

# THE RESEARCHER



A publication of the Merseyside Anomalies Research Association

“Interpretation is free, experience is sacred.”

Vol. 1 Issue 4 Autumn / Winter 1998



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Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS) Details inside*

The Preston Flying Triangle Incident  
The MARA Haunting Vigil at the Walton Centre Hospital  
Ley Lines-Myth or Magic?  
Romancing the Stone-The MARA Avebury Trip  
A Possible Link Between the Earth's Magnetic Field and the Paranormal  
A Down to Earth View of the Wonders of Wycoller  
And much more....

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We also want to thank the growing number of readers for their continued support.

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## 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 meetings, 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. 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 opinions 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.

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### 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 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

*By Anthony Eccles*

It is conference time again and I notice that there are fewer conferences taking place this year. This can probably be explained by the declining public interest in the phenomenon, despite the fact that the grey alien is a standardised symbol used by the media to advertise a variety of products. MARA has decided to continue putting on its small half day meetings by having a Halloween conference at the Unity Theatre. Rather than just putting together a line up of UFO researchers, MARA thought it might actually be better to have a mix of UFO and paranormal topics, that way it will not only appeal to a wider audience but it might also demonstrate the similarities with case investigations and human experiences.

The advertising for the event enabled me to share the stress with a couple of other valued members, the stress was shared but so too was the workload. The most interesting thing to occur here was the reaction to our poster, flyer and press release. One response was from Granada TV, who we are grateful to, for mentioning our event on the What's on Guide on a late Friday afternoon. For us it was an important 'day before plug', however, we were asked if we could get a guest speaker on the programme to sit next to someone dressed as Dracula and Frankenstein's monster and for themselves to dress up as an alien. I thought I was scary looking enough, but the most important lesson here is not to be deterred by the media's need for sensationalism. If you want to educate the media you must participate with them to a point. Fortunately for ourselves Mark Glover did not have to wear a mask. My words have sometimes been misconstrued by the press (conveniently edited) but at the end of the day there are

those interested members of the public who find the details of the event and attend, helping to make it a success. Getting the media to portray you the way you wish them too is no easy task but there are times when this has been possible and MARA have only benefited from it. For the media a press release can fill up a gap and for us it is a free advert.

I have asked for independent marketing advice (it was free) for the design of the poster and flyer, and yet I was only impressed by the way they were able to provide me with certain ideas that were clearly and typically commercial images, images that would not, in my opinion, fit in with the realistic images researchers and experiencees associate with. Conferences are a good way of learning about the media, and maybe through this learning we might, as researchers, be able to persuade the media to show us in a more serious and educational light.

As I become less and less involved with the running of these one day events, so too am I becoming less involved with the running of this journal. It has been another learning curve for me as the editor of *The Researcher*. Now that the vehicle has been set in motion, I can safely pass on the role of editor to Bill Bimson, a MARA member with lots of energy and never-ending enthusiasm. It is the right time for me to do this as I have not been able to do what I enjoy doing best, and that is researching, investigating and writing. I wish Bill lots of luck in his new role and if he needs it we're never too far away to offer guidance and support, at least in this way I'll be able to offer new contributions to the journal. Now where did I put that alien mask?....

## The Preston Flying Triangle Incident 11<sup>th</sup> January 1998

*by Bill Bimson*

### Introduction

The flying triangle UFO is a phenomenon which has been under investigation since the early 80's. Descriptions of the flying triangle (FT) vary from case to case but most are black or dark coloured with a bright white light in each corner of the triangle. They are often accompanied by other lights on the craft itself and occasionally, as in the case of this report, are seen ejecting other lights. Some researchers believe they are of Extra-Terrestrial (ET) origin, others believe they are a secret military aircraft using technology which is unknown to mainstream scientists and engineers. However, there is no conclusive proof for either side of the argument. This article describes one particular case in the area of Preston that was researched by myself and Tony Eccles.

### Description of incident

On Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 1998 at 7 a.m., Gordon Davies (pseudonym) was on his bicycle in the Ashton district of Preston carrying out his usual newspaper round. He was heading South on Woodplumpton Road (B5411). While cycling along the road his peripheral vision was caught by a bright light in the sky. The light was very low and close to the Chimney of Tulketh mill which was approximately a quarter of a mile away. The mill is now used by the Littlewoods mail order company. After catching full sight of the object, he could make out a red strobe light similar to the navigation light on a conventional aircraft. He cycled further, then turned left into Lytham Road where he stopped to get a better view of the object. From this observation he noted that the light was actually three lights in a triangular formation and that the approximate direction of travel was towards him. After approximate measurements of distance and time, the speed was estimated at 45 mph. The altitude of the craft has been estimated from Gordon's description as 200 feet. From his new vantagepoint he could make out that the craft body was black,

triangular in shape and very large. This was difficult to see from his earlier more distant location because it was still dark at 7 a.m. As the craft flew almost straight above him he could hear a quiet low humming noise, but no jet or turboprop noise.

As it was flying overhead, the triangle shot out two small star like lights, which moved very quickly. One was white and moved too quickly for him to track. The other was red and he was able to track this for 5 to 7 seconds before it was lost behind some local houses. Neither of the star like objects changed course in the short time that they were visible but the FT changed direction immediately after firing out the two star like objects. During the change in direction, Gordon did not notice the aircraft bank as a normal aircraft would. We have ascertained that the final course of the FT was approximately 240° and its initial course was very approximately 210°. The final course would take the triangle close to the British Aerospace plant at Warton, some 10 miles away. After this Gordon continued with his newspaper round and about five minutes later he could still see the object in the distance, but all he could make out by this time was a bright light. Measurements were made at the site of the incident to enable a rough estimation of size to be made. It is clear from these measurements that the craft was very large, but not outside the size limits of conventional fixed wing aircraft.

### Evidence

No physical evidence was left at the scene of the incident, no photographs or video footage were taken and to the best of our knowledge nobody else saw the craft. The fact that it was a Sunday at 7 a.m. is unfortunate as very few people are about at this time in the area and hence, we are left with a single eye-witness testimony. However, another FT was spotted by witnesses in Cheshire on the same date that Gordon sighted the FT over Preston, although the one spotted in Cheshire had quite different characteristics. The case in Cheshire was researched by Eric Morris at the British UFO Studies Centre (BUFOSC) and published in Intelligence magazine. Another FT was spotted

in Cheshire on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January 1998 which had a similar description to the one Gordon saw. (Alien Encounters magazine April 98).

I filed a low flying complaint with Airstaff 2B at the Ministry of Defence to try to determine if any military aircraft may have been responsible for the sighting. However, they denied that it was a military aircraft and advised me to contact the civil aviation authority (CAA) in case a civilian aircraft was the cause. The CAA stated that no civilian aircraft had filed night time flight plans with them for the area of Preston. This is a basic requirement for all civilian aircraft which fly in January before 0800 hours. No flight accident/incident reports were filed with the CAA which is another basic requirement if an aircraft is forced to fly so low over a built up area due to, for example, engine trouble.

#### Conclusions

The visual description of the craft rules out astronomical and meteorological explanations. Conventional aircraft are ruled out by the absence of turboprop and jet noise, the presence of the low humming noise, and the ejection of the star like lights. The evidence points to either an Extra-Terrestrial (ET) craft or secret military technology which is unknown by mainstream scientists and engineers.

#### The case for an ET craft

The argument for an ET craft is that, if it is not secret military technology, there is little else left that it could be other than an alien craft. The reasons for it not being secret military technology are:

- 1 The military would not be so stupid as to test such a secret craft over a built up area.
- 2 The noise made by the craft and its speed suggests a new type of engine which is so revolutionary that it could not be kept secret for very long.
- 3 If it was military, the ejection of the star like objects suggest a weapons or decoy discharge which would carry considerable danger over a built up area.

- 4 The flight path so close to the mill chimney would be ruled out by flight planners except in the most extreme conditions such as an operational sortie during war.
- 5 The witness thought that the aircraft did not bank when it turned.
- 6 The performance characteristics are so far in advance of other military aircraft that its development costs would consume a fair chunk of any country's gross national product thereby making it impossible to keep secret.

#### The case for new military technology.

- 1 The craft was described as having a red strobe light, which sounds extremely conventional.
- 2 Some new stealth aircraft are known to appear triangular in shape when viewed from a particular direction such as the Lockheed Martin F117 stealth fighter. Another new delta wing aircraft is the Lockheed General Dynamics F22.
- 3 We do not know the current state of play with jet noise reduction techniques used to keep military aircraft from being heard by adversaries and new techniques may account for the low noise heard.
- 4 The crafts final heading was towards the British Aerospace plant at Warton where it is known that state of the art military aircraft are tested.
- 5 Some of the latest air to air decoy measures have their own thruster which could account for the star like objects without firing a projectile with a war head. This type of projectile would carry a much smaller risk in a built up area than an offensive weapons discharge.
- 6 The craft changed direction after firing the star like objects which is consistent with the use of a decoy measure. It may therefore have been a test of a decoy measure from a stealth aircraft.

#### A tenuous link with the Strategic Defence Initiative or "Star Wars"

The rest of this conclusion is entirely my own opinion and based on a hunch rather than scientific data.

During the years of the cold war between the Western Alliance and the Eastern block countries, the USA started to develop the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) also known

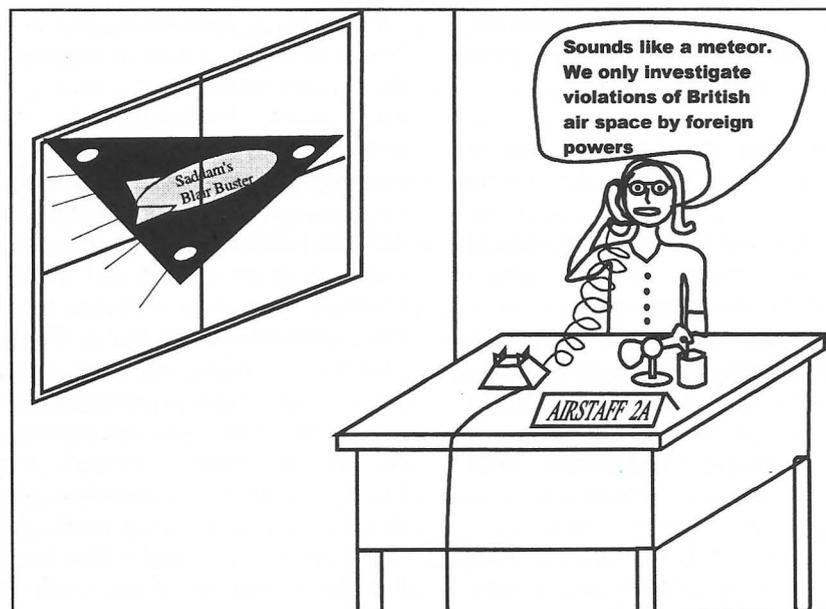
as Star Wars. The purpose of this was to protect the West from a nuclear attack by the former Soviet Union. This was to be accomplished by using an array of protective satellites which would detect and destroy incoming enemy ballistic missiles before they reached warhead deployment stage. This was important because after deployment, the number of targets to be destroyed increases dramatically as each missile carries a number of decoy drones that look similar to the real warheads on radar. The USA continued to refine SDI after the cold war ended and is still doing so. On the 16<sup>th</sup> January 1998, the avionics company Raytheon tested a new infra-red sensor for SDI. The test consisted of the launch of a specially configured Minuteman II intercontinental ballistic missile which carried 9 dummy targets. The SDI satellite should have detected a total of 10 targets, the 9 dummies and the launch vehicle. However, the June 8<sup>th</sup> 1998 edition of Aviation Week and Space Technology reported that a total of 12 targets were detected. The extra two were described by the test co-ordinators as "unidentified celestial objects" and the test was proclaimed a success.

One might argue that the term UFO was not used to describe the unknowns because it would have generated a huge amount of interest from UFO researchers all over the world. The unknowns have been dismissed

as a glitch by the test co-ordinators but proponents of the Extra Terrestrial Hypothesis (ETH) will state that to anyone looking from outside the earth, this test would look about as close as it could get to a full scale nuclear attack. Many ETHers believe that an Alien presence is here for our benefit to protect us from self destruction through environmental pollution or nuclear war. They may in future look to the presence of the unknowns in the Ratheon sensor test and quote this as evidence of ET activity to monitor or prevent nuclear war.

It is quite possible that SDI operational tests would require co-ordination and communication from land, sea and air. With such a top-secret initiative, it is obviously difficult to obtain information about this. However, secret aerial mobile sensor and communication platforms may have been airborne on the test date of the 16<sup>th</sup> January. This would link in with the sighting reported in the April edition of Alien Encounters Magazine. The 11<sup>th</sup> January may have been a rehearsal exercise, which led to the sighting in Preston.

We will probably never know for certain what the origin of this particular craft was. I urge anyone who has information or has seen this type of craft to come forward and report it to MARA. Our contact details are on page 3. Without further information we will never know the true nature of these craft.



## Doctor Who (or what)?

### The MARA vigil at the Walton Centre hospital

By Mark J. Glover

#### History

Some months ago, before the Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery NHS Hospital Trust moved from Walton in Liverpool to Fazakerley – just down the road and near to the famous Aintree race course, I (Mark Glover) had a vision of conducting a vigil at the Walton site after it had been evacuated. I was prompted to do this after one of the staff I work with on the Horsley Intensive Care Unit - Sister Gill Gainer, related to me some stories about certain anomalous incidents that had happened at the Centre. I will, however, only refer below to those relating to the specific area of the building where our vigil took place (see plan).

One of the incidents involved the side room of Horsley Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Around ten years ago it is believed that the suffering caused by the longstanding illness of some of the patients nursed in that room, and possibly one of them in particular, who subsequently died there, may have triggered off certain anomalous events. This might have occurred due to the course of any one of those patients' illnesses and treatment being fraught with particularly strong emotional pressure and sadness, especially if it was significantly more than is typical, even for such a hospital.

Not long after that period, staff began reporting disturbances within the room, such as items being moved about or tampered with and an unpleasant atmosphere. The most striking event involved a male nurse, with whom I have subsequently been able to speak. He reports that on one particular shift he was caring for a patient who had a tracheostomy (a surgically made entrance into their windpipe for breathing). The patient was connected to an oxygen humidification device which was fed with oxygen via a thin green tube from a tap on the wall. This patient was not very responsive at the time

and although able to breath spontaneously (for themselves), a constant, supplement of oxygen was needed. He left the room for a few moments (which was permissible in the circumstances) to fetch a needed item from a storeroom very close by. Upon his return he was shocked to find the patient becoming cyanosed (blue) for want of oxygen. He immediately checked the tubing and its supply, of course, only to find to his horror that the green tubing had been disconnected and wrapped neatly around the oxygen tap on the wall. The tap had also been turned off! He was naturally greatly disturbed by this and felt he had to take the risk of reporting it. The risk he took was naturally that his seniors might view his admission as a neglectful act, since it is more than likely that they would believe that it could have been no one else but him who performed the deed. He was certain however that no one could have possibly passed into the room and carried out the deed that quickly, and in any case - why would anyone play such a dangerous practical joke on him and his patient? Knowing well of his excellent reputation however, the nursing management gave him the benefit of the doubt and he did not get into any trouble over the incident.

Of course, in describing any of these events as being possibly linked to deceased patients and the circumstances surrounding their treatment and death, including the role of health professionals and relatives, it is important to recognise what is and is not being implied. We are in no way suggesting that there is a definite direct connection with any of these individuals or that it is literally the souls or spirits of the dead patients that are haunting the particular areas being disclosed. We may instead be dealing with very subtle energies or forces in such circumstances that are indirectly, and even spuriously, connected to the aforementioned. Indeed, it may well be a highly complex combination of circumstances that gives rise to such anomalous events. No one at this point can be absolutely certain as to the determinants of such phenomena. Some

possible causes are considered, however, in the conclusion of this article.

The rest of the anomalous events involve the Jefferson Day Ward, which was once an indefinite (longer) stay ward. Again, it was thought that patients who had died under similar circumstances to those in the side room on Horsley ICU might have acted as a trigger for some of the events. A woman was seen on several occasions by patients arranging flowers in their room. Upon describing the woman to staff and enquiring whom she was, it seems that their description accurately matched that of one of the dead patients known well by the staff. The phantom seemed solid to the patients and it is difficult to account for how they were able to know what this woman looked like if the manifestation was merely a hallucination or figment of their imagination. Of course, some might argue for hysteria, shared hallucinations or some sort of telepathy, as possible causes. However, there are significant time intervals between the sightings, which tends to rule out a shared hallucination. As far as we can tell, the patients did not consider the woman might be a ghost or even that the ward was haunted, which would tend to exclude hysteria. Finally, telepathy, although a possibility, seems just as fantastic as saying it was really a ghost. Such sightings of ghosts in other places such as hotels, where published accounts and the latter causes can be ruled out, would seem to suggest evidence of something externally or objectively observable.

A case similar to Jefferson Ward involved a three year old boy whom together with his parents had recently moved into a large old house in the Birkenhead area. The boy began talking to a so-called "invisible friend" he called Sam. Humoured by his parents, who just put this down to his imagination, he was able to describe his friend to them in detail. Some years later his father was talking to a neighbour in the back yard, when he was astonished to learn from the neighbour that an old man called Sam actually once lived in the house and that he matched his son's description of his invisible friend. It is difficult to know

where the boy got this information from if it was due to 'priming' by another individual, especially as he understandably had little if any contact with his neighbours when his family first moved into the house. Sam was also said to smoke a pipe. Interestingly enough - the boy's parents had occasionally smelt pipe tobacco smoke about the house.

Returning to our history of anomalies on the first floor of the Walton Centre though, the nurse call button above the first bed on the left in the four-bedded room 2 of Jefferson Ward has been known to spontaneously go off in the middle of night, despite being checked for any fault. After there were no longer any over night patients on the ward (as it became a day ward) a nurse having a rest on that bed one night, during her break, distinctly felt someone push her rather rudely off the bed. No one else was on the ward at that time. On another occasion before the ward converted from an indefinite stay ward to a day ward, a nurse in charge of the night shift was talking to her nurse manager on the office phone, situated near rooms 1 and 2. Suddenly, she noticed from the corner of her eye, what looked like a woman leaving room 2 and heading toward the toilets across the corridor. Faltering in her speech in response to this, she was asked by her manager what was the matter. She told her that she had just seen a patient come out of room 2 when none of the patients admitted there were able to get out of bed. Telling her to stay exactly where she was, the manager, who was already aware of other anomalies which had occurred on the ward, rushed up to the ward and together they systematically checked the situation out. They were, however, unable to account for the figure which had definitely not returned across the corridor from the toilets.

One of the other incidents this nurse manger was involved in is very significant since it included multiple witnesses. One night, a nurse alerted her colleagues (including a nurse I have also personally spoken to about the event) to a rattling door handle in the doctor's office on the ward. The office (10.5 sq. metres) has four doors with similar lever handles (two storerooms, a door from the ward corridor and a connecting door to a treatment room). The handle of the locked connecting door was visibly moving up and

down. The other nurses were able to see this and thinking it might be someone trapped inside the room who was not responding to their calls for identification, alerted the security guard and the above nurse manger. Upon their arrival, all present continued to witness the spectacle. Unable to open the door from the doctor's office side or the main door to the treatment room around the corner, the security man looked into the room through the glass fan-lights at the top of the doors. He was very astonished, as was everyone else, as he could clearly make out that no one was on the other side of the door! While he was doing this, the handle continued to move as witnessed by the others who had gathered.

Two further adjuncts to this incident occurred. One was some months ago - when, one night a radio could be heard within that room, by Gill Gainer and others on the Horsley ICU with its volume being erratically and continuously turned up and down. It eventually spontaneously stopped. They were unable to check this out however, because the door was locked. Security have informed us that the keys to that room appear to be missing and yet someone has left the light on and it seems to be, strangely, one of the only rooms on the first floor that is locked. A second incident involving the door happened quite some time before that. It involves another nurse with whom I have spoken. She was not aware of the story about the rattling handle when she told me that one night she was resting in the doctor's room on her break, when she heard a handle rattle. Assuming it was the other staff alerting her to come back, she was unperturbed, until that is, she was told by her colleagues that they had not alerted her at all. Of course, it could have been someone else just passing the room who rattled the handle to come in and then changed their mind. However, I had a similar experience one night on another floor when I was distinctly knocked twice by someone, or something, other than the staff on the ward. This nurse was also witness one night to a strange looking woman just peering at her from around the corner by the lifts as she worked alone on the children's ward at

about 3 am. She was so frightened by this that she had to get the other nurse off her break.

## THE VIGIL

### Method

An initial tour around the first floor site of our vigil was undertaken to familiarise the team to the location. This was also to assess if anyone derived any impressions as they went around. We set up our equipment in the four main areas already discussed above where anomalous events had taken place (see plan). A small security infra red camera was positioned facing from the children's ward down along the corridor of Jefferson Ward. It was set to record continuously for up to six selective hours. Bill Bimson established his video camera facing into the doctor's office, aimed at the connecting door. He placed it on a time lapse setting recording at intervals of every ten seconds. The aim here was merely to be prepared to facilitate capture of an anomaly in that area should it occur rather than have a continuous video footage to assess later for any salient anomalies, as with the infra red camera.

The parents' room of the children's ward was used for our base, where we placed our belongings and refreshments. We set up a small monochrome TV monitor in there which was connected up to the infra red camera to enable impromptu observation during our breaks. In addition to this, a baby audiometer was placed in the side room on Horsley ICU. Its receiver was also placed in the parents' room for similar monitoring to the infra red camera. We had two small simple movement (burglar alarm) sensors, one of which (AC/DC remote control model) failed to function, while the working one (battery - manual) was placed to cover area 4. The non-functioning monitor is now reported by Colin Veacock to be working again.

Minimum and Maximum electronic thermometers were positioned in each of the four areas along with standard magnetic compasses. Two barometers were also employed in areas 3 and 4. Bill Bimson was designated the task of taking and recording readings of these every 30 minutes throughout the entire night - from 10.30 pm to 5.30 am.

Cassette audiotape recorders were placed in areas 1, 3 and 4, as well as in the side room on the children's ward. These were kept running mostly during the concentrated vigil periods below. In the side room on Horsley ICU the audiotape was recording with a transistor radio tuned in between stations to white noise static. A method that has sometimes been successfully used in the past to acquire *Raudive* (anomalous) type electronic voice phenomena. We designated three main (90 mins) concentrated vigil periods spread out over the night. These were as follows: (i) 11.30 - 12.30 am; (ii) 1.30 - 3 am and (iii) 4 am - 5.30 am. The periods between these concentrated observations were used as breaks for refreshments and as an opportunity for discussion about the vigil's progress and less intensive observation. Each concentrated segment involved a pair of investigators sitting down in one of the designated areas and recording three types of incident in three sections on a vigil data sheet (VDS - designed by myself, August 1998). These were:-

- (1) Non-instrumental incidents - including time of event, if greater than 2 seconds (to include any subjective feelings and unusual audio or visual effects).
- (2) Equipment effects - including electrical lighting, malfunctioning devices such as cameras, audio-cassette recorders and monitors etc.
- (3) Measurable effects - including thermometer, barometer, compass and any other designated specialist apparatus readings (not applicable for this particular vigil because of Bill Bimson's role).

Each pair of investigators changed their area of observation upon each concentrated vigil segment. We also used two walkie-talkie radios to aid communication when necessary and as further tests of device interference. The four designated areas for concentrated periods of observation were:-

- 1 The side room on Horsley ICU;
- 2 The foyer by the lifts, near the children's ward (where staff have felt they were being watched!);
- 3 The corridor near the doctor's room on Jefferson Ward:

- 4 The corridor on Jefferson Ward near room 2 (see plan).

### Objective Findings

#### Video cameras.

On several occasions, Bill Bimson's video camera switched itself off as if there was a temporary loss of mains power. This may have been due to an interrupted supply or a fault on the video camera itself. The camera is second hand and has at least one other known fault anyway. When the videotape was viewed at home, it was found to be black and white instead of colour. Bill had not encountered either of the two above faults before but both are explainable by standard electrical faults. Upon testing for this monochrome effect by filming subsequently at home - he got the same effect, causing him to deduce that this particular effect cannot in all probability be put down to an anomaly in the Walton Centre. He continues to check for a repeat of the other faults subsequent to the vigil. Colin Veacock has so far found no anomalous effects on the approximately four hours of video tape recording from the infra red camera.

#### Thermometers

All six digital thermometers were checked regularly for maximum and minimum variation of temperature, but the only thing that is remarkable about the readings is their level of consistency throughout the night. Therefore, there is no real value in presenting them here as raw data. The response of the thermometers is such that a very short term fluctuation of the order of a second would not have registered significantly.

#### Barometers

The barometric pressure changed by no more than 3 millibars during the night, which is consistent with normal weather patterns.

#### Magnetic compasses

No compass deflections were observed at any of the four locations.

#### Induction coil device

No low frequency magnetic fields were picked up by the induction coil in the locations where it was tried.

### Audio-tape recordings

No apparent anomalous effects have so far been discovered on any of the audio-tape recordings from the four areas.

### Subjective findings

At 9.40 pm Paul Bennet called everyone's attention to a cupboard door in the doctor's office which he swore was 'closed' earlier on but had become open. A small detail which some agreed was possible, although it is also not inconceivable that one of us opened that door unwittingly. It showed us, however, the importance of accounting for the status and position of everything in the vigil environment.

About 10 pm we were called to the doctor's room by Bill, who asked us who had switched off his video camera. This had been done mechanically. Later occurrences were electronic. Bill now believes he may have inadvertently done this himself when resetting the camera to intermittent record-mode earlier. However, about twenty or so minutes later we were again called to the room when the camera had gone off yet again, but this time it demonstrated unusual static through the viewfinder while several of us felt 'tingly' or cold, especially near the connecting door of the doctor's office. There is no way of verifying, however, whether this effect was psychologically induced by the excitement and anticipation that the camera fault might be a significant anomaly. Unfortunately, we did not take peripheral temperature readings of those affected, but the room temperature did not decrease.

At around 12.30 a.m. Elaine Hannah and Eileen Shaw, who were in area 4, suddenly began to feel cool when they had previously been hot. Axilla (armpit) and peripheral (skin on arms) temperature readings were taken. Bill Bimson's peripheral temperature read 32°C; Elaine's was 29.4°C (axilla 35.4°C) and Eileen's 30°C (axilla 35.3°C). So some evidence of a possible drop in Elaine and Eileen's temperature was apparent, however we neglected to retake these temperatures, which would have given us a better comparison for when the two women in

question felt warmer again. We'll know better next time!

At 2.45 a.m. Eileen Shaw and Elaine Hannah, who were in area 1, heard two strange sounds close together, one muffled and another like static. By themselves, however, these may be of no significance at all, especially as they could be due to equipment and ambient movement of the building.

At 4.18 am a child's voice was heard crying (2-3 seconds) by Gill Gainer who was in area 4 at the time, with me. She said it seemed to come from the children's ward. At 4.20 a.m. both Gill Gainer and I heard the same sound, (2 seconds - direction uncertain). Elaine Hannah and Eileen Shaw in area 2 said they also thought they heard one of these cries at around the same time.

There were a number of other sounds during the vigils, but these are too tenuous to warrant inclusion.

### Dowsing or divining

All the areas covered in the vigil displayed possible dowsing effects, with the exception of the side room on Horsley ICU and no other areas which were tested on the floor showed any effects except for the side room on the children's ward. The exact positions demonstrating dowsing effects included: a spot in the corridor just to the left of the entrance to the doctor's office as it is faced; the connecting door and all the way around the accessible walls of the treatment room into which it links; the head of the bed-space of the first bed on the left in room 2 of Jefferson ward and the heads of the bed and cot-spaces in the side room of the Children's ward.

The standard adapted wire coat hangers and a metal pendulum (brass alloy and steel) were used for dowsing. The four areas in question were dowsed for what Lethbridge<sup>1</sup> defined as 'ghosts' or 'ghouls'. These consist of (in his opinion) not necessarily the deceased entity of a sentient being, but rather fields of static electricity or ionised particles left behind in the form of a charge from the emotional circumstances of past events. Dowsing is purported to be sensitive to such ionised fields as they are conducted through the human body. This is what some researchers might

refer to as something being 'imprinted on the atmosphere', but it is a process not accepted by established science. Such manifestations occur at places where suicides have taken place, murders have been perpetrated or where there has been great suffering. The most famous of such locations is that of Auschwitz concentration camp, where animals are said to have been absent for many years. Battlefields are other noted locations<sup>2</sup>.

#### Assessment of a haunting

Ghoul is derived from the word - *ghul*, which in Eastern mythology is a demon that devours human corpses. However, the archaeologist and psychic researcher - T. C. Lethbridge<sup>3</sup> believed that they were not flesh eating ghosts *per se* but rather negative emotional energies (*elementals*) or 'hungry spirits' of the dead that prey on or *vampirise* the energies of the living<sup>3</sup>. Buddhist teaching refers to them as *Yakshas* - demons, spiritual (i.e. invisible) entities or forces that drain the human life force. In the occult they are sometimes referred to as *incubi* and *succubi*. This may be reasonable when we consider that there are effects whenever a negative charge interacts with a positive charge (like *yin* [storage or passive] and *yang* [working or active] in Chinese medicine or lightning). In those terms then, haunting effects like 'cold spots' may be simply and naturally the movement of low energy into a place of high, or higher, energy. When an individual therefore passes near to such an energy field, the coldness they feel may be actually due to a loss of physical energy from that person's body. So why does conventional electronic equipment fail to detect these fields? The answer may be that the fields are too subtle to be detected by our present electronic technology. Despite this subtlety however, the field could still have profound effects on reality. It may be analogous to the effect of a catalyst in chemistry - whereby a minute amount of a substance can enormously enhance a chemical reaction between two other substances.

If unwholesome, or negative, conscious and invisible entities really do exist and they are able to cause such effects, they may be simply trying to gain the life force they lack

(due to the past negative circumstance of their life and subsequent death - e.g. abuse, murder, suicide or illness). Such energy may be what they require or hunger for in order to move on or change the condition they find themselves locked into as a result of those negative emotions. Hence we have the phrase - to haunt or 'haunting', which implies hanging around or frequenting. The fear produced by the individual subject to a haunting experience may therefore be caused by a psychological terror of the unknown, coupled with a desire by the cause of the haunting (the entity) to obtain the life energy it lacks by deliberately inducing fear into its victim. Fear is believed to be the most powerful drainer of human and animal energy or life force.

#### Conclusions

After what has just been said it might seem plausible to the reader that, if true, a hospital is naturally a place where many such energies have been sown into the environment or atmosphere- time and time again. Of course it is possible to also have positive energies working in an environment and imbuing it with peace and happiness. So called sacred sites are known for such an effect, and we all know the feeling of a nice or pleasant atmosphere, whatever we attribute it to (see "Romancing the Stone" by the same author, in this issue). The problem for the investigator is how to measure such energies objectively or scientifically; to then try to understand how they behave, and finally to deduce exactly what they actually consist of. Lethbridge<sup>3</sup> refers to them as *resonances* and the biologist - Rupert Sheldrake talks of *morphic resonance*, which he believes, consist of biological fields or 'life fields'<sup>4</sup>. The nature or constitution of these forces is still a mystery but it may be related to what the Chinese refer to as *ch'i* (subtle) energy which flows through the body along meridians (channels) used in acupuncture (a tried and tested medicine)<sup>5</sup>. Ch'i may also be similar to what psychoanalyst Wilhelm Reich (1897-57) called *orgone*, or cosmic life force (bioenergy produced by all living things ["the force"]), including the Earth itself<sup>6</sup>. We only know so far that this energy exists because of the evidence of its apparent effects. In other words we infer its reality. This is not unscientific however (as some would claim) since physicists do this with the

periodic table of elements, which still contains missing or as yet undiscovered elements.

Finally, once again it is only fair to point out that we in MARA are still on a steep learning curve when it comes to understanding hauntings and carrying out truly objective research upon them. We did

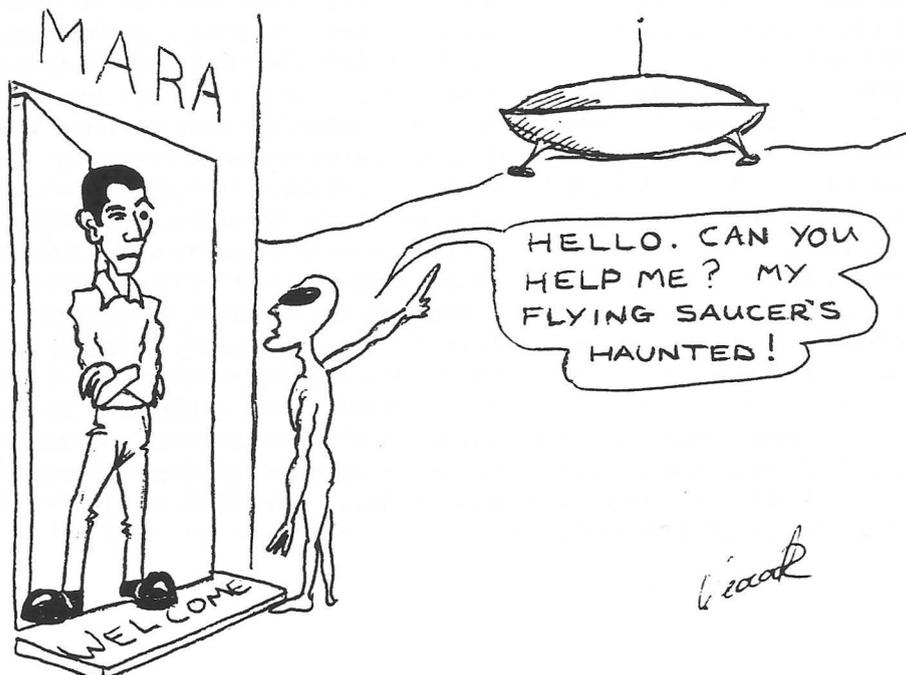
make mistakes in this vigil. We need to continue to establish protocols for collecting, collating and expressing data carefully and in the best possible way. We hope, however, that our continued efforts in expressing this will not only benefit ourselves in the learning process but also others. Any further information about this and any other vigils will be reported upon in future editions.

#### REFs.

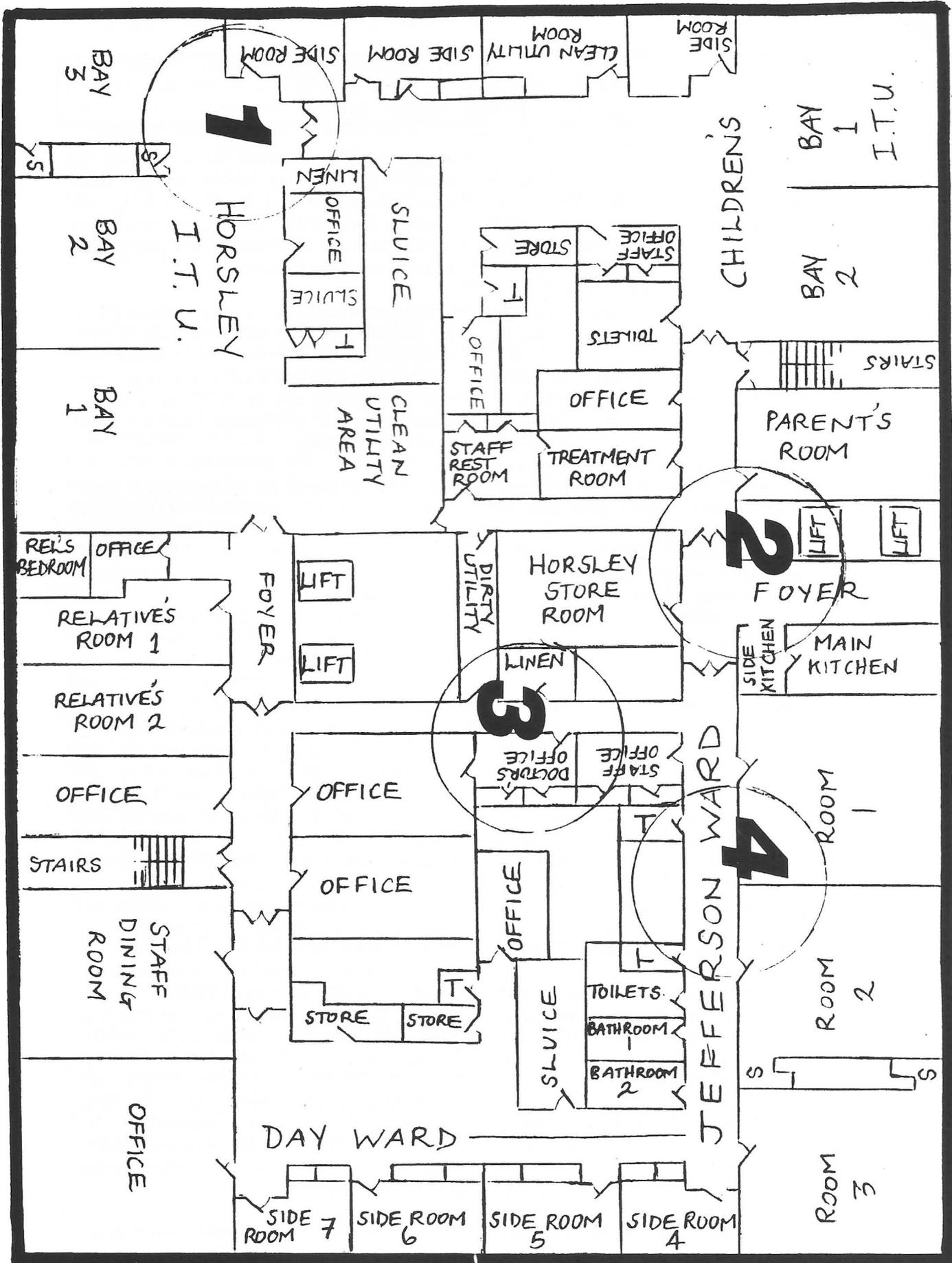
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#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks go to sister Gill Gainer for her information, assistance and participation; as well as sister Hilda Hammond and her staff for their support and encouragement. We would especially like to thank Mr. Simon Wright (Hospital Services Manager) and his staff for their co-operation in clearing things for MARA to conduct the vigil at the old Walton centre. We also appreciate the attention we received from the security personnel of Walton General Hospital.



Four areas of concentrated observation - first floor of the old Walton Centre



SCALE ~ 1cm = 6ft ~ OR 1 inch = 15 FT (approx) (2M)

## Ley Lines-Myth or Magic?

*by Peter Tiernan*

### Introduction

Within this article I hope to initially introduce the idea of Earth mysteries to those readers not so familiar with this area of anomalous research and also to give an overview of the concept of ley lines or "leys" as they should more rightly be known. I hope also to further develop some of the arguments raised in this article in future issues of the *Researcher* magazine linking in some elements of my own research which is ongoing in this field.

The modern concept of ley was put forward by Alfred Watkins in his book "The Old Straight Track" published in 1925. Watkins interpreted these lines to be lines of ancient trading routes with standing stones, mounds and hill notches acting as sighting marks along the way. Watkins never actually put forward any mystical claims or theories that dominate the present day ideas about leys but always suspected a more mystical explanation for the phenomenon may exist

### The ley debate

The idea that leys and alignments exist has long been put forward both by practical and by mystical researchers into the subject. The dowser has played a very important part in the rediscovery of the ley system using either a pendulum or a dowsing rod to amplify the energy that emanates from the ley channel. Dowsers say they can sense a power in the earth that is at its strongest along ley lines! But the question that still has to be answered by this camp of believers is whether this energy is psychical or some form of electro-magnetic energy.

Professional archaeologists however form the other camp and are in many cases extremely sceptical about the concept. The question of leys when brought up in interviews with archaeologists, elicits the sort of response that the flat-earthers must have given the first people to suggest that the earth was actually spherical. Statisticians have also discounted the existence of leys by

suggesting in an island as small and as densely populated as Britain, straight lines drawn in any direction are bound to run through ancient sites, tumuli, holy wells and other features that would be considered significant by ley hunters.

Using computers in an attempt to prove that ley lines could occur purely by chance, their analysis showed that the chance factor was only one in 200 for a six-point alignment, and this rose to one in 1000 for a seven-point alignment in a straight line not more than 30 miles long.

A further bombshell for archaeologists came from Professor Alexander Thom from Oxford University who in 1967 surveyed over 600 megalithic sites in Britain. Professor Thom's research had established beyond doubt that early Man had constructed his monuments with precision and forethought. But what was it that inspired him to do so?

### What constitutes a ley marker?

The next question that should be asked is what would actually be considered to be a ley marker? Stone circles, of which there are about 900 around Britain, are important markers. Cairns, tumuli and mounds also form another group of ley markers. Standing stones could also form important ley markers, but not all of these are shown on the Ordnance Survey maps. Castles and early churches also seem to appear on leys, because many of them have been built on the sites of ancient hill forts and places of pagan worship. The early Christian church built its places of worship on sites that had long been used for ancient pagan rituals. The question could be raised as to whether the early Christian movements were aware of these particular alignments? Did they even think that they were significant? Or, was the ancient knowledge of power hidden deep within the earth lost to mankind by the onset of Christianity?

The case for the earth mysteries investigator linking in the idea of leys to ancient Neolithic sites is certainly strengthened by investigating the alignments of these ancient monuments over great distances. I believe

that Professor Thom's well-documented research has established beyond doubt that ancient man had located and constructed his monuments with great precision and purpose. But just what was it that inspired him to spend so much time and effort in producing such magnificent pieces of engineering like Stonehenge and the massive stone circle at Avebury?

#### Chinese leys

The idea of leys was not only restricted to Britain and Northern Europe, the ancient Chinese also were very aware of the power that lay within the earth. For many thousands of years the Chinese have practised the art of geomancy or feng-shui. A geomancer was a particular sort of surveyor who, by dowsing and by carrying out calculations based on the stars, predicted where the cities, palaces and the graves of the emperors should be placed so that they would gain maximum benefit from the earth's magnetic currents. These currents could be either negative (yin) or positive (yang). It was very important to the ancient Chinese that the balance between yin and yang was always maintained and that all new buildings and roads were positioned so that this harmony was retained. These leys known to the Chinese as dragon paths or lung-mei were considered so important that no buildings were allowed on them except those connected with the emperor and his family.

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Pete Tiernan is a Qualified teacher of Technology, is a member of M.A.R.A. and has been an independent researcher into earth mysteries and hauntings for many years. Peter holds a B.A (Hons) degree in Design Technology and is studying for an M.Sc. in Information Technology.

#### Modern ideas on leys

There is great difficulty in assessing the value of the concept of leys, as there appears to be such large numbers of them. This fact is recognised by many cultures from all over the world, and researchers from a number of different disciplines. These include engineers, dowzers, psychics, astro-archaeologists and even UFO enthusiasts have put forward theories as to their nature and purpose.

Unfortunately, there have been very few attempts to explore scientifically the nature of the power that dowzers and others can feel in standing stones, stone circles and also in the leys system.

All modern ideas of the ley system put forward the theory of the existence of an earth force, and that ancient Man instinctively recognised this force and experimented over many thousands of years on how to channel and harness this force. Did he learn that this strange power could be amplified by the placing of stone circles along the power paths.

Ancient Man can no longer provide us with the answers. His monuments are in ruins and many of his rituals have long since been forgotten. Has modern Man as he has developed lost this ancient knowledge, to the detriment of mankind as a whole?

## Romancing the Stone

### The MARA Avebury trip

*By Mark J. Glover & Bill Bimson*

I have entitled this report "romancing the stone" because the area, visited by eleven MARA members on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August is a place of the Neolithic romance with nature which continues even to this day. The area of Avebury lies in the county of Wiltshire and is close to Stonehenge and several other significant Neolithic sites. It is also an area renowned for crop circles and other Earth mysteries. Not too far away is the town of Warminster, popularised by a man called Arthur Shuttlewood who became a sort of UFO guru after publishing several books, like "The Warminster Mystery" (1967), and leading many unscientific skywatches on Coloway Clump (a hill near the town)<sup>1</sup>.

We began our pilgrimage of gentle investigation, mirth and common fascination on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August, thanks to the dedicated organisation of Julie Boyd and Billy McGarry, in addition to the 'bold' and skilful driving of Colin Veacock. I would like to officially thank them for their sincere and determined efforts. The group arrived in Avebury at around 3 p.m. in gloriously hot weather. After dropping off our things in our various points of accommodation, some of us set to sampling the local ale in the old Red Lion pub. The pub was synchronistically recently mentioned in one of the popular anomalies mags concerning its resident ghost - "Florri" who was murdered two centuries ago by her husband in a jealous rage when he caught her in bed with another man. He threw her body down the well, which today remains floodlit in full view with a glass table cover, from which customers can drink their liquor and eat their pub meals. Interestingly, such a thing would no doubt be in very bad taste if it concerned any murder burial spot in the last fifty years. Florri's husband was arrested, found guilty for his offence and thereby hanged on a nearby hillside.

After our refreshment we went for a walk up Windmill Hill (c2500-2000BC) - an ancient causewayed enclosure toward a crop circle and sat there for a time. Some of us also walked toward Silbury Hill (c2800BC) to view another crop circle opposite it. That evening, after a couple of rounds, again in the Red Lion, we ventured out, like many others, into the cool (full) moon-lit night to walk along the path of the Neolithic stones that surround the entire village. These are now thought to be part of a temple dedicated to the Earth Goddess<sup>2</sup>. We saw a mysterious light in the sky on three separate occasions. Each looked like the bright main light of an aircraft or a bright star. They faded out completely in the cloudless sky. It is possible, however, that they may have been just part of a meteor shower prevalent at that time. After some more drinks outside the Red Lion, we were witness to what looked like some sort of strange ancient 'twig burning' ritual, performed in front of a couple of young girls by a man who had pulled up at the roadside in a car with another girl. (Sage is burnt by shamans as an agent of purification). So, when Colin Veacock, who was staying at the Old Vicarage in the village, told us he had heard an intense distant scream at around one a.m., followed by a ceremonial drumbeat - we were naturally quite concerned about a possible connection. However, we believe that what he was listening to was a typical sincere pagan ritual said to be often performed in the area, even at such an early hour.

The following day (Sunday) the group (see photo) visited the West Kennet Long Barrow (c3700 BC) opposite Silbury Hill, itself possibly some sort of tomb (burial mound) similar to the ones found in Taplow Court near Maidenhead and that opposite Rhuddlan Castle in Clwyd, North Wales. We also visited Stonehenge - swarming with tourists from the USA, Japan, Germany, France and other countries. We all agreed however that it seemed smaller and less impressive than we had aforeto imagined. It was built after the Avebury site and may well represent the summit of megalithic achievement by the



A view facing south toward Avebury, at the foot of Windmill Hill, along the A4361 road



The MARA team check out the West Kennet Long Barrow

ancient Britons. We ended our visit by lunching in the small town of Marlborough, a very nice town but unfortunately not conducive to finding pub food on a Sunday, at least after 2 p.m. This circumstance seemed almost as mysterious as the Neolithic sites in the town's neighbourhood.

We found no evidence for whether the crop circles we saw were made by extraterrestrials, terrestrials, terrorists (farmers' view of hoaxers) or natural forces. Some view all crop circles as entirely the product of hoaxers, while others believe that only a certain proportion are formed in that way. The complexity of some crop circles is used as an argument to suggest that their particular formation imply the involvement of some non-human intelligence. I was informed however that this did not stand up to scrutiny in a recent television documentary. The programme apparently contained hoaxers demonstrating their very canny methods for making such highly complex geometric formations in a matter of some forty minutes.

#### Considerations

Some of our group claimed to feel so called *piezo-electric* energy from the megaliths (huge stones) they touched and on our second day, this behaviour was evident from many of the tourists waiting to view Stonehenge. Stone, because of its quartz content, is rated by New Age philosophies and sciences to have the ability to retain psychic energy produced from its environment. Another claim is that the area of Avebury emanates a sense of timelessness or an impression of oneness with nature. Sceptics may argue against such claims as

nonsense, but the question remains – why was the area dedicated then as a centre for religious rites in ancient times; why does it remain so today and why is it a 'window area' for UFO activity? One theory is that the ancients tended to place such megalithic monuments in areas where anomalous activities occurred. Some would argue for evidence of leylines or even geological faultlines in such areas. These are known to give rise to 'earthlights' thought to be balls of piezo-electric energy<sup>3</sup>. They are said to be produced by mechanical pressures within rocks. Paul Devereaux<sup>4,5</sup> and Michael Persinger<sup>6,7</sup> have done much research, which suggest such phenomena actually exist. The energy in leylines is still speculative but it may have its analogue with so called *ch'i* energy mediated through treatments such as *shiatsu* and *acupuncture*, which seem genuine – judging by their proven effects. It is suggested that the Earth itself is like the human body in this sense, where leylines are simply meridians for the flow of *ch'i* energy. Perhaps, like the ancient Chinese, the ancient Britons were somehow aware of this, if only crudely. Geomagnetic energy is said to enrich the earth, so it would make sense that the Ancient's fertility rites would be performed in areas of biological fertility – apparent in the soil, vegetation and animal life. The gods they worshipped may have simply been the energies which produced these effects. Stone circles such as those in Avebury and Stonehenge may even act like the acupuncture needles inserted into the skin of the human body at key sites to move and unblock the *ch'i* energy. The serpent and dragon are ancient symbols of such geomagnetic powers throughout the whole world. Indeed the Avebury Stones are placed like those of the Serpent Mound in Ohio, USA – in the form of a giant snake<sup>8</sup>.

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#### Bill Bimson - a personal view of the trip

I found the weekend very enjoyable. We had excellent weather especially considering the summer we have had.

In separate observations on the beautifully clear night of the 8<sup>th</sup> August, I spotted two moving lights about the same intensity as Jupiter which suddenly "blinked" out as if an aircraft tens of thousands of feet up had

turned off all of its lights. I have to disagree with Mark that they may have been part of a meteor shower. I thought that they were moving too slowly for this explanation and the sightings lasted about 20 seconds, which is truly exceptional for a meteor. In a separate observation, I saw what looked like one of the now familiar flying triangles at a distance of about three miles. As it banked, I could see three quite bright lights spaced like the

corners of an equilateral triangle. This was at about 10.30 p.m. However, it was not completely dark by this time and I could just make out the tail and fuselage of a conventional aircraft. I could also hear a faint jet noise. However, I do not consider any of the above observations worthy of a report or further investigation. It felt strange to witness so many aerial anomalies in such a short space of time though.

Two crop circles were seen on Saturday. One on the hill visible from Avebury centre, the other visible from the top of Silbury hill and known as the "Julia set". A full field report on this one is available on the internet at:

<http://cropcircleconnector.com/1998/silbury98c.html>

I took photos of both circles. The Julia set was taken from the top of Silbury Hill and the other one from within the crop circle itself. There was no aerial vantage point to take a picture of the Avebury crop circle, so I had to resort to putting my camera on a ten-foot pole and using the self-timer. Thanks go to the hippie who took a picture of me with the MARA crew, using the camera mounted on the pole. Its nice to know that I am not the only one prepared to look like a Pratt!

My examination of the ancient stone circle of Avebury was totally fruitless. The mystics amongst us claim to feel a sort of vibration from the stones and of course all I felt was rock.

Stonehenge was swarming with humans and it was difficult to find a parking place because of sheer numbers. It costs £3.90 to see the henge but you can see it almost as well from the outside for free. From the car park there is a notice asking you not to cross the road because the police consider it dangerous. The only other way across the road is through a tunnel beneath the road which will cost you £3.90. I can't help wondering if the notice was put there by the person in charge of making money from Stonehenge, but then everyone knows how cynical I am.

I must thank Colin Veacock for driving the minibus and staying dry for the whole weekend so that he could chauffeur us to our accommodation about two miles outside Avebury.

Thanks also go to Julie and Billy for organising the trip. My sympathy goes to Billy, Julie, John and Elaine, who were ordered to be tucked up in bed by 11.30 in case they set off the security alarm at the Red Lion. Isn't it strange how the Red Lion never told you of these conditions before they took your money? I vote that we put these conditions on the internet to warn other potential victims.

On the way to Stonehenge we passed the famous Beckhampton crop circle which looks like a six petal pattern with a nose and cigarette appendage and the word "Hamlet" next to it (see picture). Either the greys have got together with the chief of advertising at Hamlet or this is a hoax. You decide. For a report on this one, go to

<http://cropcircleconnector.com/1998/beckhampton98b>

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Have the Greys decided that smoking isn't bad for your health after all?



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## A Possible Link Between The Earth's Magnetic Field, The Paranormal And UFO's

*By Colin Veacock.*

Mr. Smith and Mr. Jones, both forty somethings, live next door to each other in neat semi-detached houses, in mundane suburbia. Both retire to bed one night not realising that they are about to be subjected to an experience that will forever change their outlook on life. Their archaic, conformist view of reality is about to be violently snatched from them forever!

That night Mr. Smith was on the verge of sleep when he noticed, through a gap in the curtains, strange balls of light dancing around the star strewn sky. The next morning he awakes in something of a troubled state. Strange, indistinct, dreams have plagued him all night. Frightening visions that feed on our deepest, innermost fears. Cold operating tables, insect like monsters with bulging eyes, carrying out intrusive medical operations and examinations on those areas of our bodies that make us all squirm. Our teeth being drilled, objects shoved violently into our nasal cavities, the embarrassment of sperm being extracted, needles in our eyes and large cylindrical tubes shoved unceremoniously up our rectums. In the case of women, these fears include enforced pre-term abortions and occasionally, instances of sexual molestation and rape.

Yes indeed, Mr. Smith has had a terrible night, but not as terrible as Mr. Jones next door who spent the early hours of the morning cowering under his bedclothes. Terrific bangs and crashes echoed from his walls, cold breezes blew about his home and doors slammed shut downstairs. He would have ventured down to investigate but several of the light bulbs exploded and those that survived dimmed and flickered eerily. Once asleep the torment continued in the shape of dreams concerning the death of his grandmother in a car crash, which sadly came true.

Two gentlemen experiencing two completely different type of phenomena, but, perhaps caused by one common element. Unknown to both men that night, there were wild fluctuations taking place in the earth's geo-magnetic field. Not high enough to effect the alert, awake, brain, but a brain on the verge of sleep?

Central Britain's geo-magnetic field is just under 50,000 gamma, or nano-Tesla. On days of high geomagnetic activity, shifts of 10 gamma or more can occur. Furthermore, as we near the millennium, geomagnetic aberrations seem to be increasing, if somewhat erratically. It is not lost on many open minded individuals interested in the unexplained, that tales of alien abduction, UFO sightings, hauntings, past lives and near death experiences, are also on the increase. In fact, it would be fair to say that strangeness, on the whole, is rising dramatically. Surveys carried out by the Fortean Times acknowledge this upward trend.

There are areas where phenomena linked to earth energies are well established. The Martha Lights, the Warminster Triangle, Todmorden, Bonneybridge, the entire Pennine range and the area around Loch Ness, is to just touch the tip of an ever expanding iceberg. Sometimes tremours and earth quakes produce light displays in the sky, while other light displays are due to high tension power cables, fault lines and ley lines. Our ancient ancestors obviously knew of the latter's importance and significance as they placed their stone circles, tombs and landcarvings directly on these lines of force. At Goosnargh, a couple of miles north of Preston, there stands a building which virtually sits on top of a crossing point where the energy from two ley lines interact. It therefore does not come as much of a surprise that Chingle Hall, built in 1260, is thought to hold the title of Britain's most haunted house! One major anomaly of Chingle Hall is the way the building's lights mysteriously dim and flicker, even though the electricity board have tested the wiring and found that the voltage

remains constant. People who report spontaneous poltergeist disturbances in their homes also tell of how their lights and electrical appliances behave in a similar fashion to Chingle Hall. Light bulbs which blow repeatedly, Hoovers, washing machines, hair dryers, etc, adamantly refuse to work properly and electricity bills which defy belief. In fact I have turned up at reputedly haunted houses to carry out an investigation, to find the occupants standing on their doorstep watching a light display taking place in the skies above.

Is this a coincidence? I think not!

If the idea of spending a night in a haunted house doesn't appeal to you, you could always volunteer to be a test subject for Paul Devereux's 'Dragon Project', which involves spending the night in an ancient tomb or long barrow.

The end result is the same. People in both places seem to undergo a reality shift. A change of consciousness, which allows one to experience paranormal dreams and images which some claim, are prophetic in nature. Even right here in the North West of England, these strange earth energies are at work, and have provoked one renowned author (Jenny Randles) to label Merseyside, "Wonderland" due to the extraordinarily high number of inexplicable occurrences which occur here. We, of course, already knew that Merseyside was wonderland...

The question should be asked, "how do these energies affect us?"

We already know, by experiments carried out in this country and the USA, that the brain responds to high concentrations of electromagnetism. Feelings of being touched, a sense of presence, light phenomena, the feeling of floating and passing down a long tunnel can all be reproduced in a laboratory by feeding electromagnetic pulses directly into the brain, particularly the temporal lobes. It cannot be ignored that that these are the key experiences in haunted houses, near death experiences and UFO abduction cases.

The real underlying question had to be, can levels of magnetic energy reach such peaks in our environment, under ordinary conditions?

In abduction cases, one of the more profound ingredients of the event is the subject of missing time. I have repeatedly read of people who have witnessed what they thought was a flying saucer from Mars, and so easily could have been an earth-light, only to pass out and eventually come to, suddenly, with minutes or hours of time missing which they cannot account for. There is a condition known as "Aspergers Syndrome" where those afflicted with the problem, have trouble with their recognition of time or rather the passing of time. Perhaps this syndrome can emerge in us all when immersed in abnormally strong electromagnetic fields?

Massive power surges were recorded by the German electricity board that should have blown every fuse in the building, while Hans Bender of the Freiberg Institute of Paranormal Research was investigating poltergeist activity in the offices of Sigmund Adams, a lawyer in Rosenheim. Investigators were on hand when fluorescent tubes twisted in their sockets and exploded. Chandeliers swung with ever increasing force back and forth high over their heads.

In Britain, artist Bill Rich with his wife and children found that their electricity bills soared ten-fold while an apparition terrified them in their home on the Brecon Beacons in Wales. A similar experience with soaring electricity bills occurred at a haunting which I investigated in Gateacre, Liverpool. The family were terrorised by a phantom they labeled Mr. Pumpkin Head due to the apparition's unusually large and deformed head.

Another MARA investigator (Tony Eccles) and myself carried out a vigil in the Coach and Horses pub in Chester, in the summer of 97, where electrical arcs of blue light were seen emerging from the walls on the third floor. Unsurprisingly, a ley line passes close by!

I have lost count of the number of cases I have come across of witnesses watching revolving lights rising out of quarries, artificial lakes, reservoirs and areas of intense mining activity. All man-made geological earthworks that put

amazing stresses deep down on the surrounding strata. Stresses that erupt to the surface giving rise to tales of flying saucers hiding in reservoirs and stealing water of all things!

Sometimes, remnants of these magnetic flare-ups can be felt. Those of you who have satellite or cable TV and who watch the programme "Sightings", will only be too aware of the electromagnetic fields that occur in haunted houses. Film clips of camera men, sound engineers, witnesses and presenters holding their hands in contained electrostatic fields, or psychical researchers prowling around the rooms and corridors of a house detecting increases in the magnetic field in paranormal hot-spots, are numerous and common place. This is reminiscent of the static charge left in the air at Rendlesham Forest which Charles (Chuck) Holt and his men came across when investigating reports of lights in the nearby wood.

So what sort of effect does electromagnetic fields have on living organisms? It is accepted that most creatures in the animal kingdom are sensitive to fluctuations in the earth's magnetic field. Birds for instance use it when they migrate, as do many other species of animals, but not man. We have abandoned these capabilities which now lie dormant, because we as a species have become more technological in our approach to life. These latent abilities simply become irrelevant and unnecessary, but at times, they awaken to cause us all manner of confusion. Telepathy, psychokinesis, clairvoyance, coincidences and even instances of violence, such as murder and assault, may be due to those times when areas of the brain that we do not normally use, awaken.

If you place your partner blind-folded in the centre of your living room and spin them around until they become dizzy and lose their bearings and sense of direction, they will usually be able to roughly point towards the door or window. However, experiments have been carried out where strong magnets have been secreted in the blindfolds of test subjects causing those involved to become totally disorientated

with no idea of which way they are facing. The artificial magnetic fields produced by the magnets seem to disrupt our ability to tap in and use, as a rough guidance system, the earth's magnetic field.

Psychic, Eileen Garret sat in a Faraday chamber which was electrically charged on several occasions and found that she received far stronger, cleaner and more accurate impressions. This is strange and at odds with the findings of Michael Persinger who found that psychics received far stronger messages, and instances of prophetic dreams on days of lower electromagnetism.

The Russian psychic, Georgie Gurdjeiff called these force fields, 'The Higher Emotional Energy', which he perceived as a reservoir of energy which he could tap into with very little effort.

Many now agree that the temporal lobes of the brain are the doorway to mystical and paranormal experiences. Nestling between the temporal lobes, behind the skull in the centre of the forehead, (where the skull is at its thinnest) we find what looks like a withered third eye called the pineal gland. In this gland we find high concentrations of serotonin.

Amazonian tribes use the juice from a vine known as the Banisteriopsis Caapi, which they drink, stimulating the pineal gland and releasing large amounts of serotonin and certain enzymes which interact with hormones such as melatonin and pinoline, so inducing hallucinations, mystical, spiritual, and paranormal experiences. So could magnetic field build-ups similar to those described by Albert Budden, S.M. Roney, Dougal and Gunther Vogl, be having the same effect? Could it be this and this alone, that cause some to live through such traumatic hallucinations and lucid dreams, that they suffer posttraumatic stress and go on to have suicidal tendencies? Could paranormal experiences really be due to people's difficulty in separating fact from fantasy?

There is no doubt in my mind that there is a life after death, but it is simplistic and much to big a step to say that ghosts and apparitions are evidence of this. Similarly the Drake equation says that the universe is probably

probably teeming with life, some of it far in advance of us, but is it coming here?

Before we begin to tip-toe through this potential mine-field, littered with the bodies of those who have gone before, we

owe it to ourselves, and the witnesses who approach us for help and guidance, to look for more down to earth explanations which could quite literally exist all around us, all of the time.

**Dead of Night Magazine**  
 156 Bolton Road East, New Ferry, Merseyside, L62 4RY.  
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## DEAD OF NIGHT MAGAZINE

Issue 16 August /September 1998. Price £2



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## A Down To Earth View Of The Wonders Of Wycoller

*By Julie Boyd*

In a previous article, I wrote concerning my visit to "an evening of clairvoyance with Billy Roberts". I briefly mentioned his references to the questions of energy and atmosphere. I would like to take this opportunity to reflect further on my own experiences and beliefs in this field and also to lay to rest some common misconceptions that have previously been attributed to so-called "paranormal atmospheres". I would describe myself as clairsentient which basically means I am sensitive to atmosphere, aura, energy fields, vibrations or whatever you wish to call it. I have also had experiences of clairaudience which is sensitivity to sounds not normally perceived, (no not voices in the head!) This is no big deal to me, I simply accept it as a natural part of myself. I am not a spiritualist and I certainly do not or would not want to profess to seeing ghosts (whatever they may be!). I am sensitive and that is all. I am also extremely objective to the point of being skeptical. Take for instance Wycoller Hall. I personally experienced certain phenomena while I was there which I cannot totally explain. However, I am more than willing to consider the options. First and foremost, I was quite ill while I was there. I developed a migraine when we arrived which gradually got worse, and didn't subside until we left the place the following day. I was then left feeling drained of energy as if suffering from a hangover. I have developed similar symptoms quite suddenly when I have been in the company of certain mediums and wiccans.

The objective side of me says it was a build up of stress, apprehension and excitement due to consciously knowing I was going to a place renowned for strange phenomena. As a clairsentient, though, I would say I was exposed to energies that caused my own energy imbalance resulting in physical sickness. Of course, these energies could be natural earth energies not yet discovered or explained by science and nothing to do with "spirits" etc. A build up of electromagnetic energy could also explain why my mobile telephone, which had been fully charged, completely drained itself even though it was switched off. The whip cracking sound I heard could well have been attributed to nocturnal animals stepping on bracken or twigs and the sound amplifying in the still night air. I was also aware of a brief moment

of absolute stillness which pervaded the night air when all the animals in the fields nearby went deadly silent. An eerie lull in the night? Yet animals do this often. I have witnessed it with birds and domestic animals. Animals in some activity will suddenly stop in their tracks as if a silent order has been given for them to momentarily shut up and stop what they are doing. It is not really that uncanny. If birds in the trees and pet dogs in the living room display this behaviour, why not cows and sheep in the fields? Observations of animal behaviour can teach us many things and not necessarily anything to do with the paranormal! Take for instance areas of great atrocity and misery where animals are said to avoid. For example, it has been quoted many times that birds will not fly over Auschwitz. Of course not, Auschwitz is barren and useless for wildlife. The land in the area is sulphurized due to the mass cremations and burying of bodies by the Nazis. No life will grow on the soil and probably no life exists in it. Animals depend on vital criteria when choosing their habitat – availability of food sources, enabling successful breeding and formation of a territory where these needs can be sustained. Simply, if there is no food supply, the animal is not going to set up house and rear a family there. It will move on to an area where there is plentiful opportunity to feed and breed! Birds do not fly over Auschwitz simply because there is no bird habitat there due to the area being barren. There is no mystery to this. Animals are far more aware of the natural environment than we are.

So what we have learnt here – is that, what at first seems connected to the paranormal may well have a simple natural explanation. I am not inferring that natural reasons are always totally responsible for alleged paranormal occurrences and I am in no way negating the fact that animals are also sensitive because I strongly believe that they are. But what I am suggesting is that there may well be other logical explanations available. As researchers we should always aim to examine all the other possible explanations before resorting to accepting "psychic phenomena". I believe that unknown energies do exist, whether natural, paranormal, or as intelligent non-human energies. Are they acting independently of us and our reality? Are non-human energies playing around with, or manipulating natural earth energies to confuse us? There could well have been a psychic replay of a crack of a whip at Wycoller Hall and

there may well have been paranormal energies present which also contributed to animals behaving in a certain way. Who knows? Energy is all around us, in everything, including ourselves.

I believe that we are spiritual as well as physical energy. I also believe that there are intelligent energies around us which are playing games with our world and ultimately us. I have felt energies around myself that I cannot explain – the subtle presence of extraneous vibrations in my personal atmosphere, which eventually dissipate. After my visit to Wycoller Hall, it took a month

before these sensations left me. It is not always so easy for me to discuss my experiences for fear of sounding fanciful. I like to be as rational as possible and analyse all other possible explanations. So in this article, I have given my view of some of the possible explanations for the events which occurred at Wycoller Hall and other places.

Obviously some phenomena remain unexplained...Yet, I hope that some of the suggestions I have included in this article will help us to further identify and tackle the real, and as yet unexplainable, events which are occurring all around us.

## Front Cover Photograph of a Flying Triangle UFO.

The Photograph on the front cover of this journal came from Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS). This is an organisation based in the USA dedicated to finding out the truth about UFOs whatever it is and then disseminating that information to the general public. It achieves these aims in three main ways.

1 It has filed law suits against the US military using the American Freedom of Information Act to obtain documents which the military and intelligence agencies would rather the general public didn't see.

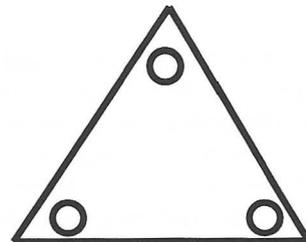
2 It provides an excellent website which is frequently updated and contains amongst other things the photograph of the Flying Triangle UFO and two further images of the same after some image processing. One is after edge enhancement and the other after image sharpening. In my opinion, neither of these enhancements reveal any more detail than can be seen in the unprocessed image. There are also artists' impressions of flying triangles, rectangular and octagon shaped UFOs. Do yourself a favour and visit the site at <http://caus.org>.

3 It provides a daily e-mail update which gives all the latest information on UFO sightings and contributions from CAUS subscribers about past UFO experiences. This service is totally free of charge to anyone on e-mail and I believe this to be the most valuable free service provided by any UFO research group on the planet. You can

subscribe to this free service by going to <http://caus.org/feedback.htm>. Peter A Gersten is the director of CAUS and it is he who gave MARA permission to use the photograph. Unfortunately, Peter can not give details of the time, date and place that the photograph was taken. MARA would like to thank CAUS for permission to use the photo and for all its services to UFO research.

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.

## Spring-Heeled Jack. The Leaping Terror of Victorian England. Mystery Assailant, Ghost & Urban Legend

*By John Hall*

Described by those who saw him as being tall, dressed in tight fitting white oilskins with a cloak and large shining helmet. His eyes shone like hot coals as he spat blue flames from his mouth and tore at his victims, with sharp metallic claws. He would make his escape by bounding away over walls hedges and houses in terrific leaps, sometimes over 25 to 30 feet in height. The strange creature is reported to have made vicious attacks on people for a period of over 67 years in Victorian/Edwardian England (1). The mere mention of Spring-Heeled Jack (SHJ) was used to make naughty children obedient. He was the 'bogey man' of his day!



*Tom Slemens version of SHJ. Devilish in appearance, demon faced with horns and rubber suit. (from Haunted Liverpool page 36).*

In Liverpool, SHJ visited the Shaw Street area of Everton in the Autumn of 1888 after previously being seen leaping from the top of the reservoir in High Park Street in the St. Michael's district of the Hamlet area. Other unconfirmed reports put him around the Childwall Abbey district further south.

A story circulated as fact today tells of one night in 1888 when members of St. Francis Xavier's Boys Guild were alerted to the fact that SHJ was in Shaw Street. The members rushed out into Haigh Street and up William Henry Street, but saw no sign of

him in Shaw Street. An excited crowd told them that SHJ was now crouched on the steeple of St. Francis Xavier's church. Mike Dash's overview in Fortean studies dismisses this however, as a misidentification in all the excitement, of a bird flapping on the steeple (2).



*The Liverpool Echo's Springheel Jack 1967 artist unknown.*

SHJ is reported to have paid a return visit to the same location at the end of September 1904. Hundreds of witnesses watched in fascinated horror as the spectacle of the phantom figure hopped up and down the length of William Henry Street for over 10 minutes with some enormous bounds said to exceed 25 feet from roadway to rooftop. He leaped clean over the houses from Stitt Street into Haigh Street then back across the roofs to Salisbury Street before vanishing, never to be seen again in Liverpool (1). However, SHJ was not just a Liverpoolian or English phenomenon, similar entities have been described in countries as far away as the USA, Germany and Czechoslovakia as it was then. He is reported to have been seen as late as the 1930's in some towns and cities.

### The Stitt Street connection

Stitt Street was one of the locations where SHJ was sighted in Liverpool, but it was also famous for another anomaly which may have been in part responsible for the SHJ sightings. The area residents knew of a haunted house in Stitt Street. The tenants of the house were awakened nightly by furniture and other items being thrown about the house by what they believed to be a poltergeist (noisy spirit). People would come from all over Liverpool to stand outside the house in fear and fascination, hoping to catch a glimpse of the ghost. The tenants eventually moved out and the doors and windows were boarded up. Two days later, a policeman arrested a young man named Hugh Morgan and charged him with breaking a window in the vacant house. Hundreds of people had swarmed around the haunted house hoping to catch a glimpse of the ghost and they probably dared the young man to break in which he tried to do from the rear of the property. Below is a transcript of part of the court case (3).

Magistrate: "What business was it of yours to enter this house?"

Prisoner: "The house is haunted (laughter). I thought it would be good for the landlord and for the neighbourhood to go into the house".

Magistrate: "You must not break peoples windows".

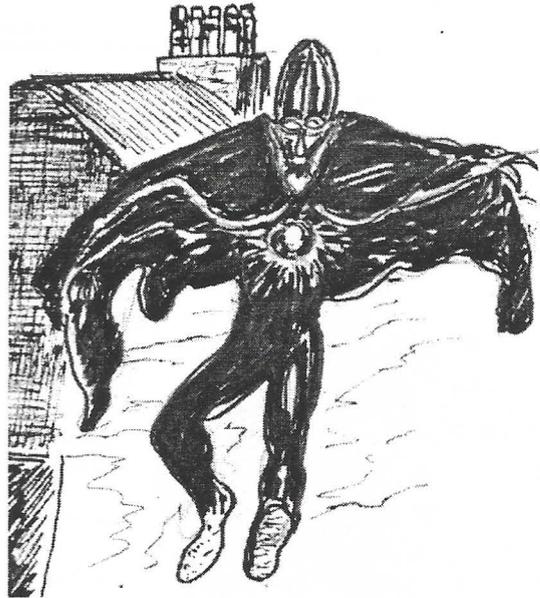
Prisoner: "It is a haunted house your worship".

Magistrate: "What does that matter? Five shillings and costs or seven days. You can let the ghost alone for a bit now".

Another story that may have given rise to the SHJ legend was that of a mentally ill man who was a religious fanatic. He would climb on to the rooftops and cry out at the top of his voice "My wife is the devil". When the police or a fire brigade ladder was used to try and get the man down from the roof, he would leap from one house to the next as they closed in.

### Modern day SHJ parallels

It is interesting to note that some of the modern day legends and myths that have been created for film, TV and pop songs contain many of the characteristics of the latter day SHJ. Some examples are given .



*1877 view of SHJ. Compare with Tim Burton's Batman.*

1. Batman 'The Dark Knight'. The original Dark Horse comics version inspired Tim Burton's animated series of an avenging Hi-tech aided law enforcer instilling fear into the criminal mind. He seemingly appears to come from and go to unattainable vantage points on buildings and is easily able to outwit and outrun the criminal and police alike. The costume, invulnerability and frighteningly stealthy approach are directly comparable to SHJ's early guises.

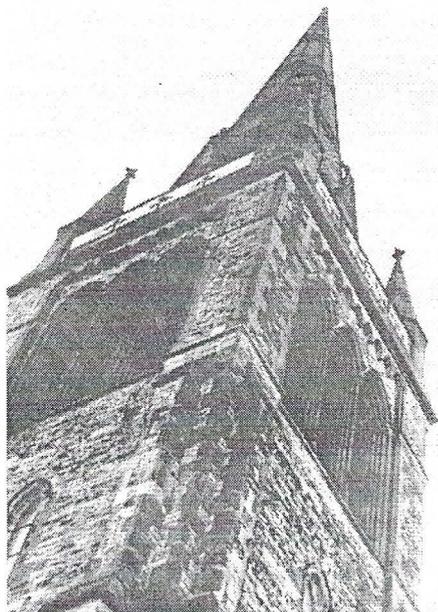
2. The Crow. Again a Tim Burton film with similar over/undertones using the same reverse dark vigilante imagery to avenge himself and others.

3. Quatermass And The Pit Sci-Fi horror 1968. Originally written as a TV series by Nigel Kneale in the 50's, it was made into a film in 1968. The leaping insectoid hobgoblin creatures are vaguely similar to descriptions of SHJ. The story also touches on alien artefacts, ghosts, ESP, poltergeists, hidden powers of the human mind and race memories being activated by an alien craft in a long haunted area of London brought on by vibration and electrical induction.

4. Dr. Who & the Daemons. 1972

It could be argued that there is some plagiarism of Quatermass in this although it stands out in its own right. The magic/science barrier is crossed once again

as the master reactivates power using an ancient pagan ceremony to awaken an



*A view of St. Francis Xavier's church steeple where SHJ was sited in 1888.*

alien in an ancient mound, 'the devil's hump'. When an archaeological dig is opened on a mystically significant date (Beltane, second only to Halloween), the master, by science/magic, animates a

church gargoyle (Bok) who has similar characteristics to SHJ. Bok has the ability to leap or fly, withstand small arms fire, he can regenerate if destroyed and wears a tightly fitting suit with a helmeted look.

5. Several more recent alien movies have leaping aliens which come out of the dark, menacing and unstoppable nightmares on celluloid, safe on the big screen but etched into our mindset to be played back in dreams, lucid dreams and day dreams etc. A new or old bugbear? Did all of these writers use by accident or design the characteristics of SHJ?

6. The Rolling Stones "Jumping Jack Flash" 1964. What inspired Mick Jagger and Keith Richards rock masterpiece? Van Halen "Jump" and Leapy Lee sixties pop icon may have been inspired by SHJ.

#### References

1 Liverpool Daily Post 25<sup>th</sup> January 1967  
Terry Martin.

2 Fortean Studies volume 3, Mike Dash, J. Brown publishing 1996.

3 Liverpool Echo 19<sup>th</sup> May 1967. Author unknown.



*A modern day view of St. Francis Xavier's church. Photographs by John Hall.*

## Fighting the In-Fighting

*By Bill Bimson*

I feel that I must reply to the criticism that Andy Blunn levelled at my article 'Fighting the Secrecy War' in issue 1 of the Researcher. It may seem like a long time since this criticism was made in his article, New Ufology in issue 2 but I did respond in writing almost immediately and it is only fair that someone who is criticised in writing is allowed to reply in like kind. Due to an oversight, my reply was not published in issue 3. This article demonstrates two of the largest problems with UFO research groups. In-fighting and poor communication.

I believe that my article is a world apart from the conspiracy theory examples Andy cites such as back engineered alien technology to enable a selected few to leave the earth, the control of planet population by the introduction of aids by aliens and secret colonies on the moon. Andy states that "as a scientist I should know that the half life of Ge-75 is 1.38 hours". I have four points to make about that.

1) I am quite flattered that he considers me to be a scientist as I do not possess a Ph.D. and my idea of a scientist is someone of the status of Stephen Hawking or Roger Penrose.

2) I don't believe that the average scientist would know the half-life of Ge-75 as it is not one of the more common radioactive isotopes that we study. If you don't believe me, just ask the next 'scientist' that you meet, what is the half-life of Ge-75?

3) During his presentation in Sheffield, Derrel Sims showed about half a dozen slides of different elements with anomalous isotopic ratios and I did not record which ones these were. I used the abstract of the proceedings as my reference in the article and there is no mention of Ge-75 or any other element in this. I have since e-mailed Derrel concerning Ge-75. He stated that a mistake was made in his oral presentation and that the peak observed at atomic mass 75 was almost certainly As-75 which is radioactively stable (ref. CRC handbook of Chemistry and Physics).

4) If Andy was so concerned about the Ge-75 data at the presentation why didn't he question Sims about this? I don't recall anybody questioning the validity of Derrel Sims data at the conference.

Andy implies in his criticism that the scientists who perform the tests on alleged alien implants and the Roswell fragment are never named but this is not true. The abstract quite clearly names Professor Russell Vernon-Clarke of the University of California San Diego who analysed

the alleged Roswell fragment using inductively coupled plasma - mass spectrometry and optical emission spectrometry. His conclusion was that "this material shows significant variations from the normal isotopic compositions found on Earth and should be considered extraterrestrial in origin".

After talking to colleagues since Andy's criticism, it appears other members of BUFORA are sceptical about the work of Sims et al. Andy implies that Derrel Sims has fabricated the data. If this is the case, I whole-heartedly condemn it, but I believe the jury is still out on this. My only prior experience of scientific conferences has been that researchers don't lie and if I have been duped, then it is because of a naivety born from other fields of research where lies are not made. I never intended to mislead anyone or perpetuate false data.

One further point I feel I must make is that in my article I stated the importance of eradicating in-fighting between groups and between different members of groups. The language Andy uses such as "his work is similarly sloppy" could be a catalyst for confrontation between two headstrong members of a group. You never hear the striker of a football team who has been defeated 4-0 state publicly that his goalkeeper's work was sloppy (even if that is what he thinks), because he knows the importance of teamwork. Andy managed to write about half a page of criticism on a single sentence I made which was a reference to someone else's work. This seems a bit over the top to myself and other colleagues I have consulted with. I know Andy's comments will not cause a problem between Andy and myself and I accept that criticism is an important part of research for the stimulation of debate. However, I would suggest a more careful selection of language during public criticism of written articles.

When criticism is over done, it leads to the sort of infighting and slanging matches that are now all too common at conferences and on the internet via e-mail distribution lists. This is entirely negative and plays into the hands of those involved in cover-ups because we are fighting each other instead of trying to establish the truth. In-fighting and poor communication have brought many UFO research groups including BUFORA to their knees. If we carry on in the

same old vein we will make the same old mistakes. Andy, this is not a dig at you, this is an invitation to work with me as a team.



## Will The Real Jack The Ripper Please Step Forward.

*By Colin Veacock.*

I'm not a butcher, I'm not a yid,  
Nor yet a foreign skipper.  
But I'm your own light hearted friend,  
Yours truly, Jack the Ripper.

The constant hustle-and-bustle of shoppers and the frantic traffic jams and congested streets of London are a modern phenomenon far removed from the London of yester-year. Victorian London was the largest and wealthiest city in the world. Beneath the gloss and glimmer of high society and the noise of the rich at play, the lower classes struggled to survive in the narrow, quiet, gas lit, fog bound, cobblestoned alleyways of the suburbs of London. The bobbies on the beat struggled bravely to quell the ever worsening violent crimes which were part and parcel of every day ordinary Victorian life. The streets were a breeding ground for muggers, thieves and murderers who never had to fear intervention from the police who were hated by nearly everyone, openly ridiculed and humiliated by the press for their ineffectiveness. In these terrible conditions women as old as eighty and as young as twelve sold themselves for a pittance so that they could afford a roof over their heads for the night or buy a stale loaf of bread. It was these wretched destitute women who were preyed upon by a horrific creature who appeared out of the swirling fog to kill violently before vanishing back into the mist like some abominable phantom. A tall, top hatted, gentleman, his face obscured by shadow, a cane held in his white gloved hands, prowling the alleyways of London in search of victims to satisfy his blood lust. This is the image that is conjured up in the minds of everyone when we think of the legendary Jack the Ripper.

The Whitechapel murders began in the autumn of 1888 and eventually five women were brutally butchered, some beyond recognition. Two earlier murders, that of Emma Smith and Martha Tavenham, were thought to be at the time, ripper victims but modern criminologists now refute this notion.

Mary Ann (Polly) Nichols was a strange sight to behold. At the age of 42, missing five front teeth, she was not the type of woman usually associated with being a prostitute. At 3.30am on

the 31st August, Nichols was ambushed in Osbourne Street, Whitechapel, by an unknown assailant who sliced her throat twice nearly severing her head from her shoulders in the process. Then her skirts were lifted and the killer stabbed her lower torso several times with such ferocity that her internal organs protruded through her open wounds. This was to be the only killing that was actually witnessed. Israel Schwartz was walking along Osbourne Street when he passed a couple standing in the shadows. No sooner had he passed them than the male figure suddenly threw the female to the ground and viciously set about her. Schwartz, being an old man, left the area as quick as he could. Less than fifteen minutes later Nichols' bloody remains were discovered. Murder was not unheard of in Victorian Whitechapel but the horrific nature of this crime certainly was. Not long afterwards the ripper claimed his second victim, a prostitute named Annie Chapman. The last person to see Annie alive was Mrs Elizabeth Long who told police that she saw her talking to a well dressed gentleman who said, "Would you?". Whatever the nature of the man's enquiry was, she readily agreed and vanished down the lane into history. Like Nichols, her throat was cut so deep that she was nearly beheaded and her lower stomach was opened and torn apart, her uterus, belly wall, navel, womb and bladder being removed. Her small intestine was also removed and placed over her right shoulder and her meager possessions consisting of two brass rings, two combs (hairslides) and two farthings were neatly placed at her feet. It was at this point that the police began to suspect that the ripper was a doctor or at least had some anatomical knowledge. Each attack, it was thought at the time, would have taken about fifteen minutes but it is now thought that the ripper spent no more than a few minutes butchering his victims.

Within days of the murder the first of the Ripper letters (which has since been labeled the Dear Boss letter) arrived at Scotland Yard. In the letter the Ripper bragged how before he had finished his work all England would know his name. He also told the police how he was going to remove the ears

of his next victim. At the same time another letter which was wrapped around half a human kidney was sent to the Whitechapel Vigilance Committee.

Three days after the slaying of Annie Chapman, Elizabeth Stride, or Long Liz as she was known locally, had the misfortune to meet the Ripper with fatal consequences. Witnesses told of how Stride was forced from the Workers Education Club into the yard by a man who shouted Lipski at a passer-by who immediately turned and walked away. Other witnesses described how another well-dressed gentleman watched from the shadows on the opposite side of the street. Minutes later a local man turned his horse and cart into the yard at the back of the club on Berner Street when suddenly his horses stopped and refused to enter. There, lying on the cobblestones was Strides relatively untouched body, the only wounds being to her throat which was sliced open. It has been suggested that the Ripper had been disturbed before he could take his pleasure and may even have been hiding in the yard at the time of her discovery. The Ripper, obviously still hungry for blood, left Berner Street in search of another defenceless victim. One hour later PC 881 Edward Watkins entered Mitre Square and stumbled across the bloody body of Catherine Eddowes lying in a dark corner. Her face had been mutilated, her eyes punctured and her nose cut off. Her throat had also been cut. The abdomen had been cut open and the left kidney and uterus removed and taken from the scene of the crime.

Not long afterwards, and less than a twelve minute walk away, Catherine's blood and faeces soaked apron was found in Goulston Street. The next day a blood stained slim bladed knife, possibly Catherines own, was found on Whitechapel Road. Obviously the killer had wiped clean the knife as he weaved his way through the back streets avoiding the huge police presence that had descended onto this area of Whitechapel after the discovery of Strides body. On the wall above where the apron was found was written a chalk message which read; "The Jews are the men who will not be blamed for nothing".

One day later another letter written in the same hand as the first Dear Boss letter arrived at Scotland Yard. It described how the first victim (Chapman) had squealed a bit and how he

couldn't get her ears off. The killer jokingly referred to himself as Saucy Jack and the postmark on the envelope showed that it had been sent from the district where the murder weapon had been found. The police had the whole of October to ponder the letter in which time there were no Ripper murders. People had just begun to put the gruesome murders out of their mind when, on the 8th November, he struck again with a savagery that was sickening.

Early on the morning of the 9th November Thomas Bowyer arrived at 12 Millers Court to collect rent from a young twenty five year old Irish girl named Mary Kelly. After receiving no reply he wandered across to the window and removed a rag which was stuffed in a broken window pane. The sight that greeted him left him physically sick and haunted him for the rest of his life. The remains of Mary littered the bed and the entire room. The coroner's report describes the scene:

The surface of the abdomen and thighs were removed and the abdomen emptied of its viscera. The breasts were cut off, arms lacerated by several jagged wounds and the face mutilated beyond all recognition. The tissues of the neck were severed all around down to the bone. The face was gashed in all directions, the nose, cheeks, eyebrows and ears being partly removed. The heart had also been removed and placed with other flesh on the bedside table....

Ironically, the last person to hear her alive, her next door neighbour, described how she heard Mary singing, "Only A Violet I Pluck From My Mothers Grave".

After the fifth killing, the murders suddenly ceased and the Ripper vanished from the minds of the public. At the same time, the newspapers mysteriously dropped the story which had guaranteed that thousands of papers were sold only days earlier. The question has to be asked, Why? There was certainly no end of suspects, which the local police pursued vigorously, but without any result. Two thousand people were interviewed and eighty arrested but still the police were no nearer unveiling the identity of Jack. Out of all the suspects only a few are worth mentioning. Aaron Kosminski, a Polish Jew, Michael Ostrop, Montague John Drewitt, J K Steven, 72 year old William Gull and Prince Albert Edward Victor, later to be the Duke of Clarence, were names commonly associated with the Whitechapel murders. However, over a

century later two more suspects have come to light, the later of whom, in my view, is Jack the Ripper.

A leather bound scrapbook which contained untidy scrawled handwriting covering its sixty three faded pages was brought to the attention of the public by one Mike Barratt. The book allegedly reveals the identity of the Ripper as one James Maybrick, a Liverpool cotton merchant. The Maybrick's old home, Battlecrease, had been having a new ring main and radiator system fitted at which time the floorboards were lifted for the first time in a hundred years. The workers who carried out the work spent their free time drinking in the Saddle Inn, the same Inn which Tony Devereaux frequented. It was Devereaux who later gave the tatty old diary to Mike Barratt without telling him what disturbing details lay inside. Barrett took the diary home and read through the pages thinking it was just the inane ramblings of a sad and dejected man until he finally read the signature on the last page which read Jack the Ripper. The diary told of how James Maybrick had slowly slipped into insanity due to his wife's, Florence, affair with Alfred Brierley. Although most now consider the diary to be a clever fake and Barratt himself has admitted to forging the diary, most don't think he is capable of creating such a document. Even so, James Maybrick fits into the Ripper's shoes extremely well - perhaps too well...

Maybrick was a hyperchondriac who constantly pestered his doctor for prescriptions. Historians who have checked his doctor's prescription books found that in the days that Maybrick was visiting his doctor in Liverpool, there were no Ripper murders, yet when he was in London, supposedly on business, the murders occurred. It is also a fact that Maybrick's mistress, a young lady from Sunderland, lived somewhere in the Whitechapel area right in the centre of where the murders took place. At the time that Elizabeth Stride was slaughtered, Maybrick was staying in lodgings in Middlesex Street which is between Berner Street and Goulston Street. In the diary Maybrick also writes about how he fried pieces of Annie Chapmans uterus and ate it which fits in with the little known fact that her uterus had been removed and taken from the scene of the crime. Cannibalism is common amongst mass murderers who, it would seem, cannot resist the urge to feast on the flesh of their victims. James Maybrick was also a drug

addict who took ample amounts of Arsenic, which he refers to as his medicine. Perhaps ironically, Maybrick died of Arsenic poisoning and on July 1st 1889 at St Georges Hall, Liverpool, Florence Maybrick stood trial for her husbands murder. She was sentenced to hang but public opinion caused the decision to be reversed and Florence was released.

Another suspect, Doctor Francis Tumblety, an Irish American, has recently had the finger of suspicion pointed firmly in his direction. At the time he was Scotland Yard's chief suspect. He was being watched because he was a well-known Finnian sympathiser, had strong Irish terrorist connections and at the time London was being targeted by the IRA. The terrorist action finally came to a head with the bombing of Scotland Yard's headquarters. So, as one can imagine, the police were being extra vigilant and were scrutinising the movement of Tumblety. Twenty two Batty Street, a lodging house, was also being watched at the time and it was from here that the owner described to the police how an American doctor who had stayed at her home returned one night with his shirt soaked with blood. The police at the time were well aware of an American connection which both Maybrick and Tumblety certainly had. Not long afterwards the manager of a hotel in Charring Cross reported how an American guest had suddenly left leaving a small black leather bag behind. The bag was placed in the lost property column of the local news papers in the hope that he would return to retrieve it but he never did, so the police decided to open it in the hope of finding a forwarding address. Inside they discovered wearing apparel, cheque books and pornographic prints of an obscene nature. For some reason best known to themselves the police immediately cabled America!

Tumblety was very well known in the USA. He was a well known bi-sexual who continually graced the pages of the American tabloids. He was described both as a the prince of quacks, (a statement which had some foundation) and a genius who made his money and reputation peddling patent medicine, particularly his famous pimple destroyer. Tumblety's little knowledge of medicine was learnt as he swept the floors of a local hospital which specialised in abortions and sexual diseases. Unfortunately for Tumblety, one of his medicines poisoned a joiner who had contacted him for a cure for his persistent kidney problem. The doctor was arrested and bailed but disappeared before he could be brought to trial.

Not long afterwards, in London, the sub-curator of London's Pathological museum reported to the police how he had been approached by an American doctor who wanted to buy uteruses. A request which was politely refused. Later, similar requests were made elsewhere. Strangely enough, back in America, several of Tumblety's friends told of how they had been shown rows of specimen jars containing uteruses which Tumblety had told them were from every class of woman. They also told of his pathological hatred of women the mere mention of which would send him into a simmering rage. Although Scotland Yard was watching Tumblety, his name was never mentioned in any of the news sheets, all of whom had inside informers who leaked information for a price. The only reason we know of his presence is through a letter written by John George Littlechild of Scotland Yard to a journalist which read.

"Among the suspects, and to my mind, a very likely one, is an American quack called Tumblety, who, at one time, was a frequent visitor to London, and on these occasions was constantly brought to the notice of the police, there being a large dossier concerning him at Scotland Yard. His feelings towards women were remarkable and bitter to the extreme."

If none of the good doctor's crimes appeared in the London press they certainly did in the United States. On the 7th November 1888, two days before the last Ripper murder, Francis Tumblety aged 56 was arrested for indecency with four other men. He was bailed to appear before the court on the 16th November but disappeared as he had done numerous times before. The American press covered the story in its entirety while there was no mention of it here in England. Tumblety arrived in France sometime after the death of Mary Kelly and caught a steamer bound for New York where, on the 4th December he arrived closely followed by Inspector Walter Andrews, the key investigator of the Whitechapel murders. Waiting on the dock side were two American policemen who were also there to arrest Tumblety, but somehow he gave everyone the slip. It appears that our police force suspected he was the Ripper, the American police force suspected he was the Ripper, and even his friends believed he was the Ripper, but his name, until now, was never mentioned in association with the now infamous murders. It is only through the accidental

discovery of the Littlechild letter in an old dusty bookshop in Richmond that we know of this evil man's existence.

Somehow Tumblety avoided the police and vanished once more until his death. The nuns who looked after him during his last days found amongst his possessions two cheap imitation gold rings identical to the ones taken from Annie Chapman. Did he keep these rings as some grisly trophy which he carried around on his person until his dying day?

The evidence against both men is damning but obviously only one can truly be the Ripper. Maybrick's slow descent into insanity, supposedly the result of his wife's infidelity, fits the stereotype of a vicious psychopath fuelled by hatred for his wife yet unable to vent that fury due to the fact that he would certainly be caught and convicted. What better way than to take his anger out on prostitutes, a view he may have had of his wife. What better place to commit the murders than Whitechapel, London, after all it was Whitechapel, Liverpool where his wife had met her lover. Was Maybrick a brutal sadistic killer who could shed his skin and become a likable businessman, husband and father? His claim to have eaten the flesh of his victims is something else, which arises time and time again, where mass murderers and psychopaths are concerned. Tumblety on the other hand probably fits the psychological profile rather better, especially when we take into account his fascination with collecting uteruses and his insane hatred of the opposite sex.

As we rapidly approach the millenium with fear and anxiety of the unknown increasing among the population, more atrocities committed by blood crazed psychopaths are likely to rise alarmingly. In later years, mass murderers such as Ted Bundy, Peter Sutcliffe, Myra Hindley, Ian Brady, and the Yorkshire Ripper, have become house-hold names, anti-heroes who are almost looked upon in the same light as football players and movie stars. In fact, Hollywood has provided us with a new band of sickening heroes such as Leatherface (Texas Chainsaw Massacre), Freddie Kruger (A Nightmare On Elm Street), Jason Voerhees (Friday the 13th) and Michael Myers (Halloween), all names that every school boy and girl in the country will be familiar with. In our society which is constantly sinking deeper into the stinking quicksands of immorality, killers are becoming idols which some look up to as roll models.

Jack the Ripper was the first and most infamous mass murderer in history. As time flows incessantly by, more sick individuals will step up to the podium to try to elevate their idols depraved behaviour, and consequently, more

people will die before their time. It would undoubtedly help societies healing process if the memory of Jack the ripper was buried and forgotten about, alas, like the five tormented women who died at the hands of the most notorious killer in history.



## An Urban Myth

*By Tony Eccles*

Frank Cowell is dead, a victim of cancer. The doctors who examined him in 1982 had diagnosed his illness as being due to exposure to ionising radiation, but Frank's family could not think of any occasion when he could have had such exposure. Except perhaps for that unusual contract that he had been involved in many years ago. Harry Chapman is now in his sixties and due for retirement. Back in 1974, he had been contracted by the ministry of defence to carry out some necessary engineering work. Frank Cowell was one of the men involved with the team along with Harry Chapman.

Liverpool University's Cyclotronic Unit (a specialised piece of equipment used in the research of radioactivity) was using uranium and had encountered a number of severe technical difficulties such that it needed shutting down. The implications of this were quite severe. Where was the radioactive Uranium going to be taken? There was no easy way to dispose of it and the alternative was to bury it in a suitable location. There were three burial options presented to the contracted team.

1. Dredge the river Mersey and deposit it deep beneath the river.
2. To use an abandoned underground railway where the tunnel would be filled and blocked off.
3. To Use an abandoned railway that goes beneath the Birkenhead tunnel.

The latter was chosen because it was the cheaper option. Rods of uranium were taken and dumped into the depths of the disused railway. Tons of concrete and slurry were dropped to cover and seal the atomic waste.

The story becomes progressively more peculiar because at that time, the United Kingdom Energy Authority (UKAEA) had two sites in the North West that were responsible for providing the USA with recycled uranium rods. The USA were not permitted to recycle

Uranium rods on home soil and had thus privately paid for two sites to be built in the North West to aid the USA recycle their rods as quickly as possible. These two sites were built at Capenhurst Cheshire and Solwick, Lancashire. Harry Chapman had noted that lorries could be seen leaving the UKAEA site or Powergen as it is now called, in the early hours of the morning heading for Manchester airport via the A49. However, nowadays the uranium rods are taken to the British Aerospace facility at RAF Woodford near Addlington and Wilmslow. Harry stated, "I've seen myself the unmarked Guppy planes which are taking large aircraft parts abroad and unmarked Bae 146' cargo planes". "These two sites have an obvious connection to the nuclear power stations on the west coast of Cumbria". "However, I had never heard of Solwick, until I had been informed upon its whereabouts". Coincidentally, Solwick is not too far away from the British Aerospace facility at Warton in Lancashire, the home of the British stealth projects such as the High Altitude Low Observability (HALO) aircraft.

The following questions remain unanswered:

1. Did Frank contract cancer due to exposure to nuclear radiation from the waste of the Cyclotron?
2. Was nuclear waste covertly dumped under the Birkenhead tunnel?
3. Why were the Guppy cargo and Bae 146 aircraft at RAF Woodford unmarked? Was it to hide the export of reprocessed Uranium to the USA?
4. Is there any link between Uranium reprocessing at Solwick and stealth projects at Warton?

If you have the answer to any of these questions, please contact MARA in complete confidence. Our contact details are on page 3.

## Grey is the Colour, Low Visibility-High Gullibility

*By John Hall*

Sometime ago, Manchester United football team played in an all grey kit. It was dropped suddenly on the excuse that the players couldn't see each other clearly and hence it was affecting their game in favour of their opponents! Similarly, it can be difficult to find elephants in the bush despite the fact that they are large bulky grey animals. This was demonstrated in a recent TV programme on BBC2 where the TV crew were startled by the sudden emergence of the animals in very close proximity to them.

### Stealthy camouflage

Warships and fighter aircraft also use *low visibility* grey for camouflage and hence make themselves harder targets to the enemy. So why shouldn't our alien abducting friends use grey to conceal their clandestine activities? Cloaking devices and invisibility are only a black project or grey mist away from reality. The legend of Project Invisibility personified in book and movie used the ability to bend light waves around an object!

### Grey in Faire Folklore

Other researchers such as J. Keel and J. Vallae have covered the alien / faire folk link. In folklore, the faire folk characteristics of height, colour, smell etc. are very similar to some contemporary accounts of bedroom visitors and alleged alien abduction cases. For instance, *grey neighbours*, is one of the euphemistic terms used to describe and name faires. Often seen as small grey clad goblins, they are feared and respected. In Shetland, charms have been used to protect the Islanders from these entities. Several stories from the Isle of Man also relate to the use of charms for protection. In one Isle of Man report, a man came upon a small group of figures in the slate debris of Glen Aldyn quarries just under Snaefell Mountain Road. At 10 a.m. on a bright summer morning, the witness almost walked into five gnomish figures, but stopped to observe them at a distance of 2-3 yards. He described them as greyish all over rather like the colour of fungus. They were 12 to 18 inches high, appeared to all be male and were dancing around in a ring. The witness also felt strange while viewing them. This strange feeling has also been reported by witnesses to UFO sightings such as those described by Randles and Warrington in their book 'UFO's; a British Viewpoint'. The witness saw the same event twice on

consecutive days at the same time of day and location.

Another story tells of two little people advancing on children hand in hand. They were described as withered hobgoblins, 3 feet tall in little jackets and short red petticoats. This occurred at Silverburn Hollow, Ballasalla at dusk (a common time of faire sightings). The children fled in terror. This sighting is reported to be from 1938. The smell of Faïres as described by Sophia Morris in 1904 is "one of dank pools and rotting compost or leaves". This property may have given rise to the name of 'Foulpool', located just upstream from Silverburn Hollow. Foulpool was a well known haunted location and had a reputation as a source of faïres and water monsters.

At the Glencrutchery Road near the Grandstand on the TT course, stands or stood a 'faïrewell' somewhere towards the Onchan side, but unmarked on maps. At this location there have been reported sightings of a watersprite gaurdian in the form of a wizard/sorcerer sometimes described as a 'little grey man'.

At Baldrine a story relates to little people regularly entering The North Lonan Schoolhouse. A connection with the souls of the dead became apparent in the 1890's when the Manx Electric Railways Company brought the line just behind the Schoolhouse and relics were found in the cutting. This may have been a tumulus or cyst (burial site). Another exists on the opposite side of the road and is called "The Cloven Stones". E. Wenz had a story relating to the same location. In this he describes a lone traveler from Laxey going to Baldrine/Garwick Glen at midnight during a full moonlit night. At first he noticed three human sized beings approaching him but suddenly found himself in an invisible faire march. Unable to turn away, he just went with the flow. They came from the direction of the Schoolhouse Road and continued on in the procession down Glen Garwick to a point where they left him as he probably turned uphill. The encounter appears to have a dreamlike quality as I have personally tried to retrace his steps on an O.S. map but have been unable to do so, and in fact ended up in the bay. Faire Processions are said to take place on certain times of the year and their start and end points are ancient tumuli and other ancient

sites. A faire path may exist in Glen Garwick as the post office has a sliced corner near the cloven stones tumuli!

#### Missing time and illuminated palaces

One myth tells of experiences similar to those of alien abductees. The victim sees a great glass house which is self-illuminated and when the door is opened, it reveals scores of richly dressed women, gold laden tables, and a feast fit for a king. All bait to entice a lone traveler and abduct him if possible. If he ate anything he would never leave, but if he fell asleep before eating anything he would wake up to find himself on a wet cold mountainside or field, in this case Sky Hill, Glen Audlyn, Lezayre, Isle of Man.

#### Grey Ghosts & White Ladies

A grey ghost accompanied by a dog has been seen on the Ramsey-Laxey-Douglas main road near Lewaigue farm. It was doing deliberately odd manouvers as if it wanted to be noticed. This was witnessed by a man waiting for a bus and left him in a state of shock with a strange feeling. A ghost story from the same location about a white lady may link in with the grey ghost. Water monsters, sometimes in the form of a grey horse called a Cabbyl Ushtey also had the power to shape shift its form to disguise itself from its unfortunate victim. Seen once as a Centaur (half man / half horse), it was described as being a pale grey white colour by a woman cyclist on route to Glen May from Peel before dark in 1922.

#### The Grey Man

This is a mysterious figure seen wearing a grey cloak in misty weather on mountain tops, headlands and ancient hillforts such as Cronk Sumnark. The hillforts are reputed to have been used as pagan temples by witches and faires. He is known locally as the devil and also by the alternative name Lockman from the Norse, Lockerman who was the executioner associated with the black arts.

#### The mist

Strange mists of all kinds are found in faire folklore and alien abduction scenarios such as the Aveley case, Yorkshire (ref. UFO Encyclopaedia John Spencer). The purpose of the mist is usually to conceal the phenomena involved. There are many reports of faire folk being sighted within mists and emerging from them. Glamour is a theoretical illusion thought to work directly on the human mind which makes almost any imagery possible and there is a possibility that glamour is responsible for the mists and myths within Faire folklore and alien

abduction. If glamour can work on one being while not working on another nearby, this would explain how two witnesses in the same location can have totally different descriptions of the same event.

#### The Hopkinsville Goblin

The creature described in the Hopkinsville goblin incident of August 21<sup>st</sup> 1955 in the USA had very similar features to those in faire folklore. It was described as being 1 1/2 to 3 feet tall with round outsized eyes on either side of its outsized head, a slit like mouth, centrally placed nostrils and huge pointed ears. It had claw like hands on the ends of arms that hung almost to the ground. It was clad in a silvery garment which has led to the suggestion that it may have come from a UFO. Along with others of its own type, it proceeded to attack an isolated farmhouse. It was reported that shotguns had no effect on the beings and failed to deter their attack.

#### The Greys

The grey aliens so often reported in abduction experiences, mostly in the USA but increasingly so in Britain and Europe have become part of our culture. They have been imported into our consciousness and expectation. Are they a repackaged faire folk in new costumes updated for contemporary consumption? Budd Hopkins' and Whitely Striber's hypnotically regressed witnesses tend to follow the above narrative, reinforcing the alien archetypes onto today's hi-tech consumers.

However other sightings of fairies have described them wearing blue coats and red hats. Others in female form are described wearing fish like 'scaly' apparel or blue dresses. Some gnome types are described as having wrinkled faces with bright shiny buttons on their coats and carrying a small lantern. The lantern may be the agency for creating the image of the friendly gnome, and is possibly related to ball of light phenomena as described in many UFO and earth mystery texts.

#### Sources of information

1. W.W. Gill. Manx Scrapbooks 1,2 & 3.
2. A.M. Crellin. Manx Folklore and Fairy Legends, Customs & Bells.
3. Jenkinsons guide to the Isle of Man, 1876.
4. Sophia Morrison. Manx Folklore 1904
5. Charles Roeder. Manx Notes and Queries 1904.
6. W. Cashen. Manx Folklore 1904.
7. M. Killip. Folklore of the Isle of Man.
8. Fortean Times 'If Pigs Could Fly'
9. Bob Rickard. More Phantom Sieges.

# A Special Thank You

*From Sue McAllister  
MARA conference co-ordinator*

The Merseyside Anomalies Research  
Associations UFO / Paranormal  
Conference.

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October 1998  
11 am-5.30pm

The Unity Theatre, Hope Place,  
Liverpool City Centre.

## Speakers

*Mark Glover and Tony Eccles*

UFO's on Merseyside: Five Years of Study.

*Jenny Randles*

Spontaneous Human Combustion

*Andy Roberts*

A UFO Crash in Britain

*Colin Veacock*

Hauntings on Merseyside

*Carl Williams*

Exploring the Meaning of Paranormal  
Phenomena

*Billy Roberts*

The Implications of Mediumship and  
Paranormal Activity

MARA's annual UFO / Paranormal Conference on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 1998 was a success. I'd like to thank all the members of MARA, for attending the conference. In particular, I am grateful to those of you who volunteered your services as stewards. Your hard work on the day was a great asset to the conference. So thanks to Nicky Limb, John Smith, Linda Evans, Mike Jaega, Paul Bennett, Paul Ryan, Eileen Shaw, Peter Tiernan and John Hall. A big thank you to Bill and Laura Bimson for all their enthusiasm, hard work and for keeping me informed of conference issues over the last few months. I'd like to thank Mark Rosney and Paul Rodgers for saving us quite a large amount of money by supplying catering facilities and a large projector screen. Mark Rosney took on the role of sound and light technician in conjunction with a staff member of the Unity theatre and won the battle of computer-controlled sound and lighting in the control box at the back of the theatre. Paul Rodgers

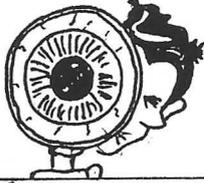
took on the dual role of catering supplies and video recording of the event with his camcorder. Our MC for the day was Elaine Hannah who brought character and humour to the days events. Thanks for being so brave Elaine!

In all the day was a complete team effort with three of our members, Tony Eccles, Mark Glover and Colin Veacock taking on the role of speakers and doing an excellent job. Well done lads! In addition to speaking at the conference, Tony also supplied the video projector which helped to enhance Colins talk, with unique video evidence of anomalous phenomena. Of course, the day would not have been complete without the stimulating talks given by our guest speakers, Jenny Randles, Andy Roberts, Carl Williams and Billy Roberts. I would like to thank them for attending the conference in good time, delivering excellent talks on their subject matter and providing the audience with the opportunity to ask questions at the end of each talk. I think that the audiences enthusiasm for asking questions and the fact that we ran out of time before all of the audiences questions could be answered shows that the audience truly enjoyed the conference. I would like to thank all of the members of the public who turned up to the conference. Without you, the word success would not be on this page. If any member of the audience would like to comment on any aspect of the conference, your feedback would be appreciated. Our contact details are on page 3.

I would like to add that the purpose of the conference was not a fund raising exercise, but an awareness event to raise the profile of anomalous phenomena amongst the general public and I believe we all did a good job in doing this.

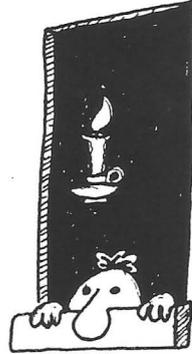
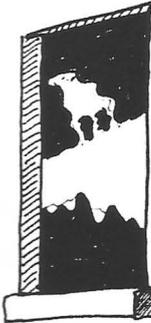
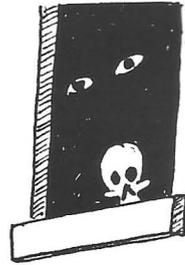
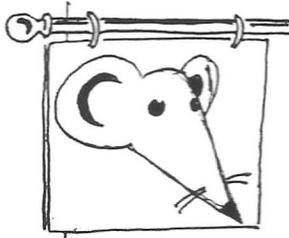
Again, thanks to everybody and I look forward to next years event drawing an even larger crowd than this years!

# PSI-MAN SAY'S



TODAY, PSI-MAN INVESTIGATES THE HAUNTED AND MYSTERIOUS 'FINGER BOB'S INN.

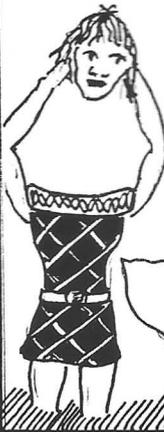
"WELCOME TO THE FINGERBOB'S INN. REPUTEDLY, LIVERPOOL'S MOST HAUNTED INN."



"HERE, INSIDE THE INN, WITNESSES HAVE REPORTED DOZENS OF PHANTOMS, BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY YET!"



"YOU' BLIND OR WHAT MATE?"



ARGHHHH!

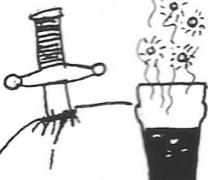
BOO!



THE INVESTIGATION ENTERS THE BAR.

WHEN INVESTIGATING HAUNTINGS ONE MUST BE OBSERVANT AT ALL TIMES."

"WELL, I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING TO SCARE ME SO FAR. LET'S SEE IF THE BARMAID HAS EVER SEEN ANYTHING."



"HELLO. HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THE GHOST'S?"

"HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?"



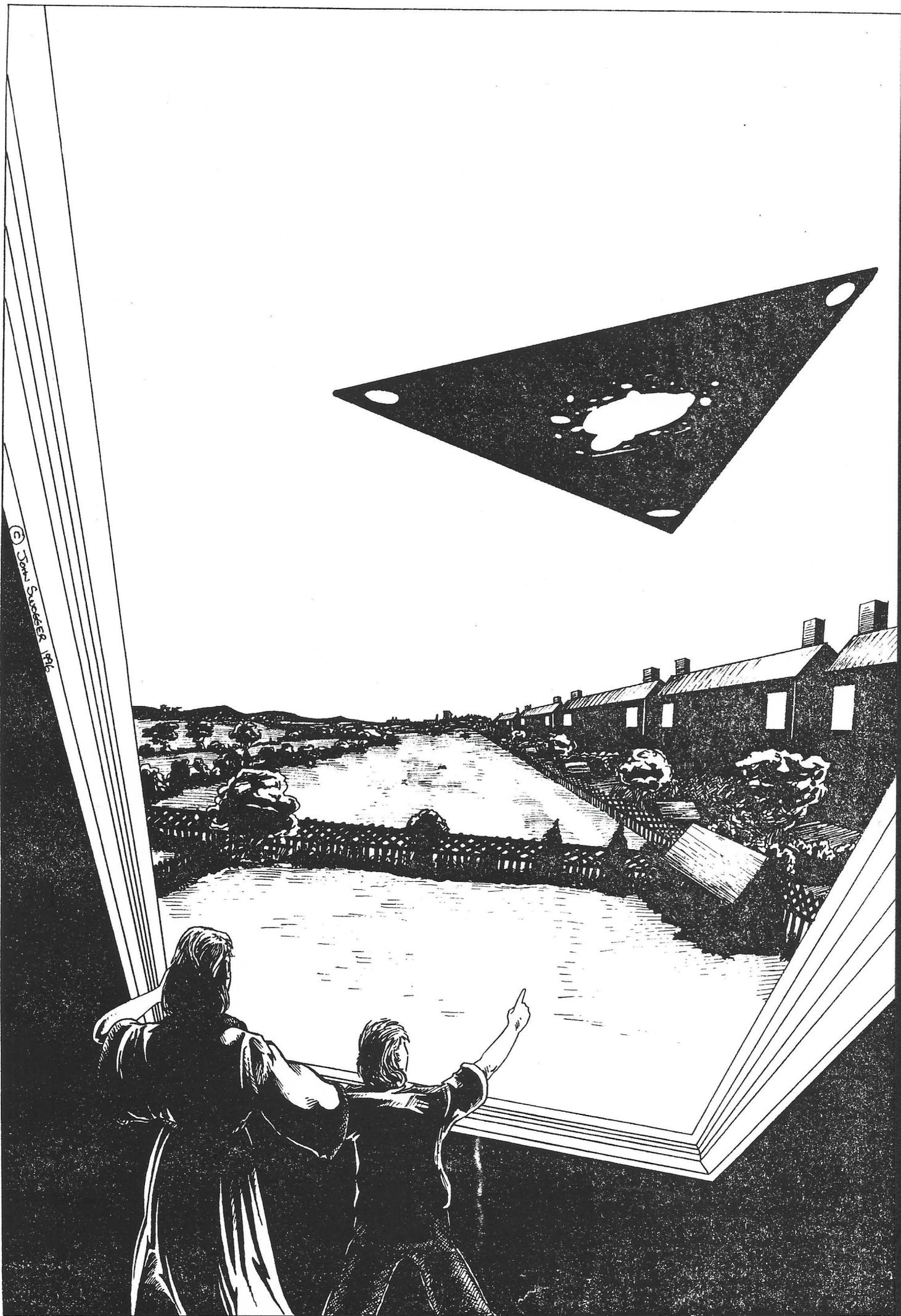
"THE OLD ONES ARE THE BEST."

"NO DEAR WE DON'T HAVE ANY GHOST'S IN HERE."

"WE DON'T SERVE SPIRITS"



*Veacat*



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