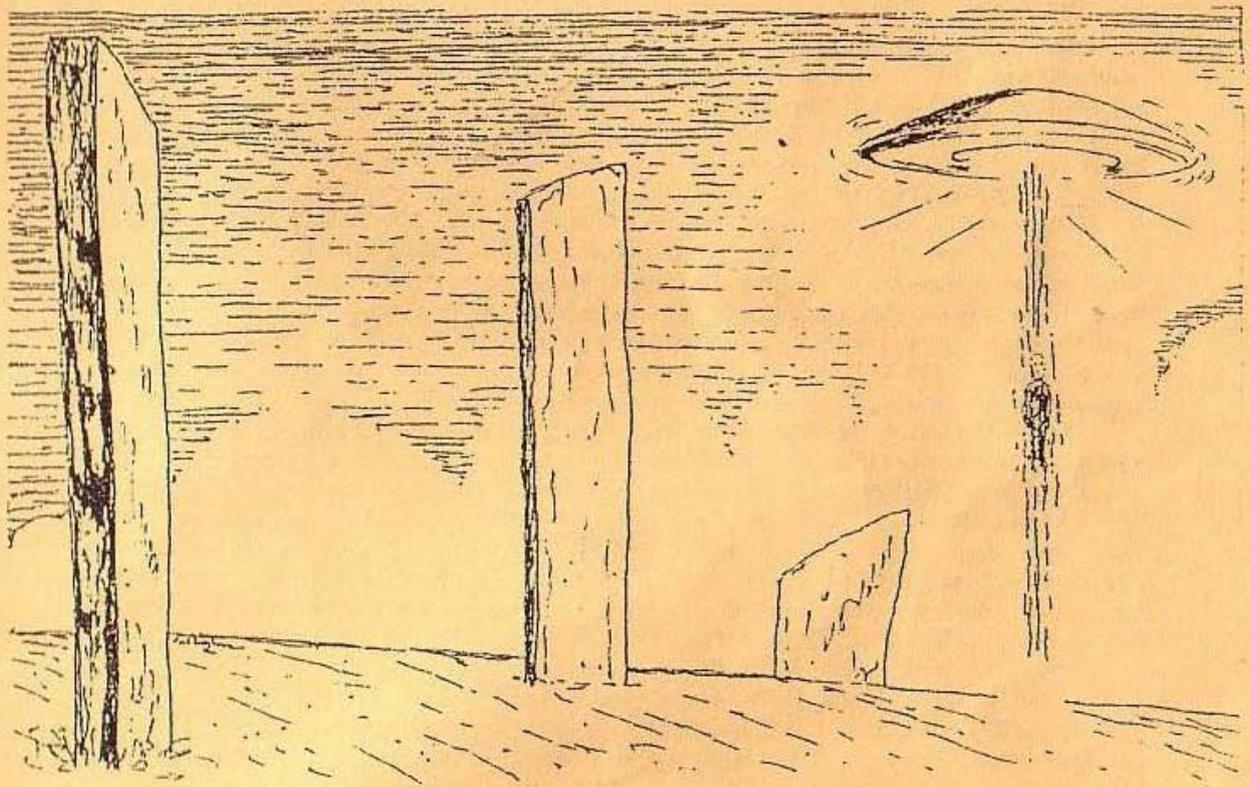


NORTHERN UFO NEWS

153

Winter
1992



All the news, views and up to date cases £6 for six
Editor: Jenny Randles Cover: Bill Callaghan
Logos: Bill Callaghan

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Warwickshire, ...including a CE III and the February 1992 North-West flap
... P 14 -16 Case Histories... UFO on video film at shopping mall, part two
...Plus a 'be a TV sleuth' competition!

37 HEATHBANK ROAD CHEADLE HEATH STOCKPORT CHESHIRE ENGLAND SK3 0UP

NB: An apology to readers who have wondered where this issue went! I had an extreme amount of work to do on book projects to very tight deadlines, an illness intervened and on top of it all Brigantia (which I was counting on to appear in February and neatly plug the gap) was late too! The April issue will follow more quickly to - hopefully - put us back on schedule.

J. R. Comments ... There was an interesting reaction to my editorial last issue about my 'abduction'. Opinions varied from those who said I had gone back on my word to a curious note in the latest Magonia which missed the point entirely. Not like them to be asleep, is it? ...

You will recall that I explained how in 1987 and 1988 whilst writing 'Abduction' I underwent a series of experiences with a clinical psychologist. This was partly to test a theory but mostly to see what it was like to go through the process of hypnotic regression back to a relatively innocent light in the sky encounter and see whether a CE IV would emerge.

I viewed this as an interesting experiment, particularly as it allowed me to comment on the experience of seeing CE IV 'memories' emerge under hypnosis. To me that was a darn sight better than musing about what goes on after overdosing on books by Budd Hopkins or John Rimmer and concluding that abductions MUST as a result be either one or other of the two extreme hypotheses (ie alien genetic probes or psychological delusions). At least by doing what I did I could relate precisely what happened for others and judge the accounts of abductees from some degree of first hand experience.

In particular it has made me very sympathetic of opinions expressed by abductee Alan Godfrey who told me that he could not be sure if the story he imparted via hypnosis was memory or fantasy; even though he KNEW what the UFO he saw WAS real. All he could do was describe the imagery that appeared and note honestly that he had read UFO accounts before the hypnosis took place which might have been a subconscious trigger for his 'recollections'. Based on what I experienced this is one of the most profound statements uttered by a leading CE IV witness and one I can absolutely vouch for.

On its own this is not an opinion for or against the validity of abduction data, but it is a cautionary tale worth repeating, because who is listening? I realise that objective researchers such as Eddie Bullard will contend that many CE IV cases do not emerge out of the hypnotic state but from 'conscious' recall. But is that a significant factor? You see, I have discovered from assessing the data that the more gifted you are at creative visualisation the more likely you are to recount a CE IV 'memory' when prompted. There is already ample evidence that abductees ARE creatively visual. Whether that means they are 'fantasy prone' (as Australian UFOlogist Keith Basterfield contends) or simply 'tuned in' to a perception the rest of us find more difficult to pick up remains another matter. You may form your own conclusion as to which is the more likely.

In other words, from this information plus the fact that close encounters involve an Oz Factor (and thus imply a degree of altered state of consciousness on the part of the percipient) similar mental processes could well be afoot in spontaneous and hypnotically stimulated recall of CE IV cases. After my hypnosis I remembered more in dreams and sudden flashbacks - eg during periods of reverie. Abductee Elsie Oakensen did as well without hypnosis by visualising and reconstructing the events on site.

The common denominator here is an altered state - one of the many shifts in consciousness we ALL go through every single day. Hypnosis, as I now know, is merely one more - neither more nor less magical. It is a trick some people find helpful to play mind games, but it is in itself neither the source nor the road to true insight of the abduction phenomenon.

Peter Rogerson in Magonia (quite ludicrously in my view) implied to the magazines readers that I was following in the footsteps of other UFOlogists and moving towards proclaiming that I was an abductee. This was never the point. I can no more say that than I can say I have lived a past life (although I have had hypnosis and explored that too with some interesting results checked with objective researcher Ian Wilson).

Nor was I back-tracking from my earlier editorial about the possible intelligent origin of some UFO cases (which I STILL accept). At least one reader accused me of being paid by the government to write the retraction they saw my 'abductee' report as being! It was not that either, as in truth it still leaves the door open for CE IVs to be contacts from other lifeforms whilst the creatively visual witnesses are in altered states.

No - what I WAS doing - and ALL I was doing - was setting forth a brief account of something I believed I should now share more widely as it has influenced my views on abduction data considerably. It proves nothing, of course. I know that. But it was for me of more use than logging cases, accepting witness stories implicitly, or guessing about the psycho-social basis of the abduction state. I tried an experiment and have reported what happened - no more, no less. You be judge of what that actually means.

NEWS ROUND-UP



:: Nigel Watson, whose recent controversial book on contactees created a stir, is back with vengeance this Spring. He tells me that he has a promising new title - 'Supernatural Spielberg' for release, reviewing the maestro's movies. Watch out for that. Hopefully a review copy will wend its way (hint - hint - Nigel!) and if so you'll read full details as soon as possible.

:: Dr Peter Talbot a BUFORA investigator from the western isles and Ireland (he moves around a bit) has received a curious letter from our old friend and former Irish UFO Research Centre stalwart, Miles Johnston. In a missive evidently sent to Irish UFOlogists Miles says ; 'Animal mutilations have radically increased in the north western Scottish Isles, so keep a look out...' Being based on the Isle of Lewis and well placed to check Dr Talbot did so. He spoke with many members of the close-knit community, including the Crofters Union HQ on Skye and its Stornoway branch, plus the newspaper that covers the islands. No such reports allegedly exist (although there was a reported rise in malformed lambs in the two years after the Chernobyl nuclear accident). Is this a 'folk tale' or is there a source for the rumours? Hopefully, Miles will tell us. It should be noted he does have quite a sense of humour. I was probably the only judge of the competition who knew that his wickedly funny entry to the Sunday Mirror 'win ten grand' crop circle competition was (I hope!) meant as a joke and not a serious theory. It was so well disguised it probably fooled everyone who did not know Miles. It certainly got through to the final selection of the 'best' theories that the newspaper picked out. Of course, I could be wrong. Miles might always have had a CE IV and now knows the truth.... Nah....

:: Belgian group NUFOC are to replace their excellent English language journal with two new publications; one covering sightings and one commentary articles. I am sure the high standards will be maintained.

:: Philip Mantle is trying to put together a comprehensive directory of global UFO groups (certainly needed - judging by how up to date have been lists by others in the past!) Groups from one member up will be included, plus details of all publications they offer. Sounds good. Just write with details to: - 1 Woodhall Dr, Healey Lane, Batley, West Yorks WF17 7SW

:: Susanne Stebbing Books (41 Terminus Dr Herne Bay Kent CT6 6PR) has asked me to point out that she is offering copies of my new American book on Bentwaters (From out of the Blue) (normally £15) to retailers, libraries and UFO groups at a discount of 25% for two or more copies. This brings the price well in line with the sum you must pay in the USA (\$11 in shops or \$18 from the publishers with a six week wait). Lionel Beer tells me he is hoping to retail copies as well (details of his terms when I have them). A mainstream US edition (from Ballantine) has now been agreed, so hopefully the book will become more widely available here as a result. But that's in the future. Meanwhile the cheapest source (possibly - as exchange rates, delays and postage have to be taken into account) is the \$10.95 from Arcturus Books (PO Box 831383 Stone Mountain GA 30083-0023 USA). You can from there also get some of the best of the new US titles not available in the UK yet (if ever)...eg the Schmitt & Randle paperback UFO crash at Roswell (\$4.95), Vallee's next new book, UFO Chronicles of the Soviet Union (\$18) or the new David Jacobs abduction 'big book' - Secret Life (\$21).

Finally on books, Kevin McLure, editor of The Wild Places, has put up for sale some interesting esoteric UFO material from the period 1955-1975 at pretty reasonable second-hand prices. Details from him at: -
42 Victoria Rd, Mount Charles, St Austell Cornwall PL25 4QD

:: Anthony North, well known literary entrepreneur and editor of the worlds only supernatural publications empire has launched a new venture - 'The 1992 Phenomena Comp'. The idea is to submit an article up to 1000 words on any mystery (from Nessie to UFOs or something odder). It can be serious, satirical or sceptical. A £1 per entry fee is required but the one judged best will win £25 and the 10 runners up a free years subscription to his 'Fireside Philosopher' mag. Closing date for entry is 30 July, winners notified by 30 October. If interested write: - Anthony North Enterprises BCM Keyhole London WC1N 3XX.

JACQUES VALLEE IN THE UK

It is several years since Dr Jacques Vallee packed a theatre in London's Covent Garden and gave an 'in concert' performance. But the celebrated author - model for scientist Lacombe in Spielberg's famous movie Close Encounters of the Third Kind and whose books from 'A Challenge to Science' and 'Anatomy of a Phenomenon' - first published over 25 years ago - have always been essential reading - is finally coming back to the UK to promote his new book 'Revelations'. He will first appear in a BUFORA lecture staged (I believe at Kensington Library, London, on the evening of Friday 24 April - details via BUFORA hotline on 0582-763218). Next day, he will take part in the north-west's first 'big event' of the UFO calendar.

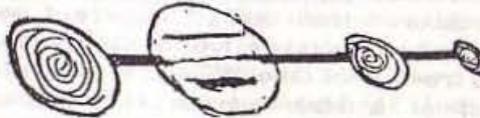
This is in a one-day conference built around his visit and organised by Enigma in Burnley. Aside from Jacques, stalwart long-standing US investigator George Fawcett will be appearing, ex BBC cameraman John McNish will be showing his crop circle footage just released on video and Peter Hough and I will be previewing our new book 'Looking for the Aliens'.

It promises to be a great day out and tickets cost just £8 from Stuart Smith at :- 15 Rydal Street Burnley Lancashire BB10 1HS.

The venue is the superb lecture theatre in the Renold's Building of UMIST (University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology) from 12 noon to 5.30 pm. on Saturday 25 April. (In the city centre mid way between Manchester Piccadilly and Oxford Rd stations).

Book early so you won't have to be sorry U - missed this one!

CIRCULAR LOGIC:



It's been a hectic winter on the crop circle front, thanks to the MBF services fracas. Doug & Dave, the two self confessed hoaxers, allegedly GAVE their story free to TODAY newspaper, who splashed it around the world with glee in September last. This was credited to MBF - as if a news agency copyright. Rumours soon grew that MBF was a front to receive payment and the stories went downhill fast from that point onward. Now many key cereologists seem to suspect the two amiable old codgers are part of a government conspiracy to destroy their subject. I find that a bit hard to swallow.

What is the truth of all this? Outlook (Jan/Feb) says the Paralink news service (?) cites Colin Andrews with the claim that a French scientist reports hearing weeks BEFORE D & D's arrival that the British government was about to reveal the circles as hoaxes. An appearance for he and Pat Delgado on 'Wogan' was also 'mysteriously' axed; furthering the belief in a plot. Outlook say via this 'A told B that C said' saga that MBF services has been found to have 'only one previous client; the Ministry of Defence.'

Kindred Spirit magazine (Winter, £2.40 from Foxhole, Dartington, Totnes, Devon TQ9 6EB) have a beautiful colour photo ramble through the 1991 circles with shots of all the 'insectogram' and intricate designs which anyone with an iota of investigational experience would surely find suspect and regard as hoaxes until PROVEN otherwise. There are also some photographs with orange streaks on them (who said 'so what?') As for MBF - THEY only add enigmatically that 'unusual circumstances are apparent'.

No such holding back by George Wingfield. In issue 5 of the Cereologist (£2.50 from 20 Paul St Frome Somerset BA11 1DX) - a magazine to me oddly considered the 'cream' by American UFOlogists whom most of you will hold in respect - he writes of the 'Doug 'N' Dave Scam' in breathless fashion, telling a story of how Pat Delgado's daughter rang Colin Andrews to say her dad had 'collapsed' (wording I am told Delgado may now dispute) and of Andrews rushing round only to be stopped for speeding on route (is this disputed too?) Andrews arrived to find TODAY with D & D and quickly established that much of what they said was untrue - after which TODAY retreated with the quotes they had already wrung out of Delgado.

Wingfield adds again his assertion of a September 1990 ministerial meeting to discuss what the Thatcher government should do about circles. This secret meeting ruled out Meaden's theory, found hoaxing of minor import and decided circles were from an unknown force. It then gave the MoD powers of monitoring and disinformation... Where did he get this 007 data from?

Of course, the problem with disinformation (as we saw with MJ-12) is that if you believe that it happens at all, how do you know the source of the story that it happens in the first place isn't disinformation too!

No matter - Wingfield describes his attempts to trace MBF services - the TODAY 'press agency'. Allegedly after embarrassment the deputy editor said that MBF was just an ordinary press agency who put the paper onto D & D - who in turn deny any knowledge of MBF at all and say it must be something to do with TODAY! Wingfield found no listed press agency of this name but did trace some with these initials; one a scientific consultancy in the west country run by a mechanical engineer. He admitted working for the MoD! So it did indeed, on purely circumstantial evidence, look a bit rum.

In the Circular (Jan, £1.75; same address as the Cereologist now and it is rumoured that George Wingfield may take over as editor) - the departing editor Bob Kingsley (whose sober voice will be missed in the field) gave a good review of the MBF tale and pointed out that none of this constituted proof of a link between the MoD and D & D. However, it has to be termed intriguing; although I wonder would the MoD really be so stupid as to use a real consultancy so readily tied to them to front a convoluted scam?

The picture was further clouded by Jim Schnabel, an Oxford University researcher who wrote a damning piece about the cereologists response to D & D for the Observer colour supplement (7 Dec). Nobody came out of it terribly well (although at least the meteorologists are shown seeing sense and rejecting the pictograms as hoaxes - even if long overdue in my view!) There has been an uproar within cereology about this article. One group leader even wrote to Schnabel's college boss in terms that cannot have helped his status much. I also know (as I had a long chat with the American sociologist) that he had picked up some extraordinary stories from famous cereologists which I could do nothing but laugh off. Aside from touring the country faking circles (as if I had the time or could be bothered) I also stood accused of being a government agent alongside D & D (yawn!) and of writing fake letters from Rochdale (last time I went there it was shut).

Regardless of the ethics of this article, much of what Schnabel wrote seems to summarise the incredible reaction to D & D being expressed (openly and in private) by many cereologists. Some quoted, such as Wingfield, have publicly responded to Schnabel with letters disputing certain things in the magazine, but the essence of the story (viz the MBF/MoD link) seems intact.

As for this, Schnabel reports the interesting new comment by TODAY that the agency was an invention on their part to scare off other newspapers from extracting material from their exclusive report before they sold it to other sources. Knowing how the media works that sounds quite credible to me, but I guess it won't persuade many who read the MBF/MoD links that Wingfield has found (and now supported by Bob Kingsley's own researches).

Meanwhile, The Crop Watcher (£1.50, or £9 for six, from 3 Selborne Ct Tavistock Close Romsey Hants SO51 7TY) continues to do what it does best. It has reflected these events but minimally and at times goes overboard in its sniping and criticism, but boy does this field need objective criticism. Paul Fuller cannot be accused of not doing the job he sets himself. His magazine is not as pretty as the others and has none of the exotic theories they do. Instead it focuses issue after issue on exposing hoaxes, presenting site investigations of both real and dubious cases and printing newly found material about overseas, historical and eyewitness cases. It is utterly different from the other circle publications and frankly gets too little of the support from UFOlogy that it deserves. I admit to bias as I write for it. But I do so because TCW carries out a vital - and thankless - task.

A PLAQUE TOO FAR?

I feel dreadfully sorry for Malcolm Robinson, Ronald Halliday and SPI. In their Feb issue of their always excellent mag *Enigmas* (£7.50 for 5, from Ronald at 35 Fountain Rd Bridge of Allan Strirling FK9 4AU) they express delight at the final placement of a plaque by Livingston Corporation at the spot in the town where forester Bob Taylor had his famous close encounter. This is something they proposed and have fought to secure for years. Now that it is set up (a world's first they claim - and correctly I suspect) they intend to hold a ceremony in the woods.

But in truth they were treated shamefully by the development corporation. Despite SPI's role, the LDC refused to listen to their advice on anything and put the plaque on site in October 1991 without bothering to tell them or Bob Taylor of this. In fact SPI had to break the news to the witness themselves months later! Worse still, despite all the hard work by UFOlogy the plaque does not even name the witness. Instead it ludicrously credits Arthur C Clarke - one of the worlds biggest debunkers - on the pretext that the case later featured in a TV show that carried his name!!!

Regardless of the awareness that SPI (perhaps rightly) feel this plaque may bring, I wonder if this plug for the science fiction writer is something we really should be happy about. Months after putting it there (after SPI complained) the LDC have milked extraordinary publicity from it. Major articles have appeared in *The Times*, *Telegraph* and *Independent* (31 Jan & 1 Feb). Most mention Clarke. None mention UFOlogy. They talk about aliens landing and none are very serious. The LDC say Clarke 'immortalised it in his book' (which was written by someone else, wasn't it?) and justify the plaque as it was 'recorded by Arthur C Clarke (the science writer)'.

In other words, to hell with what any serious researchers said or did to establish the facts of this case - if a debunking scientist who has told me he found UFOs boring and who has never investigated this case at all had his name attached to a TV show that chanced to mention it - well then, lets use that fact. Cynics will probably guess this is a cheap publicity gimmick by the LDC and that's the reason Clarke is given star billing. Bigger ratings. The case itself has no relevance at all to them.

At the time when SPI first mooted the idea I thought it a good one and said so. I applaud SPI's efforts all the way and guess it is just a metal plate. But given how the LDC have manipulated this issue to their own ends, I just wonder if it is wholly wise to go along with them?... Any comments?

FOR YOUR PERUSAL



Major articles elsewhere

*UFO Times Winter (with BUFORA sub; Suite 1 2C Leyton Rd Harpenden AL5 2TL)
A curious piece on the pineal gland and links with the paranormal and a report on activities in Eire from Pat Delaney and Ann Griffin.*

*UFO Debate Feb (£8, for 6, : D Barclay 46 Prospect Wlk Shipley Yks BD18 2LR)
First issue under Robert Moore's editorship and excellently done too. Some teething troubles with printing quality (in new format) but a good review of circles data and a report on the group CE IV, their beliefs and music.*

Annals Oct (£7.50, for 6, 8 St John Street Wells Somerset BA5 1SW)
Full of bizarre and rich computer art as ever (eg a man being sick!) It is the little snips of news items on all sorts that make this unique and odd.

Forean Times (£2 shops; £12, for 6; 20 Paul Street Frome Somerset BA11 1DX)
Two excellent issues, as always. In 60 - a very fair review about the D & D circles hoax story (well done FT at last). Plus a good interview with folklorist Dr Eddie Bullard about his research into UFO abductions.

Magonia 41 (£4, for 4, 5 James Terrace London SW14 8HB)
More of the increasingly dogmatic tosh about circles this often first rate journal has started to print. Yes, the pictograms are hoaxes, but to dismiss the now overwhelming historical circle evidence as non-existent is bunkum.

The Skeptic (£12, for 6, PO Box 475 Manchester M60 2TH)
We all need a healthy dose of skepticism but where is the thread here? In the Nov issue it ignores what some of us have said for years about circle hoaxing as a means to rubbish everyone, fails to print a response sent in, then in the Jan issue is recommending everyone to 'Allen Liaisons', puzzling

Swamp Gas Journal Jan (No price; PO Box 1918 Winnipeg Canada R3C 3R2)
A 'UFOzine' (its word) that brings the latest on crop circle activity in the Canadian wheat belt and commentary by Chrus Rutkowski. Worth a look.

Orbiter Sep (PO Box 652 Reading MA 01867 USA)
A rather extraordinary photograph of a cigar shaped 'UFO' taken by a Soviet space probe over Phobos, the Martian moon. Orbiter exposes the truth.

Just Cause Dec (£20, for 4, CAUS PO Box 218 Coventry CT 06238 USA)
A good issue of this cover-up mag, includes useful position statement summary of what US official agencies say to enquirers about UFOs today.

IUR (£30 for 6, 2457 W Peterson Ave Chicago IL 60659 USA)
Some good recent issues: Sep features Bruce Maccabbee on how the US COULD hide crashed UFO evidence. Nov... a devastating investigation of the search and discovery of the archaeologist said to have been at the Roswell crash.

MUFON Journal (£20 for 12, 103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin TX 78155-4099 USA)
As always a wide variety of fascinating material in these issues. Nov... an abduction special with new cases and an interesting report on parapsychic effects in cases. Dec... Detailed report on Canadian circles and George Wingfield tells his MBF stories. Jan... Bob Oeschler defends his comments in 'Allen Liaison', and responds to US criticism of Tim Good's book.

NB: Thanks to Keith Basterfield who tells me that 'The Mundrabilla Report' reviewed last issue is available for Aus \$17.30 (post inc) (about £8) for the full 130 pages from - PO Box 229 Prospect South Australia 5082
Also just received is a copy of a brilliant new venture from UFO Research Australia - the first ever computer UFO book. All that is vital in Oz UFOLOGY from the researchers themselves, plus the sort of graphics and interactive facilities only a computer can offer. You need an IBM compatible PC, Hard disc and EGA or VGA to use it fully... Then its a must. Contact: -
Dynamo House Pty 38a Murphy Street Richmond Vic 3121 Australia.

THE DARK SIDE OF WARMINSTER

During the 1960's one place in the UK, if not the world, was synonymous with UFOs - Warminster in Wiltshire. After a series of reports and photographs of the so-called 'Thing' people flocked there from around the world to skywatch. Barns sprouted graffiti. Journalist Arthur Shuttlewood became Britain's best known UFO writer of the sixties and seventies with a series of books commencing with 'The Warminster Mystery'. They first mention crop circles in the area and this reputation has continued - with circles now attracting thousands of UFOlogists to the town in renaissance.

However, the question must now be posed: - *how much of Warminster's reputation was justified?* Evidence has just come in that some prime cases that gave the town early prominence were part of a calculated hoax. Most notably, that one famous photograph of the 'thing' which made local then the national press stories during 1965 was - it is now claimed - a fake. Big questions are outstanding as to who knew what - and when - about such claims or to what extent they may effect subsequent reports in the town.

The news was broken by a man who wrote to BUFORA officer John Spencer, after reading his comments on Warminster in 'The UFO Encyclopedia'. This man simultaneously sent copies of all his material to me (presumably as a safeguard). However, he has since failed to respond to my communications; although John Spencer says he has proved helpful to him.

Allegedly, the UFO in the photograph was created from milk bottle tops and buttons and several people were involved. The hoax got out of hand as it was never intended to create a national press report.

This story has yet to be fully documented, but the package I received is disturbing and John Spencer says he has since seen further evidence. There remain a number of deeper allegations within this man's scenario and BUFORA council has (wisely) decided not to say more about them until their status can be checked. For now it would be wise counsel that any serious researcher put on hold whatever conclusions about the UFO mystery they may have formed based to any large extent on happenings around Warminster.

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT



THE SEVENTH SWORD Andrew Collins Century H/b 484 pp £14.99

Readers of my book 'Alien Contact' will know the role that Andy Collins played in that story. For a time he was one of the best UFOlogists in Britain. His case reports via UFOIN (eg the classic Aveley abduction of 1974) are available again via Enigma. Others may recall the extraordinary sequel to those UFO adventures when a group of psychics from around the country got together and allegedly engaged in 'quests' to find buried swords and jewels of power and thereafter fight cataclysmic battles against the powers of evil. At least that is how the stories emerge in the 'Biggles vs the martians' prose you can find in the books 'The Green Stone' and 'The Eye of Fire'. These have become modern esoteric cult books by Martin Keatman and Graham Philips (the other two in a triumvirate of which Collins was the third). Whether you 'believe' these things 'really' occurred may not matter.

Some years ago Andy did self publish 'The Sword and the Stone', a rather more restrained presentation of what occurred, explaining why he had opted out and took no part in the two books. However, he has never disputed that the facts there told were correct (however improbable they may sound to those of us used to objective reality and treating cases with sceptism). Ghosts in black suits that pose on hill tops, cheap jewels of healing energy and a brave group of psychics standing between the earth and armageddon might sound more like a script from a rejected Indiana Jones movie; except that some of these events certainly predate those films (that much I can verify). And other - apparently unconnected people - have also discovered buried swords of a similar nature across rural Britain of late.

Andy launches his big book career with a book that IS big in every sense. You certainly get an exciting read for your money (his journalistic training sees to that) and the writing is an epic sweeping over the modern events and centuries of historical anecdotal research. Its the stuff TV movies are made of. If these things had been claimed in the USA Meryl Streep would no doubt already be perfecting her British accent and plots rewritten to find her a suitable role. As it is, Britain will respond apathetically, so you can only judge yourself what the discovery of these six swords means and what the quest for the seventh (that you are asked to join) may imply.

I noted minor liberties here and there (eg Andy's attempt to persuade us he only attended the 1979 BUFORA conference as a journalist when he was then a leading UFO investigator surely keen to see the big names who were lecturing). But in the main I have every respect for him and no reason to discredit what he says took place. In which case, what the heck does it mean?

REVELATIONS Jacques Vallee Ballantine H/b 272 pp US \$20

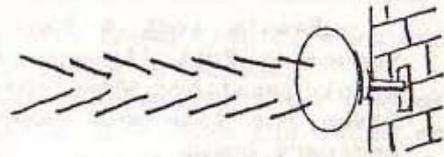
This American edition was published last autumn, but Vallee's British lectures in April tie in with UK release from Souvenir. It is the final part of his trilogy that began in 1989 with Dimensions, then Confrontations.

Revelations is certainly different. In some respects it is the sort of book his widely panned 'Messengers of Deception' might have been. I recall even Allen Hynek (his life long friend and mentor) found that look at oddball cults hard to fathom out and - maybe partly because of its reception - Vallee took a long background seat, writing nothing new for a decade. His reappearance on the scene with much easier to follow (if no less contentious) books has not won him universal praise in his adopted homeland. As Vallee bucks the trend and does not accept the ETH he is scarcely on everyone's list of the most important US writer. To us in Britain the position is quite different. What he says hits home hard and I think it likely this book will appeal far more to European UFology.

After the go-out-and-find-em style of his last book (detailing fascinating excursions into the South American jungle to look at 'real' UFOs) Vallee is back in the USA and taking a road drill to its current millstone - documents like MJ-12 and official information/disinformation. He presents a far better case for government manipulation of UFology and UFologists than he did in 'Messengers of Deception'; ranging over topics like Area 51, the Bentwaters landings, UMMO and even APEN in an insightful way. I must admit to a bitter irony at what he says (with presumable impunity) about MJ-12 and crashed UFOs. It is pretty much what I felt and said in 1989 with devastating legal consequences, as some of you know. Such have times changed since then, few will bat an eyelid now. This is a thought provoking book, which solves nothing, but poses very relevant questions.

MEDIA MATTERS

A look at UFOs in the public eye



The Birmingham Post (21 Feb) recently claimed a first when it reported how their sister paper (the Mail) had two days earlier featured a wave of UFO sightings. Apparently the West Midlands UFO Network (eh?) had been swamped with calls about a huge blue disc hovering over the Great Barr area on 18 Feb. So what? Well, seems Wolverhampton astrologer Philip Solomon had appeared on Radio WM on New Years Eve and predicted the sightings! In fact he said; 'Watch out for a full moon on February 18. Many will report occurrences of a psychic phenomenon or UFO sightings.' Mmm - slightly less impressive that, but maybe we should get the wisdom of Solomon and arrange a skywatch when he next has an inkling that the aliens are coming. Midlands investigators will no doubt be doing that even as I speak.

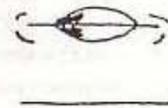
Meanwhile, pop DJ Liz Kershaw told a startled Radio One audience of her encounter on the M62 some years ago (it appears near Burtonwood again - where else?) The object, reported by police at the time it is said, was of a 'huge triangle shape with three red lights as it glided in front' (Sunday Mail - 5 Jan) The only case we can tie in is the sighting of a triangle by police officers in Jan 1978; focal point of a documentary that MUFORA spent some weeks making with Gordon Burns (of the Krypton Factor) which aired nationally a few months later with the infamous movie film from Stonehenge.

Tim Good's Alien Liaison has got a bit of publicity (not as much as earlier books - UFOs seem to be waning in the media eye with crop circles still dominant strangely enough). In the Independent (9 Feb) a good long biopic appeared - which the paper said was partly prompted by the Livingston plaque (featured prominently). The article repeated the famous tosh written about Tim when Above Top Secret came out - ie 'Mr Good's ideas are those of a maniac' (actually this has good PR value as it makes folk pay attention) The article cites more disparaging stuff by other reviewers but then it actually stops rabiting and lets Tim have his interesting say.

The Sunday Sport's UFO efforts of late have been very feeble, but the Daily Mirror (19 Dec) had an odd item that cited US author Brad Steiger (as a 'loony researcher' - their view and NOT mine). Apparently one out of every five household pets is an alien - descended from creatures seeded here 50,000 years ago. The paper (evidently not scared writ-less) end with the quote; 'Millions of people own space pets and they don't even know it;' says the barking mad author'. I reckon Steiger is right. I asked a Cheshire cat if it had ever been into outer space and I'm sure it said - 'Me? 'ow?'

BRIEF CASES

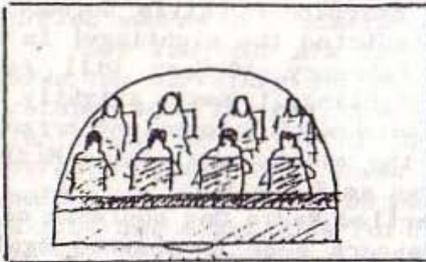
Some current investigations



Some Irish happenings... Thanks to Roy Sandbach for details of an incident in July 1965 reported by a woman then holidaying with her boyfriend in County Clare. At 02.00 they were returning home on a lonely road with bog land either side when a small blue light appeared to pace the car. At this stage it sounded like a star or planet (though she insisted not) but....

Events took a hand when a figure in a long black coat ('like the Sandemans Port figure') appeared on the road ahead. As they drew level it simply vanished. When she looked around for the light it had also gone. Given the time and remote location the couple were adamant this was no ordinary human.

Our friends Pat Delaney and Anne Griffin pass on another case from August 1970 at Birr, Co Offaly. P was cycling home from working in a garage (at about 19.00) when he saw a star in the east moving very fast. It slowed as it grew nearer and he now stood paralysed with fear by its proximity. It was described as resembling a bubble car, green underneath and brown in the centre. The top part was a dome made out of a form of glass or perspex and a green light on the base seemed to be rotating. All was total silence. Possibly most amazing of all was what was INSIDE the dome - a corridor with EIGHT beings, four male, four female, sat either side. They all seemed to be wearing military suits (with the women wearing skirts!) All were in a grey/green colour. P was very disappointed



as he could see no equipment in the craft (something as a mechanic he was very intrigued by). Also when they failed to communicate and the craft rose up - the light rotating faster and changing to orange before the object flew away to the SW. The investigators are unaware of other cases in which entities have been seen through a transparent dome and described clearly, but there are in fact several on record. This case reminds me quite a bit of the decidedly odd story of Mrs Sage from Kent where military suited beings sat in a glass helicopter (see report in my book 'Sixth Sense').

THE BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATI?

On 24 October 1991 the Wigan Reporter first told how a group of regulars from a pub were seeing lights moving to and fro across the sky on various nights for up to an hour. The description will shock no alert reader or half awake investigator who will have heard it all before. By 31 October the press was swamped. Typical reports were... 'It looked like someone had a torch with a strong beam...going around in a circle'... 'It was moving through clouds backwards and forwards across the sky.'... 'it could be someone with a strong spotlight shining up to the sky' - and so on.

Anyone with their eyes on the skies during the past couple of years following the IFOs (after all 95% of UFOs are one) would spot the classic description of laser guided searchlight beams that illuminate clouds and go round in circles swooping and dancing. They have been triggering UFO flaps with alarming regularity when used to open nightclubs or at rock shows.

MUFORA worked this one out immediately. All the signs were there. When we learnt they'd seen similar things in Ormskirk and Skelmersdale - highly advanced technology (a map to plot angles) found the source - Blackpool. The powerful effects of these lights can be seen from 25 miles away.

End of story? Not quite. Blackpool pleasure beach public relations officer instantly admitted the truth, but that did not daunt intrepid Steve Balon. He told the paper that there was no way these were searchlights.

Noting his 20 years *au fait* with the UFO scene Steve showed no awareness about what these lights can do and launched a major investigation. He had documents proving that 'successive governments have attempted to conceal information about flying saucers and aliens'.

He added Wigan is a UFO window and Indians have shown crop circles are a warning of 'ecological, psychological and sociological breakdown.'

I don't wish to criticise DIGAP. They need our sympathy after two of their other members appeared on the Clive Anderson chat show and faced an audience in hysterics...merely for honestly relating what they believe. But, MUFORA has no doubt at all that this wave of sightings WAS nothing more nor less than searchlights from Blackpool. Any aliens - whether they exist or not in other cases - are in this instance, I'm afraid, mere baloney.

ANOTHER FIRE IN THE SKY?

An interesting repeat of the famous Peter Day movie film may have occurred on 9 December 1991 when police in a corridor from south east Wales to the south midlands were inundated by calls from UFO witnesses. It was described as rocket-like and burning orange, making a sound like a hot-air balloon. Many said the roaring noise was so loud it shook their windows. The sightings began at 16.45 at Brecon and crossed Hereford and Worcestershire around Leominster and ended near Droitwich just after 17.00. The MoD and CAA at first said they had no idea what it was but confirmed that reports of a crashing aircraft were wrong. None were missing. But a military plane expert at Kemspey saw it through binoculars and recognised it as an F-111 jet using afterburners. According to Jo Anne Digger of BUFORA a YUFOS officer appeared on local radio to say it was not an aircraft and jets had been seen circling it. These often intercept UFOs. An embarrassed MoD then confirmed it was just a plane. Apparently an F-111 was called back to Upper Heyford, where the runway was icy. So it dumped its fuel at 10,000 feet to reduce risk in landing. It should have just evaporated, but unfortunately the afterburner ignited it. If the MoD story is true (and it fits all witness accounts so far as I can see) then it poses an interesting comparison with the famous Peter Day UFO film. For that too supposedly shows an F-111 from Upper Heyford dumping fuel which was ignited by afterburners. However, note the differences. In 1973 there was no massive swathe of witnesses, no swamped police switchboards, no rattling windows or roaring noises - in fact no real similarity. And yet the F-111 that Peter supposedly filmed was apparently far lower than the blatantly obvious one at 10,000 feet in December 1991.

CASE 8553 September 1985 Helmshore, Lancashire BUFORA D Hedger B4-5

Man and girlfriend in car at country park at 03.00. The girl briefly saw a 'spray of light' come out of a star. This split into two arcs and a creamy speckled aura formed. At the base the sprays joined into a dim orange star. The two arcs then went back into the larger star on top and this process repeated two more times. At no time did she mention this to him and he saw nothing; although later at the same park the central door locks on the car 'clicked' when they were inside 'courting' and he reports hearing a beating sound in the sky. The UFO may be the home-made hot air balloons we gather have been tested locally (the arc would be burning debris) - or an optical illusion based on a star?

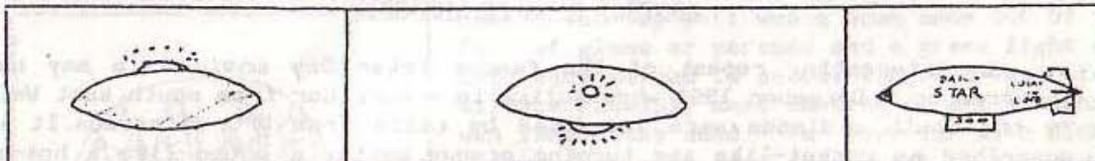


CASE 9116 19 November 1991 Hull, Humberside BUFORA C2-5

Man stood looking at stars saw three lights swooping about sky and flitting around before moving off. Sounds like birds reflecting streetlamps.

THE REVENGE OF THE DAILY STAR

After years of UFO stories crammed into their pages the tabloid, the Daily Star, can now boast that they have been the cause of a UFO wave. This first struck London in early February 1992 when many people saw a yellowish glow in the sky. It then moved north and for two weeks (especially on 24, 25 and 26 February) we had many reports channeled through from Jodrell Bank and other sources of sightings at Kirkby on Merseyside, Wythenshawe in Manchester, Moore in Cheshire and Bolton and Oldham in Lancashire. Some of the witness sketches are shown below. As you can see they were very similar.



9202 Wythenshawe

9204 Kirkby

The culprit

The cause of both waves is shown on the right. It is a 130 feet long blimp (a super airship) called the Virgin Lightship and is the first of a fleet heading our way (God help us!) Advertising the Daily Star it has been drifting around the north-west and landing at Manchester Airport around 19.30 each night. It is in this phase when it has been creating most of the problems when circled by a spectacular ring of lights, its illuminated gas bag also appearing as a glowing dome. Beware - it may head your way next!

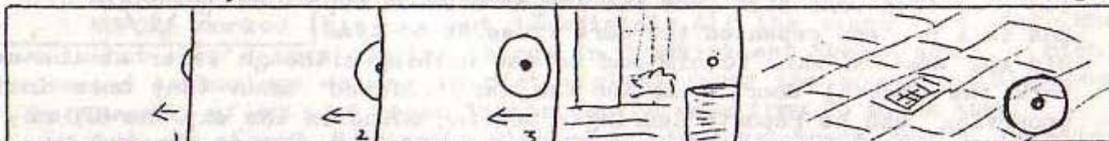
CASE HISTORIES



THE BIRCHWOOD MALL CASE (Part 2): MUFORA report by Hough, Randles & Sandbach

We had a video film taken by one security camera at the Birchwood Mall in Cheshire at 01.23 on 25 February 1991. On it was an object moving about that resembled a small light from a distance or when closer to the camera a round soap bubble. The only eye witness was the security guard and camera operator but he had only seen it through the camera lens; although this at least ruled out any defect on the tape recording it as he saw it direct from the camera feed (ie by-passing the tape altogether).

We took copies of the film and studied it in fine detail; making a



frame by frame assessment of what was visible. There were some interesting effects. For instance, at no time did the object pass BEHIND any object. On a couple of occasions you could almost see THROUGH it to the background. In all respects it behaved like a three dimensional object and in one sequence enters the frame at the edge and appears in partial stages until the whole sphere is revealed in shot - not as one might expect of a distortion effect

One of the first things we did was invite Dr Steve Donnelly - a physicist at Salford University and key member of the British and Irish Skeptics to invite his scientific friends and have a joint session to go over the film. We felt that this was useful as we had no clear idea what was on the video but were making no great claims about it. It was only a UFO in the strictest sense of the term at this stage and we needed input from both scientists and from sceptics to see if any rational ideas might surface.

Dr Donnelly was a great help. Several members of MUFORA and scientists from Manchester, Salford and UMIST universities were invited to a gathering at Manchester University one night in April 1991 where special facilities were available to view the film. The idea that it might be an insect trapped in the camera lens system and moving about out of focus was perhaps the one that grabbed the most attention. In fact this proved easy to rule out. The camera system is sealed but every six months is opened up to be cleaned and serviced. That had last occurred before Christmas - over two months before the film was taken. No insect could have survived that long.

Dr Donnelly carried out some experiments using a torch, soap bubbles blown by his children and video camera. Perhaps the most intriguing UFO investigation yet mounted! In this way, as he reported (21 April 1991); '(I) can now say that the object (if there was an external object as opposed to something within the optical system) is certainly not a reflecting (or partially reflecting) sphere as this would not give rise to the observed ring structure.' The image we were seeing was probably not its real shape.

The ring structure visible on the film gives a donut like impression to the object. Indeed, we also soon spotted that this made the effect very similar to that on the Kent video film which was taken during a thunderstorm in 1989 and which has been the subject of several articles in the scientific press (and screened on 'Tomorrows World') given its initial interpretation as possible ball lightning. It now seems that this analysis was not correct and the video image has been fairly successfully shown to have been an optical reflection of some sort. But the Birchwood Mall video in many ways shows a similar and (owing to its longevity, motion and at times extreme size) rather more impressive phenomenon to the Kent film.

Anyhow, the final word from Dr Donnelly and his colleagues was that they had no definite answer to what the video depicted. However, he leaned quite heavily towards 'something causing aberrations very close to, or inside, the lens system of the camera.' We took this view seriously and initiated a number of other enquiries. A copy was given to the BUFORA photo analysts (although a year later they have yet to offer the still hoped for appraisal) and another to meteorologist Dave Reynolds who was then working at Swansea University. He was to prove of considerable help later on. The insect in the lens option ruled out, we did know that the camera used an infra-red spot beam to illuminate the dark area being filmed. Perhaps this might in some way have a part to play in the mystery? As it turned out that was to prove true in a surprising manner. Indeed there was to be the biggest surprise of all - for we were soon able to discard all thoughts that there was something amiss with this particular camera.

On 26 April 1991 at 00.35 the UFO returned to Birchwood. It was filmed by one of the other cameras on another part of the site! *To be continued...*



Final Words...



Apart from the Manchester conference lined up for April (see page 4) the IUN have some surprises in store for this years August event planned for Sheffield. More on that in a future issue.

There are also a couple of overseas conferences to look out for. On 1-2-3 May this years premiere French event at Lyon is staged, promising as always to be good value for money. If you parles-vous francais un peu then this is for you. Details from SOS OVNI at PO Box 324 13611 Aix-en-Provence Cedex 1 France Tel or Fax: 33 42 27 26 18.

Same dates, but in English, if a little further afield (but I already know two NUN readers flying out there) there's the 'Exploring Unexplained Phenomena IV' at the Nebraska Center in Lincoln, Nebraska, USA. Confirmed debates will focus on the Bentwaters landings and crop circles (with yours truly and George Wingfield amongst others). Other debates will involve Linda Moulton Howe on animal mutilations and John Keel on - well knowing his books - anything and everything. Call Scott Colborn on 402-483-7284 for details (Mon-Fri 4-7pm CST - remember the six hour time difference)

A competition seems in order to see who reads this bit. Prize a free copy of Looking for the Aliens. First correct entry by 31 March. Ok - who saw the excellent 'Maigret' series on TV? Well, there is a link between this and my book 'Abduction'. You would have to be real CID material to spot it, but the man responsible for the vivid camerawork (in Budapest doubling as Paris) was Zsolt Varkonyi, who has just brought out a Hungarian translation of that very book. Well - there is an even more obscure, if a possibly easier to discover, link between BOTH authors of 'Crop Circles: A Mystery Solved' and another TV detective series ('The Ruth Rendell Mysteries'). The first to emulate either Maigret or Wexford and his sergeant (clue), use their investigatory skills and solve that riddle wins the prize. Bon chance.

Oh, yes, and thanks to Victor Kean for spotting (ref Gypsies of a strange and distant time) that CHARON (not Chiron) is Pluto's satellite.

NUFON Regional Groups

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NLUFOIG	(Cumbria)	89 Bare Lane, Morecambe, Lancashire	LA 4 6RN
FUFOIG	(Fylde Coast)	293 Devonshire Rd, Blackpool, Lancashire	FY 2 0TV
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IUN	(Yorkshire)	1 Woodhall Dr, Healey Lane, Batley, W. Yks	WF17 7SU
SSPR	(Derbyshire)	17 Old Quarry Ave, Wales, Sheffield	S 31 8RV
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NUFORC	(Northants)	46 Occupation Rd, Corby, Northants	NN17 2EF

* NUFON archive files held in central Manchester accessible c/o MUFORA T:0942-604265