

# NESS INFORMATION SERVICE

## NESSLETTER 141

### NOVEMBER 2001

DE JE VUE

As a postscript to NIS 140. Jan Sundberg has been referred to in the Nessletter before, or rather by his full name Jan Oue-Sundberg. Nessletter No 3 May 1974 :- "There was a report in the Yorkshire Evening Post about the exorcism performed by Dr J. Omand, accompanied by Ted Holiday, last year. This also brought U.F.Os. into the mystery, and Swedish researcher Jan Oue-Sundberg, who reported seeing a grey cigar shaped object land near the loch, in the vicinity of Foyers, a crew of three got out, and then board the craft again and fly off. Also after the exorcism Mr Holiday and another witness experienced Paraphysical phenomena at Strone, by Urquhart Bay. A loud crash was heard and a whirling black cloud-like manifestation was apparently seen through a window." Sundberg plus the occult from 27 years ago!!

ANDREAS TROTTMANN

Early in July Andreas sent word of a short trip to the loch he had just returned from. The weather was warm and not too windy, heavenly conditions for the midges he said. His arms and legs bearing signs of their bites. He was able to record several hours of underwater sounds with his Hydrophone. He will be able to analyse the obtained results with special computer software. All his work was done from the shore, being there for only a short stay he was unable to organise a boat for mid-water trials.

When using the Hydrophone near the surface, Andreas found the variety of powerful sounds absolutely astonishing! Especially the loud and high pitched noises of boat engines. He was also able to hear aircraft passing, and in the vicinity of roads, lorries rumbling and people walking. Putting himself in the position of a large and possibly shy creature in the loch (perhaps needing seldom to breath fresh air or even never on surface), he would be highly afraid to approach these sound levels. A further possible indication towards it's behaviour respectively its rare surface appearances, he suggests.

He had been joined on his first full day at Fort Augustus by Doug and Margaret Macfarlane. They spent a most enjoyable day on various sites around the loch. When at Inverfarigaig they had been approached by an elderly local gentleman, who told them about a sighting (he was unaware of any of the details) had by an acquaintance. A down to earth person, who became a believer, he stated.

Andreas usually begins his camera watches around 6am, mainly in the Fort Augustus area, but also at Foyers, on the old jetty at Inverfarigaig, Dores or Invermoriston. He found the ground floor rooms and grounds of the Old Abbey were open to the public. So took the opportunity to set up his cameras by the estuary of the river Tarff, where Rudolf Lipinski had his extraordinary sighting in 1975 (NIS 11 Oct.'75). By pure chance Andreas came across his grave in the Abbey cemetery.

On the Thursday of his stay, Andreas observed from Dores two Royal Navy vessels on the loch. They were on a parallel course off Abriachan, when one of them suddenly made a sharp 360 degree circle and came back on course, then accelerated until it was again parallel to the other boat. Such a manoeuvre is usually done, when verification of an object observed (mobile or stationary) on sonar takes place. Andreas did not hear anything further about it, but he did wonder.

While there Andreas had been able to discuss the photographs taken by James Gray with various people. The general impression was rather sceptical, a floating log being one explanation put forward. The object remaining rigid as it changed position. Andreas also remarked it was strange that Gray only took five shots, as the object was still on the surface in the last. I also heard that there was nothing else, or very little else on the roll of film. As it had not been processed immediately, because Gray said he did not think he had anything worthwhile, perhaps we could expect some of the following frames to have exposed!! Andreas said, nevertheless we have to remember in the past several witnesses have reported observing fast swimming 'telegraph pole' like objects. Many years ago he spoke to a former LNI member, who had exactly such an encounter off Inverfarigaig.

A short stay but, as usual, very enjoyable. He also had a bonus of watching, with great delight, a family of Dolphins sporting themselves close to shore in the Beaully Firth. In with his letter he sent me two articles from the Irish Times about Lough Ree.

## LOUGH REE

Lough Ree is situated slightly north of the centre of Ireland, the middle one of the three great Shannon lakes, of irregular shape some seventeen miles long and dotted with islands. A limestone lake, rich in aquatic life, with a maximum depth of 120 feet.

Irish Times, Thursday March 15 '01, an international exploration team was planning a major expedition in search of the Lough Ree monster. The Global Underwater Search Team, which has already undertaken expeditions to Loch Ness, would look on the lake bed for evidence of the large serpent-like creature which has been reported for hundreds of years. Witnesses claim the creature is eel-shaped, with its body looping out of the water when it swims.

Possibly the best documented report was made in 1960, by three Catholic priests. According to accounts at the time, Fathers Richard Quigley, Matthew Burke and Daniel Murray were fishing on Lough Ree when one of them spotted a large black animal swimming up the lough. The creature rose and fell beneath the surface, forming a loop as it travelled. at least six feet long with a relatively small 18 inch head. While not of the 'monster' proportions of some earlier sightings, it had been reported by credible witnesses. So more local people were encouraged to come forward with their own accounts. Sightings of monsters in Lough Ree date from St Mocha of Balla's reference (undated in the article) to a stag which was pursued to an island in the lough, but was safe there as none of the hunters were keen to risk being devoured by the monster said to inhabit the lake.

The GUST team, led by Jan Sundberg, were to make a preliminary visit to the area in June '01, to make plans for the expedition proper. The team were said to have mounted expeditions in Sweden, Norway and Scotland. It was also said that they had won 'critical acclaim from the scientific community' (?) by their approach of lowering listening devices into Loch Ness. The article also remarked that it was coincidence that Sundberg's first search for unknown animals in freshwater lakes, took place at Sraheens Lough on Achill, Co Mayo, Ireland, in 1975. I wonder what Sundberg was doing at Loch Ness in '74, if not looking for Nessie? Perhaps he had been seeking the UFO after all.

The three man GUST expedition, Jan Sundberg, Sweden, Nick Sucik, Hawaii, and Espen Samuelson, Norway, arrived at Lough Ree on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June '01. Based on the east shore, in Glasson, they set up their computers and hydrophone. When in the water their equipment can pick up conversation from two kilometres. To lessen the impact of boats and land-based sounds, the team goes out on the lake in the late evening, until after midnight. Sundberg reckons the topography of the lake bed, full of ups and downs, rocks and canyon-like crevices, is ideal for an eel-like creature. They were looking in a quiet corner of Lough Ree, north of Hare Island on the Leinster shore, off the marked navigation, where Sundberg expects external noise to be minimal. He maintains the expedition was conducted along strict scientific lines, with unnecessary interference kept to the minimum.

At 10.30pm on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June, the team recorded a sound they thought they recognised. "We thought it was the same sound we have recorded in Norway when we were looking for horse-eels there. It was very faint, but it was an animal sound, not a boat, and it was not in our library of known creatures" Sundberg said.

The article then goes on to say, "One sequence sounded like large bodies propelled by large flippers, moving through the water. Analysis would suggest the movements resembled a plesiosaur, a legendary creature." It then expands a bit about plesiosaurs. Going on to mention James Gray's photographs being taken the day after they left. As the bit about 'large, flipper propelled bodies' had been used in the first article, and the Gray photos were taken at Loch Ness. I can only presume that the two articles had become confused, and the last bit had nothing to do with Lough Ree but Loch Ness.

I wonder which section of 'the scientific community' critically acclaimed the hydrophone approach of the GUST team? It was hardly innovative. Over thirty years ago Bob Love, supported by the Loch Ness Phenomena Investigation Bureau, was doing work at Loch Ness with tape recorders and hydrophones. As was Ike Blonder with the Academy of Applied Sciences, once again supported by the LNPIB. I believe at that time Ike was the first to replay sounds he recorded, back into the loch, along with other animal sounds from elsewhere. He was trying to get a reaction to the theory of Territorial Prerogative. Without provable success I am sorry to say. Over the intervening years many other people have tried listening to what sounds there are in the loch, with various degrees of success. I suppose we must not make light of the efforts of the GUST team, but at the moment they do seem very interested in the media, as well as doing a bit of wheel reinventing.

## EARTHQUAKE

In late July, '01, Dr Luigi Piccardi addressed the Earth Systems Processes conference, in Edinburgh. Dr Piccardi, an Italian geologist at the Centre for the Study of Geology in Firenze, said that after extensive analysis of monster sightings in Loch Ness, he was convinced that the Great Glen Fault was the key to the legend. Loch Ness lies in this fault, one of the most active seismic areas in Britain. Dr Piccardi says that giant bubbles of gas released by shifts in the fault line give the appearance that the surface is being churned and disturbed by something large. Miniature earthquakes create strange ripples and waves, easily mistaken for the humps of a large creature. The good doctor also cites the first documented sighting by St Columba. The written account of the Life of Columba by Adomnan, in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, clearly uses words which he says describe an earthquake. He says in the original Latin, a dragon appears "cum ingenti fremitu -- with strong shaking". It disappears "tremefacta - shaking herself". He says that St Columba's report is what the legend originated from, yet it clearly describes an earthquake. Dr Piccardi also believes that the modern myth also owes its origins to seismic activity. The last big earthquake, with its epicentre at the Great Glen, occurred in 1934. He feels this led to the spate of reports in 1933/34, after the opening of the new motor road, which led to the establishment of the Loch Ness Monster, as we have come to know it. He said those people who thought they saw the monster were probably seeing the effects on the water of the foreshocks of the quake. Accounts were published in the Inverness Courier of sightings on 17<sup>th</sup> August '34, the same day as an earthquake..

This theory was given much newspaper coverage, with headlines such as, 'Quake theory shakes legend', and words such as 'Tremor-endous'. Perhaps it does give an explanation for one or two accounts, but I very much doubt it myself. It certainly does not provide us with the complete explanation. Although to be fair the doctor does not say that, he believes that of 3000 monster sightings, only 250 are truly mysterious. He does seem to have a 'thing' about his earthquake and fault line theory. Suggesting that the Oracle of Delphi had her visions as a result of hallucinogenic vapours rising from strata below, along a fault line. Also that mythological sites in Greece have strong links to geological faults. Being venerated because people saw unusual natural phenomena there.

## CATFISH

The above have been proposed, by some researchers, as possible candidates for the large creatures in Loch Ness. Here are two little snippets from newspapers. In February '01, a five foot long catfish was caught in a lake near Billingham, West Sussex, where it had been wreaking havoc. Weighing 15 pounds, it had 57 fish in its stomach when caught. Caught by Environmental Agency officials, one said the Wels Catfish, which is not native to Britain, could have destroyed the eco-system, he said, 'they are almost unstoppable'. It is now in the Brighton Sea Life Centre. They must have been able to empty its stomach without harming it. Even shorter report from October '01. In Moenchengladbach, Germany, a giant Catfish which ate a pensioner's Dachshund, was being hunted. An observer said, 'it was like a scene from Jaws'.

## HEUVELMANS

Bernard Heuvelmans, known as the father of Cryptozoology, died on August 24<sup>th</sup> 2001, two months short of his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. He had been fighting ill health since the mid-'90s. Born in Le Havre, France, with a Dutch mother and Belgian father. He developed a love of natural history at an early age. Studying zoology, he obtained his doctorate from the University Libre, Brussels. He served in the Belgian Army during the Second World War, finishing it as a POW. In 1948 his early interest in adventure fiction by authors like Conan Doyle and Jules Verne, was rekindled by open speculation that various prehistoric species could have survived to the present day, as in Doyle's 'The Lost World'. He then devoted his efforts to collecting and analysing data, scientific and legendary, seeking clues to possible 'undiscovered' animals. This led to the publication of 'On The Track Of Unknown Animals' in 1958, and 'In The Wake Of Sea-Serpents' in 1968. These books have inspired a new generation of Cryptozoologists, a word he coined in correspondence with other researchers. A truly sad loss.

## LAKE BALA

Over the years there have been a few reports from Lake Bala (Llyn Tegid), in North Wales. I have reservations about how much credence we can place on them. The lake not being really big enough and not connected to a major river system or other lakes and marshy areas; as are some of the smaller waters in Ireland that are reported to be home to large unidentified animals. It is also very well used for all types of water sports. Nevertheless it has caught the imagination of one of our members, Christian Ganzeboer, from the Netherlands. He sent the following, undated, account of a two day visit he and a friend spent there this summer ('01)

Llyn Tegid is situated on the western edge of Snowdonia National Park and is surrounded by the marvellous mountains of Berwyn, Arenig and Aran. Five miles long and half a mile wide it is the largest freshwater lake in Wales. On its northern shore lies Bala a small but pleasant town, which actually consists of a long high street (Stryd Fawr) with pleasant shops and good restaurants, and with a few streets left and right. In earlier times the Romans settled down here and built a fort and centuries later came the Normans who built a hill that still exists on the edge of town. It is called Tomen y Bala and was an ideal spotting place to look for potential enemies. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century Bala became famous for the production of woollen stocking, which were said to be the cure for rheumatism. It is also the place where Methodist minister Thomas Charles was inspired to found the British and Foreign Bible Society, and where the first sheepdog trials ever were held.

After a short walk through the town and failed attempts to find something about Teggie, as the monster is called, we reached the edge of Llyn Tegid on the north side, from where we had a stunning panorama of this vast body of water. We decided to sit on a picnic-bank, at the same time I was taking pictures and watching through my binoculars. The spotting place was ideal and so was the weather, bright and sunny. Unfortunately for monster-spotters the lake was very busy with wind-surfers and sailors. Their sails creating a colourful mosaic pattern in the water-mirror. The lake is a mecca for water-sporters. Like the Great Glen in Scotland, the valley of Llyn Tegid acts as a wind-tunnel which produces strong winds and makes it an ideal base for wind-surfing and sailing. So we were sitting there during the afternoon and spent the time watching, lunching, talking and speculating. We decide it was perhaps better to come back in the evening when it was more quiet on the lake. It should increase our chances of seeing something unusual. But even then it was not ideal, some people had parked their cars on the waitress's edge with their radios on. We felt a bit uncomfortable and decided to move on. In the nearby Tourist Centre I bought some books dealing more or less with Bala and the lake. In one of the books I found a few rules widened to Teggie, although it did not have anything I did not already know. It said the legend of Teggie was a modern one and that it had similarities with the Loch Ness Monster. Further on there was nothing more about Teggie to find, which surprises me still, because a lot of people in Wales, and especially Snowdonia have heard about 'the Welsh Loch Ness Monster'.

The second, and last, day of our holiday in Bala and of our stay in North Wales we decided to climb the Aran Fawddwy. At 907mts (almost 3000ft), it is the highest peak south of Mount Snowdon. It was a strenuous walk up, but after six hours we stood on the windy top and had a magnificent view of the surrounding mountains, and even of Llyn Tegid which from there was no larger than my fingernail.

That evening lying in bed I thought about the possibility of an unknown aquatic creature in Llyn Tegid. Certainly the habitat is perfect; the lake is very deep, its deepest parts up to fifty metres, it is dark and it is rich in fish like salmon, trout, perch and the mysterious gwyniad. On the other hand it is a very small lake. Comparing it to Loch Ness, it is only one sixth of the size. So it could be less difficult to trace large aquatic creatures, supposed they are in fact large.

But there still remains the few sightings through the years, by people who claimed to see something strange in the lake. At this moment I know nothing about most of these sightings. From only one sighting I know a little, and I think it is one of the more recent ones. It is from two men, from London, who saw in 1995 a small head and a long neck heading out of the water. But that is all I know for the moment. I do not even know if these sightings are recorded anywhere in a report. Therefore I have very little information to do a serious speculation about what kind of animal it could be.

Time and money permitting Christian hopes to return to Bala in the near future, to do further investigation, and perhaps find a solution to the question of something unexplained lurking in Llyn Tegid.

## MORE BALA

While looking through my file of Nessletters, recently returned after a very long stay with Dr Gibson of The Scottish Natural History Library, being copied, I found earlier references to Lake Bala. Nessletter 37 (Dec. '80) carried a report from the Sunday Express, 14<sup>th</sup> Oct. '79, along with the details of the lake, as above, there was the account by a Mrs Jones. In the September of that year she was being driven along the lakeside road when:- 'the water was suddenly disturbed and she saw for a short time a large, dark, humped shape. This submerged smoothly just leaving waves behind.' Telling her neighbours what she had seen, worried that they would laugh at her, she found that others had experienced similar things. Also in the cutting was an undated report by Lake Warden Mr Bowen, and his deputy, who saw what appeared to be a creature with two long, low, humps, cruising slowly on the surface, some forty yards off shore by their office.

Nessletter 42 (Oct. '80) also had comment by members on Lake Bala. Mrs Wallis had been visiting the area with a friend. Found it to be infested with canoes, said it was very beautiful, but small. Mrs Barbara Death enclosed a note with her subscription, during the years from 1960 to '70 she used to go there about twice a year. In that time she had never heard anything about strange animals or reports of unusual activity. Said it was very small, saying, 'you can see almost all of it at once'.

## ERIK BECKJORD

It is a long time since Erik featured in a Nessletter, although he has communicated with me. I have two of his recent letters to hand. In the first, which I now note is undated, he asks me to include the following in a Nessletter.

### A Wind Up Message on the State of Nessie Research—as of 2000 by Erik Beckjord, Nessie Search Project

To all who have enjoyed Rip's writing all these years: I sense the Rip is winding things down and may not publish much longer, and thus it is time to try to state what Nessie is now, to the best of knowledge as a vet of some six expeditions and many year of research into films I've taken and the films and photos of others. This is my opinion and no one is forced to accept it.

Nessie is not in any way a 100% full time "beastie". It is not part of our normal zoology, and no traps, sonar sweeps, or even draining the loch (could it be done) will ever, ever reveal a physical body of a zoological Nessie,---period. Of all the researchers, Ted Holiday was the most right on, and I see nothing that changes what he found. It is not that Nessie is elusive - it simply is not there on the basis that many investigators, what few are left, want. It bears a strong similarity when viewed frame by frame, in various films, mostly my own and also Dick Raynor's, to the Sasquatch being in the West. I do not mean in terms of arms nor legs, etc, but in terms of how it changes it's shape from frame to frame, and the images of smaller animal-beings, and men-beings, that one sees in the body mass. I find this in certain UFO photos as well, such as the famous Trinidad series, and some I filmed myself at Nevada's Area 51. There are faces, some with parts of bodies, 'in' or 'on', but probably part of the UFO/Sasquatch/Nessie as the case may be. It is a '*shape-shifter*'. It is here part of the time, and not the rest. It is composed of spirit images that can form a composite image of one larger 'thing' that moves for all of them. it can splash, and maybe it can be touched, just as Bigfoot leaves tracks and can scratch ineffectually at mere screen doors, but it is not there as a whale or a cow or a horse is there.

The remaining researchers, as I see it, are Shine, a sceptic, Raynor, a semi-sceptic, and myself, a Ted Holiday supporter. Rines seems to have gone inactive, and his team has largely, and sadly, passed away, although his son may possibly carry on. Rines has two incredible surface photos, one from his lost super8mm movie in 1971, and a great, great, still taken by the late Carol Rines from Tychat in 1975. Both show, in my humble opinion, this 'animals within animals' aspect, and - dare I use the word? - a paranormal Aspect. Both are mounted in my Nessie site under [www.beckjord.com](http://www.beckjord.com) -. On that same site, are already some stills from my 1983 Nessie film, (16mm) and soon, I will get to mount more stills taken by Alex Crosbie, who used my 35mm camera to get 8 stills from Achnahannet, 1987. (Say what you like about Alex, he is nevertheless psychic in his own way, just as much as Freddie Cary, and anyone can snap a photo.)

The reason for the decline in researchers is that there is a lack of success in the flesh and blood (f&b) search. That is because, I put it to you, there is no f&b Nessie, as such although there is a Nessie(s) that come up on demand and on command (Jennifer Bruce's photo, and the 1989 video by the Chaffins, and my own film - I was thinking that morning - "the loch is like glass, and it would be ideal for Nessie to appear." - And it did.) But is this all bad ? Or are we simply getting put on the proper track ?

I think we are. We have found the secret of Nessie, it is a mental manifestation of your (or others') desire to see it, and it feeds of your mind (like the 30 Japanese tourists who came over the hill in a bus, or the 12 kids near Fort Augustus in a bus...) and that energy is translated into a spirit being or multiple beings, all clinging to each other and moving onward, showing you that they are there, for Nessie needs us, to recognise her, just as much as we need to see Nessie. In a sense Nessie "R" us.

The second letter, dated 28<sup>th</sup> May '01, carries on with the same theme.

"I get hints all the time from your NIS you may not be able to publish it much longer, and I wish you the best of health, something we all need. I enjoyed parts of it for years. However, if you are open to any sort of criticism (are you?) I do wish to point out that invariably if there is a sighting, or photo, you are almost always against it and dismiss it. Unless someone you love dearly, like Alastair, does it.

They say that major theories do not die due to new evidence, they die only when the major proponents die off. I see Doc is gone and so is Wychoff. Rines may go soon. Adrian's bread gets longer. Tony is old and grouchy. And there is still no, no, no physical evidence for a physical flesh and blood Nessie. There never will be. After 1500 odd years, there should be, and there is not. The bottom is scanned, only beer cans, and a few sonar blips show up. (At this point Erik erupts into bold capital letters, Rip.) I want you to face it square--- There is No Physical Loch Ness Monster. (Reverts to normal print to go on) Dinsdale was right,---it is a paranormal thing, something he told me in person in Reading when I (Erik) visited him a few years before he died. He said he never made this public to preserve his book sales and lecture bookings. He kept it quiet 'for the money', I find this not a good thing.

His film, my film, Raynor's film, the stills Crosbie shot in '87, all have paranormal elements. If you go on the net, visit me at [www.beckjord.com/nessie](http://www.beckjord.com/nessie). There are photos. All this relates to Bigfoot and mystery black dogs and cats, and UFOs as well, they are all connected in my view.

Whether you continue with NIS or not, always remember—F.W. Holiday and Tim Dinsdale were right, and I am afraid to say, you are not. Best regards."

The heading on Erik's first letter said a 'wind up' message. At one point I did think it was 'a wind up', but then realised he is deadly serious. There is so much to comment on. Erik has suggested that in Loch Ness we are not dealing with a flesh and blood creature. That theory was put forward in Nessletter 55, in December '82, nineteen years ago. NIS member Roland Watson had been researching Tibetan 'Tulpas', and I featured his findings and thoughts on the matter. Roland postulated the physical universe is permeated with 'mind stuff', which is readily affected by every thought, like a stone thrown into water, creating a 'thought ripple'. Thus by meditation, or sustained intense emotion, this 'mind stuff' can be coagulated into a form to which some of the meditator's vitality is transferred. This form can be 'living' or inanimate. Roland said that the creating of Tulpas is an established religious rite among Eastern mystics. I will stop there as the account filled a page and a half. There are other aspects of the letters which could be commented upon. Time and space are getting short, perhaps members may like to comment.

However there is one thing that I feel I should give my opinion about. That is Erik's claim that Tim Dinsdale thought what we are seeking is a paranormal thing. I could have left Erik's letters in my files, then no one would have read them, so such a suggestion would not have been made known. However it is obvious that such things are on Erik's web-site. So in my small way, through the Nessletters, I feel I must strongly refute such a suggestion. I worked very closely under Tim for two seasons at LNI HQ Achnahannet, and corresponded with him for many years. At no time did he ever suggest that we should be looking for the paranormal. I am certain that until his untimely death, Tim was still searching for some sort of animal. Since receiving Erik's letters I have thought about it a great deal. The only thing I can recall is Tim's use of the word 'magical'. He often used the word in describing the loch, a magical place, with a magical atmosphere, and so on. But I am sure he used it as an adverb, along with beautiful, majestic, mysterious, spell-binding, and many more, to describe the loch and its surroundings. Not to carry the meaning that we were seeking something from the 'paranormal' world. Erik and I are at odds over this one.

Another Nessletter put together. Thank you for your support. Please remember your news, thoughts, comments are always welcome, and needed. The address as always:- R.R.Hipple, 7 Huntshieldsford, St John's Chapel, Weardale, Co Durham, DL13 1 RQ. Tel: 01388 537359. Subscriptions:- UK £2.75. USA \$10.00.

Rip