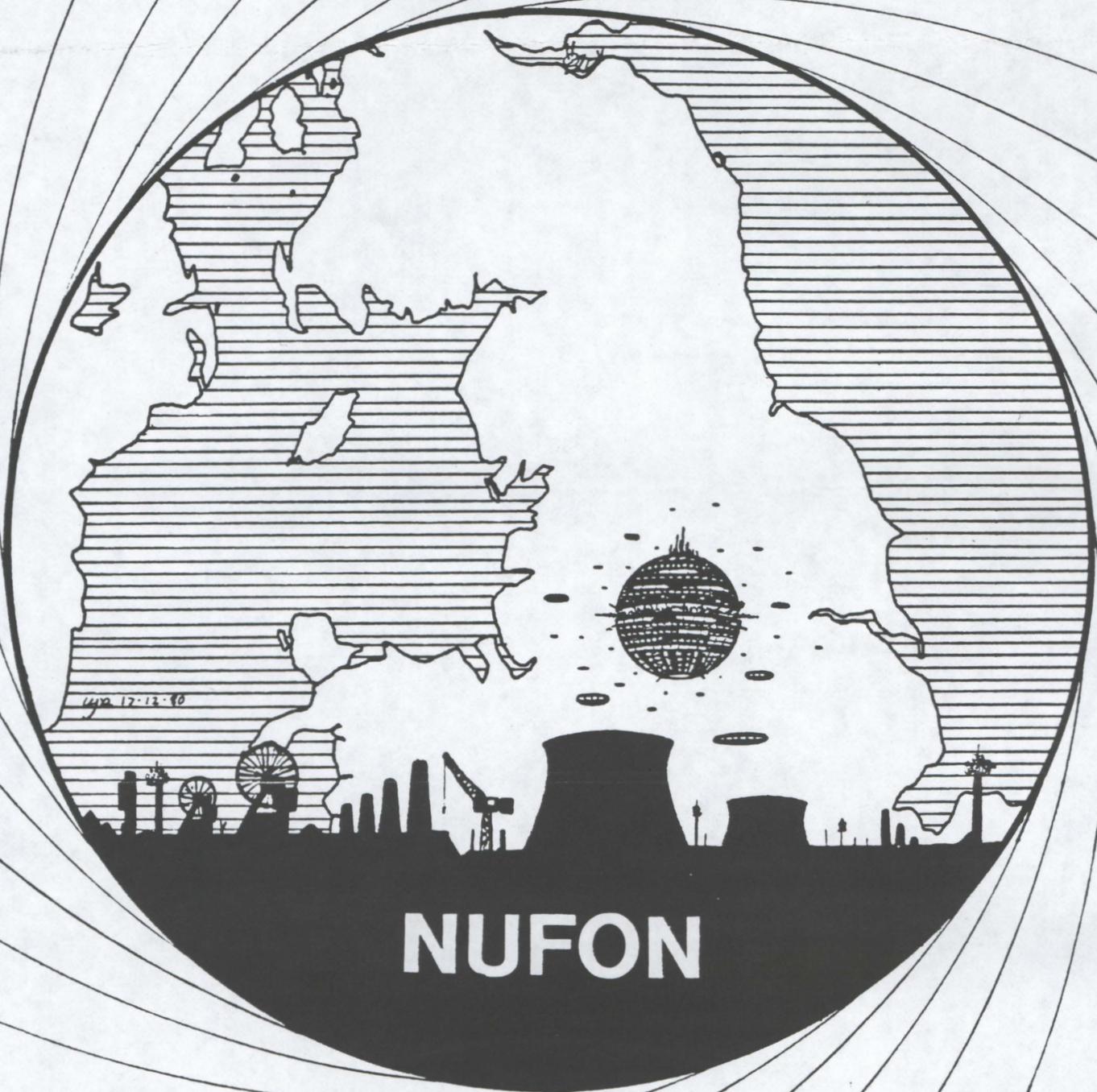


# NORTHERN UFO NEWS



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## NUFON

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 EDITORIAL: What should we tell the witness?

Recently an interesting point arose in discussion between John Rimmer (editor of MAGONIA) and myself. He was worried about the possible consequences of a witness seeing comment which they might interpret as personally critical. John wondered if it was against the spirit of the Code of Practice to let witnesses see such comment, and pointed out how it might restrict the ability of a researcher to make critical comment, in open print. He may not wish to hurt a person's feelings.

I faced something of this problem in writing ALIEN CONTACT. For here I was discussing a real family who had suffered some incredible experiences. I wanted to look at psychological and sociological implications of such cases, but that was of course very hard to do whilst remaining fair to the percipients. When information is presented into the public domain one must guard against placing people into an unjustly difficult position.

We all find ourselves up against this situation when we write a case report or mention a case in any article for any magazine. How honest should we be? How honest can we be? What should we tell the witness (or let him possibly find out!)?

This is no easy matter, and little thought has been given to it. The Code of Practice was, of course, designed to assist us through questions of moral complicity such as this. So what does it have to proffer? Well, there is a clause regarding the mandatory use of pseudonyms or anonymity unless permission is otherwise obtained. There is additionally the requirement to point out the consequences of real-name use. Later it is said that under special circumstances even these guarantees may not be enough to protect identity (as they were not in the case of Alan Godfrey for example). Other measures may have to be adopted to safeguard witness identity.

Taken together, and with the clause which points out due consideration to be given to the welfare of the witness, we must balance this commitment to the percipient against our responsibility to ufology. This responsibility entails we honestly and fully discuss all relevant material inherent within a case.

Now, very clearly we can interpret such guidelines many ways. But I think it is vital we do have such guidelines. I am surprised at the apathy many groups have shown to the Code, to date, and even the highly regrettable negative stance adopted by one or two societies who would have us believe they are serious in their intent. My (I am sure controversial) opinion is that any group which ignores the necessity of the Code is not really fit to be classed as a representative of serious ufology.

MAGONIA have adopted a policy whereby they use pseudonyms for witnesses in all published case histories. In this way any embarrassment caused by otherwise liberal-minded analysis of the case can be diluted. The next door neighbour of Mr Fred Smith in Wapping cannot accidentally read a report which suggests Mr Smith and family are prone to fantasies, thereby telling everyone in the local supermarket about "the loonies next door". But for this, I imagine, it would be very difficult to discharge our duty as analysts to the rest of ufology. However, I do not see how this can excuse us from letting the witnesses see what we think, if he wishes to. Unless, in our considered opinion, to do so would be detrimental to his welfare, as the Code suggests. (For example he may be mentally unstable and so could not take what he would see as criticism).

There appears to be quite a diversity of opinion amongst UFO groups as to whether witnesses get to see completed case reports. In my view witnesses usually come to us expecting to be told what it was they saw. IF we can do so, it appears to be our duty to so advise them. If we fail to explain the UFO we similarly must say so (not, I hasten to add, "Yes..we have explained your sighting as a UFO; merely no, we could not explain it...at present it is unidentified"...There is a world of significant difference here). We should not forget that our primary function is to investigate.

However, the problems occur when we discuss implications. And in that sense MAGONIA might be right. When considering sensitive points of contention identification may act as a limiting factor. The answer may be to use pseudonyms in print, but to allow access to identifying details on the case report itself to bona-fide researchers.

This still leaves the root problem untouched. Just how much respect do we give the witness? After all it is his experience. He has as much right to analyse it as we do. We must beware of treating witnesses as samples or statistics. They are human beings and have to be considered as such.

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 NB For the purposes of renewal could I please ask you to note that c/qs and po.s should be made out either to NUFON or Jenny Randles not NORTHERN UFO NEWS. Thank you!

## MUFORA TO STAGE ONE-DAY SEMINAR...

In conjunction with BUFORA, MUFORA are holding a seminar on Sat, OCTOBER 9 1982 (Commencing 13.00). The venue is a room at the University of Manchester Institute of Science & Technology (UMIST) in central Manchester, near Picadilly Station. The theme is THE UFO INVESTIGATOR AND THE WITNESS. Included will be lectures, discusses and practical exercises, covering topics such as perception, interviewing and ethics. Space is limited due to the use of video facilities and so you are very much urged to book a place in advance. Admission is £2.00, but £1.50 to bona-fide members of BUFORA or ASSAP. Cheques or POs to BUFORA LTD, please. Bookings and advice c/o

Peter Warrington 5 North Avenue Burnage Manchester M19 2WR Tel: 061-225-3404

## ----- BUFORA PLANS FOR THE EIGHTIES...

BUFORA have recently announced some exciting new developments which are a healthy sign of the growing respect of Britain's premier national society.... The 1983 International Congress promises to be the best yet. A THREE DAY event (on August 27-29) at the Lorch Foundation, out in the country in Buckinghamshire. There is even talk of a barbecue (of roast debunker?)... A resources centre has been set up to compliment those at Stockport (OSEAP) and the NUFON/UFOIN file centre run by NUFOIS in Nottingham. All BUFORA files, the large book library and collection of lecture tapes from many famous speakers are being housed at a building in Peterborough. Here they will be available to any bona-fide researcher or as photocopies. A list of cases on file is being prepared (there are around 5000 I believe)... Publications have been revamped too. JTAP is issued twice yearly under the new editorship of Peter Hill and will be very scientific in outlook, carrying research items. The BULLETIN, also under professional editorship now, is being upgraded and will come out 4 times a year. Subscription is rising in line with inflation (from £10 to £11, but a deal has been agreed with PROBE so that members will receive all four issues of the superb PROBE REPORT, a full glossy magazine, for just £1 more... ie a £12 sub) This reflects excellent value (10 publications a year for the subscription) and so much better service to out of London members. A new "enrol a friend" scheme is also being adopted. If you do this each year you will get a substantial reduction from your subscription. And Accredited Investigators will continue to receive a full 50% reduction... More out of town events (such as the October 9 Manchester seminar, see above) are to be held. And a postal investigator training scheme is being devised in conjunction with ASSAP.

All in all there has never been a better time to think seriously about joining BUFORA...

Write to: Pam Kennedy (MBE) 30 Vermont Rd LONDON SE19 3SR

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NEWS.... !! UFO RESEARCH MIDLANDS, the new amalgamation of several East Midlands societies is to produce a 40pp magazine, MIDLANDS UFOLOG. If you are interested more details from: Graham Hall 23 Linden Rd Hinckley Leics LE10 0AR  
!! ASSAP have announced a new service to would-be lecturers; loan or sale of 35mm slides made up to specification from the voluminous library stocks, inc very rare old books and journals. Interested?... write to Hilary Evans at:  
1 Tranquil Vale LONDON SE3 0BU Tel: 01-318- 0034

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IN THE PRESS... There has been a good deal of publicity for UFOs lately... inc the Humberside press who told of a young man fearing redundancy from the steel works. So he has formed his own part-time business (which he hopes to make full-time). He says he is now Humbersides official UFO investigator. He intends to make it pay by selling his investigations to the media! Nigel Watson (Humbersides real official investigator!) and myself pointed out the problems he faces, and his only knowledge seems based on a sighting his sister had in 1978. FSR readers may recall the carchase of Tina Kirk. It was identified as a star and planet, but our intrepid investigator has not recognised this yet. Still hopefully Nigel will offer his support... The DAILY MAIL of June 25 carried a suprising column "It's all up in the air" reviewing the 35th anniversary of the Kenneth Arnold sighting. The gist was remarkably favourable to UFOs pointing out... "the government (of the USA that is) while publicly debunking UFOs, denying their existence and ridiculing those who claim to have seen them, has actually been taking them very seriously and been very concerned about them almost to the point of obsession". HONEST! It does say that! Finally, London's EVENING STANDARD has an investigation for someone out there who has good life insurance... Nina Hagen, punk singer, is now into UFOs. She talks incessantly about them on her new album "NUN SEX MONK ROCK". For this she has given up stripping in hotel lobbies (her daughter "Cosma Shiva" has made her holy). Dressed like a monk she explined how "I believe in God - I met HIM a couple of times. I make music with Him." I like to put on man's clothes and a mountain, she growled.... Any takers???

INVESTIGATIONS Case Ref:(Inq Date) Time Location Investigator Level Type

79: DEC 31 08.00 Ranmoor, Sth Yorks Inv: D Clarke Lev A LOW/INST-P  
 Mr WCG (Chartered Surveyor), his wife, and adult son and two daughters were all witness to this sighting for 20 mins in a clear morning sky. It was simply a bright point of light like a star that moved very slowly (seemingly to accelerate) from the W to the NW. It was viewed through binoculars and no other details seen. Towards the end of the sighting it joined with a second identical 'star' lower down and both passed together below trees out of sight. Some photographs were taken, but these were lost. Witness claims the prints showed nothing (hardly suprising in view of the large distance proposed for the objects) However, the neagatives allegedly showed two white points. Witness insists objects were not balloons as wind was in opposite direction. INSUFFICIENT DATA to evaluate.

81: JAN 14 06.05 Jarrow, Tyne & Wear Inv: W Reid Lev C LOW  
 Railway driver and shunter shunting wagons from steel works saw an object in the SE, described as like a hazy bright star. Size of pea. It flashed white to red and was still. At one point it made a short triangular jump and then returned to its initial position. After 15 mins observation it vanished suddenly. I see nothing here to suggest this was not a star or planet that was later covered by high thin cloud. STELLAR OBJECT

81: JAN 30 19.00 Rotherham, S Yorks Inv: W Reid Lev C LOW  
 Schoolboy observed large LITS in SE. It had green centre and streaks of red and blue around it with a silver haze. It ho ered for 20 mins and then moved off over the Rivelin Valley. His mother saw it too, but he says, "even though she saw it she is not believed (sic) that I saw a spaceship" She does not even regard it as a UFO. Walter Reid has promised a fuller report on the case.

81: JUL 2 22.45 Cliviger, Lancashire Inv: MUFORA Lev C LOW  
 61 year old man observed the passage of an object at twilight on a clear night. It was a green round object, the colour of a traffic light, that was surrounded by a shower of white sparks. Apparant size was that of a golf ball. No sound. Passage took just 5 seconds and it disappeared moving W to E over some hills. MUFORA conclude this was either a meteor (unlikely due to lack of other reports) or a flare.

81: SEP 12 21.15 Queensbury, West Yorks Inv: W Reid Lev C MED  
 It was a clear, crisp night and a 26 year old girl, Christine, was showing her sisters fiance how to use her telescope. He pointed out to her the passage above of an unusual object and they both watched it 'glide' over the rooftop of the house and disappear. It was only in view for a few seconds and moved from west to east. There was no sound. The object appeared the size of a tenpence piece at arms length and was a dark mass in the shape of a triangle. A number of red lights were outlining the edge of this object, and they were steady, not flashing. The colour of the lights was reminescent of burning embers. UNIDENTIFIED



81: SEP 13 20.40 Peterlee, Co Durham Inv: W Reid Lev C MED  
 Two brothers (aged 21 and 16) were returning from a local carnival. They suddenly observed a very bright light, similar to venus in colour, and shaped like a squashed rugby ball. It was moving at a tremendous speed across the sky from east to west. Apparant size was that of a golf ball and it was in view about ten to fifteen seconds before disappearing in to an irregularly shaped dark mass in the sky. The witnesses presumed this to be a cloud, although there were no other clouds in the sky. However, despite the speed with which it entered and the relatively small size of the "cloud" the object did not reappear in the next second or so as they had anticipated. Indeed it did not reappear at all for the two minutes they had the cloud in view. They rounded a corner and reached home, but there was now no sign of eithet object or cloud in the sky.



81: OCT 7 19.00 Hipperholme, W Yorks Inv: Finlay Lev C MED  
 This is an interesting observation, very carefully made by the witness, a 49 year old civil servant who has legal qualifications. Mr R observed the object in the west as a very bright yellowish star. The sun had just set and so this and subsequent light factors may represent reflected light from a shiny surface. The colouration was not hazy but not shatply defined either. It was first seen at an elevation of about 18 degrees on a bearing of 240 degrees. This placed it above a line of electricity pylons that spanned across a

small hill. At this point the object was the apparent size of a pea. Witness estimates the object to be over Bank Top in Southowram. The sighting lasted 13 minutes which allowed the witness to observe via 20 x binoculars. After about one minute a disc shape became evident and as the object began to descend behind the powerlines it seemed to change shape, through more oval. The centre was dark at all times and "flakes of russet brown" were also seen within the mass. Mr R had the distinct impression that the object was spinning as it descended. As it passed behind each of the four pylon cables in turn it seemed to "lance" through them within an intense beam of light..."so realistic was this illusion,"

says Mr R, "I was surprised to find the lights remaining on in the area". As the object came very close to the ground it seemed to be pulled out into a triangle with the apex being pulled into the ground. After a few seconds the object rose again and repeated the illusion of "lancing" as it ascended through the cables, although the background sky was now rapidly darkening. On reaching a position similar to where it had first been observed (with a similar disc shape) the object moved off to the west a few degrees and was lost to view behind Beacon Hill. The witness attempted triangulation whilst watching the object and from subsequent calculations using the OS Map he estimates it was 1 1/4 mls from him. Comparing size with a streetlamp at this distance he says a reasonable estimate for the diameter of the UFO was 3 feet. Would that all witnesses were as expert and rational as this. I have no idea what he might have seen! UNIDENTIFIED

81: NOV 11 21.15 Keighley, W Yorks Inv: W Reid Lev C LOW

A very bright ball of white light was seen to move from the N to S over a park on a controlled descent. When very low it was lost to view behind trees or houses. Since Leeds/Bradford airport is 5 miles east I would suggest this was an aircraft with front searchlight on a descent. INSufficient Data.

82: FEB 27 24.00 Northampton, Northants Inv: R Shaw Lev A MED

Man observed what he took to be flashing LITS of aircraft in W over rooftops opposite. But it remained stationary and so he pointed it out to his wife and he went for his binoculars. Through these the object was seen as a doughnut shape with a glowing reddish dome on the top. A number of blue and white lights were seen round the outside edge and these were pulsating very quickly. Estimates of size and distance were difficult of course, but the witnesses reliably suggest a half mile distance which would place the object above some open land sloping down to the River Nene. After staying in one place, still flashing rapidly, for about ten minutes the object moved off at great speed to the north north west and was lost from view. Investigator cannot explain. UNIDENTIFIED.

82: APR 21 14.29 Oulton, Leeds, W Yorks Inv: W Reid Lev B MED

This case is interesting with reference to reports in the June issue of sightings in W. Yorks between April 17 and 20, terminating in the mini-earthquake of April 20. Mr T a local government officer was walking in Rothwell Park with his adult daughter, when they saw and heard a helicopter pass over. About half a mile behind this, seemingly following, was a strange object that resembled an aircraft wing seen end on. It may otherwise be described as cigar-shaped. This seemed to be covered by flashing white lights. The object suddenly stopped in its tracks and made an instant reversal of motion. It then stopped again and moved off at right angles to its path. It was last seen disappearing into thin wispy cloud. Mr T estimates its height as 800 to 1000 ft and its distance from them as 3 miles. It was to the north and the apparent size of a golf ball. Could the helicopter have been towing something, I wonder?

82: MAY 30 23.10 Cumbernauld, Scotland Inv: T O'Neill Lev C LOW

Two independent reports of seemingly the same thing. One report refers to a pinkish light seen hovering above a house. One of the witnesses rushed outside in time to see a smoke trail and a flare whizzing upwards from the point where it had been. The other report from several witnesses describes a reddish object giving out flashes of light that passed over towards the East. It disappeared leaving a group of white spots in the sky. INSufficient Data... But some kind of military activity??

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TO COME: A large report on activity in SE Scotland since 1967 collated by Granville Oldroyd and a local policeman. (Probably as a future CASE HISTORIES)

And a report (somewhere) on the case which made national media involving a DAN-AIR holiday jet from Gatwick to Carfu. On JUNE 21 1982 at approx 11.00 (GMT) a "doughnut" shaped object was seen by captain, co-pilot and two passengers on the flight deck. All participants have been interviewed and data is being collated.