

WARTAN 6

60P



60P

Thanks to Lemmy for the cover illustration

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A BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION
OF
PAGANISM, UFOLOGY, MYSTICISM ETC.

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Hello again dear old EARTH folks. Like the new look? Not bad, eh... but it's not quite finished yet... we'll get round to that in the next issue (if we can afford it!) . Our last edition was well received by many of you, and it was good to get so many letters of encouragement - keep 'em coming. Hopefully you'll find the material we've got in the next twenty-odd pages of an equal calibre.

....Well hands up all of you who didn't watch the recent 3-part series on ITV (on Tuesday nights) called, "EARTH"? Shame on anyone who missed it! Twas brilliant, as I'm sure those of you who saw it will agree, in every respect: illustrating - as we need to do to more and more people - that our planet, as a living body, needs the respect and care She deserves. Without it, we'll not only kill the Earth, but everything on it - ourselves included. At the rate we're going at the natural metabolic rhythm of Earth poisoning Her in the forms of gas, chemical and nuclear pollution, along with the carefree couldn't-give-a-shit attitude about the oil, natural gas, coal, flora and fauna exploitation that humanity daily inflicts upon a natural cycle that has been in order for millions of years, human beings will begin dying in their tens, perhaps hundreds of millions within fifty years or so; simply due to the breakdown of a perfectly organised eco-system which mankind chooses to ignore. The series showed the rate at which we are polluting and tearing up our Earth's body, and if it is to continue as it is now, an irreversible situation of possible extinction of human life could ensue. Starting perhaps as early as only fifty years from now. That's assuming that such caring and understanding minds as Thatcher, Reagan and the other political morons don't beat Nature to it! As we stand today, unless something is done to counter the rape of our Mother Earth immediately, our young children, and certainly their children, will die long before their time - their bodies, as many of ours are now, riddled with poisons given to them by people who just didn't want to know.

About a year or so ago I wrote an article in 'UFO Brigantia' principally dealing with the exploration of ufology through the art of dowsing (UFO students are still fast asleep on this avenue, not surprisingly perhaps), and illustrating the subtlety of natural earth energy and its involvement with UFOs. My closing comments were the ones that awoke most people's praises:

"Consider the Earth as a human body. When somebody stabs you in the arm...blood corpuscles rush to clot and protect the injured area. Invariably, tears come to your eyes. The Mother Earth would obviously react similarly. With humanity advancing technologically into the Brave New World, we tear up the surface,

extract oil, gas, coal and other substances, drop hundreds of atomic bombs: pollute the atmosphere; severely disrupt natural flora and fauna cycles, and do God knows what else! And it is noticeable that we have done all this, much much more since 1945... after which, we have had a phenomenal increase in UFO activity. Perhaps, UFOs are to the Earth, as tears are to a human? The Earth is crying...."

But those symbolic tears of Hers (and ours) are there, not just to be seen, but to be felt and understood. They are, as Tansley called them, 'omens of awareness' expressions of individuation (as a human being) upon and within all that is. And to Man, the Earth is a subconscious jewel in the collective unconscious, shining its Call that we are both necessary manifestations of each other, and as such, need to care for one another. This isn't just religious or poetic imaginism (those who think so, just haven't opened their eyes wide enough yet), it's plain common sense. Let's just hope that the people in power can see sense, before the cancer growth we've created becomes irreversible.

DISCOVERY OF NEW OLD STONE CARVINGS IN THE PENNINES

Recent rambles across those wondrous moorlands around West and South Yorkshire have given rise to the discovery of what amateur archaeologist, Arthur Quarby - an architect usually! - thinks may be a large collection of previously unnoticed prehistoric carvings that will obviously have some bearing on northern archaeology. Earth mystery students also (myself included) have been pleasantly awakened by this new find. Mr. Quarby said, "I was out looking for Bronze Age cup and ring carvings on the moors, when I found these completely different markings." His first discovery was of a foot long, star shaped design, scribed on a boulder at the moorland village of Home, near Huddersfield. This discovery was then followed by the finding of other such old stone carvings from the Derbyshire Peaks to the Lake District.

The carvings, which are being described as unlike the cup and ring insignias we've been looking at in the previous editions of EARTH, have been found to be mainly prevalent along natural geological boundaries such as streams or prominent outcrops of rock. At the moment there seems to have been little said about the possible age of these old stone motifs; but their setting along prominent geological points such as the ones just mentioned could be of particular interest to EM students who are following the results of Devereux & Persinger's 'earth lights' work. Like cup and ring stones, these too may have some bearing upon the local nature of earth energy fields; but this time may have some direct bearing upon the frequencies of 'earth lights'. But, best not make too many speculations until we have at least heard more about them, or perhaps looked at them ourselves. Anyone out there interested? or knows anything more about them?

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Archaeologist John Hedges, along with Mr. Quarby have ruled out the possibility of them being the effects of natural erosion or anything else like that. It seems quite definite that somebody, some time or other, put a lot of effort into carving these old motifs. We'll hear more about these mysterious insignias I imagine. Look out for 'em!

TOWARDS A SMARTER RAT

by Peter Southwood



Rats are getting smarter and have been doing so for years. At least that's the implication of the theories put forward by the English biologist Rupert Sheldrake. So you may well ask - What do smart rats have to do with UFOs. Are we being invaded by a race of super intelligent rats? Was the Hitch Hikers Guide to the Galaxy right all the time? OK - try this. Some schools of thought link UFOs to activity in the human mind - individual or collective. The ability of rats to learn seems to depend on the 'quality' of a collective 'field' for ratkind. By implication what is valid for ratkind will also be valid for humankind. In other words we could be unconsciously teaching each other to generate UFOs.

Let's have a look at the rats first and leave the UFO connection till later. Before going into Sheldrake's theories it becomes necessary to burden the long-suffering ufologist with a brief but necessary recap of a little current evolutionary theory. There were two front-runners in the race to a successful evolutionary theory - Darwin and Lamarck. Darwin is currently the most popular and seems to have won out against Lamarck who has been just about been consigned to the history books.

Darwin's theory of evolution states that it is random mutation in the structure of DNA molecules that causes change in the characteristics of a species. The key note here is random. From the point of view of an individual species there is nothing systematic in the evolutionary development of that species. An example here would be to say that giraffes influenced by Darwin developed long necks not so that the species could reach food that grew in high trees, but that those early giraffes that happened to have the favourable random mutation of their DNA toward longer necks prospered and survived. Thus the survival of the fittest is through random events rather than purposeful or conscious design.

Lamarck took the position that individual members of a generation could pass on favourable mutations to their offspring via modification of genes (DNA molecules). Thus if a Lamarckian giraffe learnt to stretch its neck up a little further it would tend to pass that characteristic onto its offspring with consequent culinary advantage to the offspring. This is in distinct contrast to the Darwinian view of random mutation and suggested a purposefulness to species evolution. Unfortunately for Lamarck his plausible theory could not be proved. No way could be found to explain how the individual could 'control' the mutation of its genes. So Lamarck fell out of favour.

In the Darwinian outlook both favourable and unfavourable random mutations occur. However only those with favourable mutations would survive. Giraffes with shorter necks would soon die out. One of the problems with Darwinian theory is that some species appear to mutate favourably at a rate that cannot be explained by the statistics of random mutation. To see what Sheldrake's theories mean to Darwinophiles let's have a look at a series of experiments started over 60 years ago. These throw some interesting light on how animals (including humans) acquire knowledge from sources other than their immediate environment. These experiments involved studying the behaviour of that long-suffering rodent - the white rat. Rats are favoured for scientific experiments because they are cheap, breed quickly and are quite bright. They can be trained to do things. Their success rate at doing things can be measured and theories, usually of the behaviourist variety, about how this happens can be constructed or confirmed.

A psychologist called William McDougall began a series of experiments with rats at Harvard University (USA) in 1920. These experiments were designed to find out if

animals were able to inherit abilities acquired from their parents (i.e. the Lamarckian theory). White rats were put, individually, in a tank of water from which they could only escape by swimming to one of two gangways and climbing up. One gangway was brightly lit while the other was dark. However if the rat left by the illuminated gangway it received a nasty but not fatal electric shock. Observations were made on how many times it took the rats to learn to always escape by the non-electrified gangway. This painful experiment was repeated on the next generation of rats bred from parents who had learnt the hazards of the illuminated gangway. Subsequent generations, likewise bred, were also tested.

The first generation of rats needed an average of over 160 shocks to learn to totally avoid the illuminated gangway. The next generation needed less. After 30 generations the rats needed only an average of 20 errors each before learning total avoidance on the electrified gangway. This result was not well received in the scientific community at the time who held that this was not possible by the principles of genetics then in fashion.

McDougall's experiments were repeated by other scientists in Edinburgh and Melbourne with the fascinating result that this time the first generation of rats learned the score much quicker than McDougall's first generation. These rats were not related to the original batch of rats and the experiments took place in a different part of the world. These results were, to say the least, bizarre. What was even more bizarre is that a control group of rats (bred from non-electrically experienced parents) performed at the same higher success rate.

These second results with the control group undermined the original experiment in that they seemed to prove that parents could not pass on specifically modified genes to their offspring. This conclusion appeared to deal a final blow to Lamarckian theory but the question remains - How the hell did the rats in these latter experiments get wise to the electric shock awaiting them? No-one made any mileage on this at the time and the experiments were shelved. Looking at these results again it appears that somehow the Melbourne rats got some inside information from the Harvard rats. Pretty smart really!

Sheldrake has advanced a theory to explain this. It is called the hypothesis of formative causation. Despite its intimidating title the theory can be stated quite simply..... Animals are able to tune in directly, across space and time, to the experience of past animals of the same species. So, according to Sheldrake, it wasn't genetic inheritance that caused the long-suffering electrified rats to get smarter but a direct influence from earlier rats of the same species. This contradicts the Darwinian stance.

Sheldrake started to question Darwin whilst at Cambridge University when he was obliged to defend the Darwinian and neo-Darwinian theories in debates. He realised that one of the major weaknesses of neo-Darwinism was the claim that the DNA molecule controls forming. Since every cell in an organism has the same DNA structure it becomes difficult to see how the DNA could tell one cell to be (for example) a muscle cell while another becomes a liver cell. Later Sheldrake was drawn to the 'vitalist' school of thought as propounded by the philosopher Henri Bergson in the 1920's. This outlook argues there is a life force" which exists in biological entities which cannot be quantified. This is in distinct contrast to the mechanistic Newtonian and Darwinian approach. In all Sheldrake eventually identified six problems" in the area of morphogenesis which conventional biology could not account for.

The theory postulates a sort of action at a distance in both space and time which only has parallels on the far edge of modern physics with its concept of non-locality. Also proposed is the existence of a new type of field, the morphogenetic field, through which the organising and patterning influence of past systems passes. These morphogenetic fields are not eternally fixed patterns but are formed and modified by the very things that they act upon. They change over time as fresh experience of the individual

members of the species is taken up into the field and passed onto other members. This means that as the morphogenetic fields change, so will the species subtly change. This change can potentially happen over a much shorter period of time than allowed by Darwinian evolution.

Sheldrake suggested that it is not only biological matter that is guided into its particular form by the hidden morphogenetic fields but also the inanimate world of crystals, molecules and atoms. Thus morphogenetic fields are seen as underlying all of the tangible universe from particle to galaxy. They are different to any other sort of field ever proposed so far because they do not obey the laws of space and time but seem to stand outside them.

The process by which forms in different times and places affect one another through these fields is called 'morphic resonance'. An example would be a violin string stretched and plucked. If another string on the same sounding board happens to be tuned to the same pitch then it too will begin to vibrate without being touched. One string transfers energy to the other through resonance. Likewise similar life forms will resonate and reinforce each other. A prosperous giraffe with a long neck will influence other giraffes to extend their necks via the morphogenetic field. This theory reopens the case for Lamarck in a new and interesting way. Morphogenetic fields are not transmitted energy and so do not break Einstein's laws of physics. They are not physical fields at all but operate in some nonphysical dimension. Unlike physical fields they do not diminish over distance. They cross time and are affected by time but do not die. Thus the fields of extinct species are still around somewhere.

The theory applies not only to mankind and animal kind but to plantkind and rock and crystalkind as well - i.e. the non-organic world. Consider the formation of crystals out of a solution. Sheldrake predicts that the patterns that molecules arrange themselves in when they crystallize should be influenced by the patterns taken up by previous crystals of the same substance. This influence should act directly across space and time with the result that the substance should crystallize more readily all over the world the more often it has been crystallized before. Thus a solution in which a particularly difficult crystallization is being attempted will be easier once the first crystal has come out of the solution. Other crystallization attempts will tend to follow the same pattern.

So far this does not answer the question of what caused the original crystal to emerge in the particular form that it did. This might have something in common with the idea of the collapse of the wave function in quantum mechanics⁽³⁾. Perhaps it is the hidden influence of human or other morphogenetic fields operating to influence the initial set-up of fresh fields.

Sheldrake's fields show that the laws of nature - such as the laws that form atoms and bond atoms into molecules - are constructed. These laws are in effect habits reinforced by repetition. Sheldrake believes the laws of nature aren't eternal, but that they evolve. The implications are immense not only for the biologist but also for the student of the human mind and the ufologist.

Moving from the small world of the crystal we can briefly consider the planet itself. The Earth too will have a morphogenetic field composed of all the subfields contained within it. Although the Earth is the only member of its species this field will, if Sheldrake's logic is pushed through to its conclusion, have an active forming effect over the inhabitants of the planet as the fields of species, planet, rock etc. interact. This seems to be coming very close to the idea of the Earth as a living organism as favoured by the progressive ecologists. We can also recall the idea of GAIA in which the Earth is seen as being surrounded by a living field of life and energy.

The perceptive reader should now note that Sheldrake's theories also predict that humans should be becoming better at the more earthbound matters. Twenty years ago computer

programming was a great mystery known only to a handful of 'initiates'. Now it seems that every other schoolkid knows something about it. Athletes are getting better all the time. Kids even seem to be learning to ride bicycles more easily.

So what are the implications of morphogenetic fields for the human psyche and the UFO? One of the more staggering statements of morphic resonance theory is the idea of the transfer of information in a way that appears to contradict the laws of physics as they are presently understood. Sheldrake is not alone in this outlook as some of the scientists working at the far edge of modern particle physics are beginning to accept the same thing⁽⁴⁾.

Stepping rather outside the confines of Sheldrake's theories further speculation might be in order. If we accept that UFOs have some sort of psychic component then the existence of morphogenetic fields in the planet's structure becomes of great importance to UFO formation. UFOs seem to inhabit that grey area between reality and unreality that many psychic phenomena lurk in. This grey zone may also be the dwelling place of Sheldrake's morphogenetic fields, existing rather outside our common sense notions of space and time. In my article on Jung and UFOs⁽¹⁾ I suggested that the formation of UFOs was related to activities of the Collective Unconscious. Sheldrake's morphogenetic fields seem to be a highly similar approach to the subject but with the difference that Sheldrake goes some way towards suggesting how these collective fields operate. Since UFOs exist at least in a psychic sense it seems reasonable to allocate them some form of evolving morphogenetic field of their own. This field (strictly speaking, a sub-field) would be strongly influenced by the collective human field, or as Carl Jung would put it - the Collective Unconscious.

To bring the UFO connection more into focus consider this. If one person has a UFO experience and calls it a flying saucer (as Arnold did in 1947) that information is then embedded in the morphogenetic field of the human species and available for the use of other present and future humans. Thus the appearance of the next UFO is made easier because a prototype template of a 'flying saucer' exists within the human morphogenetic field. Rather like the example of a crystal, it is now easier to precipitate another one out of the solution. Each similar UFO experience will increase the likelihood of another UFO experience of the same type as that particular structure becomes more firmly embedded in the UFO morphogenetic field. Hence the great number of cigar and saucer shaped UFOs sighted over the years.

Since the UFO is not totally substantial in the physical sense the UFO field will not have a very firm base of operations and will tend to be very plastic in its reception to the influence of other fields. It will tend to reflect the activities of the deep level of the human psyche. This would seem to suggest that there are unresolved factors operating in the human Collective Unconscious that are causing the UFO phenomena to emerge. The shape and behaviour of the UFO will be built up into the UFO morphogenetic field by the successive experiences of those seeing or contacting UFOs. The shape of the UFO, according to Sheldrake's ideas, will also be changing and evolving as the UFO morphogenetic field receives new impressions and information from the human mind involved in the experience. Other types of UFO phenomena could be being programmed into the UFO field at the moment by human (and possibly other) thought and experience.

There is some hope here for the extraterrestrial UFO buff, in that we could be being influenced by the morphogenetic fields of extraterrestrials across vast distances of space and time. Some UFO groups accept the idea of telepathic extraterrestrial contact and guidance. Whilst not wishing to totally discount this view it might be best to stick with the idea, at least for now, that our psychic and UFO phenomena are products of our own collective minds. This more easily satisfies the principle of Occam's Razor⁽⁴⁾.

Extending Sheldrake's theories - the more UFOs there are the more UFOs there are likely to be. To put it another way the rate of UFO incidence should be increasing year by year in an exponential manner - slowly at first and then increasingly quickly - moving towards some, as yet, incomprehensible climax. We would seem to be on some upwardly spiralling curve which should lead to some very interesting new heights!

- (1) see the Jungian/UFO article in EARTH 3
- (2) For reasons of space and clarity these are not discussed above. For the interested these six problems are briefly listed. The first problem is highlighted by the question - How does the acorn become the oak? Secondly there is the question of regulation - When a dragonfly embryo is damaged the final result can be a smaller dragonfly rather than half a dragonfly. Thirdly regeneration - How do newts regrow damaged eyes? Fourthly the problem of reproduction - How do the sperm and the egg manage to become a whole? Fifthly - How do creatures acquire characteristic patterns of movement? The sixth problem might be summarised with the question - How did the giraffe develop its long neck? For further reading please see the bibliography.
- (3) For example the quantum paradox of Schrödinger's cat. Also the quantum physics concepts of non-locality and superluminal information transfer are very close to Sheldrake's ideas on morphogenetic fields. See the next issues of EARTH magazine for more on the quantum connection.
- (4) The principle of Occam's razor suggests that the simplest possible explanation of a circumstance should be favoured.

***** FURTHER READING *****

Sheldrake, R. A New Science of Life: The Hypothesis of Formative Causation, published in hardback by Blond & Briggs, 1983(?), also published as a Paladin paperback in 1984(?) at around £2.50.

Briggs, J.P. & Peat, F.O., The Looking Glass Universe, Fontana, 1985, £3.95

VIEW FROM THE HILL

TO BE OR NOT TO BE? - by DAVID PENDLETON

Insulting or mocking folk isn't one of my favourite pastimes - although those of you unfortunates who've read my previous nonsense may be forgiven for believing so! And yes, you've guessed it, this month is no exception! Could this be the pinnacle of my literary assaults? (I doubt it!)

Being the driver of a truck of musical (?) equipment for a certain well known(ish!) rock band certainly gets me around a bit. And it does have its advantageous moments. Such a moment arose one February night this year. At the end of a series of gigs, I was planning my route home to Bradford from Bournemouth and noticed that a short diversion would take me past Stonehenge. At 11pm, off stage came the band (Excalibur) and by midnight the gear was loaded and I was ready to roll. One tank of diesel and a doner-kebab later, I was on the road to Salisbury. Driving alone, time passes slowly. So, maybe an hour - or was it two - later, I was at Stonehenge.

It was a crisp, clear night, and looking skywards it appeared that every star was out. The sky seemed dome shaped, not unlike the Planetarium in London. Through the barbed wire, only the silhouettes of the stones were visible in the pitch black. With no traffic on the road there was absolute silence; just the sound of my own breathing: myself and the stones. It was a quite beautiful feeling being there so privately. I have visited the site on many occasions, including the Solstice; but being alone and - dare I say it - at one with the stones, all was well...! I felt as if I was among friends. On the long journey home I reflected on this experience. I was 'refreshed'. It may sound cliched, but that's how I felt. (no, I didn't feel cliched, idiot). And it leads nicely onto...Stonehenge Festival. A thorny issue, and with a new year comes the month of June and Stonehenge '87 (or not). Of course you'll all know that our elected

members (apt word!) have over-ruled our basic religious freedoms, in the name of morality. Aided and abetted by the 'popular' press, "Medieval Brigands in Rape, Sex, Drugs, Scandal, Shocks" (yawn), they actually got away with it. But then again the same thing happened to the miners, so perhaps we shouldn't be so surprised.

I attended in '83 and witnessed many things (some were slightly blurred). To some it was just another excuse to get 'well out of their heads', which is no bad thing. But to many, it was much more. It all seemed so safe, and anyway how could the long arm of the law stop 50,000 people holding a free festival? Only the odd black cloud was on the horizon.

I ventured into Amesbury and purchased the 'Western Gazette' (24 June 1983) and guess what...!...a shocked hairdresser from Bath (with eight year old daughter in tow) was interviewed: "It really annoys me that this sort of thing should be allowed to happen. It appears that this is a no-go area for the police. Drug pushers were openly shouting their wares." He also stated that: "Advertisements offering drugs for sale were in full view of Stonehenge." He complained to the police about what he had seen. He informed them that law and order had broken down and he felt it was time, "The public demonstrated about law and order in this country." (Oh deary me, my moral fibre is crumbling - send for a social worker!)

The police reply was very diplomatic (unlike the years following). They agreed that abuse of drugs was prevalent on the site but added: "It is no offence to advertise drugs and it would be naive to think that drugs would be found behind these signs. It is difficult to search in these conditions." This copper must have been more experienced at recovering stolen combine harvesters. He then went on to reprimand Mr Wright (the hairdresser) thus: "I find it difficult to believe that Mr Wright saw these signs from the roadside or the monument, I think it has to be said that if he saw drug abuse and drugs being advertised, he must have trespassed onto the illegal site. Where I would certainly not take my eight year old daughter." (or my station full of policemen?!)

Other official statements were of the same ilk with the Department of the Environment praising the behaviour of the campers who invaded the monument on Solstice day. I quote: "Even though hundreds got into the fenced-off area, they were well-behaved and there was no damage."

Predictably Salisbury council were more hysterical with one member (that word again!) describing the site as a "timebomb waiting to go bang!" It all seemed so laughable then, but as we know our wonderful government created a confrontation. The scenes of police (?) smashing up peoples' mobile homes and even breaking babies' toys were sickening. I'd attempted to try and understand the minds behind these attacks, but cheap abuse isn't what you want to read (you can read the Murdoch Times for that!). They broke every rule and denied the most basic of freedoms by brute force. But did they get away with it? Not only

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did they get away with it, but they turned it into a moral crusade and won a political victory! The enemy within had moved from the coalfields into the lanes of rural England. Those Tory heartlands!

Unless there's a dramatic change of heart by those in authority, I can't really see the festival going ahead for some time. There is talk of letting the 'Convoy' have a special area set aside for them to celebrate the Solstice. Near Stonehenge? Oh aye! The first steps at forcing them to stay put all year? A reservation where tourists can poke cameras, and just think the police could keep a eye on them as well! Just to make sure they're managing all right! Then witness the invasion of social workers and concerned councillors uttering their heart felt concerns - "We must find them 'proper' homes, it's for their own good."

But no, it won't happen here - it can't happen here - not in Great Britain...!

further readings:

Huxley, Aldous, Brave New World, many editions

Michell, John, Stonehenge: It's History, Meaning, Festival, Unlawful Management, Police Riot '85 and Future Prospects, RTP, 1986

STOP PRESS - The obscene and violent behaviour of the powers that be at Stonehenge in 1985, after being looked at by the Police Complaints Dept., have been declared as unlawful and over-forceful. Prosecutions are now forthcoming from certain members of the Peace Convoy. We wish them luck. - ED



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS FROM DAYS GONE BY

Sometime during the summer of 1889, a farmer and his son, Thomas Jones of Addingham, were riding home on their horse across the moors after nightfall. All of a sudden the horse reared and began running and galloping, with neither of them being able to control it. Glancing behind, they saw a grey man on a horse following them. Eventually, the figure caught up with them and rode alongside. The face of the entity on this spectral beast was impossible to see, as a bright light appeared to be covering it.

Running side by side they tore onwards. Just ahead of them they could see a stream glimmering in the moonlight, and as the terrified couple crossed it, the ghostly figure could go no further it seemed. The apparition stood at the spot where they had crossed the small brook and gazed towards the farmer, whose horse had likewise stopped. With its right hand, the figure pointed to a ghastly wound on its forehead, as the bright light faded away.

It was only then that they realised that it was the farmer's father who was sat on the ghostly stallion. The following day, Jones' father died.

The following report, like the one above, was found in one of the the many works by that brilliant ghost-hunter, Elliott O'Donnell, and does bear a great resemblance to many of the present day UFO visions. It took place on Haworth moor in the summer of 1889, to the hill walker, Ernest K. Harris.

During a great storm he took refuge under a large wall, expecting (or at least hoping!) it would soon pass. It didn't, and unfortunately the night fell without him moving. Knowing he couldn't stay there all night, he staggered on, soaked to the skin; until suddenly in the distance he noticed a glimmer of light. But as he paced onwards he lost sight of it. He had barely gone a few more paces, when from somewhere nearby came

a great shriek, suggestive of absolute terror. The walker was frozen to the spot by this as the noise tore through him. It was quickly followed by a series of similar screams, and as each one finished they were followed by a quiet, bizarre hissing noise.

After a while, Harris began moving onwards again, when suddenly the rain and wind appeared to stop almost at once, and before him stood a wierd-looking caravan of sorts! He knocked on the door and promptly went inside, finding that nobody was there. So he quickly covered himself, and, exhausted, fell straight to sleep.

Then, in the early hours of the morning, Harris was awakened by the same piercing unearthly screams that he had heard a few hours ago. They were again followed by that slow, dying hiss. It was still dark, yet the skies were now clear and only the stars interrupted the firmamented darkness. He got up and slowly opened the door...and watched in amazement at:

"A luminous spherical something (come) floating on the air towards him from the dense foliage. He watched its approach in fear and suspense... Nearer and nearer it came to him, about five and a half feet above the ground. A gruesome light surrounded it. Presently, he saw a head slowly develop. Long, black, matted hair hung on either side of the small ears. The upper lip had been writhed away from the teeth, perhaps in the agony of an excruciatingly painful death, while the lower had fallen, revealing a swollen purple tongue and teeth. The wide open eyes were glassy and wholly expressionless..." (It sounds not unlike me first thing in the morning! - ED)

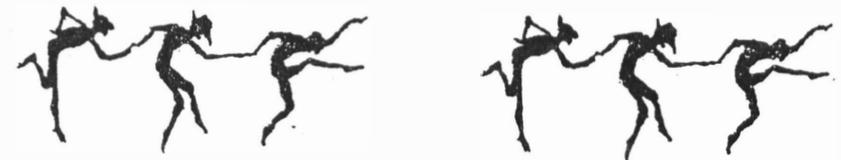
As the luminous sphere moved slowly towards him, the terrified witness didn't wait till it got much closer, but ran across the darkened moorland as fast as he could.

Local folk said that the apparition was apparently that of a dead gypsy woman - a tribe of which used to live on the moors. To the best of my knowledge there have been no other accounts similar to this one written by O'Donnell. Is there anyone out there who knows otherwise?

Spooks



22, Main St., Haworth, W. Yorks.





THE CREATURE FEATURE

*Incorporating the Strange
Life of an Idle Hill.*

"Some 6000 years ago, when the human mind was still half asleep, Chaldean priests were standing on watchtowers, scanning the stars..."

So wrote Arthur Koestler in 1968. These days, in Britain at least, we know that things were not as sleepy as previously thought. Long ago, perhaps as far back as the time when Stonehenge was just a flicker in some Druid's mind, things were stirring - in West Yorkshire at least! Upon the heathlands where Rombald, the giant of Ilkley and adjacent moors lived, Wiccans and other followers of the Earth Spirit erected their stone instruments of magick, and scribbled out symbols of Gaia on rocks. Here, as with elsewhere in this country, revered by the Greeks as Hyperborea, a megalithic empire was growing.

Many of these old sites can still be used for the purpose they were built for. Around this same time, long barrows, round barrows and tumuli were constructed by the same people. These too, amongst other virtues perhaps, incorporated mechanistic functions in their structures that could be utilised similarly for earth magick. It has been suggested by Michell⁽²⁾ (and probably rightly so) that these old mounds were in effect original productions of what Wilhelm Reich found himself building only a few decades ago. Simple constructions of layers of organic and inorganic materials - not unlike the make-up of tumuli - collected the substance that Reich called "orgone" - the stuff which, as we seem to mention in every edition of EARTH, is the occult life force, or Earth Spirit, etc. And that at these places, as with the old stones, many strange and beautiful experiences forever seem to reproduce themselves to certain people.

...Long before our most uncivilised society tore up the subtle matrix of the Earth, around a place just north of Bradford, one such site used to be seen. In the last century tales of Bhargiest the Black Dog came from the area and at night a sister spectre could sometimes be seen flying overhead. In the village of Idle, adjacent to the old Hill itself, many a local (suffering from 'Spectral Brew' intake, as Dave would probably tell us⁽³⁾) claimed to have encountered the 'Gabbleratchet'. Unfolding wings from behind its back, it would take off into the skies and circle over the small, but scenic grassland of its moors and the large and impressive-looking structure which we today call Idle Hill.

Sited at coordinate SE164374, Idle Hill has at least two definite leys going over it (and not 15 as I tried to convince myself, when, as a young 'un, I drew lines indiscriminately over maps I had, in an attempt to make it a Guinness Book of Records contender! (Cradle Hill in Warminster, well known to ufologists, also used to put falsified claims in for the same award!)). There may well be a few more, and if I thought it would be worth the effort, I'd check on them. But the most interesting point, and the one which I'll expand further on in EARTH 7, is its position in relation to fault lines. This is a most significant aspect.

But the for the moment in this article, we're going to look at a few examples of some quite inexplicable events, from both Idle Hill and the moors adjacent to it.

In the Creature Feature from EARTH 5, we looked at a strange case from Idle Moor where a Bigfoot-like creature was seen by a group of teenagers. Apparitions are far from rare in this small area as we shall see. A farmer who has lived at the edge of the moors for many years now, recounted a most peculiar thing that he watched around 25 years ago. It occurred in the early sixties, sometime in the late summer or early autumn. As



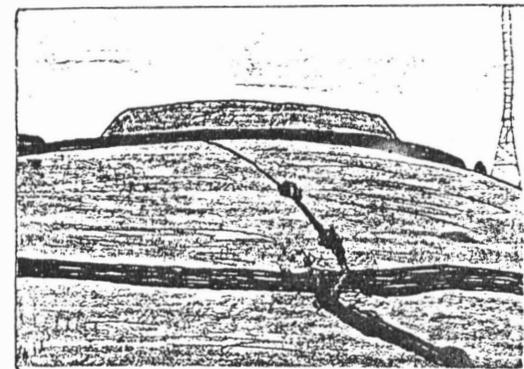
he was crossing one of the fields one night to check on his cattle, he suddenly came to notice what looked like a brilliant white, glowing person someway ahead of him. The figure didn't initially appear to move, and the farmers first impression was that a group of campers must be messing about in one of the fields trying to frighten any bypassers. But watching the figure for a couple of minutes, he was suddenly shaken when it began to rise very slowly several feet into the air. Here it remained, until it began to fade away and vanished to wherever it had come from!

At an old sixteenth century graveyard on one side of the moors, locals have seen many anomalous figures. There have been some instances when a phosphorescent 'glow' has been reported coming from inside the walls of the graveyard. But at Idle Hill itself there have been some quite frightening visions confronting people. There had always been - from as far back as I can remember - tales from some of the people who lived immediately adjacent to the hill, of a giant black entity that was sometimes seen walking around the track which surrounds the huge circular monument. And although I knew of many UFOs that had been reported there, a scepticism remained with me regarding this humanoid spectre...until...

Church bells could be heard chiming in the distant air of the clear summer night in 1979. The moon was clambering over the horizon, desperately trying to show himself and illuminate the vast clustered myriads of shimmering stars above us. A slow patient rumbling could be heard as a train was travelling through the valley below and into the station. But whilst all this was going on, Jon Tilleard and myself were clambering over a wall, the other side of which was the dusty track that led up to Idle Hill. The time was around 3am and it was still fairly dark. It was mid-August.

Jumping into the gully which leads the old straight dusty track up to the old hill, we wandered towards it. As we got to within fifty yards of the old circular path that runs along the bottom of the mound, I stopped for a mid-morning relief session whilst Jon carried on walking. Standing there, my head pointing skywards looking at the brilliant dark skies, I heard that Jon had stopped in his tracks. The next thing I was aware of, was that of him running like hell back down the track.

Turning around, I could just see Jon fading in the darkness running out of sight. For a reason I was trying to work out, it seemed as if he had been frightened by something, but whatever it was I had missed it. Looking towards the hill, I tried to see if there was anything out of the ordinary, but could see nothing. So turning round again, I slowly plodded back down the track till I met up with Jon several hundred yards below, and he was clearly disturbed by whatever he had seen.



IDLE HILL

Surrounding the track that runs around Idle hill is a high wall, as much as eight feet in places. Jon told me that as he was walking upwards, he noticed the head and shoulders of someone above the height of the wall walking around the track. As he watched this strange nightly figure, it walked virtually straight in front of him and it was at least eight feet in height! Humanoid in form, the entity appeared to be black all over. No clothes seemed apparent yet there were no noticeable anatomical details accompanying the figure, other than the archetypal arms, legs, abdomen and head. The movement of the figure's arms was something which struck him. They were very straight and moved in an almost robotic style.

and quickly retreated in his tracks. But where it is now, the author - for some strange reason - just can't seem to remember. Oh dear...what a pity! But worry not, for there are some members of the Yorkshire UFO Society - who shall remain nameless! - who allege to have found this self same entrance to Faerie Land. But at the moment they are keeping their findings a closely guarded secret. I don't blame them!

The Reverend John Hotten, writing in 1781,⁹ claimed that the caves and potholes of Wharfedale "were the homes of giants, goblins and faerie." And there have been novels written of this same land, some of which are thought to be based on true experiences. One of them by Bulwer-Lytton, "The Coming Race", may indeed be based upon a true tale or two. Lytton was for many years very interested in occultism and folk tales and spent considerable time in West Yorkshire. But, we'll probably never know for sure. Then there's the classical story of Olaf Jansen, a Scandanavian sailor who sailed into the Earth at the north pole and there met many people who have lived beneath the surface for as long as man has been here. Willis George Emerson recounted the fantastic story in 1908, telling of Jansen's journey into the land of "The Smoky God."

But in West Yorkshire again, there are a couple of intriguing archaeological mysteries which may have something in common with the faerie folk. In Cottingley Woods, close by the "Faerie Stone" cup and ring marking, a very small and artificial shaft can be found penetrating deep into the Earth. What it is exactly, isn't known. And at Cornmould Heath on Bingley Moor, a similar structure, not unlike a miniature mine shaft can also be found penetrating deep into the ground. Anybody any ideas...?

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- (1) Speight, Harry, Chronicles & Stories of Bingley & District, 1904.
- (2) MacLellan, Alec, The Lost World of Agharti, Corgi 1983. (copies of this work are available from your editor at £1.75 inc.p&p)
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19/3/79
**Riddle of spikes
in the sky**

A Dales farmer got the surprise of his life last night when he saw an unidentified flying object shoot across the sky.

Mr. Ken Gamble, of Blackburn House, Thorpe, near Grassington, was feeding his sheep at the time. He said: "I have seen shooting stars before, but this was different. It moved slowly across the sky, broke up into three even swikes, then disappeared. It was all over in a flash, but I got a good look at it. It was a strange yellow-red colour and I have never seen anything like it before."

Skipton police said that it was not a distress flare and no aircraft had been reported in the vicinity.

24/1/84
**Baffled by
lights** TLA

IT WASN'T a plane... it wasn't a bird... it wasn't even Superman...

The glowing, round craft which Mrs. June Clayton saw hovering over Wakefield Road, Bradford, last night was, she believes, a UFO - an unidentified flying object.

"I have never believed in that sort of thing, but I am having second thoughts now," said 34-year-old June, of Defarge Court, West Bowling. Leeds Police had five calls reporting UFOs over the city.

YORKSHIRE
UFO SPOT

CLIPPINGS SENT IN BY LEMY

March 1980
**Mystery
lights
spotted**

A UFO was spotted over Baildon Moor and Ilkley Moor last night.

The object, described as a cluster of red flashing lights, was initially reported as a distress signal from the air traffic controller at Leeds/Bradford Airport at 5.51 p.m.

Police confirmed that the object was as described but still do not know what it was.

At 7.15 p.m. policemen on the moors saw the cluster of lights travelling slowly about 600ft to 700ft in the air for three to four minutes in the area north of Ilkley.

Editor's Preface: We've all heard of the witches of Pendle and many of you may have read one of the many works that have been written on them; but when Sylvia Ross first began looking into the history behind the characters involved in this classic tale, she found that there were many conflicting accounts written by the various authors on the subject. Some of the stories were down-right fabrications! So she took to investigating the facts from the fiction, sifting through many of recognised documents, in an attempt to paint a true picture of what really took place around that Lancashire village all those years ago; and the disquisition that follows is an account of the reality of the case, based on the original manuscripts of the time.

In the modern, technologically-minded world of today, the word 'witch' still sends tingles of apprehension down many people's spines. They envisage the traditional image of an old hag bent over a bubbling cauldron or flying through the air on a broomstick, her black cat in tow! Yet this image could not be further from the truth! Many of today's witches are learned people, often holding down a career and outwardly being 'respectable'. However, a couple of hundred years ago, the situation was quite different.

The witches dealt with here sprang up mainly from the beggar class of seventeenth-century Britain. Mainly women, they lived a hand-to-mouth existence, and it was often with a knowledge of herbalism and poisons, along with a little psychological blackmail, that they were able to work their "foul practises and evil deeds."

In the spring of 1612, in the small Lancashire village of Pendle, a group of women were rounded up on the suspicion of them being witches. All except one were of the beggar fraternity. They were divided roughly into two families, and for years had wreaked havoc with the locals and their livestock, until they came to the attention of one Master Roger Nowell of Read, Esquire, a local justice of the peace, who uncovered their doings and led to a sensational and well-documented trial at Lancaster Assizes, beginning on Tuesday, August 18.

The story starts around 1591, when Elizabeth Sowtherns¹¹ (alias Old Demdike) first became a witch. According to her voluntary confession, "A Spirit or Deuill in the shape of a Boy" came to her and asked for her soul. At first she declined, but after a few more visits from the spirit she gave in. This spirit, named Tibb, became her familiar and helped her in many of her exploits. The main crime she perpetrated was the murder, by witchcraft, of the daughter of a certain Richard Baldwyn. Along with her grand-daughter, Alizon Devise, Sowtherns had gone to the Baldwyn's land, where he had them thrown off. The spirit Tibb then appeared to her and asked what she would have done. She wanted revenge on Baldwyn and accordingly the next day, his daughter fell ill and died a year later. Among other things, Demdike was reputed to have killed the cattle of people who crossed her; made clay effigies which she crumbled and thus caused the poor unfortunate victim to die, and, according to Old Chattox - her great and bitter enemy who we'll come to in just a moment - the murder of Richard Assheton of Downham. Her partner in all of this was her grand-daughter, Alizon Devise, due to the fact that Demdike was blind. All this was given in evidence before Roger Nowell and she was committed to Lancaster Castle to wait for the next Assizes for her trial. But as luck would have it, or misfortune according to your view, Old Demdike died before her trial, thus escaping the hangman's noose. For although on the continent it was common practise to have witches burnt at the stake, such barbarous acts had not yet reached civilised England!

However, Demdike wasn't the only witch around. About five years after her initiation she also persuaded Anne Whittle - otherwise known as Old Chattox - to become a witch. This woman was constantly babbling and talking to herself as she went along, and to any flower, tree, etc., that was available! Pott's describes her as "Her lippes ever chattering and walking; but no man knew what."

"A devill in the shape of a Man" came to her on numerous occasions, and finally convinced her to give him her soul. The familiar came to be known to her as, Fancie, and was there to do her bidding. About the end of the 1590s, Old Demdike and Old Chattox became embroiled in an argument which led to a bitter feud between the two families. The Device's firehouse was broken into and some clothing stolen. The following week, Alizon Device saw Old Chattox's daughter, Anne Redfearn, wearing some of the stolen articles. Alizon's father, John Device, was afraid Old Chattox would bewitch them and agreed to pay blackmail money each year until he died. The timing of his death isn't very clear however, because in her evidence at the Assizes, Alizon gets rather confused and said that the robbery in question took place eleven years before and her father paid until he died - eleven years ago!! But from that time on, the two families became sworn enemies, always trying one-upmanship and befriending those whom the other hated.

One of Old Chattox's main crimes was the death by witchcraft of one, Robert Nutter. He rather fancied Anne Redfearn and would have seduced her in Chattox's house, only she refused to entertain him and was very offended. He said that if ever the land upon which they dwelt should pass to him (for Old Chattox was a tenant of the Nutter family) he would throw them off. Quite drastic action was called for, because naturally the family didn't want to loose their home! So Chattox beckoned Fancie and told him to dispose of Robert Nutter. Obliginglly, he died three months later! She was also accused by Alizon Device of murdering her father John, a girl called Ann Nutter, Hugh Moore and a child, John Moore, but of all these she was acquitted.

As so often happens, witchcraft and herbalism in their most basic forms are passed down from mother to daughter, father to son. This was the case in the Pendle Forest. Elizabeth Device, Demdike's daughter (and a traditional old hag, "her left eye standing lower than the other, the one looking down, the other looking up"), at her trial became a furious woman, screaming and swearing at all and sundry, but more so at her own young daughter, Jennet, who was giving evidence against her. She was so extremely agitated that she had to be removed from court!

The Device's house was Malking Tower and it was here that, on Good Friday, Elizabeth Device played hostess to a meeting designed to name the spirit familiar for Alizon Device, but because she wasn't there, they obviously couldn't! Here they also planned to try and free Alizon, Old Demdike, Old Chattox and Anne Redfearn; then kill the gaoler Thomas Covell and blow up Lancaster Castle - a rather elaborate and outrageous plan!

Both Jennet and James Device, in their own confessions, named the people present at the Tower as:

Jennet Hargreaves, wife of Hugh Hargreaves of Pendle;
Christopher Howgate (Old Demdike's son);
Elizabeth Howgate (Christopher's wife);
Alice Nutter of Rough Lee;
John Bulcock and his mother, Jane, of Moss End;
Alice Graie, of Colne;
Katherine Hewet, nicknamed Mouldheels;
Christopher Hargreaves, nicknamed Christopher Jackes of Thorniholme;
Jennet Preston of Gisburn-in-Craven, who was later hanged in York.

A few others were present but not named. All these people arrived and left in their familiar shapes, "gotten on horseback like unto foals," according to James' testimony. They agreed to meet again in one years time, though should they need help in the meantime they were to meet on Romleyes Moor (probably Rombald's Moor, of which Ilkley Moor is a part).

According to Jennet Device, Elizabeth Device also murdered, with the help of her familiar, 'Ball', James Robinson, alias Swyer, for accusing her of having a bastard child

to a man called Sellar. This she did by the age-old method of crumbling an effigy made of clay. Though the cause and method isn't known, she was also accused, along with Old Demdike and a rich neighbour, Alice Nutter - the cuckoo in the nest of these beggars - of the death of Henry Mitton, of Rough Lee.

James Device, Elizabeth's son, was quite a stupid and backward person, but nevertheless was coached in the arts of witchcraft by his mother. On Sheare Tuesday, 1610, James was told by his grandmother, Old Demdike, to go to church and receive communion and to give the bread he received to whatever he should meet on the way home. (This shows that, contrary to common superstition, witches can enter churches without being harmed as they are not in reality agents of the devil!) However James didn't give his bread to the talking hare that he met, but swallowed it instead! At which the hare got considerably cross and vanished. A few days later, "A thing like unto a browne Dogge" appeared to him and once again asked for his soul. This time James surrendered. He was told to call his familiar, Dandy. James then went to see a Mistress Townley of Carr Hall, and after having an argument with her, instructed Dandy to get rid of her. Obliginglly, she died some time later. This 'Dandy' appears to have been a busy fellow, for he also caused the deaths of John Duckworth of the Lawnde (for promising to give James a shirt and then going back on his word!!), John Hargreaves of Gouldsheybooth and Blaze Hargreaves of Higham (no motives for these murders is ever given). It was the evidence of Jennet Device, his nine-year-old sister, that indicted James. Indeed, his mother Elizabeth, though also giving evidence, said nothing further than that James had been present at the meeting at Malking Tower and had provided the meat for this.

Jennet Device seems quick to point the fingers at all members of her family and it was quite unusual for such a young child to be giving evidence in court. But such was the witch-hunt fever at the time, that the courts were out to get as many convictions as possible and so didn't have any qualms about the use of the girl. Incidentally, in 1633 Jennet stood trial herself in a further witch-hunt - this time suspected of being a witch!

As already mentioned, Anne Redfearn was the daughter of Old Chattox. It was claimed by Elizabeth Device that she saw Old Demdike along with Old Chattox and Anne Redfearn, making clay images when she went to their house one day. There were three images and a spirit familiar in the shape of a black cat. The effigies were of Christopher Nutter, Robert Nutter and his wife Mary. These were the earliest victims of the Pendle witches and each believed until their death that they had been bewitched for various slights by Chattox and her family. One Margaret Crooke, the sister of Robert Nutter, also gave evidence that her brother, numerous times whilst ill, denounced Anne Redfearn and named as her the cause of his sufferings. Her brother John Nutter also gave similar evidence. On hearing all of this in court when she was brought back in, Old Chattox showed the age-old concern of mothers protecting their children against all the odds, and changed her testimony saying that it was she who had made and crumbled the effigies and pleaded for both God and Roger Nowell to have mercy on her daughter. All this was to no avail though, as he had heard for the main part that it was always Redfearn who had made the effigies and that she was more dangerous than her mother. So she was sentenced, along with the rest, to hang.

These five then, were in the main the leaders or main characters in this happy band of witches. Their major crimes were the death by witchcraft of various locals, and so at the trial conducted at the Lancaster Assizes, they were dealt with first. But they had other colleagues who had committed less serious offences, generally against livestock more than people, and it is them who we'll now briefly deal with.

The puzzling part in this little drama was the involvement of Alice Nutter of Rough Lee. Why a rich woman of some influence had got mixed up with a group of peasants was as much of a mystery at the time as it is today. She was charged with having murdered Henry Mitton, with the help of Old Demdike and Elizabeth Device, and of being present at the meeting at Malkin Tower. On the face of it there doesn't seem to be much to go on.

One wonders how the confessions of two convicted witches and a young girl could be enough to convict a wealthy woman of some standing in the community, and why her influence and wealth couldn't save her from the gallows. A point to remember though is that Judge Bromley proceeded very carefully with Alice Nutter and afforded her privileges he didn't extend to the more menial of her wiccan compatriots. This was a basic form of an identity parade. He lined up the witches and some other women who were not on trial, and asked Jennet Device to point out all those who she knew to have been present at the meeting at Malkin Tower on Good Friday. She touched the hand of Alice Nutter and "accused her to be one; and told her in what place shee sat...and who sat next her." However, Alice Nutter remained silent throughout the examinations and confessed to nothing.

Another identity parade took place for the next prisoner in the dock, Katherine Hewet. In all probability it was the same one as for Alice Nutter and again Jennet Device picked out Katherine, or Mouldheels as she was more generally known, and said that she too was at the meeting at Malkin. She was also charged with the murder by witchcraft of a child from Colne, Anne Foulds. The same testimony of James and Elizabeth Device appertaining to Hewitt's presence at the Tower was read out, and it was on this evidence that she was charged. Like Alice Nutter, she too remained silent except for a plea of not guilty.

Jane Bewick and her son, James, were accused of sending a woman mad by the use of witchcraft, the woman being Jennet Deane of Newfield Edge. James Device's testimony set the lid on that accusation and Jennet Device sealed their fate by picking them out at the identity parade!

And so we come to the girl whose bewitching of a pedlar was the instigation of the whole trial - Alison Device. She had met the pedlar, John Law, while out begging in Colne on 18 March, 1612. She begged for some pins from him but he refused to give her any. She got very angry with him and words were exchanged. Unfortunately, Law had not gone very far when he collapsed and had to be carried into a nearby inn, crying that Alison Device had bewitched him. At her trial, John Law was brought into the court room for Alison to see by his son, Abraham Law, for he could hardly walk by himself. When she saw him, Alison fell on her knees pleading to be heard by the Judge. She confessed that she had seen the pedlar and got annoyed with him. She added that as she moved away, a "thing like unto a Blacke Dogge" appeared to her and asked what she would have him do. She said to lame him and the pedlar fell down lame! Further, John Law said that while he was in the ale house recovering, he saw a great black dog stand by him. It was Law's son Abraham, who had come from Halifax to tend to his father, who brought the whole thing to the attention of Roger Nowell and who started the sequence of events that led to the trial of the Lancashire Witches in the first place.

One woman who was tried at the same time as the others, yet not connected to the same events was Margaret Pearson, who hailed from Padiham. It was her third trial for offences related to witchcraft. Pearson shared a cell with Old Chattox and it was she who was brought back to give evidence against her. Old Chattox said that Pearson had confessed to her that she killed a man's wife and daughter, and killing a mare belonging to a Dodgson of Padiham. She was sentenced to be pilloried.

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So, were these men and women really witches, or merely peasants who capitalised on their knowledge of herbalism and used a little basic psychology to frighten people into believing they were witches and so were able to hold a little power over them. Certainly the judges had no difficulty in condemning them as witches and ordered them to be hanged the following morning

till they were dead. A lot of the evidence comes from heresay and perhaps once one person realised he was sure to be convicted, then his colleagues should not be free and alive, especially in the cases of the Chattox clan denouncing the Device family and vice versa. James Device seems to have had a lot to say, yet he was supposedly quite backward and a lot of his evidence was very contradictory.

But can we really believe that black dogs and brown dogs, hares and cats roamed the countryside killing people off and talking!?! In an age when death and disease were rife, especially among peasant and working communities, could it not merely have been chance that people died after a crossed word with the women? Indeed, Richard Baldwin's daughter lasted a whole year before she died! Perhaps too, that the women had convinced themselves that they had supernatural powers over the locals, and so were more able to continue their 'bewitchings'.

Whichever way you look at it, the Trials of the Lancashire Witches provided a valuable insight into the witch-hunt fever of the day. This is thanks entirely to the careful documentation of Thomas Potts, who reproduced the handwritten manuscripts into a book, "The Trial of the Lancaster Witches 1612". The case proved good romantic novel material, as Robert Neill discovered with his book "Mist over Pendle", and Harrison Ainsworth with "The Lancashire Witches". These both dramatise the witches and make a good read, immortalising the women who caused such uproar in their day.

Notes:

(1) All names used in this article are the original spellings taken from Potts' "Wonderfull Discoverie of Witches in the Countie of Lancaster."

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Since the appearance of EARTH 5 in February, it seems as if we've been inundated by the manifestation of hosts of relatively new Pagan and occult magazines up and down the country. Two in particular are of a direct interest to any Yorkshire yokels into such subjects as carried by EARTH.

The first *OUT FROM THE CORE - A magazine about Radical Healing* - came out last year and is based in Leeds. Those of you with any interest in alternative healings, herbalism, aromatherapy, Reich etc. may find this worth a look. But beware all you men-folk...feminism at its highest abides within also. A literal band of 'off-with-the-goolies brigade' seems in evidence here. Other than that, OFTC seems alright. Write to Nick Totton of 23 Knowle Road, Leeds LS4 2PJ for info.

The second *CHAOS INTERNATIONAL* - is the new venture of Ray Sherwin. Some years previously the editor with Tony Venables of 'THE NEW EQUINOX' magazine, Ray now embarks upon the editorship of CI with obvious success. To anyone involved in magick or occultism in any form, CI will be of instant interest. Unfortunately no full review of it this time round - sorry Ray! - but those of you who can't wait for the synopsis in EARTH 7 can write to him at the Hermitage, East Morton, BD20 5UQ, West Yorkshire.

NORTHERN EARTH MYSTERIES 32, SPRING 1987 - This is the last edition of NEM to be edited by Philip Heselton who, after seven years at the helm, is handing it over to new editors Rob Wilson and David Clarke. Full credit must be given to Philip, who has made Northern Earth Mysteries one of the principal EM publications in the country. But fear not, it isn't the last you've heard of him for, as he says in his last introduction, "I am intending to produce a journal and a series of booklets on matters which should interest those involved in earth mysteries, probably starting in the autumn." We look forward to hearing from him. Meanwhile in this edition Jimmy Goddard takes us on a most revealing journey of leys and hitherto forgotten sacred points in Warwickshire, uncovered during a holiday there last summer. He also reviews the Northern Earth Mysteries Moot from last year, which interestingly covered the megalithic remnants of cultures long gone from all over the world. There's an account of a will-o-the-wisp sighting following on as a postscript to Phil Reeder's article on them in NEM 30, from yours truly; folklore from Haxey; a piece on geomancy from the subconscious and other essays relative to Gaia. Also a short letter from Helen Woodley, rekindling the old tales of our local West Yorkshire giant, Rombald - inhabitant and legendary creator of some of the megalithic sites on Ilkley moor and district.

UFO BRIGANTIA 24 Jan/Feb '87 - This edition illustrates - and brings the uninitiated up to date - on the Cracoe Fell UFO case, made famous by the Yorkshire UFO society several years ago, and briefly wobbled over in my last editorial. All is now over and done with and, with photographic evidence to support, we know it was just a natural phenomenon. Read BRIGANTIA if you don't believe me! Pete Chattaway briefly glances through the history of ufology in his 'Points of View on UFOs'. Robert Moore comments on the decline (yet again) of ufology; seemingly wondering where the "rationally open-minded" students of the subject are these days. Hasn't he heard of Devereux, Persinger and co. and a thing colloquially known as 'earth lights'? Or are the ufologists still arguing about subject boundaries? And amidst the reviews, cartoons and local UFO sightings (including one that seems to be an IFO), David Clarke gives us a lengthy and interesting look at a Pennine UFO flap from the mid-seventies, with part two yet to come!

NORTHERN UFO NEWS 123, Jan/Feb '87 - In this edition of NUN, Jenny Randles gives her update of the Cracoe UFO issue - and stands outside the boxing ring looking in! Margaret Fry begins another series of articles on UFO sightings in Wales; and Ray Broderick takes a brief look at that most interesting of phenomena, the Bedroom Encounters. Amidst book and magazine reviews, NUN hosts its usual collection of UFO sightings from all across Northern Britain (but none from Yorkshire this time, boo-

hoo!). To ufologists wanting to know the updated and most recent sightings from around the north though, get NUN.

Elements of Tarot - Volume 1 - by Peter Southwood, available from Bobtail Press, 22 Main Street, Haworth, West Yorkshire. £2.50 inc.p&p. 48 pages. Firstly I must tell you - Tarot isn't my subject. Although I've had a pack for several years, my knowledge on the subject is only minimal. Elements of Tarot though, as a friend of mine who's been studying the cards for a number of years now, and himself a member of the OTO, has already declared Peter Southwood's work on the subject as "the best introductory work on the Tarot" he has ever read! Out goes the usual dubious history of the cards - there's none of that here. This book is mainly practical. As Peter says in his introduction, "it shows you how to start from scratch...It advises on how to set up a place for a reading, what sort of questions to ask the cards, how to shuffle and select, and how to interpret." Detailing a variety of lay-outs, "from simple to complex" along with exercises to encourage the student's sensitivity and intuition, EOT1 provides a comprehensive guideline on practical cartomancy. With more than 15 years experience behind him, Peter is a well-qualified Tarot reader, and this literary exposition on the subject is highly recommended to anyone exploring this well known yet much-maligned occult science. Get a copy!

Tony Wedd: New Age Pioneer - by Philip Heselton, available from Northern Earth Mysteries, 170 Victoria Ave, Hull HU5 3DY. £3 + £1 p&p. 160 pages. A work dealing with the life of this pioneer in earth mysteries and his involvement in such matters as leys, UFOs, free energy devices, Stonehenge, Glastonbury and other subjects. All cheques payable to Philip Heselton.

Spooklights: A British Survey - by David Clarke & Granville Oldroyd, available from 6 Old Retford Rd, Handsworth, Sheffield S13 9QZ, S.Yorks. Price £1.50 inc.p&p. 44 pages. An historical survey of such things known down the ages as will-o-the-wisp, ghost lights, UFOs, spirit lights, along with many varied local folk-names. All cheques payable to David Clarke.

Cat Flaps: A Survey of Mystery Cats in the North of England - by Andy Roberts, available from 84 Elland Rd, Brighouse, HD6 2QR, W.Yorks. Price £2 inc.p&p. 44 pages. A survey of reports of mystery cats such as lions, pumas and lynxes seen around northern England, when they obviously shouldn't be there in the first place! All cheques payable to Andy Roberts.

UFO Newsclipping Service, Nos. 210 & 211 - January & February editions, 1987 - This larger-than-life-sized (approx A3½!) American mag is crammed, each month, full of UFO, creature and Fortean tales from all over the world. In each of these two issues, along with tales of UFOs from our chip-buttoy town of Bradford. Bigfoot sightings have started up again in the Northwest States...a favourite monster of mine! Not to be outdone, the sea serpents and lake monsters have been surfacing into the press recently, mainly around Canada. And, if the reports are to be believed, it seems that a UFO flap is breaking out in Alaska - already there have been some quite exciting accounts. Alongside this, news reports of such absurdities as fields full of walking sludge (!!!), rediscoveries of perpetual motion machines and free energy devices, historical UFO tales, searching for ET and news from the Cuckooland world in general, UFONS is a must for Fortean and UFO nuts everywhere.

UFO Contact - February 1987 - This well-produced ET-based mag is the one to get if you're interested in officialdom, cover-ups, and extraterrestrial life. Following the very recent discovery of the formation of a black hole after the observation of a new supernova, UFOC - out of coincidence - details recent theories on those most puzzling astronomical objects. There's an interesting article on the discovery of another free energy device, made by researchers in Sweden. Robert Abborino comments on UFO sightings made by American astronauts; and there are the usual articles and comments on the words and works of contactee, George Adamski. Saucernauts subscribe!

Other Magazines

Ley Hunter - The Magazine of Earth Mysteries, and probably the world's No.1 on EM, EL & other Pagan matters. Excellent! Subscription is £5 for 3 issues. Details of magazine are available from Paul Devereux, PO Box 5, Brecon, Powys LD3 7LU, Wales.

Fortean Times - The Foremost Journal of Strange Phenomena. Indeed! Specimen copies are available for £1.50, or £6 for 4 copies from Bob Rickard, 96 Mansfield Road, London, NW3 2HX. To anyone interested in anything bizarre, this is the magazine to get!

Laop of Thoth - publication of the Sorcerer's Apprentice, covering all aspects of Pagan, occult & mystical matters. Irregularly published 60-page mag at £2.25 each or £10.60 for 6 issues. Write to Chris Bray, 4-8 Burley Lodge Rd, Leeds for details.

Northern Earth Mysteries - publication of the group of the same name, dealing with EM & related matters from all across northern England. Subscription is £2.50 for 3 issues or 90p each from Rob Wilson, 103 Derbyshire Lane, Norton Lees, Sheffield S8 9EN.

The Cauldron - Pagan Journal of the Old Religion. Annual subscription is £2.40 a year for 4 issues. Blank cheques or POs only to Mike Howard, Treforgan Mansion, Llangoedmor, Cardigan SA43 2LB, Dyfed, Wales.

Chaos International Intelligently written occasional publication by Ray Sherwin and P.O. Brown covering many aspects of Chaos Magick. £2.25 per issue from CHAOS, The Hermitage, East Morton, BD20 5UQ, England

The Kabbalist - Quarterly publication of the I.O.K. Single copies at 60p + 18p stamp or send £2 for annual subscription. Write to 25 Circle Gardens, Merton Park, London SW19 3JX.

Northern UFO News - publication of the Northern UFO Network, detailing news & views from around the north. Annual subscription is £5.40 for 6 issues. Details from Jenny Randles, B Whitethroat Walk, Birchwood WA3 6PQ, Cheshire.

UFO Brigantia - publication of West Yorkshire UFO Research Group. Annual subscription is £5.50 for 6 issues or 90p each. Details of magazine & membership to WYUFORG available from Martin Dagless, 19 Bellmount Gardens, Leeds LS13 2ND, West Yorkshire.

UFO Newsclipping Service - Large format monthly Fortean & UFO American magazine. Annual subscription \$75.00 (£50) for 12 issues or \$6.50 each (£4.50). Write to Lucius Farish, Route 1 - Box 220, Plumerville, Arkansas 72127, USA, for information, etc.

Quest - publication of the Yorkshire UFO Society. Annual subscription is £6 for 6 issues from Graham Birdsall, 68 Buller Crescent, Leeds LS9 6LJ.

UFO Contact - International Get-Acquainted Program Journal. An ET-based UFO mag dedicated to the words of George Adamski. Single copies available for £1 or £4 for 4 issues from Cliffe Poole, 94 Kelbrooke Court, Offerton, Stockport SK2 5MT.

Shops

Falcon Books of Salltaire - has very good selection of second-hand works on mysticism, parapsychology, occultism, etc., & an extensive selection of archaeology works. Call at 13 Victoria Road, Salltaire, Shipley (afternoons only) or tel. 0274 584274.

Sorcerer's Apprentice - Europe's biggest dealer in occult & magick regalia, plus books of virtually every aspect of occultism, the paranormal, etc. 4-8 Burley Lodge Rd., Leeds LS6 1PQ. Callers by appointment only.

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There are still hundreds of occult, paranormal & UFO books for sale. Many paperbacks at 40, 50 & 60p each. Books by authors such as Fort, Castaneda, Steiger, Crowley, Vallee, Humphreys, Spence, Summers, Watson & many more. Callers welcome. If sending for lists please enclose large SAE. Call or write to 61 Ranelagh Avenue, Ravenscliffe, Bradford 10.

Elements of Tarot - by Peter Southwood - A clear and concise introduction to the practical use of Tarot cards - 48 pages - £2.50 inc P&P from Bobtail Press, 22 Main Street, Haworth, W. Yorks

Computer - Commodore C64 with cassette and 1520 printer/plotter. Lots of software including hi-res graphics, educational programs and teach yourself programming. £135 the lot. phone Bradford 642468

Wanted

"Earth Magic" by Francis Hitching, and "Needles of Stone" by Tom Graves. Your prices paid, probably! Write to David Pendleton, 12 Wrose View, Wrose, Shipley BD18 1AD, West Yorkshire.

"Inner Keltia" magazine, Nos. 1, 2 & 3. The Pagan Druidic publication of the College of Druidism. Your prices paid. Write to 'Snybz' via the editor

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