

PEGASUS

VOLUME 2 NO 4
JULY AUGUST
1970



JOURNAL OF THE
SURREY INVESTIGATION GROUP
ON

AERIAL PHENOMENA

2/- 10p

```
*****
*
*   E D I T O R I A L   *
*
* *****
```

WARMINSTER journalist Arthur Shuttlewood is to quit UFO research. He plans in future to take a back seat, leaving research to others. At present he is busy putting the final touches to his third and last book, due to be published early next year.

News of Arthur's departure from the UFO scene will come as a shock to many researchers, who have come to look upon him as something of a father-figure, a guiding light in the enigmatic UFO mists. Naturally, the immediate question that springs to mind is why? No, he is not being silenced. Arthur gives his reasons in the summer issue of the NICAP Journal:

"Unfair criticism and cheap cynicism I can stand. But when my family starts to suffer also, that is sufficient for me."

Arthur goes on to say in the article that the original Warminster UFO team, comprising Bob Strong, Sybil Champion and, of course, himself, has finally broken up. Continues Arthur:

"I am pulling out to become, for a change, an armchair critic."

I've had the pleasure of meeting Arthur Shuttlewood twice - at a BUFORA lecture, and in August last year at the Woburn Abbey UFO Convention. On both occasions I was deeply impressed by this man's utter sincerity. Arthur Shuttlewood was unknown in UFO circles until the middle of the 1960s when the Warminster "flap" started. Those who have listened to Arthur speak and read his books: "The Warminster Mystery" and "Warnings From Flying Friends" - particularly the latter - will know that some of the sightings which he alleges to have taken place over the Wiltshire market-town, were nothing short of sensational. The same can be said of other, seemingly outlandish, facets of the UFO mystery fully related in Arthur's two books.

For this reason, some UFO researchers have labelled Arthur as "just another nut-case", or remarked: "UFOs have gone to his head." I gather too that at least one UFO journal has turned down some of Arthur's articles because they were considered far too way-out.

You know, gathering from the criticism levelled at Arthur, anyone would think he was the only person to have seen a UFO in Warminster. Of course, this is not the case. Hundreds of others have. The critic with some time on his hands can easily check the reports in Arthur's books. In fact, when the flap first started Arthur was quite impartial about the whole affair, only the nature of his profession forcing him to enter the UFO arena.

As Arthur so rightly says in "The Warminster Mystery":
"Reporters are a hard-boiled cynical clan, a breed of their own,
thick-hided, suspicious, and not easy to convince."

He only cast aside his neutrality as the evidence for flying-
saucers mounted, and particularly after seeing a UFO himself: a
cigar-shaped craft which flew over Warminster on September 28, 1965.

I admit I find many of Arthur's statements and theories
extremely difficult to swallow. But I am not foolish enough to say
he is a liar, a victim of hoaxes, or suffering from delusions. How
many times over the years have people been rendered outcasts and
shunned by their friends merely because they spoke what later turned
out to be the truth?

During the last five years or so Arthur Shuttlewood has, without
a doubt, done ufology a great service. His perseverance to find
out the truth about UFOs must have been an immensely time-consuming,
often frustrating, and usually thankless task. But he has achieved
his objective, at least in his own mind. Arthur is now convinced
that the genuine UFOs are spaceships from another world. So are
many others. He believes he knows why aliens are visiting this
world of ours. It is up to each individual to decide whether or not
Arthur is telling the truth. For my part, I cannot see why Arthur
should lie. He has little to gain - and so much to lose. True,
there are the royalties from his books to consider. But remember,
Arthur's professional integrity is at stake. And as a fellow
journalist I can say without hesitation that integrity, particularly
when one is responsible for reporting the news, is not worth losing
at any price.

Arthur Shuttlewood, researcher extraordinary, may be "retiring"
from the UFO scene. But we can be sure that his name will continue
to reverberate in UFO circles for many years to come.

PEGASUS may be published quarterly in future. A final decision
was due to have been made at the SIGAP meeting on September 22.
There are several reasons for this proposed move: Further increases
are likely in postage rates. This quite simply means it will cost
more to send out copies of the magazine - many of which go abroad
on an exchange basis. SIGAP's funds are marginally in the black.
We don't want them slipping back into the red again. Unless cuts
are made somewhere the membership fee will have to rise. But this
will only be resorted to as a last measure. Then there are production
difficulties and the fact that I now have less time - due to
increasing business and other commitments - to devote to the magazine.
I and other SIGAP officials hope, therefore, you will accept the
move proposed. If Pegasus does go quarterly, the next issue will be
published in December. Incidentally, the reason for the later
publication of this issue was family illness.

- Ron Toft

** FARMER SEES UFO TAKE-OFF FROM FIELD **
**
** By Ron Toft **
**

FARMER George Graham stood patiently at the edge of the copse, gun in hands, waiting to pick off the marauding foxes as they emerged from their dens for another night of plunder.

Suddenly his attention was riveted to a strange glow about 100 yards distant in the field which opened out in front of him. At first "I thought it was a neighbour tending to his lorry", said 75-year old Mr. Graham, who runs a farm in the village of Woodmansterne, near Banstead, Surrey.

After coming to this conclusion Mr. Graham paid no more attention to it and resumed his search for foxes. Then he heard what he can only describe as a loud "whoosh" and, looking instinctively in the direction of the glow, Mr. Graham could just about make out a dark circular shape rising silently into the air. It gathered momentum and, in a matter of seconds, was lost to view in the night sky. Next day Mr. Graham found unmistakable evidence in the field that he had not been seeing things, that something out of the ordinary had parked there the night before.....

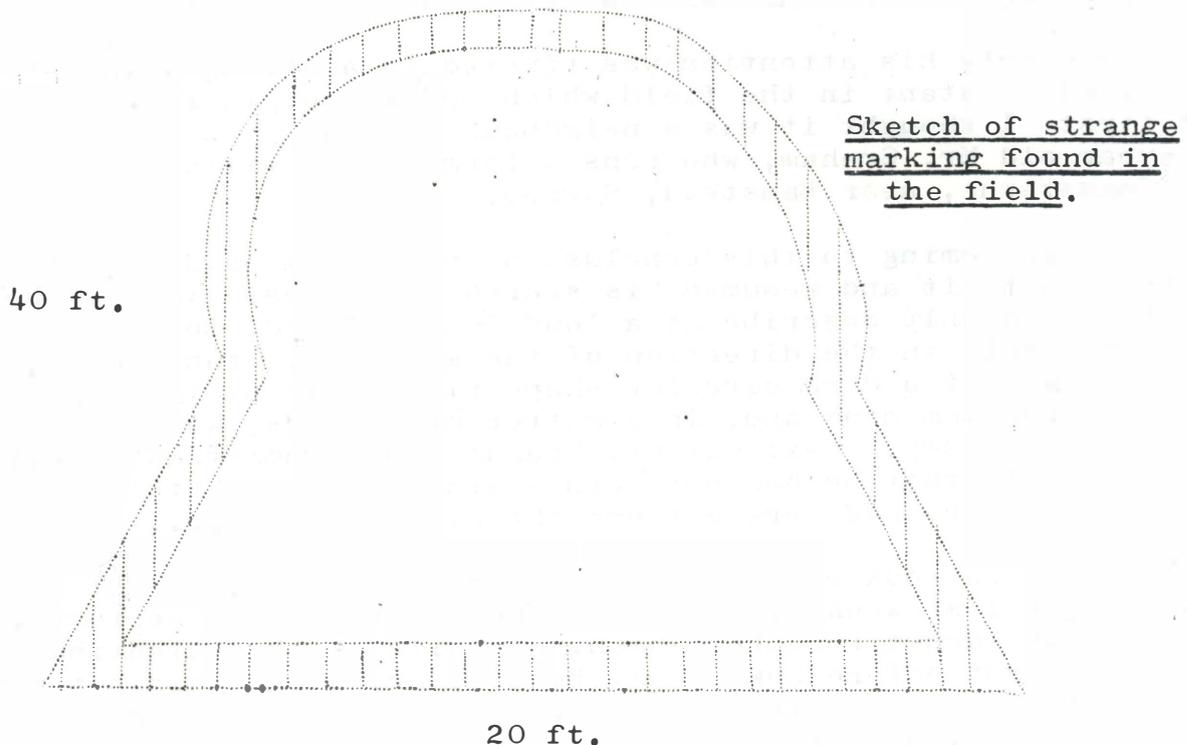
All this took place in the summer of 1968, one night either during the last week of August or the first week in September - Mr. Graham cannot remember which. Details of this sighting have not come to light before now simply because Mr. Graham did not report the matter to the police or press. He was afraid, as so many witnesses are, of being ridiculed.

I, along with SIGAP Secretary Dick Beet, recently interviewed Mr. Graham at his farm. Elaborating further, Mr. Graham, of Hilltop Farm, said he had seen the object between 10 p.m. and 10.30 p.m. He was standing at the fringe of a copse which crowns the summit of a small hill. The hill is surrounded on three sides by open grazing land. The field from which the UFO took off is bounded on three sides by a thin belt of trees. On the fourth side is a fence which marks the boundary of Mr. Graham's farm. On the other side of this fence is more grazing land, belonging to Mr. Graham's neighbour.

Mr. Graham said he had been looking for foxes "quite a little while" prior to seeing the glow, which he described as being dark-blue and "acetylene-like". This glow was under the base of the UFO. The UFO took off "ten to fifteen minutes" after Mr. Graham first saw the glow. He added that there was no sign of life or other activity in the vicinity of the craft and there was no noise at any time.

Mr. Graham went on to say that when the UFO rose into the sky "I heard only a rush of air. It went straight up. It didn't go one way or the other. The glow went out after it went up." The UFO, which was not illuminated in any way, rose slowly at first, increasing its speed as it got higher. Mr. Graham could only make out the spherical shape against the background of the night sky. He could not see any details on the craft.

Next morning Mr. Graham returned to the field. To his amazement, on the ground was a huge key-hole shaped marking. Mr. Graham described it as being like "a big horse-shoe with a heel on it."



Mr. Graham estimates the length of the marking was about 40 feet, and the width 20 feet. The width of the "band" shown hatched in the sketch, was about eight inches. Inside this band it was discovered that all the grass, both blades and roots, had been neatly plucked or sucked out of the ground as if, in Mr. Graham's words, "by a giant vacuum cleaner." No trace of the grass was found. Mr. Graham believes the machine, whether accidentally or intentionally, took the grass with it. It took about six months for the vegetation to grow over the marking. Just before it had almost disappeared, a pile of manure was dumped right slap bang on the spot where it had been. Mr. Graham assured Dick and I that this was a sheer coincidence. He went on to point out that one of the things which puzzled him was the fact that the marking was extremely sharp at its boundaries, there being no straggly edges. "It was as if you had cut it with a knife", said Mr. Graham. He said that only the bare soil remained inside the band.

Mr. Graham said the UFO had been "a good deal higher than a double-decker bus." He had heard the "whoosh" only after the craft had attained an altitude of about 100 feet. In the field at the same time as the UFO - it covers between 70 and 80 acres - were 20 horses and an equal number of cattle. Apparently they were not distressed in any way. Mr. Graham is quite adamant that the UFO was not an aircraft. "I came home straight away. I was frightened. I didn't know what it was at the time. I never heard it coming and I never heard it go. There was just a rush of air and it was gone. I think it was somebody from other countries, experimenting. They say its from outer-space, but I can't see it myself. I think it's a foreign power. I've never seen anything like it before or since."

Continued Mr. Graham: "It was a bloody big thing. How did they lift it without making any noise? I admit I got the wind up." Mr. Graham often goes to the copse at night hunting for foxes.

He went on to say that two girls had also seen a strange object in the same field a week previous. The girls, who keep horses at Mr. Graham's farm, were taking a short-cut through the field to their bus-stop.

"Their dogs bolted and ran. They wouldn't stay in the field." The girls found the dogs waiting for them at the bus-stop.

SIGAP is at present trying to trace the girls to get the full details of this other sighting.

(If you turn over this page you will see two photographs of the alleged landing site. The top picture shows Pegasus Editor Ron Toft carefully examining the grass and soil for remaining clues. The clumps of shrubs mark the spots where the manure was dumped - right on the landing site. The bottom picture gives a general view of the site. The decaying tree-stump in the foreground is roughly where Mr. Graham was standing. The trees in the background mark the boundary of the field. The shrubs are clearly visible in the centre of the picture.)

CIGAR-SHAPED UFO SEEN: According to a news snippet in the London Daily Sketch of July 4, a cigar-shaped UFO was seen on the previous day by Mrs. Rita Sealey (43) of Berry Hill Crescent, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, as she was bringing in her washing from the garden.

NEW REPORT FORMS: New SIGAP and BUFORA sighting report forms are now available. Drawn up by SIGAP Chairman Omar Fowler, they are neither too simple nor too technical.

BOOK DONATED: SIGAP artist-member Dan Butcher has very kindly donated a copy of "The Taming of the Thunderbolts", by Maxwell Cade and Delphine Davis, to SIGAP's library.

```

*****
*
* ANALYSIS OF WELSH UFO SURVEY
*
*
*****

```

A UFO survey was carried out during May and June this year in the Welsh town of Abertillery by SIGAP member Derek Toombs and the Gwent UFO Research Group. Fifty-five people were interviewed, the age-range being from 14 to 74. Those asked questions included pensioners, miners, a stonemason and a medical practitioner. Interests of these people covered a broad spectrum: art, music, mythology, microbiology, astronomy, singing, elocution, and even sky-diving.

Sixty-three per cent of the people interviewed thought there just might be something in the UFO mystery. However, another 28 per cent believed that nothing useful could come out of a study of the subject. More than 61 per cent felt more research was necessary in order to understand the issue better. It is pleasing to note that 20 per cent of the people interviewed expressed a desire to join a research organisation. And more than 14 per cent actually claimed to have seen a UFO. Ideas as to what UFOs are varied considerably. Among the suggestions put forward were: imagination, optical illusions, misinterpretation of natural phenomena, and visitors from outer-space.

Says Mr. Toombs in conclusion: "The great majority of people questioned felt the phenomenon of UFOs is a very real, objective thing which has been lurking around for a very long time, and that the time has come for something to be established. They were willing to donate to a fund for more research into the enigma."

```

*****
*
* LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
*
*
*****

```

THE Doppler Effect is a well-known phenomenon of sound waves. The best example is a passing motor-horn or fire-engine klaxon, which change pitch very noticeably. This is due to compression of the sound waves when the source is approaching and lengthening of the waves when the source is receding.

It may be less well-known that the same effect applies to light waves. To quote Walter Sullivan ("We Are Not Alone", Hodder & Stoughton, 1965):

"In the case of light, the shortening of wavelength shifts lines of the spectrum toward the violet, whereas motion away, and consequent lengthening of the waves, causes a shift in the opposite direction, toward the red end of the spectrum."



FRAME 070

TOP

MARINER 6



Presumably, this implies that a very fast approaching object could appear to be yellow and could appear to change to orange on passing the observer. Is this a possible explanation for some of the many cases of UFOs reported to have undergone an apparent change of colour? Could a physicist reader tell us what speed an object would have to be moving in order to create a noticeable Doppler light wave effect?

Yours etc., Peter Hill, 11 Lincoln Road, Rydes Hill, Guildford, Surrey. (SIGAP VICE-CHAIRMAN).

VERY fine article of yours in the last issue of Pegasus about the UFO as seen by tanker-driver Mr. J.P. Finest description I have ever read of the sighting of a UFO. Many thanks.

Yours etc., Colonel G. Gauntlett, 18 Vine Road, East Molesey, Surrey.

OPPOSITE is what has been described as one of the "truly striking and inspiring space pictures" of the last decade. The narrow-angle photograph, which covers 63 miles east to west and 48 miles north to south, was taken by the American space-probe Mariner 6 when it flew past the Red Planet, Mars, in July last year.

This was the eighteenth near encounter picture of Mars snapped by the spacecraft. Distance from the camera is 2,300 miles. Local solar time is about 3.30 p.m., and the camera view angle is 30 degrees from the local vertical. The photograph was taken during the 20 minute period surrounding Mariner's closest approach to the planet, at 10.19 p.m. PDT on July 30.

The large crater in the picture is about 24 miles across. Visible are several slump terraces, especially on the crater's west inner wall, and radial gullies or chutes can be seen on the south wall. Both features are typical of some of the large craters on the Moon. The small crater on the west wall with a recognisable central peak is clearly younger, as is the still smaller crater just below to the south-east, on the main crater floor. On the lower left of the picture is a small prominent crater roughly comparable in size to Arizona's Meteor Crater. Electronic processing will immeasurably improve this picture, which is impressive even in this raw form.

Remarkable though they are, the photos taken by Mariner 6 and its companion probe Mariner 7, neither prove nor disprove the existence of life on Mars. Exploration of the intriguing planet will be continued next year by the launching of two more Mariner probes. Both will go into orbit round the Red Planet and over a period of three months map about 70 per cent of the Martian surface. The first unmanned American landing on Mars is due to take place in 1975. It is unlikely we will know for certain whether or not there is life on Mars before then.

** SKYWATCH SURVEY **

ARE skywatches worthwhile? That was the question asked in the last issue of Pegasus. Members and non-members alike were asked to send in their comments. Although there was not exactly a flood of letters, the ones received did make some interesting points, as you will see if you read on. It turned out that most people who wrote in supported skywatches. Here are some of the comments:

PETER HILL, of 11 Lincoln Road, Rydes Hill, Guildford.
(SIGAP Vice-Chairman): While it is true that the probability of seeing a UFO is statistically very small, I think that skywatching is a useful training exercise in the identification of stars, aircraft, satellites, other artifacts, and natural phenomena. However, it is important that this should be seen as a training exercise and not allowed to become a quasi-religious ritual. The dates, times and locations of watches should therefore be varied to give experience of observing under varying conditions and environment. Some watching should be in daylight.

MISS MARJORIE DALLEY, of Lawrence Farm, Buckland, Betchworth, Surrey. (SIGAP Treasurer): I do not think that nation-wide skywatches, involving hundreds of people sitting out all night at different vantage points around the country, serve any useful purpose except, as you say, to train the uninitiated to recognise conventional objects. Apart from anything else, all the evidence so far points to the fact that genuine UFOs are well aware of being watched, and what is more, object to being watched by vast numbers of people. This, in my opinion, is why it is so difficult to find sightings with more than one or two witnesses. On the other hand, skywatches are rather fun, and provide an opportunity to meet and exchange views with other ufologists, an opportunity which is sadly lacking in the normal run of UFO society meetings.

JANET GREGORY, of Mill Farm, Thringstone, Leicester LE6 3UH.
(Editor of Spacelink): Most skywatches are badly organised - or not organised at all. They are in fact social gatherings held in the open. A group of people meets on top of a hill, sits and chats of this and that, often with a radio blaring. Occasionally one may look up into the sky, but for the most part UFOs are the last thing on anyone's mind. I favour the idea that the watchers have to be on the right wavelength, somehow in tune with whatever controls UFOs, before they will appear. So the watchers, preferably a small, harmonious group, should sit quietly and think about UFOs, or else talk about the subject. As much equipment capable of capturing information as possible should be available and in immediate working order. The group should also have decided upon a plan of action in the remote event of a UFO actually landing. If all these factors have been carried out, then I believe there is more likelihood of a successful skywatch. If all such preparations have been ignored, then the skywatch may as well not be held.

RICHARD BEET, of 23 Coatham Place, Cranleigh, Surrey.
(SIGAP Secretary): Infrequent organised skywatches are unlikely to achieve really positive results. However, I would be in favour of regular organised skywatches providing:

1. A watch at any one position be carried out at not less than one week intervals.
2. That watchers be equipped with sufficient and accurate scientific instruments, e.g. infra-red binoculars, sky-scan cameras, high and low-level radar equipment.
3. That telecommunication facilities be provided at watching posts by means of private wire systems and data links to a central collecting point.

The above conditions would require at least a government scientific grant or the provision of a UFO research foundation, both of which are not impossibilities but unlikely in view of the present climate of public opinion.

LIONEL BEER, of 15 Freshwater Court, Crawford Street, London W1H 1HS. (Managing Editor of Spacelink and UFO book seller):

I am not in favour of skywatches as they are usually run (e.g. Warminster) as these are usually nothing more than night-time picnics. I am in favour of watches organised on the principles I laid down for BUFORA. It would appear that SIGAP is about the only group to make any real attempt to follow these principles. I think there is some value in training the uninitiated (that means most of us) to observe at night.

MICHAEL MERCER, of "Langdales", 7 Chinthurst Park, Shalford, Guildford, Surrey. (SIGAP Member): I fully endorse the Editor's ideas that most ufologists are largely untrained individuals who would benefit from knowing the other aspects about UFOs. As an ex-serviceman I feel identification of natural phenomena and how to differentiate between flares and helicopters, would be much more important than sitting out all night in a non-UFO area. If it is a known UFO area, such as Warminster, then that is a different matter.

DR. JOHN CLEARY-BAKER, of 3 Devenish Road, Weeke, Winchester, Hampshire. (Editor of the BUFORA Journal): I agree with the Editor of Pegasus that skywatches are necessary in "ufocal" areas like Warminster and in "flap" areas. I share his doubts about the efficiency of the run-of-the-mill skywatch and have expressed these doubts in the BUFORA Journal. Firstly, as he observes, the danger of adverse publicity is always present. Secondly, the odds against anything being seen during such watches must usually be very high indeed, and this can lead to disappointment on the part of beginners and subsequent loss of interest in UFO research as a whole. There is, furthermore, an additional consideration, which is that evidence is accumulating that there is a "seamy side" to UFO manifestations, which, in the unlikely but always possible event of its becoming evident in the course of a skywatch, might

cause severe psychological damage to young, nervous and unprepared watchers. Such persons may make valuable contributions to UFO research in an "armchair" capacity, without possessing the ability to confront the unknown with equanimity. My experience is that a man or woman is unwise to tackle the more outlandish aspects of UFO phenomena unless he or she has many years of experience in dealing with psychic, Fortean and UFO manifestations and/or the peculiar quirk of temperament which attracts some of us to the sort of happenings which repel and alarm the generality of individuals.

Notwithstanding the above, I admit I enjoy skywatches in good, clear weather, even when I have little expectation of seeing any UFOs. A quiet night under the stars is an experience not to be missed and a welcome escape from the noise, glare and hustle of the everyday rat-race! I should make it clear that the above are personal reflections and do not represent any kind of official BUFORA outlook on the question of skywatching.

DAVID SIMPSON, of 15 Bridle Close, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey.
(Chairman of the Society for the Investigation of UFO Phenomena):

Most ufologists believe in the existence of intelligently controlled UFOs, without necessarily having seen one themselves. Some do not feel it important to acquire personal experience. But for those who do, skywatching is the only answer.

In this country alone, there are dozens of UFO groups and magazines challenging the "authorities" to consider the thousands of reports and concede that intelligently controlled UFOs do exist. I believe that any such consideration would be a public waste of money, as my own experience has shown me that the available evidence breaks down upon critical examination. Therefore, I am of the opinion that the case for intelligent UFO crews is far from proven.

Ardent believers often cry: "What would you consider to be proof?" My reply is: "Verifiable scientific evidence." There is, at present, virtually none. If there is any possibility of achieving such evidence, it is on properly organised skywatches (rather more sophisticated than BUFORA's attempts).

Above, I have categorised those individuals for whom skywatching is necessary. However, my own attitudes place me in a different category. During the past three years I have made dozens of skywatches, gaining invaluable experience, not by sighting UFOs, but through meeting other ufologists and thus learning about their attitudes, beliefs, investigational abilities etc.....the very factors that cause the perpetuation of UFO phenomena.

* I should be most interested to hear the views of both *
* members and non-members on Mr. Simpson's letter, which *
* discusses some basic issues - EDITOR. *

* SKYWATCHING: A CRITICAL EVALUATION *
* By Peter Hill *
* SIGAP Vice-Chairman *

THE opinion of UFO researchers concerning the practice of organised skywatching appears to fall largely into two principal schools of thought. These may be roughly summarised as:

- A. Those who advocate skywatching as a research method.
- B. Those opposed to skywatching.

The latter school bases its opposition on the relatively small statistical probability of observing a UFO, or anything unusual, on any given occasion. While this is clearly a valid argument against skywatching as a research method, I would like to put forward for discussion a third viewpoint which would appear to have had little consideration.

My argument is that skywatching has validity not as a research function, but as a training function, and that it should be organised with this clearly in mind.

Why training? It is surely axiomatic that if we are to recognise the abnormal when it appears, we must first be thoroughly familiar with the normal. How else can we classify any phenomenon as abnormal?

We must therefore conduct serious study of normal artifacts and natural phenomena. These should include: aircraft, balloons, meteorological phenomena, stars, planets, satellites, birds, and all other aerial phenomena. Skywatching should be so arranged as to provide the maximum experience of observing all these phenomena under varied conditions. It is essential that watches be undertaken at varying dates and times, in both darkness and daylight, and in varying environmental conditions.

The tendency of watches becoming an anniversary "celebration" is one which should be resisted, as this is more in the nature of a quasi-religious ritual and has little scientific justification.

Indeed, I suggest that a case might even be made for keeping the times and locations of watches confidential, as it is not unthinkable that an intelligence behind the UFO phenomenon has such a good information service that it might cause the UFO to be absent from a publicised watch site!

Be that as it may, there is little to be lost and much to be gained by varying the times and locations. For the same reason, may I make the suggestion that the SIGAP library be extended into the fields of meteorology, astronomy, aircraft recognition, birds and other relevant subjects. The more efficient we become at recognising the normal, the less time we should spend in chasing "wild geese".

```
*****  
* SKYWATCH REPORTS *  
*****
```

GUILDFORD, June 27/28. The watch began at 7 p.m. with excellent weather conditions and the prospect of a good night ahead. There had been one incident during the afternoon when two of the red, two-foot diameter hydrogen-filled balloons escaped from the site and flew off rapidly in a north-east direction at 5.51 p.m. This meant that the experiment scheduled to take place later that night would be hampered by a loss in the lifting capability of the two remaining balloons. There was some concern at 7.45 p.m. when attention was drawn to a jet that had just taken off from Gatwick Airport and appeared to be in difficulty, as a very thick black smoke trail billowed out behind it. Before long the aircraft re-appeared and landed at Gatwick. Apart from that, there remained only the regular aircraft transits from Heathrow to attract our attention.

It had been intended to launch four balloons from Hindhead, supporting a bright battery-powered light, but as two of the balloons had been lost, the experiment had to be carried out by using a bundle of "sparklers" which, although they burned for over a minute, were not seen from the Pewley Down site. The intention had been to photograph the light from Guildford and then compare the photograph with one taken in 1968 of a light in the sky in the Hindhead direction, which we believed had a rational explanation.

Shortly after midnight the first satellites were reported:

- 0026 overhead and heading east fast. 69/94/B Cosmos rocket.
- 0202 overhead, west to east, bright and fast. 70/43/B Cosmos 347 rocket.
- 0205 overhead and heading north north west to south south east, slow and dull. Pageos A.
- 0215 forty-five degrees south, slow and dim. 63/53/A Explorer 19 balloon satellite.
- 0218 fast moving flashing satellite, north-west to south-east. Most likely Cosmos rocket 70/47/B.

(Our thanks to Tim Childerhouse, Royal Aircraft Establishment Space Department, for supplying the satellite data.)

So with the addition of a few shooting-stars, we came to the end of another National Skywatch at 5 a.m. Unfortunately we were unable to induce the visitation of any UFOs, despite Edgar Hatvany's equipment and Capt. Ivar Mackay's infra-red camera. However, the watch was well attended, although less crowded than in previous years, but at least it served the purpose of giving an opportunity to try out new ideas and equipment.

The whole question of skywatching is currently under review and the National Skywatch has shown once again that even sitting out all night, the chances of seeing a UFO are very bleak indeed and statistics have proved that unless there is a UFO flap under way or there has been local UFO activity, there is little to be gained in holding a skywatch. Even Warminster has failed to produce reports of any substance in recent years and it is regrettable that the town appears to be growing into an ideological centre. Whereas if the energy and time spent on Cradle Hill could be diverted to witness analysis, something more rewarding might result.

- Omar Fowler
SIGAP Chairman

WARMINSTER. June 27/28. SIGAP representatives visited Warminster on National Skywatch night. I, Mike Mercer and several other parties from Surrey, joined the 60 or 70 other watchers on Cradle Hill. There were far too many people to organise any systematic shifts. It was difficult enough to find each other. Many of the watchers moved over to Starr Hill and several other popular watching sites were visited too. All the local faces were there and there is, I am sure, no need for me to list them. Various small groups formed around some of the more experienced watchers, some hearing for the first time the tales of Warminster's wonderful past. But rain soon sent many of the watchers scurrying home to their warm beds. In many ways it was a bit of a wash-out. Although the early part of the night was warm and clear, it was only 1 a.m. when the rain started and continued until well after dawn. Needless to say we did not see any flying-saucers.

The visit to Warminster on skywatch night may not have been much benefit as regards sightings, but one or two interesting things did come to light. Shortly after I had arrived on Cradle Hill I was approached by three young men, three-quarters of the party described by Mr. William Stock in the last issue of Pegasus (Vol. 2 No. 3 Page 13). Their spokesman, Mr. John Bennett, gave me the full details of their "experience" on May 8. The party consisted of: John Bennett, of Eltham Park, London; Terry Smock, Lee, London; Derek Stringer, Sidcup, Kent, and Trevor Stanley, Ilford, Essex. (He was not present.) Said Mr. Bennett:

"We arrived on the hill rather early and as it was still very much daylight and no-one else had arrived, we decided that the best thing we could do was to get a couple of hours sleep. We synchronised our watches - the time was 1855 - and I placed Terry's watch on the dashboard.

"The radio playing softly, we closed our eyes to go to sleep. But after a few minutes we all became aware of a sound resembling very heavy footsteps on gravel, that seemed to be coming from behind the van. We looked out expecting to see someone. But we saw nobody. Not daring to get out and investigate, we listened to the footsteps for what seemed like a couple of minutes.

Then then grew softer until they disappeared. We felt very frightened and my suggestion to leave was met with a unanimous response. Terry, taking his watch from the dashboard, was amazed to find it read 2010. We checked our watches. Yes, they all read the same. Only then did we realise it was now completely dark. We were just leaving when a police-car arrived on a routine check. We were relieved to have someone to talk to, although we did not relate the story of what had just happened to us. Then, as the police-car left, a party of skywatchers arrived and, with their moral support, we decided to stay on."

I questioned all three, but could find no fault in their story. They seemed to be level-headed UFO researchers, absolutely sure they had not been to sleep and, indeed, felt far from refreshed. One of them said the air became heavy and sultry after their experience.

- Dick Colborne
SIGAP Librarian and committee member

LECTURE ON WORLD MYSTERIES

Report by Ron Toft

THE guest speaker at the July 21 SIGAP meeting was the Rev. Alfred Bellerby, of Gatesbury, Womersley, Surrey. He gave a thought-provoking lecture entitled: "Unsolved World Mysteries". He confined his talk to four topics - The Mary Celeste, The Creeping Coffins of Barbados, The Loch Ness Monster and, of course, Flying Saucers. He started off with the mystery of the disappearance of the crew of the Mary Celeste. As many readers will probably know, the Mary Celeste was a ship which set sail from New York for Genoa almost a century ago. In a nutshell, two weeks after leaving port the ship was found apparently abandoned in the middle of the Atlantic. What happened to the crew of the perfectly sound ship has puzzled the world ever since. A table laid for breakfast, cough mixture spilt from a spoon, food burned to a cinder in the galley - all these things, and others, indicated that the crew had left the ship in a big hurry. Briefly, Mr. Bellerby suggested that the whole crew went down with hallucinations, caused by a fungus called ergotine, and one by one threw themselves overboard. Ridiculous? Mr. Bellerby doesn't think so. He pointed out that ergotine was found in coarse flour, such as that which would have been used on the ship for cooking purposes. He also cited other cases involving both humans and animals. The theory, even though a bit far-fetched, is certainly worth considering.

Mr. Bellerby then spoke about the so-called Creeping Coffins of Barbados. This is another tantalising mystery. A family bought an estate in Barbados and hollowed out a vault in a hillock of coral. One by one, as members of that family died over the years, they were placed in this vault, which was sealed after each "burial". On several occasions when the vault was opened the coffins were found to have been moved. The big question is how? At first the local

natives were suspected, but it was later discovered that it was extremely unlikely that any human agency had been responsible for disarranging the coffins. After one burial the Governor of Barbados had sand sprinkled all over the vault floor, so that footprints would show up. He then had the marble slab put in place and cemented, and his seal put on it. But when the vault was opened for another burial the coffins were found "all over the place". There were no footprints on the floor. The sand had not been disturbed in any way. Mr. Bellerby's explanation? He suggested that there may have been a magnetic substance in the coral which, over a period of years, gradually attracted the lead part of the coffins, and thereby causing them to move about.

The mystery of the Loch Ness Monster has been publicised so extensively that I need not give any background details. Suffice to say Mr. Bellerby's explanation here was either a line of otters, or a bank of weeds. Personally, this didn't convince me one iota.

Finally, Mr. Bellerby spoke on UFOs. He admitted from the outset that he was "on unfamiliar ground" and quickly added: "You know more about it than I do". Whilst admitting the possibility of life on other worlds, Mr. Bellerby felt that all UFO sightings could be explained away either by hallucinations, natural phenomena, or terrestrial artifacts. Mr. Bellerby was given a merciless "grilling" by SIGAP members as regards UFOs, and it was quite plain that his research in this field was remarkably incomplete. Nevertheless, an enjoyable evening was had by all.

MEETINGS: The next two SIGAP meetings will be held on OCTOBER 27 and November 24. They will be held, as usual, in the canteen of the Plastic Coatings Factory, Guildford, starting at 8 p.m.

SIGAP LIBRARY: The new librarian, Dick Colborne, has found that prior to his election to that post, a number of books were loaned without being entered in the records. Therefore, will any members currently in possession of any books please return them as soon as possible to Dick or, alternatively, notify him of the titles if you wish to keep them for a further period.

TRANSLATORS: Will anyone able to speak either Spanish, French or Italian and willing to scan through foreign UFO magazines for interesting stories, please contact the Editor as soon as possible.

FORTEAN NEWS: It is planned in future to devote space in Pegasus to "Fortean" and related news. Consequently, the Editor would appreciate newspaper and magazine clippings - or transcriptions of them - dealing with these topics.

P E G A S U S

Journal

of the

Surrey Investigation Group On Aerial Phenomena

EDITOR: Ron Toft, 14 Buckhurst Road, Frimley Green, CAMBERLEY, Surrey.

Articles for publication in Pegasus, be they long or short, are extremely welcome. They should be sent to the Editor. Views expressed in Pegasus are not necessarily those of the SIGAP Committee.

Extracts may be taken from the magazine provided they are in context and full credits given. Individual copies of Pegasus are obtainable from the Secretary at 2s. each. (By post, 6d extra.)

Exchange publications and advertisements should be sent to the Editor too. The advertising rates are as follows:

Classified: Members 2d per word. Non-members 4d.

Display: Quarter-page 15s. Half-page 30s. Full-page 55s.

Special display rates are available to members.

SIGAP CHAIRMAN: Omar Fowler, 149 Mytchett Road, Mytchett, CAMBERLEY, Surrey. Tel. Farnborough 41012.

" SECRETARY: Dick Beet, 23 Coatham Place, CRANLEIGH, Surrey. Tel. Cranleigh 4420.

" TREASURER: Miss Marjorie Dalley, Lawrence Farm, Buckland, BETCHWORTH, Surrey.

Committee members: Omar Fowler, Dick Beet, Miss Marjorie Dalley, Peter Hill (Vice-Chairman), Ron Toft (Editor), Dick Colborne (Librarian), Dan Butcher and Robert Skinner.

All membership and other general inquiries to the Secretary. UFO reports to the Chairman or Editor. Ordinary membership: 15s per year. Junior membership (14-16 years) 7s 6d.

SIGAP BOARD OF CONSULTANTS

John Adams, B.Sc., F.R.Met.S.	(OPTICAL PHYSICS)
Tim Childerhouse.	(SPACE & SATELLITE RESEARCH)
Rev. Norman Cockburn, M.A., B.D., Ph.D.	(THEOLOGY)
Stuart Miller, B.A.	(PSYCHOLOGY)
Ronald Pilkington.	(METEOROLOGY)
Professor Frank B. Salisbury, Ph.D.	(EXCIBIOLOGY)

PEGASUS is printed and published by the Surrey Investigation Group On Aerial Phenomena.