

# THE RESEARCHER



A publication of the Merseyside Anomalies Research Association

“Interpretation is free, experience is sacred.”

Vol. 1 Issue 3 Spring/Summer 1998



The Haunting of Liverpool's Town Hall  
The Curious Robin Hood Stone  
Detecting Physical Alien Craft Part 2  
Unexplained Voice Caught on Tape  
A Liverpool Close Encounter Experience

£2

## CONTENTS

About the Merseyside Anomalies Research Association	3
The Voice..... <i>Editorial by Anthony Eccles</i>	4
Conference details	5
“Knock, knock, who goes there!” A look at poltergeists..... <i>Colin J. Veacock</i>	6
Passive detection of aerial phenomena part 2 ( or how to detect physical alien craft ) ... <i>Bill Bimson</i>	12
“Get out of my house!” The haunting of Liverpool’s Town Hall..... <i>Mark J. Glover</i>	21
UFO research: a complimentary science... <i>by Mark Rosney</i>	26
Advertisements	28
My experience ( a close encounter witness )... <i>Avril Moore</i>	29
Psychic powers..... <i>by Sue McCallister</i>	32
“Never ever heard anything like it” Unexplained voice caught on tape..... <i>Colin J Veacock</i>	34
Hypnosis, recovered memories & non-hypnotic eye witness interviewing ~ a reply to McClure..... <i>by Steve Verner Weaver</i>	38
Merseyside Curiosities No.2 The Robin Hood Stone..... <i>John Hall</i>	43

Cover photograph: Main staircase of Liverpool’s Town Hall

## Contributors

The Researcher would like to thank the following for their important contributions to this issue:

Articles: Bill Bimson, Anthony Eccles, Mark J. Glover, John L. Hall, Sue McAllister, Avril Moore, Colin J. Veacock and Dr. Steven Verner-Weaver.

Illustrations: John G. Swogger, John L. Hall and Colin J. Veacock.

Marketing Advice: David Sejrup and Dick Shambler from Chester City Council.

Research Consultants: Paul Fitzgibbon, Dr. Steven Verner Weaver and Dr. Carl Williams. We also want to thank the growing number of readers for your continued support.

## About MARA

The Merseyside Anomalies Research Association (MARA) was founded in February 1996. It is a non-profit making organisation whose aims are to encourage, promote and conduct unbiased objective investigation and research into UFO/paranormal phenomena. MARA provides non-financial support for undergraduate and post-graduate research into anomalous phenomena.

MARA consists of an informal group of people of all backgrounds and a variety of ages over 18. The group limits itself to a relatively small number of people, composed of individuals with mixed backgrounds who want to actively investigate and research UFO/paranormal phenomena within the Merseyside region. We do not give public lectures at our regular meeting, but often present lectures or talks for other groups and societies. Membership application to MARA is free and despite the above size limitation is open to any interested individuals. As places are limited we have a waiting list for membership. The Association is jointly run by its group co-ordinators who are amateur investigators and researchers in their spare time, and members of well known national organisations. They are responsible for any major decisions involving the group in addition to the association's membership, activities, functions and research.

It is a policy of the organisation not to have any fixed beliefs and to remain apolitical. However, the organisation is not responsible for the opinion's expressed, or implied, by guest speakers, items within The Researcher, or by any arbitrary views of the Association's members. MARA is affiliated to the British UFO Research Association, Northern Anomalies Research Organisation, The Northern UFO Network, the Incorporated Society for Psychical Research, Halton FM UFO Factor, Merseyside Area Paranormal Society and works with the Association for Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena, and the Wirral Paranormal Investigations.

### Group Co-ordinators

<u>Anthony Eccles</u>	<u>Mark Glover</u>	<u>John L. Hall</u>	<u>Paul Rogers</u>	<u>Colin Veacock</u>
0151 486 6087	0151 476 0356	0151 475 7935	01695 729410	0151 525 5823

Address: 52, Hawthorne Avenue, Halewood, Liverpool, L26 9XD  
No personal visits please!

e-mail address: paulrogers3@compuserve.com and tonyeccles@yahoo.com

or look up MARA on  
<http://www.merseyworld.com/mara/>

### About The Researcher

This publication serves as a voice for MARA members who want to write about their research and interests in anomalous phenomena. We will also print letters from readers and we will also include articles and advertisements belonging to those people who are not a part of MARA but who would like to contribute their research to this small publication. It will not involve payment for the article but it will mean that your article will be read by a larger number of people involved with UFOs and the paranormal. Please send your letters and articles to Anthony Eccles at the address above. Keep it clean and objective, know what I mean? MARA reserves the right to edit all articles as necessary.

## The Voice

Welcome to the third issue of "The Researcher". I would like to thank all of our readers for your continued support and positive criticism, your letters of praise have been well received. I know this issue has come out slightly later than advertised, but I'll take the wrap for this, due to other present commitments, I have been unable to stick to my own deadlines. Anyway, here it is. It has been an interesting few months since issue two came out. M.A.R.A. has received some very good cases recently, a couple of them have been highlighted inside this issue. We also continue the debate on the uses of hypnosis to regress a witness back to the time of their experience (in the hope that 'lost' memories can be recalled). It is an important issue for all researchers to consider when dealing with cases of lost time etc. There is a very good article regarding hypnosis in the latest edition of New Scientist (No.2141 4<sup>th</sup> July 1998). Those of you interested in the subject should read it as it examines the work done by leading researcher Dr. Graeme Wagstaff at Liverpool University. Talking of which, I would like to welcome on board M.A.R.A.'s second qualified consultant. He is Dr. Stephen Verner Weaver, a psychologist from Liverpool University, he has, himself, worked with Dr. Wagstaff.

I had not realised how quickly the public had started to lose interest in the commercial exploited subjects of the paranormal. It is also a shame that such exploitation fills the public's mind with misguided ideas about what the subjects might be really about. You only have to look at the number of books concerning the Martian landscape, that is written by so called experts. There is now a blind faith belief that seems to have replaced the traditional view that God and his angels are here to keep watch on us from the perils of destruction. Today, that protection is done by aliens. The concept remains the same, but our perception of an all powerful supernatural overseer differs somewhat. The subject overkill, that has been literally forced down the public's throat, has come in a multitude of forms from books to films to television dramas. The majority of them are badly written and poorly researched. So what has survived the death of this cultural trend? Fortunately, a number of decent and well published researchers who continue to write good books. Television programmes have never got it right because they never ask the genuine objective researchers to do the research, they fail to realise how cheaper this would be. Not surprisingly a number of UFO magazines have stopped too. Believe it or not they even turned down the free services of some of their guest writers in exchange from information downloaded from the Internet. This clearly demonstrates that the publication is not interested in presenting objective and serious research, but wants to focus more on targeting a large section of the public who want to believe in the existence, and the visitations, of extraterrestrials. That way the publication sells lots of copies and makes money. However, proper investigation into the phenomena is time and financially consuming and is not really done to make a profit.

Please don't forget that this journal is merely a voice for the Merseyside Anomalies Research Association. The group is a Merseyside group researching UFO's and the paranormal within Merseyside, and as such the journal will contain research being conducted by the Association. So do contact us if you see or experience anything unusual, we've been receiving a lot of UFO reports for this year so there will be a report from me about this in the next issue. I am asked about having articles published in "The Researcher", I have written them, they're just in a pile of articles that the other members of M.A.R.A. have written, enthusiastic that they be. If anyone out there wishes to contribute a piece of writing to us, so long as it's objective and unpolitical then please submit it to us at the address shown on page 3.

## Conference details

*by Anthony Eccles*

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October 1998

11am - 6pm

M.A.R.A. is back with another Liverpool conference.

### **UFO'S AND THE PARANORMAL**

at The Unity Theatre, Hope Place (off Hope Street)

#### Speakers

Kevin McClure - researcher & writer for the Fortean Times - Nazi  
UFO's, Secrets or Lies.

Jenny Randles - author & researcher - Spontaneous Human Combustion

Nick Redfern - author of "A Covert Agenda" & researcher - UFO's and  
official Government Documents

Dr. Carl Williams - Parapsychologist - Examining the paranormal

Tony Eccles & Mark Glover - researchers - UFO's over Merseyside

Colin Veacock - author & researcher - Hauntings in Merseyside  
(includes genuine and unique audio and visual evidence)

#### Tickets

£6 per ticket and £5 for concessions

If you require a map and information regarding the event please contact

Mark Glover on 0151 476 0356, Colin Veacock on 0151 525 5823 or

Elaine Hannah on 0151 475 7935

0151 486 6087 (answering machine - leave a message and we'll  
contact you as soon as possible)

tonyeccles@yahoo.com

or write to

M.A.R.A.

c/o 52, Hawthorne Avenue, Halewood, Liverpool, L26 9XD

To avoid missing out please make cheques payable to Anthony Eccles and send them to the above address. Tickets can also be purchased on the day itself at the door.

# Knock, Knock, who goes there!

*By Colin J. Veacock*

Barely audible scratches come from the skirting boards, light knocks ring out from the walls, doors and ceilings which can reach such intensity that people out in the street can clearly hear them. Then, objects begin to vanish and reappear in ridiculous, impossible, places, such as a valuable ring disappearing from the jewellery box and reappearing in the sink amongst the dirty dishes, while some objects will vanish for good and never return. Occasionally objects will turn up that the home owners have never seen before (apports) cold drafts blow along hallways and landings, huge temperature drops are felt and household objects begin to be violently thrown around. In some of the more interesting cases, astounding instances of objects being finely balanced or placed in strange formations will be experienced. House hold items will be thrown around, these objects occasionally taking elliptical flight paths, dematerialising in flight, passing through solid walls and ceilings, and hitting walls with such force that they leave indentations in the plaster. Force which is not evident when witnesses are struck with these rapidly moving projectiles. Doors open and close, footsteps parade throughout the building, and to make matters worse, the electricity supply will begin to be tampered with causing the home owners to tear their hair out.... but the best is yet to come!

Water will begin to collect on surfaces in perfect circular pools while, at other times, it will simply gush forth from the ceilings and walls. Terrific crashes will come from closed rooms, often described as a Grande piano being dropped from a great height, and incredibly heavy objects will be levitated high into the air. Then, in most cases, after approximately twelve to eighteen weeks, it comes to a sudden halt as mysteriously as it had began.

This is the menu of the poltergeist, or noisy spirit to give it its original German translation, whose exploits instil fear and trepidation in their victims, which, after all, is exactly what they are meant to do! Put quite simply, fear, or any heightened showing of emotion is bread and butter to the poltergeist. Creating scratching noises will only scare the witness for so long before fear gives way to curiosity. Its at this point that the poltergeist will move on to its next phase of activity, creating small knocks for instance. The witness then becomes terrified because he or she believes that some invisible being is present in their home, the emotional out pouring breaths life into the poltergeist allowing it to create further activity right up to the point where it threatens violence. This is why if you can remove the fear present in the witness early on, you can bring the activity to a complete halt pretty quickly, but explaining to a family how it works, and asking witnesses not to feel scared while their three piece suite is hovering under the ceiling and phantom footsteps run up and down the stairs, is easier said than done.

Perhaps ninety percent of poltergeists follow this format religiously because they are not phantoms of the deceased returning to haunt the living, or mischievous ghost children playing tricks, but creations of the subconscious mind. In fact some mental health professional have gone on record as describing the incredible antics of the poltergeist as being a pleasanter alternative to a full nervous breakdown. The human mind is not capable of holding onto these negative emotions so it off loads them in any way possible. It is natural that if you don't off load the energy in the form of a tantrum, then it should, express itself by creating noises, and causing objects to move etc.

Occasionally the poltergeist will take a huge quantum leap forward and begins to physically attack the witness, biting, kicking, scratching and slapping them.

Recently a Mr Franco Iorio, aged 54, who lives in Slough, Buckinghamshire, awoke to find a pair of ghostly hands tightening their grip around his neck. They light fires in closed draws and cupboards which extinguish themselves before they get out of control, and partial apparitions consisting usually of disembodied heads, arms and legs, will appear. As much as I hate to admit it, it appears that, occasionally, the intelligence behind the unidentified activity is snatched away from the subconscious mind and some other driving force takes over, not necessarily a deceased personality. Lower astrals, for instance, which are bodies of intelligence that seemingly have no identity or meaning, can take the reins which can then pretend to be the spirit of someone close. This can cause mental hardship to those involved. When this other person takes over and sits in the driving seat, it is usually for a reason, and the reason more often than not is to communicate.

Writing will appear on walls, signed by the supposed contact, and in one or two cases, words will be formed out of household articles. In the case from the West Derby area three years ago, which took place in a flat of two students, words were written out of socks. If it cannot get its message across this way it may try to speak. The voices begin as a harsh ear piercing whistle, or barking, and quickly progresses to single words spoke in a harsh guttural tone reminiscent of an croaky old man. In the past, the voices were thought to be disembodied, originating out of thin air. The Bell Witch, for instance, a famous case from the 1880's that took place in Robertson County, Tennessee, the voice was thought to be the ghost of a local witch, hence the name. The Enfield case in 1977 showed that the voices emanate from the witnesses false vocal fold, the area we use when we lose our voice and talk in a gruff gravelly voice. These voices which are soon singing and insulting everyone in earshot, talk for hours at a time, something, which if we tried to hoax the voice, would result in serious injury to our vocal cords. There is a theory that this stage of poltergeist phenomenon is tenuously related to "Tourettes Syndrome", a condition where the afflicted will swear uncontrollably and occasionally bark like a dog. Unfortunately, those suffering from Tourettes usually show facial twitches and ticks, something which is not evident in talking poltergeist cases.

Finally, when the family are already at their wits end, the intelligence behind the poltergeist can try and possess the focus of the haunting. The focus can be seen to be the primary witness who is supplying the energy. When this happens, the simple matter of observing and documenting the case, suddenly becomes a battle of wits. The family and the investigators are desperately trying to keep the entity at bay, which can be an impossible task.

I have investigated many poltergeist disturbances and as yet, can honestly say that I have never come across one that I can categorically say was down to a deceased intelligence, although the infamous Hopwood Street case does tend to hint at that verdict. A case I looked at in a three storey house on the busy Edge Lane, Wavertree, was the most active and violent instance of poltergeist manifestation that I have come across, it breaking my tape recorder and throwing a heavy picture frame at me in an effort to make me leave the scene as soon as possible.

It all began on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 1993 when John and Jane Smith (pseudonyms) moved into the top floor self contained flat only to instantly become aware that a strange feeling and a musty smell permeated throughout. At the time Jane was going through the early stages of pregnancy so she was on edge and tearful at the best of times. The last thing she needed was a visit from the paranormal but that's exactly what she got. The small back bedroom was constantly freezing and the electric light refused to work properly. It turned itself on and off and flickered constantly. A feeling of being watched plagued them both as they went about the

flat, the feeling became so bad at times that it caused arguments between the otherwise loving couple. After both had seen indecent shapes moving on the periphery of their vision, they walked downstairs and asked the couple living in the flat below if they knew of anything that could be causing the nasty, disturbing atmosphere. The story they were told amazed them....

It so happened that fourteen years previously, when the gentleman was a school boy, he had lived with his parents and brother in their flat. That is, until the ghost drove them out. They were told a story of how a young boy and girl who were possibly twins, had their throats cut in the small back bedroom by their father, who then fled to the docks and boarded a boat destined for the United States. His father had tried to contact the entity/s by way of a ouija board many times but had received only garbled messages, usually threatening violence and swearing meaninglessly. A psychic had informed them that they stop attempting to make contact, and ignore the physical phenomena. After several months the occurrences ceased and life returned to normal, except for the cold chill that was still reported in the back bedroom.

Occasionally the little boys ghost would stand in the small back bedroom window causing the neighbourhood dogs to create bedlam. Several of the tenants of the houses in the next street which backed onto theirs, had seen the little boys ghost, and during our investigation we found two who told us that they had watched the boy, with his hands flat against the glass, staring out at the world.

The couple returned to their flat and tried to ignore the nasty atmosphere telling their friends and family about the spooky events until one particular friend thought it would be a good idea to hold a seance (never a good idea) to contact the unhappy spirits. Ignoring their neighbours warnings, six friends gathered around a home made ouija board and asked if any spirits present would contact them. Just as they were about to give up the ghost (groan!) the glass moved. Excitedly, they asked for the entities name and the name quickly spelt out the name, Neville Hutchinson, which scared one of the sitters as Neville Hutchinson was her father. After this, the glass came to a halt and refused to move so the group gave up and sat around the flat discussing what had happened. In the next hour they experienced more paranormal phenomena than most people do in a life time.

One young man looked out through the open living room door along the passage to the rear of the flat towards the bathroom and small back bedroom. Suddenly from out of the bathroom wandered an old woman, aged between sixty and eighty, who slowly walked in to the back bedroom. Later John spotted exactly the same apparition. Another young man was violently hauled off the sofa, while another stood up only to fall flat on his face due to the fact that his shoe laces were tied together, and a girls blouse was unbuttoned and pulled down from her shoulders. The same girl quickly ran to the bathroom and readjusted her clothing before returning to the living room where she immediately had a remarkable experience. As she walked in through the door she found that the warm, well lit flat, was now devoid of furniture and carpets. Under the front window, around a wooden slatted box sat three men in heavy karki uniform, possible second world war soldiers, playing cards while a thin elegant looking red haired woman stood staring out of the window. The experience lasted less than a couple of seconds but it was so vivid that it became permanently etched onto her mind.

About a week later, after days of terrifically huge bangs echoing from the walls, a mutual friend stayed in the flat, sleeping on the sofa, until he awoke at three in the morning sure of the fact that someone was in the room with him. No sooner had he

opened his eyes then he was recoiling in horror as, standing next to him, no more than an inch or so away, was the figure of a woman apparently watching him. Perhaps understandably, he spent the rest of the night sitting in front of the window with the lights on. The next morning he asked the couple about the experience and asked if he could bring along a friend, namely me, resulting in many all night vigils and a report which was logged with The Society for Psychical Research.

The first investigation took place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September 1993, conducted by two friends and myself, and was to be, at that time, my closest contact with a poltergeist. While sitting drinking hot coffee on the sofa, about 8.30pm, the room went icy cold and footsteps entered the room. Then in good, well lit conditions, the heavy almost stamping footsteps passed beneath the sofa during which time I could feel the floor boards bouncing as it wondered away to come to a halt in front of the window. After many minutes our invisible guest marched towards the kitchen in footsteps finally fading near the living room door, after which, several of us applauded warmly. I have to admit, I was in a mild state of shock. Such close contact with the paranormal was unnerving at the time. The rest of the evening, and early morning, passed by without incident until we were leaving at four in the morning when the poltergeist said good night in its old formidable way, by creating a loud thud near the ceiling of the living room.

On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September we returned to find John anxiously waiting at the front door. Over coffee we were told of how John's keys had vanished, a lit cigarette had disappeared from under Jane's nose and an expensive pair of earrings had also vanished from out of her pierced ears. However, while we were there, nothing happened.

Our next visit took place on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October which was to be the first time that equipment was installed in the flat. Passive infra red movement sensors were strategically placed in the back bedroom and hallway where the video monitoring system was situated, and tape recorders were also in operation throughout the flat. After hours of perfect peace and silence I asked if the couple would show us how they used the ouija board and to my amazement they agreed. Jane hastily drew up the board and fetched a glass from the kitchen. John lit several scented candles positioned along the mantelpiece and side board, and flicked the lights off as we all knelt down around the board in front of the fire.

Almost instantly the family cat went berserk jumping somersaults and dashing around the room in ever decreasing circles until it finally fled under the sofa. At the same time the candles began to flicker and a slight chill enveloped the room, but seeing that the atmosphere and lighting conditions, in conjunction with the air of shadows danced on the walls and we all shivered the glass began to twitch and move several inches causing at least one person to snatch away his hand as if he had received an electric shock.

After fifteen minutes of further spiritual provocation nothing happened, so the lights were switched on and Jane disappeared in to the kitchen to make a drink. The time was 3.30am when a series of terrific bangs, the loudest I have ever heard, came from the walls, several coming from the ceiling, causing Jane to run from the kitchen into her boyfriend's arms. She couldn't understand why we could be interested in the "Damned Spook" as she called it.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October saw us back again, armed with our equipment except for my video camera which had developed a fault, something not unheard of in other

poltergeist cases. Once again, the ouija board was brought out, this time at Jane's request, and we all gathered around for what I thought would be a sheer waste of time.

How wrong I was....

With equipment running throughout the flat, Jane asked whether anyone was present and the glass instantly slid across the board to 'YES'. I could tell that my friends were as sceptical as I so, removing my finger from the glass, putting my face up close to the glass tumbler I watched for signs of hoaxing. If there was any I couldn't detect it. Jane asked for a name which the glass obligingly spelt out. The very second the name Neville was spelt out the cat went berserk leaping high into the air. At the same time, my friend sitting in the arm chair near the door brought our attention to the living room doors brass handles which were turning and rattling. Smelling huge quantities of Bull manure, I literally flew across to the door, dragged it open and found, to my complete astonishment, the cat sitting bemused in the centre of the hall. How it had got out of the living room without the living room door being opened is a question I still wonder about to this very day.

As I stepped forward to pick up the cat the door slammed shut behind me and I instantly felt a sharp pain in my shoulder which ran down onto my chest, causing me to scream out more in shock than in pain. When the door was opened by John they found me leaning against the wall, a large gash in my shoulder which became a deep scratch, and finally, a red line as it reached my chest. At my feet lay the cause of my injury - a heavy picture frame, its glass completely shattered. While this was happening to me in the hall, four loud thuds had come from the living room wall and a cup was heard to fall into the sink and smash. Although this could have just been a coincidence, Jane later described how the cups had been washed and neatly stacked some distance from the sink, and besides, she had a much more profound story to tell us. According to her, and her alone, at exactly the same time as everyone was running towards the living room door, the curtains had blew in towards the centre of the room! A quick search of the flat found that the tape recorder's microphone had been moved to the edge of the small back bedrooms table, a thermometer had vanished (we never did find it) and a heavy vase had been brought down onto the perspex flip up lid of the cassette recorder, smashing it perfectly in half in the process.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> October, unperturbed by our previous encounter, we returned after John had told us that the events were on the wane. We all sat in muted silence, awaiting our highly entertaining poltergeist only to be met by silence. Nothing happened that night, or the next, and after another two visits, covering three weeks, nothing occurred and I was duly thanked for bringing the case to conclusion without knowing how I had achieved it.

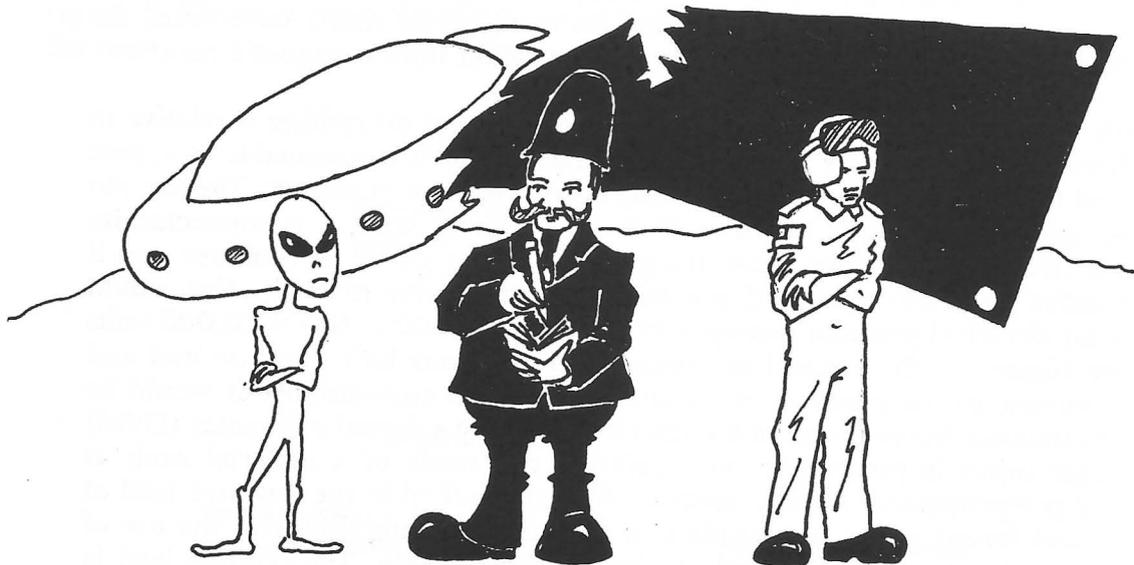
To some people removing the spirit entity from the poltergeist experience is to destroy the experience. Since I am so outspoken with my views, I have found that the spiritualists don't warm to me because I refuse to talk in terms of spirits of the dead, while the debunkers don't like me because I steadfastly refuse to put instances of poltergeist phenomena down to attention seeking hoaxers. I simply tell it how it is, warts and all.

The sooner we remove the "belief" aspect from this amazing phenomenon, the sooner serious psychical research will gain a greater respect. It then has the ability to attract the academic and scientific communities, as well as the naturally curious, to take up the challenge of capturing the camera shy poltergeist on film. When this happens there will be an explosion in haunted house investigations creating a

similar, if not identical, war zone as to what is now evident in the UFO community. That is all it will take; someone's camera pointing in the right direction at the right time!

The MARA investigative team and myself have come agonisingly and tantalisingly close, on two occasions, in providing such a piece of film. However, for reasons of privacy and confidentiality we are not allowed to speak of it. Meanwhile our attempts continue, so watch this space, hold on to your hat and prepare yourself because the evidence is coming...its coming..!

Colin John Veacock - is an author and long term researcher of paranormal phenomena. His forthcoming book, "The Dawning of a New Age", examines the evolutionary aspects of paranormal research. He was once a member of the Ghost Club and is a member of the Incorporated Society for Psychical Research. He is also a joint co-ordinator for MARA.



OKAY! WHO WAS FLYING WHAT?

*Veacock*



*JLH08*

# Passive Detection of Aerial Phenomena

## PART TWO

by William Bimson

### Magnetic and electric sensors

Many witnesses to UFO events have suggested the presence of strong electric or magnetic fields at the time of the event. Phrases such as "the air seemed to be filled with static" have been used. Personally, I doubt, the presence of strong magnetic fields as these can only be produced by strong electric currents which would leave evidence of their existence such as heating effects. In addition I have never heard of a witness who complained that their credit card or bankers card did not work after a sighting, and yet this is the sort of evidence you would expect from a strong magnetic field. Weak magnetic fields may accompany UFO's without the magnetisation of credit cards and the best and simplest instrument to detect these are magnetic compasses used in navigation.

Electric fields could accompany a UFO without having any lasting effect on our everyday accoutrements. From the descriptions of sightings that I have read, the effects of the fields observed seem to fit an electric rather than a magnetic nature.

The Earth is what we describe electrically as zero volts, but everything is relative in space. Since our investigators are confined to the ground it is reasonable to expect the ground to be at zero volts relative to any other electrical generator. The top pin of a three pin mains plug is called earth because that is what it is connected to. Suppose a UFO were to hover above the ground at a height of 100 metres and it had a positive electrical charge of one million volts relative to earth. This would generate an electrical gradient through the air of  $1,000,000 / 100 = 10,000$  volts per meter (figure 5). This would be enough to make your hair stand on end and convince anyone of the presence of a static field. In this circumstance it would be possible to indicate the presence of the field by attaching a digital volt meter (DVM) with a high input impedance to an insulating rod made of a material such as perspex or polypropylene. A large spade or fork is attached to the negative lead of the DVM and forced as far as possible into the ground preferably with the use of copious amounts of water to provide a good electrical earth. The positive lead is taped to a height of 1 meter on the plastic rod and a conductor with a large surface area such as tinfoil or wire mesh attached to it. The DVM will then detect the electric field provided that the insulation of the leads is in good condition and the earth connection is sound (figure 6). For technical reasons which are beyond the scope of this document, the field that the meter reads will be less than the actual field but at least there will be an indication of the presence of a field.

### Gravity detectors

One of the most fundamental properties of our planet is its mass and the gravity that this mass generates. If you gathered together the top scientists of the world and gave them a budget of £10 billion pounds they would not be able to guarantee changing gravity by 1% at a specific location. If you were able to detect a change in the earth's gravitational field in the presence of a UFO, you have surely demonstrated something of non-earthly origin. Instruments which map the earth's gravitational field to a high degree of accuracy are very expensive and cumbersome. But, if you are looking for extremely coarse changes you may not require this expensive instrumentation.

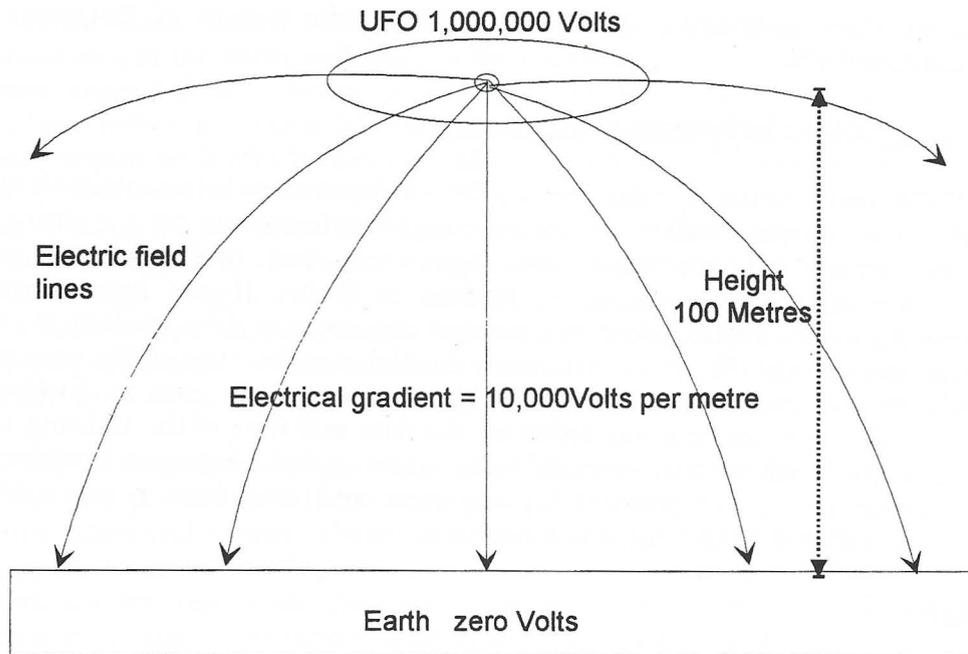


Figure 5 Electrical gradient produced by a positively charged UFO hovering above the earth.

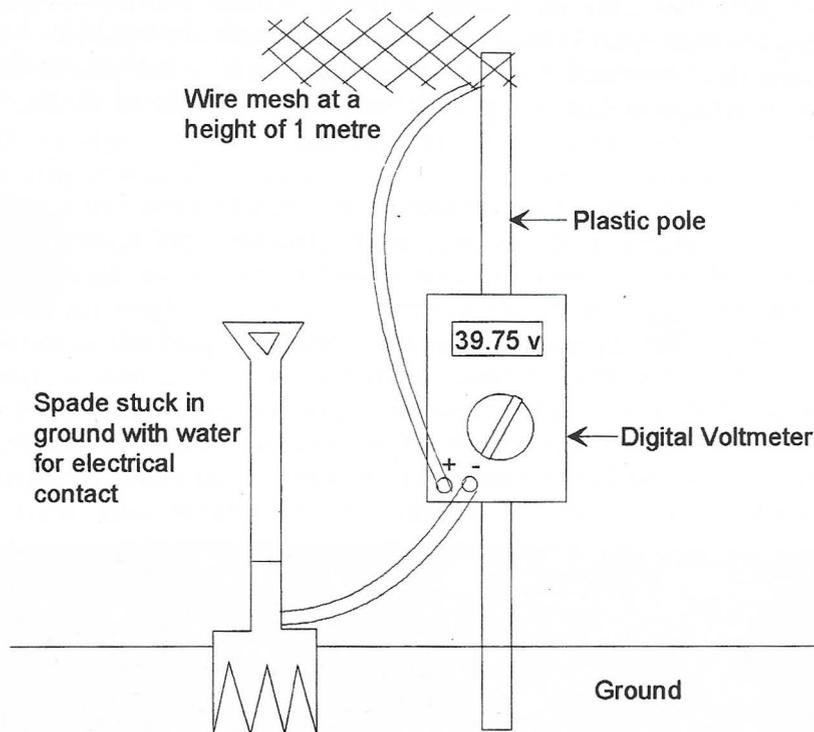


Figure 6 Static electric field detector.

A simple set of kitchen scales will detect changes of as little as a couple of percent. A set of digital scales (£17.99 in Argos) will detect even smaller changes. To make the scales as sensitive as possible, you should load up the scales with any form of weights until the scales are at about 95% of their maximum capacity and take several precise readings. These readings should then be compared with readings taken in the presence of a UFO. If there is a significant difference then it is safe to assume that the overall gravitational field was changed during the event. There are good reasons for expecting a change in gravitational field in the presence of a UFO

and I will cover these in a latter document entitled "The Nature of Electricity, Magnetism and Gravity".

### The importance of a basic knowledge of astronomy

All serious UFOlogists require a basic knowledge of astronomy to maintain their credibility. As an investigator who tries to disseminate information on a sighting, you will come across sceptics who will argue that you probably saw an astronomical body such as the moon, or Jupiter, or Sirius. If you have never knowingly seen Jupiter or Sirius before, the sceptics argument is strengthened. If on the other hand you can say "look pal, you can't see Sirius at this time of the year at this latitude", the sceptic is put firmly in their place. Your case is further strengthened if you can produce a star chart for the date and time of the sighting to demonstrate that there was no astronomical body which could have been mistaken for a UFO. Star charts can be printed for any time and date from a computer program that a number of MARA members now possess.

### Angular distance

Another reason why UFOlogists need an understanding of astronomy is that it can help in estimations of angular distance. This can be important when trying to determine the size or speed of aerial phenomena. For example, the observer in figure 7 does not know the size of the sphere he is observing because a small sphere close to him would look the same as a large sphere further away because they subtend the same angle to his eyes. Taking an extreme example, he could be looking at something the same diameter as a 5p piece at a distance of 2 meters, or the full moon at a distance of 384,400 km. They both subtend an angle of about half a degree.

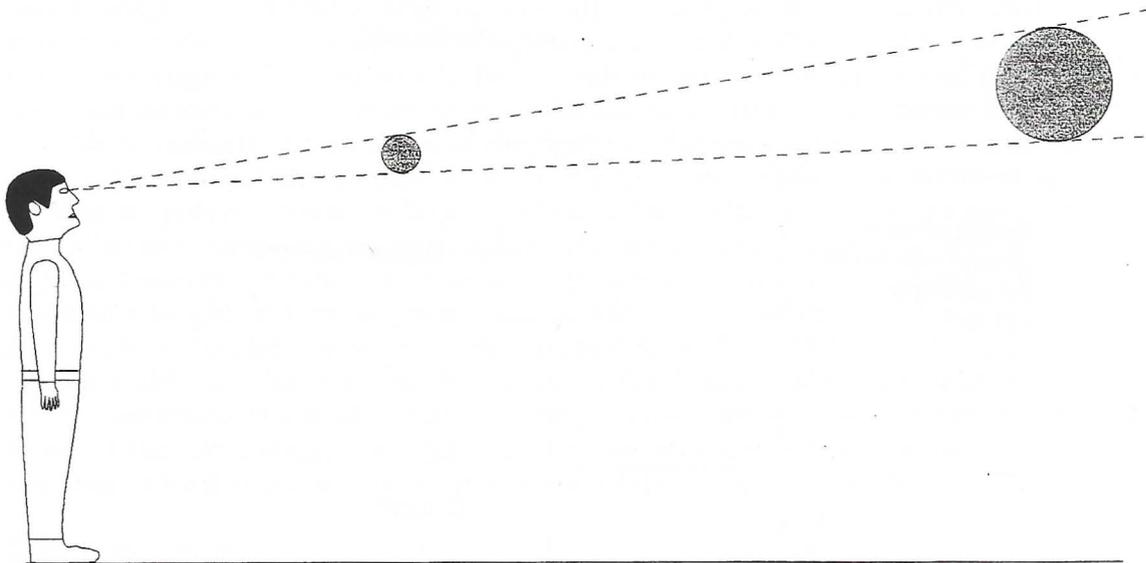


Figure 7 Both spheres look the same size to the observer.

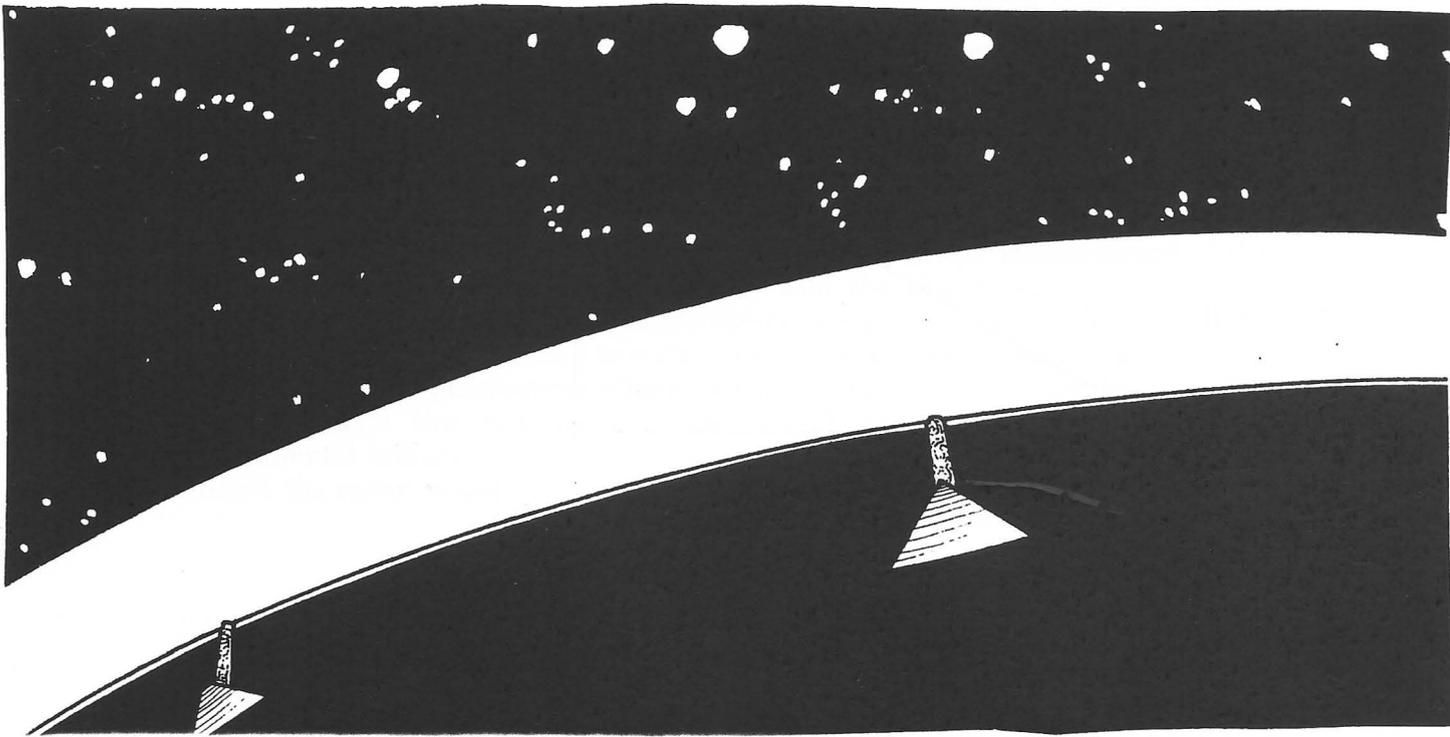
The majority of UFO sightings occur when people are not looking for them and it is therefore very unlikely that the observer will be carrying a magnetic compass to take a bearing on the phenomenon. If the observer has a knowledge of the most common stellar constellations, and an idea of the time to within say half an hour, they can take an approximate bearing using the stars. The time information is important because the constellations appear to rotate around the sky, but it is in fact the earth which is rotating. The closer the star is to the horizon the more quickly it appears to move around the sky. Only one star appears to stay still in the sky in the Northern hemisphere. This is Polaris, the pole star in the constellation of

Ursa Minor (little bear). Polaris happens to coincide with a line through the rotational axis of the earth and this is why it appears still and the other stars appear to rotate around it once every 24 hours. If the Ufologist can learn to recognise somewhere between 10 and 20 constellations, they have the basis for a rough coordinate system with which they can take bearings at night when ever the weather is clear. However the exact bearing will not be known until the observer has had a chance to consult a star chart or planisphere. The following constellations are good ones for a Ufologist in the northern hemisphere to learn. The Plough, Cassiopeia, Perseus, Auriga, Cygnus, Lyra, Hercules, Bootes, Corona Borealis, Leo, Gemini, Canis Major, Orion, Taurus, Pleides, Pegasus, Aquila and Ophiuchus. Canis Major is only partly visible at our latitude and then only in the depths of winter but it is important because of its brightest star, Sirius which is often mistaken for a UFO.

Along with a knowledge of the major constellations, the Ufologist should learn to recognise the planets which are sometimes mistaken for UFO's. These are Venus, Mercury, Mars and Jupiter. Their positions are not shown on planispheres because they appear to move slowly in relation to the background constellations and their positions are not repeatable year after year unlike the constellations. A star chart program or current astronomy magazine with night sky diagram are therefore necessary to determine the position of the planets.

#### Triangulation to determine position, velocity and dimensions of aerial phenomena.

Having gained the necessary skills to take bearings of aerial phenomena with or without a compass, how can these skills be used to determine the position and size of an observed object? Triangulation is the simultaneous taking of bearings and angular distance measurements from two different locations to determine location and size of an object. Figure 7 demonstrates the problem faced by a single observer in determining size and position, but if two observers at different locations make an observation of the same object, the problem can be overcome. Figure 8 gives four examples of triangulation to determine position. In example 1, observer A sees an object at an angle of  $45^\circ$  from North and observer B sees the same object at the same time at an angle of  $315^\circ$ . By plotting the observers positions on a map and drawing lines of the bearings taken, the intersection gives the position of the object on the map. A similar technique can be used to determine the objects height by each observer measuring the angle between the object and the horizon. If the objects distance from one observer is known by triangulation to be 10 kilometres, and the angle between the horizon and the object is at an elevation of  $30^\circ$  from the horizon, then the height of the object is given by trigonometry to be:-



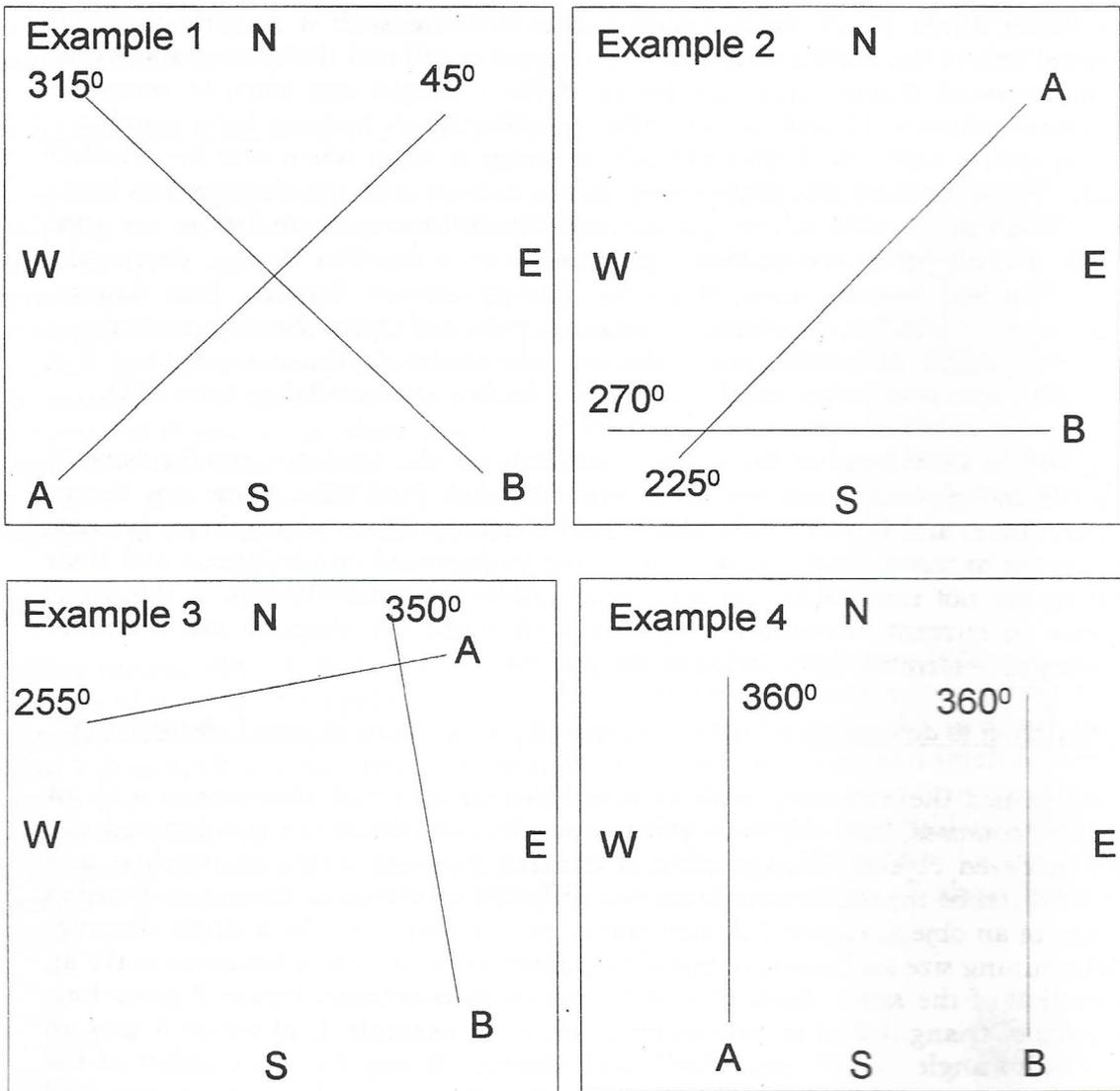


Figure 8 Four examples of position determination by triangulation from two observers, A and B.

$$\text{Height} = \tan 30^\circ \times 10\text{km} = 0.577 \times 10 = 5.77\text{km}$$

equation 4

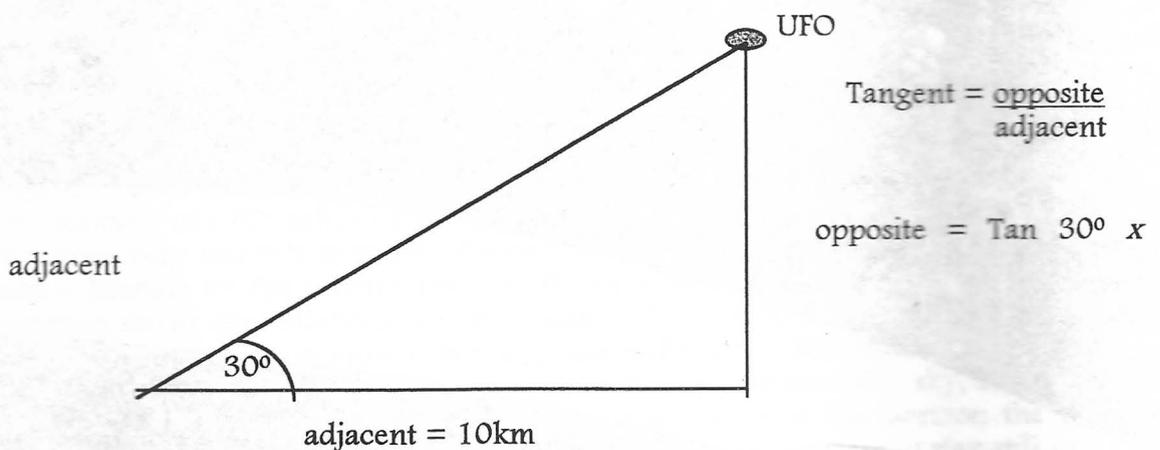


Figure 9 Height determination by trigonometry.

Measurement of angle with the horizon or elevation as it is called needs special instruments if it is to be done accurately, but many people can estimate elevation to within  $10^\circ$  or so. It would be useful for all Ufologists to be able to make a reasonable estimation of angles and elevations in case they ever experience a sighting themselves.

In example 2 of figure 8, observer A sees an object bearing  $225^\circ$  and observer B sees an object at  $270^\circ$ . Again by plotting the position of the observers and drawing lines on the map, the intersection gives the location of the object. In this case observer B will be slightly closer to the object than observer A and therefore the object will appear slightly larger than that seen by observer A.

In example 3, exactly the same procedure as the previous two examples are followed, but observer a should witness that the object is about 10 times bigger than observer B.

In example 4, both observers state that the object is at a bearing of  $360^\circ$  (due North). The bearings do not intersect, but are in fact parallel. If the observers are a reasonable distance apart, say 20 km, then the observation is made of an object which is a very long distance away and almost certainly an astronomical body, not a UFO.

Estimation of the size of aerial phenomena is difficult even when they are stationary and like elevation measurement, requires specialised instruments to be done accurately. However, a very rough estimation of size is better than no estimation at all. I stated earlier that the full moon covers about half a degree of angular distance in the sky. All observers should make a comparison of the size of aerial objects with the size of the moon as it appears in the sky. In example 1 of figure 8, if observer A states that the object covered an area of sky about the same angular distance as the moon ( $0.5^\circ$ ), and we know that the object was 10 km away, we can estimate its size. Because the angular distance is very small, the triangle formed as in figure 9 can be considered to be a right angle triangle even though it is not exactly the case. once again then we can apply trigonometry to find the size of the object.

$$\text{size} = \tan 0.5^\circ \times 10\text{km} = 0.087\text{km} = 87\text{metres} \quad \text{equation 5}$$

The error in estimation from the triangle not being right angled will be minor compared to the error in angular distance estimation, especially considering that the eye overestimates the size of objects close to the horizon where there are other objects to compare it with. This is why the moon always looks bigger when it is close to the horizon. This should be taken into account when estimating angular distance.

Velocity is the most difficult parameter of all to determine from normal passive observations. Velocity has two components, speed and direction. The speed is simply the distance covered in a specific time and the direction is the heading of the object. In the example below in figure 10, a radar operator makes a measurement of the distance covered from A to B and the time that the object takes to cover that distance. The distance is 80 miles and the object moved that distance in one minute on a heading of  $115^\circ$ . 80 miles a minute is the same as 4800 miles per hour. There are very few earthly phenomena which can fly at this speed, in fact the only ones which can travel this fast are the ones which go into space first such as intercontinental ballistic missiles and the space shuttle. If one of these were not identified, the radar operator would be forced to file a report of a UFO.

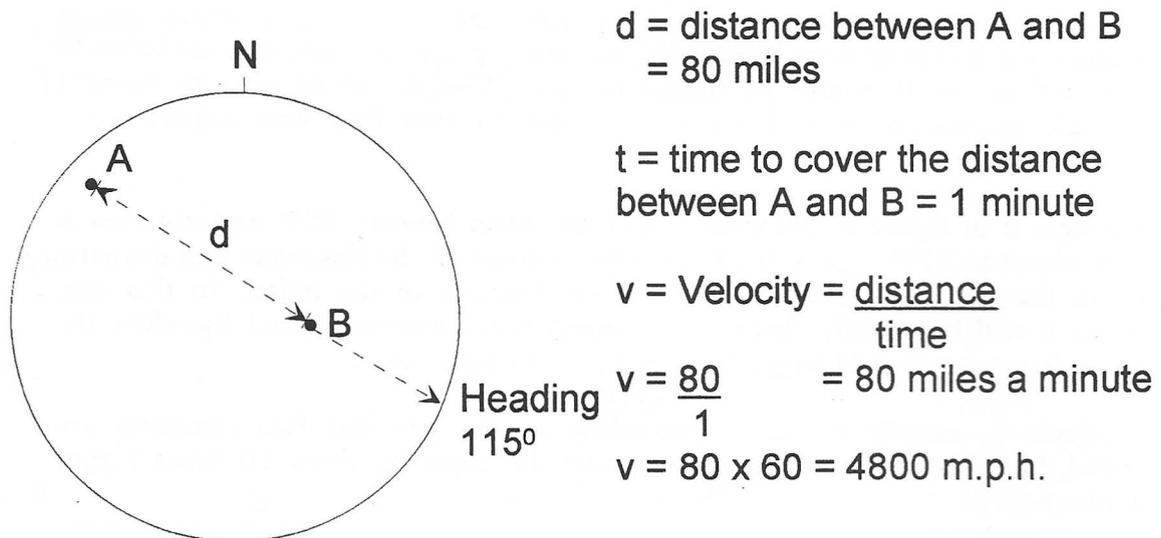
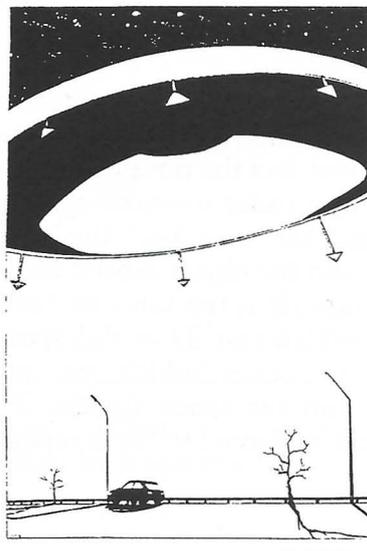


Figure 12 Indications of a UFO from radar screen measurements.

As a research group, we will never have the luxury of radar, and yet measured velocity is one parameter which could put all other earthly phenomena out of contention and give a positive indication of a UFO. Therefore we must develop other methods for measuring velocity.

Suppose observers A and B are in radio contact in figure 11. At a precise moment they simultaneously take bearings and by triangulation come up with the start position of the object. Exactly one minute later they take further bearings which locate the end position and observer B notes that the object now looks much larger. Assuming the object moved in a straight line it is now possible to plot the velocity of the object by drawing its path on a map and measuring the distance between the start and end positions. The heading can be determined by a protractor and the speed is simply the distance divided by the time. If the distance travelled was 10 miles the speed would therefore be 10 miles per minute or 600 m.p.h. For accurate readings of velocity to be made, there needs to be precise synchronisation of the observers in taking their readings. If observer A was 30 seconds late taking his initial reading then a large error in start position and hence velocity would have occurred. Hence, radio contact is of the utmost importance when taking simultaneous bearings of moving phenomena.



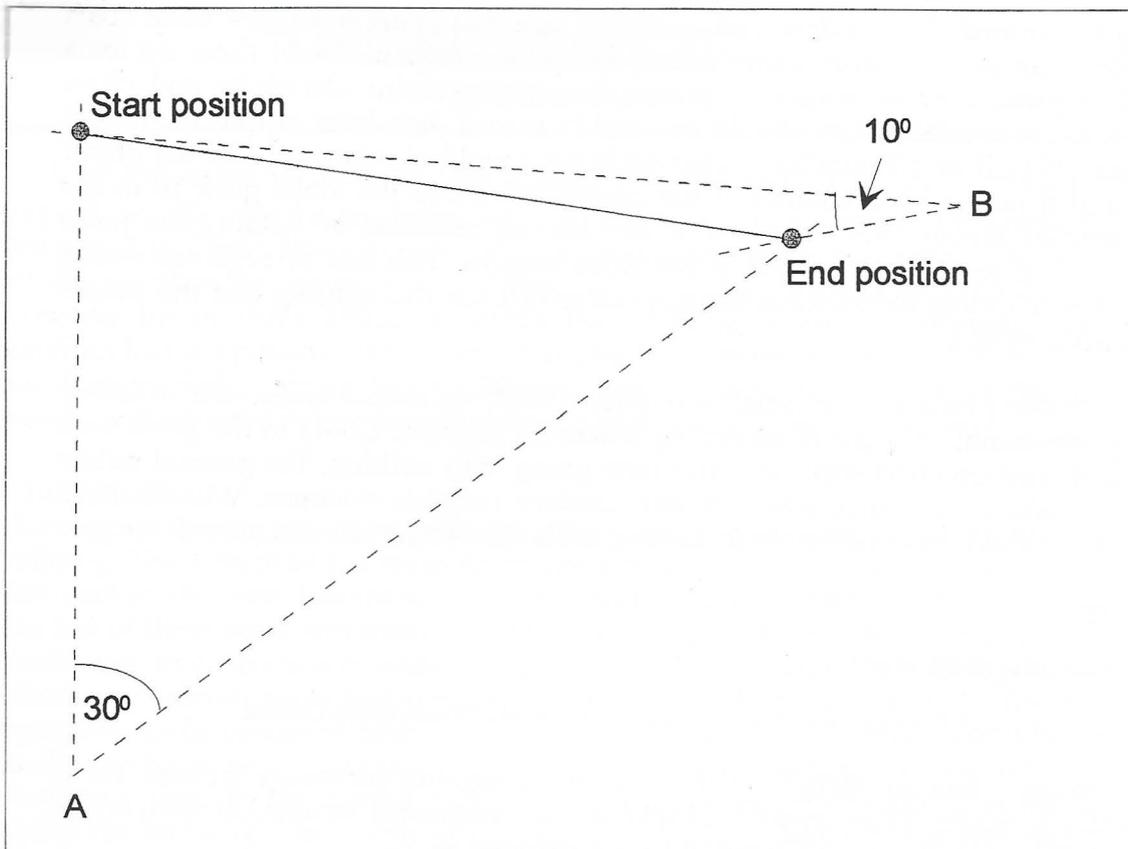


Figure 11 Simultaneous bearings taken from two different locations with a precise time interval used to determine position and velocity.

#### What constitutes good evidence of a UFO?

Suppose you set up all of the sensors I have described in this document because of a number of sightings on consecutive evenings at a particular location. Along comes the classical cigar shaped orange object with red and white lights flashing all around it. It hovers near to your location for five minutes during which time you rattle off your 36 exposure film in your camera. It then shoots off and disappears at an unbelievable speed. During the time when it was hovering, the radio scanner picked up a very strong audible tone at 128 MHz, the soap powder detector glowed violet, the PIR circuit detected IR radiation the electric field detector registered a voltage of 37.9 Volts and the bag of sand which you had placed on the digital scales and measured to weigh 0.95 kg earlier, was suddenly measuring 0.89 kg. After all the excitement has died down you suddenly remember that you have not logged the time and when you look at your watch you are sure that it was 1 a.m. only half an hour ago but now it is 2.30 a.m. What evidence do you have from all this? The true answer is nothing unless the photographs turn out. Then to your horror you find that the film has somehow become fogged and only reveals a very low contrast object with no real form. If you were to go to the media with this sort of data they may be interested in the story and may even print it, but would probably finish the article with a sentence like "Does this mean that we are being visited by aliens or is it just the overactive imagination of a group of people seeing what they want to see".

The only evidence that counts as proof is something which you can hold in your hand. In this case, the only real evidence is the poor quality fogged photographs and they may have been caused by someone allowing a small degree of light onto the film before it was developed. If you look at how the professionals gather evidence such as at the Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI), they

constantly record their evidence on magnetic tape and chart recorders. Most chart recorders can not run from batteries and hence it is difficult to set them up for a typical skywatch or at remote locations, but where mains electricity and chart recorders are available they should be used to record data from output of the PIR and the DVM if at all possible. Video evidence should also be taken of the object itself and if possible the readout of the digital scales and the violet glow from the soap powder sensor. The audible tone can also be recorded by holding the radio scanner close to the microphone of the video camera. This sort of evidence would make it much more difficult for the sceptics to ridicule the sighting and the people who took part in it.

While we don't have the financial resources of SETI, we should endeavour to follow their professional example of recording wherever possible. Going to the press with a squiggly line on chart paper is better than going with nothing. The general public will only take us seriously when we can produce tangible evidence. Without hard evidence, we will have difficulty in putting aside the bobble hat and anorak image.

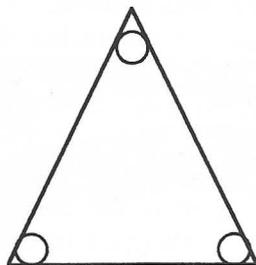
#### References

- (1) Collins Atlas of the World.
- (2) Larry Warren & Peter Robbins, Left at East Gate, Michael O'Mara books Limited.

Bill Bimson - has an MPhil which examined magnetic resonance probes. He is currently a Senior Experimental Officer in the Magnetics Resonance and Image Analysis Research Centre at Liverpool University.

Can you help us with our research?

M.A.R.A. has collaborated with a number of groups with regards to reports of sightings of flying triangles over Merseyside. We already possess a number of local cases and would like more witnesses to these objects to come forward.



If you have had sightings of these triangular craft then please do contact us.

See details on page 3.

## “Get out of My House”

By Mark Glover

On the night of 25th - 26th April 1998 six Mara research investigators (myself included) and a freelance camera crew of three, converged on Liverpool's Town Hall in Castle Street to carry out a controlled vigil into purported anomalous activities within that prestigious building. Led by Colin Veacock, we eventually set ourselves up in three locations within the building where the aforementioned activities had supposedly taken place. Our observations there consisted of two main two hour periods (mid-night to 2.00 a.m. and 3 - 4.30 a.m.). Some of the team members mentioned below are allocated the first initial of their name only.

### Equipment

Video cameras were set up with accompanying audio recording in key areas of the building. These were in the main foyer upstairs, the downstairs cloakroom and the first part of the west basement corridor, which contains some original pavement. The last of these areas was monitored by a small television, which was set up in the cloakroom. Microphones or audio recorders were also positioned in strategic places where anomalous events had previously been reported. These included - the main foyer; the north basement corridor, near where the old prison cells used to be; the cloakroom foyer area inside the double doors, on the left as entered; upstairs - near the grand piano in the second main reception room, and the ballroom at the east end of the building. These were connected to audio recorders and a sound desk for monitoring.

In addition to the above, digital probe and alcohol (room) thermometers were used and positioned in some of these areas to register possible anomalous changes in temperature. An infant alert monitor was also set up in the ballroom upstairs, which had simple but fairly effective squeal and flashing light facilities to indicate sounds or vibrations caused by movement. The camera crew were also on hand with video sound recorders to act as a mobile facility for filming anything anomalous as it might occur, in addition to recording how the MARA team functioned on a vigil. Finally, team members were asked to keep record sheets of the times of incidents (including temperature changes), no matter how slight, to enable cross referencing of events and subsequent analysis. The three main areas of observation were - at the end of the corridor in the north basement area; the cloakroom, and upstairs in the reception room, which connects the main carpeted reception rooms to the ballroom.

### Now it begins

Events began at about 8.30 p.m. when I was in the main foyer with the camera crew and two other team members - C and L. We were preparing some of our equipment prior to setting ourselves up for the first main observation - at around mid-night. C, who purportedly has clairvoyant and clairaudient abilities, suddenly reported that she sensed that a man had come through a side door near to her and was now standing in front of her to the right of the main doors, as they are faced. She said that she felt he wanted to shake hands with her. He was described as being dressed in grey, possibly eighteenth century clothing - with a sort of top-hat. He was portly, late middle-aged, with a ruddy complexion and “smiling” eyes. When I approached C and asked her about the man's expression or if he wanted to say anything, she told us he just looked bemused at our presence and would not tell us his name. C and L, another female, then sensed a cold draft; C on the back of her right hand and L on the back of her legs. I sensed nothing, however, but one of the camera team - named Andy, said he sensed a chill on his hand as he held the

sound-boom microphone whilst filming of the incident took place. I used a digital thermometer to assess any physical change in temperature, but there was no significant decrease near the parts of their bodies in which they felt the chill. However, C's right hand did feel cooler to the touch than her left hand. I regret now, however, not comparing the temperature of each of her hands using the thermometer. She told us that she got the impression that the man had gone to "punch" me, presumably for my interfering stance, and he told her I was lucky he had not "kicked" me. She also reported that he had spoken with a "funny" accent and went on to say to her - "it's not right these people coming into my house, I want you all out - now!" When C mentally explained to him why we were there, she said the man then went back through the door through which he seemed to have come, and said he was staying in "there" and "it's tough" (possibly not an 18th century expression you may think). When we told Colin of the experience, he asked C to come upstairs and view some paintings in the reception rooms. She picked out a man called Thomas Johnson, a fairly prominent figure from about the late eighteenth century, although she said his portrait showed him to be a younger man than the one she had sensed downstairs.

### "Leave me alone"

About an hour later, C said that the man had changed his position to somewhere behind the wall he had originally appeared from, where he now appeared to be working at a desk in an office - writing with a quill pen. He apparently shouted "leave me alone!" and told C that the evening was the only time he got any peace and quiet and now we were around. C said he later popped his head, again through the door, saying - "Is everyone gone"? Shortly after this, another camera crew member - Rob, said he saw what he thought was a two-dimensional light, or disc, whilst looking through the camera lens. Thinking it might be a lens flare from the foyer lights, he tried to repeat the effect by moving the camera around, but he was unable to do so. Colin then came downstairs again and reported that he had just distinctly heard footsteps approach him from behind while upstairs in one of the reception rooms. Believing it to be one of the team-members, he turned in expectation, only to find that there was actually no-one there! Shortly after this, we checked out the first reception room, as the area under one of the chandeliers seemed to be distinctly and unaccountably cooler than the rest of the room. A decrease in temperature of around 2°C was apparent. The other rooms were also checked, but with no significant effects.

### Gloom and doom

At between 10.30 and 11.30 p.m. when C was asked to walk around the basement area, she commented at one particular location that she sensed "death". This occurred at the junction of two corridors near where the old prison cells used to be and where strange things have been reported before. C was not aware, however, of those stories or their location prior to that experience. She went on to say that she felt a sensation in her head around the base of her skull behind the ear, which seemed to be consistent with being "struck" by something. I also sensed a pain in my head in the same place, as did Sue, who came to the spot later in ignorance of C's experience. C went on to experience other things as the night went on. When going downstairs leading to the cloakroom, she said it was like "walking into a grave". Also, as she walked through a door with others near the gents toilets, she sensed "something" rushing out of that room and hitting her in the chest.

### "No harm will come to you"

While she was upstairs after mid-night in the reception room which adjoins the ballroom, C became aware of the development of a pleasant atmosphere and heard

a voice saying "no harm will come to you". She sensed that the portraits seemed to take on a life of their own - all very pleasant, even including one portrait that she had not liked earlier. At one point there seemed to be a young, slim, tall man opening the double doors, leading some people in. He was wearing a coat of the 1700's. There was also the awareness of a lady looking around the doors leading into the ballroom. For a while the room had gone very cold but then it became warm again.

Later on - after 2.30 am in the basement corridor, C had the impression of someone walking in from one end. The light green colour of the walls seemed to get brighter, becoming iridescent. When getting up to leave later on, there seemed to be a young girl clinging onto her arm, begging her not to leave her. As she walked back up the corridor - at the point where she had earlier had the sense of death, she got the distinct impression of a woman clothed in a grey dress, white apron and hat - sprawled out on the floor, as though she had been "attacked". Was this related to the sense of death and the sensation she, myself and Sue had felt in our heads earlier on? That is, was it an apparition of a woman from the last century, or before, who had been attacked there by a blow to her head which caused her death? We may be able to check this and other details out by researching the building's records.

### "Poor child"

Finally, while C was sitting in the cloakroom, the atmosphere became unpleasant, and then, not long after, she saw the reflection of a face in the glass of the double doors. These doors had earlier been seen by Colin and Sue to move spontaneously. Whilst walking along a corridor with others, the little girl she had previously seen then re-manifested, pulling at her arm and saying "don't leave me". After telling Andy about the little girl, he suggested they go back down the corridor to where she had first seen the little girl. C said that the little girl just said in response to this, however - "Why? I'm here." (still clinging to Cs arm). Then the girl said "this is too silly, I'm off" and she went.

Subsequent to the vigil, L (who is also purported to be clairvoyant and clairaudient) said that she was visited for several days by the apparition of a young girl who looked about five years old, although she said she was eight. She called herself "Molly", was barefoot and very scruffy. The information she gave L is rather sketchy, but she told her that her father sometimes worked "upstairs" but mostly "downstairs". Her mother was a barmaid and described as tall and slim with brown curly hair. The name 'Wallacre' was mentioned in addition to William Eccles, a 'brother' Rob and a 'friend' called Peter. She also talked about a large dominant man, who lived at the old residences of the Town Hall, called John McGregor and known as "big bad John". She told L that he was the head of the Prison. These details of course will have to be checked out from the records relating to the building before we can validate the possibility that they may represent some valid apparition associated with the Town Hall. Was Molly the same little girl that C experienced?

### Objective evidence

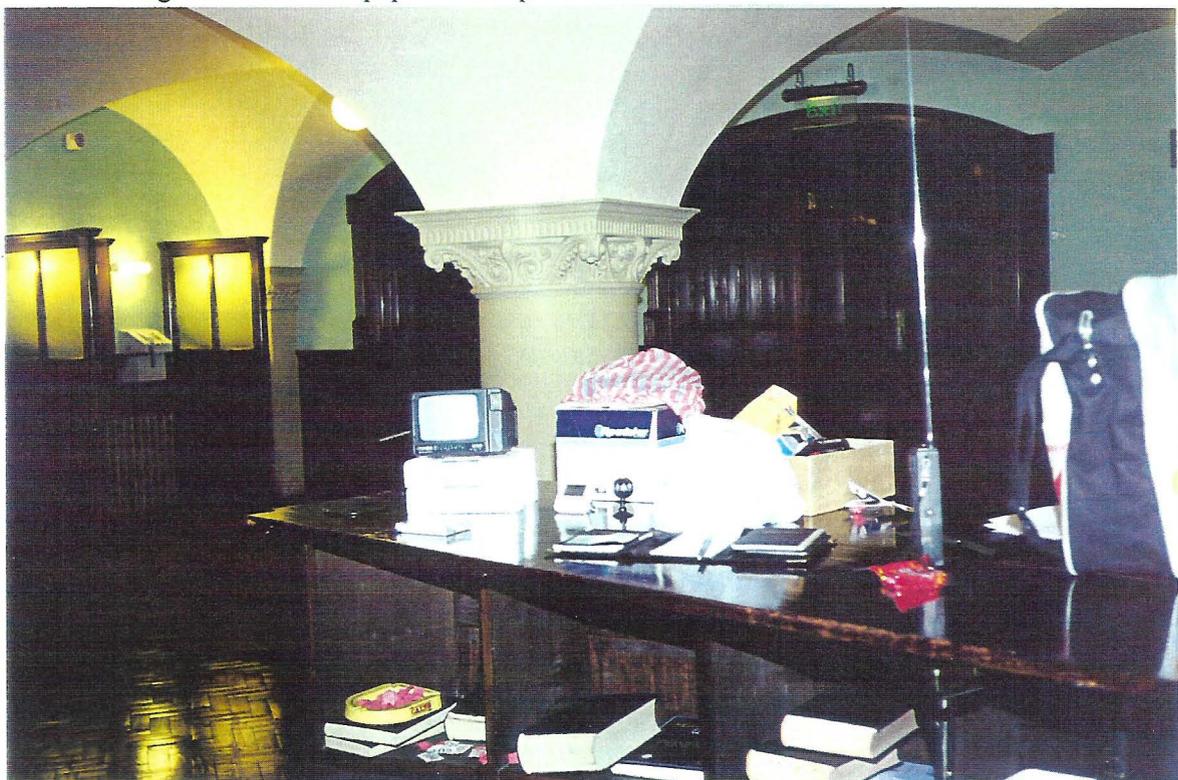
There were other incidents (physical) that occurred on that night. Equipment anomalies included a video camera, used by one of the camera crew, switching itself off and walkie-talkies failing suddenly, with one of them actually becoming activated without even being switched on. On playing back the video recording by the camera in the main foyer - the sound of hiccoughing has been captured. As far as we know, no-one who was on the vigil that night had hiccoughs. The little TV monitor which was tuned to the video camera pointing along the basement corridor



Figure 1: Top left. Footsteps have been heard along the west basement corridor.

Figure 2: Top right. A video camera set up in the main foyer.

Figure 3: Bottom: Equipment set up and focused in the downstairs cloakroom.



spontaneously switched itself off at around 4.20 a.m. The tape recordings I did of the focus area in the basement where C had her experiences, seem to have produced drumming noises and what sounds like footsteps walking up and down the corridor, distinctly different to those of the team's. These occurred between 2.15 and 4.30 a.m.. John and Colin noticed the occasional flashing and squealing of the receiver of the infant alert monitor over much of the night. It had been set up in the ballroom upstairs and these effects possibly indicated unaccountable movement or vibration in that room.

Aside from these, there were the usual mundane bumps, clicks and bangs that one would expect in a building like Liverpool Town Hall. However, some of these may have had an anomalous cause. For instance, whilst L and myself were downstairs on the first observation period between Mid-night and 2 a.m., we heard sounds like creaking boards, as though someone was walking above our heads. Verification of the position and movement of the other team members and the caretaker ruled this out however, as well as the fact that the sound was not consistent with the ceiling and floor material above that area, which consists of masonry. On one occasion in that location, L made a false assumption about flashes of light down the end of a corridor which turned out to only be the flash of Colin's camera when we rechecked.

### Assessment of the evidence

It is well to point out that although much of the evidence discussed above is subjective or anecdotal, rather than objective, it is still nonetheless of value. This is because past experiences of anomalous events within the building, which the team were unaware of, may well tally with those experienced on the night of the vigil. Plus, information derived through those incidents may also be verified upon further research into the history of the building. Indeed, these represent some of the most important criteria when considering a haunting, as they may enable anomalous experiences to be substantiated.

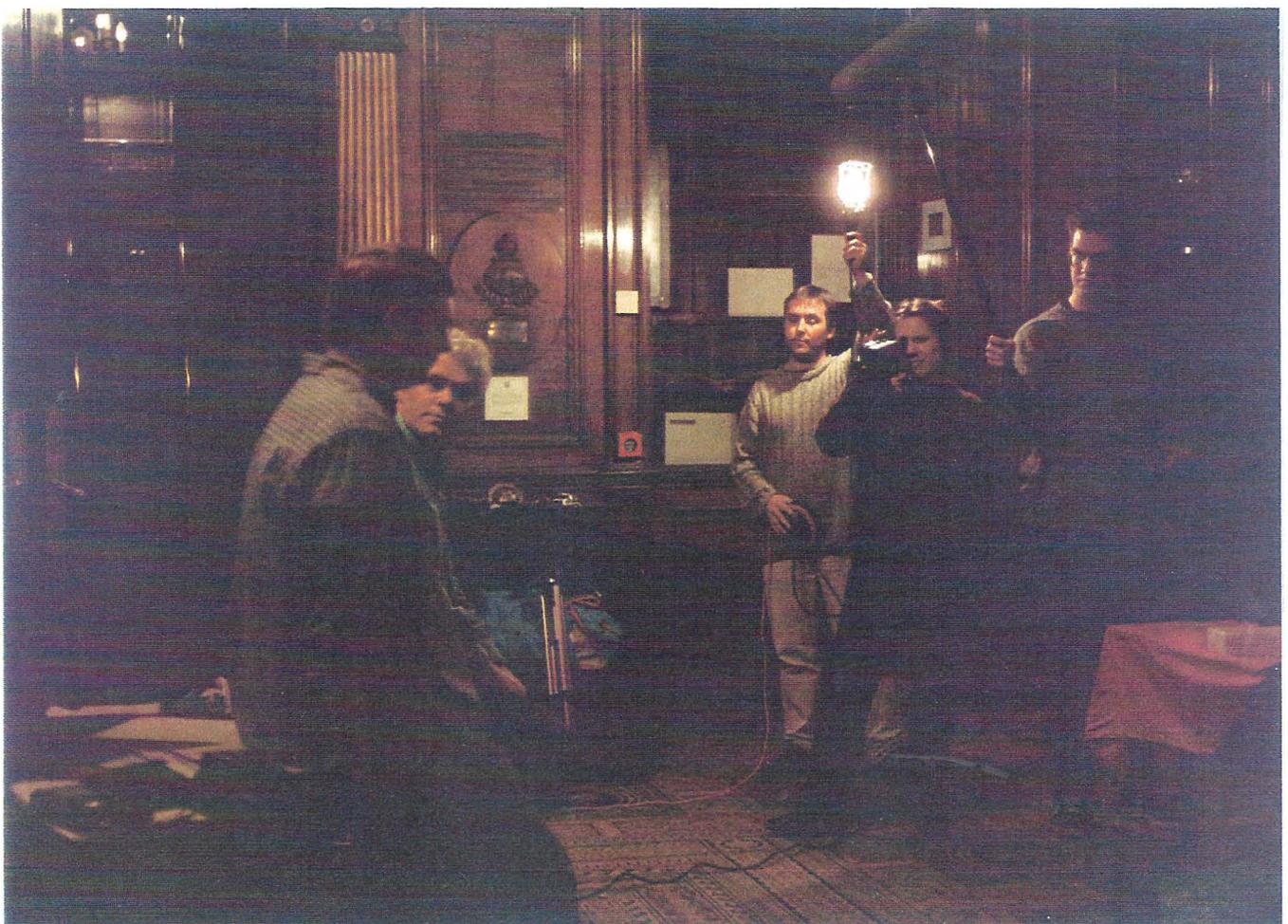
Objective evidence on the other hand can also be unreliable or misleading in that paranormal anomalies may often be merely the result of mundane mechanical effects or faults which are misrepresented as some genuine paranormal anomaly. For instance, by themselves - repetitive tapping sounds could just be a stiff cassette tape or a squeaky spool-head; a visual phenomenon on a video film could turn out to be an ordinary explainable light effect or camera fault; thermometer changes may be caused by alternating currents of air (especially in large buildings like the Town Hall), and monitors of sound and vibration may be just detecting traffic movement. What needs to be done when such apparent anomalies occur, is to initially try to rule out mundane causes and then cross check them if possible with other events within the environment (especially the movements of team members), subjective or perceived experiences and finally - researched facts regarding the location's history. Only when this has been done properly should we verify whether it represents evidence of anomalous phenomena.

Despite the fact that team members were asked to keep a record of events in the environment (especially during the two main observations), this was unfortunately inconsistently adhered to and, sadly, may have consequently invalidated some of our anecdotal evidence. What needs to be done in future is to discipline ourselves to do the latter with a more scientific rigor to the extent that actual data can be collected and possibly tested for evidence of real anomalous events. Perhaps three types of such data could be recorded separately: (i) equipment changes, (ii) subjective experiences and (iii) visual and audio effects. What needs to be also taken into account, however, is the fact that the vigil only represented a slice, as it



Figure 4: Top. M.A.R.A. members at the main set up of equipment.

Figure 5: Bottom. M.A.R.A. members and the camera crew having a post investigation debriefing.



were, of the reality or space-time of the Town Hall; a single night out of hundreds of nights per year! Is it therefore likely that we would be fortunate enough to just be there on a particular one of those nights when anomalous phenomena are manifesting? Of course this all depends on the nature of this type of phenomena. Is it that it manifests only at certain times? Is it that it manifests independently of human presence (a bit like the famous Zen problem of whether a tree makes a sound if it falls in a forest when no-one is there to hear it)? If these sorts of anomalous phenomena do manifest in response to human presence and attention however, then our vigil (and indeed others) may have acted as a stimulant or catalyst for its presence. This may be a very important or significant point when investigating this type of anomalous phenomena, especially as it would serve to validate the use of vigils.

## History

The Liverpool Town Hall originated from around 1350 in Juggler Street, the old name for High Street, near to where it joins Dale Street. Beginning as a Guild House and Court House, it was mentioned more frequently after 1511. Its hall was used as a court-room, guild meeting place and prison for gentry. Beneath it was the town warehouse, custom house and prison for common criminals. It also eventually became established as the Mayor's Mansion House. The building was used until a new building was ordered, together with an exchange at High Cross nearby. Meanwhile, the old building continued to be used as a storehouse until its common hall was converted into living quarters in 1689. The new building at High Cross, facing Castle Street, had to be replaced, however, by another by 1740 as its foundations were so bad. Another new Town Hall was designed by John Wood and opened officially in 1754. Further extensions occurred with the addition of a north wing in 1787, which acted as a new Mansion House for the Mayor.

The building was damaged in 1775 by canon fire during a riot lasting several days in Castle Street over sailor's wages. A fire in 1795 gutted the property, after which restoration by James Wyatt and other external additions were made. These included, in 1802, the copula and dome, which can be seen today bearing a statue of Minerva, the Greek goddess of wisdom and in 1811 - a projecting portico facing Castle Street. A political attempt to blow up the building was thwarted in 1881 and it suffered extensive damage in a 1941 air-raid, which was followed by renovation. It is the second oldest building in the city centre and its function rooms were once described by King Edward VII as being only second in Europe to the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg, Russia.

## Conclusion

The temperature decrease in the first reception room beneath the chandelier may not be significant in the absence of other effects. If C had really detected a ghost or phantom, could it have been one of the Mayors of that time period? Was there a man (possibly the Mayor of that time) living in the Mansion House who was killed, perhaps suddenly, during the period the fire took place? I have already considered the possibility of verifying the other pieces of information, like those given by the little girl seen by C and L, but it will now be necessary for us to try to research evidence for such details in the records of the building. I hope this is successful and that we will be able to report on this at some later date. Until this is done, however, I must re-emphasise my points about whether in the final analysis the vigil on the 25-26<sup>th</sup> April can be said to contain any real evidence at all of anomalous phenomena. We are forced to humbly admit, therefore, that we are still on a very steep learning curve regarding such matters.

REF. 1 O'Connor, F. (1990) *Liverpool: Our City . Our Heritage*. Printfine Ltd: Liverpool.

# UFO research: A complementary science?

By Mark Rosney

The 24th of June 1997 marked a special date in the UFO calendar. It was the 50th anniversary of Kenneth Arnold's famous sighting of nine 'metallic' crescent shaped objects flying in formation over the Cascade mountains, Washington State, USA. This incident caught the public's imagination and has been regarded by some as the birth of the modern UFO phenomenon. After 50 years of observation, research and analysis where do we find ourselves today? The sad fact is, after 50 years of investigation, we are no nearer to the answers we seek. Instead of making headway into unravelling this enigma, we are only left with more complex versions of the same questions we were asking over 50 years ago. More importantly, we are still struggling to get 'official' recognition that there *really is* a phenomenon, and that it is worthy of intensive scientific investigation. So what has gone wrong?

The problem is that science has been turned off the phenomenon. On the surface the whole subject seems to be driven by 'believers' who appear to take on board anything at all without the slightest bit of scrutiny. Add to this a barrage of crank claims, weirdo pseudo religions, hoaxes, downright deception, sloppy investigation and the image portrayed by the media and you now come close to the reason why this phenomenon has not moved an inch forward in over half a century. This has created a stigma around the subject, with all the associated harm it can do to the credibility of all who study it. It is no wonder that 'science' wishes to look no further than the tabloid headlines. This is a great tragedy, for hidden amongst this garish 'media fed' freak show are golden nuggets of information which have been painstakingly gleaned from critical analysis. Unfortunately, the signal cannot be heard for the noise. Our struggle for official recognition is not unique. Not so long ago another 'pseudo science' struggled for it's own place alongside established practices. The fields of alternative medicine, from osteopathy through to homeopathy, have all fought long and hard to gain recognition from the world of 'established' medicine. Despite all the odds they have finally achieved a good level of respectability. They have done this in part by *not* challenging the establishment, but becoming *complementary* to it. There is still a high level of dogma in certain circles, however the alternative practitioners have persevered, showing that although they *do not* know how some of the treatments work, they have proved that there *is* an effect which is real. Nowadays most doctors will not think twice about turning to alternative medicine for assistance.

There are close parallels between alternative medicine and UFOlogy, namely that:

- The effects *claimed* to occur are often not repeatable. (Try to get a UFO to return to the same place it was sighted a week ago, on cue!).
- The effects can be subjective and different for each person (i.e. Differing descriptions or observations in multiple witness cases).
- Some aspects of the 'core knowledge' of the subject are based on 'belief' rather than scientifically acceptable proof.
- If and when science is brought to bear, the methods used can (in some cases) 'interfere' with the results, or totally fail to capture them.
- The observed effects can be small, but *significant* when analysed statistically.
- There is something to be gained from a full scientific study (if done objectively).

Alternative medicine's success is a remarkable achievement, especially when you consider that they *still* have more than their fair share of cranks, quacks, mumbo jumbo, 'pseudo scientists', 'believers' and charlatans. But somehow their signal is cutting through the noise - loud and clear. It has not been an overnight victory - the separate disciplines, which come together under the alternative medicine umbrella, have been plugging away for thousands of years.

So what can UFOlogy learn from all of this? Simply that: in time, every dog has their day. My advice to UFOlogists everywhere is to soldier on regardless for the next few thousand years, do not criticise or reject the established sciences and prey that the person(s) who worked the PR miracle for alternative medicine take an active interest in UFOs.



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# My Experience

*by Avril Moore*

The date was the 16<sup>th</sup> May 1996, there was nothing very special about that day. I had gone through my usual daily routine of seeing my husband off to work, and my youngest son off to school, and had spent the rest of the day doing the usual tasks of housework. I live in Runcorn, in the County of Cheshire, but that evening I had planned to travel on my own to the place of my birth, Crosby, which is in the outskirts of Liverpool. My cousin came home from Malta, on a once a year trip, and I wanted to see him before he flew back to Malta the following Sunday. I arrived in Crosby at about 8.00pm, and spent an hour with my Mother and Stepfather before calling to see my cousin Peter and his Mother, my Aunty Nell. I spent a very happy evening and remember drinking a small bacardi and coke, I was driving and had no intention of overdoing it on the alcohol. I left Crosby at 11.45pm, I could have taken the quick and easy route home to Cheshire along the motorway, but my fear of motorways is always with me, I am always frightened of breaking down on them, so I avoid them like the plague. Instead I drove along the Dock Road and through the city of Liverpool 8 district and through Aigburth, this was a route I knew well, I had travelled that way many times over the years since I moved to live in Runcorn.

The night was clear, there was little or no known breeze and I was in a good frame of mind. I drove on through Speke and towards what the locals call the Ford Road, this is where the famous Fords Halewood Plant is situated, a good stretch of road with no speed limit. I reached the final set of traffic lights before I hit the Ford Road, I distinctly remember that the lights were red against me and I stopped, a police car came along side me on the right hand side, I can remember thinking "Watch you speed Avril, just in case!" The police car turned right onto the Speke Estate and I drove straight ahead. Fords factory on the left of me loomed up and I remember glancing at the mushroom like building that loomed up out of the darkness. I also remember taking a mental note that there was no other cars around, nothing came in the other direction, nothing travelled in the same direction as I was, and I thought how unusual this was, but at that stage it did not bother me. The road past Fords goes on a bend and then under a bridge and then further on there is an incline on the road. The mileage on my car was in the 60 mile an hour region, I rarely travel any faster than that, though I used to break all the speed limits in my younger years, in my middle years I was slowly "loosing my bottle" for speed.

My car climbed near the top of the incline, and then it happened. It didn't approach me from any direction, it just appeared, a huge Unidentified Flying Object, so big that it covered all the lanes of the road that I was travelling on, 6 in total. At first I thought that I had finally flipped, this menopausal woman who had been joking for years that her brain cells were diminishing has finally flipped and was now seeing the most unbelievable things! It was huge, it was real and it was travelling just in front of my car, I reckoned about 60 feet of the road it could have been slightly higher. It was enormous, but at the same time majestic, it was beautiful, but it was deeply frightening, I was a woman travelling alone, I had always been nervous of travelling alone, but mainly because of the human race, this was something different. The object was round, I could see it very clearly, it appeared luminous, although the only lights that I could see were the hundreds of green and blue pulsating lights that flickered on and off continuously around the rim of the craft. The underneath was recessed slightly and I could see 6 perfectly set triangle shapes with what I can only describe as "squiggles" on the base of each triangle. There was a circle in the middle of the undercarriage of the craft, and the pulsating lights were set in a flat rim around the edge. On top of this was a huge dome, I could not make out any windows, I could see no sign of life (not that I

wanted to), on top of this dome was something else, but I couldn't make out exactly what, it is like a house that has a chimney, there was something sticking out of the top that gave the impression of a chimney, a pipe or something similar. It was a silver metallic colour, and the street lights now appeared quite dim as they lay underneath this object.

I cannot describe the fear that I felt, my heart was beating so fast, that I could hear it beating in my eardrums, the beat going faster and faster, I seemed to be holding my breath, my nervous seemed to have gone into overdrive and ever nerve in my body began to shake, cold sweat broke out all over me. I had read many accounts over the years of people being beamed up, of folks going missing never to be seen again, this was real, or was it a dream? It was real, it was happening to me and I was frightened out of my tiny life. My foot went down hard on the accelerator, I broke my 60 mile an hour speed limit without even thinking about it, for once I wasn't bothered about my speed, I just wanted to be home, I wanted to be home with my husband and children, I wanted to be safe. The craft appeared to be keeping apace with my car, the faster I went, it kept in front of me, the road curved, it stayed with me, I went under a motorway bridge, still it stayed. A voice spoke out, it was my voice, "For Gods sake, leave me alone, go away, I want my mum, Oh God, please God don't let the engine stop, please God let me keep going". I was so frightened of my car engine packing up altogether, that is when THEY would get me, Please God Keep the Engine running! There wasn't another car in sight still, please let someone come along, let someone else see this thing and help me - no help came. I don't know how long IT stayed in front of my car, it felt like forever, it could only have been a minute or two, but that seemed to stretch into hours such was my fear.

To this day I don't know if the craft stopped or reversed, but suddenly I found my car travelling towards and underneath it, my fear heightened at this point, was this the moment when the beam of light would shoot down and engulf me? Suddenly it wasn't in front of me any more, the sky in front of me was clear once again, I looked out of my side window, I could see the edge of the craft was now above my car, the pulsating green and blue lights flickering down. I was heading towards the Widnes turn off and the road that would take me over the Runcorn/Widnes bridge, should I head for Widnes, or should I travel over the bridge, the bridge is sometimes manned by local police cars and I prayed that the police would be on the bridge this night, though my speed was now in the region of 90mph, I didn't care, they could take my licence, they could do anything, just help me, please! I sped over the Runcorn bridge, no police, no cars, no humans, not a soul in sight! Had the world died and I was the only person left? I travelled on into Runcorn itself, the old familiar road that I had driven along so many times, seemed oddly deserted, not a sign of life, not even a cat! My speed remained the same, too fast for a 30 mile per hour zone, but I didn't care, I squealed around corners and kept going until I reached my own home.

At last I approached the Estate where I had lived for the past fourteen years, still no sign of life. I parked the car outside my home, ran up the back path and burst into the kitchen door. My son, Michael, met me in the kitchen, "What's up Mum, you look like you have seen a Ghost?", I mumbled something about flying saucers and my husband came into the kitchen, "Have you had an accident, are you alright?". I blurted out this unbelievable story about being followed by a flying saucer, my son cracked a couple of jokes, my husband looked concerned, I felt like jelly, my legs can no longer hold me up, my nerves felt as though they are in a million pieces.

A sweet cup of tea and ten fags later I begin to calm down, I never attempted to smoke while it was happening to me, funny that, cigarettes have always been my mainstay when my nerves get frayed, but I never attempted to reach for a cigarette whilst in the car, my mind was on other things, now I was smoking like a trouper. My family believe me, that was important to me, my storey was unbelievable to myself, but it had happened and it was real and it was frightening. My husband checked my timing, it usually takes a good three quarters of an hour to get from Crosby to Runcorn, I was within that time limit, I had lost no time, SCOTTIE HAD NOT BEAMED ME UP!

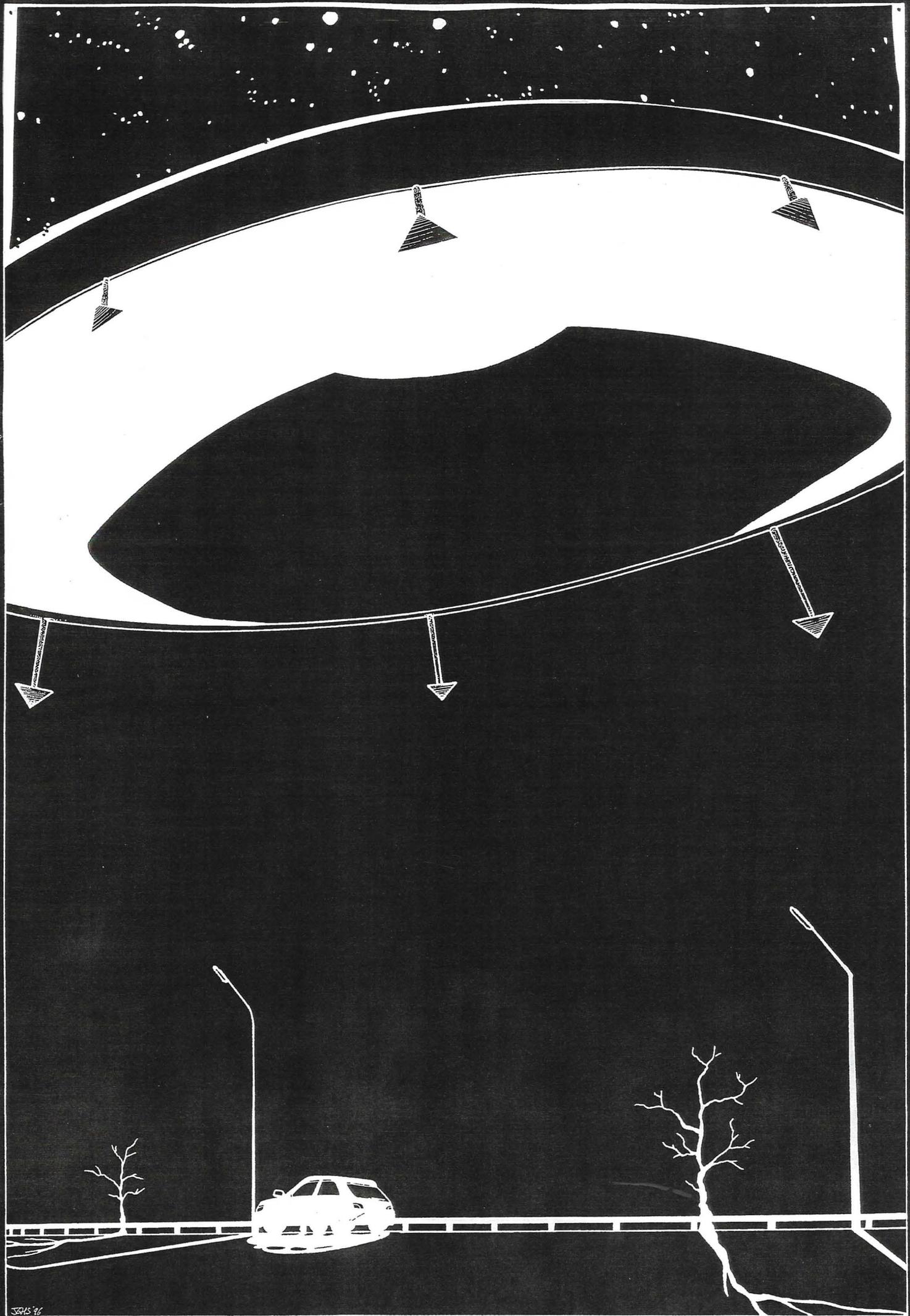
We got into bed in the early hours, but sleep eluded me, I got it into my head that THEY had followed me home, THEY knew where I lived, I spent half of the night peeping out of my window, half expecting to see little green men outside in the garden, coming to take me away.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 1996. I was relieved, I hadn't seen or heard a thing since my sighting, two days had passed and I was still here. I had confided in a couple of friends, who had looked at me as though I had totally gone of my head, other than that and checking the local newspapers, I heard nothing. I was confused, surely someone else had seen IT! It was huge, it was lit up, other people must have seen it, I decided to phone a Local Radio Station, surely someone else would have come forward to confirm my story. I phoned Radio City Gold at 10.30pm, I requested that my real name was not given over the air, they decided to call me Crystal, which seemed very apt for my story! I spoke to a local DJ called Pete Price, I told over the air waves as many details as I could, I put the phone down and waited and listened to the rest of the radio programme. The first call came in, a man rany to say he was travelling in the same direction as my car, he claimed he worked for the Ministry of Defence, that the UFO was infact the latest Jet and that it was Top Secret ~ it was quite amazing the amount of cranks around! I saw the funny side of that one. Another woman phoned into the Radio Station, she had seen the craft over Woolton in Liverpool just after my sighting, she said "It was exactly the same as that lady just said, it was big and it was frightening". I never managed to track that woman down, but I thank her with all my heart for confirming my story over the airwaves.

After a few days my curiosity got the better of me, I went to my local library and started reading as many books as I could find on UFO's, searching each one for pictures of one that bore a resemblance to my sighting. I started to talk to anyone that was willing to listen, I got past caring what people thought about me and my UFO, people made jokes, people ridiculed me, but I ignored them the best I could, I knew what I had seen was real, I knew there was something out there, I wanted to know what it was and what it wanted, I wanted to know WHY ME?

Two years have nearly passed since my experience and in that two years I have learnt a lot. I have met the most amazing people who understand, who do not make jokes about my experience and who share common ground. I have made the most wonderful friends as a member of the Witness Support Group, a wonderful bunch of people who I feel I have known all my life and I know that whatever happens in the future I will not be alone.

Since my experience I have grown in many ways, I look upon life in a different light and I have a deep belief that it won't be too long before we are given an insight into exactly what is going on out there. I feel part of a family, a chosen family, and I also feel part of as giant jigsaw puzzle that is gradually being put into place piece by piece.



# Psychic Powers

*by Sue McAllister*

What are psychic powers? Put simply instincts that everyone of us naturally possesses. These come in varying degrees for all of us. There are some common examples;

1. You phone someone close to you like your mother only to find her phone is engaged because she is trying to phone you.
2. You instantly distrust someone you meet with impeccable credentials, then find out weeks or even months later that your initial reservations were justified.
3. You decide on impulse to change your route to work only to find out later that there was an accident or problem on that route.
4. You phone your best friend on impulse to ask what is wrong, they then tell you of some disaster currently affecting them.
5. You visit an old ruin or castles and suddenly see in your minds eye an event that took place there long ago.
6. You walk into a room and feel a bad atmosphere and you want to leave, you then find out something tragic happened in that room.
7. You suddenly think of someone you haven't seen in years then get a phone call from them or see them in the street.
8. When you feel distressed you can smell your deceased grandmothers perfume for instance.
9. Animals and children trust you instantly and your pet is always waiting for you in the hall waiting for you to come in.
10. You find that your dreams are so vivid they seem real then shortly afterwards and unpredictably parts of your dream come true.

These are just a few of the experiences known as psychic powers. If you can identify with most of these then you are well tuned in to your psychic powers. Intuition is the ability to obtain information from the sixth sense and will develop quite naturally the more you rely on it.

As children, our psychic experiences are channelled through our five basic senses, children can pick up information that is not accessible by means of conscious reasoning. As we grow older our extrasensory perception lessen because of developing rational processes, so our senses are less receptive to sixth sense messages.

The major clairsentient powers that transmit through our five physical senses include;

- i. telepathy (mind to mind communication)
- ii. clairaudience (hearing what is not physically present)
- iii. clairvoyance (seeing both places and people far away)
- iv. psychometry (gaining information my touch)

Some people receive messages either whilst asleep through dreams and these are often known as predictive dreams. Many of my experiences are channelled to me in this way. One example of predictive dreaming occurred whilst I dreamt of my boyfriend driving his brother to his girlfriends house in the county. Whilst driving along the motorway, early in the morning, he skidded off the road, as it was wet at the time, and they crashed into the central barrier. The were both unharmed and phoned my dad for help as he has a garage. Around 8:30 on the Saturday morning I

woke up having just have this dream I could hear the phone ringing and I walked downstairs to pick it up. It was my mother she had informed me of an accident I said in a semi sleep state "I know! Not at all surprised!" My mother asked how I knew, I told her that I just dreamt that he had crashed into a barrier but he's okay. My mother was surprised because she hadn't told me any of the details of what had actually happened. That was 13 years ago, and over the years I've had numerous predictive dreams, some good, some bad. Yet there was a period in my life when these experiences became less frequent. This was when I worked long hours and in a controlled environment. When I left this type of work my psychic abilities increased.

In my opinion, I think this was due to being in a stress free environment with no conditioning or control, thus leaving my senses free to receive messages and tune into my psychic powers. One useful example of clairaudience which I had experienced occurred whilst I was standing in my local bank. I had asked for £20 and received £20, as the woman passed me the money a voice came into my head which said "£40". I walked out the door asking myself why a voice came into my head. I checked that my book was debited correctly, and checked that I had the right amount, there were two £10 notes. Next morning I was received a letter from the bank stating that I was give two £20 notes and that only £20 had been debited from my account instead of £40 and they had amended this accordingly, "bloody cheek!" I thought. I know that I had checked it. I phoned them up and told them to change the amount back to what it was, and that they had no right to change it without informing me first. I threatened to close my account through their incompetence. Soon I received a written apology.

I don't claim to know how these powers work but they have often been useful to me in different circumstances. Sceptics dismiss many psychic claims by people because they cannot explain them but this doesn't mean that they are not real. Some people say it is coincidence, a word I no longer use to explain strange things. I have come to realise that there is a lot more to the human psyche than text book psychology admits.

References - Psychic Development 1997 Cassandra Eason

If you are experiencing any form of paranormal phenomena

M.A.R.A. would be very interested to hear from you.

See page 3 for how to contact us

Contact us in complete confidence.

# Never Ever Heard Anything Like It

*by Colin J. Veacock*

"My heads spinning, Boy I'm in a daze,  
I feel isolated, don't want to communicate."

Never Ever.  
All Saints.

In 1959 a Russian born film producer, singer and archaeologist, Friedrich Jurgenson, travelled to a small wooden glade near his home in Stockholm, Sweden, on a uncomfortably hot spring evening to tape record the birdsong that he found so fascinating. On returning home and playing back the tape he was astounded to find that the recording had accidentally picked up several voices, speaking in Norwegian, happily discussing the beauty of the birdsong. Intrigued by this, he conducted similar recordings until finally, some two weeks later, he recorded his deceased mother calling to him, "Friedel, my little Friedel, can you hear me?" This was to be the catalyst for Jurgenson to conduct thousands of experimental recordings, during which time he captured the voices of the deceased hundreds, if not thousands, of times. Perhaps his most notable success was the recording of SS Chief, Heinrich Himmler, whose voice was later positively identified by Himmler's personal doctor, Felix Kerstens. Kersten's wife was later to be married to Himmler himself. When Jurgenson eventually died in 1987 he did so without recognising his ultimate goal of creating a communication device which would allow the living to talk to the dead. However, his groundbreaking work in 'Electronic Voice Phenomena', as it came to be known, had pricked the curiosity of many other eminent EVP researchers who were to carry on his research.

Friedrich Jurgenson was not the first to dream of creating a machine for talking to the dead. American inventor, Thomas Edison, worked on a device he hoped would make talking to the dead a reality in the 1920s and Guglielmo Marconi experimented with similar theories until his passing in 1937. Jurgenson's fascinating book, "Visions From Space" caught the attention, and imagination, of Latvian Doctor of philosophy and psychology, Konstantin Raudive who took up the challenge that Jurgenson had began. Such notables as John F. Kennedy, Carl Jung and Russian born writer Dostoevsky, appeared during his experiments. Sometimes the voices spoke several languages in the space of a single sentence while others sounded metallic, rapid, and incomprehensible, and occasionally appeared on the reverse sides of the tape.

Parapsychologist and fervent EVP debunker, David Ellis, was not convinced. He pondered whether the voices couldn't be down to snippets of radio programmes accidentally picked up by suspect equipment. This theory was soundly rejected by Dr Hans Bender of the Freiburg University, and the gentleman who investigated the infamous Rosenheim poltergeist case, who was in no doubt that the voices were genuine and represented contact with the dead. Sometimes the received messages could be quite bizarre!

Gilbert Bonner, a British EVP researcher, once fell asleep in his chair during an EVP experiment. As he slept, slumped in his chair rather provocatively, and while the tapes kept recording, something remarkable happened. When the tapes were played back a female voice was heard to say, "Bonner looks quite ridiculous". Perhaps more profound and interesting was the voice that appeared on recordings of Viennese researcher, Hans Lutschs. It gave its name as Gunter Barr, a name

which was instantly recognisable as his murder had been in all the papers (Gunter had been stabbed). Gunter went on to name his wife as his murderer, something which was later proved by the police. Another interesting personal message was recorded by hearing aid salesman and EVP researcher, Raymond Cass, who lived in York. During a recording session his one time good friend and poet who had died of cancer, Philip Larkin, spoke of how he was spending the after life "Just Tramping". Larkin had been a keen walker during his lifetime, and it was during his long walks that he would find the inspiration behind his poetry.

As generations of EVP researchers experimented with the phenomena all the rough edges of the experiment were gradually removed until we have the type of experiment which we now have today which literally anyone can try. All that is needed is a simple tape recorder and microphone, and for best results, a radio tuned between stations so that it is creating nothing but static hiss. Leave the cassette tape to record and see what's on the finished tape. It's really that simple!

On the 1.4.98, Mark Glover and myself had the privilege to hear and investigate an example of EVP recording at first hand. The story behind the recording is a tragic one.

Ann Carr (pseudonym) aged 13, and her friends were the talk of their school. They had been filmed by a London based film crew imitating their favourite all girl group, All Saints, singing their number one hit single, "Never Ever." The song had a special place in her heart as it was hers and her friend, John Evans (pseudonym) song, special to just them, or so it seemed. Unfortunately, just as Ann thought life couldn't get any better, it turned on her in a most savage and tragic way, causing her life to disintegrate in front of her friends and families eyes. While playing sports a heart defect which had remained dormant for the duration of Johns short life suddenly made its presence known with devastating and fatal consequences. John sadly collapsed and died.

Ann was traumatised.

That following afternoon, Sunday 29th March, she sobbed pitifully in the bath while her younger sister, not realising what harm she was doing, imitated her elder sister and recorded herself singing along to the song, "Never Ever", just as she had watched her sister do several times. During the song the baby niece who was only a matter of months old at the time and who was laying on the bed, chose to say her first words. The song was immediately turned off and the microphone was used to record the infants first attempts at speech. Later that same evening Ann's elder brother played back the tape and was horrified to find an extra distorted voice singing along to the song accompanying his sister. Even when the tape had been paused, and later stopped altogether, the voice continued unabated. Although the family never came right out and said it, it was hinted several times that it could have been Johns voice.

When I first heard the voice I was left cold, struck dumb by what I was hearing. Sitting in that comfortable living room with Mark, who appeared as amazed as I, drinking tea, listening to what may be a deceased individual singing along to a song he held dear to his heart, has to go down as one of the more deeper, thought provoking moments of my life. Where we listening to the first duet between the living and the dead? Was the great divide between this world and the next actually becoming narrower as we listened? Was the gap bridgeable?

The first thing which is immediately evident on the playing of the tape is how the voice only appears through one speaker. The voice, deep and guttural, also begins the song hesitantly, talking rather than singing, and gradually progresses and gains confidence until it is attempting to reach certain notes like some phantom karaoke singer. At several stages it becomes choked with emotion as if it realises that the song is special and will be seen as such. Even the long pauses when the niece begins to say her first words doesn't hinder or effect the voices singing which bridges the gaps effortlessly. There also appear to be other noises in the background of the tape which cannot be explained such as extreme birdsong and a creaking door which sounds like some film producers special effect. Both myself and Mark checked all the doors in the house for one that squeaked without success.

It didn't take long to realise that this was no natural bleed through as the family had hoped. In fact, there are only two conclusions that one can come to. It is either the real thing or a hateful attempt to push a young girl further into emotional trauma and seeing just how concerned the family were for the well-being of their sister/daughter, I cannot imagine that horrific scenario. The first public airing of the recording at one of MARA's monthly meetings was greeted with muffled silence. To some present this was the first time they had heard anything remotely like this. For over an hour sceptics believers, the cautious and the just plain fascinated, discussed the recording without coming to one, not one, reasonable conclusion as to how the tape could have been faked. The distorted slow mutterings of the voice, which, however, managed to keep in time with the song, were, it was agreed by everyone present, truly astounding and unexplainable.

That night as I listened to the voice singing on my own equipment at home, I wrote to perhaps the most respected and sincere psychical researcher in the field today, Maurice Grosse, an inventor, member of the Society for Psychical research and chairman of its spontaneous cases committee, and the gentleman who investigated the ground breaking Enfield poltergeist with friend and colleague Guy Lyon Playfair. He replied a week or so later saying that he was impressed, and if the circumstances surrounding its recording were accurate, he had no doubt that it was genuine. So impressed in fact that he even took a copy of the tape for his own private collection.

Still not convinced MARA gave copies of the tape to friends of the group who thought they could analyse the recording, the most prominent and professional of which was Paul Fitzgibbon who is a sound engineer. His report makes fascinating reading. Paul's findings were that the erroneous voice is definitely slower than it should be, a condition which he postulates may be down to the tape being exposed to magnetism such as an erase head in a cassette recorder. He also goes on to say;

"Speeding the recording up to a pace that fits the music reveals a young child's voice, perhaps thirteen years old that could be male or female singing the words of the song."

Paul then goes on to theorise to how the recording could have been made accidentally.

"1. Recording made on karaoke machine by child .Tape is faulty causing the speed of the recording to be too slow.

2. Tape (possibly found to be faulty at the time) stored and forgotten about.

3. Child wants to make recording and is given the old tape to play with.

4. Child records song and the fault occurs causing only the right half of the tape to be recorded on, thus leaving the left channel of the original recording relatively

untouched. Possibly tape is twisted in a way that does not expose it totally to the erase head within the karaoke machine.

5. Tape is reviewed, fault discovered.

“Finally Paul finishes his report by making the following remarks;”

“This could of course feasibly be a hoax, but given the quality of the recording and faults of this nature being entirely likely, I would suspect otherwise.”

“There are a number of points that should be made about the theory of how Paul thinks the tape could have been accidentally made. First of all the chance of singing a song on tape which is later discarded and forgotten about, and then taping exactly the same song over it so that old recording and new recording align up perfectly, without mentioning the chances of recording the same song twice on the same portion of cassette tape weeks if not months apart, is ridiculous. We have to remember that Paul was giving his opinions on “how” the tape might have been accidentally recorded not how it was accidentally recorded. Secondly, if the voice is slower than usual how on earth does it manage to keep in perfect time with the actual recording?

Perhaps Paul is right when he writes;

“The recording ( the voice) continues seamlessly even though the girls recording stops and starts several times. This would be extremely difficult, if not impossible to achieve “live” given the equipment used.”

“In the end the tape needs more study. To those of us who search for the truth no matter at what personal cost the tape gives us a tantalising insight to the strength of human love which, it would seem, even death cannot conquer. To those who scoff the tape is nothing more than an oddity to be cast away in the darkest corner of some drawer where it can do the least damage. It’s a shame. The more I think about it the more I find myself agreeing with the mysterious voice when it sings, choked with pent up emotion,

“Never ever felt so sad.....”

“Special thanks to,

Maurice Grosse and the Society for Psychical Research.

Paul Fitzgibbon,

Mark Glover,

Anthony Eccles,

Sue MacAllister,

Billy Bimson,

Julia Boyd,

John Hall,

Bill McGarry,

Roger Ellison,

Mark Rosney,

And finally a good friend who, even when seriously ill, helped as best she could,

Elaine Hannah.”

## Hypnosis, recovered memories & non-hypnotic eye-witness interviewing - a reply to McClure.

*By Steve Verner-Weaver*

In his article 'Recovered memory and hypnosis special' (The Researcher, Issue 2) Kevin McClure notes with some concern quite rightly the qualifications, or lack of them, of those who use or seek to use hypnosis and similar techniques. He also expresses scepticism about the use of hypnosis and regression methods in particular to recover presumably 'lost' memories and questions the veridicality of memories recovered using such procedures. Unfortunately a thought-provoking article is marred by some comments which are erroneous and misleading in several respects. The aim of this article is therefore to rectify these errors by providing a brief outline of recent academic research in hypnosis as a memory-enhancement procedure and the implications and practical applications of such research so that UFO/paranormal researchers are fully aware of the limitations of hypnotic procedures of memory enhancement and the greater potential of non-hypnotic techniques of memory facilitation of eye-witness evidence in forensic paranormal investigation.

McClure makes a number of assumptions concerning therapists, the methods employed by them, the alleged alien abduction phenomena (AAP) and the personality of abductees. In fact, the entire article is based upon the single categorical assumption, which he makes clear in the first sentence, that alien abduction experiences (AAE's) are not real events, that every case of AAE is an artefact composed of memories 'recovered through the use of memory enhancement techniques, primarily regression hypnosis' reinforced by investigators' uncritical a priori beliefs and then further reified by abductees' acceptance of the investigator's beliefs in the reality of the AAE. That is, every AAE is a result of the subsequent 'recall' of what is in effect a false memory created by the incompetent use of hypnosis and regression procedures.

Now whether abduction experiences are of alien or extraterrestrial origin I am not prepared to either categorically assert or deny. However, I do accept and believe that many individuals, including those who have had an AAE, reported or not, have had an experience that is in some way, or could be described as, different to the norm, out of the ordinary, strange, anomalous, extraordinary, supernatural, paranormal or whatever. Such experiences are not new and have been reported and commented on throughout history. The phenomenon has not suddenly appeared as McClure maintains; the mythos has always existed -mythology and folklore abound in accounts of 'other world' visitors, dwarfs, pixies, elves, demons, angels and shapeshifters in innumerable forms and, equally, in accounts of the visits of mortals to 'other worlds'. The problem with such experiences is not one of veridicality - accounts are far too frequent and seem to be common to all cultures of all ages to be dismissed as lies, pure fantasy or 'false memory' - but a problem of interpretation and definition. These experiences are usually interpreted as belonging to one of two broad categories of human experience; the spiritual/mystical category or the demonic/psychiatric category. Which category an experience falls into has latterly been loosely determined by the factors of gender, social status, religious adherence and socio-political context. Demonic possession has latterly been replaced by varied classifications of abnormal

symptoms, complexes and syndromes. The possessed are now rarely exorcised and even less rarely condemned to be hanged or burned as witches, instead they are simply diagnosed and labelled mentally ill. One notable exception to psychiatric orthodoxy is the clinical psychologist Wilson van Dusen. The author of more than 150 research papers and several books, van Dusen has noted the remarkable similarity between descriptions of the 'demonic hierarchy of an unseen spirit world' and the hallucinations of his patients in a state mental hospital. He has even gone so far as to publicly state that many patients in mental hospitals are possessed by demons. Unusual experiences of either category, are by their nature entirely subjective and experiences of a spiritual or intense mystical quality are usually described as 'ineffable', or indescribable, but these are nevertheless real to those who experience them.

The point I am making here is that regardless of interpretation or definition, anomalous or extraordinary or paranormal experiences or AAE's are real, albeit frequently in a purely subjective sense and the only evidence for these is the testimony of eye-witnesses or participants in such events whatever their nature and whatever definition or interpretation subsequently placed upon them. The 'disastrous consequences' to which McClure refers almost exclusively relate to the Satanic Ritual Abuse (SRA) hysteria and cases arising from False Memory Syndrome (FMS) in the USA, where perhaps an over-eager and well-financed fundamentalist movement was too ready to believe in and determined to uncover the 'reality' of SRA. McClure asserts correctly that there is 'minimal medical or scientific support for the belief that 'hidden' or 'forgotten' memories can be accurately recovered or restored through hypnosis or other regression techniques' but to argue that every case of AAE is simply a product of FMS is I believe erroneous. We need to distinguish between 'memories' of which the subject was not previously aware and then 'recovered' using hypnosis and memory enhancement for eye-witness events. To distinguish between the two requires an understanding of the nature of hypnosis and its role in memory-enhancement.

Until relatively recently hypnosis has been discussed using 19th century terminology and, in fact, the 19th century 'Svengali' stereotype of hypnosis persists even now in a public imagination fed on rations of Dennis Wheatley novels, Hammer horror films and performances of stage-hypnosis. Such images have confirmed the power of hypnosis to produce by means of induction rituals a sleep-like trance in subjects who then experience a loss of awareness and an increased capacity for, for example, increased suggestibility, amnesia, post-hypnotic phenomena, the ability to experience events from earlier (or a past-?) life and the ability to improve the recall of traumatic events or 'recover' supposedly lost memories. This traditional 19th century orthodoxy has in the last twenty years been challenged by the suggestions of non-state theorists in that, firstly, hypnosis does not produce a passive, helpless state of automatism and, more contentiously, that hypnosis may not be the unitary state hitherto claimed. This long-standing and constructive academic debate between theorists has evolved into the current state-non-state debate. State theorists maintain that the experience of hypnosis is one of a profound change in consciousness quite distinct from 'normal' waking consciousness or sleep and is presumed to be associated with physiological correlates unique to this discrete state of consciousness. The central twofold problems for state theorists has been to explain how hypnosis can be a discrete state of consciousness qualitatively different to 'ordinary' or 'waking consciousness' in terms of individual subjective experience - feeling hypnotised, in a trance or trance-like state - and to identify the physiological concomitants of hypnosis as being unique to hypnosis as a state of consciousness quite distinct from other mundane processes such as relaxation

and suggestion while maintaining at the same time that hypnosis is perfectly safe and entirely free from any dangers or side-effects such that subjects will not respond to suggestions of an anti-social, injurious or morally dubious nature. Some experimental research initially suggested that hypnotised subjects could be made to perform harmful or immoral act such as, for example, being told to handle a dangerous snake or throw acid at the experimenter (Brenman, 1942; Rowland, 1939; Young, 1952). With regard to this, state theorists have adopted the problematic metaphor of the 'hidden observer' (Hilgard, 1977) to explain why it is that 'hypnotised' subjects cannot be made to act in an antisocial manner or to harm themselves or others as a result of hypnotically induced coercion. Hilgard has suggested that mind or consciousness is not a single or unitary entity but a number of different parts of consciousness or cognitive units which are not all simultaneously conscious and under the control of a central (cortical?) executive. During hypnosis some of the functions of this executive unit are given up to the hypnotist so that, in response to suggestion, certain actions are perceived as involuntary since the part of the mind responding is dissociated from normal awareness. The hidden-observer metaphor refers to this inferred mental structure that monitors events, including those of which the hypnotised subject is not aware. While the hidden-observer has been demonstrated experimentally and subject to replication it has been open to criticism by non-state theorists who argue that such results may be the result of implied demands for compliance. More recently Hilgard's concept of the hidden observer has evolved into a more sophisticated 'neo-dissociation' theory (Hilgard, 1986) and gained some considerable purchase amongst state theorists, though the role of dissociation as a defining feature of hypnosis is becoming less than clear as it seems to be emerging more as a catch-all to explain a divergent range of consciousness phenomena. Despite such confusions, state-theory revolves around the central axis of hypnosis as a discrete state of consciousness recognisably distinct from 'normal' waking consciousness or sleep with physiological correlates unique to that state.

Proponents of the non-state view reject the central notion that hypnosis is an altered state of consciousness, maintaining instead that hypnosis and hypnotic phenomena can be more easily understood and more readily explained in terms of ordinary or mundane psychological processes such as, for example, motivation, expectancies, attitudes, beliefs, compliance, suggestibility, relaxation, imagination, visualisation, role-enactment and so on. From this point of view the subject does not enter or experience a trance or ASC and does not lose awareness or self-control. Instead the subject plays an actively aware role in the process of hypnosis. Experimental research has demonstrated the capacities of 'non-hypnotised' subjects to experience hallucinations, amnesia, analgesia, recall and other phenomena more usually associated with state-hypnosis which goes some considerable way to dispelling such traditional myths associated with hypnosis of a helpless subject possessed of almost supernatural powers yet entirely at the mercy of the hypnotist. McClure questions the use of hypnosis and regression 'if the memories are actually of real events, when real events are so seldom forgotten' and then 'the evidence regarding the use of 'recovered memory techniques suggests - strongly - that they are wholly undependable'. As stated previously Extraordinary Human Experiences (EHE) may be difficult to define or interpret but are nevertheless real, if only to the 'experiencee'. It is a gross oversimplification of what we know of memory to claim that real events are seldom forgotten (and an event either happened or it did not - is there such a thing as an 'unreal event' - a hallucination or delusion of something which does not exist is, in and of itself, an 'event' albeit an interior one, experienced by an individual); aside from 'flashbulb' memories, forgetting is a common experience but I take it that what McClure means is that an EHE like an alleged alien abduction is of so great a personal significance - unexpected and out

of the ordinary - that it would be difficult to forget it. This may well be the case but other factors are of equal significance; the AAE may include confusion, physical or perceptual disorientation, time-distortion, a difficulty in accepting what appears to be happening at the time. It is for these reasons, I suspect, that investigators' resort to techniques of hypnosis and regression in an attempt to enable the experiencees to clarify, define and interpret these experiences for themselves after all, while EHE and AAE are of considerable interest to us, of prime importance is the physical and psychological well-being of individual witnesses who may feel the need to explore the context and details of their experiences in a non-threatening and supportive milieu free from the fear of ridicule. On the other hand a need exists for a sceptical balance so that investigators' do not bring dogmatic opinions, preconceptions and prior beliefs into the situation to avoid that which McClure claims is the prime-mover of all AAE's - the need to 'Want to Believe'.

The claim that techniques of memory enhancement are seldom used by the police and are wholly undependable is without foundation. Since not all cases which involve hypnosis reach the courts, published accounts (which reached a peak in the late 1970's and early 1980's) underestimate the extent to which hypnosis has been and is used by the police. One investigator in particular reported that he had been using forensic hypnosis in Britain for over 30 years and that he undertook 17 hypnotic interrogations in one week at the request of the police and a colleague reported 50 cases investigated by hypnosis in the home counties. Thus, the virtues of hypnosis in memory enhancement have been almost unquestioned for over a century. However, since the early 1980's a growing body of experimental evidence overwhelmingly demonstrates that the use of hypnosis does not improve the accuracy of recall above that obtainable in a motivated non-hypnotic condition. Any increase in recall using hypnosis is often associated with a decrease in accuracy and, more importantly, can produce false confidence in incorrect information with increased suggestibility to misleading questions and misleading post-event information (Kebbel & Wagstaff, 1998). This is not the same as saying that such memories are 'wholly undependable' but simply serves to highlight some of the problems of using hypnotic techniques; the usefulness of hypnosis as an interviewing procedure may be limited, but not entirely useless. Kebbel & Wagstaff (1998) suggest that many factors associated with hypnosis, 'apart from the hypnotic induction itself' may produce memory enhancement. Those trained in the use of hypnosis are able to apply a range of psychological, clinical and interpersonal skills as effective strategies for interviewing eye-witnesses. The 'cognitive interview.' In particular, is such a procedure which can enhance recall by up to 35% without the problems of memory distortion associated with hypnosis (Kebbel & Wagstaff, 1998). Since it performs at least as well as and often considerably better than hypnosis, the cognitive interview may therefore be employed in preference to hypnosis.

It need hardly be said, but psychological or therapeutic interviews of this nature should be conducted only by a qualified professional ie. psychologist, forensic psychologist or clinician. With regard to qualifications in hypnosis and 'hypnotherapy', it is important to note that there are two and, regardless of whatever 'lay hypnotists', 'hypnotherapists', 'qualified hypnotherapists', 'therapists' or 'counsellors' may claim to the contrary, ONLY two professional bodies which govern research and practice in hypnosis in the UK - The British Society of Medical and Dental Hypnosis (BSMDH) and The British Society of Experimental and Clinical Hypnosis (BSECH). Membership of these bodies is restricted to appropriately qualified individuals. BSMDH membership is open, not surprisingly, only to registered medical and dental practitioners and membership of the BSECH to psychologists who have undertaken further postgraduate training and specialise in

the research and/or applications of hypnosis. Such precautions, namely the use of effective interview strategies by a qualified professional would go a long way to obviate the problems to which McClure refers - leading questions, misleading witnesses, poorly qualified 'therapists', exaggerated claims embellished accounts and so on. I agree with McClure's assertion that therapists are capable of producing more harm than good and it is incumbent upon researchers to maintain a healthy attitude of open-minded scepticism while not deriding the claims of abductees. Whatever form these experiences take, the phenomenon remains and it is far more constructive to question why people have such experiences than to simply dismiss them entirely as pure fantasy. I would suggest the UFO/AAP is a contemporary example of possession hysteria with parallels in the case of Loudun in 1634 (see for example, Huxley, 1952).

It is an urban epidemic made all the more virulent by the decline of organised religion, a spiritual thirst for alternatives and the unprecedented growth and rapid expansion of the information technology culture of the late 20th century. Cases are no longer localised to small villages as in the case of Loudun, but are of global occurrence. The surge of interest in Fortean, X-Files, UFO/AAP and allied conspiracy theories seems to have combined to tap a raw nerve of paranoia in an uncertain and insecure world. The origin of such experiences may not be extraterrestrial but internal though nonetheless real. What evolutionary benefit such experiences provide, if one there is, we can only surmise but if the human psyche has an innate capacity to experience strange phenomena the final frontier may well prove to be inner space and as a psychologist my concern is to explore these inner dimensions, a subject I intend to address in a future article.

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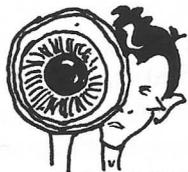
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Steve Verner Weaver BA(Hons) PhD DHP MBSECH FRAS, psychologist, psychotherapist and member of (and consultant to) MARA.

Address for correspondence, enquiries about Mind-Machines and 'Inward Bound' courses; Mind-Wave,

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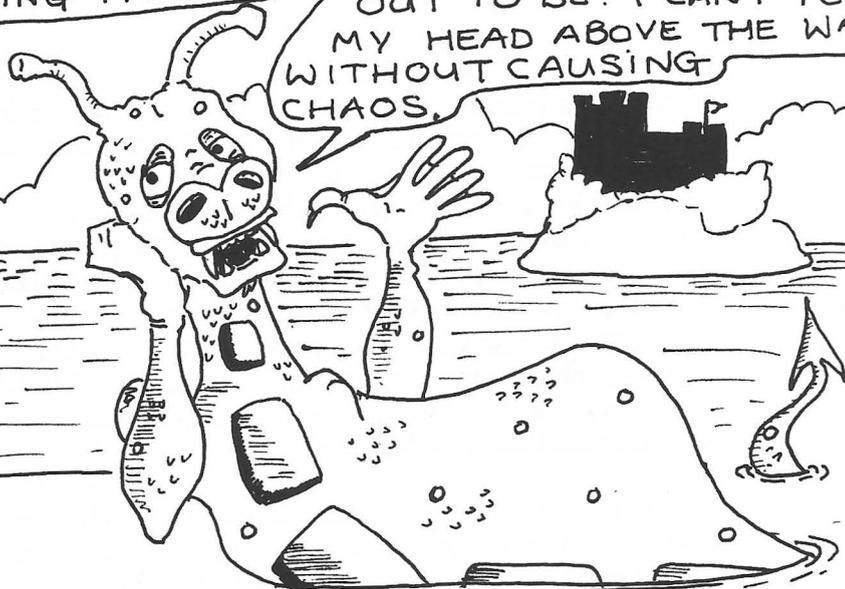
# PSI-MAN SAYS



TODAY, PSI-MAN INTERVIEWS THE LOCH NESS MONSTER

SO NESSIE, WHATS IT LIKE BEING FAMOUS?

IT'S NOT ALL ITS MADE OUT TO BE. I CANT POP MY HEAD ABOVE THE WAVE WITHOUT CAUSING CHAOS.

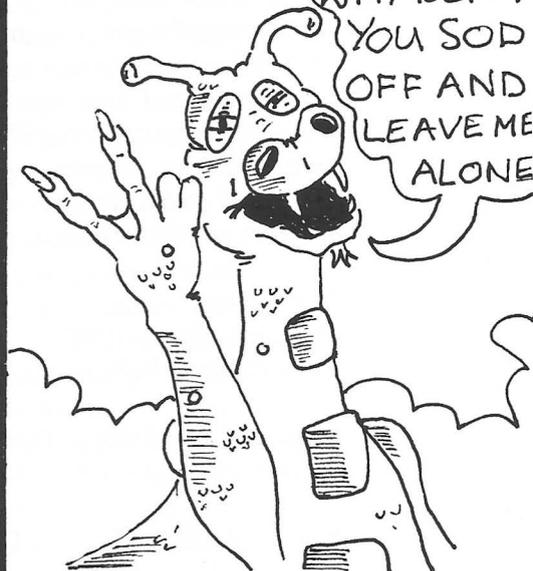
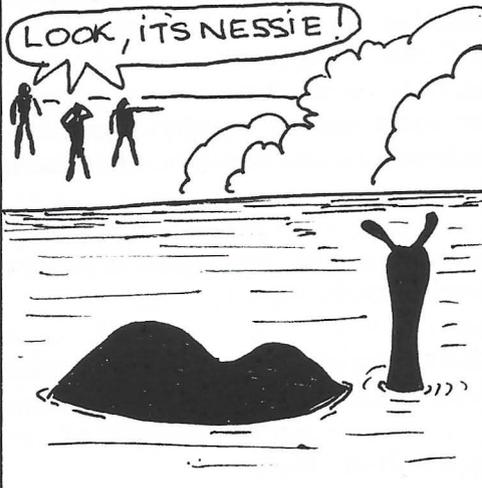


TAKE LAST WEEK FOR INSTANCE.

I'D JUST POPPED UP TO ENJOY THE SUN WHEN A GROUP ON SHORE SAW ME

LOOK, ITS NESSIE!

WHY DONT YOU SOD OFF AND LEAVE ME ALONE



YOU CAN IMAGINE MY SURPRISE WHEN I DISCOVERED IT WASN'T ME THEY WERE SHOUTING AT.

"IT DOESN'T EVEN LOOK LIKE ME, YOU FOREIGN SWINE!"



# Merseyside Curiosities

No.2 The Robin Hood Stone

by John L. Hall

There is a monolith, a huge stone monument, that stands alone at the corner of Booker Avenue and Archerfield Road in Allerton. It is approximately eight foot in height and is made of local sandstone. Its surface, on closer inspection, contains cup and ring marks along with deep vertical grooves, an indication of weather erosion. This scarring appears in a traditional tale in that it was used to sharpen arrows.



Figure 1. The location of the stone.

A plaque nearby states that this stone had once stood in a field that was once owned by Josias Booker. The field was called Stone Hey and the stone apparently stood at a spot 198 feet away, in a direction that is seven degrees east of true north from its present location. The field is said to have accommodated archery bults ( which are small mounds of soil and turf to which archery targets were attached ) during the period of Henry VIII as he had actively encouraged all young men to take up archery. From Stone Hey the stone had been excavated in 1765, a period the Calderstone stones had also been excavated, here Josias Booker took the largest stone to use as a cattle rub. It was relocated to its present position around 1928 when house building took place on the site of the field.

## A photographic anomaly

A photograph was handed to me by a Mr. B.W. He had taken a photograph on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1984 at 3pm and was surprised to see a strange light anomaly on the photograph. Mr. B.W. had used a 35mm Mamiya 645 1000S camera and had used a few frames of film to photograph the Robin Hood Stone. The anomaly was not visible to him at the time, it was only revealed once the film had been developed.

Elemental refraction might be suggested as a cause of the anomaly, but the photographer states that he had used an enormous rubber lens. In his opinion the rubber lens could not cause elemental refraction. The film emulsion itself is very sensitive to radiation, and it is able to detect things on a spectrum that could be interpreted as being invisible to the naked eye. On the 16<sup>th</sup> March 1990, Mr. B.W. had received a reply from Amanda Nevill of the National Centre of Photography in Bath to whom he had previously sent the photographs to be properly analysed. Miss Nevill's response informed Mr. B.W. that the photographs had been looked at by the facility's photographic technician. She says that "he is of the opinion that unfortunately the mysterious lights are either a fault on either the film or the processing". Not all of the photographs had been returned and the photographer believes that this was done on purpose because Mr. B.W. believes that the photographs might actually show an energy given off by the stone itself. Mr. B.W. has an interest in earth mysteries and says that, at the time of the Robin Hood's relocation in 1928, a researcher by the name of Alfred Watkins had published a photograph of it. Watkins had been able to define six alignments indicated by the now severely eroded cup and ring marks which appear on the stone's base. It's original location appears to be significant as it stood in a geometric alignment with other important areas. Furthermore, and beyond coincidence, Mr. B.W. believes that the relocation of the stone in 1928 was also significant as "it fell into yet another pattern".

Pursuing his own research, Mr. B.W. had sent his negatives and some first generation prints to the Royal Photographic Society. They had supplied him with a rational explanation but, according to Mr. B.W., had not returned the negatives to him. Mr. B.W. had not been interested in conspiracies but when a photograph and negatives had not been returned to him by two separate photographic groups he understandably became suspicious.

Light anomalies that occur in photographs have often been explained as being caused by faulty cameras, faulty film, poor photography or a fault in the processing. In a lot of cases these explanations can be justified, but there are few that cannot be explained in that way. A fine example was a photograph taken in 1959 at Llanhamach Stone, near Brecon Powys, by a man called J.G. Williams who used a 35mm camera. What appeared on film was not a bright flash of light but a dark purple haze that occurred at the bottom of the site and tapered to the top. It was thought that the strange result was due to a concentration of ultra-violet which was not visible to the human eye. It still remains unexplained.

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Ordnance Survey map of Liverpool 1953 1:2500 scale

Please note the two photographs on the opposite page, the detail on the top photo is blurred compared with the photograph on the bottom.

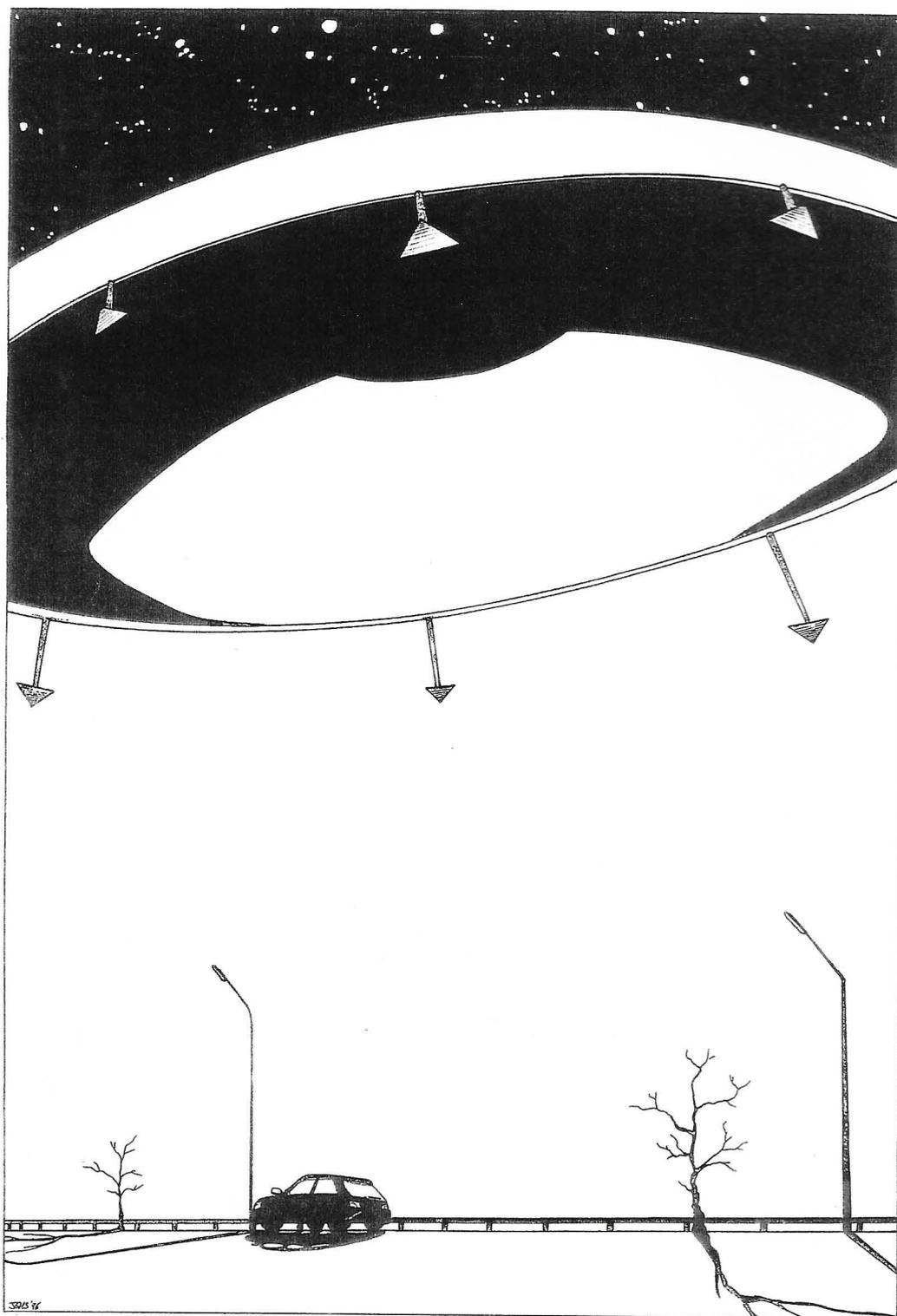


Figure 3: Top photograph shows anomaly with blurred stone detail.

© Mr. B.W. 1984

Figure 4: Photograph below shows no anomaly but it reveals a sharper image.





3505 1/2