



A publication of the Merseyside Anomalies Research Association

Vol.3 Issue 2, Winter 2001/2002

The Researcher

A Journey Into The Mysterious

*"Perhaps tonight
you will die" - Jack The Ripper*



**On The Trail of
Jack The Ripper**

Plus

Knutsford Flying Triangle • Rendlesham Skywatch

Science On The Ropes • A Miracle on Chapel Street

Haunted Roads on the Isle of Man (Part 5) • Parapsychology • Astral Projection

And much more.....

£2

'Interpretation is free, experience is sacred'

The Researcher

Vol 3, Issue 2. Winter 2001/02

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We would like to thank our growing band of readers for their continued support.

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MARAs

A mara is an evil spirit that torments people at night, according to a tradition widespread throughout Northern and Western France. This misty form would settle on people while they were asleep and give them terrible nightmares - from which its name is derived. Belief in maras is also widespread in Scandinavia, according to Elliot O'Donnell in his book *Dangerous Ghosts* (1954), and in Jutland it is said that they take the form of naked women to give men erotic as well as unpleasant dreams!

Contents

Regulars

- 3 The Voice
Editorial by Anthony Eccles.
- 44 The Paranormal News
Paranormal News Round-Up by Colin Veacock.
- 50 An Urban Myth
Disinformation Technology
- 52 About MARA
- 55 PSI Man Says

Features

- 4 Rendlesham Skywatch
Scene of the most famous UK UFO case of the 80s, locals claim that there is still something going on in Rendlesham today. Malcolm Robinson investigates.
- 13 Astral Projection
The ability of the mind to be able to leave its physical body has been claimed for centuries. John Kennedy gives us a brief history.
- 15 January 1974
Local newspaper archives often hold many paranormal gems. Anthony Eccles takes us back to a very weird month on Merseyside.
- 19 Malice in Wonderland
Why is the evidence to support paranormal phenomena so elusive? What is the problem with mainstream science? Steven Verner Weaver tackles some very tough issues.
- 23 On the Trail of Jack the Ripper (Part 1)
After over 100 years the identity of London's most notorious serial killer still remains a mystery. Colin Veacock casts an eye over the available evidence.
- 30 Science on the Ropes
Guest writer Bill Clark takes mainstream science to task and challenges its 'evidence' offered in support of the established laws of physics.
- 34 Haunted Roads on the Isle of Man (Part 5)
The area of Douglas. John Hall continues his exploration of the myths and legends of this magical island.
- 39 The Knutsford Flying Triangle
It is not very often that FT sightings are made by a paranormal investigator. MARAs John Hall saw one, and he and Bill Bimson investigated it.
- 46 A Miracle on Chapel Street
After a near fatal accident, an ordinary Liverpool man begins to experience some extraordinary things. Colin Veacock picks up the story.
- 49 The Headless Horseman of Stockham Lane
Is there a headless horseman on the loose in Runcorn? Mark Rosney takes us back to a strange night in 1982.

The Voice



Editorial by Anthony Eccles

Welcome to the latest issue of The Researcher. For those of you who have not come across this journal before, allow me introduce you to it.

The Researcher is a voice for the MARA group which actually investigates a variety of paranormal phenomena. We carry no belief systems and we objectively investigate each case presented to us. We are the only serious group in Merseyside to do this.

A number of articles you see within this issue are actually written by some of our more experienced members, who have been involved in the paranormal for some time. Guest writers also come on board to give us their insights and new work.

In this issue, we continue our series on haunted roads on the Isle of Man and we have a cracking piece on the Jack the Ripper murders.

Also in this issue is a report on a recent Flying Triangle (FT) sighting over Knutsford, and an account of a recent skywatch in Rendlesham, proported scene of one of the most famous UFO incidents ever to take place in the UK.

But It's not just UFOs and Jack the Ripper, oh no! We also have articles on parapsychology, Astral Projection and an article telling the story of one man who, after a horrific accident, gained the ability to 'see' the dead. All gripping stuff, I'm sure you will all agree.

Often you will find investigations on local cases and this is where you may be able to help us. This journal not only acts to inform the readers about our own research, but also allows members of the public to contact us in confidence should they feel that they are experiencing something very strange. If, for example, you are presently affected by poltergeist phenomena or a haunting, have recently seen a UFO sighting or if you are experiencing episodes of missing time then please do contact us. The members of MARA will always be interested to hear from you.

Send your letters to me at the postal or email address displayed below.

So one again, I bid you a warm welcome to our journal. I hope you will be a regular guest! 

Do you have a paranormal experience you wish to tell us about?

Contact us by writing to:

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Rendlesham Forest Skywatch

By Malcolm Robinson

On July 14th 2001, Malcolm Robinson of Strange Phenomena Investigations (SPI England) organised a skywatch over Rendlesham Forest, location of the alleged Woodbridge UFO incident which occurred in 1980. Was anything unusual seen? Here's Malcolms report.

Being involved in UFOlogy can be boring, exciting, interesting, and somewhat tedious. At the end of the day however, one has to accept the fact that UFOlogy also comprises of getting out there, doing the biz as it were, and a big slice of that is taking part in skywatches. Many UFO groups around the country hold regular skywatches in an attempt to perhaps witness something strange, something bizarre, and something which will for them, enforce and enhance their interest in a subject which can sometimes dwell on the ridiculous.

That said, there are numerous accounts by individuals (not only UFO people) but Joe Public as well, who have attended skywatches and have been witness to some strange aerial events.

'Even today people claim that there are still strange goings on in the skies above Rendlesham'

Rendlesham Forest in Suffolk England is now infamous for a series of UFO events, which occurred near a United States Air Force Base (Woodbridge) back in the winter of 1980. Many USAF personnel were dispatched into Rendlesham forest to find out the cause of strange lights that were seen near the base. Clearly someone felt that these lights warranted a full scale investigation and a Colonel Charles Halt was also dispatched to find out what was going on. The events of that night (and subsequent nights) has went down in British UFOlogical history as a case of immense proportions, but equally, the case has been ridiculed by sceptics who say that it's nothing more than a combination of the spinning lights of Orfordness Lighthouse, and mating rabbits making holes in the forest floor. A few books have been written about the events of Rendlesham Forest, the recent one being that by English writer

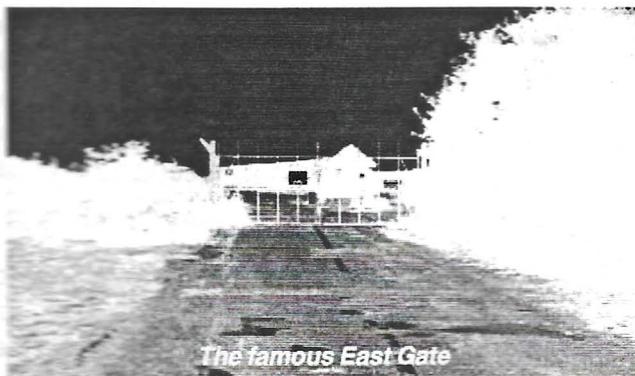
Georgina Bruni (*"You Can't Tell The People"*). [Sidwick & Jackson]

Incredible as though it may sound, even today people claim that there are still strange 'goings on' in the skies above Rendlesham Forest, so much so, that a number of British UFO & Paranormal societies regularly go into the woods in hopes of a sighting. Researcher Brenda Butler was one of the first Investigators to break the story of Rendlesham, along with Dot Street and Jenny Randles. Brenda is still a regular visitor to Rendlesham Forest and was more than keen to get involved with our SPI (England) skywatch.

I decided to organise the skywatch at Rendlesham Forest for two reasons, firstly, it would help bring together all those UFO groups that are scattered throughout the country to meet up and share experiences, get to know one another. Secondly, the skywatch would be a good opportunity for those not in UFOlogy (friends of UFO researchers etc) to come along and enjoy the evening. The organising of Major UFO skywatches would appear not to be a big thing in this country hence I decided to change all that. I wanted to bring all the groups together and give them a sense of purpose whilst having a night out when perhaps nothing would happen at all! This skywatch will be the first of many National UFO skywatches that I intend to organise throughout the U.K. My intentions are to hold these skywatches in 'UFO Window Areas' or 'Hot Spots' where UFOs have been regularly seen. I intend to hold these skywatches in the Rossendale Valley in Yorkshire, Broadhaven in Dyfed West Wales, Bonnybridge in Stirlingshire Scotland and other UFO 'Hot Spots'. And so to get the ball rolling so to speak, I decided that Rendlesham Forest in Suffolk would be a good starting place as any. And so it was on the night of Saturday the 14th of July 2001, myself and my partner Judith Jaafar travelled up to Suffolk from London with UFO witness and author Chris Martin.

The Rendlesham Forest Skywatch.

We arrived at our meeting place the Cherry Tree pub just outside the village of Eyke on a lovely clear night. I was having reservations about the weather prior to Saturday due to all the heavy rain that most of the country had been experiencing, still, the heavens had cleared and it looked like we would have a fine night for it. Looking around, I found that one or two other UFOlogists had assembled. We then all headed outside to the beer garden where I gave a short introduction about why I was holding the skywatch and some general information about SPI (England) I then invited Brenda Butler to step forward and explain about all the recent UFO sightings that had been recorded over the forest (which there had been many!) She also spoke about how we should all respect the forest and abide by the laws set down by the forestry commission, ie, not to smoke in the actual forest itself. Brenda set the scene well and hearing all these strange recent accounts made one eager to set off straight away to the forest. Brenda had drawn a map of the forest and separated it into sections where she and her colleagues had witnessed things, this proved most interesting and gave one an insight as to those actual areas where things had been seen. I then invited Chris Martin the author of *"Intruders In The Night"* and himself a UFO experimenter, to come forward and explain about how he planned to 'vector in' UFO activity. It was one thing to attend a skywatch, but when someone claims that he can make UFOs appear! Well that's another story. With the introductions over, it was time to head off in convoy in our respective cars to Rendlesham Forest.



The famous East Gate

Driving through the winding country lanes brought back memories of our SPI skywatches in Scotland where Bonnybridge was the most popular destination. After around 5 minutes we pulled up into a car park near East gate in which we all gathered around and decided that our first port of call would be the actual alleged 'landing site' where

the remarkable events of that winter's night back in 1980 transpired. Before we marched off into the forest though, we did a head count, any forest in the pitch dark can be a foreboding and inhospitable place and Rendlesham Forest certainly claimed to be the top notch in this regard. I counted 32 people in all (including myself) which although wasn't too bad, was certainly not as good as I expected.

As we all headed off through the darkened forest, I looked up into the night sky and was pleased to see nothing but stars, there was hardly a cloud in sight, absolutely perfect viewing conditions, (we couldn't have picked a better night). Not only that, but there was no wind, the area was completely still not a breeze or anything. This was a big change from my last visit when I was nearly blown off my feet by the wind! Being in such a controversial UFO 'Hot Spot' area made one feel slightly pensive (well it did me!) knowing that at perhaps any minute something might burst forth and scare the living daylights from me, but again this was part and parcel of the mystique of the place. People are drawn to places such as this, as they are to Avebury, Stonehenge, and the various other strange places throughout Britain. After a short while we arrived at our first port of call the alleged landing site where Colonel Charles Halt claims to have encountered small grey 'beings'. I wasn't surprised to learn that there are three actual claimed landing sites. One of them being claimed by Larry Warren (one of the original witnesses from 1980), the other site claimed by Author and researcher Georgina Bruni (from her own interviews with witnesses) But what was the real one !!! 32 people crowded together in a small circular clearing around the Colonel Charles Halt site and no doubt were casting their minds back to that eventful winter's night of 1980. I was first to break the silence and said,

"Isn't this just too small a space for what was claimed to have been seen that night to land here!"

Brenda Butler replied that although the area we were now looking at was indeed very small and confined, back in 1980 this area was more open and as such could harbour the device as witnessed. As I stood in this area I looked around and everyone was silent and thoughtful no doubt trying to make sense of the claimed events of those particular nights. We spent around 15 to 20 minutes at this sight, and later on I learned that some people claimed to have seen at this site,

'flashes of light' in the sky From there we headed off through the dark woods with our torches beaming around and lighting up the darkness behind the many trees which enshrouded us. We eventually arrived at another claimed 'UFO landing spot' which Georgina Bruni claims is the 'real one' due to her extensive research and interviews with witnesses to the event (more so Vince Thurnkettle). Again everyone was silent and contemplating what might have occurred at this very spot on that cold winter's night. I looked up at the sky, which was still a blanket of stars, wonderful conditions. I then began to flash my torch on and off into the night sky as this function had provided other UFO researchers with returned light phenomena, but on this occasion, nothing. Just the stars and the odd satellite met my gaze. It was early days however and we still had the rest of the night.

'We eventually arrived at another claimed UFO landing spot'

After spending some time at this site, we then headed off to quite an unusual tree!! Brenda, who was doing a marvelous job of ensuring that everyone remained close together in the woods, then stopped at a tree and asked everyone to look closely at it. It soon became apparent what she was on about, for there as plain as day, was what resembled an alien (more so that loveable character E.T.) I'm sure I've seen a photograph of this 'face' in the tree in one of the UFO magazines. Of course it was just pure simulacra, but nonetheless it was quite comical! As we walked away from this tree, someone pointed out some luminous worms or insects on the ground, they seemed to charge in the bright torchlight apparently they are quite common to the forest. We then headed off to where USAF Airman Larry Warren, one of the key players in this whole story, claimed the UFO event occurred. A gentleman from the Norwich UFO society then pointed out the Orfordness Lighthouse in the distance, which was casting it's very soft and 'faint' glow around. This was Capel Green, where Larry Warren claimed the UFO came down, of course there were many more trees around back then, the great storm of 1987 ended the life of many a tree not only at Rendlesham but all over the U.K. as well, so obviously the area that we were looking at was

quite different. The gentleman explained what happened here and had a captive audience listening to each and every word under a blanket of stars. Wonderful. After a while we left this area and headed back off deep into the forest.

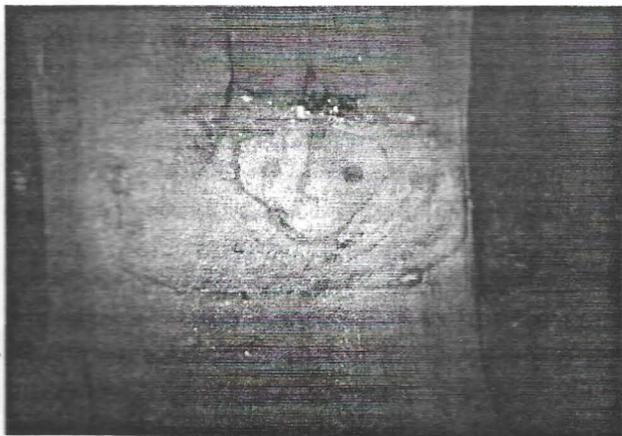
It was at this point that someone wanted to meditate and tune in and see what, if 'anything' he may get. This was also an opportunity for Chris Martin to try and 'vector in' UFO activity. The whole group (many sitting) sat in silence, each with their own thoughts whilst two men, strangers to each other sent their thoughts skywards. Sceptics of course will no doubt find this quite amusing perhaps so (!) but at the end of the day this type of procedure has, allegedly produced things to happen at various locations throughout the world. After 20 minutes or so, Brenda's dog began to get restless (I think she mentioned that something spooked it !) and Brenda suggested that we move onto another location.

We then headed back off through the dark forest (believe me it was dark) when I realised that I hadn't seen one of our party for quite some time. Being a big party, people were dropping back and talking to one another, getting aquatinted and so on and I thought that this was why I hadn't seen this chap, I won't mention his name as I want to spare his blushes (but how could you get lost!!). I mentioned this to Brenda and the others at a spot called the seat and the realisation that we had lost one of the party sunk in and we began to get concerned, the last thing we wanted was someone lost in the woods, especially after Brenda had been given permission by the forestry commission and the local police for this event to go ahead. However, soon after this I received a call on my mobile, it was the missing person, he had somehow found his way to a campsite which had a public phone (he didn't believe in mobile phones, he does now though!). Someone was dispatched to pick him up and sheepish individual re-joined the skywatch crew.

Brenda took the party to other various sites of interest in the forest, her extensive memory around the place certainly impressed everyone, it did me, and without Brenda I would have been well and truly lost. Brenda of course, is well used to taking people around the forest and knows the place like the back of her hand. At all the various places we stopped at, I personally never saw a thing, well, apart that is from one area where we all had stopped and a number of us saw a light moving

across the sky which flashed once and seemed to disappear, this could have been a satellite though. Chris Martin failed to materialize any UFOs which was a disappointment considering his success elsewhere. But I think for me, what was the most illuminating thing of the whole night, was when we were walking along one of the forest tracks with people moving their torches this way and that. Someone from the back of our group show their torch to the front of the group above their heads and illuminated 2 telephone cables stretching across the forest. Now when the torch hit these cables, it looked like a bright light streaking across the sky as the torch was moving along the cables. At this point all we could hear was a "Woooo" from the front of the party thinking they had seen something mysterious, which of course it wasn't. But it was plain to see the power of imagination.

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The 'unusual tree' with ET face

The skywatch for me had been a success and although as far as I was concerned I hadn't seen anything that I would deem mysterious, I had nonetheless enjoyed myself. Speaking to other people afterwards, it was plain to see that they too felt the night had been worthwhile, like minded individuals had met up, each of us sharing a common interest. I mentioned earlier that some people had seen things. Let me now relate what Brenda Butler herself experienced on this skywatch. From a letter, which I received afterwards from Brenda, she had this to say.

Brenda Butler's Statement.

"I felt as though the night went well, people felt and saw different things as we went around. I knew that we were being watched and followed (eyes in the forest). Everytime we go down there this happens. We have seen (Brenda and Chris)

little monk type figures behind us, we have seen shadows and E.T's watching us. Rendlesham Forest holds great mysteries, 'we' are the intruders down there not 'them'. They have a message for us. Soon we will have the knowledge to work it out".

Brenda also mentioned in her letter to me, what she herself had felt/sensed the night we were in the forest, from her notes I take the following.

(1) Colonel Halt's Sighting Place.

"Saw a flash of light across the sky. We normally see a flash of light when E.Ts are about when they come from their atmosphere to ours. My dog was fine here."

(2) Georgina Bruni's Place.

"Very peaceful. Saw little red lights in and out of the trees behind everyone. This is where Peter and myself have had two and a half-hours of missing time and contact. Several messages have been given here. (Dog fine)".

(3) Alien Tree.

"Peaceful, spiritual, picked up that we were being watched. Photographs that I have taken around this tree have come out with things on them. John picked up weird things on his camcorder. Something like smoke coming out of the ground, (Friday night, the night before your skywatch). [Dog fine]"

(4) Place Where Dog went Missing.

"Saw red and blue lights around everyone, everyone seemed to be glowing, something around everyone. Saw a figure, a tall dark figure, although it felt peaceful there is something not quite right here. (My dog didn't like it at all it kept whining and wanting to go). Mark from Norwich also saw a dark figure around everyone. Cold breeze around everyone." (I never saw or felt any of this!)

(5) Seat-Clearing.

"On entering the clearing behind the seat, several people felt something had happened there. There have been figures seen there, little monk people and lights. Whilst there we all saw a white light travelling across the sky, bright one minute, then

dull the next. We see these lights most nights we go down there. A lot of paranormal activity happens around this area. (Dog fine)"

(6) The Settlement.

"Once again little monk figures have been seen around this area. Felt peaceful here but know we were being watched and followed as always"

The above then are the thoughts of researcher and witness Brenda Butler. Some might say that the above is purely fanciful (and they may be correct) but let us not lose sight of the fact that we are dealing with the something which we technically know very little about. That some people the world over are gifted in the sense that they 'see' things which other people don't, is a fascination for sure. They are not all deluded, just because we can't see what they see doesn't mean that it doesn't exist (but then I guess the reader knows that.)

Brenda's friend Peter, who receives communication from 'something' (!) Got the following message whilst we were in the forest. This is what he got, make of it what you will.

***'If all this is
true then there is
clearly still something
very mysterious
operating in
Rendlesham Forest'***

Message To Peter.

*"In and out, two sides of time, our time is different to yours. We have time in which we can return, we need not to change our lives as we are timeless. We live in two time fields where we can keep in touch with your space. We need to feed off the energy of your thoughts and auras".
"We have evolved to live off energy given off by your world. We move around energy waves and come through lots of portals. The writings are of 'our' time, the signs are off 'our' time."*

"To explain who we are, we appear to you in all forms. We do not need to eat food, we live in a world of energy fields. We come into your world all over the place. Your living keeps us living.

We need you, you need us to get into the future, world life will change for you all too".

Well, interesting stuff indeed, but can we put any stock on it !!! Who knows!! Brenda also mentioned to me that they are regularly contacted down at Rendlesham Forest by Sporro and Astrom!! I can't comment on any of this but all I can say is, "Who Knows"!! Some of the more other interesting things that Brenda and her colleagues have witnessed/experienced in the forest is 'jelly fish' type 'things' appearing above the tree-tops, a strange sound that came over a radio, brown shapes moving in the undergrowth and jumping up trees (!) and 'shape shifters' on track 10. If all this is true (and other people have confirmed this) then there is clearly still something very mysterious operating in Rendlesham Forest.

Joe McGonagle one of the attendees at our skywatch wrote to me and mentioned that he had enjoyed our skywatch but never saw anything himself. He felt that the night lost its focus on the skywatch due to everyone being shown around all the various areas of interest and stopping off to 'tune in'. That said he thoroughly enjoyed himself and is keen to take part in another one.

James MacKenzie (a freelance journalist) also thoroughly enjoyed himself, so much so that he went down the night before the skywatch and stayed two days afterwards !! I remember at one point in the forest where we were all sitting quiet and 'tuning in' James was lying flat out on the forest floor staring intently up through the canopy of trees into the dark starry night sky, it took me some time to get him up as we were moving location. Some of the other people who enjoyed the night were, Jon Saunders, Jon Marsden, Daniel Goss, Mark Wild, Dave Moncur, Terry Lambert, Garry (of the South Wales UFO Group) Rob Boreham, David Morgan, Peter Parish, Glyn and Karen Edwards to name but a few.

Bulgarian Interest!

As I mentioned at the start of this article, I notified many UFO & Paranormal groups here in the U.K. about this National UFO skywatch, somehow a research group from Bulgaria (Bojana) got to hear about it. I received an e-mail from one Vesselin Yakvovov (now there's a name!) who mentioned that his group were keen to take part as well. They were going to turn their clocks to British time and do a skywatch at the same time in Bulgaria (Sofia). He went on to say that it would really be a

big success if they detected a UFO over Bulgaria!! He also stated that some of his members lived in Macedonia, Serbia, Greece and Turkey and he would inform them to keep a look out in their respective skies to see if they witnessed anything. Now how's that for corporation!

A few days after the skywatch I received an e-mail from Vesselin he mentioned that their Bulgarian skywatch resulted in no UFO sightings. They saw a lot of satellites and aircraft and two meteors but nothing that could be termed 'anomalous'. Still it was nice of him and his colleagues to cooperate and if more cooperation were shown between UFO groups then I guess all our work would be that much better.

Another attendee of our skywatch was researcher Jac Sheridan (psydenom). Jac submitted his thoughts and feelings in regards to the SPI (England) skywatch and I now present his comments. Some may find the following over the top and hard to believe, but like I said earlier when discussing Brenda and Peter's thoughts, one must keep an open mind for if you don't then you are not being objective.

Events of the Week (July 14th) by Jac Sheridan.

"At approximately 02:30am a vast glowing object traversed the night sky heading East-West from the area of the original (Larry Warren) landing site directly over the former USAF Woodbridge base. The object was similar to a shooting star in attitude and orientation but much bigger and brighter than any shooting star could be. It dragged behind it a trail of light or possibly flame, which rippled like waves upon the atmosphere. The incident lasted about five seconds and was witnessed by several people. Five minutes previously Brenda Butler told us she had just witnessed an object of identical description travelling along a more North-South axis."

Language In Staccato Sounds.

Shortly after this, three of us went into the forest a formed a meditation circle close to Larry Warren's landing site and isolated ourselves deep amongst the trees. We meditated on and off for about an hour between 03:00 to 04:00 in the pre dawn. Shortly before daylight I was jolted from my meditation by a sharp staccato sound. The noise was rapid and sounded mechanical, yet felt organic like a footballers rattle giving the

distinct impression of language or at least, communication as it seemed to fill the forest behind us. As I made my companions aware of this, the same sound came back from the opposite side of the forest as though in answer. The second member of my team heard the sound quite clearly and claimed he had received psychic impressions of a small Brownish-Grey entity standing behind me, but the third member of our group said she saw and heard nothing! Which seemed impossible as it was all quite loud and clear. I have previously heard recordings made by others in Rendlesham of a sound which although very similar, held a staccato rhythm quite noticeably slower than the sounds we heard on the night of the 14th."

'The noise was rapid and sounded mechanical'

Aftermath.

Two days later whilst I was receiving a top up charge from a psychic Chinese medical practitioner, I became suddenly aware of the presence of an alien figure in the ether directly beside where I was lying. He looked and sounded bizarre, striped like some kind of mackerel fish, his face had high gills like mini wings and it's body was a mottled silver and red. My therapist also saw him and also spotted another entity behind us. He then told me that he could see a series of symbols trapped in my aura revolving mostly around variations on the shape of a lightning flash. The 'entities' seemed protective towards me and initially they interfered with his efforts to treat me as though trying to push him away. He said, and I quote;

"My energy system seems to be closed down from the inside as though someone or something is protecting a project of their own design"

"Eventually we managed to proceed although the two entities remained a strong presence throughout the session."

Saturday 21st July 2001.

"I returned to Rendlesham Forest with a friend on Saturday and shortly after 22:00hrs we both clearly witnessed a bright glowing orb of light

climb slowly into the air beyond the legendary East-Gate and hover a while before accelerating at extreme speed towards Ipswich. A few moments afterwards, my companion saw the red dotted beam of a laser weapon site pass across the back of my head. Deeply disturbed by this I returned the following day."

'When we reached the cars on the East Gate car park we realised that 'ALL' of the batteries to the cam-corder had run down completely flat'

Sunday 22nd July 2001.

"Accompanied by Ros Reynolds and her boyfriend Danny we moved around in the treeline close to East-Gate and each of us felt decidedly ill at ease, (although I did concede that perhaps anybody would feel this at the thought of being a hair trigger away from taking a fatal bullet.) Danny was very strongly affected by what he was sensing and at certain times he seemed to be physically shaking. When we reached the cars on the East-Gate car park we realised that 'ALL' of the batteries to the cam-corder had run down completely flat. This was very significant because Ros had only bought these batteries brand new whilst enroute to the forest just 30 minutes earlier and the camera had hardly been used. It was about this time we realised something was going horribly wrong in this place on this particular night and we nearly quit but instead we adjourned to the pub for an hour (but consumed only soft drinks)"

Something Flies Overhead.

"We then returned to the forest at 23:30 by approximately midnight we had taken up position in a location close by the area where my original group had first encountered the staccato sound on the 14th. We settled down to sit very quietly deep inside the treeline. After about 10 or 15 minutes we heard a low droning hum accompanied by a steady pulsating 'whoosh' which passed slowly overhead almost directly above our position and held sufficient physical

presence to disturb the overhead branches on the surrounding trees. The object was completely invisible without lights, and although it was almost 'felt' rather than 'seen', it definitely seemed to have mass and a very strong presence"

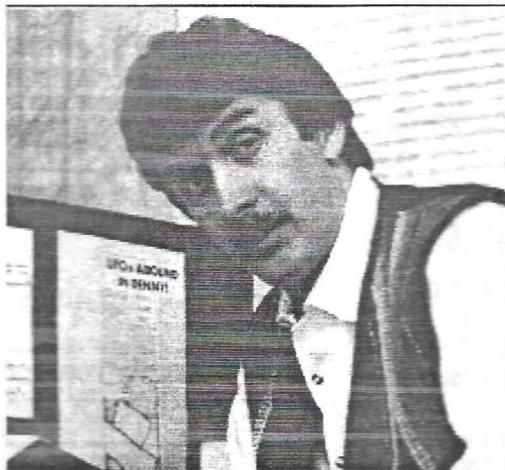
Time And Energy Loss.

"When the three of us reached the car park and checked our watches we appeared to have lost a certain amount of time, although we could not agree exactly how much and opinions varied from 45 to 90 minutes. However we had no trouble agreeing that each of us now shared a collective state of unnatural exhaustion so severe that we each feared we would be unable to safely manage our respective return journeys which were quite lengthy. This extreme fatigue is a phenomenon, which has occurred with some of us on previous occasions. Yet despite my physical depleted state I found upon returning home that my sleep was fitful and deeply disturbed as I lay continually besieged throughout the remainder of the night by terrible nightmares more severe than anything I have ever previously experienced, with each of these dreams revolving around the common theme of energy loss and 'Vampirism'. Again I follow through with a thorough examination by the same practitioner of Chinese medicine whose professional opinion affirms that on this occasion I have indeed suffered a major inexplicable loss of Meridian energy. So as I summarise this account, I cannot help but wonder if whatever had drained the life out of those cam-corder batteries had tried to do exactly the same with each of us!"

Jac Sheridan.

Closing Thoughts

Many people come to Rendlesham Forest, each with their own thoughts, feelings and Expectations, there is no denying that the place holds a certain 'something'. Most researchers and authors agree that way beyond the principal Rendlesham Forest Incident, there were many unexplainable events, which occurred there, and, as we have seen above, are still occurring. We have learned however that there are some people who would appear to see things, which other people do not! What does this tell us! Are their visions real or are they all wishful expectant thinking! Sceptics would suggest the latter. What we have to bear in mind though is that there is no smoke without



Malcolm Robinson

fire. Clearly an incident of immense proportions occurred at Rendlesham Forest back in the winter of 1980. As a researcher into strange phenomenon the Rendlesham Forest Incident stands as a major British mystery, admittedly there appears to be a lot of disinformation which surrounds this case was that purposely done to muddy the waters? Was the incident nothing other than a new proto-type aerial object of our own which got into difficulty and overshot the Bentwaters runway crashing into the forest and a UFO cover story put out to take the sting out of what it truly was? Or, as UFOlogists would have us believe, this truly was a craft from somewhere else of which it's purpose is unknown? At the end of the day the Rendlesham Forest mystery will probably remain just that unless some new major and earth shattering witness testimony comes to light but the UFO subject is never usually that revealing and I can only hope that whatever the truth is that happened at Rendlesham, will see the light of day eventually 

Suggested Further reading

'You Can't Tell The People' by **Georgina Bruni, Sidgwick & Jackson** 25 Eccleston Place, London, England, SW1 9NF.
ISBN: 0 283 06358 0.

'Sky Crash' by **Brenda Butler, Dot Street & Jenny Randles**. (1984) Grafton Books, 8 Grafton Street, London, England, W1X 3LA.
ISBN: 0 586 066780.

'Left At East Gate' by **Larry Warren and Peter Robbins**, (1997) Michael O Mara Books Ltd, 9 Lion Yard, Tremadoc Road, London, England, SW4 7NQ.
ISBN: 1 85479 231 8

About the Author

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E-mail: spi_spi@hotmail.com

Web site: <http://www.fsreview.net/spi/spihome.htm>

2002 NATIONAL SKYWATCHES.

SPI (England) intend to hold a further two National UFO skywatches in the U.K. next year. The first one will be at a UFO 'Hot Spot' in England, and the second one will be occurring at Bonnybridge Stirlingshire Central Scotland. No confirmed dates have been arranged as yet but will be soon. Should you be interested in attending either or both of these skywatches, then please contact Malcolm Robinson at the address above.

Rendlesham Web Resources

<http://www.ufoworld.co.uk/rend2.htm>

A detailed breakdown of the incidents with an interesting 'down to earth' conclusion.

<http://www.apra.org.uk/rendlesham.html>

Anomalous Phenomenon Research Agency's website. Contains details of a field visit to Rendlesham forest in 1991.

<http://www.jufo.freemove.co.uk/page20.html>

The web pages of Michael Joyce. Includes information about recent sightings in Rendlesham Forest.

<http://www.ufon.org.uk/rend.html>

Ian Ridpath's theories as to what was seen during the Rendlesham forest UFO sightings in 1980.

<http://www.ufozone.fsnet.co.uk/htmlpages/rendlesham.htm>

In May this year the MOD released the contents of their formerly secret file on the case. See the documents here!

Vampire Books & Audio Cassettes

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BOOKS:

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~ Peter Underwood, President, The Ghost Club Society

"Sean Manchester is to be congratulated on this fine piece of research work which I confess to enjoying to the extreme."

~ Dr Devendra P Varma, Dept of English Literature, Dalhousie University

"This book will be read in a hundred years time, two hundred years time, three hundred years time ~ in short, for as long as mankind is interested in the supernatural. It has the most genuine power to grip. Once you have started to read it, it is virtually impossible to put it down."

~ Lyndall Mack, Udolpho, magazine of the Gothic Society

THE VAMPIRE HUNTER'S HANDBOOK ~ A Concise Vampirological Guide (Illustrated with photographs. Large format paperback edition. Laminate cover.)

Price (UK): £7.50 Price (outside UK):
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"This fascinating book gives away the trade secrets of the vampire hunter, methods that have served Sean Manchester well for over a quarter of a century. It also provides an insight into the man. This book is not for the faint-hearted!"

~ Shaun Marin, Uri Geller's Encounters magazine

CARMEL ~ A Vampire Tale (Illustrated. Large format paperback edition. Laminate cover.)

Price (UK): £9.99 Price (outside UK):
£13.00 (sterling) or \$22.00 (USA dollars)

"Easily the best vampire novel I have read since the original Dracula."

~ Peter Underwood, author of over forty supernatural titles

"Stoker has, at last, a literary heir worthy of writing a sequel."

~ Sylvaine Charlet, author and arcanologist

CASSETTES:

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(90 minutes audio cassette)

Price (UK): £4.99 Price (outside UK):
£8.00 (sterling) or \$10.00 (USA dollars)

The eerie case of the Highgate Vampire features an extremely rare archive recordings that span thirty years are exhumed and the voices of witnesses, including victims, speak out. An array of controversial television and radio transmissions made by the VRS president can also be heard. A 1970s interview with the bandwagoner David Farrant is offered as irrefutable evidence he was not part of the official investigation into the Highgate Vampire case.

THE HIGHGATE VAMPIRE SUITE

(90 minutes audio cassette)

Price (UK): £4.99 Price (outside UK):
£8.00 (sterling) or \$10.00 (USA dollars)

"Strange ... fantastic ... atmospheric" is how French actress Sylvaine Charlet describes this music which is interpolated with archive extracts that only increase the eerie tension as footsteps are retraced over the old ground at Highgate Cemetery. One of the schoolgirls who saw bodies rising describes her terrifying experience.

VAMPIRES! (90 minutes audio cassette)

Price (UK): £4.99 Price (outside UK):
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This is an introduction to the undead and those who emulate the undead. The real vampire is examined alongside the phenomenon of vampiroidism: people who identify with the cult of the undead. Interloping publicist David Farrant (who founded the fraudulent "Highgate Vampire Society" in 1997) can be heard on an obscure cable television programme telling the audience that he does not believe in the existence of vampires. ... Bizarre!

DARK JOURNEY (90 minutes audio cassette)

Price (UK): £4.99 Price (outside UK):
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Not for the squeamish! Ultra-vampiroids who embrace satanic rites and sometimes ritual murder. Not only David Berkowitz, but also Rod Ferrell, David Farrant, John Pope and David Austen. Farrant does not deny being perceived as a Satanist and talks of blood sacrifice and Lucifer as being the "deity" to whom he pays homage. Rod Ferrell, on death row, talks from his cell about the vampiroid cult he led and the horrific murders he committed. ... Chilling!

To receive any of the above books and cassettes, send a cheque or money order, for the appropriate sum (payable to **GOTHIC PRESS**) to the address below. All prices shown include postage and handling to anywhere in the world. Postage and handling within the United Kingdom incur no additional charge and the prices shown for all books are the recommended retail prices as found in UK booksellers. Send your remittance and order to:

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Astral Projection

By John Kennedy

The ability of being able to leave one's body and fly off into other planes of existence has been claimed by many people for thousands of years. John Kennedy looks into the history of this intriguing phenomenon and the methods used to achieve Out of Body Experiences.

Astral Projection is the ability to project the Astral or Spirit body onto the Astral or Spirit planes, either on a conscious or unconscious level.

For thousands of years, mankind has believed that there is a world of reality and experience beyond the physical plane to which the subtle or Astral body, freed from its prison of flesh, has access.

The Astral or Spirit realm inhabits our space, not our very surroundings, but on a higher vibratory level or realm of consciousness. Dreaming is a form of Astral travel but on the lower planes.

There are believed to be seven initial levels or planes of existence in the Astral world. The lowest of the planes co-exist with the earth plane, but as stated before, at a higher vibratory level. This is why most people cannot see into the Astral or Spirit realms. Mediums and psychics, sometimes referred to as 'sensitives', are more attuned to these vibrational levels and can therefore make contact.

'For thousands of years mankind has believed that there is a world of reality and experience beyond the physical plane'

On the seventh of these initial levels of the Astral planes, there is believed to be a doorway to another seven levels. These higher levels are home to more advanced souls - beings that have no need of materialistic happiness. The lower initial levels are very much like the earth planes.

The ancient Egyptians thought of the Astral body as a bird with a human face. At death, the bird would leave the physical body but hover close to it. They also believed that the Astral plane was entered by means of ten gates and seven doors.

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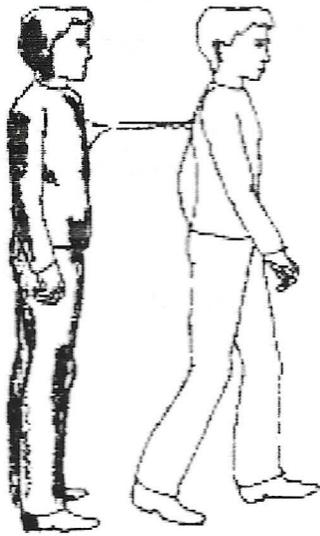
The Bible also makes references to Astral projection. St. Paul describes a man he knew who, "whether in body or out of the body, God knoweth, was caught up into Paradise and heard unspeakable words, which is not lawful for a man to utter" (2 Corinthians 12:3) Is it possible that the man had come into contact with the Akashic records? The Akashic records are a record of every event, idea and emotion that has ever occurred since the dawn of time. They are also said to be a record of probabilities for the future, which, it is believed, are preserved in the Astral light.

There is a belief that to cross into the realm of boundless light, one first has to pass through the Hades Belt. This surrounds the earth and is called Hades Belt because it resembles the Hades of Greek mythology. Differing accounts have told of a watery zone, a river, an ocean, a column of water vapour or a fog. In each case the image of water is present. If one makes it through this watery area, one finds oneself in the world of boundless light.

The phenomenon of Out of Body Experiences (OOBE) raises considerable problems for philosophers and psychologists. Many sceptics maintain that any suggestion of an OOBE should be dismissed as a hallucination or delusion. From accounts given by those who have had an OOBE, the general sensation is at first indistinguishable

from the ordinary physical state, except for a feeling of buoyancy and positive well-being. People have said that their ghost or Astral body seemed to remain attached to their physical body by a thin cord, enabling them to return to their body at will.

Illustration copyright Alfred Ballabene, 1997.



The Astral body is said to be a replica of the flesh and blood version, but made up of finer matter. It has a luminous appearance and is capable of separating from the physical, travelling at high speed and passing through solid objects. Action follows thought in the Astral world.

An individual can learn to have an out of body projection through certain techniques:

- Meditation
- Visualisation
- Lucid Dreaming

Helpful conditions for Astral projection:

1. A suitable place - a quiet room
2. Comfort - lying down
3. Clothing - loose, comfortable or no clothing
4. Lighting - dim or no light at all
5. Atmosphere - no distractions
6. Time - personally, I find the best time is when first waking.

To end on a personal note - to any of you who try Astral projection for yourselves and have any success, there will be no turning back. To see the glory of the Astral planes, to fly like Superman, with all your senses intact, you will be hooked! ®

John Kennedy is a psychiatric nurse and can be heard on the Tom Slemen's slot of the Billy Butler show on Thursday afternoons on Radio Merseyside 95.8FM

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January 1974 - Tremors, buses, phantom 'copters and a ghost ship.

By Anthony Eccles

Whilst doing some research for another investigator, MARA Co-ordinator Anthony Eccles stumbled across a host of paranormal stories in the local newspaper archives. Anthony now takes us back to January 1974, a very paranormal month for Merseyside:

I was trailing through the archives of the local newspapers in search of stories that have long since been forgotten, the sort of activity local authors would do. The two obvious choices for my research was the Liverpool Echo and Liverpool Daily Post. Do readers know how easy it is to find stories about the paranormal in these papers and publish a book with such amassed information? This sort of literature is not in-depth research, it is just a means of skimming through the material and seeing what is available.

I chose the year 1974, not by sheer chance but because a fellow colleague had asked me to help him with some research into local newspaper clippings that featured earth tremors which originated in North Wales. These tremors were closely connected to the Berwyn UFO incident. Whilst glancing through the month of January I noticed that there were other paranormal stories in print. One of these has not really been thoroughly researched and it grabbed my curiosity somewhat. This is the story of the Moslem ghost ship.

'Several of the crew had reported seeing the apparition of a woman'

The Moslem ghost ship was a feature written on the 23rd January by journalist Peter Gould and was entitled *Crew in fear of ghostly stowaway*. The Bunga Orkid was a 10730 tonne freighter from Malaysia which was temporarily berthed at Alexandra dock before heading out to Le Havre and then returning to the Far East. According to the article, several of the crew had reported seeing the apparition of a woman which floated along the passageways and was even observed below decks. So serious were the claims of the superstitious crewman that they asked for a Moslem priest (or Imam) to come on board the

ship. A ship's officer was quoted as saying that "they want him to perform a ritual to get rid of the evil spirit." Four fatalities had already occurred on board the ship, not surprisingly this may have increased the level of superstition of the crew.

Interestingly enough the Liverpool Imam had stated that he had heard about the *ghost* some time ago but he had been unable to visit the crew. Two days later, the Daily Post reported that the Mr. Ali Hizzan, the Liverpool Imam, spent an hour on board the ship. Further information revealed that the ship's apparition was heard "breaking into song" but was actually never seen. In fact crew had been disturbed by a series of strange noises on board. Ahmad Suffian, the ship's Chief Officer, said "they have heard noises outside their cabins, and have heard a woman singing, but when they've gone to look, there's been nobody outside." The officer considered the vessel to be unlucky as a number of deaths and accidents had taken place on the ship. Rather than performing a ritual the Imam tried to allay the crew's fears despite the fact that the crew were very superstitious. No more is mentioned about the ship's activities other than dockers had not noticed anything whilst loading cargo on board.

Between the 24th and the 29th January the Liverpool and Welsh editions of the daily Post printed several features of earth tremors that shook the North West on the evening of the 23rd. It was front page news. The Institute of Geological Science's observatory at Eskdalemuir had recorded the tremor at 8.39pm. It was noted as being a large tremor. Gwynedd police had reports of a meteorite crashing onto Cader Fronwen mountain. Witnesses had seen flares on the slopes of the 2572 feet mountain. Police on the Isle of Man reported that several people had seen a meteorite travelling in the direction of North Wales. This story was to begin the historic Berwyn Mountain UFO.

Even the coast guard on Anglesey, Formby, Holyhead, Cumberland and the Isle of Man confirmed these sightings by describing a meteorite that was green in colour, they were witness to the end of a meteor shower that evening. Interestingly enough, the *meteors*, the *flares* on the mountain slopes together with the tremors had caused a public to inundate the emergency services in North Wales alone. No injuries or damage had been reported. Over the next hours, and certainly during the following day, police and mountain rescue were joined by a "team of experts" who were searching for evidence (evidence of a crashed meteorite I assume).

The culmination of strange lights in the sky and the tremors fuelled a public's imagination. Fortunately, the newspaper did not dwell on any purported mystery. To explain the incidents, which appear to coincidentally occur

at the same time, police suggested that the sky lights were possibly caused by an RAF "photo-flash night bombing exercise". Another was that a German bomb from the Second World War had been set off. Realistically though, both astronomers and geologists hit the nose on the head when it came for explanations. Geologists had recorded the tremor at being a magnitude of 4, they were certain that a tremor along fault lines had been responsible for the loud explosive noise and the shaking of the ground. Whereas astronomer Dr. Ron Maddison of Keele University was convinced that meteorite had been responsible for the event. He was not convinced that North Wales was prone to tremors. However, there was no other way of explaining the strange lights in the sky. Surely a meteor could not be responsible for the tremor too. If this had been the case would not the meteorite be large enough to cause some severe damage to the landscape?

The mountain rescue and the police had found nothing on the slopes of the mountain and were prepared to spend another day searching the area. The fact that the mountain rescue had found nothing makes perfect sense if the tremor was

caused geologically and the strange lights belonged to a meteor shower. Even if a meteorite had crashed onto the mountain slopes the chances of finding it would be very slight unless you knew exactly where it fell. Even then such fragments could be minute. My colleague has actually worked out another possible reason for the flare on the mountain slope (please see reference for further reading). On the 29th January a survey was launched to investigate the event as "scientists [were] still baffled by the cause of the tremor that shook the area last week". With newspapers making statements like this no wonder some

sectors of the public would rather accept that something mysterious had taken place on the evening of the 23rd!

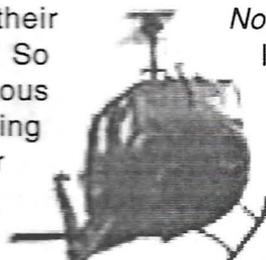
Does anybody remember the stories of a mysterious helicopter during this month in 1974? If you had witnessed this event please do



contact me as I am really fascinated by this piece, which I featured in an earlier issue of The Researcher. On the 14th January police in both counties of Cheshire and Derbyshire were searching for a mysterious "helicopter" in the evening. This machine was initially spotted in a field at Holmes Chapel, Cheshire and in a series of hops ventured into another county. If such a flight was being made then it was an unscheduled one and the police were taking the matter seriously. There was a possibility that a secret flight was being made from Ireland, but was considered speculation and might have belonged to a possible urban myth. According to witness testimony the craft had landed behind hedgerows and trees. The craft's journey was more or less being tracked by the police. This event had actually occurred in the past as Derbyshire police had received reports about this mysterious machine. Cheshire police were "puzzled". Even the Ministry of defence became involved and they stated that although they had received reports of this so called helicopter there were sure that "no service craft had been involved".

On Monday the 21st the Daily Post reported that

the police hunt for this helicopter had involved more manpower. Police were investing their time in the hunt using night vision glasses. The seven hundred qualified helicopter pilots in Britain were being asked to account for their "movements since mid-September." So since mid-September, this mysterious phantom helicopter has been moving around the counties! A spokesman for Cheshire police announced that the police of four counties had been involved in catching this mysterious pilot, but none of the police had been able to catch up with the machine! I find this amusing as a genuine illegal helicopter flight, and one that was consistently flying around for weeks had not been caught by the police. How does a pilot avoid such a police hunt? How can a pilot consistently and successfully hide a helicopter for a duration of weeks? This to me sounds unlikely and the information provided merely from the newspaper builds up an assumed picture of a series of UFO/ghost plane accounts than the illegal activity of a helicopter pilot.



***'Since mid-September
this mysterious phantom
helicopter has been
moving around the
counties'***

The following day, the Daily Post's front page holds a news item entitled '*Copter grounded*'. It emerged that Cheshire police did not receive any further reports from the previous night. Only one woman had glimpsed something in the sky in the flight path to the "Ringway airport". This had turned out to be an observation of a light aircraft. On the 29th police "stated that they had unconfirmed reports of the mysterious helicopter in the Macclesfield and Buxton areas." Although sightings of this machine disappeared in the previous week they had suddenly flared up again in the Manchest and Derbyshire areas.

On the 28th there was a mention in the Daily Post of German scientists analysing a fork broken by Israeli Uri Geller. This had been announced by the West German news magazine Der Spiegel. Interestingly, the short piece states that the Director of the scientific institute stated that "the area of the fork where the break had occurred had been treated previously with a chemical, probably

nitrate of mercury solution."

A letter had been printed on the 5th January, again the Daily Post. Labelled *Ghost Riders on the No.30* the writer says "a mystery is often best left a mystery. So I was a bit disappointed when several readers telephoned to say what I had thought a ghost bus was no ghost at all. The green and gold double decker, not claimed by the bus companies, operating in Liverpool, carries ads for Vernons - and runs on the Merseyside Passenger Authority's 30 route."

This letter tickled me, not necessarily because the author of the letter believed that they had seen a phantom bus but the first line carries such an important statement with regards to anything paranormal, "a mystery is best left a mystery." For me it explains the attitudes of some members of the public who want to believe in the paranormal without being curious and asking questions about it. It is clear that some members of the public do not want the mysteries of their world solved, which is why people want to continue to believe in something spooky when indeed the root of their experience might actually have a very normal explanation.

The final paranormal story I am going to discuss from the month of January 1974 is concerning a feature called "*Ghost's voice on tape*" claim. On the 8th of January the Daily Post, again, reported a story from a family in Huyton who claimed that their home on, Winborne Road, was haunted. Furthermore, the family had actually captured the ghost on audio tape! Strange noises from the bedroom had puzzled Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lynnett!!

Other unusual events in the home had included doors opening by themselves and lights mysteriously going out. Their 18 year old son, Joseph Junior, had accidentally tape recorded an anomaly. Joseph Linnett as quoted as saying "It is one of the strangest things I have ever heard in my life." Joseph Junior said that "I was in my bedroom with my brother Stephen, who accidentally left the tape recorder in the recording position. We were talking for quite some time and when I played the tape back, there was a completely different conversation on it. It was a brand new tape and there is nothing wrong with the machine because I have had it checked. It is unlikely that the tape has been damaged and there does not seem to be a logical explanation."

Mr. Lynnett said that two men could be heard talking but their words could not be understood, but the conversation revolves around a book which one of the men wanted and then he appears to attack the other man. "You can hear bangs on the tape which sound like a fight and there are shouts and a man says 'you are not going to kill me!' It seems like the book plays a vital part in the row." Joseph Lynnett wanted to bring in a Catholic priest to see if an exorcism was necessary. "If anyone has experience in these matters I would be grateful for their advice." His son said that he believed the voices on the tape were voices of the two men's spirits and that one of them was trying to contact him with a message.

The year 1974 belonged to an exciting era. The Vietnam War had only just ended, there was a heightened Cold War and also the continuing pursuit of space exploration. The year was even prior to the cinematic explosion of Star Wars. Paranormal topics were still held in awe by most people and explored by few parapsychologists and physicists. Thirty years later the content of newspapers has changed. Few paranormal stories are still being printed but only if they will sell newspapers. Today, the paranormal has received huge coverage within the media. There have been many TV programmes dedicated to the paranormal, such as *Strange But True*, even fictional ones such as the *X-Files* had attracted phenomenal ratings. Ratings is now what the paranormal is about for the media, not to educate but purely to entertain 

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THE DANGERS OF CONTACTING DECEASED BBC PRESENTERS

Malice in Wonderland:

Science and the psychology of belief in the paranormal

By Steven Verner Weaver

Why is the evidence to support paranormal phenomena so elusive? What is the problem with mainstream science? Is belief in the supernatural just collective wishful thinking? Or is there something more tangible waiting to be proven? Steven Verner Weaver tackles some very tough issues.

Do you believe in miracles?' asked Alice. 'Well, of course! I try to accomplish at least six before breakfast' said the Queen.

Why do we believe in the nonsense of the paranormal and this hocus pocus of the supernatural that is a flaming cauldron that overflows with mediaeval superstition and what the American sceptic, magician and debunker James Randi calls 'flimflam'; astrology, numerology, poltergeists, ESP, telepathy, clairvoyance, spirits, UFO's, crop circles, alien abduction, the Loch Ness monster, rheumatism bracelets for arthritis ... This list is endless and demonstrates the intractability of the desire to believe in things beyond the pale and the sheer extent of human gullibility. Should we not perhaps take this hoard of irrational, illogical beliefs, unproven superstition and conjecture and drop it in Loch Ness to drown the monster of credulity once and for all? Why do we have this apparently irresistible need to believe in the invisible?

'Why do we have this apparently irresistible need to believe in the invisible?'

In the preface to his collected poems (1934-1952) Dylan Thomas writes of meeting a farmer dancing in a fairy ring and when Thomas asked him why he would do this the farmer explained it ensured a good crop '... and I'd be a damn fool if I didn't'. In a similar vein, the great American psychologist William James relates an anecdote about his meeting with an old lady who told him the Earth rested on the back of a huge turtle.

'But, my dear lady, 'Professor James asked, as politely as possible, 'what holds up the turtle?' 'Ah,' she said, 'that's easy. He is standing on the back of another turtle.'

'Oh. I see,' said Professor James, still being polite. 'But would you be so good as to tell me what holds up the second turtle?'

'It's no use Professor,' said the old lady, realising he was trying to lead her into a logical trap. 'It's turtles-turtles-turtles, all the way!'

This story demonstrates the intransigence of apparently illogical beliefs and, while the old lady's world may be a bit stranger than most, all minds operate on fundamentally similar principles. Dr. Leonard 'Orr accounts for such beliefs by suggesting that the mind behaves as if it were divided into two parts; the Thinker and the Prover. The Thinker can conceive of absolutely anything - that the Earth is flat, that an endless chain of turtles supports it, or that the moon is made of green cheese. The Thinker can conceive of itself as mortal or immortal, or both; it can think that it lives in a Christian universe, a Hindu or Buddhist universe, a Marxist universe or any one of innumerable possibilities. Psychology has amply demonstrated, to the dismay of the medical profession, that the Thinker can think itself sick and, equally, think itself well again.

The role of the Prover is simply to demonstrate that what the Thinker thinks is true. What the Thinker thinks the Prover proves. If the Thinker thinks that warts can be charmed away, the Prover will set about the task of organising and motivating the necessary physiological mechanisms to remove them. Whatever evidence is presented the Prover will prove that the evidence is in line with what the Thinker thinks. And scientists are by no means immune. They can be as subjective and as passionately neurotic as fundamentalist bigots about pet theories, worldviews and any threat posed to them.

There is in psychology a vogue for a 'catch-all' explanation of development; the biopsychosocial model, the social science equivalent of the

'superstring-theory-of-everything in contemporary theoretical physics. This model sits astride the purely biological, psychological and sociological explanations of behaviour and seeks a compromise between them so that, for example, not so long ago one of the burning questions in psychology concerned the origin or development of intelligence - whether it is innate i.e. genetic or a result of an enriched early environment, i.e. nurture. The so-called nature-nurture debate spawned endless academic debate between theorists of mutually exclusive theoretical and practical points of view. The pure reductionists on the one hand think that every facet of behaviour can be reduced to a purely biological explanation in terms of the workings of the central nervous system (CNS), the action of hormones or



endocrine imbalance and a Pavlovian model of simple stimulus-response conditioning while on the other side were those who favoured an equally narrow model in terms of purely environmental factors and social learning. Inexplicably, it took almost a decade to realise that these models were perhaps not as mutually exclusive as had previously been thought and that maybe human factors like intelligence were a product of both genetic inheritance and social environment. Both sides agreed to agree on the shaky compromise that yes there is a genetic predisposition but this inheritance could be modified by the environment, by learning so the debate then evolved from one of either/or into how much of each, with purists of each side tipping the balance in their favour: The reductionists claiming 75 per cent genetics and 25 per cent learning while the sociologists and social psychologist wagered the opposite. Such is the stuff of science - argument, debate, pet theory and, perhaps, there is a little objectivity in there somewhere.

The relevance of this is simply to demonstrate 1) that most behaviour can be accounted for in terms of this broad biopsychosocial model and 2) the problem for credibility in paranormal research lies not so much with science but with scientists. I hope to illustrate that science is a broad enough

church to accommodate all theoretical persuasions and the problem lies with an unwarranted prejudice by certain sections of the scientific establishment who refuse to remove their blinkers to consider possible alternatives.

Since the late seventeenth century and the rise of rational, empirical methodology, science has done its utmost to demonstrate the fragility of the supernatural and paranormal phenomena and one would think that 300 years of science is almost long enough to have all but disposed of superstition, cheap mystery and mysticism and yet these ideas and beliefs are as strong now, if not more so than ever before. Despite the logic and rationality of science we may be genetically and biologically hardwired to believe in the invisible and while this

may be a primitive vestige of early evolution or a sign of advanced evolution, our irrational beliefs emerge during psychological development and are fuelled by social hypnosis and conditioning.

Since the dawn of human civilisation shamans have communed with the spirit world, priest magicians developed the sciences of astronomy, astrology, alchemy, chemistry, mathematics, medicine, architecture and so on. Throughout the pre-classical epoch the priest magicians of Assyria, Babylonia, Chaldea, Mesopotamia and Egypt laid the foundations of human knowledge and science; alchemy (later revived and popular in Europe during the mediaeval period). They observed the movement of the planets and stars, developed methods of marking time and calendrical systems based on their knowledge of astrology and astronomy. They foretold the future and practised divination by numerology, augury - the reading entrails or patterns in the clouds; they directed the building of temples and pyramids.

The knowledge of these earliest of sciences developed by the priest magicians continues to spread throughout the classical period of Greece and Rome modified to suit local conditions and religious beliefs and enters into our own Celtic heritage as a tradition upheld by the high caste of

priest magicians or sun-worshipping Druids of our native Celtic ancestors. The knowledge of our ancient forebears somehow survives the dark age of ignorance and forgotten learning, probably as an oral tradition in isolated communities continues into the mediaeval period; Isaac Newton, astrologer and freemason, the physician and esoteric philosopher Paracelsus, Dr John Dee who received the angelic language of Enoch (the Enochian keys), Count Cagliostro, aristocrat and alchemist in search of the Philosopher's Stone – the ultimate elixir of life.

We should not forget either that during the 19th Century it was the most eminent and respected individuals of science who continued the traditions of Freemasonry, who were the self-appointed guardians of the Rosicrucian heritage and the secrets of Gnosticism, the Illuminati and the Knight's Templars, who founded the numerous secret societies that flourished during the Victorian era, the most well known of which is probably the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn – a society which exists to the present day .

'The problem lies with our limited perception'

Given such an illustrious and sometimes notorious heritage, why then does modern science find the paranormal beyond probability? Well, as indicated earlier, it doesn't - the problem is not with science which itself quite happily demonstrates, measures and quantifies the invisible, science happily accepts the inferred and its postulates. Science tells us that apparently solid objects are not in fact solid, table and chairs are material = molecules = atoms = subatomic particles = energy = nothingness. The problem lies with our limited perception - we do not have the cognitive apparatus to directly see the truth of this, we rely on hypothesis, experiment, testing, evidence and theory. Kirlian photography apart (?), the problem is that science has not quite yet developed instruments capable of measuring so called psychic abilities and phenomena, we cannot directly measure thought or thought waves, or subtle energies and so some scientists suggest we ought to abandon the venture before it even starts. And what would have happened if Edison, Marconi, Tesla, Curie and Fleming had abandoned their neurotic obsessions - we would be in the dark, without radio, x-rays or antibiotics. And if

Logie-Baird had given up we may not have had television; 'come on John, put away those biscuit tins and wires, pictures through the air - are you mad?'

However, things may be changing the development of an interdisciplinary approach to the study of consciousness drawing on expertise in physiology, cognitive psychology, perception, computer science and so on has brought the study of the mind back into vogue, long fallen into disrespect since the rise of Behaviourism based on the work of Pavlov, and subsequently pioneered by Watson and Skinner in the 1940's and 1950's. The rise of transpersonal psychology demonstrates increasingly a return to the philosophical and experiential roots of psychology as a result of the failure of the essentially pure reductionism of B to address the fundamental philosophical problem of consciousness. Individual experience is valid, subjective and qualitative data is useful and scientific. It is now OK again to talk about 'mind' and to validate the experiential and to address the issues raised by the problem of consciousness.

Science is not at fault but scientists, or at least some scientists - those who refuse to even entertain the notion of parapsychology as a discipline despite, for example, that modern theoretical physics suggests there is every reason to believe that remote viewing (RV) anomalous cognition, extra-sensory perception, (ESP), psycho-kinesis (PK) are possible. Apparently, the theorems of quantum physics, which I don't pretend to understand rest on logical impossibilities yet modern solid state electronics (i.e. digital electronics) would be impossible without them so we live in a world of technology that operates on impossibilities, a world that like Alice's 'Wonderland' is not so much 'illogical' but one that has a curious fuzzy logic of its own. There are no reasons to doubt the possibility of time-travel or bilocation (appearing to be in two places at the same time). Anecdotal and qualitative evidence taken along with the results of a large body of research undertaken over the last 60 years - the work of JB Rhine in the 1940's, the CIA's 20 year mind-control and RV project - MKUltra, etc. and the postulates of quantum physics combine to suggest that the evidence for ESP, PK, RV etc. is so overwhelming that we are now in a position to propose that we should accept such things as not only possible, but probable and even (dare I use the word) 'proven'.

We should spend less time in trying to 'prove' or not the existence of paranormal abilities and devote more effort and resources in developing and applying heuristics to distinguish between the genuine and the artefact, that is between phenomena which is real and that which is perceptual distortion, illusion, self-delusion, hallucination, hoax and disinformation.

In conclusion, there is no problem for science but, paradoxically, in the irrational and illogical intransigence of scientists who refuse to accept an essentially qualitative paradigm and the validity of the experiential data it generates as sufficient scientific evidence. If we can overcome this hurdle we may suggest that our biopsychosocial programming drives us to believe in the 'invisible' and the 'impossible' and there are good arguments and evidence for the existence of psychic abilities and experiences. It seems that like Dylan Thomas and the old lady who firmly believed that an infinite regression of turtles supports the earth we need to believe. Why? Because we have to! In short, we should believe and in the words of Dylan Thomas - we are damn fools if we don't! 

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You know it makes
sense!



On the trail of Jack the Ripper

By Colin John Veacock

Part 1: The Victims

In 1888 the city of London was held in the grip of terror by the notorious serial killer who called himself Jack the Ripper. After over 100 years the mystery of his identity still remains unsolved. Colin Veacock casts an eye over the available evidence. This issue: The Victims...

If the sadistic Whitechapel murderer, better known as Jack the Ripper, achieved anything of note it was to bring peoples attention to the terrible conditions that existed in the East End in 1888. George Bernard Shaw, for instance, was quoted by The Sun newspaper of calling the Ripper; °An independent genius, due to the attention he brought to the East End. Jobs were scarce, life was cheap and crime and poverty where at an all time high. Into this depressing, gas lit back drop appeared Jack the Ripper, a loathsome creature who stalked and butchered the sad pathetic prostitutes of Whitechapel.

There have been many theories as to the identity of Jack, ranging from the ridiculous to the sublime, and the reasons why he took it upon himself to rid the Evil Quarter Mile of the local prostitutes. Was he a Freemason, a Royal, a Jew, or a woman? What follows is most, if not all, of the relevant information concerning the victims and the suspects and finally my theory as to what was going on in Whitechapel in the Autumn of 1888.

The Victims

Mary Ann Nichols

Thrawl Street, Spitalfields

Mary Ann Nichols, 42, had five children and was separated from her husband. She was found in Bucks Row on Friday 31st August 1888, laying in the gateway of a stable. Her throat had been cut and she had been disembowelled. It was thought by the Doctor in attendance, Dr Llewellyn, that she had been murdered at 3.00am. Walter King who lived at Essex Wharf opposite the stables in Bucks Row heard nothing, and Harriet Lilley whose house was two doors away from the scene of the murder heard whispering in the Street at 3.30am. She and her husband also thought they heard moans but a passing train drowned them

out. Patrick Mulshaw who was a night watchman at a warehouse 100 yards away from Bucks Row claimed to have seen no one enter or leave Bucks Row while he was having a smoke in the street between 2.30am and 3.30am. The press began to play up the murderers phantom like qualities while Harold Furniss, a journalist, said that he believed the body had been dumped in Bucks Row.



Annie Chapman

Dorsett Street, Spitalfields.

“Annie Chapman, 47, had two children and was separated from her husband. Her body was found at the rear of 29 Hanbury Street at the foot of some steps on Saturday 8th September 1888. Her throat had been cut, there was a bruise on the right side of her face, her tongue was swollen, her abdomen opened and the intestines severed from their mesenteric attachments. The uterus was missing. An envelope was found next to the body with the seat of the Sussex Regiment containing the letter M, and a piece of paper containing two pills and two rings where found at her feet which had been removed from the victim. Doctor in attendance, Doctor Phillips, believed there had been no struggle and that Chapman had been murdered between 5 - 6 am.

Seventeen people lived at 29 Hanbury Street, five of which occupied the attic, yet nobody heard a thing. John Davis had entered the house an hour before the body was found, about 4.40am/4.45am at which time both front and rear doors were closed. He had sat on the rear steps and removed a piece of leather from his shoe with a knife, and stated that the womans body wasn't there at that time.

Chapman had last been seen by Mrs Elizabeth

police officers just for jolly would that
 you Keep this letter back till I
 do a bit more work then give
 it out straight. The knife is nice
 and sharp I want to get to work
 right away if I get a chance.
 Good luck
 Yours truly
 Jack the Ripper
 Don't mind me giving the trade name

The 'Dear Boss' letter

Time scale of the Ripper murders

Victim	Date	Anniversary
Emma Smith	3rd April 1888.	Feast of Cybele, the Earth Mother.
Martha Turner (Tabram)	6th August 1888.	Birthday of the Duke of Edinburgh.
Mary Ann Nichols	31st August 1888.	Birthday of Princess Wilhelmina, Netherlands.
Annie Chapman	8th September 1888.	Feast of St Adrian.
Elizabeth Stride	30th September 1888.	Feast of St Jerome.
Catherine Eddowes	30th September 1888.	" "
Mary Kelly	9th November 1888.	Birthday of the Prince Of Wales.
Annie(Amelia)Farmer	21st November 1888.	Birthday of the Empress Frederich.
Mallet (?)	28th December 1888.	Feast of the Holy Innocents.
Alice McKenzie	16th July 1889.	Anniversary of the Duke Of Clarences Inauguration as a Freeman of London.
Unknown Torso	10th September 1889.	
Frances Coles	13th February 1891.	Ides of February.

Lang at 5.30am in Hanbury Street. She saw Chapman and a man standing outside the front entrance of 29 Hanbury Street while she was on her way to work at Spitalfields Market. As she passed by the man said to Chapman, "Will you?", to which Annie replied yes. Between 5.20am and 5.30am a Mr Cadosh had entered the rear of 27 Hanbury Street and had heard a woman say, No, followed by a bump against the fence. All Cadosh had to do was peer over the fence and he would have seen the Ripper.

'All Cadosh had to do was peer over the fence and he would have seen the Ripper'

Elizabeth Stride

Flower & Dean Street, Spitalfields.

Seen at 1.00am. Male, aged 28, height 5-8 inches, dark complexion, dark small moustache, black diagonal coat, hard felt hat, collar and tie, carried a parcel wrapped up in newspaper under his arm.

Seen at 12.45am. Man aged 30, 5-5 inches tall, fair complexion, dark hair, small brown moustache, full face, broad shoulders, dark jacket and trousers and a black peaked cap.

Catherine Eddowes, Dorsett Street and Thrawl Street, Spitalfields.

"Liz Stride, 45, had nine children and was separated from her husband. Her body was found at 40 Berner Street on Sunday 30 September 1888, with it's throat cut and bruises on both the shoulders and chest. A bag of cachous was tightly gripped in her hand. There were no mutilations as it is widely believed that the Ripper had been disturbed and may have still been present in the shadows when Louis Diemschultz returned to Dutfield Yard, off Berner Street, with his horse and cart. Stride is thought to have been murdered between 12.35am and 12.55am by the Doctor's in attendance, Dr Blackwell and Dr Phillips.

At 12.45am an unnamed witness watched a man drag Stride into the street and shout "Lipski" at her while a second man left a public house opposite and watched the commotion from the shadows. William Marshall, 64, of Berner Street, saw Stride talking to a man at 11.45pm who was described as, middle aged, 5-6 inches tall, stout,

round peaked cap, cutaway coat with dark trousers. He heard the man say, "You could say anything but your prayers." Two other witnesses saw the same person later that same night, and James Brown, who was staying late in a Chandlers shop on Berner Street, saw a man and woman standing by the boarding school. Two descriptions appeared in the Police Gazette due to the fact that Stride had been murdered on Metropolitan Police territory rather than the City Police's;

Seen at 1.00am. Male, aged 28, height 5-8 inches, dark complexion, dark small moustache, black diagonal coat, hard felt hat, collar and tie, carried a parcel wrapped up in newspaper under his arm.

Seen at 12.45am. Man aged 30, 5-5 inches tall, fair complexion, dark hair, small brown moustache, full face, broad shoulders, dark jacket and trousers and a black peaked cap.

Catherine Eddowes

Dorsett Street and Thrawl Street, Spitalfields.

Catherine Eddowes, 43, had three children and was separated from her husband. Her body was found in Mitre square by P.C Watkins at 1.45am on Sunday 30 September 1888. The constable had walked through the square fifteen minutes earlier at 1.30am and all was well. Her throat had been cut while the victim had been laying on the ground, the abdomen was opened and the left kidney and uterus had been removed and taken from the scene of the crime. Her face had been severely attacked. The lips had been sliced, her cheeks punctured and her nose was cut off. When Eddowes body was finally removed her nose fell off into her clothing. Doctor's in attendance were Doctor Sequiera, Brown, Phillips and Saunders. The next day Eddowes long bladed knife, which she is thought to have carried for protection, was found in Whitechapel Road covered in dried blood. This has lead some Ripper researchers to suppose that Eddowes was killed with her own knife... A large piece of Eddowes apron had also been torn off and was missing. This turned up, covered in blood and faeces, in a passageway in Goulston Street where a chalk written message reading, "THE JUWES ARE THE MEN WHO WILL NOT BE BLAMED FOR NOTHING, was removed on the orders of Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Charles Warren.

Joseph Lawende and two friends who had spent the evening in the Imperial Club in Duke Street,

saw a man age 30, 5-7 inches, fair complexion, medium build, pepper and salt loose jacket, grey cloth cap with peak, reddish neckerchief tied in a knot, who had the overall appearance of a sailor. He had been standing with a woman at the entrance to Church Passage.'

Mary Kelly

13 Millers Court, Spitalfields.

Mary Kelly, 25, had two children and was a widower. Her body was found on Friday 9 November 1888 in her home by Thomas Bowyer, a rent collector who worked for lodging house keeper, John McCarthy. The body had been totally reduced to a mass of flesh and some organs had been cut out of the body and placed on the bedside table. She is thought to have been murdered between 3.30am and 4.00am by the Doctors in attendance, Phillips, Bond and Brown. Mary Ann Cox, a prostitute who lived at 5 Millers Court, saw Mary Kelly entering the Court with a man at 11.45pm. The man was carrying a pail of beer and was described as being; Short and stout, shabbily dressed wearing a round Billy cock hat, blotchy face and carrot moustache. As they entered 13 Millers Court she said goodnight to them both and then heard Kelly singing, "Only A Violet I Pluck From My Mothers Grave". This lasted from 12.00am till 1.00am. Later, at 6.15 am, she heard footsteps below in the Court but these could have been caused by local people on their way to work at the markets.



'She heard a low cry of 'murder' coming from the Court below'

Above Mary Kelly, in 20 Millers Court, lived Elizabeth Prater. She told of how she had been disturbed at 3.30am and 4.00am by her pet cat which became agitated. At the same time she heard a low cry of murder coming from the Court below.

Sarah Lewis who lived at 24 Great Pearl Street, called at number 2 Millers Court, opposite number thirteen, at 2.30am. She had spotted a man at the door of a lodging house on Dorsett Street

almost opposite the archway which lead through to Millers Court. She described him as; a stout man wearing a black wide hat. At 4.00am she had been dozing in a chair when she heard a low, barely audible cry of murder. Meanwhile, at 2.00am, Mr George Hutchinson was walking by Thrawl Street and Commercial Street when just before Flower & Dean Street he met Mary Kelly who asked him for sixpence. As she left him, heading towards Thrawl Street, a man coming in the opposite direction tapped her on the shoulder and spoke to her, after which they both burst out laughing. He watched as the man hid his face as he passed him by. Alarmed by the strangers suspicious nature he followed and waited for three quarters of an hour at the entrance to Millers Court for them to return, but they never did.

A Mrs Paumier, a seller of roasted peanuts, told her story to a reporter which appeared in The Times on the 10th November 1888. She said that on midday, on the day of the Mary Kelly murder, a gentleman had asked her if she had heard about the Dorsett Street murder. Politely she said she had before he turned to her and said something which froze her to the

spot. "I know more about it than you..."

Mrs Paumier watched him as he wandered away from her stall on Widgate Street, only two minutes away from Millers Court. She described a man, 5-6 inches tall, black silk hat, black coat, speckled trousers carrying a shiny black bag. She also described how she had seen the very same man accost three young ladies on the Thursday night (8th November), after they had asked him what was in his bag.

"Something the ladies don't like!" was his chilling reply.

Were there any other victims?

The theory that there were only five Ripper victims is one which has caused controversy and has been debated for more than a century. Nichols, Chapman, Stride, Eddowes and Kelly have become the acknowledged victims but there were other unfortunate prostitutes who met a similar end, and bore the same Ripper trademark wounds on their bodies.

Fairy Fay Spitalfields.

Unsubstantiated rumours still persist in the darkest realms of Ripper lore that a victim known only as Fairy Fay, was found mutilated in an alley off Commercial Road, on Boxing Night, 1887. She supposedly spent the evening in the Mitre Square pub... Inspector Reid, known as the shortest man on the force, headed the investigation but seemingly soon lost interest leading some to theorise that Fairy Fay never really existed.

Emma Smith 18 George Street, Spitalfields.

Emma Smith was aged 45, a widower who had two children. On the 3rd April 1888, Easter Monday, Smith was attacked less than a hundred yards from where Martha Tabram had been murdered, by four men in Osburn Street who punched her to the ground and robbed her. When she returned to her home she held a cardigan between her legs to mop up the blood as her attackers had inserted an object, possibly a piece of wood, into her body causing massive internal tissue damage. She was taken to London Hospital where she later died of peritonitis.

Martha Turner (Tabram)

Martha Turner, 35, also known as Martha Tabram, was a married woman who earned a living prostituting herself in the East End. She was last seen with her friend, a fellow prostitute named Pearly Poll, (Mary Ann Connelly) talking to two soldiers near the entrance to an alleyway. Pearly Poll took one of the soldiers into one alleyway while Tabram wandered into the other. Not much later, during the early hours of the 6th August 1888, she was stabbed 39 times in the chest and left to die on the first floor landing of 35 George Yard Buildings. At 3.30am, cab driver, Albert Crow stepped over her on his way home thinking that she was drunk. It was not until 5.00am that John Reeves, a market worker, bothered to try and wake her and found, much to his horror, that she had been brutally murdered.

Unknown Torso

On the 10th September 1888, a naked body wrapt in sacking, missing its legs and head, thought to be a prostitute named Lydia Hart, was found beneath a railway arch on Pinchin Street. Most Ripperologists claim the torso is nothing to do with the Whitechapel murders yet the torso bore the same groin to chest cut so typical of the Ripper.

Annie Farmer.

Annie Farmer was lucky to survive her brief meeting with the killer on the 22 November 1888. She was able to give a description of her assailant to the police and is thought, by most, to be the victim of a prostitute/client argument and nothing whatsoever to do with the Ripper.

Mallet?

On the 28 December 1888 a woman called Mallet is thought to have been killed by the Whitechapel murderer although details about the incident are non-existent.

Alice McKenzie 52 Gun Street, Spitalfields.

Alice McKenzie, also known as Clay Pipe Alice, lived at 52 Gun Street with a man named John McCormac. Her body was found by P.C Walter Andrews at 1.00am on the 16 July 1889, in Castle Alley, a passage which ran parallel to Goulston Street. Her throat had been cut, she had been stabbed several times and there were bruises on her chest. A jagged incision ran from the right side of her chest to her naval and there were stab wounds and cuts around her genital region.

***'The torso bore
the same groin to
chest cut so
typical of the
Ripper'***

Frances "Carrotty Nel" Coles Thrawl Street, Spitalfields.

Frances Coles was found barely alive in Swallow Gardens, by P.C Benjamin Leeson and P.C Ernest Thompson at 3.00am on the 13 February 1891. She was last seen in the company of a ship's fireman named James Saddler who never denied being with her. Coles' throat had been cut and there were numerous stab wounds to her lower body.

Annie Millwood

Annie had once been married to a soldier named Richard Millwood but had fallen on hard times when he died. She was stabbed in the legs and the lower torso several times but made a full recovery. Her attack is similar to the crazed attack on Martha Tabram.

Elizabeth Jackson

Elizabeth Jackson lived at Sloane Square. She is thought to have died on the 25th July 1889 as pieces of her body were found floating in the Thames.

Carrie Brown

Brown, also known as Old Shakespeare, was a prostitute who was found strangled and mutilated in The East River Hotel, Manhattan, on the 23 April 1891. The Doctor who was called to the scene of the crime thought that the murderer had tried to "gut" his victim. Word soon spread around the United States that Jack the Ripper had relocated. In response, the New York Police, who had been highly critical of Scotland Yard during the Whitechapel Murders, quickly arrested Ameer Ben Ali.

The Mediums Story

Since Victorian London was a hive of seance rooms and mediums parlours it is not surprising that the spiritualists should raise their head when it comes to the Whitechapel murders.

**'According to
persistent Ripper lore,
R.J. Lees, a
psychic medium,
was responsible for
the capture of
Jack the Ripper'**

According to persistent Ripper lore, R.J. Lees, a psychic medium, was responsible for the capture of Jack the Ripper. Lees was plagued by psychic visions. One day, when Lees was travelling home by bus along Bayswater Road, he suddenly realised that Jack the Ripper was sitting opposite him. He carefully followed the man home to 74 Brook Street, a large mansion in the West End and then went to notify the police of his suspicions. The police checked out the address and immediately dismissed Lees claims due to the fact that the mansion in question belonged to an eminent doctor whose patients included royalty. However, with Lees persistent accusations the police travelled to the address and interviewed the doctors wife who immediately confessed that she thought her husband was slowly going insane. With this new information, the police set up an

around the clock surveillance of the mansion and soon took the doctor into custody one evening when he was leaving his home carrying a small black leather bag. Inside the bag the police found a long thin bladed knife identical to what the killer used.

According to Lees, the doctor, thought to be Dr William Gull although he is never mentioned by name, was incarcerated in an asylum after which the murders ceased.

How much credence we can put on this story is difficult to assess. It is true that Sir William Gull, the Royal Physician, name does crop up time and time again where the ripper is mentioned and it is clear that if he wasn't the ripper, then he may have known who was!

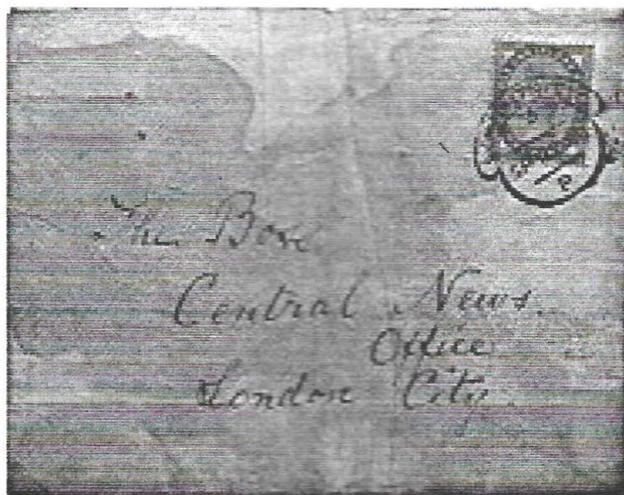


Photo by S.P. Evans, M.E.P.O. www.casebook.org

The Ripper Letters

The first letter, known as 'The Dear Boss' letter was sent to the Central News Agency in London, was dated the 25 September and postmarked on the 27 September. In this letter the Ripper refers to 'the last job', meaning his killing of Annie Chapman, and also mentions that he is going to attempt to cut the ears off his next victim. The next victim, Catherine Eddowes did indeed have mutilations to one of her ears. It is in this letter that he gave the press the name which sold millions of newspapers world wide; Jack The Ripper.

Dear Boss,

I keep on hearing the police have caught me but they won't fix me just yet. I have laughed when they look so clever and talk about being on the right track. That joke about Leather Apron gave me real fits. I am down on whores and I shan't quit ripping them till I do get bucked. Grand work the last job was. I gave the lady no time to squeal.

How can they catch me now. I love my work and want to start again. You will soon hear of me with my funny little games. I saved some of the proper red stuff in a ginger beer bottle over the last job to write with but it went thick like glue and I can't use it. Red ink is fit enough I hope "ha ha." The next job I do I shall clip the lady's ears off and send them to the police officers just for jolly wouldn't you. Keep this letter back till I do a bit more work, then give it out straight away. My knife is nice and sharp I want to get to work right away if I get a chance.

Good Luck. Yours truly

JACK THE RIPPER

Don't mind me giving the trade name. Wasn't good enough to post this before I got all the red ink off my hands curse it. No luck yet they say I am a doctor now "ha ha."

The Postcard

On the 1st October 1888 the Central News Agency received an undated postcard, the contents of which were made public on the 2nd October. The police considered this postcard to be from the killer as it was sent from the same district, at the same time, as where the blood smeared knife was found.

I was not coddling dear old Boss when I gave you the tip. You'll hear about saucy Jack's work tomorrow. Double event this time. Number one squealed a bit. Couldn't finish straight off. Had not time to get ears for the police. Thanks for keeping last letter back till I got to work again.

JACK THE RIPPER.

The Lusk Letter

George Lusk was the Chairman of the Whitechapel Vigilance Committee at the time of the Ripper murders and was extremely outspoken when it came to the inadequacies of the police force. He had already received many letters purporting to come from the killer which were rightly dismissed but on the 16th October a small cardboard box with an attached note was delivered to his home in Alderney Road off Globe Road, Mile End.

Inside the box there was half a human kidney, thought to have belonged to Catherine Eddowes,

and a note which was postmarked from Hell.

Mr Lusk,

Sir, I send you half the Kidne I took from one woman prasarved it for you tother piece I fried and ate it was very nise. I may send you the bloody knif that took it out if you only wate a whil longer.

Catch me when you can Mr Lusk.

The Dr Openshaw Letter'

The kidney sent to George Lusk was not taken seriously by the police who dismissed it as being from a dog. However, Dr Thomas Openshaw decided to take a look and declared it as being from someone who had Bright's disease, a condition brought on by drinking too much gin. Immediately Dr Openshaw declared the kidney as being human in origin he received another letter, supposedly from the ripper.

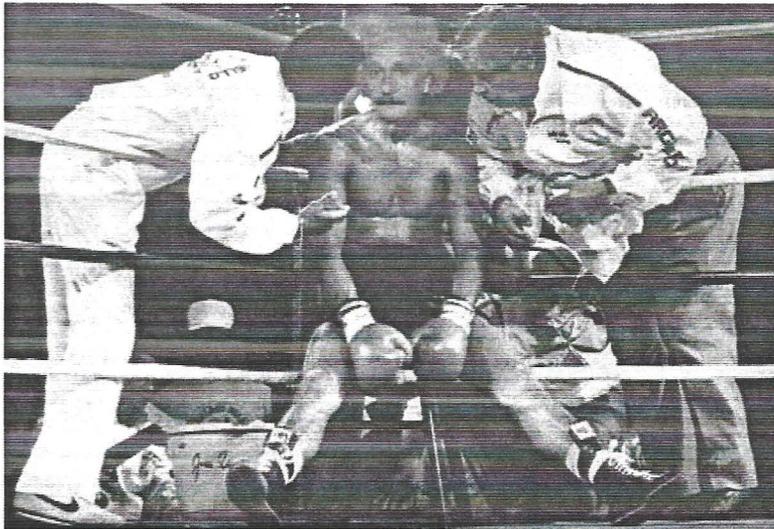
Old Boss you was rite it was the left kidny i was goin to hoperate again close to your ospitle just as i was going to dror mi nife along of er bloomin throte them cusses of coppers spoilt the game but i guess i wil be on the job soon and will send you another bit of innerds.

JACK THE RIPPER.

O have you seen the devle with his mikerscope and scalpul a-lookin at a kidney with a slide cocked up.

The one thing that becomes plainly evident when one scrutinises the Ripper letters is that the writer is doing his level best to disguise his identity by purposely mis-spelling certain words while spelling them correctly elsewhere. For instance; in the Openshaw letter the Ripper spells Kidney, k.i.d.n.y, while in the last line he spells it correctly. Words you could forgive him for spelling incorrectly, such as scalpul, he has no problem with. Most academic ripperologists now dismiss the Ripper letters as being the work of an industrious journalist attempting to raise the profile of the crimes yet it cannot be ignored that the half a human kidney sent to George Lusk likely came from Catherine Eddowes, and therefore, the accompanying letter was written by the Whitechapel murderer.

Next issue: The Suspects



Science on the Ropes

By Bill Clark

Mainstream science has ridiculed UFOs and paranormal phenomena for many years, arguing that the 'evidence' does not stand up to scientific scrutiny. Guest writer Bill Clark takes mainstream science to task and challenges their 'evidence' offered in support of the established laws of physics.

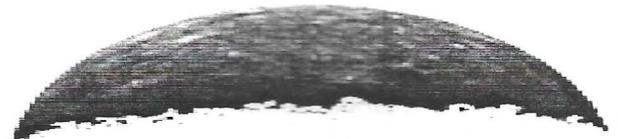
Those who champion the banner of UFO's and alien surveillance have too long been debunked by mainstream scientists as quacks and pseudo-scientists. It's high time the truth were known: the so-called reputable scientists levying such charges are far, far worse than the amateurs ever were. These "scientists" aren't even attempting to discern the truth any longer, but are practising a deception that is at best, unscientific. Several specific examples will be outlined in this short monograph. Details are on my website, including two completed Masters Theses. I am no expert in these matters, but I am a fifth year PhD student and have studied celestial mechanics under two of the modern greats - the late Victor Szebeheley, and the retired Roger Broucke. Both are formerly with the University of Texas Aerospace Engineering Department, where I am presently studying.

'Let me begin by simply pulling the rug from out under astronomy and orbital mechanics'

Let me begin by simply pulling the rug from out under astronomy and orbital mechanics. You are familiar with Kepler's important laws. The second (and third, because it is derived from the second) states that the orbits of the planets cover equal areas in the arc from the sun in equal times. Kepler proved this empirically. The standard analytical proof, however, can only prove this law by assuming a circular orbit. It will not work with an

elliptic, for which Kepler's laws are conceived. This has never been the subject of any serious inquiry.

Then there is the idea of the rotation of the planets. We know Earth's rotation is slowing because leap seconds must be added to the atomic time scale every year or so. The Earth's rotation is not constant, nor is that of any other planet, because of torques applied to an uneven mass distribution from the sun and other planets. Yet, astronomers claim it is constant, has been constant - forever. That might be true if the planets were uniform spheres of constant density in perfectly circular orbits. We live in a far from perfect universe, though. Why has this very important problem never been studied? Why do they assume that all the other defining characteristics of our solar system are constant too - orbital inclination, axial inclination, and so forth? I have myself developed a perfectly good theory on most of these things, and have met with no end of rejections for over twenty years.



I'm not the first one whose reasonable ideas have been discarded outright, if not with malice. Einstein's whole Theory of Relativity was on trial not more than fifty years ago, competing with another complete body of theory developed from the body of celestial mechanics by a over twenty of the best minds of the century. One of the crucial tests was in explaining the mystery of the precession of Mercury's orbit. Relativity said it

was due to a warping of space itself because of the sun's gravity. Celestial mechanics offered the much more mundane reason, that it was due to an anomaly in the sun itself, similar to the bulge of mass at the Earth's equator that causes satellite orbits to precess.

The two theories had equal merit, but Relativity was came out the champion. So, in the ensuing years Relativity has evolved into nuclear power, an elaborate and abstract cosmology of strings and continuums and statistics. While celestial mechanics has increasingly been pushed from the mainstream, and at this point in time is virtually stagnant.

Relativity theory is, however, not universally accepted even now. Paul Marmet, a physicist at the University of Ottawa, has published a book that uses the methods of classical mechanics to prove many of the phenomena used originally as proof of the validity of Relativity. He has, in particular, shown that the precession of Mercury's perihelion can just as easily be explained by the methods of celestial mechanics as by Relativity Theory.

In other practical matters, precious little has been written about the fundamental properties of our own solar system. One of the most often cited projects "proves" the solar system is stable. A super computer was used to numerically integrate the motions of the planets forward in time for a million years, then back in time. They ended up with the exact same initial conditions. Any undergraduate student could see flaws to this scheme. Not all the forces are central forces, and these cannot be integrated back in time. This work assumes all the planets are point masses of uniform density, and so forth. This project should not have been accepted as an undergraduate homework assignment, much less as a definitive analysis of the solar system.

It's very unscientific to claim such a study is proof of such a delicate thing as long term stability; it's far worse, to proclaim it as irrefutable doctrine. Indeed, research into such anomalies as the rotation of the planets would lead people back to the eminently practical applications of celestial

mechanics. It's better to just leave it behind, and to say the solar system was formed as it is today aeons ago and will remain so for aeons hence. That's about like saying a two year old will stay put in the high chair for Christmas dinner at the in-laws.

Be that as it may, this scientific tunnel vision takes on ominous undertones when you consider where we would be now if the alternate theory had been accepted. What if celestial mechanics had been our guiding light, instead of relativistic physics? I have sketched out a whole menagerie of machines on my website, derived from some of the most simple concepts of celestial mechanics. They

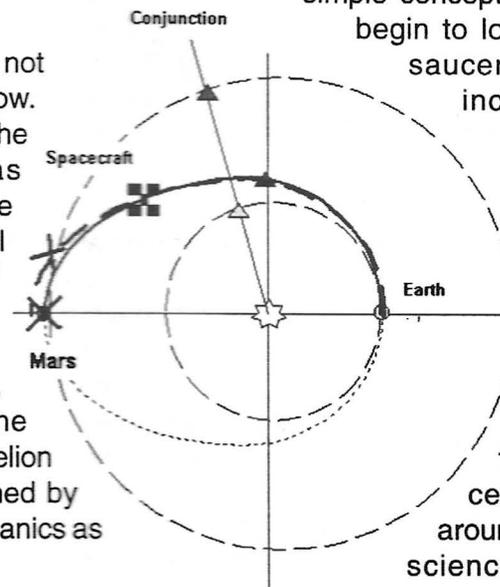
begin to look suspiciously like the flying saucers that have been seen with increasing frequency in recent decades. It's not hard to make a connection: maybe the celestial mechanics experts continued their work, and we are seeing the result of their labours in dark skies around the world.

Alas, you had better decide on this very, very soon because celestial mechanics will not be around very much longer. It's a dying science. Whether by design or by circumstance, the field has been totally overwhelmed by statistics, politics, computer modelling, and

politics. There is virtually no funding at any level for any student or professor or researcher wishing to study the field. Is this a natural outcome due to reasonable causes, or is it a policy promulgated from the highest level?

Celestial mechanics is not an isolated field with an arcane, outdated view of the cosmos. It is, in fact, very much a universal science with applications in everything from subatomic physics to quantum chemistry. Any bodies that interact in an inverse squared relationship follow the rules derived by celestial mechanics. Electrons operate by such a law, in atomic bonds, in electric current, and even in semiconductor devices. Have scientists decided we know all there is to know about these fields?

In recent years, a big deal has been made out of a large asteroid hitting Earth. They hit an average of once every 100,000 years; yet the last such impact was 6.5 million years ago. A collision is



Kepler's laws only work for perfectly circular orbits

long overdue, and many scientists around the world are concerned. Are we to trust orbital mechanics to find the solution, with their computer simulations - when they have spent a trillion dollars trying to intercept a missile on a known flight path in a gravitational field that is known to forty of fifty decimal places? How much better will they do, with an asymmetric object on a random course in a gravitational field known at best to one decimal place? Do you trust their judgement as rejecting completely the possibility that celestial mechanics, from which all of astronomy and orbital mechanics have been derived, might have a chance at solving this intractable problem?

Not to mention, we don't eject any obtuse, ultra abstract fields of mathematics from the scientific lexicon because they are not applicable, do we? No other science in history has been totally wiped out. In all the other sciences we even keep teaching the flawed theories, such as Ptolemy's astronomy of epicycles; much less throwing even the useful ones away.

'The bottom line is that we really know next to nothing about astronomy, physics and chemistry'

Good grief, I can disprove one of the founding equations of modern mathematics; Euler's theory, with a single equation: $(y) \times 3$ (x to the power of 3 or x cubed). This theory, that is given such a prominent place in modern graduate textbooks, says that (using partial differentials)

$$(x)df/dx + (y)df/dy = 2 f(x,y).$$

If mathematicians can get by with openly publishing - much less teaching and testing students this balderdash - it's little wonder they have gone to such great ends to extinguish the font of mathematical physics itself, celestial mechanics.

Perhaps I am over reacting. Perhaps it's all because of the military classifying the science and its applications. However, if you take an evening to read my autobiographical novella, available on

my website, you will never, ever trust the military again to do anything right, ever. As far as that goes, after browsing the technical abstracts on my web site, you'll probably feel the same about mainstream scientists! Nothing wrong with that, eh?

Trek Rules

Ask any scientist if going to Neptune and back in six minutes is possible, and they will laugh rudely in your face.

After the laughter subsides, ask him or her to prove Kepler's 2nd Law. They can't. Then ask what Kepler's 2nd Law is - is it all that important? YES. Virtually all of astronomy and orbital mechanics are based on it. If it's that damn important, how come nobody has ever proven it?

You don't have to be a rocket scientist to see the flaw in how they derive Kepler's 2nd Law. Kepler said that a line from the sun to a planet sweeps out equal areas in equal times. As a planet gets farther from the sun in its elliptical orbit, it goes slower. He found this by studying actual observations of the planet's positions over time. It is, in reality, a fundamental law of nature.

Analytically (as opposed to empirically) it's not that much more difficult to comprehend. The area of a circle is $(\pi)r^2$. The area of a sector of a circle is $(\text{angle}/2)r^2$. This simple equation is used in virtually every textbook to derive Kepler's 2nd Law. It's for a circle, though. It doesn't work for elliptical orbits, which are what Kepler's Laws are supposed to describe, because the radius is not constant.

What are the implications of this flaw in the basic rules of astronomy? Well, first of all, Kepler's 3rd Law is invalid because it is derived from the 2nd Law. That means that even though he proved that the cube of the semi-major axis is proportional to the square of the period of the orbit, we do not know why this is so. That means all the geometry of orbits astronomers and engineers have always assumed is correct, isn't. It also means that a third very fundamental equation of astronomy is invalid: the angular momentum of orbits is not constant, as everybody always assumes. That, in turn, invalidates three of the ten universal constants that have been used to solve virtually every orbital mechanics problem. It goes on and on and on, like dominoes. When all is said and done, virtually



every analytical proof ever published is wrong.

Are there any practical implications to all of this? Are all our satellites going to fall out of orbit? Probably not, because they are all in circular orbits anyway, which are the only type of orbit that we can design or study with any level of confidence. The problem is that circular orbits are never, ever, ever found in nature. It's like finding two snowflakes that are exactly the same. Our satellites spend most of their time making orbit corrections so they can stay in circular orbit, so we can predict their motion with any level of confidence. So, we know one very special kind of orbit really, really well.

What about the infinity of other orbits in nature? This whole notion of having solved only a tiny percentage of the whole doesn't apply just to astronomy, either. All of physics and chemistry is based on the assumption of atomic orbits that are perfectly circular. They don't exist in nature either. Our entire body of science and technology can do nothing more than predict the simplest, most basic processes with any degree of confidence.

The bottom line is that we really know next to nothing about astronomy, physics, and chemistry - and all the spectrum of other sciences that are derived from these primary ones. All we know is circles, which are such an insignificant subset of the whole that it's laughably small. So, next time a scientist scoffs at the idea of Deep Space travel, ask him or her to solve Kepler's 2nd Law for you, and you'll be the one laughing! 

A Short Who's Who on the scientists discussed



Johannes Kepler (1571-1630)

Copernicus proposed a sun centred solar system, Tycho Brahe was the court mathematician who made exhaustive observations of the planets and Kepler was the German astronomer who summarised these observation in the three laws of

planetary motion that proved the heliocentric solar system. His three laws, and a fundamental equation named in his honour, are still in widespread use today and form the basis of orbital mechanics.

A more detailed biography can be found at; <http://www-groups.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history/Mathematicians/Kepler.html>

and also about his laws of science; <http://www.cvc.org/science/kepler.htm>



Albert Einstein (1879 - 1955)

Despite the tremendous impact his Theory of Relativity had on our perception of the cosmos, Einstein's work was not well thought of by the leading thinkers in celestial mechanics of his time.

In his biographies, only Lemaitre (who formulated the Big Bang theory) supported Einstein's work because it showed an expanding universe. Levi-Civita was openly opposed, as were Poincare, Painleve, and Picard.

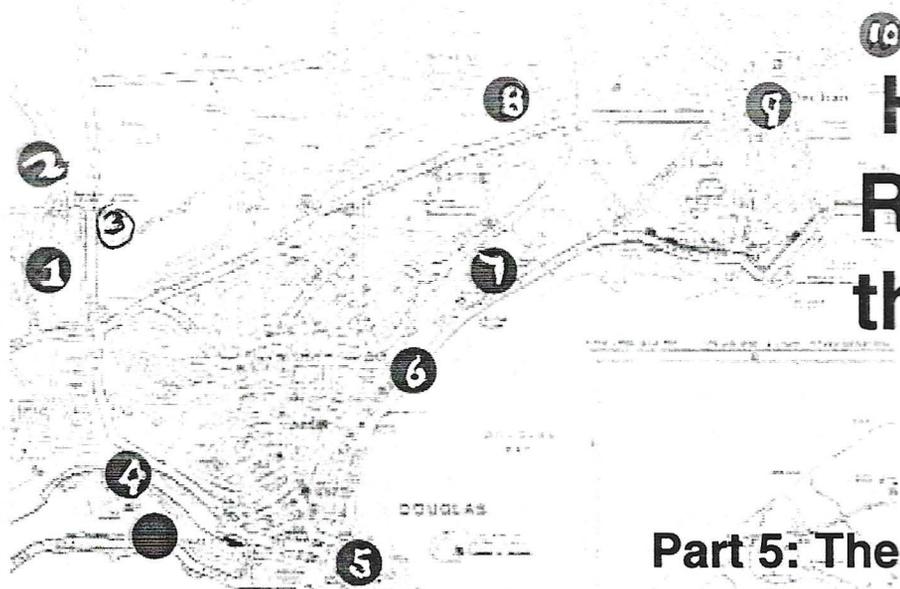
None of the other major contributors of the time, listed by the late Victor Szebehely in his book "Adventures in Celestial Mechanics", are even mentioned by Einstein's biographers. In fact Szebehely - the undisputed genius of the field of the 20th century - did not even mention Einstein in this list of contributors.

A more detailed biography can be found at; <http://www-groups.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history/Mathematicians/Einstein.html>

and information about the laws of General Relativity; http://www-groups.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history/HistTopics/General_relativity.html

Bill Clark is a student of Celestial Mechanics at the University of Texas at Austin. His research on the "10 Body Problem" (ie the solar system) began in 1985, when he presented a technical paper to the senior scientific staff at the U.S. Army White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. His work was evaluated by NASA's Johnson Space Centre and, independently, by senior editors at McGraw-Hill; "... your concepts about the Unified Field Theorem appear to be so profound as to be years ahead of the current scientific thinking . . ." The set of designs outlined on his web site were first presented in 1981 in an unpublished manuscript, "The Journal of 21st Century Technology."

For further details on this subject and other notions of Deep Space technology or to contact Bill with your enquiries please visit his website at www.inviticus.com



Haunted Roads on the Isle of Man

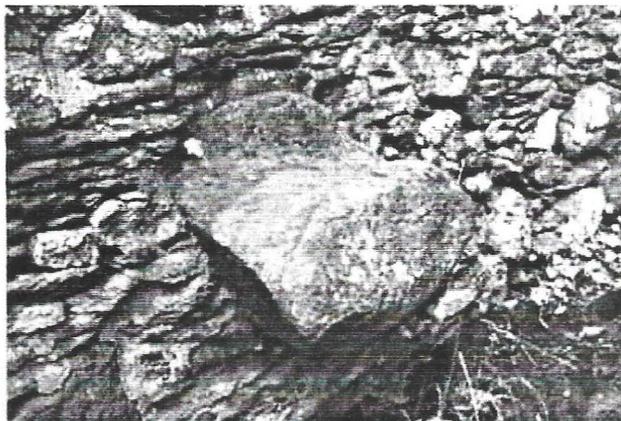
By John Hall

Part 5: The Area of Douglas

Continuing his gazetteer of the mythical legends of the Isle of Man, John Hall investigates legends of strange happenings in the environs of the Island's capital, Douglas.

At Kewaigue, a footpath to Oakhill on the Castletown-Douglas old road leads to an alternative 'fairy bridge' with its 'fairy well' close by. The bridge is an old packhorse bridge, which is S-shaped, and crosses a small stream called Middle River. Its name presupposes its supernatural nocturnal movements of the 'fair folk'. With its nearby well, stories of fairies, ghosts, mysterious lights in attendance are almost certain to have been told and these surely reinforce the folklore tradition.

- ① The 'Saddle Stone' in Saddle Road, in Braddan, has links with a prehistoric settlement at Balla Fletcher camp. There are stories involving this site which account for its shape and current position which is set into a stone wall. Shaped like a saddle, it is supposed to be used by the fairies on nocturnal excursions.



'Saddle Stone'

The traditional story relates to a vicar of nearby Kirk Braddan who had his horse taken at night. He goes in search of his horse, which is found

exhausted due to the poor creature being ridden furiously for miles. No explanation could be offered, nor any mortal suspect, to account for such a sight. However, at daybreak next morning, as the vicar was returning home from visiting a sick parishioner, he observed what appeared to be a little man in a green jacket carrying a riding whip. This elfin character was in the act of turning the horse free into the field. The strange little man turned around and saw the vicar. Before the elf vanished, the vicar had seen the saddle, which was sitting by the side of the fence, turn into stone. It has allegedly remained there ever since. In another, yet darker, version of this tale, the vicar's role is bigger and sinister.

The Saddle Stone also has fertility rites associated with it. If a woman desired a child then by sitting upon this stone then her wish would more likely be fulfilled.

Kirk Braddan ②

Moving up to Kirk Braddan via Saddle Road there is an old church which contains numerous carved and incised stones from the Norse and Celtic periods. There are holed stones through which marriage vows were exchanged by holding hands.

Balla Fletcher Camp ②

This camp is situated just across the road and behind the new church at Kirk Braddan and is a prehistoric settlement. There, several cup and ring stones are to be found amongst overgrown earthworks. This is where the Saddle Stone may

have originally come from.

A spirit friend called the White Lady, or tutelary spirit, is said to haunt the nearby Balla Fletcher House. A lucky charm in the form of the Fairy Cup is said to have existed at the house, which was apparently used once a year for libations to the Lhiannan-Shee or Fairy Mistress. Here is another close connection to the fairy lore. The Fairy Cup was given to the Fletchers and drained once a year every Christmas in the honour of the Fairy Mistress.

The Lhiannon-Shee, according to lore, haunted the wells and springs. One of these is situated in the Balla Fletcher Camp area not far from the church. It is still considered to be a sacred site after all of these years. The Fairy Cup, like other enchanted cups, are no longer in the possession of the locals and has been supposedly lost. One of the three cup stories on the Isle of Man remains at Balla Fletcher, whilst the other two are held at Kirk Malew and Kirk Christ Rushen.

③ Port ny Shee, or the Fort of the Fairies, stands in a field overlooking Braddon Church on the main Pell-Douglas road and T.T. Course. The name implies places where the little people indulged in their night time rambles. This name indicates that there may be a fairy path between ancient sites, particularly if the fort is situated on a tumuli or a burial mound.

'Here, the spirit of a murder victim is supposed to haunt the Inn'

Now, further into Douglas on the Peel-Douglas Road a roadside inn called The Brown Bobby stood. Here, the spirit of a murder victim is supposed to haunt the Inn and road outside! Horses have been known not to pass through at night, it is now a road junction with traffic lights which halts motor vehicles. A Shell garage occupies the site and it retains the old name which is visible on the forecourt.

The Nunnery ④

On the Douglas-Castletown old road was said to be haunted by a carriage and pair of horses that were heard drawing up to the avenue of the Nunnery. This followed by the sounds of people

alighting from the carriage, and then, silence. Nothing more was ever heard. This is now the entrance to a well known horse trainer's stud farm. Close by, there is a walkable path which goes towards the Quarter Bridge on the River Glass which used to be a holy well dedicated to St. Bridget and it was called Chibbyr Vreeshy.

Near the obelisk in the Nunnery grounds, a spa well is also known to exist. It's custodian could well have been Old Mary and is apparently haunted by fairies and their music could be heard. Across the river and into the town is St. Mary's Church, which was said to have had a fairy ground next to it, or maybe even a fairground site. There is a house built on an old Roman Catholic chapel in the south end of Douglas. Its exact site is never been located. The sound of footsteps were reported to have been heard in this house, timed at midnight!

Douglas Promenade ⑤

On the Loch Promenade, near the Boat Terminal, there is a hotel called The Warwick. Within this place are ghosts that have been reported as being quite audible, as my companion and I, first hand, can testify. We were assisting with the refurbishment for the opening of the hotel in T.T. race week in 1994. The whole hotel was unoccupied except for ourselves and the owners, who lived on the mezzanine floor. Our room was at the rear of the hotel and the complete building was torn up with rewiring and plumbing, not to mention the redecorating that was to be done to all the rooms and hallways. The doors, as yet, had no locks, so a mobile heater was placed against our door (switched off, of course) to prevent it from opening.

One early morning, a distinct double knock was heard by ourselves on the wooden door! I did not get up to look to see who it was as it was around six in the morning, maybe a bit earlier. We enquired about this with the hotel owners and they emphatically denied that they had been there and were themselves asleep at that time! We concluded that this was some sort of replay activated by all the ongoing refurbishment. A wake up call by the previous owners to get us up to catch the Isle of Man boat at the nearby terminal. The distinctive sound of trying to avoid half removed floor boards on an uncarpeted floor meant that we would have heard approaching footsteps and their echo in the hallway.

A close friend of mine also saw a recently deceased apparition when working alone on the second floor of the building. Sensing that someone was staring at her, she turned to see this person standing on the stairwell who had long since been dead. The apparition smiled at her before waving and vanishing into thin air.

I have also heard odd noises in the next room although it could have been transmitted from the other rooms below, or the buildings opposite which were occupied. While stopping there, in a front room, in August, further knocks took place with an additional strange series of odd dreams which included hands waving at me through a dark void or veil?

(6) Central Promenade is where The Castle Mona hotel complex stands. A hundred years ago this site used to have a small garden in front of it which carried a tradition that survived up until recently that fairies could be heard singing there in the garden. Possible explanations for this singing has been the sea undermining the sands and rocks below.

(7) Standing above Central promenade is The Falcon Cliff Hotel & Restaurant with its imposing tower. This hotel was in a dangerous position being perched on the cliff and had been left abandoned in 1996, all empty and boarded up. Now refurbished and reopened, this hotel has a ghostly reputation for a figure which haunts the tower area and has been observed to fall from the top of this tower.

area 6-7

The Pandora guest house on Central Promenade also has its share of strange happenings, as the owners told us. A poltergeist, which moved things around, and a shape shifting and mimic entity was heard to impersonate the guests and the hotel's dog too. It was reported as sitting on the bed and apparently you could feel the end of the bed depress, although nothing was reportedly seen. A guest was once impersonated by this thing. Knowing that this guest had left the building, my partner Elaine had witnessed the guest by the bar area!

All photos in this article by the author.

Glen Crutchery Road (8)

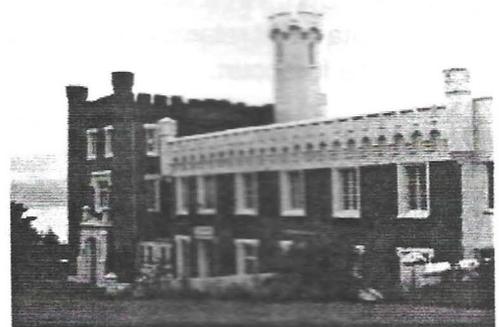
This where the Isle of Man T.T. Grandstand is situated and is a main road to Onchan - Laxey - Ramsey and heads north west, whilst to the south and east lie Castletown and Peel. The White Lady of Glen Crutchery of the Second Avenue is nearby to the Grandstand and is a large monolith of white quartz which sits within a housing estate. This quartz monolith had previously marked out a burial site, so it's not surprising that it is synonymous with ghost stories, of which, there may be many at this site.

A well site exists in Glen Crutchery Road (now not visible on the maps of this area) and this refers to the Old Man of Glen Crutchery Well who was believed to be a sorcerer, and a well protector, who resembled a spiteful sprite, for instance, in the guise of a little grey man, and the legend has made it a fairy well.

(4) Onto Onchan village and mysterious Death Coach which was often heard at night time. The sounds of wheels and galloping horses from (church to church) Kirk Onchan to Kirk Braddon along the Glen Crutchery Road. In earlier days this would have been a more frequent and terrible occurrence. Could this smuggler's route have been a projection into the future of the T. T races and the motor vehicle age? The Death Coach may have ran from the now demolished St. Catherine's Church site, which is near a cross-roads, or alternatively St. Peter's Church, which has a strange shaped stone in the wall (which resembles a monolith) which surrounds it. This was attributed as being the local whipping post, but that is disputed and claims are made that this is situated elsewhere.



The Falcon Cliff Tower



The Church contains strange inscribed runic stones that have weird dog headed beasts and dragons, which is already in situ around the Onchan area and previously in St. Catherine's Church. The Death Coach was considered a bad misfortune if ever witnessed. Only by throwing yourself flat down and not looking at it could you be spared your soul from the Grim Reaper. Described by those who did see it as looking like a funeral coach with followers, a moving body of blackness with waving plumes like a funeral coach which makes this indistinguishable from the darkness of the night.



Haunted Whitebridge (10)

Just beyond Onchan village, on Whitebridge Road (Douglas - Laxey) in a steep gully overshadowed by trees, is the White Bridge. This painted white on both sides. There is a local ghost story which tells of an audible replay of past events to people passing at night. The re-enactment of a woman's murder, possibly Molly Quirk, who's glen the area is named after. There are sounds of galloping horses heard and a scream that follows. It's possible the Death Coach could be associated with the bridge.

The Groudle River runs underneath towards the sea, and there are stories of a sea monster which lurks upstream from the bridge in a Nikksen's Pool. The Nikksen could assume a shape with a horse's head or a human form to tempt humans to mount it. It would then rush to enter the nearest water and drown and devour its victims.

This is one of several Nikksen's Pools on the Isle of Man! The creature could be mistaken for a log, an upturned boat, or a small island, until, that is, the thing moved in sight. It could also be seen on land as a white or pale coloured horse like animal in the distance. When visited by myself and a friend in during August 1996, the river was low and it seems that this bridge was built on the site of older bridges (as the plaque in the concrete

stated 1688 and more recently in the 1950s). Both sides of the bridge was photographed. The bridge, on the seaward side, had some odd looking stones and carvings upon it. One distinct white quartz stone on the right hand side looked horse like in appearance (simulacra) and was placed at midpoint. Could this be a talisman to ward away evil spirits? This idea was further reinforced by what looked like a carving in the concrete nearest the water's edge of an 'eye' design, like the all seeing eye. Rough, yet obviously pointing downstream for anything coming up. But who put the markings there? And what was its

purpose? A fair guess would be the original workmen, and it was placed there as a good luck symbol to pacify the water monster. Had they seen anything? Or believed in anything? Prior to the bridge, the area would have been a watery ford where horse drawn vehicles would pass over a wooden bridge. It is possible that the bridge may have had a ghost story too.

The White Lady of the White Bridge

The haunting of the White Bridge goes back many many years and the latest ghost story was added to account for the haunting. My partner and I walked for a while up the path which led upstream on the Groudle River and we were looking for the Nikksen's Pool. One appeared to be set upon a bank to our right hand side, which may have been covered in duck weed. As we passed, I was certain that I heard a distinctive sigh, as if from a woman's voice. I said nothing but asked my partner about it, Elaine said that it wasn't her and that she had also heard it. However, we both put it down to it coming from a bird. Whilst taking photographs and viewing the bridge from the upstream side, Elaine had also felt uncomfortable and wanted to move on from that spot. This sensation was a bit eerie!

The photograph of this side of the bridge revealed an unusual white globe hugging the underside of the bridge on the darkest part of the shadow. It could possibly have been a fly which was highlighted by the sun, as others in the foreground were, but it could just be possibly another photograph recording a strange anomaly. This type

of light sphere was often seen at night and the cause attributed by the fairy ghost which is known as the Old Woman of Washing! Observed as lights under bridges and Fords, are similar stories of the Banshee of Celtic folklore, a prophet which foretold death. The 'Little Washer by the Ford' is an alternative story, in which the Washer is said to wail by the riverside whilst washing the grave clothes of those about to die, when seen in the company of others, it means that a terrible accident is about to occur **R**

References

Katherine Briggs - A Dictionary of Fairies
 W.W. Gill - Manx Scrapbooks I, II, III
 M. Killip - Manx Folklore
 Colin & Janet Bord - various books
 A.W. Moore - Manx Placenames

Do you believe your house to be haunted?

Have you seen a ghost or had an unusual experience?

If the answer is **yes** and you would like to share your experience or have your home properly investigated then please contact

Colin Veacock

on 07929 734318

or email:

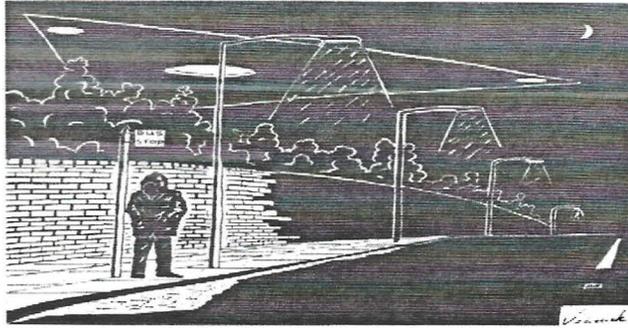
colveacock@blueyonder.co.uk

Believe it? or Not!

This photo was submitted anonymously to the Art Bell website (www.artbell.com) on April 1st 2001. It purportedly shows a cow being abducted by a UFO.

MARA's verdict: Pull the udder one!





The Knutsford Flying Triangle

By Bill Bimson & John Hall

Sightings of Flying Triangles have been on the increase in recent years. However it is not very often that the sightings are made by trained observers, and rarer still to be made by a paranormal investigator. MARAs John Hall saw one, and he and Bill Bimson investigated it.

Reports of flying triangle (FT) UFOs appear to be increasing. Throughout the latter half of the 90's and now in the new millennium, reports are common place on an almost global basis, although most reports still come from North America, Europe and the Middle East. The increase in reports may be partly due to the ease of communication between UFO groups and witnesses, brought about by e-mail and the internet. In this particular case, the witness, John Hall is a long-standing member of MARA and this sighting would certainly have been reported even if the internet hadn't existed. John lives only a couple of miles from Liverpool airport and has an interest in conventional and military aircraft which makes his account of the incident more credible than average. You will see from our conclusions that it is impossible to

make a definite identification of the UFO that was sighted, but we are able to rule out the vast majority of objects which are often mistaken for UFOs. Both John and myself (Bill Bimson) have done our best to reach conclusions which we believe are unbiased and objective, but of course, we will never be able to agree with everyone's idea of what they think John saw. Especially those investigators and enthusiasts who promote ideas about FTs which are on the fringes of UFO investigation.

Description of incident

On Saturday the 21st October 2000, at about 6:50 am, four people were traveling in a car southbound on the M6 motorway at approximately 70 mph. This incident occurred a couple of miles North of Junction 19. John Hall was sitting in the rear left-hand seat of the car and despite the early hour, he was wide-awake. About 5-10 minutes before they reached the Knutsford services, John had observed several conventional aircraft, many of them low flying due to the proximity of Manchester Airport. His attention was

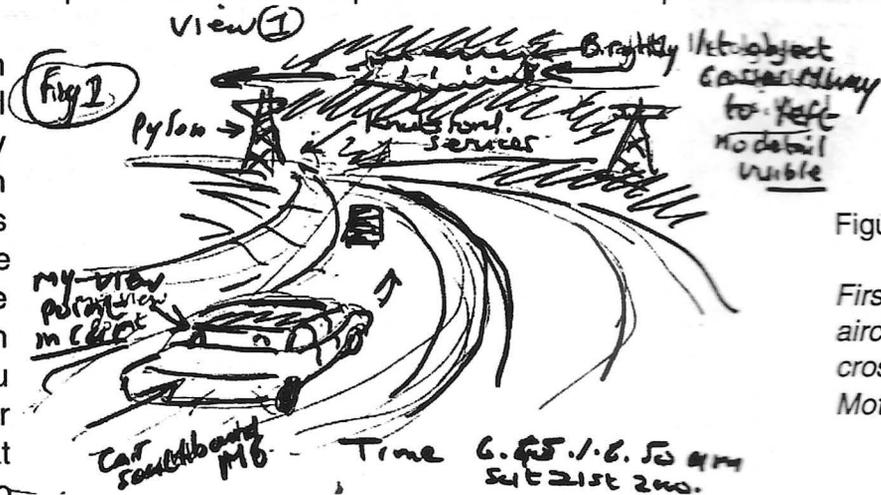


Figure 1

First view of the aircraft before it crossed the Motorway.

caught by one particular aircraft which looked at first like a bright white light on the West side of the motorway traveling apparently slowly in an Easterly direction. His initial thought was that the bright light was the landing lights and illumination from passenger windows of a commercial aircraft (figure 1). As the aircraft flew over the top of the car, He lost sight of it because of the roof, but he was able to see it again when it reappeared on the left hand (East) side of the car. There was an embankment at

the left of the motorway which restricted John's view of the aircraft to a couple of seconds, once it had gone over the top of the car. However, John was able to get a good look at the aircraft and this was enhanced by the aircraft's own illumination. The illumination consisted of three white strobes which flashed in unison, and a large white light which ran the full length of the trailing edge of the aircraft. John only saw one flash of the strobes but this was enough, along with the rear light to clearly display the shape of the aircraft.

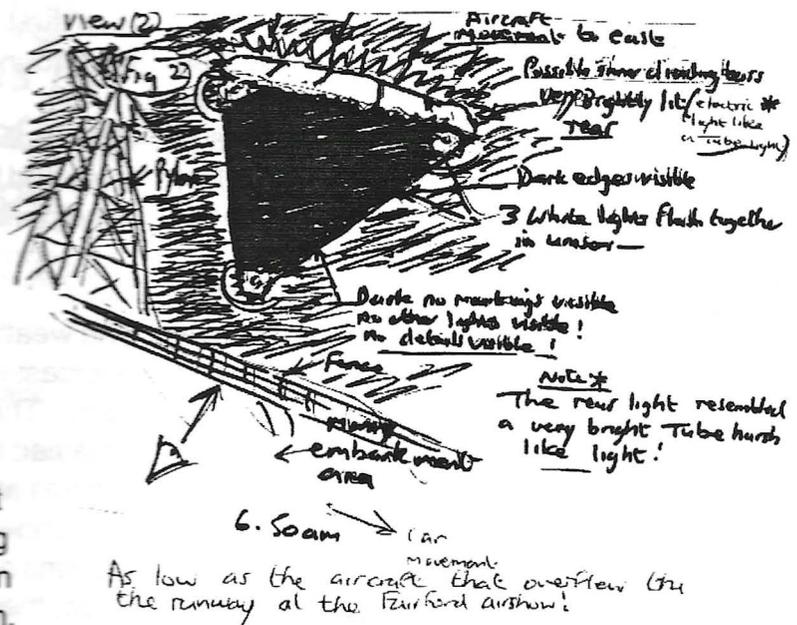
The shape was described as triangular with sharp corners (see figure 2). The shape was not apparent before the aircraft had passed overhead because John had not seen the strobes flash at this point and the brightness of the remaining rear light masked his vision of the rest of the aircraft when it was further away. The colour was described as merging into the dark sky and it had no commercial markings or numbers visible. The size was considered to be similar to a small commercial jet airliner. The altitude was described as low,

saw nothing unusual about the aircraft. However, John saw nothing unusual about the aircraft until it had passed overhead and he caught a glimpse of the underside. None of the other people in the car saw this view. The only reason that John saw this view was because of his interest in aircraft and the fact that he deliberately moved his head back and to the left to get a final view out of the side rear window. John immediately realized the importance of his sighting and after a brief discussion with the other occupants of the car, started to make notes to assist in memorizing as much detail as possible. Within a few days, he had hand written a full report.

John and the other occupants arrived at Knutsford services on the M6, 5 to 10 minutes after the sighting where they met up with other people who were making the same journey South to Telford. While at the service station, John keenly watched the sky in case there was anything else unusual, but all that he noted were other commercial aircraft and a red low flying Jet Ranger helicopter.

Figure 2

The underside view of the aircraft as seen by the witness after it had crossed the motorway and flown over the top of the car.



being approximately twice as high as a pylon that the aircraft passed over. The speed was described as being slow but John has stated that aircraft often appear to be traveling slower than they actually are when viewed from a car moving at 70 mph. I am sure that most readers would agree with this statement as I do. The only noise heard was that related to the car.

Three other people in the car had the potential to see what John saw but one of them was asleep, another was driving and hence concentrating on the road and the other witness

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 anything unusual about the aircraft. Even if a camera or camcorder had been available in the car, it is unlikely that they

would have been switched on and focused in time to get a clean shot of the underside of the aircraft.

Letters were sent to Airstaff 2A and National Air Traffic Services (NATS) to make enquiries about possible military exercises and commercial air traffic in the area at the time. Air Staff 2A sent a written reply which stated that "Military aircraft do not conduct low flying training (below 2000 feet) near civil airports or over large built up areas. This area is therefore not overflowed at low level due to the proximity of Manchester Airport and the large built up areas of Manchester and Liverpool." This would appear to rule out military aircraft unless tests were being undertaken in secret. It is our opinion that the density of air traffic in this area would make it a very unlikely place for the MoD to test new aircraft in secret. Hence we have no reason to disbelieve Airstaff 2A on this occasion. We did not consider it practical to ask Airstaff 2A if anything unusual was picked up on radar because we know that in the event of something unusual, they would not tell us anyway.

John Harrington at NATS replied via e-mail and stated that their logs show that no unusual aerial activity took place at that time, but the area in which the aircraft was observed was in a portion of airspace for which no control of the aircraft is necessary, i.e. free airspace. As such Manchester would have no record of the aircraft. He also stated that aircraft are increasingly using multiple strobes which flash in unison and when they have these lights, red and green port and starboard lights are not required. He had spoken with a colleague who suggested that the aircraft may have been a Piper Pawnee crop spraying aircraft (see figure 3) because this aircraft often has a long bar at the back for the purpose of crop spraying. We have several problems with this theory:

- The aircraft looks nothing like John Hall's drawings.
- The size of the Pawnee is tiny compared to John's estimates.
- Such a small aircraft is unlikely to have 3 strobes.

- There would be no reason to illuminate the crop spraying bar at the rear of the aircraft.
- We have never heard of crop spraying taking place during the hours of darkness.



Figure 3
NATS suggested that what John Hall had seen was a Piper Pawnee crop spraying aircraft. A picture of a Piper Pawnee is shown above. Compare this with one of John Halls diagrams, figure 2. Can you see the striking similarity? ☺

We believe that the response from NATS is a desperate attempt to categorize an aircraft which is unknown to them. They probably felt that if they could not come up with an answer, then they had failed and hence an answer had to be found at any cost.

Both replies from Airstaff 2A and NATS were terse and NATS stated that they were unwilling to help with future enquiries because of a lack of resources to deal with this type of enquiry.

The weather as described by John was totally overcast with a low cloud base and intermittent rain. This ties in with the weather report obtained from The Proudman Oceanographic Institute at Bidston Observatory. It is impossible for temperature inversions to produce optical illusions or reflections of lights over the horizon under these conditions.

Conclusions

Both John Hall and myself believe that the best way to come to a conclusion is to first of all eliminate what it could not have been and then focus on what is left.

This is what we have eliminated.....

Astronomical objects. The object has undoubtedly moved during the short duration of the sighting which rules out all astronomical objects except meteors, but the entire description of the object including flashing strobe lights rule meteors out too.

Meteorological phenomena. Ball lightning and inversion layers causing reflections of the moon or other bright astronomical bodies are ruled out for the same reasons as astronomical objects. Effects from inversion layers are ruled out by total low cloud cover.

Airship/blimp. The triangular shape of the object when viewed from underneath almost certainly rules out an airship or blimp. This is further confirmed by the large white light at the back and the lack of any markings on the aircraft. Some investigators will point to secret military style blimps for transporting troops but these are very unlikely to be tested in areas with such a high degree of commercial air traffic at an altitude which brings it dangerously close to pylons.

'The large tube like light on the trailing edge is not known as a feature of any aircraft that we know'

Microlight aircraft. The estimated size of the aircraft rules out Microlight aircraft.

The possibilities we are left with are:

A misidentified conventional aircraft. Arguments in favour of this include the fact that the other three people in the car saw nothing unusual, other low flying aircraft were in the area and Manchester airport is only about 7 miles from the location of the sighting. Arguments against this include the fact that John Hall lives a couple of miles from Liverpool airport, he is used to seeing low flying aircraft in the dark on a daily basis, he saw no markings on the aircraft at the time that it was illuminated, the other witnesses did not see the underside view that John saw and the large tube like light on the trailing edge is not known as a feature

of any aircraft that we know.

A secret military aircraft. There is still a camp of followers who proclaim that all triangular aircraft are military. In favour of this argument, we can include the fact that military aircraft have been made to a triangular shape in the past and it is believed by some that new aircraft are under development with a triangular airframe. Amongst these are the alleged Aurora aircraft and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) which are flown by remote control. Stealth technology has led to military aircraft being built with unconventional shapes, well known examples include the F117 Stealth Fighter and the B2 Spirit bomber. When these aircraft are viewed from an angle whereby the main projection of the aircraft is either a forward or rear aspect, they can look vaguely triangular in shape.

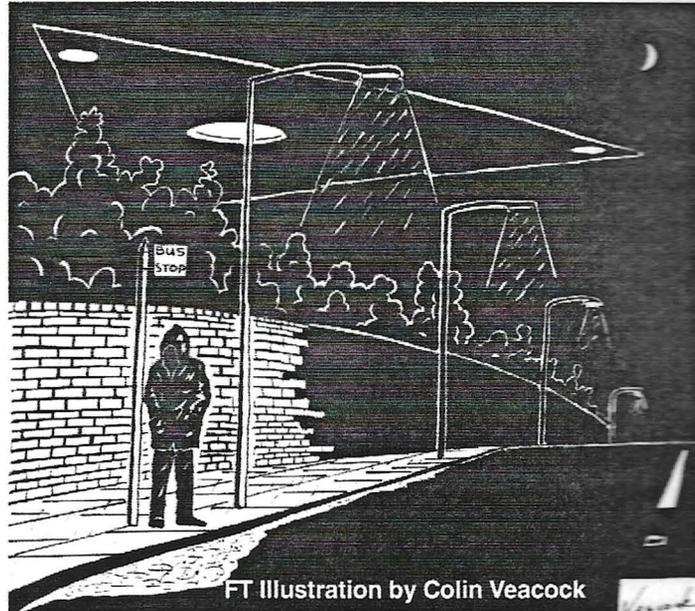
There are several arguments against this theory. Amongst them is the fact that it would be stupid of the military to fly such secret test vehicles over areas where there is a high likelihood that they would be observed and photographed when there are perfectly good test areas out in the Irish Sea and the North Sea, which are well away from prying eyes. The danger of a mid air collision in such dense air traffic or a crash into the pylons would also tend to rule out military exercises in this area. John Hall has attended many airshows, the last one being the Royal International Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford in 1999. At this show he observed the F117 and B2 stealth aircraft and as such is used to seeing unconventional shapes of aircraft, but he insists that the aircraft he saw did not look like either of the two aircraft mentioned.

An extra-terrestrial (ET) craft. This is one of the most controversial conclusions but probably just as likely as the other two. It is well beyond the scope of this article to go into the arguments for the existence of ET life forms and the likelihood of them visiting Earth so we will not attempt to do that here. However, the absence of markings on the underside of the craft indicate that it would be either secret military or ET and its presence amongst dense air traffic and close to pylons suggest that it is not secret

military. Against this argument, we can state that the aircraft was not beyond the size of conventional aircraft (in fact it is quite a typical size). In addition the aircraft did not perform any maneuvers which could be considered outside the envelope of conventional fixed wing aircraft.

Illusion caused by the effect of high-tension cables. John Hall filled in a witness environmental health census. The census was designed by Albert Budden who is a researcher and author with a particular interest in the effect of electric and magnetic fields on witnesses to UFO and paranormal events. There are 29 questions in the census which relate to the witness's sensitivity to environmental conditions such as electric fields,

magnetic fields, pollutants and health. For an average person in good health, you might expect them to answer yes to about five of these questions and don't know or not applicable to another five. You would expect the rest of the answers to be no. John answered yes to 21 question, don't know / not applicable to 7 and no to 1. This is an extraordinary rating by Budden standards. In addition, one of MARA's own experiments in remote viewing gave John a higher score than any other member of the group who took part, although it must be stated that only one experiment was performed and it was done under less than scientific conditions. Nevertheless, all the indications are that John is sensitive to environmental conditions that would not effect the majority of us. At the time that John had his underside view of the aircraft, he was directly underneath a set of high-tension cables carrying electricity at 11,000 volts (see figure 2). If the theories of Budden et al are correct, then John may have been susceptible



FT Illustration by Colin Veacock

to sensory illusion at the time of his sighting.

Recent research has indicated that there may be one or two clusters of the incidence of Leukemia in children who live near to electrical sub-stations. If these findings are reproduced elsewhere, then we have definite proof that long-term exposure to electromagnetic fields at 50 Hz can have effects on the body.

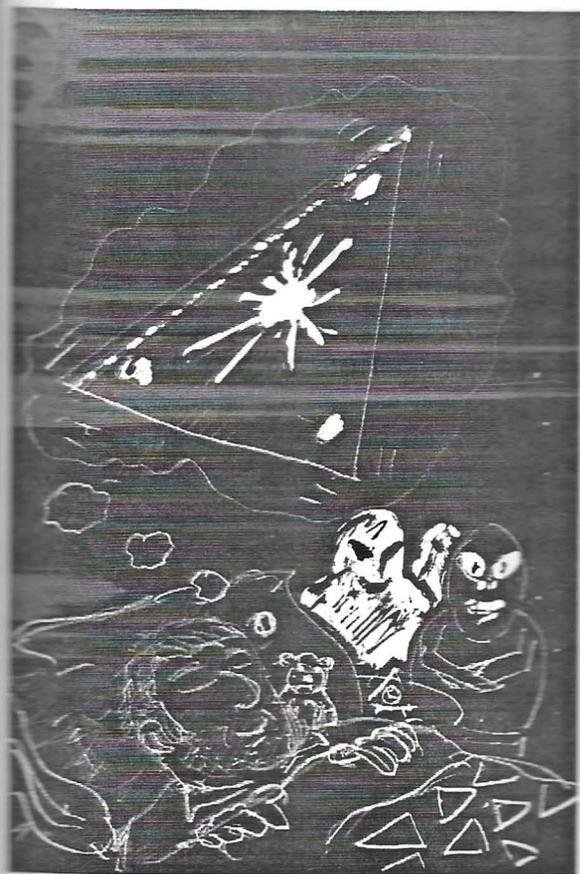
Scientists have embarked on a further field of electromagnetic research known as Trans-cranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS). In this research, undertaken by psychologists and neurologists, a coil of wire is held close to the subject's cranium while a high pulse of current is sent around the coil. The resultant magnetic field causes temporary

optical illusions and distortions. TMS is not without risk. One subject reported that they forgot how to get to their place of work the day after a TMS session, despite the fact that they had worked at the same place for several years. The point must be made that the field that John Hall experienced while going under the high-tension cables would be several orders of magnitude lower than that experienced by TMS subjects. However, we have already demonstrated that John appears to be particularly sensitive to some environmental conditions.

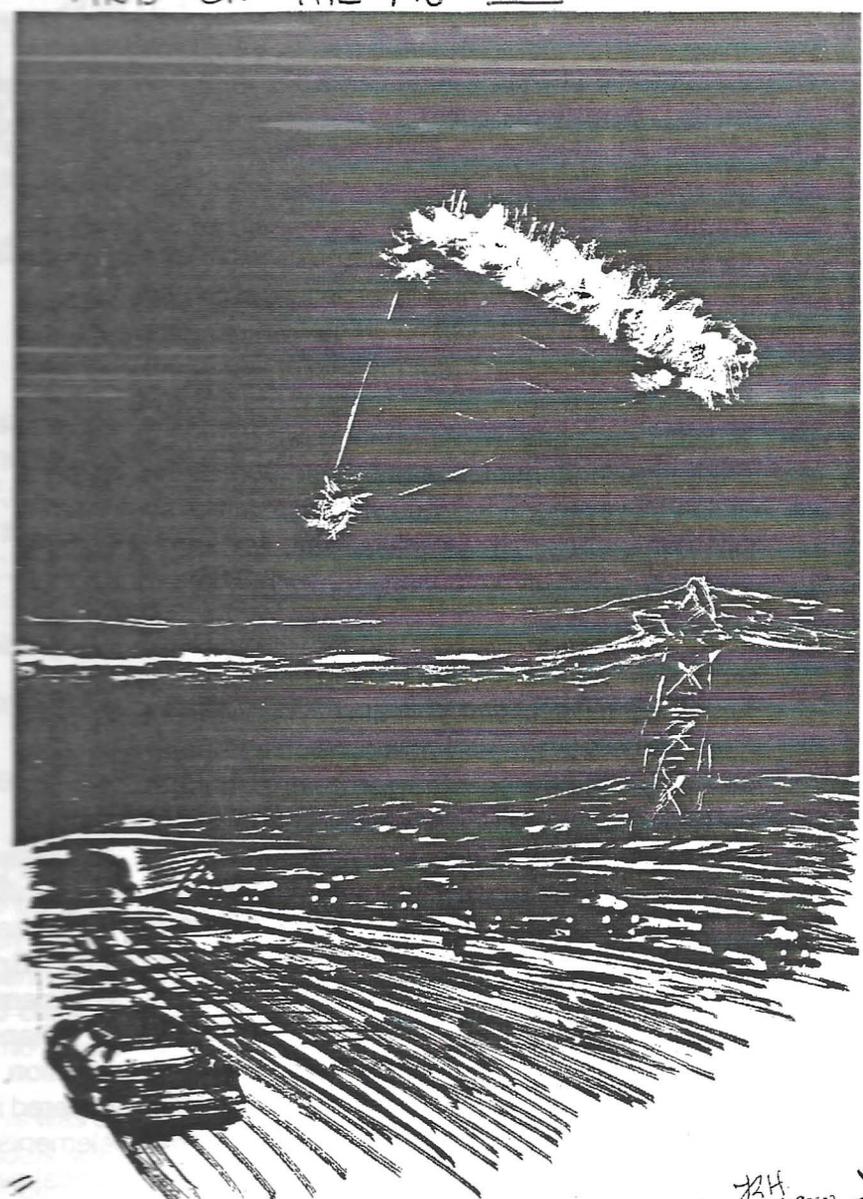
I (Bill Bimson) do not subscribe to the theory, that John's perception was altered by the high-tension cables but this article would be incomplete without mentioning these points 

If anyone has further information on this sighting please contact John Hall by e-mail on: j.l.hall@livjm.ac.uk

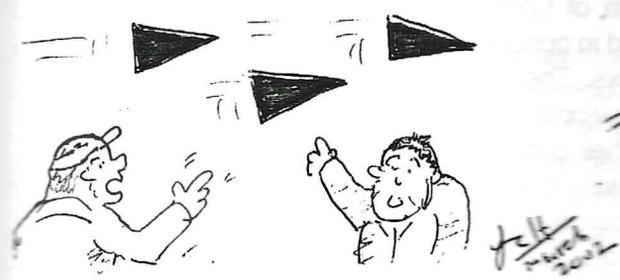
"TRIANGLED CORNER" - with Angelo Saxon
"AND ON THE MO"



LET'S SEE HIM PUT THIS ONE DOWN TO THE MOD? *JAH*
NOV 98



I Bet he's missed the turnoff for WARTON! *JAH Oct 2000*



You wait for years to see one -
Then Three Come Along -!



Wow! A WHOLE FLEET OF FLYING TRIANGLES

NO - IT'S ONLY A WEATHERFRONT MOVING IN

MEANWHILE AT SKYWATCH WEEKEND *JAH NOV 99*



The Paranormal News

Paranormal News Round-Up by Colin Veacock

“ETs A Scouser”

On the 13th February 2001, many people in Liverpool reported seeing strange lights dancing around the night sky. Eileen Davidson and her family from Broadgreen watched four orange lights flying in an organised formation just after 6pm, and Corina Rigazio from Wavertree said that she had not been able to sleep after seeing the peculiar light show.

“There seemed to be a series of lights coming towards me from the direction of Edge Lane. There were about four of them and they were arranged in a diagonal formation equally spaced apart.”, said Corina when interviewed by the Liverpool Echo. Several explanations were put forward to explain the weird lights ranging from light reflected from the bellies of geese, the Warton flying triangle, aircraft lights seen out of context and meteors. Over the following days a black triangular aircraft was seen and filmed over Aigburth Vale, one of which dropped a string like substance onto nearby trees. Prompted by the Liverpool Echo, our own Ufologist extraordinaire, Tony Eccles, spent a couple of hours away from the street lights in a park near his home. Although nothing was seen Tony remarked at how clear the sky was and pondered whether the unusual conditions had caught the witnesses off guard.

Liverpool Echo, Wednesday Feb 14, 2001.

“Telepath Wanted”

Victor Lewis-Smith of the Daily Mirror has come up with an interesting way to look for genuine psychics. Apparently an ICM Poll recently showed that 64 percent of British people believe in psychics, 38 percent believe in ghosts and 34 percent in poltergeists. Vic also pondered why people who believe in a sixth sense seem to abandon the other five! To ram home his point he has been placing an advert in the Psychic Times

each week which reads; “Millionaire wishes to hire telepath. Will pay £5,000 per day. If you’re genuine, you’ll know where to apply.” Up to this moment in time Victor hasn’t had a single enquiry.... Strange!

Daily Mirror, Saturday Dec 9, 2001.

“A Grey Night-Mare”

The oldest of the seven white horses cut into the chalk hills of Wiltshire has become a grey drab mare thanks to a cock-up by English Heritage. The Bratton White Horse, reputed to commemorate King Alfreds victory over the Danes at Ethandure in 878, (but is almost certainly a creation of Lord Abingdons about 1700), was covered in concrete in an effort to save it from the elements. The man from English Heritage said; “Local people are very unhappy about it and we share their concerns. Technical investigations are under way to establish the cause and nature of the discoloration and we are committed to finding a solution.

Councillor Christopher Newbury said; “It looks dirty.” That college diploma in ‘The Bleeding Obvious’ is paying dividends Chris!

Daily Mirror, Friday January 5, 2001.

“Cat Eats Car”

Don Gooding of Raydon near Harlow, Essex, left his home one morning to find that his beloved cats had been killed by an unknown beast named by the locals, “The Beast Of Essex”. The unknown breed of big cat, possibly a giant black puma, then went on to savage Mr Gooding’s Renault Megane. “The insurance company were staggered when I



The Paranormal News

Paranormal News Round-Up by Colin Veacock

called in with my claim," he said, describing how there were large scratchmarks and bites around the wheel arch. John Hancock of the Essex Big Cat Research Group said; "The damage was almost certainly done by a big cat." In another case in Coulston, Wiltshire, a dog was badly mauled by a giant cat...

Daily Mirror, Saturday January 6, 2001.

"The Woman In White"

Most people were avid watchers of Big Brother, but not me. I like my entertainment to be a bit more daring and adventurous, so when BBC 1 aired *Castaways*, a sociological experiment which marooned thirty four men, women and children on Taransay Island, I was hooked. "Who would kill who first?"

However, just like Big Brother, *Castaways* was all hype, concentrating on certain individuals who played to the camera and ignoring the genuine people who did all the work. If I'd have been there it would have been the biggest mass murder in Scottish history. The year on Taransay wasn't spent entirely stabbing each other in the back and trying to look cute in front of the camera while stoned on cheap and nasty homebrew. Apparently Patricia Prater, 37, the one who copped off with the mouthy little scouser, described how she was visited by a female ghost who walked into her pod through the closed door, straight through her before walking straight through the opposite wall. Other *Castaways* also described how they had seen a man waving at them from a rowing boat before instantly vanishing. Locals say the island is haunted due to a massacre in 1544.

"What were they putting in that homebrew?"

Sunday People, November 26, 2000.

"Geller Does It Again"

Whether you believe that Uri Geller has genuine psychic powers or not is immaterial as he is a really nice guy. There's no getting around the fact that strange things happen when he is around, just ask Cllr Eddie Clein, the Lord Mayor of Liverpool. Uri was attending the 50th anniversary of the Jewish Telegraph at the La Meridien Victoria And Albert Hotel in Manchester where he sat on the next table to the Mayor, entertaining people at his table by bending a spoon. Suddenly Cllr Clein's large enamel and gold coat of arms which has almost four hundred diamonds arranged on it, buckled and fell onto the table. On inspection it was found that all the rivets which held it in place had mysteriously bent and fallen out. John Pyke, Managing Director of Liverpool jewellers, William Pyke and Sons announced himself baffled.

"You might expect the odd rivet to fall out or come lose, but for all of them to drop out at once is bizarre." Uri said; "I have bent a million pound silver statue of a horse and rider carrying a sword for Lord Bath, but this is the most expensive piece I have ever bent accidentally."

Liverpool Echo, December 12, 2000.

"And Finally..."

Uri and Hannah Geller, who were married ten years ago, are about to exchange wedding vows again in a traditional Jewish ceremony. Best man, Michael Jackson, yes, whacko Jacko, said; "I'll bend over backwards to be best man at his wedding." Freudian slip surely?

The wedding will take place at Uri's £5.5 million mansion in Sonning, Berkshire, in the second week of March and will be conducted by Rabbi Shmuley Boteach. Shortly after the wedding Michael (I'm not like other guys) Jackson will give a lecture to the Oxford Student Union. That will be an intellectually stimulating ten minutes then!

News of the World, January 21, 2001.

I, and all the members of MARA, wish Uri and Hannah all the best on their wedding day.

A Miracle On Chapel Street

By Colin Veacock

After a near fatal accident, an ordinary Liverpool man begins to experience some extraordinary things. For instance, can Nicky Smith really see the dead? Colin Veacock picks up the story.

Nicky Smith is an ordinary man. Or rather he was an ordinary man.... On the 5th December 1990, at the age of twenty four, something happened to Nick which defies belief. While cleaning the windows on the fifth floor of Richmond House on Chapel Street, Liverpool, a window hinge gave way causing Nick to spiral backwards out of the window. As he somersaulted through the air he heard a voice, which he describes as belonging to an old woman, telling him to, "Fall feet first Nicky, fall feet first." At the same time he was acutely aware of watching himself cart wheeling through the air from several feet behind his body.

'He was acutely aware of watching himself cartwheeling through the air from several feet behind his body'

The last thing he remembers is placing his left hand behind his head, an action which almost certainly saved his life, before he crashed into the courtyard below. As luck would have it, Nick was coming out of a somersault when the back of his feet smashed into the floor shattering the bones. Other injuries sustained when he landed in the courtyard included a broken pelvis, the three bottom vertebrae of his spine were fractured, his left wrist was shattered and had to be rebuilt, the ribs on the right hand side of his body were broken and he received a severe concussion. Although he kept his eyes tightly shut as heard screams of horror echoing around the courtyard, he felt detached and distant as if it was happening to someone else. Then, with a rush, he was thrown back into his body. As pain tore through his torso he managed to turn his head to the right where he saw a police motorcyclist looking away in horror at the sight of his disjointed body. Then silence descended. Nicky was rushed by ambulance to

the Royal Liverpool Hospital where Doctors began to treat his many injuries. When they asked whether he could hear them Nicky responded in a broad Irish accent which shocked everyone present although his scouse accent soon returned. It was to be two long painful years before he was truly back on his feet again. There were many setbacks along the way...

At one stage he died twice due to eight blood clots which settled in his lungs and at one point one of his feet had to be rebuilt due to gangrene. It's a credit to the man that barely two years after surviving the horrific fall he was out of hospital and back at home with his family. Although still in constant pain he could see light at the end of the tunnel. However, as his health began to improve he became aware that not everything was as it should be.

It began two years later, on a Christmas Eve, at the Taxi Club on Cherry Lane, Liverpool, where Nicky, his friends and family had gathered to celebrate the festive season. While the club throbbed to the sound of laughter and music Nick could see his father up at the bar screaming and shouting for everybody to shut up, yet when he brought this to the attention of his family they looked at him with bewilderment. "Look!," he said pointing back to the bar, "I think Dad's having a nervous breakdown. When he slowly turned around it was his turn to be bewildered...His father was now quietly standing at the bar enjoying a pint and keeping himself to himself. What had caused the vision is not known but a similar event happened later that same night in the clubs washrooms.

The next day his father had a nervous breakdown and a slight stroke which temporarily paralysed him down his right hand side...

While his father recovered in hospital some of his friends and family began to look at Nick in a different light. Some, to this very day, won't have

anything to do with him. It scared some while others politely distanced themselves from him. For Nicky, worse was to follow...

Five weeks later Nick's father was released from hospital and allowed home. The perfect time, so Nick thought, to get away for a while on his own and reflect on what had happened and the change that seemed to be going on within himself. After a brief phone call to his girlfriend he set off for Lime Street where he was due to catch a train to the Lake District. At Preston he had to change trains but he had hardly ever travelled by rail before so it wasn't long before he became hopelessly lost. People rushed past him seemingly ignoring his pleas for help, when suddenly a young thin man dressed in a T-shirt pushed his way through the crowd and offered to show him the way to his train. Nicky thought it was funny that while everyone else was wearing heavy coats in an effort to keep the February chill at bay the man now leading him to his train only wore a thin summer shirt. "He must be freezing," he thought to himself.

Finally, after thanking the young man, he boarded his train and walked quietly through the carriage until he took a seat opposite a middle aged man who rested his head against the window pane. The rocking motion of the train soon had its passengers yawning loudly. The man sitting opposite Nick had soon fallen to sleep and he feared that he would soon follow and miss his stop. Then the door at the far end of the carriage opened and the same young man who had earlier helped him find the train walked down the aisle and sat down next to the sleeping middle aged man opposite him. Nick was astounded when the man then leant over and began to go through the sleeping gentlemen's pockets. Nick reacted like anyone would and reached over in an effort to grab the young man but somehow he slipped through his grasp and stood up. "Grab him," Nick shouted as the man walked back through the carriage, "he's just been going through this man's pockets. Stop him." Some of the other passengers looked about confused while the sleeping man sat bolt upright and asked Nick what was going on.. "That lad was going through your pockets," he said, pointing down the carriage where the young man looked back at him briefly.

"What man?" came the reply. Even though Nicky could see the skinny youth opening the door at the end of the carriage it appeared that to everyone else he was invisible. Now he began to feel foolish. Slumping down in his seat he felt the hard glare

of the people sitting around him. He never lifted his gaze again until he reached his destination.

Once out on the platform he quickly found the ticket office and retold his story to the two rail staff who offered little help. In the end, after Nick had begged them to help him find the young man, the two staff wandered up and down the platforms with Nicky scrutinising those commuters who gathered waiting for their trains. Just as they were about to give up he spotted the man standing on the opposite platform amongst a group of people who were gathered together in a waiting room. Although the young man wearing the flimsy T-shirt stood head and shoulders above the other travellers, a mere twenty to thirty feet away, neither of the rail staff could see him. And when Nick looked back again neither could he...

That night in his hotel room shadows moved about the bottom of his bed and along the walls. When the morning eventually came he left the hotel and wandered down to a newsagent where he bought a paper and struck up a conversation with the owner and her husband. Nicky was invited out that evening to a local pub and not wishing to be on his own he gratefully accepted.

That night in the bar Nicky noticed how some of the other drinkers and revellers were giving him a funny look. After awhile the constant staring and whispering behind his back got to much and saying his goodnights he returned back to his hotel believing that the good people of the Lake District had a dislike for Liverpoolians.

'Walking down the platform towards him was a man dressed in clothes from the 40s era'

The next day Nick decided enough was enough and set off for home. The train journey to Preston was uneventful but while he sat on the railway platform waiting for the Liverpool connection something happened which caused him to realise for the first time what was actually going on. After several travellers had stopped and stared at him as they left the station Nicky heard a voice way off in the distance shouting and laughing. As it grew nearer he could make out an American accent and finally he could hear exactly what the person was saying.

"Hi everybody, I'm from Texas, how are you?" the American said over and over again until it became repetitive and caused Nick to look up. Walking down the platform towards him was a man dressed in clothes from the 40s era who was patting people on the back and generally making a nuisance of himself. The people who were being patted on the back appeared to be ignoring him while those wandering back and forth along the platform didn't appear to be able to see him at all. No sooner had the thought entered his head than the American stopped and stared at him with a puzzled look on his face. "Was this a ghost?" Nick asked himself as the American slowly walked back the way he had come in total silence finally vanishing from view near the end of the platform.

'Since then Nicky Smith has met a clairvoyant named David Moran who claims that Nick is a receiver'

Since then Nicky Smith has met a clairvoyant named David Moran who claims that Nick is a receiver who has something described as, "not bad", attached to him. As well as the many sightings of apparitions and the balls of light he often sees playfully flying about his home, he also had the enviable talent of writing poetry and painting pictures of stairways which reached for the sky surrounded by balls of glowing light. One of his more profound and emotional poems is called, Nation In Grief, which is a tribute to Jamie Bulger. From shortly after his accident in 1990 to 1993 Nicky wrote well over one hundred and fifty poems yet when he now thinks about it he cannot consciously remember writing the words. When, in 1993, Nicky's health improved drastically the ability to paint and write poetry vanished just as mysteriously as it had emerged. In 1994 he had his last sighting of a ghost in Chester when he was searching for the local Spiritualist Church. A figure rushed through the crowd and told him he would find the church on *Chapel Street*. Coincidence?

The only gift he still appears to exhibit is the ability to pick up on peoples pain. When he first met me he knew all about my spine injury, pointed to the part of my back where I broke a bone and disc and even told me that it affected my right leg, all of which is absolutely correct.

I've read about people before who have had a brush with death and end up developing paranormal abilities. Even some abductees show signs of gaining talents and abilities which they never had before their experiences began. Maybe the parts of the brain which have to cope with the pressures of normal living switch off when they believe death is a certainty, allowing new regions of the brain to step forward and take control when the percipient somehow cheats death. Of course, when normality returns the whole process is switched back disconnecting the person, sometimes cruelly, from his or her paranormal abilities, leaving them and the people they have touched confused and bewildered.

Nicky Smith's story is a triumph for dogged self belief over pain and adversity as he now leads a relatively normal life. When he's not fishing he's spending his time with his beautiful three year old daughter who has yet to learn about the strange events which haunted her father after that near fatal fall from the fifth floor of Richmond House 

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The Headless Horseman of Stockham Lane

By Mark Rosney

The nearby borough of Halton boasts many myths and legends involving UFOs, ghosts, dragons and poltergeists. One such legend is the apparition of the Headless Horseman who is said to haunt an old abandoned stretch of road known as Stockham Lane. Mark Rosney takes us back to a sinister dark night in 1982, where everything was not as it first seemed.

As a young boy growing up in Runcorn I often overheard the seasoned locals talking about the many ghosts and spirits which were said to haunt the more older parts of the town. For instance, there were the ghostly monks which were often seen in Norton Wood, the poltergeist of Byron Street, the ghosts of hanged murderers who appeared with regularity upon Halton Castle hill and, of course, the headless horseman of Stockham Lane.

It was said that on the night of the full moon, the ghostly apparition of a headless cavalier could be seen galloping down the disused lane on a ghostly steed. Legend said that the sight was so terrifying that anyone who witnessed the spectacle often died of fright or became insane. In my formative years I believed every word of it.

However, as the years rolled by, my childlike suspension of disbelief and gullibility became casualties to the agonising phase in life called 'growing up'. Somewhere along the line the penny dropped; that not everything told to you by an adult is true. And so I began to disregard the tales of wailing monks and headless horsemen.

Shortly after my 19th birthday two things happened: I fell head over heels in love; and an article in the local newspaper caught my eye. **'I saw the ghost of a headless horseman'** ran the headline. I read the article with renewed fascination. It told of a man called Chris White who missed his last bus home and decided to take a short cut along the old disused lane which cut through the vast grassy wilderness called the town park. He said that an eerie mist had settled on the road, illuminated only by the light of the full moon, when all of a sudden he heard the distinct sound of horses hooves. At first he saw nothing as he peered into the eerie fog, but without warning the ghost of Stockham lane, the headless horseman on his crazed steed, hurtled towards him at a dizzying pace. According to the newspaper, Chris froze to the spot, terrified, unable to move as the phantom cavalier shot past him with all speed. It was a very chilling story, made more so because of the tales I had

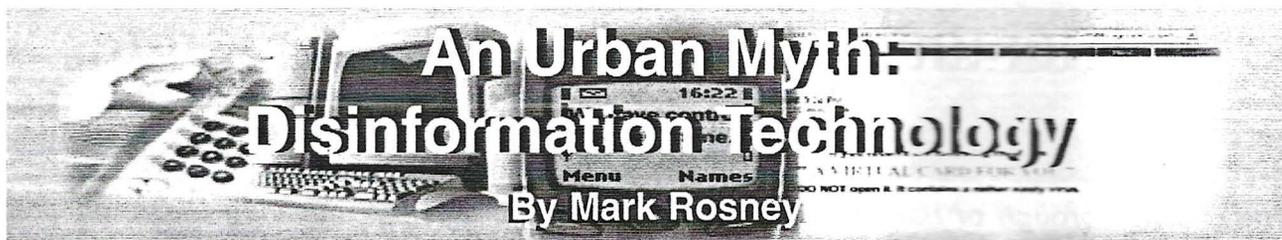
overheard when I was a small boy. The stories must have been true I thought, for who could deny a contemporary account?

The girl of my dreams lived on the other side of the town park to me. Most nights I would walk her home and then catch the last bus back. On many occasions I only just made the bus but, on one lonely february night in 1982, the bus had decided to depart 5 minutes early. I had no choice but to walk home.

My spirits were high, so I decided to take a short cut through the town park. After 10 minutes of walking I reached Stockham Lane and started to proceed down it as fast as I could. When my eyes had become accustomed to the dark I began to notice a strange eerie mist which clung to the floor, illuminated only by the light of the moon. There was also an eerie silence, almost as though I was the last person on earth. Then, out of the silence, I heard the unmistakable sound of horses hooves. Gripped with sudden panic I ran as fast as I could, but the sound of horses hooves got louder and louder. As I ran I looked over my shoulder and caught sight of a 'ghostly' white horse emerging through the mist. Thinking my number was up I stopped in my tracks gasping for breath. I decided to turn and face my fate. It was then I realised that this horse was riderless, and as it slowed down and approached me I realised that it was not a ghost, but very real.

The horse stopped just in front of me and nuzzled my hand. I was so relieved that I laughed out loud. I patted the horse and then continued on my way, but the horse followed me. It was obviously lost. After 10 mins of walking I emerged into Halton Village, horse still in tow. There was no way I could turn up back home with a horse, and no way of shooing the animal away, so I took it to the local police station and handed it in as 'lost property'. You should have seen the look on their faces!

There is a moral to this tale, and it is this: Never let your imagination run away with you, and whenever you decide to venture out on a lonely stretch of road, don't forget to take sugarlumps 



What is the meaning behind the latest craze on the net, the distribution of lists of 'interesting facts'. Is it just to satisfy our hunger for trivia, or is there something more sinister going on?

Here are some amazing facts which you probably didn't know:

Uri Gagarin, the first man in space, was afraid of heights!

Alfred Hitchcock wrote his first movie script when he was only seven years old!

A Duck's quack doesn't echo, but nobody knows why!

The most amazing thing about these facts is that they are **not** true. I made up the first two myself, but the third came straight off one of many lists of 'amazing facts' or 'cool things to know' which are currently doing the rounds on the internet.

These lists of facts often contain true statements, but hidden within them are one or two completely false ones. On the surface this tomfoolery appears to be the work of hi tech jokers having a bit of a laugh. Perhaps bored academics or college students throw the odd false item in the lists to temporarily suspend our disbelief or maybe these impish creators just want to see how far their 'facts' get before they are rumbled. Perhaps all they want is to see just how big a falsehood they can get away with. Who can tell? But is it all just harmless fun, or is there something more sinister going on?

Could it be that there is someone, somewhere, who has a vested interest in stimulating peoples curiosity? Could it be, perhaps, a ploy to get us all surfing the web to discover more? It certainly seems that way, for there is a subtle brilliance involved in the creation of the most engaging false facts.

They appear to be engineered in such a way that the 'facts' sound improbable but at the same time plausible. A topic is carefully chosen, such as natural history, famous people, scientific anomalies etc which at first glance appear to be everywhere on the web, but in practice will take you a very long time to 'drill down' to find out the truth. Top it off with an intriguing end statement,

such as 'and nobody knows why', and Voila! You have just engaged the curiosity of your target audience.

Take for instance the classic 'A duck's quack doesn't echo....' The only reason I didn't fall for this one is that I happen to have a background in sound engineering. There is no sound on this planet which is incapable of producing an echo. True, you can create artificial environments where echoes can be stifled, and there are natural places on Earth where reflected sounds (echoes) are nullified because their waves cancel each other out, but there is nothing special about the sound of a duck's quack; no freak of dynamics, no special waveforms, no strange harmonics, in fact nothing out of the ordinary whatsoever. The sounds which emanate from a Duck's beak are like all other sounds; they travel through the air as waves of energy, they **can** and **do** bounce off any solid object they meet along the way. All sound waves behave in the same way. There are no exceptions, not even for a duck! To quote the famous engineer Montgomery Scott: *'Ye canna change the laws of physics'*.

So, onto the billion gigabyte question. Who could possibly benefit from sending us around in electronic circles on the World Wide Web? There are two major contenders. Phone companies are one. The more time you spend on the web, the more minutes you are on the phone. Minutes = money. Search engine providers are the other big contender. Curiosity = hits (More people visit your site), hits mean popularity and popularity leads to increased advertising revenue. The more your audience is intrigued, the more they will need to use your search engine.

Paranoia? Conspiracy theory? Could well be. But whatever the real truth is, the moral of the tale is this: Don't believe all you see, hear or read on the Web. The internet is, afterall, an electronic extension of human society; a conglomeration of the good, bad and downright deceitful parts of us all. So next time you receive a list of 'Cool things to know', take it with a pinch of spinach 



About MARA

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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 also welcome letters, articles and advertisements from non MARA members. MARA does not pay for articles from outside sources, however it will mean that your article or research will reach a wider audience of people involved in the paranormal.

Please send your letters and articles to:

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**No personal visits
please!**

MARA reserves the right to edit all submissions as necessary.

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. It aims to collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to anomalous phenomena.

The association will also co-operate with persons and organisations engaged in similar research in all parts of the country. MARA also provides data for undergraduate and post-graduate students who are researching 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 Merseyside. Investigation by members has to be done at their own expense (*something other societies fail to mention*). Association members are open minded and objective in their approach and investigative training is given.

All members abide by a code of conduct, treating information pertaining to witnesses and cases with confidentiality. The Association and its members operate under the Data Protection Act. Membership application to MARA is free and space permitting, is open to any interested individuals. If you would like to apply to become a member of MARA, you will find a membership application form on the next page. Simply take a photocopy and return it to the address on the form.

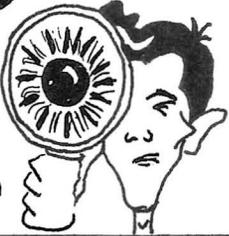
The Association is jointly run by its group organisers, called co-ordinators. They are amateur investigators and researchers in their spare time, and members of well known national organisations. They are responsible for any major decisions involving the group in addition to the association's membership, activities, functions and research.

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

**Join the MARA team.....
Fill in the application form today!**

PSI-MAN SAYS.

By Col Veacock



TODAY, PSI-MAN ENTERS THE SEANCE ROOM AND CONVERSES WITH THE SPIRITS.

SO, WHAT'S IT LIKE BEING A SPIRIT?



EVERYTHING'S A SIN. NO PUBS COS ALL THE HEAVY DRINKERS ARE IN HELL. NO LOOSE WOMEN COS THEY'RE ALSO IN HELL AND NO BETTING SHOPS BECAUSE GAMBLING IS A SIN. HELL SOUNDS A GREAT PLACE!

SO YOU WOULDN'T RECOMMEND IT THEN?



NO... THE WORSE THING IS THAT SOONER OR LATER...



CLIFF RICHARD IS GOING TO END UP HERE.



Veacock

ARE YOU THERE?

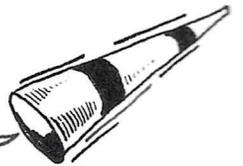
YOU ARE THERE, AREN'T YOU?



A SEANCE ROOM IN LIVERPOOL.

NO!

YES...



OH IT'S GREAT. I DON'T HAVE A PHYSICAL BODY, MOST PEOPLE DON'T BELIEVE IN ME AND WHEN I DO OCCASIONALLY PUT IN AN APPEARANCE THEY WHEEL IN A PRIEST TO FLICK HOLY WATER AT ME. WHAT DO YOU THINK IT'S LIKE?



IT SOUNDS TERRIBLE...

UH HUH! THE ONLY COMPANY I HAVE IS OTHER SPIRITS AND THE OCCASIONAL MEDIUM, AND THEY'RE HARDLY RIVETING COMPANY...

SO THE SPIRIT WORLD ISN'T ALL IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE?



ARE YOU KIDDING...

