells.

Many others were never apprehended and made good their escape.

Before the assizes, Old Demdike passed away in the Well Tower of the castle. The rest were brought to trial after the evidence of Jennet Device (who was only nine years old you'll recall) was read out loud to the court. She related a whole list of crimes including; 'Devilsh practices, meetings, consultations, murders, charms, and villanies.' Elizabeth Device eventually confessed to murdering three persons by Witchcraft, and of making a clay image at the behest of her Familiar...A dog named Ball. Though she denied plotting to blow up the castle, her case wasn't helped any by the fact that she had a physical deformity that had one eye looking up, the other down...An incontrovertible sign that she was possessed of 'The Evil Eye'.



(Above); Old Demdike together with her canine Familiar Spirit she named Tib.

The trial of the Pendle Witches was presided over by judge Sir Edward Bromley. There were 11 defendants in total; Anne Redfearn, Elizabeth Device and her two children, Alizon and James, Katherine Hewitt, John and Jane Bulcock, Isobel Robey, Margaret Pearson, and Alice Nutter. The eleventh was the first to be arraigned; Old Chattox...So called incidentally, because her lips were always 'chattering' when she walked. Her daughter, Anne, had apparently been insulted by Robert Nutter., and she had exacted terrible revenge upon him. She was further charged with having bewitched the drink of one John Moore, and produced, without the aid of a churn, a quantity of butter from a dish of skimmed milk...

Knowing the situation was hopeless, she admitted her guilt in an ultimately vain attempt to spare her daughter.

Elizabeth Device was accused of killing John and James Robinson and Henry Mitton. The first had called her 'a strumpet' and the last had refused to give Demdike a penny when she'd begged him for charity. She worked her magic by modelling clay images and inserting pins and other sharp objects into them. James Device was charged on the evidence of his child-sister of killing by Sorcery Anne Towneley. He also told a weird story about how he'd stolen the Communion bread on Maundy Thursday, and when he'd gotten home a hare had apparently approached him on its hind legs and politely

asked him for the bread. James had crossed himself, whereupon the Hare had duly vanished. In spite of his co-operation in supplying the court with the names of the people present at the Malkin Tower Sabbat, and the fact that he was so ill, he couldn't even stand up in court, he was still convicted on the indictment laid against him, and was sentenced to death.

Anne Redfearne was cleared of the murder of Robert Nutter...But in response to the indignation of an angry mob, who were plainly not best pleased with this verdict, she was promptly charged with the bewitching of his father, Christopher Nutter. Of this offence she was predictably convicted.

Alizon Device was found guilty of utilising Witchcraft to lame the pedlar, John Law.

John and Jane Bulcock, despite their protestations of innocence maintained in a firm not guilty plea, were sentenced to death for 'bewitching to madness' Jennet Deane.

Katherine Hewitt was charged both with being present at Malkin Tower and the murder of Anne Foulds, 'a child of Colne.'

One of the strangest aspects of the whole trial was the curious indictment of Alice Nutter, mother of the dead Robert Nutter. Unlike the other defendants, she was a rich, well-disposed woman who owned a large estate. How someone of such social standing came to be implicated in the murder of Henry Mitton by Witchcraft, and of having attended the Malkin Tower meeting on the flimsy evidence of Jennet Device, is certainly a mystery. She was however, sentenced to death just the same.

Isobel Robey pleaded not guilty to bewitching Jane Wilkinson and Peter Chaddock, and for these 'crimes' she too was sentenced to death.

The judge, in passing sentence upon the ten convicted prisoners said;

"You, of all people, have the least cause of complaint; since on the trial for your lives there hath been much care and pains taken; and what persons of your nature and condition were ever arraigned and tried with so much solemnity? The court hath had great care to receive nothing in evidence against you but matter of fact. It is impossible that you, who are stained with so much innocent blood, should either prosper, or continue in this World, or receive reward in the next'.

For the bewitching to death by 'Devilish practices and Hellish means' 16 inhabitants of the Forest Of Pendle, they were sentenced to be hanged on the 20th August, 1612.

Only Margaret Pearson escaped the gallows. For her crime of magically killing a Mare, she was mercifully(?) sentenced to stand in the pillory at Clitheroe, Padiham, Whalley, and Lancaster on four market days with a piece of paper stuck to her head outlining her offence...And then had to spend a year in prison, just for good measure.

That we know so many of the details of this case is due to Thomas Potts, the lawyer who later published a chapbook entitled 'The Wonderful Discovery Of Witches In The County Of Lancaster'.

Within its pages, we are privileged to see all too clearly, that the unsupported testimonies of senile old women, half-witted children and a highly credulous, ill-educated populace were accepted as Gospel truth by a judicial system clearly intent upon chucking that famous edict of law that states; 'A person shall be innocent until proven guilty' right out of the nearest available court-house window.

Don't believe for one moment however, that the traditional belief in Witchcraft and its Evil practitioners has been ENTIRELY eradicated in the pendle area...Even today, the locals talk in hushed tones of poisoned farmer's fields that are never cultivated because they've been accursed. Of buildings

haunted by the spirits of people who have committed suicide rather than fall victim to a Witches spell. Of 'things like a Hare that can never be caught'. And of a 'foul yelling, like unto a great number of cats' emanating from the sunless depths of the surrounding forest. When darkness falls upon the cobbled streets and wild, windswept hills of Pendle...The restless Ghosts of Witches walk once more....

2

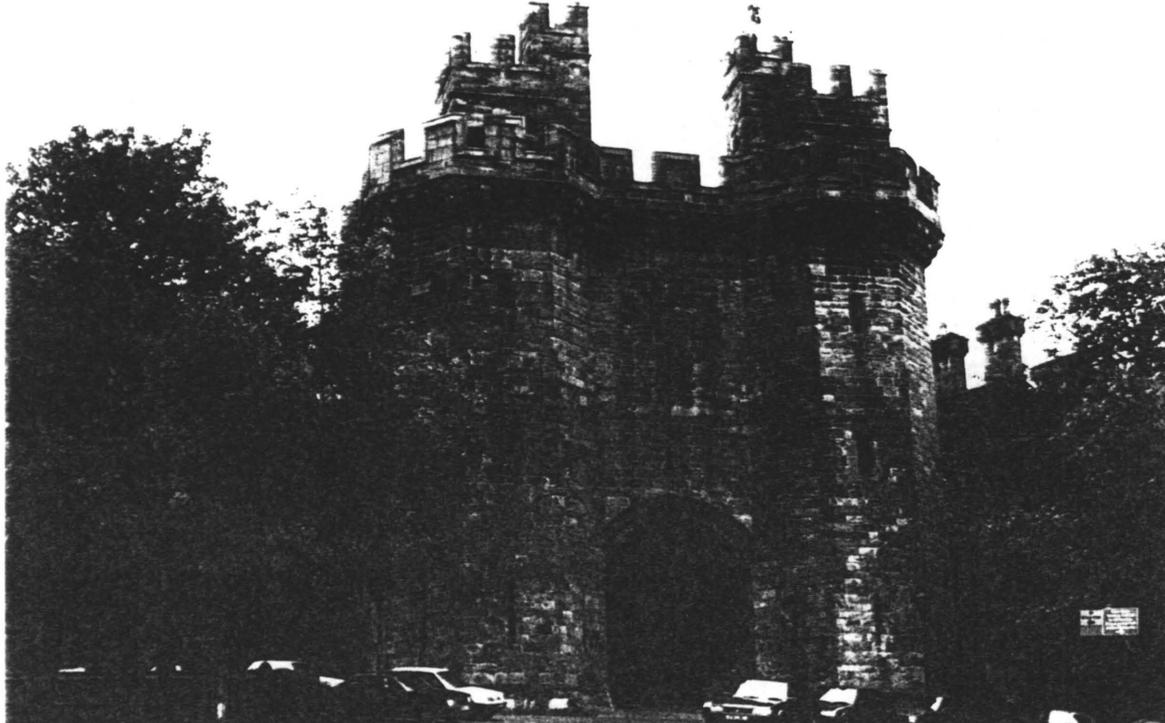
### SHADOWS OVER PENDLE.

(Images and words from The Lancashire Witch Country).

Before heading off to the village of Pendle itself, it's certainly worth making the slightest of detours into the beautiful city of Lancaster, with its endlessly twisting backstreets, Victorian-style lighting and dark flights of stairs leading up to ominous looking buildings straight out of 'The Exorcist'.

It's also home to the famous 16th Century castle, where the suspected Witches awaited their grossly unfair trial and eventual death sentence...

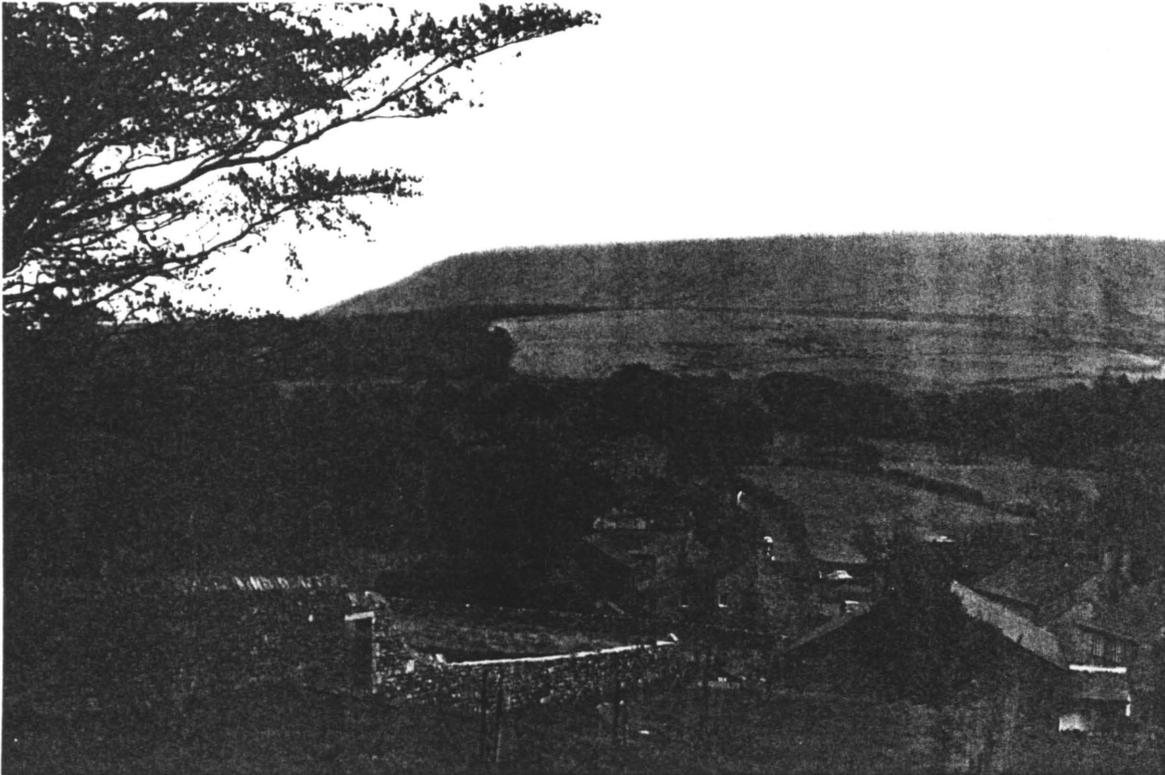
The photograph below depicts the impressive main entrance to the castle. The building is still very much in use as a modern-day prison.



(Overleaf): The awe-inspiring view of Pendle Hill from the centre of the picturesque village of Colne.

Time really DOES seem to stand still here. The author visited the place on a suitably overcast Sunday afternoon and he was immediately struck by the caught-breath silence...The sedate pace of country life...And the hard-to-shake feeling that nothing much had changed here in CENTURIES...

This village was also the birthplace of two convicted Witches; Katherine Hewitt (aka 'Mouldheels') and Alice Gray...



(Below): St. Mary's, Newchurch-In-Pendle, built in 1544 at the very heart of the tiny hamlet.

From this very churchyard, Old Chattox was said to have taken 'three scalps of people which had been buried, and then cast them out of a grave, and tooke (that's the Old English spelling before anyone starts - Self-Conscious Ed) eight teeth out of the said scalps' for use in ritual

The place is certainly blessed (if that's the right word) with a pervasive sense of history, of lives long since lived, and of families and relatives gathered together in the hope of ensuring salvation within the walls of ancient brick and timber...

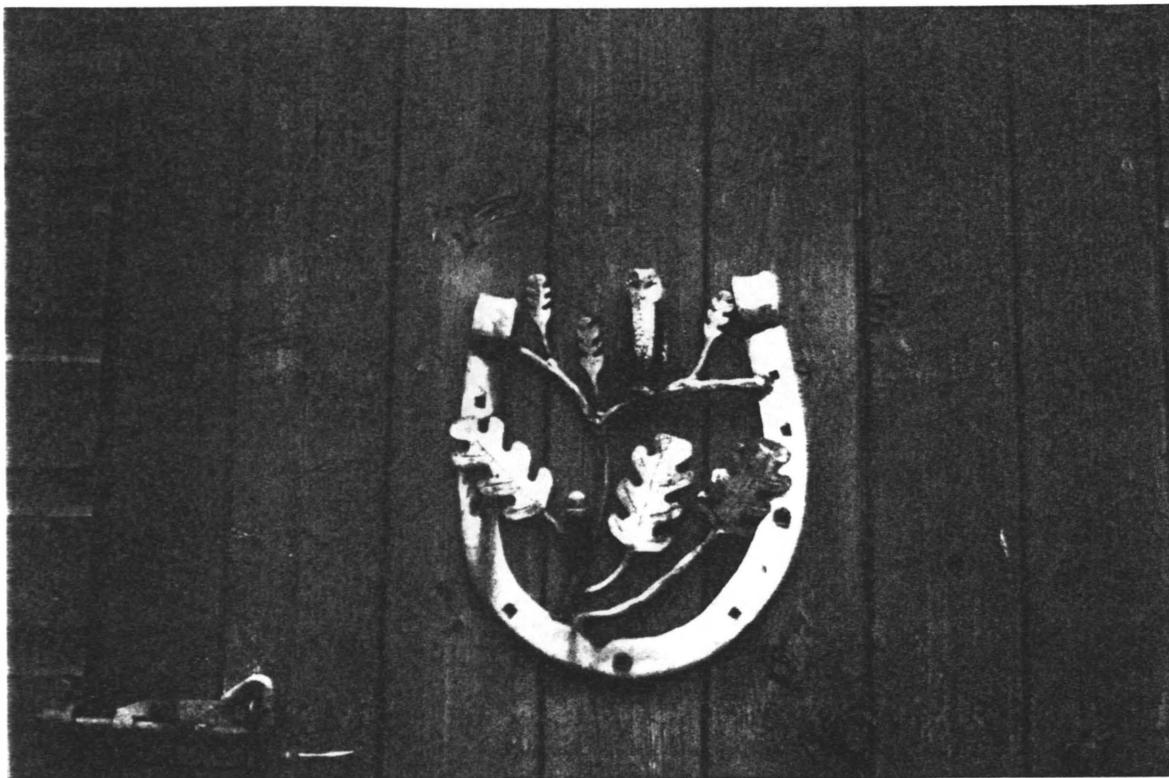
And of something else...

Something indefinable. Intangible.

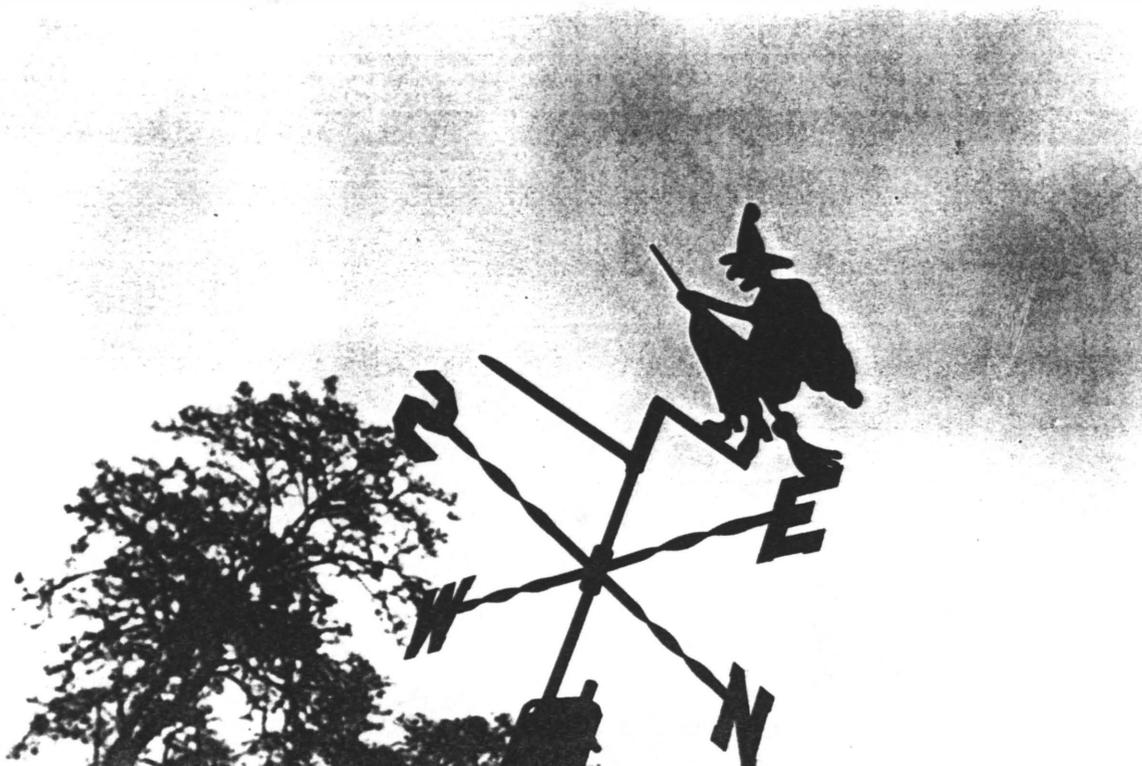
As shapeless and formless as a trick of the knife-edged shadows that had no business being where they were...But undeniably REAL for all that...



(Below): The fear and concept of Witchcraft are still very much alive in Pendle. The Horseshoe (the author found this one upon a stable door in the centre of the village) has long been revered as a protective amulet against Evil because cold iron has always been considered Holy since it comes originally from the sky and it's also a symbol of the Moon and fertility Goddesses Diana and Hecate. The Acorns and the Owl have been included because Oaks were worshipped by the Druids and are said to protect buildings from lightning, and the Owl is said to possess witch-banishing qualities...It's skin, nailed to a barn or stable door, will keep the 'Servants Of Twilight' at bay.



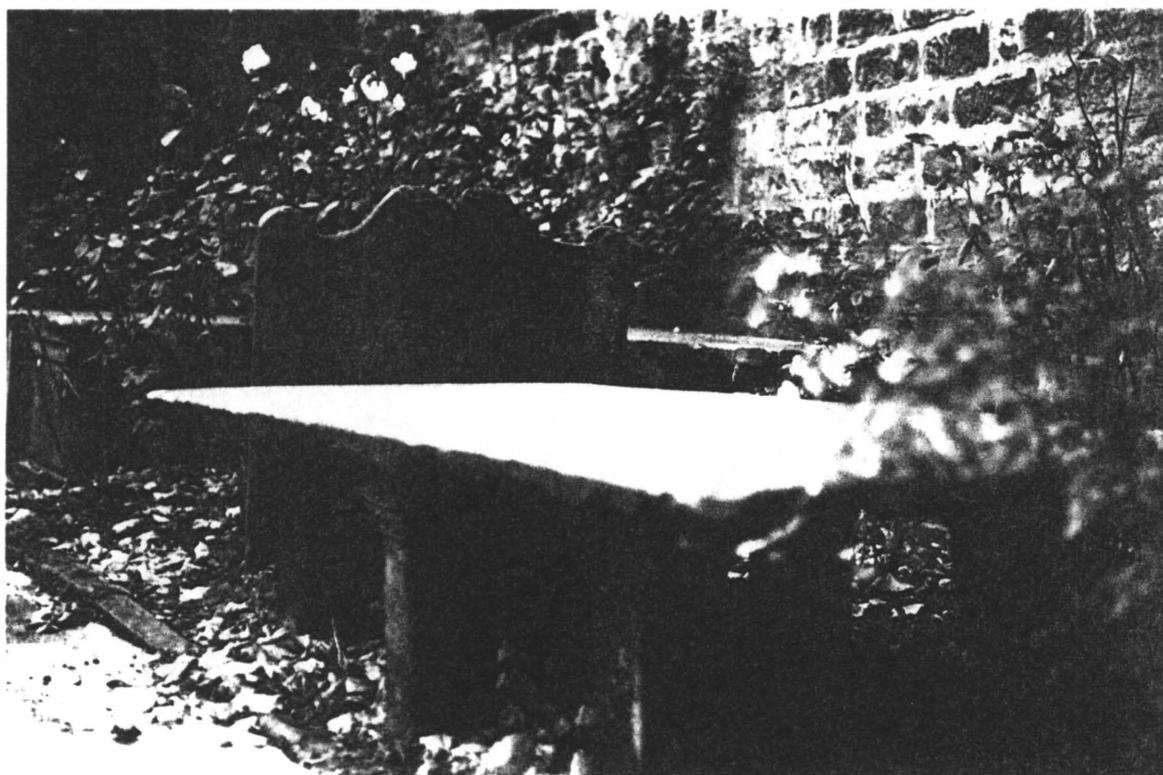
(Below): The traditional Witch-On-A-Broomstick weather vane., is probably erected with one eye set upon the ever-increasing tourist trade. This one's perched atop another set of stables at the head of the footpath that leads to the base of Pendle Hill.



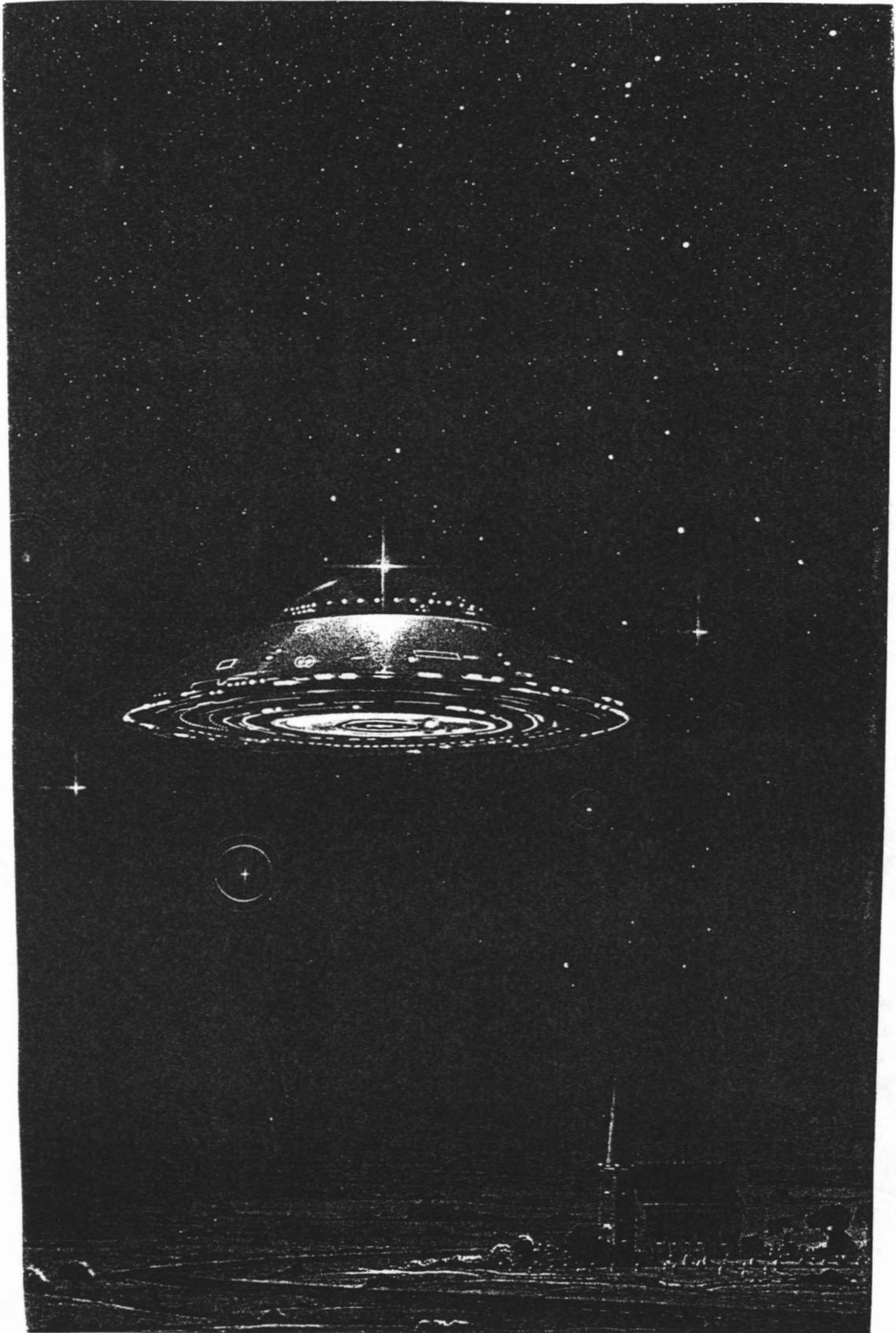
(Below): 'The Witches Galore' store smack in the middle of what passes for a town centre, is a delightful mixture of the genuinely bizzare and the downright commercial. Worth a visit, but don't step across the threshold expecting to find anything remotely antique. This is for Plastic Monster fanatics and 'Wanda The Wicked Witch' lovers only...



(Below): The undisputed highlight of 'DEAD OF NIGHT'S' expedition...The locating of the reputed grave of a reputed Witch. Okay, so the headstone is engraved with the name ELLIS as opposed to the ALICE you've just been reading about...The slab IS etched with a skull and crossbones and it certainly LOOKS the part as you can see on the photo...

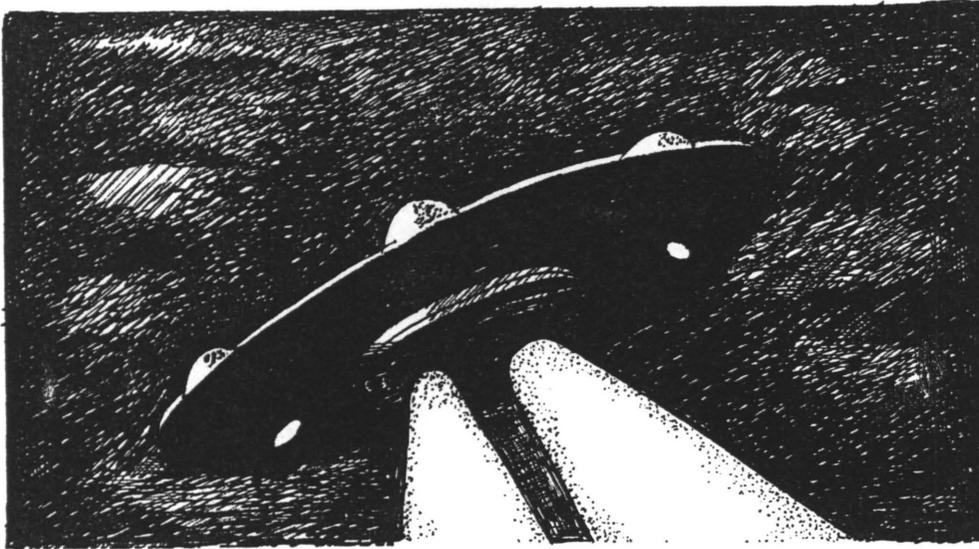


# Keep Watching The Skies!



ufo update

# Keep Watching The Skies!



## CASTING DOUBT ON THE 'GUARDIAN' VIDEO.

A spectacularly vague, (aren't they all - Cynical Ed), amateur video tape was recently submitted to the American 'SIGHTINGS' programme by someone who preferred to remain anonymous. The black, ominous looking cassette had been marked with a yellow label that contained the single word: 'GUARDIAN'.

The tape, a selection of various scenes spliced together, appears to show a bright, multi-coloured UFO replete with flashing lights against an impenetrably dark background, crash-landing in the middle of Nowhere-Ville, USA.

The package in which the tape had arrived had no return address, so the identity of this 'GUARDIAN' character, is anybody's guess...

The American team were initially impressed by what they saw, and certainly upon first viewing the few seconds of shaky camera work, I almost jumped out of my seat in excitement.

But then, as is so often the case, the investigators began casting severe doubts as to its authenticity.

They quoted 'experts' as saying that the common belief amongst Ufologists is that the 'GUARDIAN' video may be an elaborate hoax, dreamed up and carried out by those ubiquitous Pentagon officials as part of some massive government 'Disinformation' Programme'. The point of this scheme, the Ufologists allege, is to drag to the borders of ridicule the very concept of Unidentified Flying Objects. Discredit the UFO investigators and you discredit the entire phenomenon. And that way, the public is never going to be too anxious to pry into what is REALLY going on inside all those Top Secret Air Force Bases. You know. The same ones you and I pay taxes to help maintain, and where you'd quite likely be shot should you ever manage to scale any of their electrified perimeter fences...

According to Errol Bruceknapp, a member of the Canadian branch of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), the tiny community of Carp, on the outskirts of Ottawa, was the site of this 'hoax' in 1991. He also informs us that not long after 'the event', official-looking documents began appearing typed upon Canadian Government stationery. But the information contained therein was straight out of 'The Cosmic Joker's Best Gag' Book...i.e.; 'They (the Alien's) have an insatiable sex-drive...Their women prefer HUMAN partners...'

Jeff Sanio, a photo-analyst rightly calls the documents 'hokey'...And the snaps of 'Aliens' (Bug-eyed 'GREY's, of course), that turned up alongside the reams of paperwork don't look a whole pile more convincing... As per usual in cases such as this, we're left wondering what truly lies behind all the supposition, theorising, and sheer shot-in-the-dark guesswork...Not forgetting of course the obvious, perennial questions...Just WHO is hoaxing WHOM and WHY???

#### UFO'S OVER BONNYBRIDGE.

The attention of the rest of the British Isles was finally drawn to a spate of UFO sightings in the skies above the town of Falkirk in Scotland. According to a recent segment of the 'Strange But True?' programme, (check out the review of the series elsewhere in this issue), there have been almost 800 reported encounters with UFO's in the last two years alone. This sudden rash of unexplained phenomena has reached such proportions that a public meeting was called by the local populace in a bid to quiz 'the experts' as to what the hell was going on in their hometown. They have since attempted to lobby parliament on the subject, but if they've had any luck in their dealings we've yet to hear about it... There have been some very impressive eyewitness testimony coming down the wires from Scotland, much of it centered on the small town of Bonnybridge, on the outskirts of Falkirk...

A UFO 'the size of a jumbo jet' was reportedly sighted hovering over a viaduct that crossed a busy motorway, by Ray and Cathy Procek. The object was described as being triangular in shape with a light at each corner. They watched as it passed beneath the bridge and were further amazed to see another 'craft', that looked like a mirror image of the first one, the way they were pointed towards each other.

Not too far down the road from Bonnybridge, is a place called Larbert, and it was whilst driving to his home there that Neil Malcolm states that he was followed by a 'strange ball of light that was too bright to be car headlights...It lit up the whole interior of the car'.

He raced into his house to alert the members of his family and Neil's wife Lorraine shot some interesting, though frustratingly inconclusive video footage, that 'the experts' have so far been unable to identify.

Another couple of witnesses saw 'a craft about 30ft wide in the middle of the road' as they were driving through the Pentland Hills. Both Garry Wood and Colin Wright have suffered profound after-effects since their sighting i.e. bouts of depression directly related to a failure to come to terms with what they'd seen.

Watch this space for further information on the 'Bonnybridge UFO's' as we get it.



#### WHY WAS S.E.T.I. ABANDONED???

Less than twelve months after its inception, S.E.T.I.(Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence), has been suddenly and unexpectedly called off.

The mass of radio telescopes at Fort Irwin, smack in the middle of the Mojave Desert have been ordered to cease their searching, and this turn of events has predictably led to widespread speculation concerning the

resons why it's been discontinued...One of the more obvious theories propounded by the UFO buffs, is that the astronomers HAVE made contact with E.T.'s and that the government have panicked and decided to keep the lid on it.

Whatever the truth of the matter, it is somewhat disheartening to hear that such a worthwhile project costing 100 million dollars and only in existence since October 14th, 1992, has become to all intents and purposes, defunct.



#### CRASHED SAUCERS IN FLYINGDALES.

The undoubted highlight of Mike Jones's fascinating UFO lecture at the Gateway Leisure Centre, which your friendly neighbourhood Editor and his reliable assistant were pleased to attend on Sunday 13th November (See FULL review in our next issue), was the rumours related (against the express orders of 'the authorities') by the speaker concerning an event that was alleged to have taken place in November 1993.

A cigar-shaped, Alien spacecraft, escorted by two disc-shaped objects apparently crashed off the eastern coast of Yorkshire during the aforementioned month. Such was the size of the stricken UFO, that when it landed it ploughed a trench through the muddy fields three miles long and one mile wide.

Witnesses spoke of seeing 'kiddies' in grey tracksuits scampering away from the object, but all who claimed to have seen these 'entities' have been ordered to keep quiet about it...Or else...

The local press, eager no doubt for a worldwide exclusive, were also 'persuaded' by government agents to 'knock it on the head'.

Mike Jones stated that his source hadn't been informed of the EXACT location of the alleged crash, but could say that hundreds of acres of farmland had to be acquired by the crash site investigators, and that very nasty para-military forces were called in to 'encourage' local farmers to leave the area at once. A huge earth-works operation was called into being to provide a believable cover-up. A gigantic breeze-block shed was erected to stand over the 'spaceship'.

There were sinister rumours circulating that two civilian witnesses to the crash had mysteriously 'disappeared'. They were both members of the Animal Liberation Front and were in Flyingdales in response to the fact that there were many reports of animal mutilations in the area. One of these witnesses is still missing. The other has since turned up in France...She reported that she'd been taken there by men with southern accents and whilst unconscious had 'something planted in her head'.

Two pieces of metal from the beached UFO were sent by a local witness to investigator Tony Dodd...They never turned up. Mr. Dodd has since conversed with Mike Jones on the phone about this incident and was heard to suddenly exclaim; 'They've come for me', in mid-conversation.

Apparently those dratted par-military forces were donning their standard issues once again with the intention of kicking down Mr. Dodd's front door and removing anything and everything relating to the Flyingdale's case...

Returning to the reported mutilations, Mike Jones went on to say that the depredations of livestock (mainly domestic cattle and sheep, but also wild creatures such as badgers and foxes), had persisted in the vicinity of the 'crash site' for twelve months prior to the incident.

And were in fact STILL going on...

As in the United States, the 'blanket-cover-up' has ensured that any awkward questions surrounding the mutilations have been skillfully deflected by those who's job it is to keep the public ignorant. Even the vet's who have examined and performed autopsies upon the carcasses have been ordered not to publish their findings. Snippets of information have apparently slipped out however...And according to our speaker, the corpses of these poor animals have been found to be radioactive. There has also been evidence of burning on the side of the bodies and the local farmers (presumably before they were given the order of the Jackboot) have noticed that the carrion won't touch what for them would normally amount to a feast.

Then there was the interesting assertion that a hole the size of ten pence piece was found on the top of the heads of all the corpses. The reproductive organs were removed in every case...More on this, as and when it happens...



BRIEF SNIPPETS OF THE LATEST SIGHTINGS.

Wyoming, USA. Sunday People.

### Flying sauce!

NINE forks and three ashtrays have been found at a Wyoming site where UFOs have been reported in the last few years.

"We reckon light-fingered aliens went into a local restaurant but then ditched the stuff before getting back in their spacecraft," said a police officer.

17th April.



Salisbury, Wilts.

### LOAF ENCOUNTERS

DOZENS of amazed witnesses have reported seeing a UFO — described as resembling a fluorescent loaf of Hovis bread — hovering in the sky near Salisbury, Wilts.

14th September.

On the 17th September, a couple in Aberdeen, Scotland, saw a gigantic light which was flickering intermittently in and out of the cloud cover. The shape of the object, which was apparently the source of the illumination, was described as being 'very strange'.

In Ellingdon, Northumberland, on the 21st of October, various people sighted a fiery orange light traversing the sky. A female witness stated that she spotted the object as she was out walking her dog at about 11:30 pm. She also describes feeling as though she were being watched as she passed underneath the UFO which finally disappeared into the clouds.

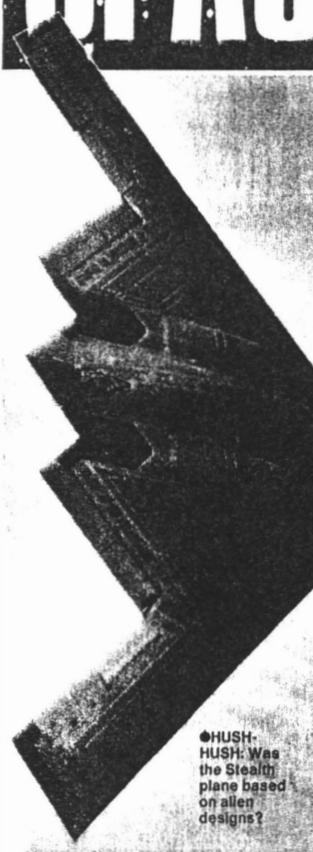
Meanwhile. in Bransholme, on Humberside, there was a veritable wave of sightings between the 9th and the 25th August. The descriptions given by the percipients may very well strike a familiar chord with the witnesses in Northumberland.

The most spectacular sighting was of an orange, egg-shaped object seen hovering over some school playing fields on 25th August.

B.U.F.O.R.A. (The British UFO Research Association) - and incidentally, we hve them to thank for providing us with the data to compile this series of snippets - investigator A. Gibson, is appealing for more information about this encounter, whilst stating that the month of August is notorious for Meteor activity...This may well be an important factor in SOME of these reports...

And finally...Here's an interesting clipping from the Daily Slur, (7th October, 1994), concerning the infamous 'Area 51'...An attempt to raise public awareness...Or is it simple cashing in on contemporary rumour???

# SPACE SQUADRON



●HUSH: HUSH: Was the Stealth plane based on alien designs?

**EXCLUSIVE from MIKE KNAPP in Los Angeles**  
**A BLEAK patch of desert is fast becoming the most talked-about spot on the planet.**

For those who believe in UFOs say the top-secret airbase in Nevada is hiding the proof that we are not alone. The base, known only as Area 51, is said to be concealing at least NINE alien spacecraft.

And amazingly, some claim the frozen corpses of their crew are also hidden there.

The site, about the size of a housing estate, is under strict guard. Snoopers risk a life sentence for spying.

But a few brave former workers have ventured in - and say they've seen silver-coloured alien spaceships lined up in hangars.

One scientist has even helped design a replica. Toy versions of the spacecraft, which looks like your average Hollywood flying saucer, went on sale in America this week.

Nuclear physicist Bob Lazar, who has since become a recluse, claims the UFOs crashed into the Nevada desert in the Fifties.

The aliens aboard - frail, hairless creatures, about 4ft tall and with large, oval eyes - all perished.

But their ships are said to have been identified by the US military as coming from the Zeta Reticuli star system.

**Area 51 was quickly and quietly set up as a research centre before the debris could be found by outsiders.**

But technology gleaned from the aliens is said to have been used to develop futuristic aircraft, such as the U2, Blackbird and Stealth bomber.

It is true that the U2 and Stealth were born at the base. It's also rumoured that the Aurora spy plane, capable of flying at eight times the speed of sound, is under wraps there.

Neighbouring folk have for years reported seeing strange lights in the night sky.

But whether you believe in UFOs or not, you've just got to believe that something very strange is going on at Area 51.

## Alien secrets of Area 51 exposed

## SPOOKY STAR'S WEIRD TALES

By OLLIE WILSON

THE amazing goings-on in Nevada could be a storyline straight out of hit show THE X-FILES.

The American drama has become one of BBC2's top shows, attracting more than four million viewers.

And it really is weird with a capital W.

### Strange

Its hero, Fox "Spooky" Mulder, played by David Duchovny, probes cases which the FBI cannot explain.

He is aided by Special Agent Dana Scully, played by Gillian Armstrong.

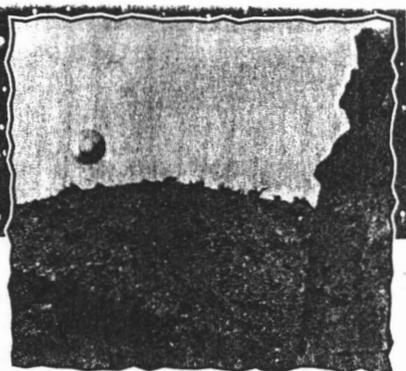
The X-file cases are linked to the paranormal.

In the opening show, screened a fortnight ago, Spooky Mulder exhumed the body of student who

died in mysterious circumstances. He then discovered that the lad's classmates had been placed in a mental home - and all bore strange red marks on their bodies.

A spokesman for the show said last night: "What's happening at Area 51 could easily be a plot in The X-Files."

"Spooky Mulder probes all sorts of strange happenings. It's fiction, but you could really believe it."



UFO: Flying saucers have been reported

### Films

Why else would the American government and military chiefs repeatedly refuse to admit the base even exists?

Why else are the authorities forcibly buying 4,000 acres around Area 51 to create a massive no-go area?

And why else would TV crews and reporters found snooping along its perimeter fence be turned away and have their films confiscated?

Amateur scientist Glen Campbell, one of about 40 people monitoring the base, says: "Reliable people say they've seen UFOs and the creatures that flew them."

"We've also seen some pretty unusual things flying around here. I like to think I'm a sceptic, but after a while you start to wonder."

Major George Setia, spokesman at the nearby Nellis airbase, will only say: "There are things in the sky, but I'm not at liberty to discuss them. To be honest, I don't know who is."

Meanwhile Bob Lazar, the only person to have spoken out in public about what's inside Area 51, has quietly disappeared.

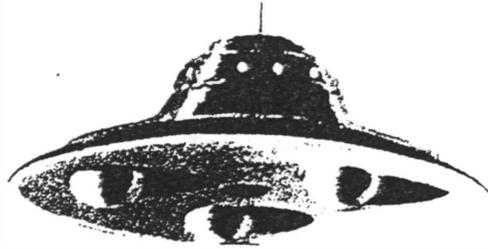
His design for the replica UFO toy, which is selling out as fast as the Testor Corporation can make it, has heightened the intrigue.

In the mid-Eighties, Lazar helped Testor make a mini-Stealth bomber.

That was years before the U.S. Government admitted they'd built one.



ALIENS: Area 51 is said to hide the corpses



'Instead of shunning the darkness, we can face straight into it with an open mind. When we do that, the unknown changes. Fearful things become understandable and a truth is suggested: The enigmatic presence of the human mind winks back from the dark.'

Whitley Strieber. 'COMMUNION'.

For a total of thirteen years, 'Quest International' have held an annual conference at the Leeds Civic Theatre, the last three of which I have attended.

For those of you who don't know, 'Quest' are a Yorkshire based UFO studies group who invite speakers from all corners of the Globe to put forward their thoughts and theories about UFO's.

Conference'94 kicked off with 'Quest's' own speakers, Graham Birdsall and Tony Dodd. Birdsall gave a fine speech mainly concerned with the alleged 'Roswell Saucer Crash' in 1947. He presented a combination of contemporary news footage and clippings from New Mexican newspapers...He also showed footage filmed interviews with people who have only recently displayed the courage to come forward with their accounts of the 'Roswell Saucer'. These interviews included discussions with the men and women who had been inadvertantly caught up in the veil of secrecy that had descended in the wake of the initial reports. These individuals apparently had their lives threatened if they were to utter a single word of what they knew. It seems that the military scared the witnesses more than the UFO itself. An example of the fear which was put upon these unfortunate percipients, who either by prying or simply being in the wrong place at the wrong time, was captured in a video interview with a nurse which Birdsall played during his lecture. The nurse was tending to an old woman who was extremely ill. The patient spent her days confined to her bed and hardly spoke a word to anyone. One day however, just before she died, the old woman called the nurseover to her bedside to relate a very unusual story. It transpired that the old woman had been walking with a group of people in a certain part of New Mexico. They suddenly noticed a 'Shining object' in the distance reflecting the sun's rays. They became rather curious and decided to take a closer look. Before too long however, they found themselves surrounded by the U.S. military who immediately swore them to secrecy. As the woman was telling her tale, the nurse noticed how uneasy she was becoming.

She would repeatedly scan the room and mutter 'Never tell anyone about what I've told you, because THEY will find you and terrorize you until you agree to keep your mouth shut.'

When the nurse asked who 'THEY' were, she was told 'The government. The Government will find you and THEY will shut you up'.

The woman later died taking with her the full details of the 'Roswell Crashed Saucer'.

This is just one small slice of information that is gradually emerging from the ever-growing number of pages in the Roswell UFO annals.

Tony Dodd, (an ex-policeman who has had several UFO encounters of his own) was next up. He told of how as he was driving through his native Yorkshire countryside, he saw some strange airborne object. He's allegedly been witness to similar types of 'craft' whistled engaged on patrols, and has even taken photographs of the same.

Tony's attention nowadays is firmly fixed upon investigating the 'UFO Abduction Syndrome' that has recently dominated Ufology. His speech today however, concentrated upon some very unusual events that are apparently transpiring between the Americans, the Russians and N.A.T.O. warships. According to Tony, Unidentified Submarine Objects (USO's) have been reported traversing the depths of the freezing seas between Iceland and Scotland's most northern tip. These USO's cannot be caught by modern submarines and are far in advance of anything we could hope to put in the water. The Icelandic fishermen have described having huge holes ripped in their nets and people living on the coast of Iceland have even claimed to have seen 'tiny creatures roaming about in the dead of night (Sounds like a good name for a magazine title to me - Observant Ed). Some Icelanders have left scraps of food out for their uninvited guests.

Tony has very reliable contacts who supply him with as much information as is possible on cases such as this.

Our final speaker was Robert Dean, and I must admit I was sitting on the edge of my seat in anticipation...Looking round I could see he had much the same effect on the rest of the audience as well...

Bob Dean had lectured at the very first conference I'd attended, and he'd delivered a superb speech. He didn't let us down on this occasion either.

Bob spent 27 years in the U.S. military, serving in Special Operations and Special Forces. In 1963, he was based at S.H.A.P.E Headquarters, just outside Paris., where he would later learn some amazing truths. He was informed of an unusual event that had taken place a couple of years before he'd arrived at S.H.A.P.E It seemed that a cluster of some 50 high altitude, high speed objects had appeared on radar over the former Soviet Union. They then began heading towards Germany. Of course, in those days, both 'Superpowers' had their grubby little fingers poised ready to hit the infamous Red Button. The Russians were unable to identify the 'objects' either, and the only thing that prevented both sides exchanging nuclear strikes was that they both realised in the nick of time that neither side could possibly possess 'craft' that could travel as fast as these 'objects' were apparently flying.

All 50 objects changed direction upon reaching Germany and then changed direction and headed north, before vanishing from the radar screens.

The question we're left with is this: Was someone playing games with us??? And are they STILL???

Bob also referred to the strange goings on at Nevada. He told the packed conference that there exist huge tunnels beneath the desert sands, that had been excavated by the army. They apparently run right through Nevada and neighbouring states linking military bases together. Enormous mining machines have been employed to carve away the earth, resulting in tunnels measuring about 50ft wide. The huge diggers burrowed deep beneath the surface until they hit what appeared to be a cave. On further inspection, it became obvious that was in fact a tunnel much like the ones they were

in the process of digging themselves. They soon discovered too that the tunnel was connected to others, all sprouting off in different directions. Who could have built this underground maze?

Bob suggests we take a good hard look back at our past...In particular, Biblical times and beyond for clues left by ancient peoples concerning unearthly visitors. He states that anybody who takes a few moments to study such things as cave drawings, historical art, Indian myths, Religions etc, will find countless stories of 'Visitors' who came down to them from above. Were the Indians 'Thunderbirds', types of aircraft? Huge metal 'birds' accompanied by a thunderous roar could possibly have been the only way the Indians could have described such a craft. Bilical art also also seems to hold more than a few mysteries of its own. Bob showed the conference a Rennaisance painting of The Madonna And Child, which, upon closer examination, seems to include a saucer-shaped UFO lurking in the background. Just as thought-provoking is the fact that below the object on the ground stand a man and his dog both staring at the object in the sky.

Another painting, thistime a 14th Century fresco depicting the Crucifixion shows quite clearly a man traversing the sky in what can only be described as an egg-shaped flying object. The figure inside the craft even appears to have a control lever in his hand. Could it be that Mankind's evolution has been the work of E.T.'s did the E.T.'s then lay down the laws for us to follow i.e.: 'The Ten Commandments'?

Are today's religions based upon past events involving what we now see as UFO's? Think back to your schooldays...Remember a game called 'Chinese Whispers'? A word was given to a pupil, who then whispered it to the person sitting next to them. It was then carried down the line until the pupil sitting at the end had to stand up and shout out the original word. More often than not the word uttered would have little or no resemblance to the original. Could religion have changed on its way through history's game of Chinese whispers? The net result would be many different religions who's disciples believe in a vast array of different Gods, but who all started out from the same 'whisper'.

Slowly but surely,, the truth is leaking out, now faster than ever before. It seems there are just too many people, including ex-military, commercial airline pilots, psychiatrists etc, sane men and women from al walks of life who are prepared to brush aside the ridicule and tell the World what is actually going on outside of their small, TV dominated havens...Only when society stops believing all the lies and realises that there's so much more to life than meets the eye, will they begin to see beyond their blinkered vision....



# Classic UFO Sightings

McMinnville, Oregon, USA

11th May 1950

Two of the most celebrated and convincing UFO photographs ever to be produced in the long and chequered history of Ufology, were taken by either Paul Trent, or his wife, at approximately 7:45 pm on the above date.

The pictures have successfully passed just about every test the photographic experts could dream up, and despite recent speculation that they are in fact clever fakes, their grainy, monochrome image (*much reproduced in the countless books and magazine articles dealing with the subject*) has taken on an almost symbolic significance amongst those who believe our skies are being regularly traversed by decidedly UNconventional aircraft.

The account Paul Trent and his wife gave to the press not long after the sighting, is well documented, but I include it here for TWO reasons. Firstly, to take an entirely objective look at the anecdotal evidence and the sometimes contradictory reporting of the incident... ..and secondly, for the benefit of those amongst our readership who take only a passing interest in 'weird happenings', and as such have never come across the full details of this classic C.E. III (*Close Encounter Of The First Kind*)...

The Trent's lived on a farm deep in the heartland of Oregon. On a balmy, overcast evening, Mrs Trent was in the farmyard feeding her pet rabbits when her attention was suddenly drawn to a large, disc shaped object headed in her general direction. She watched in open-mouthed amazement as the "silvery craft" flew westwards in a silence that was total and absolute.

Quickly gathering her wits, she raced inside the house to fetch her husband and, fortunately for UFO investigators and the World's media alike, she also had the presence of mind to grab a camera.

And it's right here that we encounter the first slice of ambiguity in this case.

I have on record no less than THREE differing accounts regarding precisely WHO it was who fetched the camera and, perhaps more importantly, precisely WHO it was who took the actual photos...

*'The Unexplained' Magazine (Issue 2. 1980 Edition)* states that Mrs Trent fetched the camera after her husband had raced to their car mistakenly believing he'd left it there. The author has no doubt that it was Paul Trent who took the pictures.

*'The UFO Encyclopedia' (Margaret Sachs. 1980)* agrees that Paul Trent snapped the pics, but gives the impression that both husband AND wife witnessed the event simultaneously.

*'UFO's : The Definitive Casebook' (John Spencer. 1991)* has included in its text the allusion that it was in fact Mrs Trent who took the photos' and that Paul Trent had brought his camera out of the house of his own accord.

Perhaps I'm doing nothing more here than engaging in a spot of needless nit-picking as the differences in the accounts could hardly be described as 'smacking of deliberate deceit', but I bring them to the reader's attention just the same.

What everyone IS agreed upon is that TWO photographs were taken that, when developed, appeared to show a "disc shaped object, with a lower and upper structure and a small turret-like protrusion on top." The object, whatever it is, appears to be tilted in the first of the pictures reproduced below...

(Below : The first picture shows the object at a tilted angle and slightly from beneath)



They further described it as being metallic in appearance, and said that they didn't notice the object emitting any trails of smoke or vapour, although they did both describe feeling what they termed a slight 'breeze' as the object tilted before flying overhead.

The second photo (*see reproduction on following page*), was taken approximately 30 seconds after the first, and they had time to notice that the UFO seemed to be gliding with a noticeable lack of a rotating or undulating motion. They watched dumbstruck as the mysterious object moved off westwards until it reached the horizon and disappeared from sight.

Whatever your opinion of the account you've just read, one thing IS certain; it would seem that the Trent's were not particularly interested in publicity regarding the photographs. Rather than, as you might expect, rushing the negatives to the nearest available newspaper, they waited the few days it took for them to use the remainder of the film up!!! Mr Trent had the snaps developed privately and it was only when a reporter from the local paper got wind of the sighting that news of them broke... ..the reporter in fact, found the precious negatives under a desk where the Trent's children had been playing with them! If that doesn't prove that they were staying away from the glare of publicity I don't know what does!

'Life' Magazine eventually got hold of the story and pretty soon the Trent's were hot news whether they liked it or not.

The pictures were subjected to the closest possible scrutiny by 'Life's' photographic experts, and were submitted to the United States Air Force for further analysis. But it was the conclusion reached by an astronomer named William Hartman, that made even the most sceptical of people sit up and take notice...

He stated unequivocally that :

***"This is one of the few UFO reports in which all factors investigated, geometric, psychological, and physical, appear to be consistent with the assertion that an EXTRAORDINARY flying object, silvery, metallic, disc-shaped, tens of metres in diameter, and evidently artificial, flew within sight of two witnesses."***

*(Below : The second Trent photograph shows the mysterious object in slightly more detail)*



There are several loose ends however, that have never been satisfactorily tied up...

For a start, the Trent's later claimed that they'd been witness to similar sightings on quite a few occasions, and whilst there are very many cases on record that seem to indicate such phenomena DO, upon occasion and for reasons unknown, focus upon certain individuals, there is something about such claims that make the more cynical amongst us uneasy.

Then there is the evidence provided by a computer systems analyst (*and self-avowed sceptic*) named Robert Sheaffer. He analysed the Trent's pictures at the behest of Phillip Klass... ...America's answer to Britain's Paul Begg!!!

Sheaffer showed (*with something amounting to undisguised glee*) that the position of the shadows that gathered in the eaves on the east wall of the Trent's garage seemed to point to the fact that the photos' were taken at 7:30 in the MORNING as opposed to 7:45 in the EVENING, as the Trent's themselves claimed. Klass and his not-so-merry band of spoilsports checked out the weather reports for May 11th, and found that the evening had in fact been perfectly clear with little or no cloud cover. It had, however, been very overcast early in the morning. Sheaffer also intimated that it was glearily apparent to him that the pictures were taken in reverse order to that reported... ...and worse, that they'd actually been snapped several MINUTES apart rather than the few seconds the Trent's stated had elapsed.

Sheaffer conducted an experiment utilising a streetlight hanging from a pole. He took a series of photographs and came to the conclusion that the Trent UFO only appeared to be bright because the lens of the camera they'd used had been smudged and as a result the light of the sky had become diffused. He further concluded that the object in the original photographs was in fact nothing more than a tiny model hanging from a handily placed power line.

That seemed to be that. The sceptics, to all intents and purposes, had won the day... ...except...

Ground Saucer Watch (GSW), a reputable photographic analysis organisation which has successfully weeded out a whole host of hoaxes and honest misperceptions, concluded that although it was conceded that the pictures had been taken between 7:30 and 8:00 in the morning, in every OTHER respect the photos' were consistent with the Trent's account of a large, unidentified, three dimensional, disc shaped object, that was in flight a great distance away from the witnesses. They ran comparative

measurement tests which seemed to indicate that the object was approximately 65 to 100 feet in diameter. They also theorised that the sharpness of the images in the foreground of the pictures compared to that of the UFO would suggest that it was a fair distance from the camera.

Perhaps the best piece of positive evidence obtained by GSW however, was their finding that even after examining the pictures with a high-powered electron microscope, they could detect nothing that resembled a supporting wire attached to the overhead power lines as had been asserted by the incredulous Mr Sheaffer.

Even the ultra-sceptical Condon Committee (*a team of supposedly unbiased scientists assembled by the University of Colorado to embark upon an eighteen month study of UFO's in 1966. The fact that Dr. Edward Condon, the head of the project, was quoted as saying "We have an almost zero expectation of finding a saucer" before they had even begun their investigations, may give you some idea of HOW impartial these guys were*), were forced to concede that the pictures seemed genuine.

What is interesting, and perhaps indicative of the official attitude toward such unexplainable phenomena, is the following letter from a Mr Case (*reproduced from 'The Hynek UFO Report' - Dr. J. Allen Hynek. Sphere 1977*), apparently a civilian who was evidently curious about what the scientific fraternity made of the McMinnville photographs. He received this reply from Lt. Col. John F. Spaulding of the United States Air Force :-

*Dear Mr Case,*

*Your letter to the Department of Science has been referred to this office as a matter pertaining to the Air Force.*

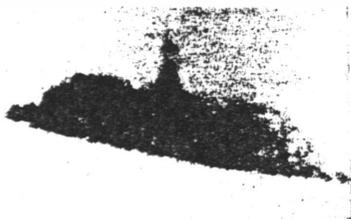
*The Air Force has no (my emphasis - Ed) information on photographs of an unidentified object taken by Mr & Mrs Trent of Meinville, Oregon.*

*In this regard, it should be noted that all photographs submitted in conjunction with UFO reports have been a misinterpretation of natural or conventional objects. The object in these photographs have (sic) a positive identification.*

*Signed / John F. Spaulding  
Lt. Col. USAF.*

As Hynek rightly points out, this reply is a blatant attempt at denying access to the truth on two counts... firstly, Spaulding's assertion that the USAF had "no information" on the photos', and secondly, that the Air Force had positively identified ALL UFO's in ALL photographs sent to them for analysis.

To this day then, the photographs continue to be the focus of much speculation and debate. As is always the case with this publication, we offer no opinions. Our job is only to REPORT... however, I simply can't resist adding one final slice of information that may or may not influence YOUR thinking on their authenticity. In 1954 in Rouen, France, a photograph was taken by a French military pilot depicting a UFO that looks remarkably similar to that snapped by the Trents' four years earlier. 'RAF Flying Review' published the picture in 1957 and . . . oh, doesn't THIS sound familiar ladies n' gents . . . they immediately described it as "one of the few photographs which seem authentic."



**(Above Left : The Trent UFO, 1950... ..Above Right : The Rouen UFO, 1954)**



# THE PROTECTORS OF THE ARK

by

S. Griffiths

In Ethiopia, a monk, dressed in long black robes, guards the entrance to a chapel in Axum, believed to be the final resting place of the Ark of the Covenant.

Although this Ethiopian claim has not yet been proven, there are a handful of people who claim to have seen the Ark in this Chapel. One such man was Abu Salih, a thirteenth Century Armenian geographer who made surveys of Christian Churches and Monasteries. In his book *'Churches and Monasteries of Egypt and some Neighbouring Countries'*. He gives a fairly accurate description of the Ark of the Covenant, as it was described in Exodus.

The Bible tells us that the Ark was only a container, made of shittim wood, two cubits and a half in length, a cubit and a half its breadth and a cubit and a half in height, (the cubit is believed to be a measure of the forearm, between 18 and 22 inches long. This would make the size of the Ark, three feet nine inches long and two feet three inches wide and deep. It was overlaid with pure gold, inside and out. The lid, known as The Mercy Seat, was a solid block of pure gold. Two cherubims, made of gold, were mounted one each end. The Covenant was a binding contract between God and his chosen people, the Jews. Through Moses God spoke to them, using the Ten Commandments which had been inscribed

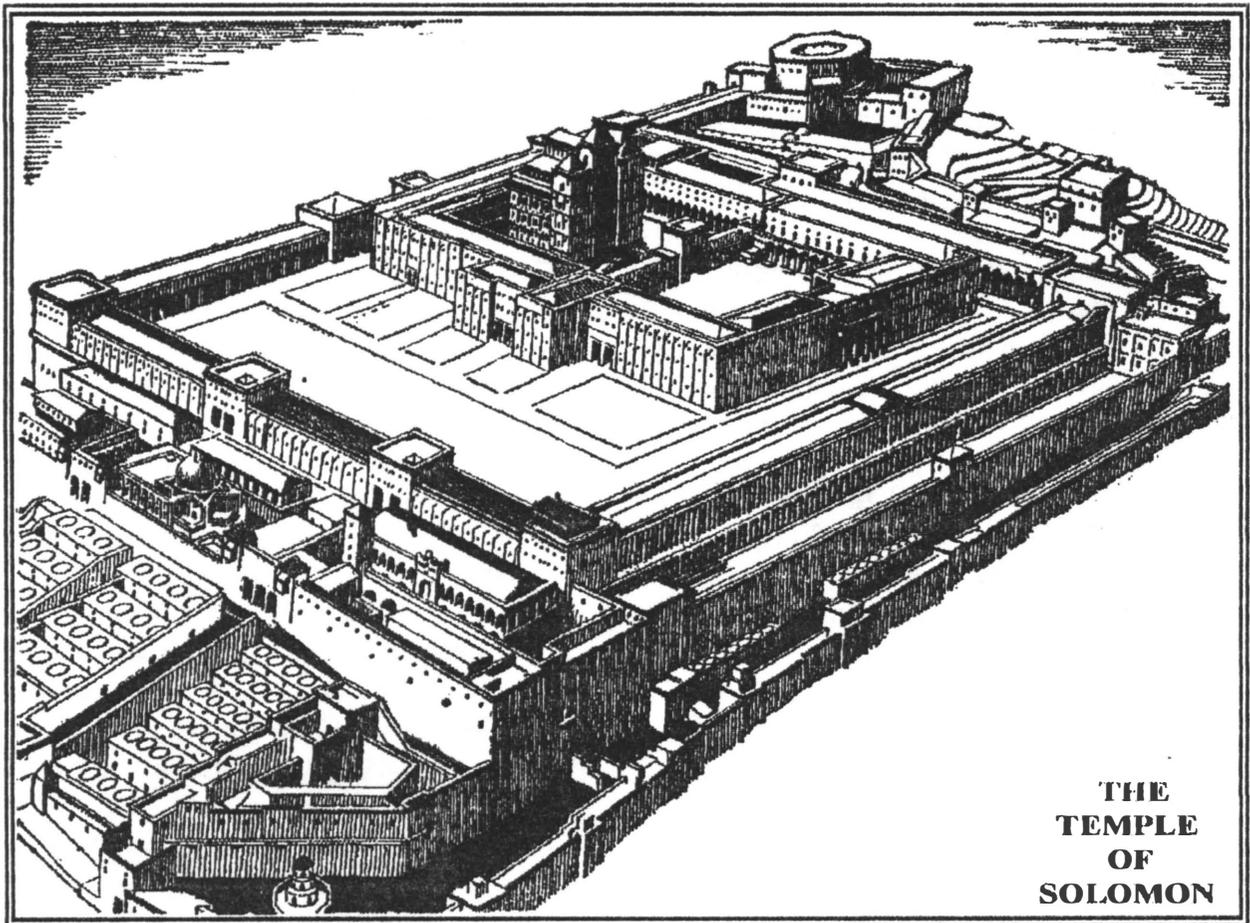
on a tablet of stone by God's own finger. The tablet was kept in this golden box. The Bible tells us that the Ark was constructed at the foot of Mount Sinai (Horeb). The exact location of this mountain is still not known. Tradition has it that it is situated near the southern tip of the Sinai peninsular where Jebel Musa which means Mountain of Moses, is to be found. However many scholars believe, because of the volcanic activity, thunder, lightning and the thick clouds which are mentioned in Exodus, (19, 16-18), that it is more likely to be situated beyond the Gulf of Akabar.

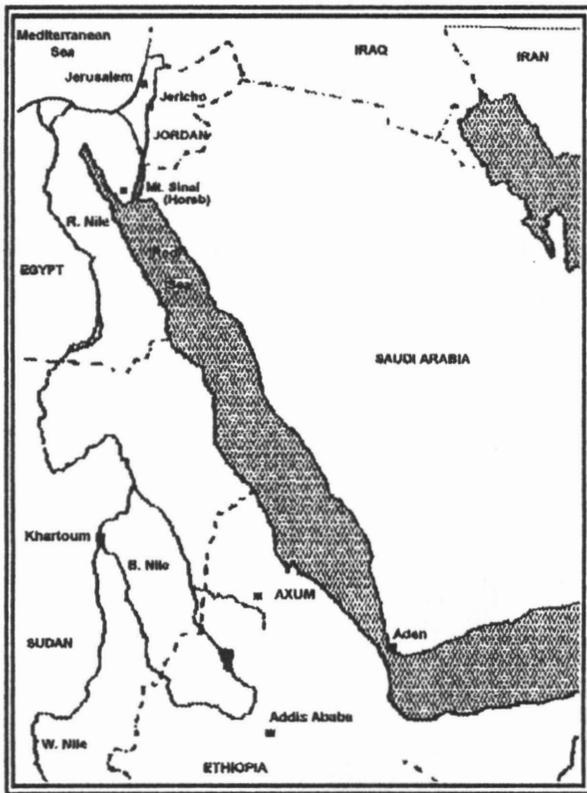
During their conquest of the promised land, the Ark was said to have brought the Israelites many victories along the way, among them the fall of Jericho. Joshua's priests marched around the city for six days and on the seventh the Bible tells us, 'So the people shouted when the priests blew with their trumpets and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, so that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man before him, and they took the city', (*Joshua 6, 20*). The testimony of the Bible suggests that the Ark went on to bring victories in many more battles, before it was finally placed in a Temple that had been built to house it, in Jerusalem, by King Solomon.



Throughout history many people have used holy relics to help them achieve power. The Spear of Destiny, believed to be the lance which pierced the side of Jesus as he suffered on the Cross, was used by the Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne in A.D 800. According to Germanic tradition the Emperor carried it as a talisman through 47 victorious campaigns until his death. This is reputed to have occurred the moment he accidentally dropped the Spear to the ground. The Spear fell into numerous hands over the centuries, with its owners meeting untimely deaths.

Finally it was placed in the Habsburg Museum, in Vienna. In 1938 Austria and the Museum were taken by Adolf Hitler. He looted the museum carrying his booty back to Nuremburg where it was placed in a bombproof vault. A curious coincidence occurred on the day that Nuremburg was taken by the American Seventh Army. Commander Lieutenant William Horn broke into the vault where he took charge of the spear. It was on this day that Adolf Hitler took his own life, in a bunker in Berlin. This is an example of the power that it is claimed emanates from these holy





*The travels of the Ark of the Covenant*

relics. Maybe that is why King Solomon had the Ark of the Covenant placed safely in his new Temple.

Legend tells us that the Queen of Sheba visited Jerusalem and there was impregnated by King Solomon. Later she bore him a son given the name Menelik, (the Son of the Wise Man). At the age of twenty Menelik returned to Jerusalem to be with his father. After a year had passed the Elders of the land became jealous of the King's son and demanded that he should return to Ethiopia. The King agreed on the condition that every first born son of the Elders should also return with him. Amongst these was Azarius, son of Zadok the High Priest of Israel. It was believed to be him, and a small group of men, who stole the Ark of the Covenant from the Temple. It was on the journey back to Ethiopia that Azarius told Menelik that by the Will of God they had taken the Ark. Menelik agreed that it should remain with them, and kept it in a sacred city in Ethiopia.

In 587 BC the Temple of Solomon was destroyed by the Babylonians. Later a second Temple was built on the same site. It is not known whether the Ark remained here, or whether it was taken to some other secret place for protection. The Second Temple was taken by the Roman Emperor Titus in AD 70, the contents of the Holy of Holies was then taken back to Rome. Possibly amongst the many treasures, the Ark of the Covenant.

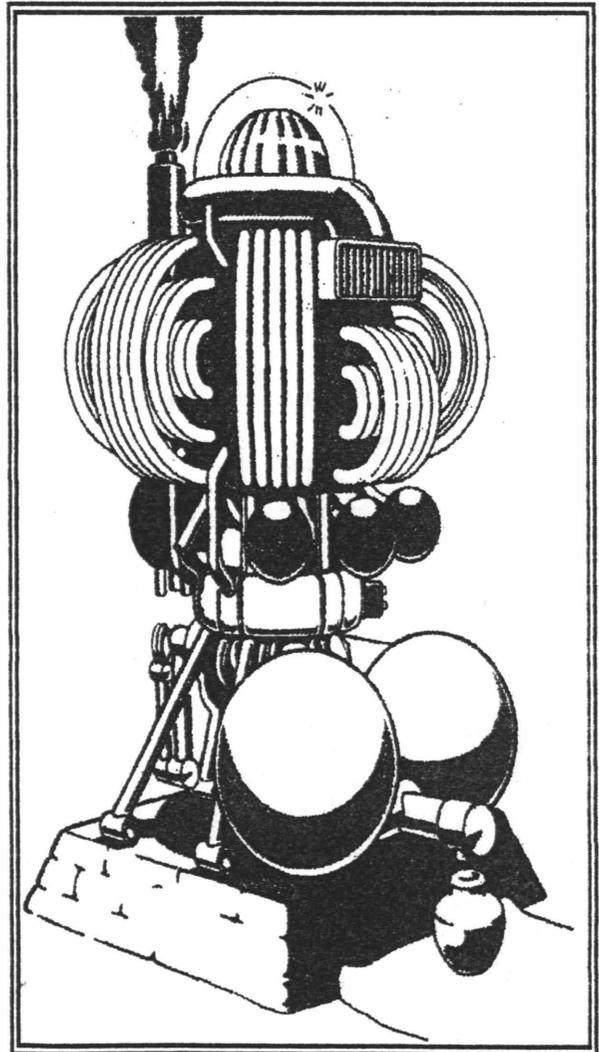
Among the many people who have tried to discover the truth is Erich Von Daniken who believes that Moses was given instructions to build the Ark, possibly by extra-terrestrial beings. Daniken tells us of the instructions which were given to Moses by God for the construction of the Ark of the Covenant, they had to be carried out accurately down to the very last detail. He warned Moses a number of times not to make any mistakes. God also told Moses that no one should touch the Ark and gave precise instructions about the clothing and footwear that should be worn when transporting it to Jerusalem.

Unfortunately, when King David was transporting the Ark of the Covenant on a cart, Uzzah, one of the Ark's main custodians for over twenty years, put his hand out to steady it and was struck down by the angry God (*II Samuel, 6, 6*). This entry in the Bible probably led Von Daniken to wonder, why, a God who had gone to so much trouble in gaining the faith of his followers, should suddenly strike down and kill one of his most loyal of Disciples, simply for trying to save the Ark of the Covenant from damage. Another interesting point made by Von Daniken was the way in which God had spoken to Moses, via the Mercy Seat. The lid of the Ark would be acting as a loud speaker for the aliens to be able to communicate with Moses. The Ark would probably have been electrically charged, so when Uzzah was struck down, he may in fact have been electrocuted.

Since Von Daniken, a number of other writers have followed this line of thought. George Sassoon and Rodney Dale, authors of *The Manna Machine*, tell of a device given to the Israelites by God during their 40 years in the wilderness. They took their information from a book written in 1290 by a Spanish Jew, Moses Bar Shem Tov of Leon. He claimed it to be a manuscript that told of the teachings of Rabbi Simon Bar Yochai who lived around A.D. 200. His book was called *The Zohar* and in it he tells us of a machine, it was known as the Ancient of Days which was used for the equal distribution of the food known as Manna.

Sassoon and Dale discovered that Moses of Leon had been involved in a Society, known as the *Reapers of the Holy Field*. This was a Jewish Society whose purpose was to pass on secret knowledge, by word of mouth. This is similar to the oral law which was given to Moses on the Sinai Mountain. The Original Manuscript, according to Moses of Leon, tells of the *Ancient of Days (The Manna Machine)*, as not only a provider of food, but also as a weapon of war which had been carried into battle at such places as Jericho. The Zohar goes on to describe the machine in great detail, telling of many tubes with flowing liquid, different coloured wires entangled together and many nozzles and water pumps. This is a description more or less of a modern day machine and certainly not something you would expect from a God, but rather from an advanced mechanical engineer. Like any Machine the Ancient of Days finally broke down. It was then that the manna machine was placed in the Temple built by Solomon. If this was the case, why is the description of the Ark in the Bible not of a machine, but of a wooden box covered with gold? Sassoon and Dale believe that there were two Arks, one which provided the Israelites with the Manna and another that was placed in the Temple. They believe that if the original

machine was to fall into enemy hands it would cause catastrophe, so Solomon had it destroyed or hidden away where no one would ever find it. Perhaps one day in the not to distant future it may reveal itself from the inside of some blocked-up cave. If all this information was right then there must have been some Extra-territorial involvement in the progress of mankind. Maybe every so often (perhaps 2000 years) they come back to our planet to see how we are getting along and point us in the right direction to ensure our planet's survival.



*Dale and Sassoon's idea of what the MANNA MACHINE might have looked like. They consider it might be another version of the Ark of the Covenant (The Manna Machine)*



*Imhotep, the architect who is reputed to have made possible the construction of the Pyramids, and the keeper of the secret knowledge of Ancient Egypt. He figures large in both the Templar and the Masonic traditions.*

Graham Hancock, Author of *The Sign and the Seal*, believes that the mysteries of the Ark's powers lie in the technological achievements of the ancient Egyptians. Moses, according to the Bible, was instructed in all the Wisdom of Egypt, it may be that he had access to some of the secrets that the Egyptians still hold today. It was Plato's account in his, *Timaeus and Critias*, where he wrote of an Egyptian priest who told of the destruction of an advanced civilization by great catastrophic floods. The people who survived were said to have migrated to Egypt and other such Countries taking their skills and knowledge with them. If Egypt did gain its great knowledge from the people of lost Atlantis, then could it also be possible that this information was passed on to Moses? Perhaps it was the same technology that Imhotep used when he built the entire Zoser pyramid complex at Saqqara about 2630 BC, working as King Djoser's chief

architect, (Third Dynasty), and possibly he even planned the Pyramids of Giza.

Imhotep, a distinguished author and architect, was also known as a Sage, Sorcerer, High Priest, Astronomer and Doctor, and was admired so much by the populace that he was later deified. It was around about this, the time of Imhotep, that Egyptian civilization changed almost overnight. Within the next two centuries, new techniques, new tools, medicines and science had been instituted, because of this man who was not only a great architect but also a magician and healer of the sick

If there was a secret knowledge, could it have been passed on to the Knights Templar, a military Order of Warrior Monks set up in 1119 by Hugues de Payen, a nobleman from Champagne. Later he led the Order being given the title of Grand Master. He and eight comrades took the same vows as monks, those of poverty, chastity and obedience and, according to historian Guillaume de Tyre, were formed to protect pilgrims enroute to Jerusalem, after it had been had been freed from Turkish rule. Tradition tells us that the nine Knights added no new recruits to their order for nine years and that their headquarters were built on the foundations of the Temple of Solomon. So for nine years, only nine white knights protected the roads and highways to Jerusalem, without any new recruits. This seems highly unlikely, unless there was another secret task, perhaps the protection of religious artifacts, such as the Ark itself. As the Templars became a stronger force in various countries, their increase in wealth and popularity grew. But the Society still held many secrets, such as the whereabouts of the treasure of the Temple. By 1306, Philippe IV of France arranged the death of Pope Boniface VIII and Pope Benedict XI to make way for Pope Clement V. Together they set out to have all of the Knights Templar arrested and tried for heresy. Most of them were

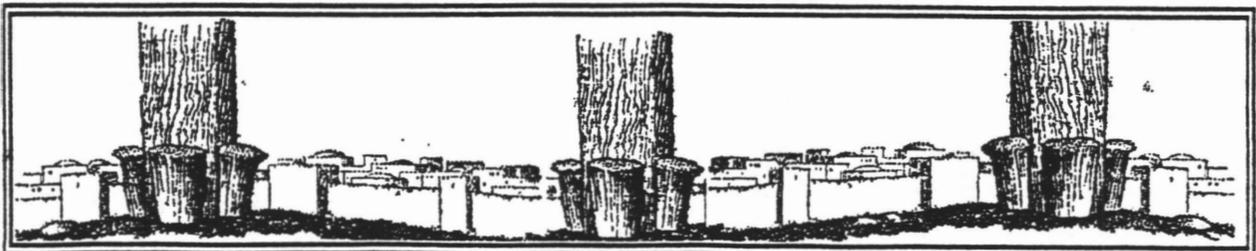
The final chapter to this mystery could not be completed without noting the claims of Christian Archaeologist Ron Wyatt. In his testimony he tells us how he came to view the Ark in a hill just outside the walls of Jerusalem, a hill he believes to be the actual site of Calvary upon which Jesus was crucified. It was in 1978 that Mr. Wyatt's scientific equipment revealed a strong presence of gold from within the mound. Although he was refused permission to drill in the area by the authorities, he was later asked to return to the site by the Israelites to examine an important discovery. This discovery led Ron Wyatt to not only view the Ark but also film it. Unfortunately for everyone else the film was confiscated by the government.

I will conclude this article with the written testimony of Ron Wyatt, leaving you to make up your own mind as to the authenticity of his discoveries in Israel, he wrote:-

*In the summer of 1978 we were awaiting our return flight home in Jerusalem. While there, I became acquainted with the manager of a piece of property near the old city. While inspecting the property with him, and to my total shock and amazement, my arm pointed to a site on the property and my mouth said, 'That is Jeremiah's Grotto and the Ark of the Covenant is in there.' While I stood in stunned silence, the manager said, 'That's wonderful! we will let you excavate, provide room and board, do your laundry, and supply all the diggers you need.' I mumbled that I couldn't start then, but would be glad to in the near future.*

*Our flight was the next morning, and I was anxious to get home to my books and see if my involuntary pointing and statement were possibly true! My action and statement were accompanied with a nerve tingling sensation that I had come to recognise as an indicator of a supernatural presence. However, I had also become aware that a similar nerve tingling sensation can be the result of the presence of evil supernatural beings! My research showed that the Ark had vanished from recorded history during the siege of Jerusalem by Babylon in 586 BC. The city had been surrounded by forts and a siege wall round about; and, therefore, it would have been humanely impossible to take the Ark out of the city. This led to the conclusion that the Ark had been hidden in, under, or near the city within the siege wall. When we explained this conclusion to the Israeli officials and showed them our permit from the lands owners, they gladly granted us an exploratory permit. Then, on the 6th January 1982, at 2pm, I entered a chamber that contained the Ark of the Covenant and other furnishings from the First Temple!*

*Also, directly above this chamber the Romans had cut cross holes in the rock, and in one of these cross holes Christ was crucified. Then, at the moment of his death, the rock was rent and the split led down into this chamber; so that when the centurion stuck his spear into Christ's side, the Blood of Christ flowed down through the split onto the Mercy Seat to atone for the sins of mankind.*



**GHOSTWATCH** £2.50  
Volume 1 Issue 6

**THE BIG PICTURE**

Why Will Nobody Buy This Desirable Public House???

Three Men, a Baby and ??? Plus... Ghosts in the Machine... Why the video topped US rental charts two years after its initial release... EVP explored! Plus... Treaded she was fading and I could see right through her... Nuns on the Run!

MAGAZINES RECEIVED.

GHOSTWATCH:

An excellent fanzine from our native Birkenhead, that's required reading for anyone who has even the slightest interest in Ghostly Phenomena. It's well put together, and is written with a nice balance between humour and hard facts. Some of the pieces are genuinely frightening, and what's more, some of the events reportedly occurred in our OWN locality, (by 'our own' I do of course mean in and around Merseyside). My only quibble, is that some of the articles are a little on the short side...But, hey, maybe it's just that I can't get enough of these fascinating pieces... Included in this issue are features on the infamous 'Three Men And A Baby' 'Ghost'. Exploring EVP (Electronic Voice Phenomena). Haunting's from New Zealand, Singing Succubi and lots of first-hand accounts of the Supernatural, including my personal fave; The Mysterious Entity that may haunt 'The Britannia Inn (a pub in Rock Ferry).

Send £2:50, to GHOSTWATCH. PO BOX 54 BIRKENHEAD L43 7FD

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PARANORMAL • CRYPTOZOOLOGY

**ANNALS**

ANNALS.

A compendium of all aspects of Fortean Phenomena, not unlike your very own 'Dead Of Night' in content style. The mag does a good job of covering such diverse material as UFO's, 'Weeping' Statues, Unlucky Black Cats, Nostrodamus, Ghosts, Atlantis Folklore, Cryptozoology, and The Bodmin Beast. It's very well written, though in a slightly more sombre tone than the aforementioned GHOSTWATCH. There's a pretty strange piece included concerning someone who goes by the unlikely name of Grindell Matthews who apparently invented a Death Ray...Make of that what you will. There seems to be a bit of a dearth of illustrations...But aside from that minor disappointment, I would say it's well worth buying...



Issue #22 Oct / Dec 1994 Quarterly

Successor to The Wild Places and Alien Scripture

**PROMISES & DISAPPOINTMENTS**

Issue One

PROMISES AND DISAPPOINTMENTS.

Another publication short on the ol' piccie front, but what a superbly written magazine. Kevin McClure, is to be applauded for his efforts in producing such a shining example of how Fortean material SHOULD be promoted. Not only does he publish pieces by some of the finest authors in the field on such subjects as Alien Abductions, Space Mummies, Conspiracy Theorists, and 'Impossible Things', he also acts as a kind of contact base for similar magazines by featuring a large variety of fanzines in his 'News From The Front' section. This is an invaluable service...And one which we here at 'Dead Of Night' intend to make full use of.

If you don't buy any other fanzime, you simply must obtain a copy this...

What more can I say...  
Keep up the good work, Kevin.

Send £2 to Kevin McClure, 42, Victoria road, Mount Charles, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4QD.

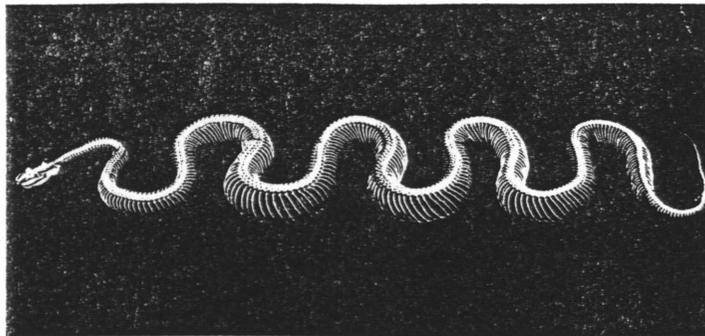
I'm sorry it's been so long since I last published. It's been a strange year, and your letters of interest and support have been much appreciated. I'm back on a regular schedule now, but some of the plans I outlined in the circular earlier in the year simply don't work. I've concluded, after correspondence and discussion with other editors that if you don't publish a magazine that offers guarantees of contacts with extra-terrestrials, past-life or near-death experiences, close encounters and abductions, the development of personal powers, the resolution of personal problems, or the occurrence of dramatic earth changes that will benefit the reader and enhance his or her position in life, you won't ever sell many copies of a publication in this field. The only other routes to success seem to involve sex, gore, freaks or Satanism. And I won't do that.

*Alien Scripture*, despite spending a fair amount on advertising, and giving it a dubiously hard title, never approached financial viability. When I tried a paid ad in 'MUFON UFO Journal' - circulation about 5,000 - it produced 3 cash orders, a cheque I can't use, and several requests for free copies! Now that I don't have my own printing machine *The Wild Places* alone might just break even, but I don't want to spend hundreds of hours just producing a general paranormal magazine any more.

I guess I'm sick of falsehood, in all its forms. Lies are lies, big or small, and lies told and false beliefs implanted are, in the context of our interests, potentially dangerous. Some of you will know that I'm not keen on terms, philosophies or trends, that I keep on the run from any sort of belief system. But if I was pushed to find a 'rule' by which I'd choose to live, given the time, energy and will, there is one. I'd go for that adopted by Deborah, the main character in Harrah Green's *I Never Promised You A Rose Garden*, a fine novel about dealing with the problems of schizophrenia and the world, not necessarily in that order. Her target is straightforward enough, "I am going to hang with the world. Full weight." That'll do for me, too.



## RAIDERS OF THE LOST (IN SEARCH OF PERU'S LEGENDARY GIANT SNAKE) by Lee Walker



VIDIEO DIARIES: BBC 2 OCTOBER

Benedict Allen, ("The Real-life Indiana Jones"), is a man with a mission. He's an intrepid explorer about to set out on a journey to the depths of the Amazon Jungle, intent upon picking up the trail of...er, he doesn't quite know WHAT exactly. When he's engaged on the phone with potential sponsors, he plays the whole thing cautiously. He will only allude enigmatically to the fact that many Peruvians Indians have gone missing under mysterious circumstances, and that (just like the locals who reside on the shores of Loch Ness), he believes "there is definitely SOMETHING there!!!"

The tabloid press and various Sunday newspapers have no such qualms. They simply plump for the sensational..."PYTHONESQUE QUEST BY HUNTER OF THE SNAKE" and "SNEAKING UP ON THE SUPERSNAKE!!!"

Two years before embarking upon the expedition, Benedict had been advised by Pablito, the leader of an Indian tribe in Peru, that if he really wanted to gain the respect of his people he could do no better than pay a visit to the one place even THEY wouldn't dare go near: "The Wild Lake" - home of the Legendary Giant Snake. Never one to shirk a challenge, he flies to the outskirts of Akitos, the remotest city in Peru. After managing to locate a guide in the mass of shanty towns crawling with drug dealers and a myriad other examples of the darker side of human-kind, he travels by boat 100 miles upriver in search of his mentor, Pablo ("the man who regarded me almost as a son"), and his ten year old daughter, Lucy (whom Pablo hopes Benedict will one day marry).

It takes them over a week to traverse the weird, rust-coloured waters to the spartan village. Once there, he has to undergo a months training which involves learning how to come to regard the jungle, "not as a place of fear and dread", but as a resource". Before the tribe can hunt for food, they believe they have to paint their faces with red-dye in honour of the greatest predator in the jungle...For this reason, they are known as "Jaguar People". Benedict also gets to try a "mind-cleansing substance acquired from the back of a Tree Frog...(It certainly has a profound effect...He looks like he's having The Mother Of Bad Trips and promptly pukes into a nearby bush) and sadly, has to participate in the killing of a Spider Monkey who has a child clutching to it's mother's arms.

After two months of training, Benedict then finds himself in the middle of a war zone. The Peruvian army were mounting a massive operation against the drug barons who frequented the "Wild Lake" area. He has eight of his video cassettes confiscated by army officials, although he managed to hang on to his actual camera. He knows he had to leave the village while he still could.

He makes a break for it in company with Armando, encountering fleeing drug dealers, snapping turtles, black, vicious looking Caiman Alligators, and hordes of beautifully hued butterflies...And the river. Always the river. Endlessly winding and seeming to stretch away into infinity...

The two men, now in uncharted territory, finally arrive at the riverside camp of Phillippe, generally regarded as being the "bravest hunter in the region". They hope to enlist his help in locating "The Wild Lake".

Unfortunately, one of Peru's last great uncivilised tribes is stalking Phillippe's family...They are apparently intent upon taking all the women and children to indoctrinate into their own tribe...The men, Ben and Armando would be mercilessly killed.

After spending a very tense night huddled in a makeshift tent, with only two shotguns and a torch to deter the would-be attackers, they awoke next morning to discover the footprints of the elusive tribe right outside the camp. This was apparently the first evidence of their actual existence in over 30 years.

Phillippe finally agrees to escort them as close to the "The Wild Lake", as he dares, and they set off again up river.

On the night before they are due to hit "The Wild Lake" region, both Armando and Phillippe grow increasingly uneasy and withdrawn. You could almost say they were filled with the kind of superstitious dread the local populace in countless horror movie displays when they near Castle Dracula...Armando in particular, says he is being haunted by the ghosts of all the animals he has killed.

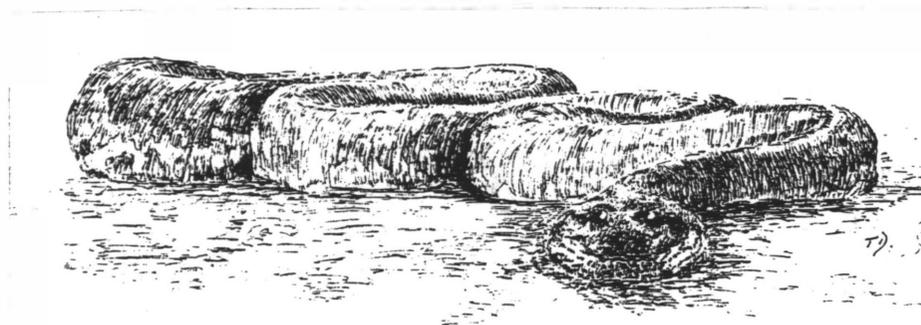
At dawn the next day, they finally reach their destination. The animals in this area grow increasingly fearless and unwary of man. The explorers had spent the previous night in a state of near siege by unseen creatures concealed by the dark depths of the jungle.

They finally reach a point where Phillippe will go no further. He says, his father told him that the lake is the birthplace of all the animals of the forest, including the "Giant Snake".

Benedict finds the lake, which isn't anywhere near as large as he'd imagined. Its water is placid, murky and the colour of rusted metal. It's unnaturally quiet. Unnervingly so. The Giant Snake is apparently attracted by noise and vibration, and has an acute sense of smell.

There are a lot of splashes on the surface of the water. Benedict watches for the best part of a week from the vantage point of a tree that overlooks the lake. At one point, he is stalked by a small Jaguar, that would instantly have killed him if he'd been caught unawares. The quest proves ultimately to be unsuccessful. He sees nothing stranger than a dolphin swimming in the lake.

This is a fascinating programme, that fills the viewer with an armchair view of the exotic and wondrous...And despite the fact that the expedition ends inconclusively, we're left with the unshakable notion that there is SOMETHING unexplained and undiscovered lurking just below the surface...



## THE X - FILES

BBC2 - Thursdays at 9.30 pm

Fox Muldur (*David Duchovny*) is an outstanding FBI agent. Oxford educated in psychology he has written a monograph on serial killers and the occult and is generally thought of as the best agent in the Violent Crimes Section. His success has provided him with the freedom to pursue his own interests and in the basement of the J. Edgar Hoover Building in Washington he has found the X-Files... ..cases the FBI has been unable to solve involving unexplained phenomena.

Dana Scully (*Gillian Anderson*) has been with the FBI for a little over two years. Recruited by the Bureau from medical school she has an undergraduate degree in physics and has been re-assigned from her teaching at the academy to partner Muldur and prepare field reports on the validity of his work.

This is the scenario for another excellent import from Canada, the imaginative product of Twentieth Television and Fox Broadcasting Company. There are shades of Twin Peaks here, but The X-Files is definitely more mainstream. The emphasis is on investigation over action, although it has occasionally struggled within the limits of Canadian and US censorship.

Duchovny (*recently seen in Kalifornia*) turns in an excellent performance as Muldur. Nicknamed "Spooky" by other agents, he is persistent in his pursuit of the truth and accepts the paranormal with a childlike willingness to believe in things that go bump in the night.

Anderson also turns in a good performance as Scully, a sceptic who is slowly being torn between her beliefs, her duty to the Bureau, her growing friendship with Muldur, and the strange experiences she has had.

The series has so far covered a range of paranormal phenomena with the balance tipped toward UFO sightings and alien abduction. This reflects Muldur's desperation to make contact with the alien intelligence he believes abducted his younger sister when he was twelve years old, and contrasts nicely with Scully's desperation to disbelieve.

The programme as a whole carries a brooding atmosphere of government conspiracy as Muldur's investigations are blocked at every turn. The suggestion is that *they* have been among us for a long time, and that they may be pulling the strings.

"Why are those like yourself, who believe in extra-terrestrial life on Earth, not dissuaded by all of the evidence to the contrary?" Muldur is asked.

"All of the evidence to the contrary is not entirely dissuasive," answers Muldur.

You really want to believe him. Get some video cassettes and start recording. Great stuff !



The X-Files:  
"Treading a  
path previously  
occupied by  
Twin Peaks,  
Wild Palms . . ."

**Left to right :**

**Scully (Anderson) and  
Muldur (Duchovny).**

# STRANGE, BUT TRUE ?

Formerly ITV - Friday's at 8.30 pm

The camera opens on a library. Shelves of leather bound books adorn the walls. Dim light filters through lead lattice windows that have collected decades of dust, in much the same way as a spider's web collects the empty husks of long-dead insects. Suddenly, a mysterious figure with a mane of silver hair and time etched deeply into the lines of his face, glides into view. Is it a ghost ? Nope, it's Michael Aspel. Is it my imagination or has he aged twenty years in the last two ? It must be the strain of keeping a wife *and* a mistress, or maybe the chilling stories he's about to present.

I digress. **Strange but True** appears to be ITV's answer to BBC's **Out of This World**. Michael Aspel may seem an odd choice to front this exercise, but when you consider that he is a well known *television personality* it is less so. Clearly ITV have adopted the Beeb's approach and have opted to target the broadest audience possible. A programme fronted by a popular and instantly recognizable host is essential for this. So, is it any good ?

Unlike **OOTW** the programme is only a half hour long. Like its competitor it concentrates on providing reconstructions of paranormal events in two, fifteen minute segments either side of the usual (and very annoying) advert break. Some expert analysis is provided on film, but the viewer is largely allowed to make up his or her own mind.

## ***In the beginning.....***

The first programme opened with the story of Chris Robinson, an engineer from Bedfordshire. Each night he dreams complex, and sometimes disturbing, images. These dreams foreshadow events that very often come to pass. So accurate are the dreams that Chris is a designated contact for Bedfordshire Police, and he is often asked to assist in their investigations.



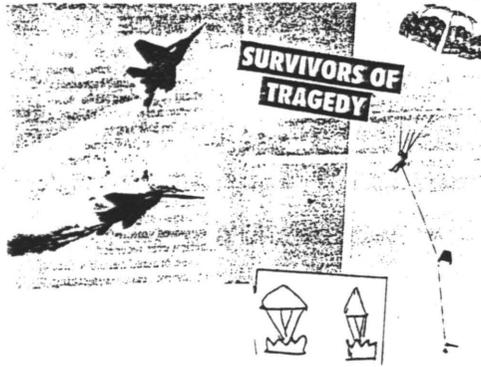
***Chris Robinson (left) makes a written record of his dreams as soon as he awakens (right)***



The moment he awakens Chris scribbles notes whilst the dreams are fresh in his mind, and he always sleeps with a pen and paper close by. He has managed to decode the images he dreams - *dogs* represent terrorists, *fish* represent terrorists about to be caught, and *snow* represents an imminent and dangerous situation.

We learned how Chris had dreamt of a terrorist attack on RAF Stanmore Park in Middlesex approximately a month before it happened, an attack he was unable to prevent despite several warnings to the authorities. Similarly, Chris dreamt that a *swarm* of bees surrounded the family of a young photographer of his acquaintance, Dan Eldon. At the time Eldon was in Somalia with other journalists. Chris warned his mother that Eldon was in great danger. Unfortunately, before it could be passed on Eldon was killed when a mob suddenly turned on him. Finally, we were told how Chris had dreamt of an airfield, aeroplanes and explosions in the sky. There was a collision and crowns fell to the ground. In the next dream the crowns became parachutes. He heard about an airshow at Fairford in Gloucestershire and realised that his premonition would relate to the event. He hurried there to

witness the drama unfold as two Russian fighter planes collided. Both pilots ejected to safety, thereby proving Chris right.



*Above : It isn't often Chris sees his premonitions come to pass in person, but the airshow at Fairford, Gloucestershire was one such occasion.*

I have to confess to having a great deal of sympathy for Chris. You can only imagine how difficult it must have been initially, knowing that the things you had dreamt would happen, but unable to convince anyone that you were not a crank. Whilst he may now be getting the recognition he deserves, it must be extremely taxing when you know that each night you may have to record your dreams because they may forewarn of an impending disaster. It's a heavy responsibility for one person to bear, being almost constantly on a state of alert. To me it seems more of a curse than a blessing.

The second segment of the programme was given over to the strange happenings at a small gardening equipment repair business in Cardiff, Wales.

'Cardiff Mower Services' was started by Pat and John Matthews some fifteen years ago. For a long time the business trundled along without incident and then, suddenly, they began to experience incidents such as stones rattling on the roof. The stones would seemingly appear from nowhere. They began to manifest inside the building and, after someone jokingly suggested it was a poltergeist, the staff began to request specific items which would appear instantly.

They named the entity 'Pete' and invited David Fontana, a psychologist at the local university, to investigate the phenomenon. Fontana would make unannounced visits so the staff could not fake the 'happenings' and he was forced to conclude that this was a genuine case. The activities of the poltergeist were even witnessed by incredulous insurance assessors!

Eventually Fred Cook, Pat's brother, saw the apparition of a little boy on the shelf of the workshop and afterwards the poltergeist left the workshop to invade Fred's home, eventually forcing him to move.

In the time allowed SBT could only gloss over this account, but for anyone interested, a more detailed and accurate account can be found in the book 'The Sceptical Occultist' (Terry White. Century. London. 1994).

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Hellfire Corner is now open to the public. Tour guide Leslie Simpson told how he was escorting a group of twenty tourists when a strange incident occurred in the Repeater Station. A lady seemed to stare ahead in amazement before almost fainting. She later told him that she had been watching a man dressed in naval uniform working in the area sealed off to the public. He had suddenly turned and walked towards her, passing right through both the barrier and her!

On a further occasion a tour guide saw a father and daughter deep in conversation with thin air. The father left as if to follow someone into a restricted area whilst the girl looked to be in shock. When the guide stopped him he advised her that they had been talking to the ghost of a serviceman who had informed them that he had been killed. Clive Boreham of English Heritage advised viewers that there had been a large number of inexplicable happenings reported.

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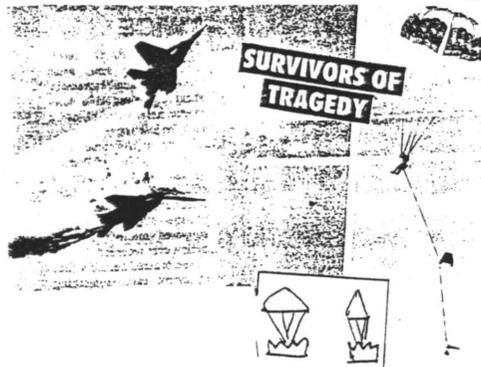
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Several castle officials and tour guides proved much more sceptical. Their preferred explanation was that a lot of the events arose because of the natural phenomena of an 800 year old building, wind and air currents, and overactive imaginations.

To check this a team of local investigators, led by Robin Laurence, held an overnight vigil at the castle. The group was divided into eight teams of two persons and each team was given a location. The group were armed with a battery of high-tech equipment including cameras, infra-red viewers, and intricate equipment to measure temperature. One team experienced loud banging on an internal door. Excited by this apparent poltergeist activity they checked the area for natural phenomena that might explain the banging, but to no avail. They then set a camera to record the door and didn't have to wait long before the unseen assailant was back. The video film of the event, although innocuous in content, was eerily stimulating when you realised that this was a paranormal event caught on camera.

**Right : Michael Aspel and crystal ball. Is this rapid aging due to investigation of the unknown, or merely mundane domestic matters?**



The final reconstruction centred on faith healer Lorraine Ham, who is so well respected that she actually has a clinic in her local surgery in Ottley, Yorkshire.

Lorraine described her talent as the ability to sense power centres. To assist those who are ill she runs her hands over and above the body without actually making contact. Her family had originally hailed from New Zealand where her great great great grandfather had been a Maori healer. We were then treated to the expert opinion of Dr J Sussman, a neurologist, who believed that the power to heal was psychological and had more to do with the belief of the ill person than any actual power on the part of the healer.

Finally, we were told of two of Lorraine's more spectacular successes - her treatment of Gary Havelock, a speedway rider nursing a very serious broken hand, who was treated by Lorraine only a few days before a vital race, which allowed him to go on and win the World Championship - and her treatment of a childless couple when all hope was lost, and who now have two very healthy children.

**So, is it any good.....**

Well, actually, yes it is. Don't misunderstand. I'm not trying to say that this in any way constitutes serious investigation into the paranormal, but if you want to interest people in your subject matter then you have to begin somewhere.

It's no secret that I disliked OOTW. So if this is similar, why am I whistling a different tune ? Quite simply because OOTW wanted to be all things to all people. It wanted mass audience but also wanted to pretend that it was a serious investigative programme. It invited experts onto the show to give the impression that it was going into the subject matter deeply, but in reality allowed little time for investigation and expert debate.

The same is not true of SBT. There is minimal expert comment on film and for the most part the programme just gives the viewer the facts and the viewer is then allowed to draw their own conclusions. As Michael Aspel says "You decide." It still has faults - each reconstruction is severely restrained by time limits, and one suspects that this leads to important facts being glossed over quickly, or even altered. However, as a vehicle to ignite interest it works well. To get people interested in a subject you have to get them discussing or debating it using their own ideas and arguments. A good way to do this is to encourage them to make their own minds up. SBT is good for an argument down the pub.

At the time of writing the first series of STB had just finished. Hopefully there will be a second. However, in the meantime we'll be reviewing two programmes an issue (*honest!!!*).

**Paul Williams.**

# The Origins Of Yule-Tide

Anyone who took the time to read the Halloween/Samhain article in the last issue of our magazine, will not I'm sure be too surprised to hear that the origin's of today's Christmas festivities are anything but Christian.

As with just about every other revered date in the Church calendar, the roots of the celebration, now held in memory of the birth of Christ, (whose REAL birthday no-one knows) can be traced back to the beliefs and customs of the Celts. The Druidic festival of the Winter Solstice was called by its Anglo-Saxon name; Yule. The word is probably derived from an old Norse word; 'IUL', meaning a wheel, as in the ever-turning Wheel Of Life...Doreen Valiente, in her excellent book 'An ABC Of Witchcraft Past And Present', (Hale. 1984). concurs with this supposition very eloquently when she writes;

"In the old Clog Almanacs, the symbol of a wheel was used to mark Yuletide. The idea behind this was that the year turns like a wheel. The Great Wheel Of The Zodiac', of which the spokes are the old ritual occasions, the Equinoxes and Solstices. and the four 'Cross-Quarter' days of Candlemas, May Eve, Lammas and Halloween. The Winter Solstice, the rebirth of the Sun, is a particularly important turning point".

Rites were held to honour the Sun, slowly re-awakening after the dark, dead days of November. Yule Logs and Yule Candles were used by the Druids as symbols of Sun worship, fire and light, and they have of course, since become an integral part of modern day Christmas decoration.

(Below): The wonder and joy of the Christmas Season. A time of carefree celebration and family gatherings. Of revelry and feasting and the giving and receiving of presents. Of forgetting petty hatreds and remembering the needy. And of simple rejoicing with the twin born Spirits of Peace and Goodwill.



A large slice of the traditions we've come to regard as being part and parcel of the Christmas celebrations can be found to have originated within the customs of the Saturnalia, the ancient Roman festival of the Winter Solstice which formerly took place in December. Saturn was the God of a dim and distant 'Golden Age' when the planet was both fruitful and essentially peaceful, and when true contentment was more than just some unattainable dream. Therefore, at this time of year, the houses of gentry and peasant alike were bedecked with the boughs of Evergreen trees and plants. Normality was temporarily suspended. Masters and servants would change roles and social distinctions would be rendered obsolete. One of these servants would be crowned 'The Lord Of Mis-rule' and in an atmosphere of jubilation, people would exchange presents and engage in much feasting and general merry-making. A vestige of this role re-

rsal liingers still in the British Army, NCO's continue to wait on the common soldiers and serve then Christmas dinner.

#### EVERGREEN LIGHT IN THE MIDST OF THE BLEAK SEASON.

The Evergreens revered at Yuletide were Mistletoe, Holly, Ivy, Rosemary and Bay. They had to be gathered and burned by Candlemas (February 2nd) at the latest, or else they would turn into Evil Hobgoblins at dawn on this day...This was the origin of the custom of Spring cleaning.

The tradition of hanging Mistletoe in the house was also initially a Druidic custom. The chief Druid would cut a sprig of the flower (in actuality a parasite - Pedantic Botany Ed), from the sacred Oak with a golden sickle., as it was believed to be the holder of life for the tree in the depths of Winter. It's pearl-white berries were said to contain the seminal fluid of the Oak, and therefore of the Oak Tree God himself...It was regarded too as a fertility charm, so now you know were we gwt the pleasurable custom of kissing beneath the Mistletoe.

One of its lesser known uses is that it is beleived to protect the house and its inhabitants from storms, bad luck and Evil Spirits. Oh, and it's also a pretty good remedy for just about any ill you care to name...So effective are its powers, that Mistletoe has an alternative title: 'All-Heal'.

In some places, Mistletoe is burned after Twelfth Night (January 6th), in case the couples who kissed under it do not later marry. To bring a bunch into the house before Christmas induced a certain death within the family. By the way, because of its Pagan connotations, Mistletoe is usually banned from most Churches.

(Below); Mistletoe, once the sacred plant of the Druids, now just another Christmas decoration, to stick alongside the artificial pine tree and the plastic boughs of Holly.



Holly was also considered to be a powerful talisman against all forms of Evil and was much sought after as an antidote to various poisons. Many gardens were fronted with a hedge made up of the plant for this reason, and even today, gardeners are extremely anxious about the consequences of chopping down a Holly bush. Cows were said to thrive if a sprig of Christmas Holly was hung in the cowshed. It is considered unlucky to bring it into the house before Christmas Eve, or to take it down before Twelfth Night...In some counties, once the Holly had been disposed of it had to be burned whilst, just to confuse matters, in other parts of Britain, burning was said to bring bad luck. Sometimes a sprig of Holly was kept in the home to ensure the good luck it had brought the inhabitants continued throughout the remainder of the year.

As for Ivy, it too was much prized as a symbol of fertility, and as a protection against Witchcraft (if you should be fortunate enough for the plant to grow along the walls of your house). Ivy also played a part in Divination. To learn whether or not the year will be graced with good fortune, you should place an Ivy leaf into a dish of water on New Year's Eve, and leave it untouched until Twelfth Night. If it's green and fresh, the coming year would indeed be a happy one. If it was cursed with black spots, then that denoted sickness. In the feet and legs if the spots were near the pointed end, In the stomach if they were in the middle, and in the head or neck if they were near the stalk. General decay foretold the Diviner's untimely death.

Bay was associated with Rosemary was, like the Holy Thorn, believed to bloom at midnight on Twelfth Night. It's also a powerful talisman against The Forces Of Darkness.

Bay was associated with Apollo, the Greek God of Medicine, and is said to be a great healer. It was a favourite decoration of the Romans during Saturnalia. The tree is never struck by lightning and can protect against all forms of plague if planted near the front door of the house. If Bay leaves are thrown into the fire and crackle noisily, good luck is on its way...But if the leaf merely smoulders, get ready for a batch of ill fortune.

The origins of the traditional, fairy-lit Christmas Tree has its roots (no pun intended) firmly entrenched in the belief that the Evergreen Trees acted as a shelter for all the poor, shivering Woodland Spirits when all the other trees had long since shed their leaves. Of course, if you subscribe to the popular historical accounts, Prince Albert earned the distinction of introducing the first Christmas tree into British homes in 1841.

#### A HOST OF MERRY OLD CUSTOMS.

The feast of Yule (which involved the drinking of vast quantities of ale, and the igniting of blazing log fires) was the indoor equivalent of the great OUTDOOR Midsummer bonfires...If you saved a piece of the 'Yule Log' for good luck, you would then be required to rekindle the flames at the following years festivities.

In the days before the modern deluge of TV, video, and computer games greedily cornered the home entertainment (?) market, folk were left to make their own fun. And this they did with great enthusiasm. Christmas back then lasted for the FULL ten days, (beginning on December 21st) and you didn't return to work again until Plough Monday.

The custom of singing Christmas carols is a tradition that can be traced back as early as 1521 (the year of the earliest English published collection).

The 'Mumming Play', a morality performance centered upon the eternal conflict between the forces of Good and Evil, (held at Easter in the Northern counties of Britain...With the notable exception of Bromborough, on Merseyside, of all places), was also part of the Christmas celebrations.

In the parish of Chester, the poor people would go from house to house with a basket begging for corn. This custom was known as 'Curning'. It was more often than not the woman of the family who went, and a pint or a quart of wheat was usually given to her. She was very rarely refused or turned away.

Also in the county of Cheshire, 'Kissing Bushes' were often (and in some cases STILL are), made to imitate primitive marriage rites. Hoops of iron are bent into the shape of a crown, which is then smothered with various Evergreens, tinsel and ribbons. Lighted candles are then set at the base, and apples and other fruit hung upon it. Sometimes, small gifts are suspended on them from long, gaily-coloured ribbons.

The old English word 'Wassail' was a greeting meaning 'to be of good cheer' and at the height of the festivities, people would toast each other by drinking from an elaborate 'Wassail' cup. Parties of peasants would quite often knock upon the doors of abodes of the rich, singing traditional 'Wassail' songs and begging for drinks or money.

There is an old and very beautiful belief in country areas, that the cattle knelt in their byres at midnight on Christmas Eve in memory of the night that the Christ child was amongst them.

As for the traditional foods we stuff ourselves silly with during the festive period...Flaming Plum Puddings were introduced in about 1670., and were once made up of broth, fruit and spices which were consumed by our cast-iron bellied ancestors in large quantities. To eat 12 Mince Pies, (due to their spices, they were supposed to represent the Three Wise Men Of The East), was to ensure 12 happy months in the year ahead. Turkey was first placed upon the food-laden tables sometime in the 16th Century, though it didn't immediately

replace Goose and beef as the main delicacy....

I'll round off this article with the relating of the time honoured superstition that it's most important the first person to cross the threshold of the house on New Year's Day, should be a dark-haired man. A fair-haired man is very unlucky, and a red-haired man is a damn sight worse.

To avoid the risk of such a disastrous calamity befalling YOUR household, the author of this piece (who just happens to be dark-haired) will be only too happy to call around at your address on New Year's Eve...For a wee dram and a small fee of course...

Lee Walker. December 11th. 1994.

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