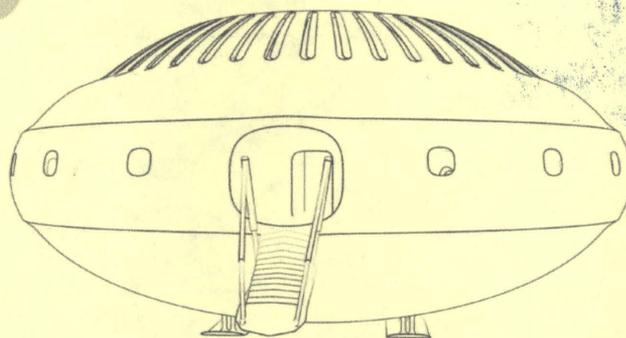
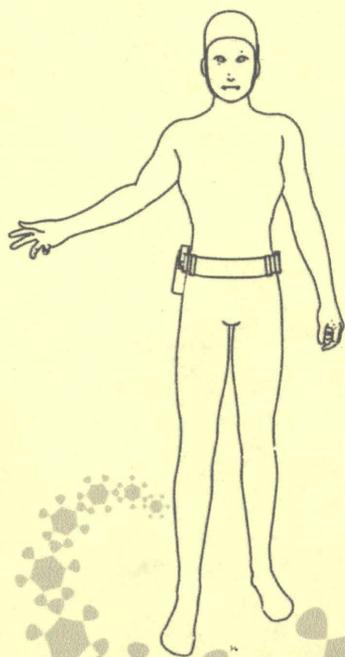
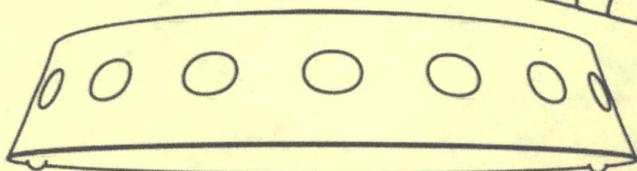
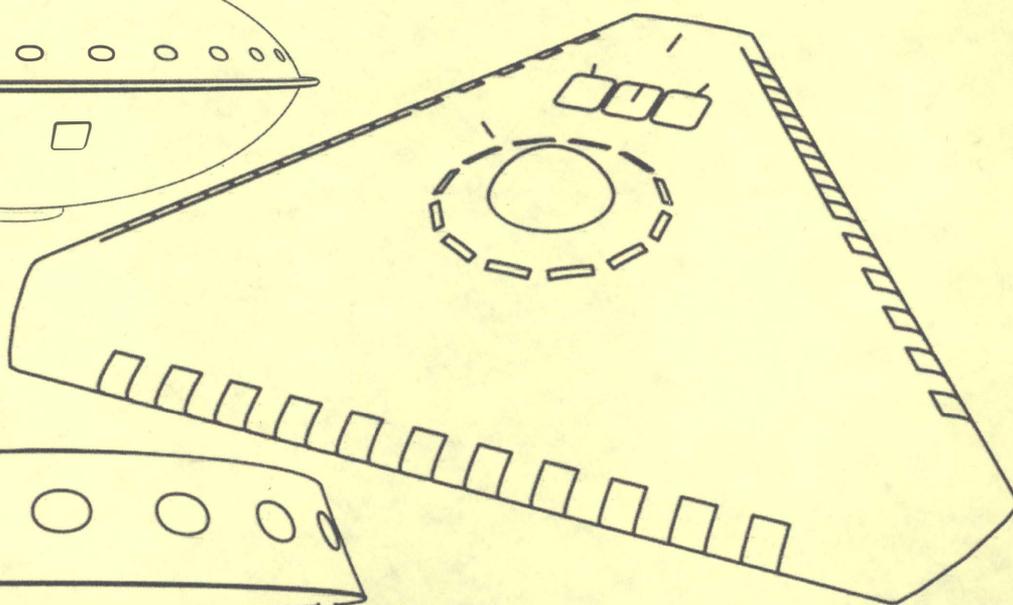
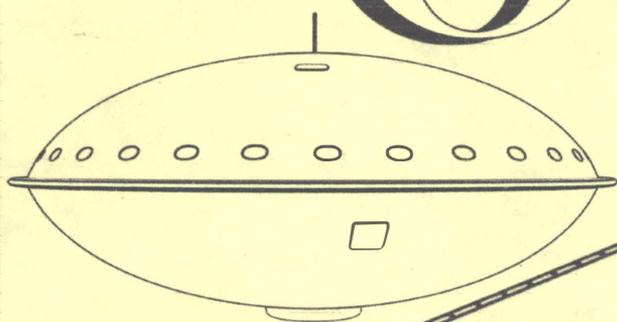


July/August 2008



# OWNI



JOURNAL OF THE PHENOMENON RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

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# OVNI

The Journal for the discerning researcher

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## Group Leader

Omar Fowler  
94 The Circle,  
Sinfin,  
Derby. DE24 9HR  
Tel: 01332 761464

July/August 2008

E-Mail: Bontor@aol.com

Webpage:

<http://www.phenomenonresearch.com>

## Secretary

Karen Richardson  
(Derby)

Tel. 01332 558662

## THE PRESS DISCOVER UFO's !

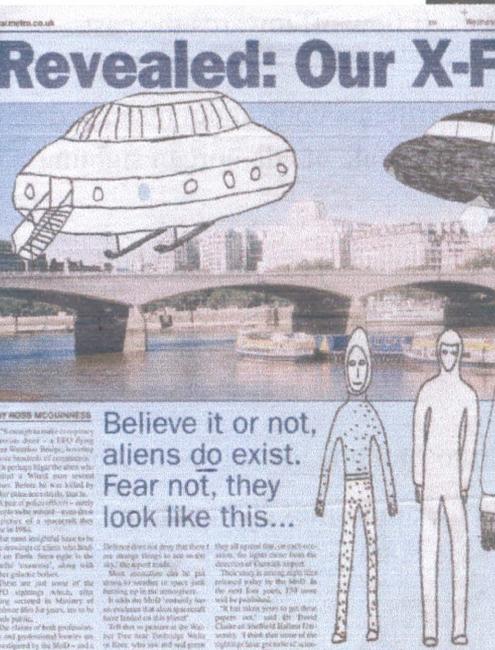
The release of a small number of UFO files by the MOD has stimulated a frenzied interest in UFO's by the news media.

Suddenly we appear to be in the midst of a huge UFO 'Flap', but basically it is a case of 'headline grabbing' news that in some cases is over 25 years old!

Now that the clear summer nights are with us, it is possible to see some of the unusual phenomena that is taking place in the skies, not only here in the UK, but throughout the World.

A most recent incident has been reported by a Mr Johnston of Bedington, north of Newcastle. The witness has been watching light sources at very high altitude circling and zigzagging across the sky for several hours. (21st June 08)

A BUFORA researcher in Newcastle has been advised and will investigate.



Here is a selection of the latest 'News': (The Sun) FAMILIES last night claimed they watched in awe as a dozen glowing orange objects buzzed Basingstoke. (28th June) In the latest UFO riddle to grip Britain, witnesses say the "alien" fleet hovered above the Hampshire town for half an hour - changing formation before their eyes.

Dad-of-two David Osborne, 47 - who captured the unearthly phenomenon on video - said yesterday: "My adrenaline was pumping and I was trembling all over. "I've never seen anything like it. It was amazing." David, an amateur astronomer, yelled to his daughters to grab his camera after he phoned nearby RAF Odiham and was told officials could not comment "for security reasons".

## UFO spotted by police helicopter

**A police helicopter spotted what is described as an unusual aircraft in the Vale of Glamorgan.**

The helicopter was above St Athan, which is home to an RAF base and close to Cardiff International Airport.

But three-man crew could not capture any images before the object vanished over the Bristol Channel on 8 June.

South Wales Police said the helicopter did not give chase and described the crew as very experienced. The sighting has been reported for investigation.

The police Eurocopter, an EC135T21, was hovering in the sky at 0040 BST above the base, waiting to land.

A police spokesperson said: "The crew are very experienced and responded in a professional manner in relation to what they saw.

"In today's skies, there are a wide variety of aircrafts which come in a range of different shapes and sizes and in all probability, this sighting has just confirmed that one of these was in the area at the relevant time," the spokesperson added.

A Ministry of Defence spokesperson said it had heard nothing about the incident. "But it is certainly not advisable for police helicopters to go chasing what they think are UFOs," the spokesperson said.

Cardiff International Airport said air traffic control provided a service to the police helicopter to ensure it had appropriate air space, including allowing it space to return to RAF St Athan to refuel.

Meanwhile, a Cardiff pensioner says he also saw something "peculiar with lots of flashing lights" on the same day.

George Withrington, of St Mellons, said he reported the sighting to police and was given an incident number. The ex-RAF glider pilot said he was sitting in his garden reading a book on 8 June when he spotted the object at around 1620hrs.

"I was looking at an aeroplane overhead when I spotted this thing was in the corner of my eye.

"It shifted direction very quickly, in the blink of an eye.

"I looked at it for quite a while, i was watching it for at least 10 minutes. It flew off towards the east, towards Newport."

Author Richard Foxhall who lives in the Nantlle Valley, Gwynedd, has written a book about his experience of seeing a UFO in 1996. Mr Foxhall has called for the report into the Vale of Glamorgan sighting to be made open to the public.

"The helicopter crew, who are experienced, saw something which was in the air space around Cardiff International Airport and St Athan's air base. "If this was Heathrow there would be an inquiry," he added. Mr Foxhall said he saw a low-flying object over Tal-y-Mignedd in Snowdonia over the May bank holiday weekend, 12 years ago.

He was returning home at around 2030 BST and saw an object similar to "nothing he had seen before".

Mr Foxhall contacted all local airports, RAF Valley and checked with the authorities and found no flight records had been logged.



## SOUTHAMPTON'S UFO MYSTERY

The Southampton mystery continued yesterday as yet more evidence emerged of weird triangle and cube shaped objects stalking our skies.

Since the Daily Echo reported on the mystery this week, another three readers have come forward with footage and photographs of UFOs hovering above Shirley and Millbrook.

The latest footage was captured by Dilys Bartlett and her family as they sat in the backyard of their Shirley home on Sunday, June 1.

Headline on front Page Southampton Echo today 14th June... 'More UFO Sightings over Hampshire'... Funny how people come out of the woodwork... 3 more people have come forward with footage of the object on the 1st June

(See Southampton Echo article on 12th June at [www.dailyecho.co.uk](http://www.dailyecho.co.uk)) Why oh why didn't these people come forward sooner and

why did they not report it when they took the footage. Call me sinical but after 20 years of UFO research it still mystifies me. Okay,

we now have 4 bits of footage... My gut feeling ... Kite or radio controlled. Surely over such a highly densely populated area of Southampton

only a very small handful of people (10 people) saw this so called 'UFO'. Read the articles and let me know what you think (No doubt we

will see this story run and run for a week or so). also take a look at the following website :

[www.abovetopsecret.com/forum/thread361648/pg1](http://www.abovetopsecret.com/forum/thread361648/pg1) for some interesting views on the sighting.

Steve Gerrard UFONEWS UK Magazine editor.

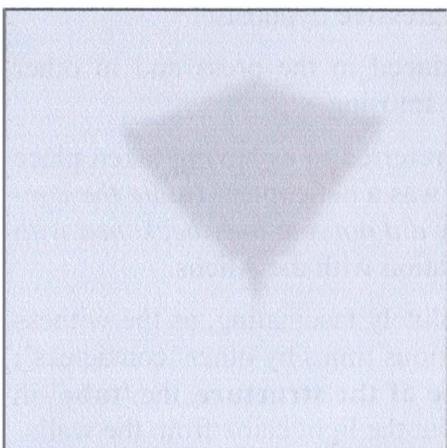
It is the X Files style mystery that has left UFO spotters baffled.

A silent, spinning black triangle has been caught on film flying above Southampton three times in the past month - over Millbrook, Shirley and the Western Docks.

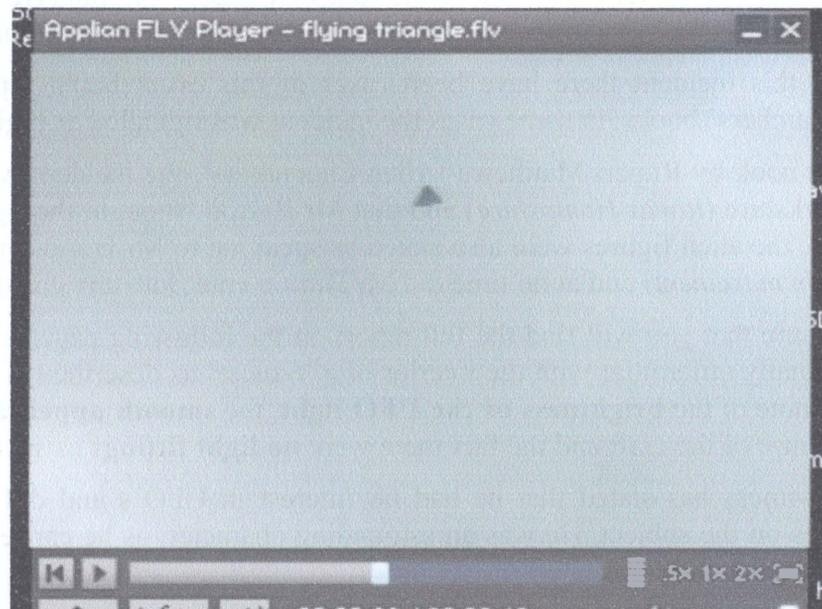
A new video - the clearest so far - was captured on a mobile phone by a passenger travelling in a car under the Millbrook flyover.

The footage - shot on Sunday, June 1 - has caused a buzz among UFO enthusiasts from across the country who have described it as the best they have seen for some time.

An investigation was even launched by Southampton Airport after a worried member of the public alerted bosses. An airport spokeswoman said: "We received an inquiry about a UFO on Tuesday, they reported seeing a black triangle flying near Millbrook



A new Stealth Craft, I wonder?  
Ed.



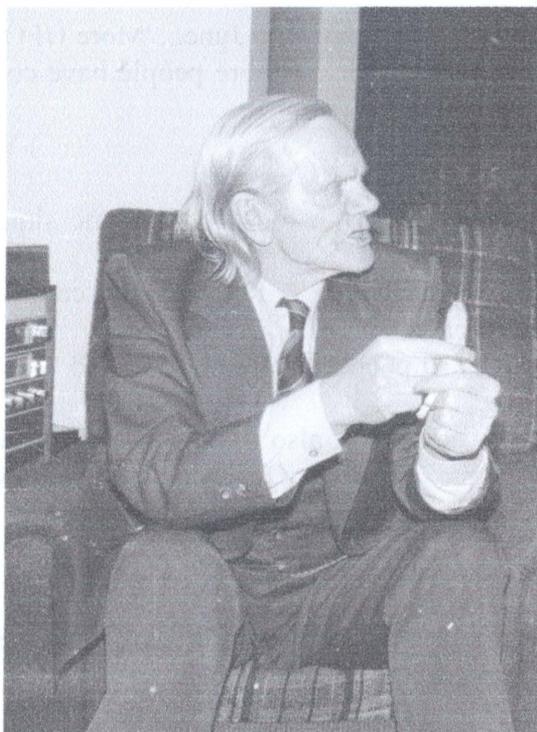
## A CONTACT CASE OF INTEREST

By Omar Fowler

The Ministry of Defence has recently released a small number of UFO files to the public domain.

This event resulted in a great deal of interest to the media, both in the field of radio and television.

One of the primary cases that caused something of a sensation was that of Mr Alfred Burtoo, a man of 77 years of age, living in Aldershot, Hampshire and an enthusiastic fisherman and local historian.



Mr Alfred Burtoo recounting his contactee experience while visiting the home of your editor, shortly after the incident that took place on the 12th August 1983.

I cannot understate the importance of this case, as this witness was known to me personally and together with Timothy Good, I was one of the first investigators to interview Mr Burtoo. One important factor being that he was able to recount his experience **without** any form of regressive hypnosis.

Since this incident there have been cases of this event being reproduced in the press and in other 'Researchers' books, in some cases the incident was ridiculed as highly amusing.

In the book by Rupert Matthews 'Alien Encounters', the incident was referred to as having taken place in Berkshire (*it was Hampshire*) and that Mr Burtoo "thought the light was a helicopter" (*quite the contrary*), the alien figures were also stated as speaking to Mr Burtoo (*they did not, but only beckoned with an arm movement*) and at no time did Mr Burtoo enter into any conversation with the Aliens.

I am sure that you will find the full report on the following pages absolutely fascinating, as the witness was totally unfamiliar with the interior of a 'Saucer' as described at various times by other 'contactees'. Take note of the **brightness of the UFO light**, the **smooth appearance of the structure**, the **'tube'** in the centre of the craft and the fact there were **no light fittings** as such, but the light came from the walls.

The witness has stated that he had no interest in UFO's and did not bother to read any newspaper articles on the subject. He was an astounding character, as he carried on with his night fishing immediately after the encounter!

## THE STRANGE CASE OF MR BURTOO 12-8-1983

By Omar Fowler

Alfred Burtoo had been a keen fisherman since his childhood days, now at the age of 77 he enjoyed night fishing along the bank of the Basingstoke Canal (Nr. Aldershot, Hampshire).

When he arrived on the canal bank, Alfred positioned himself at his favourite spot opposite the fresh water outlet on the other bank. It was here that the canal water was clear and there was no chance that his line would snag on any weed. Alfred was sitting about a hundred yards from the nearby roadway, which at that point, passed over the canal on a small bridge.

Everything seemed fine, it was such a quiet and still night. He poked the base of his umbrella into the soft earth and tied his dog's lead around the base. Next he laid an old overcoat down on the ground, the dog could lie on that if he wanted to.

As he unpacked his tackle box, he heard the clock at the nearby Buller Barracks strike 1am, it was over half a mile away, but the night was so still the sound carried easily.

He was now ready and all his tackle was set, but he preferred to wait until the dawn when the water was calm and still and the water temperature was just about right. He sat there watching the water, waiting for a sign that the fish were feeding.

Although it was only just quarter past one in the morning, it was possible to see details clearly on the surface of the water. There was nothing to do at the moment he thought, a nice cup of tea would go down well.

Alfred reached into his tackle box and brought out his thermos flask, he slowly poured himself a cup of tea, then he paused, carefully setting the cup down on top of his tackle box. Something had caught his eye, he noticed a light moving across the night sky...

Now the light was becoming brighter and it was coming in his direction, approaching from the South.

It seemed fairly low and was travelling quite fast.

Alfred lit a cigarette and pondered about the light, it was coming closer. Suddenly there it was, hovering only five hundred yards away and only three hundred feet up!

Then slowly it started to descend behind some trees in the distance, just around a bend in the canal, "Christ" thought Alfred, "it's going to settle on the railway bridge around the corner," but what was it?

**Alfred was familiar with the local aircraft and helicopters flying about, but it couldn't be one of those because it was so low and he had heard no noise at all.**

The light that Alfred had seen **was brilliant**, but as it landed behind the trees the light faded. He remarked that although the object was out of sight, it was still possible to see some smaller lights in the distance through the trees.

Alfred had heard of UFO's but had never given them any thought, in fact if he saw a report in his newspaper, he usually turned the page. He was not interested in their activities and at this stage he still had no idea of what was just around the corner.

The lights were still flickering, he could just see them through the branches of the trees, "What could it be?" he muttered to himself. Everywhere was strangely silent, there was just the glint of those mysterious lights. Suddenly his dog started to growl, something was coming towards him down the towpath. Alfred peered into the semi-darkness, it was August and not completely dark even at that time of night.



Mr Burtoo at the scene of the 'Saucer' encounter

It was still possible to see some details of the surrounding countryside. The dog growled again, the thing was coming closer, Alfred strained his eyes, trying to see what was approaching. No, it wasn't one thing, it was two.

All thoughts of a good nights fishing had now gone. What were these things coming towards him? Should he let the dog loose or stand his ground? He decided to wait and quietly stood there peering into the darkness.

They were clearer now, two small human-like figures, they were only about four feet tall and were dressed in some kind of overall, with helmets on their heads. The dog continued to growl, Alfred gave a snappy command and the dog fell silent.

The "forms" (as Alfred later referred to them) had meanwhile stopped, now they were only a few feet away. What did they want? Alfred and the "forms" stood there looking at each other.

Suddenly the leading "form" **raised its forearm and made a beckoning motion** for Alfred to follow him. At this stage one might reflect on your own reaction in similar circumstances, however, Alfred had no hesitation, he would follow them....

(When questioned about this event later, he said and "I have hunted bear, killed a few rattlesnakes and fought wolves in the out-back of Canada and I'm not scared of anything. I thought to myself, I'm 77 years old, what have I got to lose, let's see what it's all about".)

The little group moved off, one small figure led the way and the other followed on behind. They paused for a moment as they came to the narrow road bridge, the leading "form" ducked down between the two horizontal wooden guard rails, Alfred stepped over the low rails and their journey continued. He wondered what lay ahead, what would he find when they turned the corner of the canal?

As they walked along, Alfred had the chance to take a more detailed look at the "forms." They were quite small in stature and they seemed to be wearing a one piece suit, there were no zips or buttons visible. Alfred wasn't sure, but the suits seemed to be a greeny colour. In front of their helmets they had a visor, but this appeared to be blacked out and it was impossible to see any facial features. They didn't carry any torches and he didn't notice their hands, "maybe they had gloves on" he commented later.



They were now approaching the bend on the canal path and as they slowly turned the corner Alfred gave a little gasp of surprise. The craft had not landed on the railway bridge, but was straddling the towpath. It was a large metallic looking circular craft. Until now Alfred had considered UFO's a "load of bunkum," but there in front of his eyes was an alien craft. He was more curious than scared, he thought to himself "you can only die once, so here goes."

The leading "form" now approached the left hand side of the craft, where a ladder with handrails on either side led up to an open doorway, Alfred followed. He estimated that the craft was about 45' in diameter and that part of it, about 15' overhung the canal. The other side of the craft extended over the sloping canal bank. He was unsure how the craft was supported, but believed that it was standing on some type of skid undercarriage.

Alfred noticed a row of illuminated "windows" around the circumference of the craft and looking up, he could see a "cowl" arrangement around the top section. He now began to climb the short flight of steps to the doorway, the leading figure entered and Alfred followed. He ducked his head slightly as the entrance was lower than his own 5'-4" height.

The leading figure walked across what appeared to be a corridor and then went into a room on the other side. It was quite dark inside the craft, with only a faint illumination, Alfred **couldn't make out where**

**the light was coming from.** The first figure had now disappeared inside the other room and the second figure stood just inside the doorway. Alfred stood there quietly, taking stock of his surroundings. The room seemed to be made of a dark material, but it was difficult to see much because of the dim illumination. The room itself appeared to be hexagonal, he noticed that there were large panels around the walls. One of these must have been the sliding door that the first "form" had walked through, Alfred had heard the sliding noise when he had first entered the craft. **Alfred also noticed a large column coming up out of the floor,** it was about 4' in diameter. On the right hand side of the tube, he could see two further figures, they were standing by what appeared to be some sort of "Z" shaped handle.

He got the impression that this could have been a control of some kind.

There must have been a sound absorbing material on the floor, as when Alfred and the "form" had crossed from the doorway to stand and wait, he had heard nothing. The ceiling was quite low and although the light was dim, **he was able to note that the construction was very far advanced, there were no signs of nuts, bolts or welded seams.** Alfred later commented "whoever made it, they did a darned good job of it."

He was still not scared, he'd had his fair share of adventures in Canada, what with the rattlesnakes, bears and wolves. But by now, Alfred was not the man he had used to be, he was no longer in good physical shape and the advancing years had taken their toll. There were several plastic tubes in his body where there had once been healthy arteries and he was now racked by bad health.

Several minutes had passed by, it was difficult to say how long Alfred had been standing there. He waited patiently with his small companion, then a voice from within the craft spoke out "come and stand under the amber light." Alfred was certain that **he actually heard the voice** and that it was not a telepathic instruction, "it was in a sort of broken English" he said later.

Alfred looked around, he couldn't see any amber light from where he was standing, then he moved to the right a little and saw the light shining on the other side of the room. **(It had been obscured by the column that rose from the floor in the centre of the room.)**

The "amber light" shone down from a small bulb positioned on the wall, just below the ceiling. He walked over to stand under the light and once again he noticed the lack of sound as he moved across the floor. Alfred reached the small glowing amber bulb and positioned himself beneath it, he was now standing facing the wall. In front of him was a large panel that seemed to be part of the room construction. **(It appears that at this stage Alfred was being scanned by the light/panel).**

He stood there quietly, waiting and wondering what was going to happen next. After several minutes the voice spoke again, "What is your age?" Alfred replied, "seventy eight next birthday," then there was silence and once again Alfred waited. Then the voice spoke once again, "turn around" and Alfred did so. While Alfred stood there, questions were flooding through his mind, what was behind the innocent looking panel in front of him, what was the purpose behind the "amber light"?

His thoughts were interrupted by the voice giving what turned out to be its final command, **"You can go, you are too old and infirm for our purpose."**

That final command was enough for Alfred, he decided it was time to leave, he wasn't too sure what their "purpose" might have been. He made his way to the door and started to descend the metallic stairway, at the same time grasping the handrail. His hand felt a little nick in the handrail and then further down, another. "The handrail must be telescopic" thought Alfred and the nicks were the joints where the tubes slid into each other.

Alfred's feet touched the soft grass, he walked on about thirty yards and then paused and turned around. He barely had time to study the craft before it began to "hum," similar to the noise a generator makes thought Alfred. The "cowl" on the top of the craft began to rotate, from left to right in an anti-clockwise direction. At the same time, **a vivid light shone out from the bottom of the craft** and it began to rise from the ground. As the craft lifted off, Alfred noticed that the landing gear was composed of two skids beneath the craft.

The bright light reflected from the craft's metallic surface and the bushes and trees along the canal were illuminated by the brilliance of the machine as it rose higher. It had reached a height of about 300 feet, when quite suddenly it shot off towards the S.W. finally disappearing as a fast moving point of light.

Silence fell on the scene once more, Alfred paused before turning to walk away. Was it all a dream, had it really happened? If he had been a fitter man, would he be standing there now? Alfred thought for a moment, yes it had happened, but it was not going to spoil a good nights fishing! He set off briskly to where he had left his tackle and his dog....

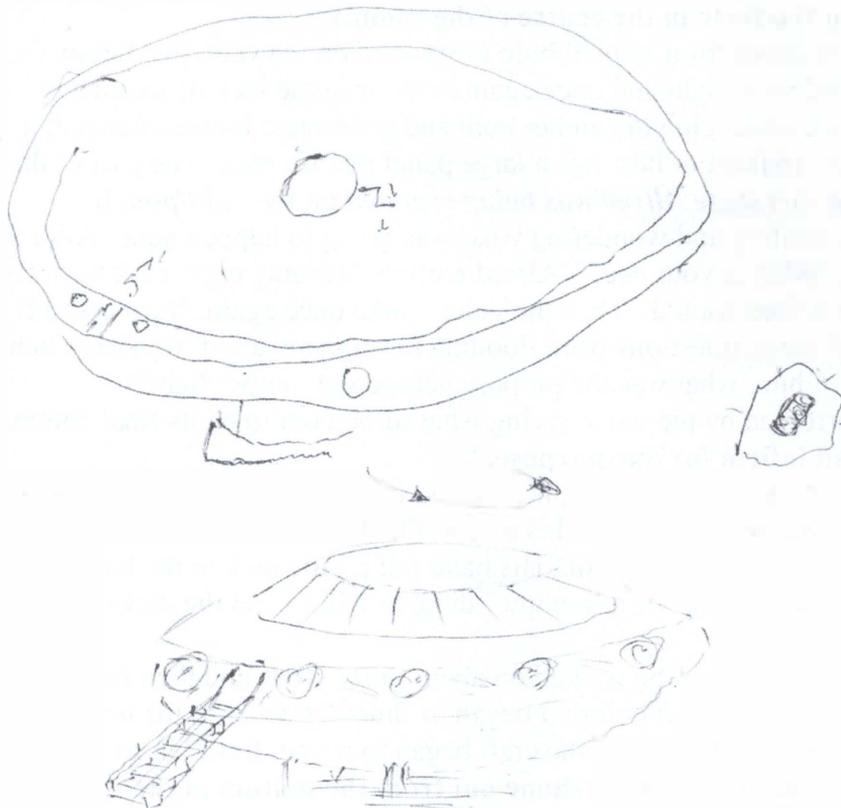
When he reached the spot, his tackle was still there, his dog was sitting patiently, but his tea was now cold. He drank it, then commenced his fishing! He caught three Rudd, five Roach and one Tench, and a large Carp got away.....He finally returned home at 1pm.

**Alfred said about his experience, "I went out there for a good nights fishing and I wasn't going to let a thing like that put me off." "The bloody sky could have fallen in, I'd have still carried on fishing!"**

After Alfred's encounter he had many sleepless nights and by August 1984, one year after the incident, he had lost over 20lb in weight. From then on his health gradually deteriorated.

Before he died on the 31st of August 1986, Mr Alfred Burtoo expressed a wish to his family that he should be buried under a table-top headstone.

He appears to have been worried that his body might be retrieved by 'someone' after his burial.....



Mr Burtoo's original sketch of the Saucer craft

## Salamanca (Spain) Cathedral Frontage : Built 1102

*(With thanks to Busty Taylor for drawing this to our attention)*

An amazing relief figure depicting what appears to be a fully uniformed astronaut of unknown origin, has recently been discovered on the wall of the Salamanca Cathedral in Spain.

The photographs appeared on the internet and caused a great deal of interest. However the stonework does not show weathering to the same extent as the adjoining sections. We have since received information that the stone carving is more recent and was probably part of a 2006 restoration project.



Salamanca Cathedral



Frontage facade decoration



Highlighted by arrow (above), the 'Astronaut'



Enlargement of the 'Astronaut' figure in a spacesuit, with corrugated soles on boots and possibly holding an umbilical system attached to the suit. But how old is it?



### So What's New?

Above: Sumerian tablet 4,500BC  
Showing the Sun in the centre of our solar system.

## UFO blamed for mystery explosion in Vietnam

By John Bingham (Daily Telegraph)

Last Updated: 9:21AM BST 29/05/2008

A UFO is being blamed for a mysterious mid-air explosion over Vietnam.

Islanders on Phu Quoc, close to the coast of Cambodia, heard a loud bang and saw shards of metal up to 5ft-long raining down on them on Tuesday morning.

Local armed forces and volunteers were mustered to help rescue any survivors, believing there had been a disaster.

Officials estimated that the incident had happened around five miles up but airlines in Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand were contacted and all said they had not lost a plane. The island's military chief Col Nguyen Van Qui described the craft as an "unidentified flying object" according to Vietnam's state news agency.

Amid confusion over what had happened, the deputy commander of the Cambodian air force Kung Mony said he understood that a foreign plane had crashed in the Cambodian province of Kampot but later retracted the suggestion.

Villagers in Kampot said they had also heard a loud explosion and found small chunks of metal near the coast.

One possibility is that a military aircraft taking part in a secret mission exploded but its country of origin has not claimed it. The theory was given some weight by the Vietnam News Agency (VNA) report which said:

"The explosion happened at about 8km above the ground and perhaps it was a plane, but authorities could not say whether it was a military aircraft.



REUTERS

A Cambodian Police officer studies the debris.

## UFO spotted in NE skies

By [Nigel Burton](#)

BRITISH UFO researchers are to examine a photograph taken of a strange object above a North- East town. Derbyshire man Barry Knaggs found the image when he downloaded pictures he had taken on his digital camera during a visit to Spennymoor, County Durham, at the weekend.

Mr Knaggs, 61, and his wife were returning to the town where his parents used to live.

He said: "I know the landscape isn't very photographic, but I had fond memories of the streets around Spennymoor and it was a bit of a trip down memory lane.

"We had spent the weekend staying with a cousin in Kirk Merrington and stopped off to grab some shots to show my son."

Although the couple noticed nothing unusual at the time, Mr Knaggs said he was amazed when he downloaded the photos to his PC back home.

He said: "When I zoomed in to have a look, I had to tell myself to stop being silly. "It looked like the typical fuzzy photo of a flying saucer."

Investigator Gloria Dixon said: "Before we can say for certain what Mr Knaggs' picture shows, we need as much information as possible. "In particular, we need to know from which direction it was taken and what time of day." Bufora receives thousands of UFO sightings a year, and most of them turn out to have an earthly explanation.

Ms Dixon said: "Just recently, we have been inundated with digital photos of what seem to be strange objects which have turned out to be birds. "A bird passing through the focal field of a video camera will appear as a blurry elongated object. "Experts see so many that they have coined the term blurfo to describe them." However, Mr Knaggs said: "The object in the picture is a long way in the distance, but it seems quite solid and you can see the light reflecting from its surface."



Mr Knaggs photograph of the mysterious object

## Earthquake clouds seen Again!

*Unknowncountry.com has reported on linear cloud formations that appeared in China prior to the Sichuan earthquake, and have been reported by our readers in Northern California and Seattle. Now a truly extraordinary series of these clouds has been photographed by pilots in Japan.*

**From issue 2651 of New Scientist magazine, 11 April 2008, page 12**

CAN unusual clouds signal the possibility of an impending earthquake? That's the question being asked following the discovery of distinctive cloud formations above an active fault in Iran before each of two large earthquakes occurred.

Geophysicists Guangmeng Guo and Bin Wang of Nanyang Normal University in Henan, China, noticed a gap in the clouds in satellite images from December 2004 that precisely matched the location of the main fault in southern Iran. It stretched for hundreds of kilometres, was visible for several hours and remained in the same place, although the clouds around it were moving. At the same time, thermal images of the ground showed that the temperature was higher along the fault. Sixty-nine days later, on 22 February 2005, an earthquake of magnitude 6.4 hit the area, killing more than 600 people.

In December 2005, a similar formation again appeared in the clouds for a few hours. Sixty-four days later, an earthquake of magnitude 6 shook the region ([International Journal of Remote Sensing, vol 29, p 1921](#)).

Guo and Wang suggest that an eruption of hot gases from inside the fault could have caused water in the clouds to evaporate. Another idea is that ionisation may be involved: Friedemann Freund at the NASA Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, California, recently demonstrated that when rocks are squeezed, positively charged ions form in the air above. The trouble is that ions usually help to form clouds, not dissipate them.

The authors say that if recognisable cloud formations precede large quakes, they could be used for prediction, but other seismologists are sceptical. "There is no physical model that explains why something would suddenly occur two months before an earthquake, and then shut off and not occur again," says Mike Blanpied of the [US Geological Survey's Earthquake Hazards Program](#).



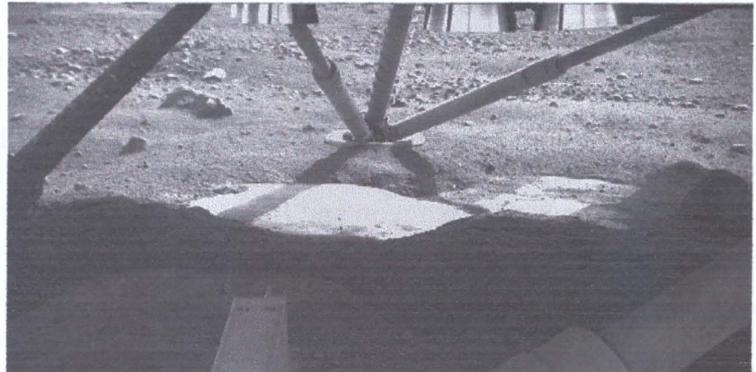
The Japanese Unusual Aerial Cloud Formations

## EXCITING NEWS FROM THE MARS PHOENIX LANDER

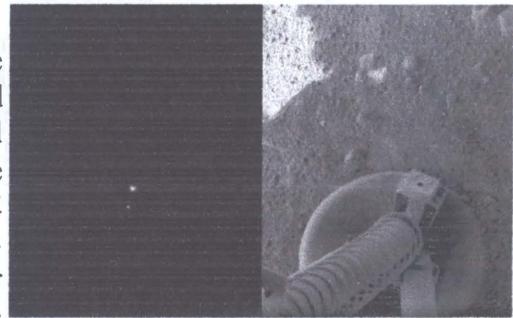
### Unusual Light Patch Under Phoenix Lander on Mars

Credit: [Phoenix Mission Team](#), [NASA](#), [JPL-Caltech](#), [U. Arizona](#)

**Explanation:** Is that ice under the Phoenix spacecraft on Mars? [Quite possibly](#). Phoenix, which [landed](#) a week ago, was expected to dig under the Martian soil to search for ice, but the lander's braking jets may already have uncovered some during descent. [Pictured above](#) is an image taken last week by the [Robotic Arm Camera](#) showing the unusual light-colored substance just in front of [Phoenix's landing pad](#). Over the next few weeks, [Phoenix](#) will continue to photograph its surroundings, analyze the composition of this hard light substrate, and dig into the surrounding soil. Were the [unusual light substrate](#) indeed Martian ice, it would give Phoenix a convenient pedestal to investigate the history of [water on Mars](#), and to better determine whether the boundary between [ice](#) and soil was ever capable of [supporting life](#).



**Explanation:** [The Phoenix](#) lander's footpads are about the size of a dinner plate. One of three is shown [at the right](#), covered with Martian soil after a successful soft landing on the Red Planet [on May 25](#). Amazingly, the [left panel image](#) is of the spacecraft during its descent phase, captured by the HiRISE camera onboard [Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter](#) -- the first image ever of a spacecraft descending to the surface of another planet. Taken from 750 kilometers [above Mars](#), the picture shows Phoenix suspended beneath its unfurling, 10 meter-wide parachute, against the much darker Martian surface. The lander is still attached to its protective backshell. Phoenix subsequently released its parachute at an altitude of 12.6 kilometers. Using rockets to further reduce its speed for landing, [Phoenix now](#) rests in the northern polar region of [Mars at about](#) 68 degrees latitude.



### NASA Phoenix Mars Lander Confirms Frozen Water (21 June 2008)

*It is with great pride and a lot of joy that I announce today that we have found proof that this hard bright material is really water ice and not some other substance,"* said Phoenix Principal Investigator Peter Smith of the University of Arizona, Tucson, during a Friday news briefing to announce the confirmation of water ice. *"The truth we're looking for is not just looking at ice. It is in finding out the minerals, chemicals and hopefully the organic materials associated with these discoveries,"* said Smith

<http://spaceflightnow.com/mars/phoenix/080620ice.html>

By Jill Serjeant Thu Jun 26, 2008 4:19pm EDT

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - "Flabbergasted" NASA scientists said on Thursday that Martian soil appeared to contain the requirements to support life, although more work would be needed to prove it. Scientists working on the Phoenix Mars Lander mission, which has already found ice on the planet, said preliminary analysis by the lander's instruments on a sample of soil scooped up by the spacecraft's robotic arm had shown it to be much more alkaline than expected.



## TALE ENDERS

**MARGARET FRY** the prominent Welsh UFO researcher has suffered a personal tragedy with the death of her husband Ronald Ernest Fry on 25th April. Ron' had been in ill health for some time with leukaemia which in turn led to further complications. Our thoughts are with Margaret at this sad time.

**BUSTY TAYLOR & MARIA WHEATLEY'S BOOK LAUNCH- Avebury – Sun, Moon & Earth July 19<sup>th</sup> 2008** at the Waggon & Horses, Beckhampton, near Avebury. From 2 -7 pm Enjoy the delightful setting of an old coaching inn as a backdrop for Busty Taylor's and Maria Wheatley's book launch. Meet likeminded people for open discussions and interesting conversations. Both authors are dowsers and chose the Waggon and Horses inn at Beckhampton, near Avebury as a powerful earth energy current courses through the building! Hope to see you there!

**JAPANESE ASTRONOMERS ARE LOOKING FOR ALIENS!** Japanese astronomers are organizing more than twelve large observatories in the most ambitious search for life in outer space in Japan's history. "Everyone wonders at least once in their lifetime whether space is infinite and whether aliens really do exist," says Shinya Narusawa, chief researcher at Nishi-Harima Astronomical Observatory in western Japan. Japanese scientists have discovered one particular star that could potentially harbour extra-terrestrial life. The search will involve multiple observatories filming that star for a short period, then analyzing light and radio signals that emanate from it.

**OCTOBER 23, 1987;** Wytheville toward Fort Chiswell, Virginia

Danny Gordon and two friends were driving out from Wytheville toward Fort Chiswell, Virginia on Interstate 81 at 7:30 p.m. looking for UFOs that had been sighted in the area. They saw a large V-shaped object make a 90-degree turn over the highway. It flew silently overhead, changing light colors as if signaling the witnesses. (Source: Danny Gordon, *Don't Look Up: The real story behind the Virginia UFO sightings*, p. 54). Thanks to Daniel Wilson USA

**STRANGE LIGHTS OVER BELPER (Derbys.) 28/29 June 08**

I have been staying in Belper for the last few nights whilst my Sister has been on holiday. At about 12.30am on Saturday night/Sunday (28/29 June) morning I woke up with a loud tone in my ears, looked out of the bedroom window and saw several flashes of light in the sky. This morning on Radio Derby, there have been reports from listeners of strange LITS seen above Belper at about 12.45am last night. John Shelton. PRA.

**BUSY BUSY:** The UFO news 'Flap' resulted in your editor participating in 3 radio broadcasts in one day and featuring in a Central ITV doc.



**THE NEXT PRA MEETING**

Will be held at the Royal British Legion, Allenton, Derby on Tuesday 29th July, at 8pm.

A DVD presentation : **Jaime Maussan & Santiago Yturria** - 2008 Intl. UFO Congress, Nevada.

Plus the latest UFO news & FREE UFO book raffle : £1 on the night. Non-members welcome.

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