



LANTERN

Number 30

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INTRODUCTION

For the past nine years or so I have been actively involved in the Borderline Science Investigation Group, although during the past two or three years my involvement has become less and less - with the exception of editing and producing LANTERN. This year it has become all too clear to me that, because of the pressure of outside interests, I can no longer continue to be actively involved in the running of the Group. As from this month I pass the reins of running and organising the Group into the hands of others - although I hasten to add that I WILL continue editing and producing LANTERN for the foreseeable future and I will also continue to be a member of the BSIG. I would like to thank everyone who has helped me with the running of the BSIG over the years and wish luck to those that are taking over. All enquiries regarding the Group should be addressed to Robert Goldsmith, Secretary, at the address on the facing page.

With this edition of LANTERN comes another cross-section of East Anglian curiosities ranging from 'Old Scare' - a phantom dog of Great Yarmouth through ley lines and fairies to UFOs and ghosts. As always we welcome contributions of material for publication.

Ivan Bunn - Editor.

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FROM: The 'Lowestoft Journal': May 1st, 1970:

POLICE SEAL TOWN IN MYSTERY BLAST

Police sealed off the bridge at Lowestoft and Oulton Broad on Tuesday night, following the latest and largest in the series of explosions that have hit Lowestoft and district in recent weeks. Reports of the 'blast' came from as far afield as Beccles, Caister and Southwold, and immediately after the bang Lowestoft fire siren sounded, leading many to believe that a massive explosion had taken place. The fire, however, was purely coincidental - a minor one in a shed in Beaconsfield Road. The only damage traced up to yesterday was to a house in Southwold where the occupant reported plaster brought down from a ceiling.

Road blocks were set up in Lowestoft and Oulton Broad because the boom operated a burglar alarm in the Bridge Road area, but although police were quickly on the scene, no trace of a break-in was discovered.

'FEAR'

The explosion was heard at 10.38pm and exhaustive enquiries on Wednesday and yesterday failed to discover a source for the explosion. The density of reports seemed to indicate that the hub of the shock waves which hit homes all over the area was over Oulton Broad, where a spokesman at an old people's home said, "Some of our residents were disturbed and there was a bit of fear".

Phone calls to American Air force bases all over south and east England

(cont. on p.6)

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LOCAL LEY LINES

No 2: BARSHAM, SUFFOLK TO HALES, NORFOLK

NOTE: Bearing of alignments and orientation of churches are all expressed in degrees and minutes east of magnetic north. Grid references refer to the centre of the site described, except in the case of large features such as camps etc., where the reference given is to the point at which the alignment strikes or cuts the site.

This alignment is situated immediately to the west and north-west of Beccles, being approximately 4.1 miles in length and consisting of four points, plus confirmatory sites. It runs from South-south-east to North-north-west at a bearing of $175^{\circ} 48'$.

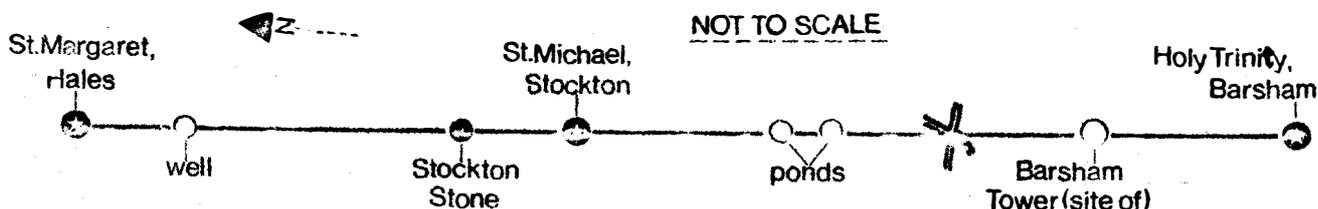
1) - HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, BARSHAM (TM397896): orientation 90° . As recorded in LANTERN 28, fire has recently gutted this Norman building, leaving only the round tower and the bare walls of the nave standing. The alignment begins in the centre of the north wall of the nave, heading a little way north to the site of BLANNERHASSETT'S TOWER. This odd, circular tower, whose purpose is still unknown, was probably raised by the Blennerhassett family in the mid-16th century, and destroyed about 30 years ago. It has connections with the legend of a coach and horses which appears every Christmas Eve. The photograph of the tower published in LANTERN 26 shows almost the exact course of the ley, passing over the POND in the foreground. Crossing the river Waveney, the alignment then strikes the raised, western edge of a JUNCTION OF THREE ROADS AND A TRACK near Firtree Farm at Geldeston. Two 'flashes' or OVAL PONDS are then met, each surrounded by trees. The ley grazes the eastern side of the first pond. From the second, almost on a parish boundary, the next point can be seen across the fields, which is:



Stockton Stone in 1920

2) - ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH, STOCKTON? (TM388942); orientation 101° . A Norman and 13th century church, with a round tower and spire. Two large worked stones outside the south porch probably came from some earlier building. The ley cuts across the east wall of the chancel, before squarely striking:

3) - STOCKTON STONE (TM386946): An ancient megalith, three feet high, on a grassy bank above a lay-by (part of the old A146 road). Possibly a boundary marker. There are entries in local records in 1632 and 1645 for putting 'stulpes' or posts around it. A vague, unconfirmed tradition exists that the Danegeld was paid at the Stone. Legend says that whoever moves it will die or meet grave misfortune within a year. At one time only twelve inches showed above ground, but the County Council uncovered it. Sometime between 1918 and 1924 the Stone was moved for road work, but all accounts state that it was



noise from front room as if furniture being moved, Mrs. B thought it was the boys home and she went to open the door which was ajar, found no-one there and presumed it to come from one of the front rooms, looked and found nothing to account for noise. Uneasy house after that and about 5.30 house went cold although fires had been lit. Went to bed at 10 o'clock after hearing two lots of footsteps. Bedroom very cold and I remarked on it. Gerald went to bed but sat up while I laid down, after a few minutes it felt as if there was someone in the room. A few minutes later Gerald asked me to look at his bed, it seemed as if the bedcover was either being plucked at by hands or else a cat was clawing at it. We spoke to it and asked it to go and find its mum, but it continued. He (Gerald) let the covers loose and moved his legs several times, but still it moved. In the end Gerald yanked the covers up and a bump was heard by us both as if it had fallen ~~xx~~ to the floor. Before Gerald decided to yank the covers up the bed took on the impression as if a small child was either lying on it or had laid there. Uncomfortable after that, but when we fell asleep we were undisturbed.

Gerald 'phoned the vicar this evening who called at about 9 o'clock; not a lot of help, but promised to try and get some help and advice.

Cat behaved strangely.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th:

Was able to stay in house but didn't feel able to move around the house. Was also able to leave the house 3 times and return without any real fears. Gerald and Craig went upstairs to look for wallet that Gerald had lost, on reaching second landing they both saw a flash of light, it was either like a spotlight or a lightning flash, go across the landing wall. They went into Julie's and baby's room and in the corner where the light seemed to disappear, Gerald's wallet was found. Still no sign of the missing bible.

At 9.30 (pm) movements were heard upstairs quite plain, and again at a few minutes to ten. At 10 minutes passed 10 a crash-bang-wallop of a noise of movement from hall, and then about a minute later from upstairs. We were all together in the dining room at the time. We all sat and watched strange behaviour of cat, we think it can sense something now. At about 11 o'clock we all went upstairs, but David and Gerald came down again. All of a sudden Craig went stiff and white, and when asked what was wrong, he pointed to the window in front bedroom and said he had seen a white cloudy flash across the window wall. On Gerald's bed the same movements again but not so clearly, no bump when bed clothes shook, averaged 2 to 3 movements to one of Gerald's pulse. Was not disturbed after that. Bedroom was colder and landing than other parts of the house at that time.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th:

House has a better atmosphere so far today, continued all day until the evening. Time 9pm, Gerald heard heavy footsteps from spare room, Craig heard them as well while in the kitchen with Gerald. Several noises like bangs which we all heard. On getting into bed, Gerald's bed again had movement of bedclothes, and he got out of bed and shook clothes, but they resumed the movements. At about 2.45 (am) I was woken up hearing bare feet padding in hall. Gerald's bed this morning had the outline of a smallish child and looked as if it had been pulled up.

Gerald noticed on arrival home, smell of rotten fish about 5.30 (pm), still lingering in house at 10 o'clock, mostly by front door.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1st:

Awoke and felt an air of apprehension as if we are not alone. Noise at 8am of light furniture upstairs. At 8.30am sounds of movement twice from front room or storeroom. Out all day. Sounds of person moving from staircase and bedroom. Roy arrived and fixed mikes and amplifiers up, Roy said presence would make static noises. During night heard it once. After going to bed at 3.30 noises were heard but unable to record. Presence felt in my bedroom at 4 o'clock and sounds of clapping or clicking from baby's bed. No more

heard by anyone.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2nd: (Myself, Gerald, Roy, Julie, James, George and kids)

Presence felt in house at about 10 minutes to 8 (pm), started to get static noises seconds after, continued for about 20 minutes. House started to get cold. Smell of rotten oranges has come up twice today again by front room and once inside as if by gram. Footsteps sounded several times, men stopped up to investigate but peaceful night on whole.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3rd:

Lovely atmosphere about house all day. At about 9.30 (pm) went to bed and music was heard by Julie and myself about 15 minutes. Gerald and Roy heard footsteps at about the same time, both went to investigate in all rooms. Noises on amplifier, but peaceful night.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4th: (Gerald and myself)

Atmosphere in house not too bad. Static noises on equipment but only for about 20 minutes, otherwise peaceful night. Baby told Julie that the moon had come to see her.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5th: (Gerald and myself)

Woken at 4.10 (am) by a noise, don't know what. House wasn't too bad but felt uneasy on my own. At 11.15pm noises on equipment for a long time. Heard conversing but on tuning to a louder tone it became distorted. Unable to tape-record as it jammed.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6th:

House has a better feeling again. Thought I heard movements at about 4 o'clock in afternoon, cannot be sure. Very peaceful night, no one heard anything at all.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7th:

Very good day and night, heard nothing at all. Mr. and Mrs. B called about ladder and Mrs. B remarked how different the house felt.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8th:

Noises at just after 9 in the morning, nothing else - good day and night.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9th:

Reporters called today were very well informed, don't know where they got their information. Footsteps very clear at 7.20 this evening heard by Julie, Craig and myself. At 12.30am heard soft footsteps on the landing. Gerald and Roy also heard noises as if from front room shortly after. Went to investigate and found front room ceiling full of flies and wedding cake on floor, couldn't have fallen. Roy said the smell was either Ether or Meths. Gerald wasn't sure but said it was like a hospital smell. I awoke to footsteps walking quite clearly at around 4.10 in early morning, Craig was also woken up hearing same. Plug of amplifier was found to be broken last night so we think there may be something in Roy's theory.

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oooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo ISSUE. ooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

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+ MYSTERY BLASTS (cont from p.1): failed to elicit positive replies as to +
+ exercises over the North Sea or the Lowestoft area on Tuesday evening and ++
+ a spokesman at the Ministry of Defence, London, denied that the bang was +
+ a sonic boom caused by Royal Airforce aircraft. +
+ But in the Yarmouth area, one resident who heard the boom also heard +
+ aircraft cruising in the vicinity immediately afterwards. +
+ Another 'mystery tremor' at Lowestoft was reported in the Lowestoft Jour- +
+ nal on April 17 1970, this whoever was a minor one and only warranted a +
+ few lines in the paper. +

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From the prolific pen of our old friend Ralph of Coggeshall comes the 12th century

'MALEKIN' A SUFFOLK CHANGELING

tale of an human changeling who took the form of a ghost haunting Dagworthy Castle in Suffolk.

There are many faery types found in folklore and I suppose one of the most ubiquitous would be the Brownie, a helpful domestic type, handy to have about provided certain conditions were met. Malekin, although a house-dweller had little in common with the Brownie as she performed no domestic services other than entertaining the inhabitants of Dagworthy Castle that is.



Speaking with the voice of a one year old child her story was revealed. - As a baby her mother had gone working in the cornfields and left her basket elsewhere as she toiled away. The ever-present, ever threatening 'Good People' came by and swiped the baby away. One wonders if in their haste they may not have erred, after all, it was unusual to steal a baby girl; maidens and fully mature beauties, yes - but very rarely babies. Also it was the usual way to leave an ugly fairy baby in the place of the mortal one and in this instance there is no evidence that they complied with this well-established tradition.

So Malekin, whisked away to fairy-land and presumably being given fairy food, was no longer required to respect mortal laws. So her invisible self took up residence in Dagworthy Castle. At first the occupants were frightened but eventually they got to know her and her ways. She was often heard but only seen once. Her story she revealed to a favourite chambermaid who always left food out for her. In a broad Suffolk accent she told her tale and added that she had been with the fairies for seven years but hoped to regain her mortality when another seven had passed. Her apparently humble origin did not stop her from discoursing with the chaplain in Latin about the scriptures.

The chambermaid persuaded her to put in an actual visual appearance, a request with which Malekin complied, but only after getting a promise from the chambermaid that she would neither "touch her nor try to detain her."

The maid described Malekin as a being like a tiny child dressed in a white linen tunic.

If Malekin ever did regain her mortality we do not learn, but either way the provision of honest mortal food must have been very important as this would, one can assume, nullify the effects of the fairy fare and so at least allow the hapless changeling a sporting chance of coming back to human-kind.

This is the earliest tale of a changeling recorded.

SEE - 'The Vanishing People' by Katherine M. Briggs.

R.A. HAXELL

+++++ BOOK REVIEW +++++

= ALIEN ANIMALS, by Janet & Colin Bord - pub. by Granada - £7.95

+ This latest offering from the Bord stable is a world-wide in-
 + vestigation into lake monsters, Giant birds and birdmen, black dogs, mystery
 + pumas and BHMs (big hairy monsters). This is an interesting and profusely
 + illustrated book which no 'fortean' should be without. Of particular inter-
 + est to East Anglian readers will be the section on black dogs, which, under-
 + standerby contains much from our region including some of the research of
 + the editor of Lantern, Ivan Bunn. The whole book makes for very interesting
 + and enjoyable reading, although personally I must admit that Appendix I -
 + entitled 'A few hints for monster watchers' rather silly and unnecessary.
 + With it's Bibliography, copious notes, appendices and index, Alien Animals
 + is to my mind one of the best books so far produced by the Bords and I would
 + not hesitate to recommend it to all who have an interest in the subject.
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 + JR

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'OLD SCARFE'

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was first published in 'The Yarmouth Independant' newspaper on January 7th, 1893; under the title 'Tales and Traditions of Old Yarmouth - OLD SCARFE (A Legend of the "Duke's Head" Vaults)'; by Percy De Lisle.

Old Scarfe! Who was Old Scarfe?

The origin of the legend is very remote; it appears to have descended from the early ages, a survival of some old tradition - handed down from the Danish conquerors to their descendants, which, re-appearing after a lapse of years, became rehabilitated in a new guise.....

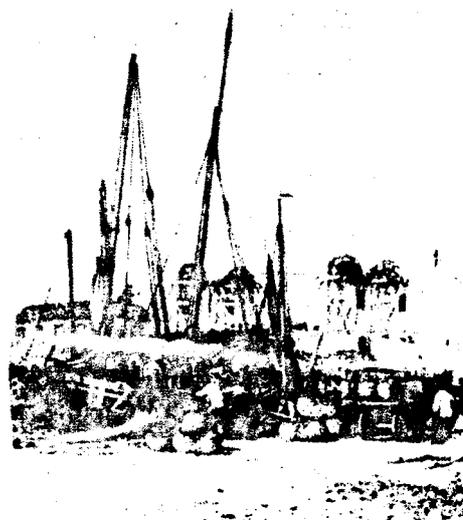
For many years the name of Scarfe was employed as a bugbear to frighten naughty and unruly children. The belief, at one time, in existence of this individual was almost universal; he was gifted with possessing extraordinary powers, which were invariably applied for the purpose of working evil against humanity in general, and women in particular, but thanks to certain restrictions which were placed upon him, his hours of liberty were curtailed, therefore his opportunities for doing mischief were somewhat handicapped.

Old Scarfe was greatly feared by all classes of the community, rich and poor alike. All but those persons whom a superior and more liberal education had rendered invulnerable to the wiles and pitfalls of superstition, were afraid to pass over the bridge at midnight, through fear of encountering the much-dreaded Scarfe. This gentleman, according to popular belief, was always to be seen going over the bridge at the stroke of twelve; yet he did not confine his attentions to this particular spot, but perambulated the whole town, for he was to be met at different parts between the hours of twelve and two, appearing under various disguises.

There were many tales current respecting Scarfe's exploits, which, while differing in details, agreed in substance - the existence of such a being. He was generally believed to have been immured many years ago in the vaults of the "Duke's Head", by the Catholic priesthood for "so long a time as the waters flow beneath Yarmouth bridge." As a matter of fact, the bridge to which the legend refers (Illustrated on the front cover, Ed) has been destroyed for many years, while a more modern and less unsightly structure has been erected in its stead, several yards to the south of the site of the old wooden one.

According to some versions, Scarfe was even to be found at midnight on either foot of the bridge, always heading in the direction of Gorleston - a neighbouring parish - in the outward form of a huge black dog of most ferocious aspect, loaded with heavy iron chains, which he rattled in a terrible manner as he dragged them after him; the ends falling on the ground gave out a sharp metallic ring now and then varying in sound like the beats of a blacksmith's sledge upon the anvil - as they came in contact with the stones and other impediments that lay in his path. He also by these accounts seems to have been gifted with the power of ubiquity, for he had been seen almost at the same minute in spots widely apart - two or three miles distant from each other - at least, so it was averred by persons long since deceased, whose veracity cannot be impugned.

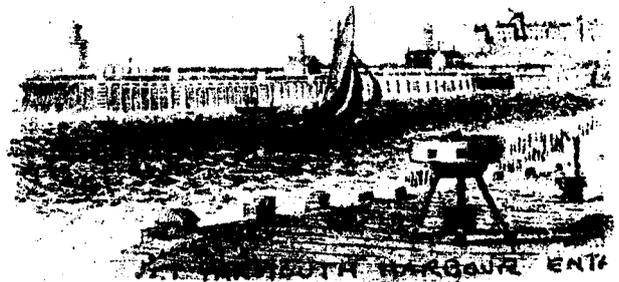
A buxom young dame - the wife of a sailor who at that time was at sea - was returning home one night in company with another female about her own age, from a rather hilarious family gathering, where she and her friend had been spending the evening cheerfully; proceeding together till they had reached



A Yarmouth three-masted lugger unloading just below Yarmouth Bridge which was erected in 1785. It was converted from a lever to pulley lifting system, as illustrated, about 1810

"White Lion Opening" (now St. Peters Road - Ed.) where her companion lived, here they separated, and she was left to go her way alone towards Blackfriar's Road, to her own home. When she had arrived within a few feet of her door, a horrible black dog with starting eyeballs that gleamed like balls of fire, suddenly sprang out of the surrounding darkness upon her, placing his two huge fore paws on her shoulders, and gazing intently upon her countenance, his fierce breath of obnoxious odour, which came in short sharp exhalations, struck her face like the hot blasts of some fiery furnace. Terribly frightened by the horrible aspect of the monster who had attacked her, the woman gave several screams and fell insensible on the road, where she was found early the following morning by the watch, still in an unconscious state, from which, however, happily, she soon afterwards recovered. But this was not the only evil that accrued from the involuntary meeting of the lady and Old Scarfe. Involuntary on the part of the former, who, at the time was in that interesting condition it is said "ladies like to be who dearly love their lords". Disastrous were the results which followed the rencontre, and both loud and deep were the imprecations and maledictions hurled upon the hoary head of Scarfe by the devoted husband, when he heard of his wife's mishap.

Old Scarfe had, by other accounts, been occasionally seen standing upon the Quay head, on the west side of the river Yare, gazing intently into the dark and turbid waters which rushed below him, in the guise of an abnormally large goat, from whose forehead extended two magnificent and luminous horns, his eyes likewise partook of the same peculiar property. In these instances, as no mention is made of chains, he appears



to have roamed about the neighbourhood as free and unshackled as when upon his native mountain heaths. When Scarfe assumed the form of this active and sure-footed animal, he was not so greatly feared, at least, he did not work so much havoc in the minds of the superstitious residents as when wandering to and fro in the canine form he usually adopted. The assumption of the goat-like habit seems to have been chosen by Scarfe as a holiday attire, in his moments of relaxation, or through a grim sense of humour. When in this form he shunned the town itself, and the "unfeathered biped" race altogether, in the latter of whom he generally manifested a marked degree of interest devoting his attention to the surrounding country, where he employed his leisure in maiming horses and valuable cattle. Farmers not unfrequently found on the morning after the fiend had been seen about in capriform disguise, their stock fearfully gored, which wounds they, the farmers, were wont to declare, were produced by the butting of the infernal horns of Old Scarfe. Such occurrences fortunately for the well-being and prosperity of the farmer, were very rare indeed.

The Southtown or turnpike road was frequented more by this terrible being than any other, which was, doubtless, due to the fact that it was the only road that communicated with Gorleston and Burgh Castle; to the latter place he made a nightly pilgrimage.

A countryman, journeying from the village of Hopton, met Scarfe one night, just as he was entering the boundaries of Gorleston. The latter personage, on seeing the man, instantly turned round and accompanied him along the road he was travelling. In this case Old Scarfe still retained the shape of a black dog, laden heavily with chains, which he rattled ominously as he trotted beside the terrified pedestrian, now and again relieving the monotonous clanking of the shackles by giving utterance to a deep low growl.

Some distance the pair traversed the road together, but the countryman had, in the meantime, recovered the power of speech, of which he had been bereft by the sudden appearance of his diabolical four-footed companion. His fears having somewhat abated he resolved thereupon to address a few gentle words of remonstrance to the shade of Scarfe, for he entertained not the slightest doubt at the time as to whom the individual was who had forced himself upon

U.F.O. NEWS...

Obviously, being a UFO Investigator, I get to hear of some interesting sightings although some do turn out to be IFOs (Identified Flying Objects). For example - aircraft, when they are turning, their lights at a distance seems to be stationary - which in fact is an optical illusion. The AIO aircraft have been a nightmare for me. A few months ago there were twelve AIOs doing exercises over Lowestoft, turning over Bradwell and Belton. I must admit that I got quite excited, but I made some telephone calls to several airforce bases one of which confirmed that they had AIO aircraft in the area I sympathised with all the people who 'phoned me and found it very hard to convince them that it was aircraft that they had been watching.

One unidentified sighting that was particularly interesting was at Fleggburgh, Norfolk on the evening of November 13th, 1979. The witness, who wishes to remain anonymous, gave this account of his sighting:

"I first saw an object move in the sky some distance away which was travelling slowly towards me. On one side was a white flashing light and on the other side were coloured lights. It moved right over my head. It was very low and fairly big - I would estimate the height at 200' and the span 60'. It moved into the distance south of me, the light could still be seen flashing, this then arched back north again and out of sight. On looking to the south another flashing (white) light was observed and then another. Three lights then moved north in a triangular formation and then split-up. Then some 700 yards away over another field, orange lights were observed. There were 4 or 5 in a boomerang formation - I think it was one complete structure. As it moved slowly towards us and was very close, an attempt was made to film the object, which then moved away to the south and appeared to land over the Acle marshes somewhere. Next thing the sky had 7 moving, flashing and coloured lights moving at varying speeds all around. One was particularly close and made a droning noise. They then moved into

formation and appeared to land somewhere over the Acle marshes. Flashing lights were seen at various other stages but it is difficult to remember everything exactly as so much happened."

Previous to the sighting the witness did not believe in UFOs.

Mr. Peter Johnson (co-ordinator for BUFORA) and myself interviewed the witness on tape; he admitted that he was frightened and on one occasion he thought that he was going to be attacked. The witness is an intelligent man with 11 O levels and 3 A levels and has a very responsible job in a local hospital.

There are many sightings that are not reported owing to the amount of ridicule that can sometimes be involved, although more and more people are questioning and wanting to know more about this phenomena.

I often wonder if the government are waiting until more people know about UFOs before they make their own reports public.

There have been many books written on the subject of UFOs, although I have found many record the same story, maybe now that we have more reports coming in we will have some books with new material. Peter Paget, author of The Welsh Triangle has written a new book, due to be published at the end of August, entitled UFO UK, which, as the title suggests, deals only with UK sightings, with some East Anglian reports being mentioned, so I look forward to some interesting reading. In the next issue of LANTERN I hope to be able to give you some news of a film being made this year on UFOs. All I know so far is that it is based on the book The Ufonauts by Prof. Hans Holtzer (published by Panther Granada).

August is going to be an interesting month owing to meteor showers - so watch the skies!

Dot Street.

EDITORS NOTE: For further information on the 'UFOs' seen on November 13th, 1979 - See Lantern 28, p.12 and Lantern 29 p.12.

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o If you see something unusual in the sky, please report it to Dot Street
o I5 Blackberry Way, Lowestoft. Tel:
o Lowestoft (0502) 84606. She'll be
o very pleased to hear from you.
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