



A publication of the Merseyside Anomalies Research Association

Issue 11, Winter 2003

The Researcher

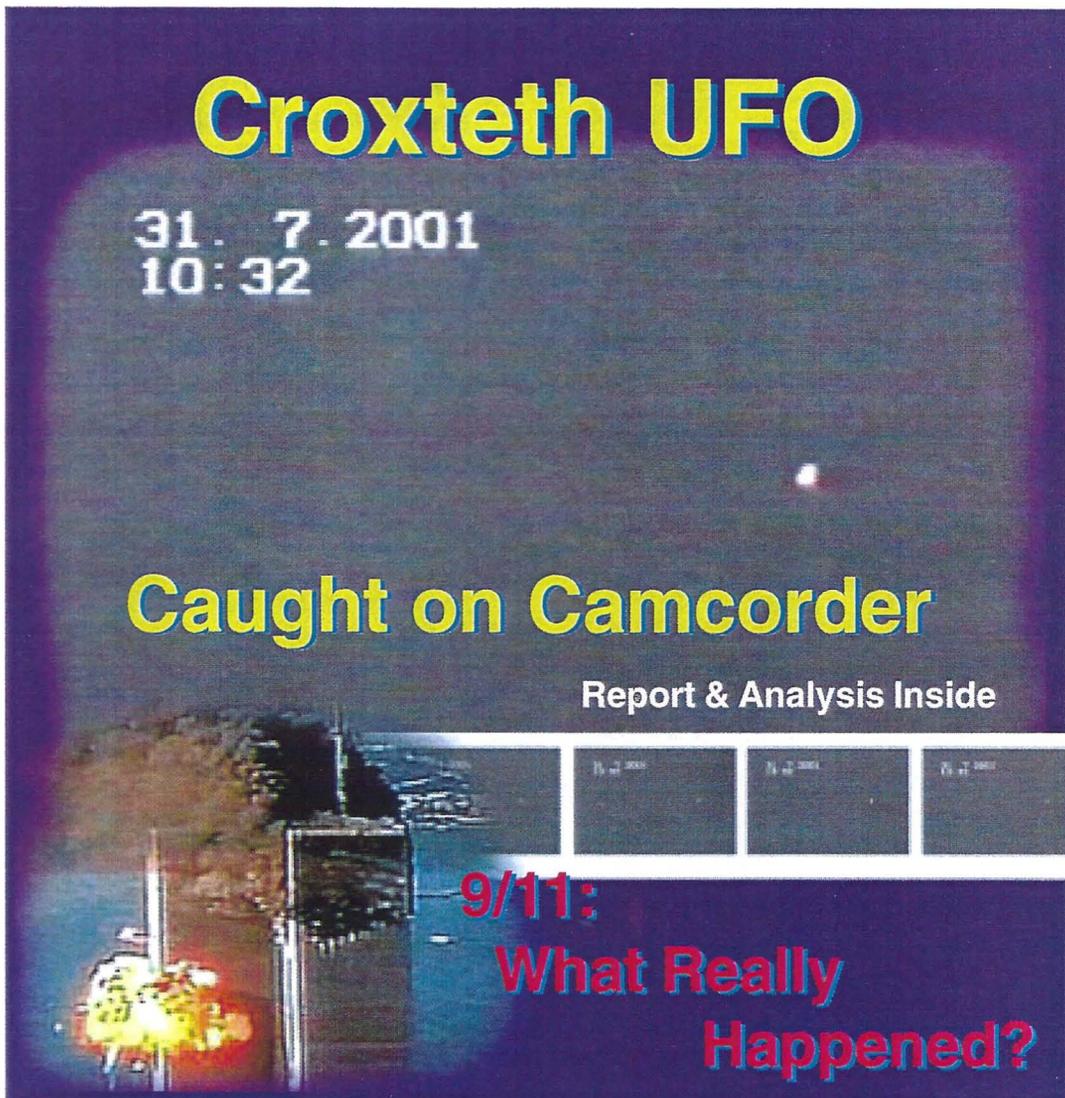
A Journey Into The Mysterious

Croxteth UFO

31. 7. 2001
10:32

Caught on Camcorder

Report & Analysis Inside



9/11: What Really Happened?

Plus

On the Trail of Jack the Ripper (Part 2)

Fireballs in the sky · Parapsychology Vs Sceptics

Haunted Roads on the Isle of Man (Part 6) · Ground Zero

And much more.....

£2

'Interpretation is free, experience is sacred'

The Researcher

Issue 11. Winter 2003

Contributors

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

Editor:

Mark Rosney

Articles:

Mark Rosney
Fiona Campbell
Colin Veacock
Bill Bimson
John Hall
Sue Landor

Illustrations:

John Hall

Layout and Design:

Mark Rosney

Printing and Production:

John Hall

Research Consultants:

Dr Steven Werner Weaver
Dr Carl Williams

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!

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The Voice



Editorial by Mark Rosney

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

Contact us by writing to:
MARA

52 Hawthorne Avenue
Halewood
Liverpool
L26 9XD

or email
tonyeccles@yahoo.com
wbimson02@blueyonder.co.uk

or visit our website
<http://www.mara.org.uk/>

Welcome to the latest issue of The Researcher. Regular readers will have spotted that there have been some changes, both minor and major, to this magazine.

Firstly I am very honoured to have been asked to take up the position of editor of this austere journal, and to carry on where Bill Bimson and Tony Eccles have left off, carrying the torch, so to speak, to continue to illuminate the mysteries of the paranormal.

Tony's and Bill's impact on the Researcher has been immense: Giving the journal a new look for the new millennium, and raising it's profile from humble group journal to fully fledged publication which is available in shops in Merseyside and Cheshire. No mean feat, I am sure you will agree. I intend to build upon these solid foundations and continue to bring you **real** and **factual** information on the paranormal, and also to share with you the fruits of MARAs painstaking research and investigation. I hope that you will continue to voyage with us for a long time to come.

UFOs appear to be the flavour of the month for this issue: We have an article about the investigation and subsequent analysis of a sighting of a ball of light seen, **and filmed**, over Croxteth, Merseyside; a piece on why fireball meteors are often reported as UFOs and a piece by MARA newcomer Sue Landor detailing her own UFO experiences.

Moving on from UFOs we also turn the spotlight onto Parapsychology, asking the question 'Is parapsychology research taken seriously by sceptics?' and also feature an intriguing, yet somewhat disturbing article on the terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre, where not everything appears as it first seems....

There is also the latest instalment of the Haunted Roads on the Isle of Man, and the long awaited conclusion of the Jack the ripper article, where Colin Veacock sheds some light on the possible identity of the infamous serial killer. All very gripping stuff indeed.

I hope you enjoy this, my first editorial outing, and please let MARA know about your own experiences. You never know, you may be holding a vital piece of the jigsaw that is the key to unravelling the mysteries of the unknown **®**

Turning UFOs into IFOs: Fireballs in the sky

Part 1: Natural Fireballs

By Mark Rosney

In Part 1 of a 2 part article, MARA investigator Mark Rosney catalogues a number of cases where fireball meteors have been mistakenly reported as UFOs. Mark illustrates what UFO researchers should look out for when presented with 'anomalous' fireball reports and explains some of the 'odd' characteristics which people claim to see.

On a pleasant April evening in 1969, professional photographer Frank Laird was packing away equipment into the boot of his car. Wary after a long day of photographic assignments, he paused briefly, casually gazing into the darkening sky overhead. It was fairly clear that evening, the half moon clearly visible in the South West along with a scattering of bright stars which were slowly growing in brilliance in the twilight.

Suddenly, Frank's attention was drawn overhead to an intensely bright blue/green light, complete with a flaming tail, which was travelling at tremendous speed across the sky. Instinctively he grabbed his camera and managed to take two shots of the object before it disappeared from view behind a bank of clouds (see panel on page 9).

***'Instinctively
he grabbed his camera and
managed to take two shots
of the object'***

It was all over in ten seconds flat.

Unable to relocate the object, and not seeing anyone else in the area who could confirm his sighting, Frank jotted down some details into his notebook and continued to pack away his gear, totally perplexed by what he had just seen.

The time was 9:21 pm on April 25th 1969. The location: the town of Amlwch, situated about a mile from the north coast of Anglesey in Wales. Unbeknown to Frank at the time, he was not alone in this sighting, for thousands of people up and down the country had also witnessed the fireball as it passed over southern England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This was to be the start of a night of wonder, fear and confusion.

Immediately after the sighting, the BUFORA (British UFO Research Association) hotline was jammed with calls from people up and down the country reporting what they had just seen. Callers descriptions ranged from: "A green fireball with a yellow tail", or "A violet/red light" to "A shining flying saucer". A few witnesses even thought that it was an aeroplane on fire, but most of the callers agreed that what they had seen was some sort of fireball.

Descriptions of it's fiery transit across the sky also differed slightly in some reports. One witness said that "When it moved, the head pulsed", while another said "(It was) falling to the ground and leaving a white beam behind it". Yet another said "It started from about ground level, then went higher and disappeared behind a bank of cloud".

There were also differences of opinion about the height of the object. Some people perceived it as being at a high altitude, others thought it to be incredibly low indeed. ⁽¹⁾

Dr Henry Palmer, an astronomer who was based at Jodrell Bank Radio Astronomy Observatory at the time, was quick to offer an explanation for the sightings. He said that it was almost certainly a fireball meteor, possibly a late-comer from the recent Lyrid meteor shower which occurs between April 20-22 every year.

However, in the subsequent days after the encounter, several people began to question the fireball meteorite explanation.

Author and UFOlogist Gavin Gibbons saw the object over Shrewsbury and said, "It could not have been a meteorite because it was travelling parallel with the horizon and suddenly disappeared from sight... It is possible it was a scout ship from a large mother ship higher in

the atmosphere and it could have been in trouble”

Another witness, Roger Houghton, who observed the fireball from Preston, was also convinced that it was not a meteorite. “It was travelling at only a moderate speed and appeared almost to hesitate as it passed directly in front of me”

Even ‘experts’ were divided as to the true nature of the fireball. Mr Kenneth W Gatland, then vice president of the British Interplanetary Society, claimed that the fireball was “a Russian satellite, Cosmos 265, burning out and fragmenting in the atmosphere”. ⁽²⁾

What Frank Laird, and thousands of other witnesses, had been fortunate enough to see was, in fact, the blazing descent of a fireball meteor as it fell to earth. ⁽³⁾

The event made the front pages of both local and national newspapers. Merseyside’s Daily Post proclaimed ‘**Thousands startled as fireball sears over Britain**’. The article then went on to explain a night of mayhem as emergency services in the region were inundated by phone calls from startled members of the general public. In North Wales, the fire brigade reported that a large chunk of the object had dropped off over Conway valley, causing a gorse fire on Llechwedd Mountain ⁽⁴⁾. The passage of the fireball also caused panic across the water in Northern Ireland as the meteorite, which was travelling faster than the speed of sound, produced a sonic boom which many thought to be an exploding terrorist bomb.

Although all the above events occurred over 30 years ago, UFO researchers can still learn important lessons from incidents such as these, especially when the actual event is proven beyond a shadow of a doubt to be identified.

For instance, sifting through witness reports and comparing them with what actually transpired gives researchers an insight into the reliability of sighting details given by ‘untrained’ observers. In the case of the 1969 fireball, the majority of reports given by ordinary people accurately described what was seen, ie a fireball, and a majority of these reports also tallied with regards to the time of sighting, duration, direction, speed, size and colour.

Only a handful of the reports appeared to be biased by witnesses preconceptions ⁽⁵⁾, which is a ‘shot in the foot’ for advocates of the ‘witness testimony is very unreliable’ school of thought. (In Part 2, I will discuss a more recent ‘man made’ event which also shows the high level of reliability of witness observations). The remainder of claims of odd behavior which is ‘uncharacteristic of meteors’ can be put down to the observers’ lack of knowledge about the capability of meteors to exhibit many different effects as they enter the atmosphere.

In order to counter some of the confusion, and to help UFO researchers to determine when an ‘anomolous’ sighting is clearly a meteor, here are some facts about meteors which you may not have previously been aware of.

What is a meteor?

Normal meteors are no more

than specks of dust which burn up as they hit the Earth’s atmosphere. Meteors are usually seen as fast moving streaks of light which only last for a fraction of a second before being totally vaporised. If you look out on any dark (and cloud free) night, the chances are that you will get to see at least one meteor whizzing across the night sky.

Size and duration of sightings

Fireball meteors are much larger. Weighing in at around 10lb (4.5 Kg) and upwards, fireball meteors survive for considerable lengths of time

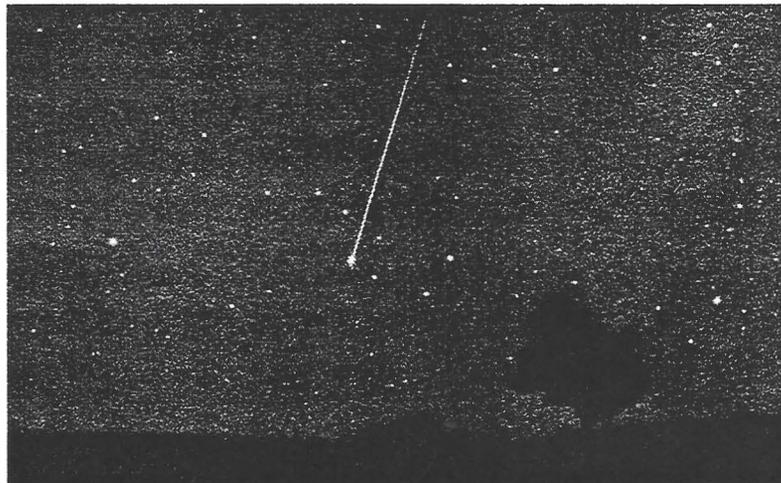


Image taken from Larousse Encyclopedia of Astronomy 1959

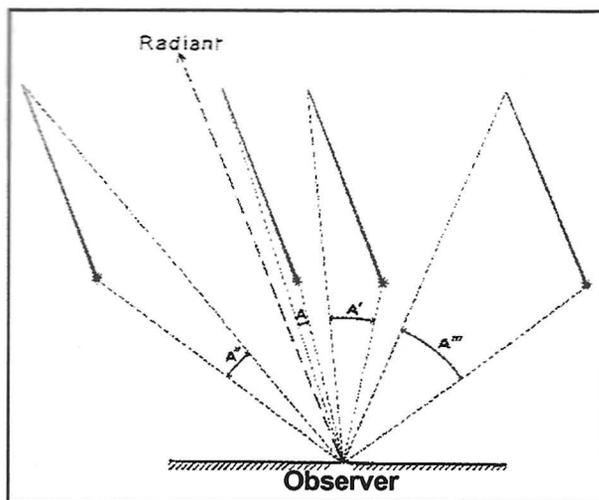


Fig.1

In the above diagram, all four meteor paths are identical in size, however the more overhead they occur, the shorter the path appears to be for the observer. This also has another interesting effect on the observer's perception of the event, as the overhead meteors can *appear* motionless for a moment before *appearing* to pick up momentum!

Common Meteor showers

Quadrantids	3-4 January
Lyrids	21-22 April
(Eta) Aquarids	5-6 May
(Delta) Aquarids	28-29 June
Perseids	12 August
Orionids	21 October
Taurids	3 November
Leonids	17-18 November
Geminids	13-14 December

Alien alert
Flas mini
meteors
do the light
fantas *it's just a passing shower*
 HUNDREDS of people who
 feared an alien invasion after
 seeing a series of lights in
 the sky last night
 by SAUL LOEB
 Science Correspondent
 Spectacular meteor
 shower sent hundreds of
 thousands of people
 running to their windows
 on the night of 12-13
 August.

Read all about it!

Meteor showers, as depicted in the press.

as they hurtle through the sky, giving rise to observations of around 8 seconds or more. Unlike normal meteors, fireballs have much greater angular size, usually equal to the (apparent) size of the full moon! However, sightings of fireballs are far rarer than normal meteors.

Colours

The light emitted by a fireball meteor (and its fiery tail) can be any of the following colours: white, red, yellow, green or blue. Sometimes the head is a different colour to the tail, and on occasions can change colour several times throughout the flight. Different colours are produced by the different compositions of material which meteors are made of. For instance, Iron-Nickel meteors usually give off blue or green light whereas stony-iron meteors are more red/white in colour. Meteors which change colour are thought to be composed of a collection of differing material forming a loose amalgam, which possibly burns off in layers, hence the changes in colour throughout the flight.

An important point to note is that meteors **do not** diminish (fade out) in brightness but go out **instantly**.

Another characteristic of meteors (fireballs in particular) is that they can leave visible trails behind them. These are caused by a meteor's rapid passage through the air, which excites atmospheric particles into phosphorescence, leaving a visible trail in its wake. Meteor trails take a long time to fade, usually over several minutes, gradually drifting and changing their shape just as clouds do. Meteor trails can also exhibit another peculiarity; a curious sparking effect, which has been described as being like the sparks that fly off an angle grinder, that can remain for several minutes along the whole trail.

Speed

Meteors travel incredibly fast, usually around 7 to 45 miles a second (11 - 72 Kilometers per second) and have average 'flight' path lengths of between 50 to 100 miles (80 - 160 Km) before being completely vaporised. Of course, in some rare instances fragments survive to reach the ground, where they become known as *meteorites*.

Height & brightness

Another hallmark of fireball meteor sightings is that there are usually lots of witnesses. There are two reasons why fireball meteor events are spotted by many observers simultaneously: Firstly, fireballs begin to heat up and glow at around 100 miles (160Km) up, making them visible to a wider area on the ground, and secondly, they are exceptionally bright, usually as bright as the full moon and have been known to turn night into day on some occasions! In fact some have even been seen in broad daylight!

Formations

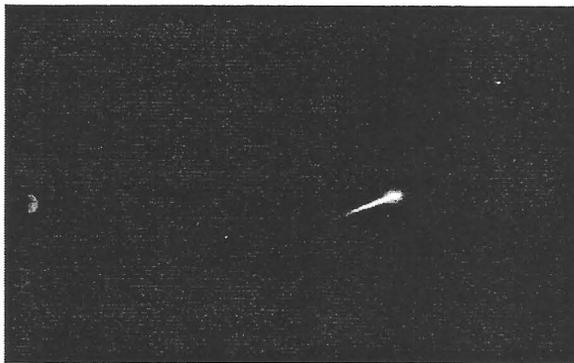
More often than not, large fireball meteors break up into smaller fragments during their descent, giving rise to sightings of whole formations of fast moving lights. One such sighting over Cornwall in July 1998 had hundreds of people ringing the emergency services to report that they had seen the letters 'Z' and 'Q' shoot through the sky! Some people thought it was a message from alien beings! ⁽⁶⁾

Occurrences

Fireballs usually occur in connection with meteor showers. A meteor shower occurs when the Earth passes through a swarm of interplanetary dust or debris left behind from the passage of comets. As these debris clouds are in fixed positions along the Earth's orbit around the sun, the showers occur at the same time each year. Usually lasting several days, each shower has a peak time, where meteor activity is at it's highest. The two most productive meteor showers in the northern hemisphere occur on 12th August (called the Perseids) and 17th - 18th November (called the Leonids).

In addition to knowing when meteor showers will occur, we also know precisely which part of the sky to look to get the best chance of seeing meteors. Each shower has a fixed point in the sky from where all the meteors *appear* to radiate from. This is called the shower's **radiant**. The names given to the regular showers are derived from the constellations in which these radiants are located. Hence Perseids appear to come out of a point somewhere in the constellation Perseus and Leonids from a point somewhere in the constellation of Leo. Familiarisation with the

Frank Laird's photos



The first picture that Frank took of the fireball. Note the half moon clearly visible towards the left hand edge. The size of the Meteor is comparable to the apparent size of the full moon!



A blow up of the first image, showing the meteor in more detail.



A close up of Frank's second photo, showing the meteor as it fragments in the upper atmosphere. This is caused by friction and shock waves.

locations of the constellations, the times of the year when these showers occur (See Panel on page 6) and the use of astronomy software are very useful when chasing up suspected meteor sightings.

Movement

Fireballs can **appear** to be **stationary** for short durations! This **illusion** is created when a meteor is observed coming straight over the horizon towards the observer (See fig.1) giving the appearance of a bright object hovering in the sky, which then suddenly picks up momentum. This might explain the peculiarity witnessed by Roger Houghton in 1969.

In the case of the two conflicting reports of the direction of movement of the 1969 fireball, the location of the observers and the direction they were looking in helped to iron out the apparent inconsistencies. One observer was looking South East and therefore saw the object rising up over the horizon. The other was looking North West and saw it descending towards his horizon. Of course, the meteor was travelling in a straight line, but the apparent rise and fall of the meteor was an illusion caused by the direction of observation, likewise the apparent movement described as 'travelling horizontal to the horizon'. In this case the duration of the sighting may have been too short to see a rise or fall in the trajectory.

Fireballs can, on occasions, **alter their courses** in odd ways. Normally a meteor's path will be a straight line, caused by it moving at very high speeds. However, they have also been reported as having curved, kinked, spiral or wavy paths. Curved meteors are by far the most common deviant reported. This can be caused by the meteor entering the atmosphere at a shallow angle causing it to skip in and out of the atmosphere in much the same way a pebble can be made to skip across the surface of a pond. Footage of such an occurrence was taken in 1972 by James M. Baker, who managed to capture a bright daylight fireball on cine film as it skipped across the skies over Great Jackson Lake in Wyoming, USA.

Kinked or spiral movement is a bit more difficult to explain, but one possibility is that some meteors may have a more aerodynamic shape than others producing 'lift' which makes the

object deviate slightly from its straight path. This effect could also be enhanced by changes in the shape of the rock as it is blasted apart by friction and shock waves.

Space Oddities

Although meteors have been observed and studied for centuries, some scientific mysteries still remain.

Sounds

It is a well established fact that large meteors can create extremely loud noises. These are caused when the meteor, travelling at tremendous speeds, causes a powerful compression wave to build up ahead of itself producing a supersonic boom. Such booms are heard some time after the passage of the meteor as sound travels considerably slower than light. In fact the lag between sighting and sound can be quite long. For instance, the light from a meteor burning up at an altitude of 50 miles (80 Km) would take only 0.0003 seconds to reach an observer on the ground, whereas the accompanying sonic boom would take in excess of four minutes!

But there have been many reliable reports of instantaneous sound associated with meteors. These sounds have been described as 'rattles', 'low booms' and 'hisses'. In many cases it has been the sound that has caused the observer to look up! So how is it possible to see a meteor and hear its sound at the same time? Some scientists believe that the plasma trail of the meteor could generate Extra Low and Very Low Frequency (ELF/VLF) radio emissions which would travel at the speed of light and then be converted into sound at ground level by sharp objects acting like receivers, such as aerials, wires and even blades of grass. This idea is not as Kooky as it might first appear, as it is possible to hear bursts of static on a carefully tuned radio when a meteor falls.

Nebulous Meteors

Nebulous meteors do not have the sharp, well defined features of common meteors. Instead, they appear to be fuzzy, often containing more than one bright point of light in the nucleus. The puzzling thing about these objects is that, although they appear to be breaking up, the

components never diverge. Nebulous meteors last for only a couple of seconds, but it is an important point to bear, that fuzzy meteors do exist.

Dark Meteors

There have been many reliable reports of large dark objects crossing the sky which obscure the background stars as they pass. These are called Dark meteors. They move at comparable speeds to meteors yet do not glow as they fall to earth. According to meteor theory this is not possible, which leads some scientists to say that observations of dark meteors are caused by fatigue. Yet the reports still come flooding in!

Conclusion

So now we know what to look out for. Although not overly unidentified, knowledge of meteors can help to turn some 'unidentified' reports into 'identifieds'. So, if the next bright, short duration streak of light seen in the sky is proven, beyond a shadow of a doubt, to be a visiting alien spaceship, I'll eat my binoculars 

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Frank Laird for permission to tell his story and use his remarkable photographs, and also to Gerard Gilligan, chairman of the Liverpool Astronomical Society for detailed information about the 1969 event.

Summary

To recap, these are the hallmarks of meteor/fireball meteor sightings:

- * Bright flashes of light in any of the following colours:
White, Red, Yellow, Green or Blue.
- * Short duration (less than 15 seconds).
- * Can have the appearance of being stationary for a second, followed by rapid movement.
- * Possible noise associated with the sighting.
- * Regular times of the year for occurrences.
- * Mass sightings.

Next Issue: Man Made Fireballs.

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by Janet Gregory
Spacelink, Vol. 6 No. 1 July 1969

'Thousands startled as fireball sears over Britain'
Liverpool Daily Post, Saturday, April 26th 1969

'UFO? It's just a passing shower'
Sunday Express, 12th July 1998

Getting Started in Astronomy:
Meteor Observing by Alastair McBeath
Liverpool Astronomical Society booklet 1995

Notes:

- (1) A common misperception made by many people when observing objects in the dark or where there are few visual clues to gauge size and distance.
- (2) Although Mr Gatland was correct in saying that Cosmos 265's orbit had decayed that evening, it was later pointed out that it would have fallen in a completely different direction.
- (3) Three days later, meteorite fragments from this fall were recovered from an impact crater found in a field in Bovedy, Northern Ireland.
- (4) This was later proven to be incorrect as the fires had broken out at least 15 minutes before the passage of the fireball.
- (5) A factor I have playfully called WYSIWYBI (pronounced whizzy-whibby - What You See Is What You Believe In).
- (6) Possibly the same part of the British population who have sightings of Elvis! In other words a very small percentage.

Parapsychology: Does it convince the sceptics?

By Fiona Campbell

Parapsychology, or the scientific study of phenomena such as psychokinesis, telepathy etc, has been conducted at very high levels for many years. MARA member Fiona Campbell looks at the intriguing world of hauntings and poltergeists and asks the questions: 'What constitutes our reality'? and 'Does the evidence convince the sceptics'?

There are many areas of Parapsychology which may be observed to provide possible answers to this question. In some cases we may have a partial explanation for a Parapsychological event, but in others the underlying mechanism is completely unknown. (Roberts, R and Groome, D. 2001.)

This work concentrates mainly on the most commonly associated phenomena of the paranormal, by the lay public, the areas of hauntings and poltergeists. Other areas still come into consideration, as it has been suggested that "studying any single element is not only a waste of time, but will automatically lead to the development of belief, once this happens the phenomenon adjusts its manifestation to support that belief, and thereby emulate it". (Keel, J.A. 1975)

'Scientists agree that we still know very little about the world'

The phenomena of spontaneous case studies are difficult to prove conclusively to satisfy sceptics, as investigation rarely produces evidence to convince objective investigators. Many such as Kuhn (1962) and Feyerabend (1975) would say that shifts in scientific paradigms owe more to the dominating influence of powerful interest groups and particular belief systems within the scientific community than to any logically and empirically derived truths. These logical and empirical truths are exactly what Parapsychologists have to investigate to gain insight into the anomalous phenomena and distinguish it from the natural.

Certain factors always need to be taken into consideration during investigation, such as environment, mental stability, belief

systems, corroboration, perception, misinterpretation, other paranormal phenomena, influence of suggestion and fraud etc. The more they are discovered, the more skilled the investigators become at detecting them.

Scientists agree that we still know very little about the world, so with new discoveries made every day it is not incredible to suggest a new force which can move objects unaided, such as that witnessed in poltergeist phenomena.

A Gallup and Newport survey in America of 1236 adults showed that one in four believed in ghosts and one in six claimed to have seen a UFO. Susan Blackmore (1997) conducted a similar survey in the UK, with an appeal for participants in the Daily Telegraph, with a result of 59% of readers expressing some belief in paranormal phenomena. Such an extensive amount of people having some belief that there is a phenomenon happening suggests an interesting area of study.

Accounts of poltergeist outbreaks stretch as far back as AD1, there were reports of noises, fires, wounds and demonic persecution. In AD858 falling stones and knockings were reported in the country which originated the word poltergeist, Germany. (Irwin, H.J. 1998) The Sauchie poltergeist was one of the first cases to attract the attention of Parapsychologists. Loud knocks were heard in the bedroom of an eleven year old girl, witnessed by a minister and a doctor, also furniture movement in her classroom, witnessed by her teacher.

Parapsychologist William G. Roll investigated many alleged poltergeist incidents. This led him to search for laws which governed the anomalous situations he investigated. To interpret the resulting data he involved other

professions such as physicists. Roll theorised psychokinesis (PK) as the most plausible explanation of the 'mind over matter' appearance of poltergeist incidents. Having studied this under Dr J.B. Rhine at the Duke laboratory, he believed statistically, it couldn't be down to the sceptical suggestions of "...superstition, imagination or lucky coincidence." (1976, p2)

This, in itself, anomalous phenomena, would enable Roll to refute suggestions of the life after death hypothesis, or existence of spirits of the dead, as the answers to poltergeist phenomena.

Another Parapsychologist, Michael Persinger (Persinger, M. 1985) suggested environmental geomagnetic fields were able to influence temporal lobe functioning, often associated with epileptic conditions, causing people to believe they have perceived anomalous phenomena. Again an unexplainable answer, but not pertaining to the life after death hypothesis, less easy for sceptics to accept, for the incidents of senses of presence, strange smells and feelings.



PK caught on camera?
A medium levitates a table.

Though a theory still being tested, it was shown that some subjects exhibited behavioural disturbance or dissociative states, which could account for fraud, and claimed unusual smells and perceptions, when magnetic fields were demonstrated over either brain hemisphere to stimulate the 'non-self'. The subjects tried to explain the anomalous experience, from culturally available definitions, to reduce their own anxiety. Those reporting more psi experience showed more signs of temporal lobe disturbance, suggesting beliefs can influence an apparently anomalous experience, which Roll also proved in some of his investigations (1976). Persinger has suggested his findings may account for some UFO abduction experiences, given the phenomena reported. Susan Blackmore (1994) produced similar

results of weird bodily sensations in subjects from inducing bursts of firing in the temporal lobes.

Persinger (2000) and colleagues reported that they were able to induce the subjective appearance of an apparition in a susceptible volunteer. He suggests that these susceptible individuals can also be subjected to temporal lobe overactivity from magnetic effects produced as a result of the movement of tectonic plates in the earth's crust. He claims that he can correlate reports of UFO activity with this earthquake activity. This too is an anomalous concept which still warrants investigation from Parapsychologists, but in its possibly natural, as yet unprovable, explanation it is an acceptable theory for sceptics. Devereux (1989) also suggests that such earth movement activity may produce strange luminous effects, possibly accounting for some UFO experiences.

Harper and Roth (1962) presented results of phobic anxiety depersonalisation syndrome wherein patients reported perceptual disorder and 'deja vu' experience, having experienced epilepsy or

personal trauma.

These tests suggest there is still an interesting psychological phenomena to be investigated, possibly due to our environment and linked to our brains, which is itself anomalous, and possibly more acceptable to sceptics, as the brain is an area of science which still needs to be studied in greater depth.

Roll (1976) was convinced field investigations gained insights into the nature of this apparent psychological phenomena to be further proved under controlled laboratory conditions, and he believed, from experience, that fraudulent cases could often be identified without investigation. (An argument often held by sceptics.) Roll (1976) considered ESP and PK ability similar to the complex interaction of physical

and mental calculations needed for the body to perform simple tasks, but taking place outside the recognised borders of the physiological organism. He suspected ESP was easier to accept for the sceptic due to analogies that can be made with receiving television and radio waves as extra sensory aids, though PK may be evident in physical actions such as the natural subconscious action we have of trying to exert a force over something to guide it, if it is important to us. For example, trying to will the football into the net. These analogies makes it seem more acceptable than using exotic words such as 'poltergeist', or as Roll suggests, "the body affirming what the head denies." (1976 p7)

'Macro PK, such as furniture moving across a room unaided, cannot be considered a chance event'

Micro PK always has the possibility of being considered a chance event, but Macro PK, such as furniture moving across a room unaided, cannot be considered a chance event, unless a natural explanation can be found.

Poltergeist performance differs from general hauntings, they tend to happen closer together for a shorter duration. J.B.Rhine classified them as Recurrent Spontaneous Psychokinesis (RSPK), avoiding the assumption of exterior entities being responsible, with a theory that was easier to test for parapsychology. Physical phenomena may also seem more acceptable for sceptics than the outright suggestion of life after death.

It is thought that the poltergeist effect is caused by the psyche of someone, flesh or not. People often assume it is a spirit because of firm belief systems, or due to the apparently human traits exhibited. An appreciation of RSPK as a theory has led to improvements in counselling for those witnesses involved. (Roll, W.G.1976)

The poltergeist appears very sociable attaching to one individual or focus, often female, puberty age, with emotional problems. Roll's theory was that poltergeists are concentrated bursts of PK from such individuals unable to express conflict openly. The childish attitude we display

ourselves when frustrated may account for the nature of the poltergeist events. It may answer the question of why this happens to only some people, in communicating something about the human personality, which may be bound by lawful processes, only affecting certain individuals.

Of course PK is also a parapsychological theory, and it may seem we are still explaining one unknown in terms of another.

One particular incident recorded by Roll (1976) led to a definite increase in belief in poltergeist phenomena in Germany. A research institute sampled the German attitude to poltergeist phenomena with 18% of the population believing in spirits. A rise of 10% was recorded in a fresh poll in 1969 in Bavaria, appearing to be the result of an incident in 1967, the Rosenheim poltergeist.

In the office of a law firm, light bulbs exploded and telephone calls were made with no-one present. An electrical fault was thought responsible, but even when this was rectified the phenomena continued.

Respected Parapsychologist Professor Hans Bender (1969) noticed that the events surrounded a 19 year old female employee. Bender recorded on video swinging lamps and picture rotation, possibly the first recorded evidence of poltergeist activity for testing.

Heavy equipment moved of its own accord and Bender decided to employ the help of a physicist in the investigation. They were able, through scientific testing, to rule out any natural possibilities including fraud. The physicist put the phenomena down to "Non-periodic, short duration forces," with the telephone incidents seeming to be "performed by intelligently controlled forces." (1967p93) The investigators were professionals in their fields and Bender was experienced at discovering trickery. It seems they were unable to find normal explanations in this case.

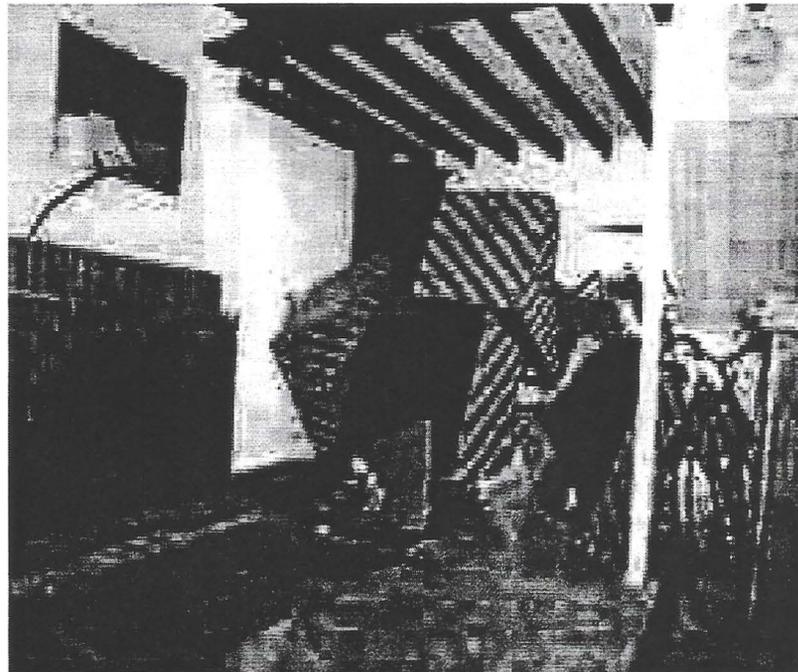
A fault with the electrics and phone could be suggested, but surely a physicist and a maintenance worker would have discovered a natural cause, and a respected parapsychologist would have completely investigated every conceivable fraudulent avenue, especially with

the ability to film events. It's naturally expected, but without being present at the time a sceptic would suggest that we can't really be sure what took place.

In Miami (Roll, W.G. 1976) 1967, Roll's investigation of a case involved the participation of a magician witnessing objects moving from shelves and falling but not always breaking, and not placed precariously. The magician claimed he did not accept the "spook theory", but "could not [explain events]" (1967 p113). Through tests Roll discovered, though impossible naturally, some objects must have risen up and over other objects.

Roll witnessed that a young employee who seemed to be the centre of events, otherwise known as 'the focus', was not always in the vicinity of the falling objects and was proved not to have tampered with them. The focus was suffering a certain amount of private inner turmoil and claimed he felt happy during the occurrences. He showed significant results in controlled PK tests in a laboratory, of possibly affecting the stability of equipment. This would seem to add more evidence to the suggestion of poltergeist incidents relieving inner stress, especially given the resulting feeling of relief in the focus.

Roll suggested that a psi field surrounds us, comparing the decay of poltergeist activity with distance to the exponential decay curve, one source of energy changing into another. There is, as yet, no way of testing the proposed energy field, but this hypothesis may be more acceptable for a sceptic if compared with something proven, suggesting it conforms to known rules of energy. Something which may also add to the knowledge of physicists and engineers. (Roll, W.G. 1976)



Poltergeists at work in Enfield, London 1974.

Physicists are already discovering the interrelations of forces and fields which the psi field may be part of. Parapsychologists are suggesting that the outer physical world and inner psychological world may just be one and the same. (Roll, W.G. 1976)

The most famous British poltergeist investigation is that of the Enfield poltergeist, led by Maurice Grosse, recorded by journalist Guy Lyon Playfair. (Playfair, G.L. 1980) There are reasons within this case to suspect fraud, hysteria and even investigator belief bias, due to bereavement, but on study of Playfair's notes there does appear to be an anomalous phenomenon present. Grosse holds the belief that the cause is an outside entity, though he does consider and note Roll's psychological suggestions.

There is an extensive amount of recorded activity, a child at puberty age and, interestingly for Persinger's theory, the mother has suffered epilepsy and claims to have headaches before an event.

Some phenomena could not be replicated and seemed impossibly fraudulent, such as the movement of a heavy iron grill, which could not have been moved by the children, and much occurred in the presence of the investigators, including a physicist.

Playfair suggests that sceptics fear the unknown, and Poltergeists are part of nature, therefore natural. Grosse accepts PK may fit the facts, but claims it still doesn't explain them. (Playfair, G.L. 1980)

A recent case for close inspection suggests poltergeist phenomena is still active and testing parapsychologists and investigators today.

(Keeping them deservedly busy!).

In Liverpool, March 1996, on behalf of the Merseyside Anomalies Research Association, a professional group of researchers, led objectively by paranormal/UFO investigator Anthony Eccles (Eccles, A., Hall, J.L., Hannah, E. 1996) investigated reported phenomena in a private residence.

This included dogs reacting fearfully to an unseen presence (an interesting objective reaction), a crying child (not associated with the family), cold spots, object movement, knocking, smells and apparitions etc.

‘Professional equipment was used to record temperature, magnetic and acoustic occurrence’

The investigators prioritised allaying the fears held by the family, and on the preliminary investigation plausible explanations were considered for all events, due to prior knowledge of previous research and theories held by the investigators. The fretting of the dogs, one child present in family of pre-teen age, and suspected internal family tensions were noted.

The ensuing overnight stay, or ‘vigil’, was considered inconclusive, with interesting experiences noted by the objective team of investigators, such as a cold spot, flickering lights, an anomalous knock and sounds. The dogs were also witnessed to fret and refuse to ascend the stairs. A punch bag was witnessed to swing, and possibly, under experiment, in answer to questions. The punch bag was 5’ tall and 21/2’ inch diameter, packed full of sand. There were no natural explanations of vibration or draught which may have caused this, and it was recorded in photographs.

Controlled shifts were planned and experiments undertaken to eliminate bias and experimenter effect on equipment. Professional equipment was used to record temperature, magnetic and acoustic occurrence.

Solid conclusions proved difficult, the team have explained apparently strange events on

other investigations, but were unable to explain this by conventional and rational means.

The produced report suggests that the female witness could have had RSPK ability, crying out for attention and needed the ‘ghost’, especially if it was her dead father. The children also could have had RSPK ability, having plenty of energy.

Since the investigation the family have reported no more events, suggesting the presence and interest shown by the investigators could have produced a calming effect on the family.

On reflection, Anthony Eccles confirmed that the witnesses were reliable and genuinely frightened. Good indications being their request for anonymity and their trust of the investigators, allowing them unsupervised access to the house. There appears to have been a real phenomena frightening them, though expanded by belief systems of ghosts and fear. Anthony Eccles marks it as “a rare case with regards to unusual, [unexplainable] occurrences.” (Eccles, A. 2002)

All of these investigations suggest an existing phenomena for consideration, but once any belief system is formed, in either direction, it is often difficult, if impossible, to persuade someone to accept alternatives. Either way, many who believe in ghosts will not accept a rational explanation, just as many sceptics will not accept there are things which cannot, for the moment, be explained.

Influenced by environment and culture, many would rather hold onto their comforting belief system than objectively considering both sides, and the possibility that the scientists are right, we do not know everything about the world.

We may have come to the maximum point of physical evolution, but how far have our minds left to go, given the “balance of natural existing duality in nature”? (Eccles, A. 2002). Maybe forming a belief system in either direction is missing the point entirely of our future evolution.

The only way to truly understand the world is to investigate it objectively, considering all explanations. Many are too set in their beliefs, and too unwilling to accept this attitude.

If seeing is really believing, and a persuasion of reality, then how do we account for electricity or

magnetic fields we cannot see. Just because we can't see it, doesn't mean it doesn't exist. All we can hope for is that the majority will retain an open mind, and parapsychology will be allowed to continue its investigation, with the support of other fields of science, to find answers to the most difficult questions of what constitutes our reality. Maybe then both sceptics and believers will be satisfied.

"He who learns the truth of everything in the morning can die happy in the evening."
(Confucious) 

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Paranormal

A poem by Tony Chestnut Brown

Beyond the eye can see
 Defy gravity
 Once aware - a sixth sense to share
 Not a crank or freak
 But imaginations wish to seek
 What surely must be
 Like evidence - magnetic energy
 Trapped in psychic transience
 Many an instance - far and wide
 Southern America - Landing sites written from the skies
 Celestial prophecy - not mere fantasy
 Feel, understand and be
 In touch with your ESP -
 to attain the paranormal
 frequencies.

Poems for all occasions: Tony Chestnut Brown, the peoples poet.
 Tel:- 07944 507475



Cartoon by John Hall



On the trail of Jack the Ripper

Part 2: The Suspects

By Colin John Veacock

In 1888, the name Jack the Ripper struck fear and terror into the heart of London. But who was Jack? And what were the killer's motives? Colin Veacock rounds up the suspects...and sheds new light on this enduring mystery.

The first thing which becomes plainly obvious on first looking at the 1888 Whitechapel murders is that the role call of suspects confuses the issue and sheds very little light on the crimes. Some of the named suspects are clearly ridiculous. Names like Oscar Wilde, Lewis Carroll, Virginia Woolf and even Arthur Conan Doyle have all been mentioned by various authors as probable Jack the Ripper's, but the evidence against them is slight and tenuous to say the least.

John Pizer (Leather Apron)

Pizer was a Jewish boot finisher who lived with his stepmother and sister-in-law at 22 Mulberry Street, off Commercial Road. He had a criminal record as a year before he had attacked a man with a knife and only weeks before the murders, had threatened several local prostitutes.

Was he the Ripper?... Definitely not.

'Thomas Cutbush

Thomas Cutbush's name emerges as a Ripper suspect in notes written by Sir Melville Macnaghten on the 23rd February 1894. Apparently, Macnaghten had strong suspicions that Cutbush was the killer yet we have no information as to why. In the notes Macnaghten exonerates Cutbush who was eventually found to be insane and jailed on her Majesties pleasure after attacking two girls. When the police visited his home, 14 Albert Street, Kensington, where he lived his mother and

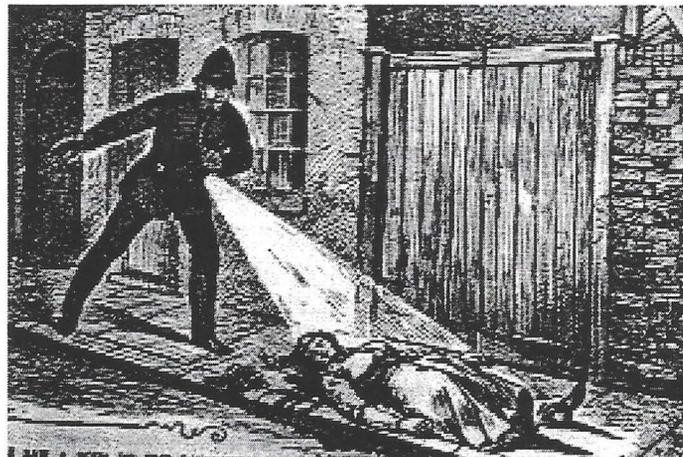
and aunt, they found several drawings of mutilated women.

Was he the Ripper?... Definitely not.

Montague J. DrUITT

Druitt was a 31 year old successful barrister and school teacher, who came from a family of doctors, who is thought to have committed suicide on the 10th November 1888. His body was found floating in the Thames on New Years Eve of the same year, and was finally interred in Wimborne, Dorset. When the police interviewed his family they admitted that they thought he was the ripper

Was he the Ripper?... Seems to be implicated.



Another Ripper Victim discovered in Whitechapel

Aaron Kozminski

When a top F.B.I profiler studied all the existing Ripper evidence he came to the conclusion that Aaron Kozminski, a Polish Jew, was Jack the Ripper. Kozminski hated women and had strong homicidal tendencies. He was

also implicated in the murder of Elizabeth Stride by a Hungarian Jew named Israel Schwartz who claimed to have seen Kozminski attack Stride and force her to the floor, and even picked him out in a police line-up. He later retracted his testimony saying that he wouldn't testify against a fellow Jew. After being followed by under cover police officers for several weeks Kozminski was finally committed to an asylum in March 1889.

Was he the Ripper?... Dismissed by most Ripperologists.

Michael Ostrog

Thought by most to be too old to be the Ripper, while some have him in France during the murders. Ostrog was an insane Russian conman who had, in the past, passed himself off as a priest and a surgeon. He had also spent considerable time in an asylum.

Was he the Ripper?... No.

George Chapman

Chapman, real name, Severin Antoniovitch Klosowski, was a barber who had poisoned his three wives. Inspector Frederick Abberline thought he was the Ripper and spent considerable time following him.

Was he the Ripper?... Definitely not.

***'Aleister Crowley,
once named the world's
most wickedest man,
named Blavatsky as
the murderer'***

Sir William Gull

Gull was the Royal Physician and a lecturer in physiology and anatomy. Was implicated in the Ripper murders by Victorian medium, R. Lees who followed him home after accidentally meeting him on a bus. A year before the murders Gull suffered a stroke. Whether the good doctor was physically fit enough to wield a knife and carry out the murders is debatable.

Was he the Ripper?... Implicated more than once!

J.K. Stephen

Close friend of the Duke Of Clarence, cousin of Virginia Woolf and the son of eminent judge, Sir James Fitzjames Stephen, the judge who passed sentence to Florence Maybrick in St Georges Hall, Liverpool. Stephen lived with his parents at De Vere Gardens, Kensington and was suspected of being the Duke Of Clarendons lover. In 1886 he was knocked unconscious in

a riding accident and was treated by Sir William Gull. Some say that the head injury was the catalyst of Stephen's madness which eventually lead him to be committed to an asylum in October 1890. Died in 1892.

A verse entitled, Kaphoozelum, appeared in one of his books which hints that Stephen knew more about the Ripper than most.

For though he paid his women well,

This syphilitic spawn of hell,

Struck down each year and tolled the bell,

For ten harlots of Jerusalem.

Was he the Ripper?... Definitely played some part.

Nicolas Vassili

A junior surgeon who was born in Torshok, Tver, Russia in 1857, Vassili was wanted in Paris for murdering a woman in 1886. He was also wanted for murdering a woman in Petrograd in 1891. Vassili has been confused with another Ripper suspect named Pedachenko, and may well have been using this name as an alias in London. He was finally arrested in Petrograd, 1891, dressed as a woman. Ended up in a Russian asylum.

Was he the Ripper?... No.

Madame Petrovna Blavatsky

The infamous Beast 666, Aleister Crowley, once named the world's most wickedest man, named Blavatsky as the Ripper and claimed the murders were part of a black magic ritual. She eventually became well known as a psychic medium and spent much of her time in Victorian London's seance rooms apparently contacting the dead...Enough said!

Was she the Ripper?... Be serious.

Doctor Thomas Neil Cream

Cream was born in Glasgow, 1850, before emigrating to Canada with his parents in 1854. In October 1876 he came to London before finally travelling to Australia, where he spent time in a Sydney jail, and America. Doctor Cream was a morphine and cocaine addict.

On the 15th November 1892, Creams past

caught up with him and he was sentenced to hang for committing murder on both sides of the Atlantic. While he stood on the scaffold with the Hangman, James Bellington, waiting for the trapdoor to open he shouted; " I am Jack the..." With those words the trapdoor opened and Doctor Cream plummeted to his death. He may have tried to admit to the Whitechapel murders in some misplaced act of bravado as it is very unlikely that he was even in the United Kingdom during the murders as he was in Joliet prison, Illinois.

Was he the Ripper?...No.

Dr Morgan Davies

Davies was a physician who lived in Castle Street, Houndsditch and was London Hospital's House Physician. The medical directory has him living in 9 King Street, Finsbury Square. Named as a suspect by Roslyn D'O Stephenson after Davies had perfectly imitated the Ripper in front of five other doctors.

Was he the Ripper?... No.

Doctor Stanley

Dr Stanley's story is a tale of revenge. Stanley, a Harley Street surgeon, nursed his son through venereal disease which he had caught from East End prostitutes. It is claimed that his son had met Mary Jeanette Kelly at the Cafe Monico in 1886, and based on this dubious information, set about killing prostitutes as an act of revenge. He eventually fled to Argentina where a Mr Leonard Matters claims to have found his confession in a local Spanish newspaper.

Was he the Ripper?...Doubtful.

Edward, Duke of Clarence. Prince Albert Victor

Prince Albert Victor was the Son of Edward VII, the Prince of Wales and the Grandson of Queen Victoria, and heir to the throne of England. He was also the Right Worshipful Master of the Royal Alpha Lodge... He was known by the press as Eddie or "Collar and cuffs". At the time

of the Kelly murder in Millers Court, the Duke of Clarence was away at Sandringham celebrating his father's birthday but this hasn't stopped his name being continually mentioned and associated with the Ripper. He was almost certainly a homosexual whose long time partner was J.K. Stephens, and was also implicated in the Cleveland Street Scandal.

Was he the Ripper?...Certainly had something to do with it.

Joseph Barnett

A labourer and porter at Billingsgate, who lived with Mary Kelly at Millers Court for eighteen months until he left after a vicious fight on the 30 October 1888. When he left, Mary found her

front door key missing and had to open the door by reaching through a broken window pane to unlock the door. When the killer left her mutilated body on the bed, he locked the door behind him with the key! This tenuous piece of evidence is all that implicates Barnett with the murders. Joseph Barnett died in 1926 aged 68.

Was he the Ripper?...I'm afraid not.

Dr Merchant

Not much is known about Merchant except that he had a Liverpool connection (the genuine Ripper letters were thought to have been posted in Liverpool). He was born in India in 1851 and came to London in 1886. Eventually died of tuberculosis in December 1888, mere weeks after the murder of Mary Kelly.

Was he the Ripper?...No.

Olga Tchkersoff

The Tchkersoff's were refugees who arrived in England on the 22 February 1887 with her father, Ivan, and her younger sister, Vera who was 19. Olga had to watch as her sister, Vera, became a prostitute and began to associate with the notorious prostitutes of the East End. Eventually Vera Tchkersoff became pregnant and consented to an abortion which went



A copy of Police News from 1888

terribly wrong. She contracted Sepsis and died on the 28 July 1888. Olga swore that she would hack to pieces the women who had lead her sister astray. Shortly after the Whitechapel murders began...

Was she the Ripper?...No.

Dr Francis Tumblety

An American quack who had no formal medical training, a homosexual, pornographer and Fenian who collected uteruses which he kept in large glass jars. It is said that the mere mention of a woman could send him into a violent fit of rage. Shortly before the murder of Mary Kelly, Tumblety was arrested and charged with gross indecency with another man. He was being closely followed by officers from Scotland Yard as he was a known Fenian supporter who was in London at the time that Scotland Yard was blown up. Mere days after Kelly was murdered he skipped bail and fled to America pursued by British detectives. In New York, American detectives waited at the dockside for him to walk down the gangplank but he avoided them and vanished. It is interesting to note that Tumblety was thought to be Jack the Ripper by American journalists.

Was he the Ripper?... Too closely followed by detectives to be the Ripper.

James Maybrick

Maybrick was a Liverpool cotton merchant who was married to Florence. They lived at Battlecrease House in Aigburth with their children. In 1889 Florence was tried and convicted of her husbands murder in St Georges Hall. James was an arsenic addict and a hypochondriac who visited his Doctor up to seventy times a year. He also spent a lot of time in Londons East End.

Maybrick came to light as a Ripper suspect in 1991 when Mike Barrett was given a 63 page leather bound diary by his friend, Tony Devereux. The diary turned up shortly after electricians had lifted the floorboards in Maybrick's home. Both the electricians and Devereux visited the Saddle Inn public house. The diary appears to be the ramblings of a broken man and is finally signed, Jack the Ripper.

Was he the Ripper?...No.

G.W.B.

A tenuous link to the Whitechapel murders which comes from Blackpool.

Was he the Ripper?...No.

Frederick Bayley Deeming

Deeming was born in Birkenhead in 1853 and ran away to sea at the age of fourteen. He married a Birkenhead girl named Marie James and on the whole seemed happy with family life. However, he eventually murdered his family by cutting their throats and burying them under the floorboards of his home, Durham Villas, in Rainhill in 1891. He is also said to have murdered people on three different continents and received a letter from Catherine Eddowes while he was living in Nova Scotia. When he was eventually executed the locals sang this rhyme;

*On the twenty third of May,
Frederick Deeming passed away,
On the scaffold he did say,
Ta-ra-da-boom-di-day,
Ta-ra-da-boom-di-day,
This is a happy day,
An East End holiday,
Jack the Ripper's gone away.*

Was he the Ripper?...No.

William Sickert

Sickert was a famous Victorian painter who lived in Cleveland Street, Soho. He was a good friend of the Duke of Clarence. (See Edward, Duke of Clarence.)

Was he the Ripper?...No.

Dr Rosyln D'Onston

A writer who wrote under the pseudonym, °Tautriadelta, who supposedly confessed to a baroness that he was Jack the Ripper. He is said to have given the blood encrusted neck ties he wore on the nights of the murders to Aleister Crowley. During the murders he lived at 29 Castle Street near St Martin's Lane and on the 26 December, 1888, he wrote a letter to Scotland Yard accusing Dr Morgan Davies of being the Ripper.

Was he the Ripper?...No.

David Cohen

Not much is known about Cohen. Shortly after Mary Kelly's murder, Cohen had a violent fit in the street and was taken into custody by the police who seemed to be following him at the time. Cohen was certified insane and incarcerated in Colney Hatch Asylum where he eventually died.

Was he the Ripper?...No.

Frank Miles

Miles lived in Salisbury Street above his good friend, and some say lover, Oscar Wilde. Miles was a homosexual artist whose cousin was equerry to the Duke of Clarence. One of his closest friends was Lillie Langtry. After Wilde and he fell out and grew apart, he moved on to Chelsea where he lived in number 3 Tite Street. His death is confusing as some say he died in March 1888, but he actually died of General Paralysis of the insane in a Bristol asylum on the 15 July 1891.

Was he the Ripper?...No.

Claude Raignier Conder

The latest Ripper suspect to come to light thanks to the dedicated research of Liverpool writer, Tom Slemen. Conder was a good friend of Sir Charles Warren and served with him in the armed forces where he was considered to be an expert in stealth. It is theorised that the disembowelling so common of the Ripper murders was a reflection of how the Zulu Warriors released evil spirits from their slain enemies by ritual disembowelling.

Was he the Ripper?...Needs more research but early signs are promising.

William Henry Bury

Bury was born in 1889 and hanged April, 1889, in Dundee, Scotland for the murder of his wife, Ellen. He has been named as a suspect due to the fact that the wounds he inflicted on his wives body were identical to those on Martha Tabram.

Was he the Ripper?... No.

Charles Lutwidge Dodgson

Dodgson, better known to you and me as Lewis Carroll, was born on the 27 January 1832. He

was the third child in a family which consisted of eleven children. He has been named as the Ripper by Richard Wallace who says that both Dodgson, and his good friend, Thomas Vere Bayne were responsible for the murders.

Was he the Ripper?... No.

James Kelly

Kelly died in 1929 after spending thirty years in Broadmoor Lunatic Asylum. Considered by some to be the Ripper due to the way he murdered his wife by stabbing her in the neck.

Was he the Ripper?... No.

Francis Thompson

Thompson was a poet who was born on the 18 December 1859 in Preston, and died in 1907 in London after living rough on the docks for many years. After a promising career in the Manchester Royal Infirmary, Francis became an opium addict. He is suspected of being the ripper due to a short story he wrote called, "Finis Coronat Opus", or End Crowning Glory, which details the gory sacrifice of women on a pagan altar.

Was he the Ripper?... No.

***'It is theorised
that the disembowelling
so common of the
Ripper murders was a
reflection of how Zulu
Warriors released
evil spirits'***

George Hutchinson

George Hutchinson, you may remember, was a witness at the Mary Kelly inquest. He has had the finger of suspicion pointed squarely at him due to the revelation that he couldn't have seen in such detail the man who was lurking outside Mary Kelly's lodging house. Was he trying to mislead the police? That's what Bob Hinton suggests in his comic book retelling of the Ripper story, From Hell, which is soon to become a film starring Johnny Depp.

Was he the Ripper?... Doubtful.

Pastor Jack Gibson

Gibson left London in December 1888 after which the Whitechapel murders ceased. When he arrived in New Jersey similar murders occurred so Scotland Yard officers were despatched to help investigate. Pastor Gibson then moved on to San Francisco where identical murders took place in his church!

Was he the Ripper?.....Doubtful.

'When he arrived in New Jersey similar murders occurred'

Jack the Ripper - The Truth

To understand what was going on in Whitechapel in the Autumn of 1888, you have to look and study the witness statements, and most importantly, the nature of the crimes... The victims were not randomly chosen. They weren't prostitutes who just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time; they were stalked, hunted and observed by their killer until the time was right to strike. Mary Kelly, for instance, was being closely watched by a man who stood in the doorway of a lodging house in Dorsett Street, almost opposite the archway which lead through to Millers Court. This was most probably the same man who George Hutchinson supposedly observe walk up behind Kelly and tap her on the shoulder before they both left together, laughing loudly, until they entered Millers Court. There is more than enough evidence to suggest that the victims were butchered because they knew something which "someone" didn't want getting out into the public domain...

The biggest clue as to what the Ripper murders were all about comes in the way that the murderer disposed of his victims. Their throats were cut from left to right and their torso's ripped open before their internal organs were removed and placed about the corpse. In some instances the body parts were taken away from the scene of the crime. In the ancient Masonic texts there is a reference to how King Solomon sacrificed three Jews who had murdered his master mason, Hiram Abiff, the man who had built the Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem.

"Their throats were cut from left to right, their breasts burst open and their innards scattered".

The similar description of the ancient Masonic ritual and the Whitechapel murders is not purely coincidental. Neither was there a Jack the Ripper! When we mention the Whitechapel murderer we should use the term, Jack the Rippers... From the description of the murderer given by witnesses who had seen the victims walk away with a gentleman shortly before their murder, it seems we are looking for a;

"Short, tall, stout, fair, dark man with a carrot, dark, fair moustache who has a clear, blotchy face. He looks wealthy, he looks like a sailor, is of Jewish appearance and also looks foreign".

Obviously we are talking about more than one man! A group of Freemasons who were protecting a secret that the victims had come across quite by accident. So when Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Charles Warren, himself a Freemason, entered the alleyway on Goulston Street, where Catherine Eddowes blood and faeces stained apron had been found, and saw written in chalk on the wall; "The Juwes are the men who will not be blamed for nothing", his heart must have missed a beat... Jews on the wall was spelt, JUWES, exactly as it is spelt in the Masonic texts, and he would have known it! It is of little wonder that he immediately ordered the message to be erased in case there was an anti Jewish backlash. That was just a cover story. As a Freemason he was honour bound to help fellow Masons in any way possible, and he was now in no doubt that the Whitechapel murders were part of some Masonic ritual. No wonder the police were ineffectual and ineffective. Their own police Commissioner, backed by the Prime Minister, Lord Salisbury, (Robert Cecil) who was also a Mason, was leading them in entirely the wrong direction, while the real killers had inside information concerning the local constable's time tables and routes. Chief Inspector Walter Dew, the policeman who eventually captured Crippen, had a macabre love affair with the Ripper case. The one thing he could never come to understand was how the killer remained invisible... He came to the rather startling conclusion that Jack the Ripper was never caught because *"he was above suspicion."*

So what deadly secret had the unwitting Whitechapel prostitutes stumbled across?

Perhaps Joseph Sickert, Son of the famous Victorian painter, William Sickert, had the answer. William Sickert lived on Cleveland Street, Soho, and was a very good friend of Edward, Duke of Clarence, or to give him his proper name, Prince Albert Victor. According to Joseph Sickert, the Duke of Clarence became besotted with one of his fathers models, a shopkeeper named Annie Elizabeth Crook who lived at 6 Cleveland Street. In fact, they became so close that they were married and soon had a daughter named Alice Margaret. Unfortunately, not only was Crook a commoner but a Catholic commoner at that! Because of this, the marriage was kept secret and a nanny, a young Irish girl named Mary Kelly (the fifth Ripper victim) was hired.

Eventually the truth leaked out and the Prime Minister, Lord Salisbury, Queen Victoria and several close and loyal Royal advisors, including the Royal Physician, Sir William Gull, decided that something had to be done.

According to Sickert, that something included Annie Crook being abducted and incarcerated in an asylum by Dr Gull in 1888, while the Duke was given a strong lecture by his Grandmother, Queen Victoria, who he was rightly terrified of. The baby, Alice Margaret, it is said, was sent to live with her nanny, Mary Kelly, in the East End until she left for Dieppe with Sickert.

It is a very convincing story which is, I'm sorry to say, destroyed by one major flaw. Sickert confused Annie Elizabeth Crook with Elizabeth Cook who was living in Cleveland Street right up to 1903, when she worked for Cross and Blackwells. Cook finally died in the Lunacy Ward of the Fulham Road Workhouse in 1920. However, we should thank Joseph Sickert because not only does he adequately show that the Duke of Clarence was visiting Cleveland Street, he also shows that Mary Kelly was there as well!

There is now ample evidence to suggest that the Duke of Clarence was a homosexual. His best friend and tutor, and probably his lover, was J.K. Stephen, the son of Sir James Fitzjames Stephen, the man who tried and convicted Florence Maybrick. So many past Ripper suspects have been named as the killer, not because the police believed them to be Jack the Ripper, but because they were either Freemasons or homosexuals.. And as you are about to see, the Ripper murders appear to be an abomination spawned by London's homosexual community and covered up by the Masons....

Just before the Ripper murders began London

society was rocked by a scandal. Number 19 Cleveland Street, owned by Charles Hammond, was revealed to be a homosexual brothel which was frequented by many notable Victorian figures. It becomes clear



Hot on the trail of Jack the Ripper: Inspectors Swanson & Areline

why so many past Ripper suspects were homosexual. If you were gay and resided in London in the late 1880s, then you would have certainly visited the brothel in Cleveland Street. Prince Albert Victor, J.K. Stephens, Frank Miles and even Dr Francis Tumblety, who was arrested for gross indecency with a man during the murders, almost certainly were seen and observed by the police entering the brothel. When the Cleveland Street scandal was being investigated, the Assistant Public Prosecutor actually mentioned Prince Albert Victor as being a regular visitor. While visiting the brothel Albert Victor contracted Gonorrhoea. Perhaps he in turn passed the disease on to J.K. Stephens? We know that a Dr Alfred Fripp prescribed drugs commonly given for the treatment of gonorrhoea, to the Duke when he was suddenly taken ill while holidaying in Scarborough, and we also know that Sir William Gull wrote in his medical papers on the 3rd October that he had

informed the Prince of Wales that his son was dying of syphilis of the brain. In 1892 he finally passed away.

While all this was going on, Mary Kelly was visiting Number 6 Cleveland Street where she helped look after Alice Margaret. As she went about her daily duties she would have seen important figures of the day slipping in and out of number nineteen across the street. When Mary eventually became a prostitute and an alcoholic, spending much of her time in public houses and standing in doorways with other prostitutes, the talk could have got around to what she had seen in Cleveland Street. People began to talk...

A plan was hatched by the Freemasons, who had infiltrated the Royal Society in 1660. They decided that they had to protect the Royals from the scandal which would undoubtedly blow up in their faces if the truth of Albert Victor's involvement in the Cleveland Street scandal ever got out. The Monarchy had to prevail and this meant that the prostitutes who were spreading the malicious rumours would have to be silenced, permanently. So the Freemasons set about their quest with devastating results. There never was one Jack the Ripper. Mary Ann Nichols could have been killed by Sir William Gull and his coach driver, John Netley, before being unceremoniously dumped in Bucks Row. Detectives noted the small amount of blood at the crime scene considering the extent of Nichols's injuries, and a local journalist named Harold Furniss also believed that she was killed elsewhere before being left in Bucks Row, and publicly said so. George Hutchinson, witness at the Kelly murder, and Joseph Lawende at the Eddowes murder, both seem to be describing the same man wearing a red neckerchief who, from the description given by these men, could have been either Montague John Drutt or the Duke of Clarence as the two looked quite similar.

For over a hundred years Ripperologists have searched for the true identity of the Ripper and all have fallen into the same trap. They have concentrated their search for just one suspect, yet they came up with the same names time and time again! People who were either associated with the Cleveland Street scandal and therefore were homosexuals who had been observed by the police and were named in various police files, or Freemasons who plotted

to cover up the Royals involvement in the scandal. Celebrated Ripperologist and crime historian, Martin Fido, has said that the Whitechapel murders ceased for one of three reasons.

- (A) The killer was secretly caught and incarcerated,
- (B) the killer died; or
- (C) the killer moved elsewhere where his crimes went unnoticed.

What I'm theorising is that the hideous Ripper murders came to an abrupt halt due to the fact that the Freemasons had achieved their objectives and silenced those who spreading rumours about Prince Albert Victor.

In the end the identity of Jack the Ripper is as elusive as trying to capture one's own shadow. We can only speculate as to what was the driving force behind the Whitechapel murders and what those investigating the murders actually knew about what was going on. There is clearly more to the Jack the Ripper myth than meets the eye 

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The Croxteth Ball of Light

Report & Analysis

By Bill Bimson

Strange balls of light have been seen on Merseyside for many years, but it is very rare for them to be captured on video. MARA investigator Bill Bimson takes us through the investigation and analysis of the sighting, where he literally leaves no stone unturned!

On the 31st July 2001, 3 witnesses observed and took video footage of what is commonly known as a ball of light (BOL) UFO. The incident occurred in the Croxteth Park area of Liverpool, north west England and the object was observed to the east of their location. Many natural and man made phenomena have been mistaken for BOL UFOs in the past and it is important to eliminate all known causes before speculating on what the UFO may have been. Amongst the natural and man-made causes of BOLs we can include:

- 1 Astronomical objects such as bright stars, planets, the sun and the moon.
- 2 Approaching aircraft, both military and civilian with landing lights on.
- 3 Ball lightning.
- 4 Earth lights.

When a single eyewitness testimony is the only evidence you have, it is difficult to interpret what the BOL is because individual perception and description are so variable and often inaccurate. However, in this case, there are 3 witnesses and more importantly, they took good quality video footage making it much easier to come to a conclusion. When the principle witness first

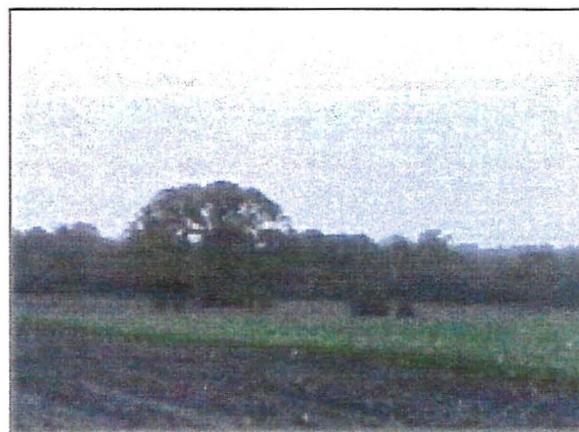
approached me to investigate this case, he described the object as a silvery-orange ball of light, very low on the horizon. After consulting a computer sky map for the time and date of the incident, I came to a premature conclusion that the object they observed was Mars, because it

seemed to fit the description perfectly. I have shown in this report that it **could not possibly have been Mars** and learned a valuable lesson not to jump to conclusions in the process.

Description Of The Incident

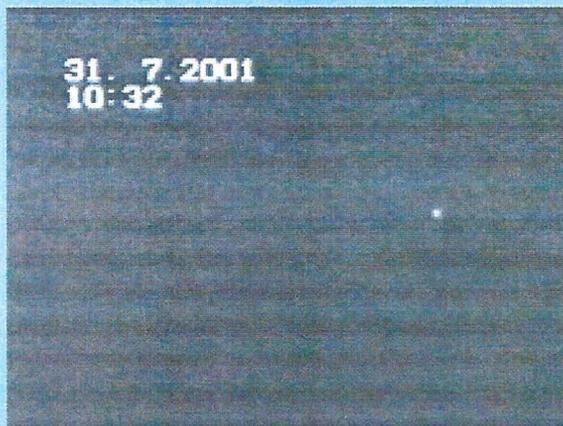
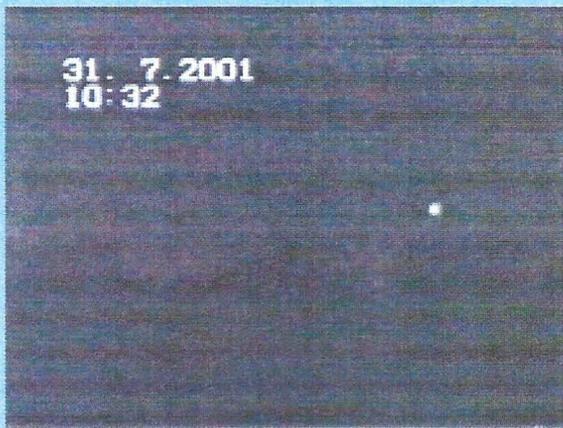
The incident took place between 10:31 pm and 10:35 pm on the 31st July 2001 in Croxteth Park Liverpool (see maps 1-3 on page 27). The witnesses described a ball of light which rapidly changed brightness as if it was rotating very quickly. The rapid rotation was accompanied by rapid colour and shape changes, but the overall colour was silvery

orange. They described a slow vertical movement of the object downwards over the duration of the sighting although this movement only amounted to a few degrees. They also described a lateral movement which was estimated to be about the same as the diameter of the object. This movement would take place over a period of a couple of seconds, then after



Night & Day. Location of the sighting in daylight

Frame captures from the video show the light rapidly changing brightness.



a period of about a minute, the object would move back to its original position. They estimated the size of the object to be about 10% of the diameter of the moon viewed from their location. They claim that the object appeared while they were watching in the direction of the object and that it disappeared because it switched off like a light or it just dropped below the horizon. It made no sound and there were no unusual smells at the location. The distance to the object was difficult to estimate since they did not know the size of the object because of its strangeness, but it was certainly beyond the trees that it dropped behind making a minimum distance of at least 400 yards.

Investigation

The investigation was initiated after a call for help was placed on the MARA website concerning many sightings over Merseyside of black helicopters and an AWACs aircraft. The local newspaper, 'The Liverpool Echo', subsequently carried a story about the AWACs aircraft stating that it was using Liverpool Airport for training sorties, but we have not had any news on why the black helicopters were in the area. The principal witness e-mailed me with sightings of the black helicopters and I asked him to phone me if he had any more sightings. This he did with a sighting of the AWACs aircraft in the region of Liverpool Airport, before the Liverpool Echo carried its story on the subject. He told me that he, his brother and their friend have had many UFO sightings and that he had video footage of one of them. I asked him if we could view the footage and make an investigation into the sighting and he agreed to this.

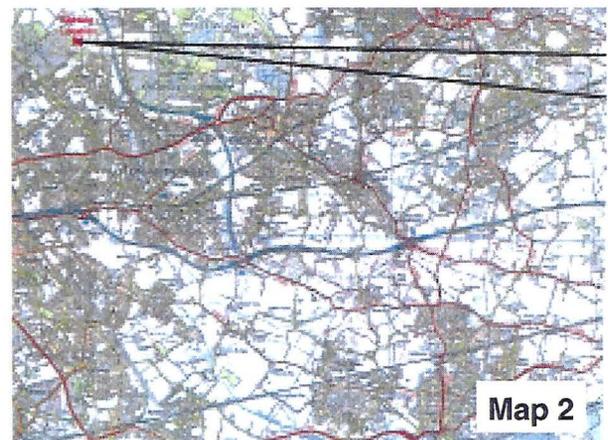
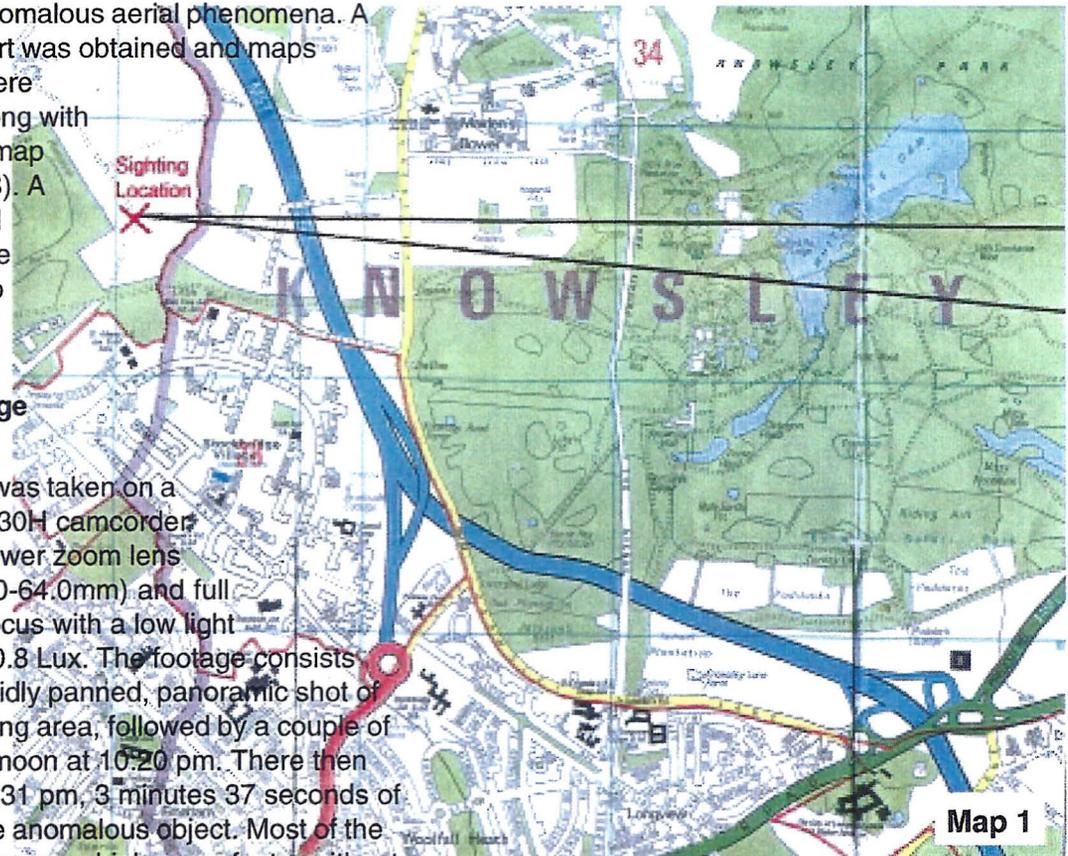
An interview was carried out with all three witnesses and a site visit was later arranged and carried out. We obtained a copy of the video footage and an analysis was made of the footage by careful study of the video and by frame capturing individual frames for analysis on computer. The object did not appear to be of a military aircraft origin because it consisted of a single bright light. Given the MoD's reluctance to co-operate in these cases and the fact that they will lie if they know something concerns national security, I decided not to write to them. I did not contact National Air Traffic Services because they have stated in a previous investigation that they will no longer help us in

identifying anomalous aerial phenomena. A weather report was obtained and maps of the area were examined along with a geological map (See page 28). A seismological analysis of the area was also obtained.

Video Footage Analysis

The footage was taken on a Sharp VL-E630H camcorder with a 16x power zoom lens (F1.4, F = 4.0-64.0mm) and full range auto focus with a low light capability of 0.8 Lux. The footage consists of a brief, rapidly panned, panoramic shot of the surrounding area, followed by a couple of shots of the moon at 10:20 pm. There then follows at 10:31 pm, 3 minutes 37 seconds of footage of the anomalous object. Most of the footage is done on a high zoom factor without tripod support so there is a degree of camera shake. The object is first recorded just above the tree slightly to the left of centre (see picture on page 25). The object drops very slightly over time making it consistent with an astronomical object setting in the west. After 2 minutes 39 seconds of the footage, the object is completely lost to view because it has slowly slipped behind the tree. The witness then shifts his position so that he can regain view of the object lower down to the left of the tree. The object is lost for a total of 15 seconds taking the footage up to 2 minutes 54 seconds, at which point it is in view at the left hand side of the tree until 3 minutes 37 seconds when it finally succumbs to the horizon and is lost completely.

When the video is viewed frame by frame, by using the still frame mode on a video recorder then using a frame advance feature, the object can be seen to change brightness rapidly going from dim to bright and back to dim again in the space of 4 VHS frames. JPEG images were captured on computer from the video. The VHS standard runs at 25 frames per second, so the brightness variation has occurred in the space of $4/25 = 0.16$ seconds. Even if a branch of a tree was blowing in and out of the line of sight of the object, it could not move that quickly so

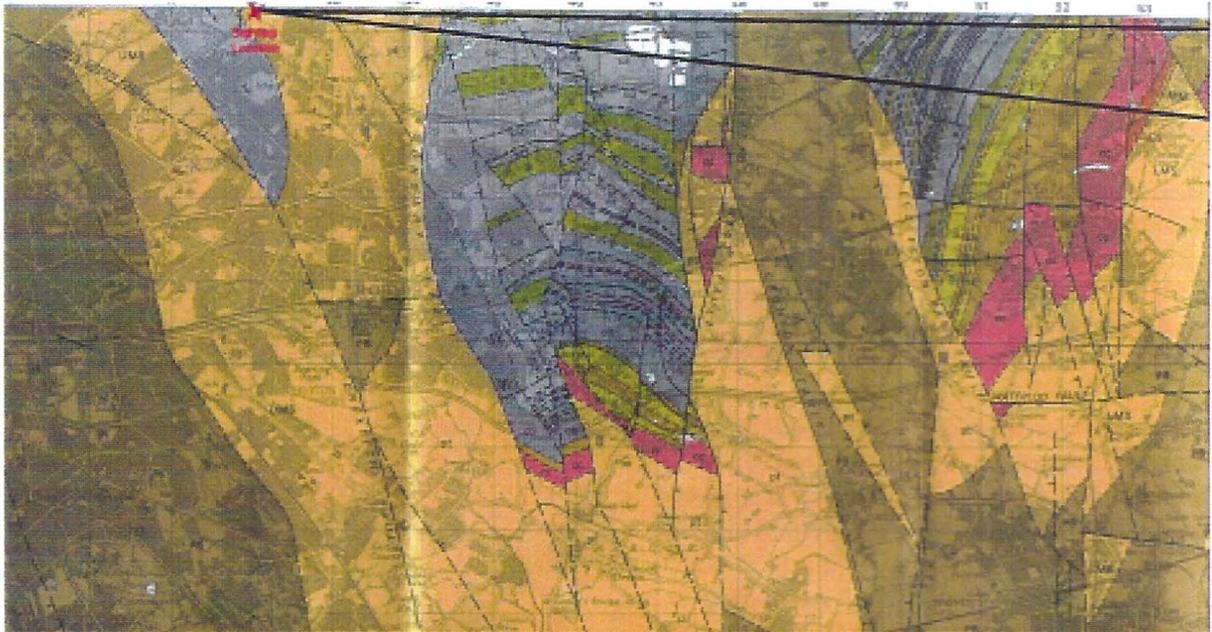


Local and regional maps show the direction in which the BOL was seen.

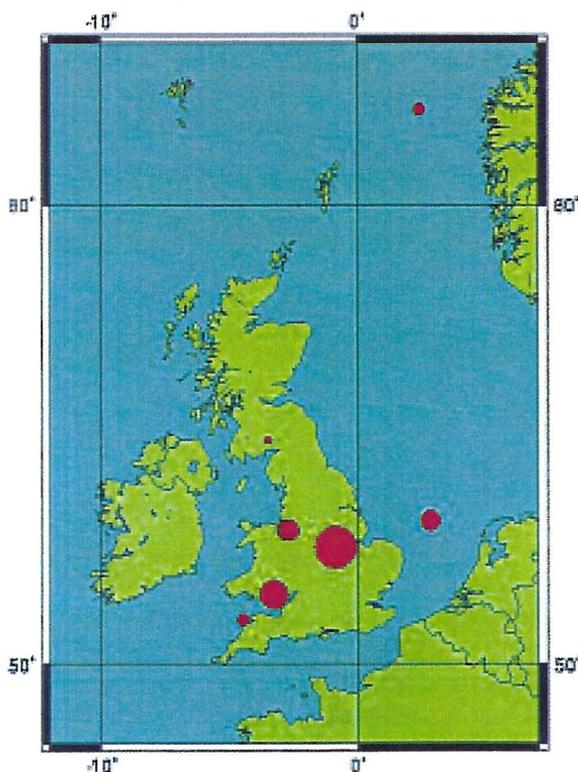
we have to assume that it was the actual brightness of the object, which was changing rapidly. The witnesses commented that they thought the object was spinning, probably because of the rapid changes in brightness. If a spinning object had a bright light on one side, this would account for the variation but it would have to be spinning approximately every 0.16 seconds or $1/0.16 = 6.25$ rotations per second. This sounds fast compared to the majority of reported flying saucer sightings.

Witness Interview

I arranged to interview the 3 witnesses, and took along MARA members John Hall and Dave Thomson in support. The interview took place on the evening of the 8th October at one of the witnesses houses and was recorded on audiotape after permission was granted from the witnesses. All 3 witnesses seemed credible and gave a good description of the event. We

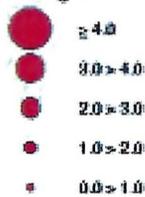


The area where the BOL was sighted is criss-crossed with fault lines. Furthermore, the seismicity of the area is higher than average for the UK.



UK Seismicity over the last 30 days

Magnitude



observed the footage on the camcorder LCD screen, but we were unable to view it on the TV or make a copy of it on to my video recorder at that time because we did not have the right connecting leads. The witnesses told me that they thought the object was in the North East direction and that they had seen Mars earlier in the night and that the object they saw was definitely not Mars.

The witnesses made reference to a ley line at the site and stated that they have seen other anomalous phenomena from the same point. They believe that the ley line may be partly responsible for the appearance of anomalous phenomena at that location.

I arranged to make a site visit and a further visit to the witnesses house for the purpose of copying the footage for analysis.

Site Visit

I went to the site, accompanied by two of the witnesses, during daylight hours and made a video recording of the area of the sighting and took compass bearings on the landmarks associated with the sighting footage. It transpired that the witnesses were not quite right about the direction of the object. The magnetic bearing of the object was 096 degrees as opposed to their perception of North East.

There is a stone about 18 inches wide sunk into the earth at the point where they had the sighting and the witnesses believe this is a marker stone for a ley line (see pic on page 30).

Weather Report

A weather report was obtained from Bidston Observatory and this is largely in agreement with the witnesses' description of the weather. The report stated that no unusual weather conditions existed at that time.

Conclusions

In order to focus on what the object may have been, I find it useful to first eliminate everything that it could not have been followed by everything that it was very unlikely to have been and then concentrate on what is left.

Astronomical Objects

Before I viewed the video footage and made a site visit, I was already convinced that the object seen was Mars, but I was proven wrong on several counts. The object was at a bearing of 096 degrees whereas Mars was at something like 190 – 200 degrees. In addition, the principal witness said that he thought he saw Mars and that it's direction was back along the footpath from where he came. On a local area map the footpath from the sighting location to Deysbrook Lane is at approximately 210 degrees. Hence, I believe the witness was right in his assumption that what he saw in the direction of the path was Mars and this was more than 90 degrees away from the anomalous object. Again looking at skycharts for the time and direction of the sighting I deduced that there were no bright stars anywhere near 096 degrees close to the horizon and even those below the horizon were dominated by the constellation Cetus, which

has no bright stars, so it could not have been an inversion layer producing reflections of stars below the horizon. However, the absolute killer fact that rules out Mars and all other astronomical objects is that the object definitely gets lower in the sky with time and yet the direction is roughly East and hence any astronomical objects should have been rising not setting. To make an astronomical object set in the East requires us to change the direction of rotation of the Earth.

'To make an astronomical object set in the East requires us to change the direction of rotation of the Earth'

Aircraft

Approaching aircraft with landing lights on can look like very bright lights in the sky and it is just possible that the aircraft could be far enough away to not see it's strobe lights and yet be able to see the landing lights. Manchester airport is about 30 miles away from the sighting location and only 20 degrees South of the line of sight (see map 3), so landing aircraft have to be taken seriously. The next paragraph is a quote from the Manchester Airport website.

During periods of Westerly Operations, aircraft take-off to the west from Runway 2 (24L) and land from the east on Runway 1 (24R). During periods of Easterly operations, aircraft take-off to the east from Runway 1 (06L), and land from the west on Runway 2 (06R).

Hence, during Westerly operations it might just be possible on a clear night to see an aircraft landing on runway 24R which is at a bearing of 240 degrees and hence a witness who sees the aircraft head on will be observe the aircraft at a bearing of 60 degrees. However landing lights have a fairly narrow beam and would not appear brighter than a strobe unless the aircraft was approaching directly. The observation of the BOL made at 096 degrees and the aircraft approaching at 60 degrees would make an angle between approach of the aircraft and observer of 36 degrees which is too oblique to cause the high brightness observed.

Liverpool airport is much closer to the sighting location, but is due south, hence aircraft on final approach to Liverpool can be ruled out.

Ball Lightning

Ball lightning is a rare meteorological phenomenon which is not properly understood but can form a ball of light in the sky. However, ball lightning has only been observed during stormy conditions and the witnesses description of the weather along with the weather report lead me to believe that ball lightning was an unlikely explanation for this event.

Land based industrial lights

From maps 1 to 3 you can see that the line of sight cuts through the town of St. Helens and the glass works which are likely to have a chimney or two which might possibly produce a flame at the top. Likewise, further away, South Manchester probably has a number of factories with chimneys. However, I believe these can be ruled out because the light definitely gets lower to the horizon with time and I am not aware of any chimneys that can change their height.

Extra-Terrestrial Spacecraft

Amongst the most controversial of possibilities, we must include Extra-Terrestrial (ET) spacecraft. We do not know the technology of advanced alien races and it is possible that they would use craft or probes which produce ball of light phenomena in our atmosphere. However, the absence of any real structure to the BOL and the fact that it would appear to be making itself as visible as possible to observers does not make sense.

If ETs wanted to make contact, they would probably use something more sophisticated than a BOL. If they wanted to make a covert study, they would be unlikely to use a probe which shines out so brightly.

Ley line phenomena

The witnesses stated that the lights may be on a ley line because there was a marker stone by their observing point (figure 2). John Hall suggested at the interview that something on a ley line may be attracting the light and this was backed up by the witnesses statement who claim to have seen other phenomena at the same point. Modern mythology about ley lines brings in all sorts of pseudo-science which I do not intend to go into here as I believe there is no justification for it. For a no-nonsense description of ley lines and how these ancient features have been hijacked by New-agers and the like, go to:

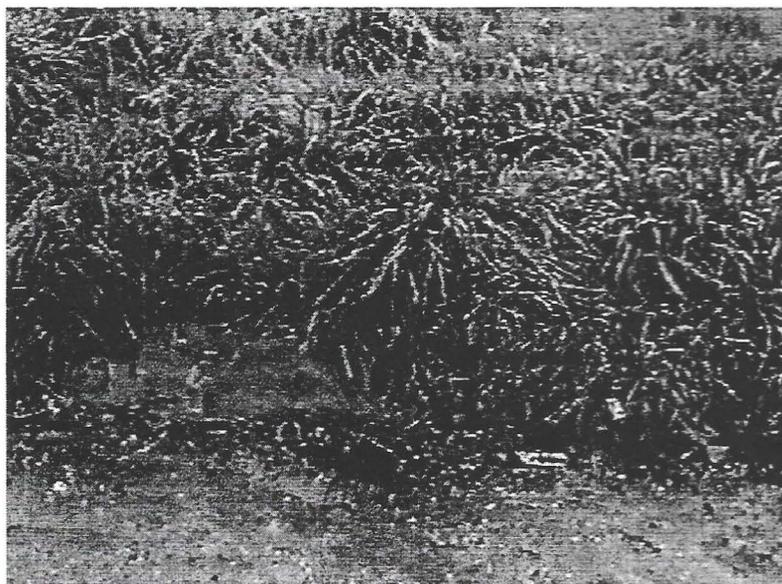
<http://www.acemake.com/PaulDevereux/leylines.html>

on the world wide web. Be warned, New-agers won't like it. It is, however, possible that the ley line was constructed in ancient times because of the appearance of BOL phenomena, and the appearance is most likely due to the geology of the area.

Earth Lights

I believe the most likely cause of this event was indeed an earth light. These lights are poorly understood partly because they are rare, but not as rare as ball lightning and partly because the scientific community have chosen to ignore

them. I am guilty of this myself, chiefly because MARA members have in the past told me that they are produced by the piezo-electric effect in the ground creating strong electric fields in the atmosphere and developing plasma. I have now read Devereux's book 'Earth Lights Revelation' and



The stone which the witnesses believe is a Ley marker

realised that what I had been told by MARA members was a vast over-simplification. In fact Devereux states in his book on page 23 that Earth Quake Lights (Earth Lights during an earthquake) cannot be produced by the piezo-

electric effect on its own. On page 51 of the book Devereux states that other researchers have looked into the possibility of ground based piezo-electricity producing atmospheric electric fields and found that the ground has too low an impedance to allow the build up of charge which might cause the atmosphere to glow without further mechanisms being involved. This is the problem that I had with the earth light theory that I had been told about. However, other mechanisms may be involved and the lights themselves are almost certainly not plasma based. For a full description of what is known of earth lights I recommend Earth Lights Revelation or go to Devereux's website

<http://www.acemake.com/PaulDevereux/earthlights.html>

The reasons I believe that an earth light was the cause of this event are as follows:

- 1 Description of brightness and colour is within earth light boundaries (Reference Earth Lights Revelation).
- 2 The motion is within earth light boundaries (Reference Earth Lights Revelation).
- 3 Size is within earth light boundaries (Reference Earth Lights Revelation).
- 4 It appeared to be close to the ground (video footage).
- 5 The flickering appearance has been reported with earth lights (Earth Lights Revelation).
- 6 Changes in size and shape have been reported with earth lights (Earth Lights Revelation).
- 7 There are a number of fault lines in the area where the object was seen. (See Geo Map on page 28.)
- 8 There is a lot of sandstone and pebble beds in the area with high quartz content and this is likely to produce a piezo-electric effect with tectonic strain. The peizo-electric effect in the ground is one of many factors which it is believed are necessary to produce earth lights.
- 9 The seismicity of the area is higher than average for the UK Although there was no seismic activity in the area at the time of the incident, Devereux has stated that this is not necessary. In fact tectonic strains is usually reduced after an earth quake because rocks either side of a fault have moved to reduce the strain.
- 10 The similarity in appearance between the photos in Earth Lights Revelation and frames taken from the witnesses' video.
- 11 The lack of a credible alternative explanation for the sighting.

Conclusion

When all of the evidence above is taken into account, I think it is very likely that what the witnesses saw was an Earth Light 

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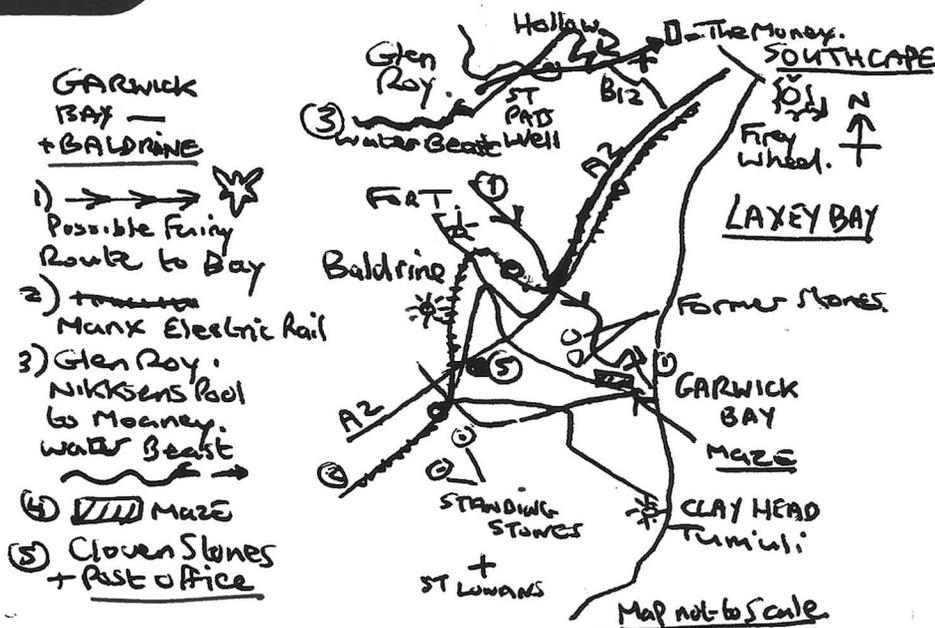
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Haunted Roads on the Isle of Man

By John Hall

Part 6: Fairies, Water Monsters, Witches & Luminosities

This issue: The A2 road from the White Bridge Onchan (Our previous location in the series) onto Laxey moving Northwards, including several off road locations in nearby surrounding areas.

B aldrine

Baldrine is a small village on route to Laxey which you would by-pass if travelling by car or bus. This site is mentioned in several works containing folklore, and is dotted by numerous earthworks, tumuli, stone circles & standing stones around either side of the river falling into Garwick bay. Many of the ancient monuments are no longer in existence today, being removed or destroyed in past times.

A maze also exists here in a private garden, as described in the 'Coastal Walks book', just about visible from the public footpath which goes either side of Garwick Glen to the bay. Who built it and why? The Coastal Walks book mentions white quartz stones in the centre of the maze! (See Fig. 1.)

It is, of course, a folly, but in folklore terms can be regarded as a spirit trap to capture and confuse ghosts, fairies etc. Could this be a psychic defence? Could this be it's main purpose? Maybe the people that owned the house, upon the grounds which this maze is located, built it for that very purpose.

Why should they go to all that trouble, one imagines? Well, if an account of the stories collected by folklorist EF Wenz in his book 'Fairy faith from Celtic countries' has any validity, maybe they had just cause!

The Fairy

A traveller returning home, walking from Laxey to Douglas one moonlit night, in the late 1800's or early 1900's (No clue or year given in any reference) had a strange experience.

Leaving Laxey at midnight, it would have taken him about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour to reach the edge of Garwick Glen where Baldrine Village is located. At about 5 miles from Douglas he heard a noise in the air, very close by, sounding like a number of people talking amongst themselves. It was like walking amidst an invisible throng. Then at a distance along the road he saw a number of figures, maybe five or six, coming towards him. He wasn't sure if they looked human, as they were hidden in the darkness.

They were coming from the direction of the Garwick road to a place where it joined the main road, and if he kept on his present course he would have met them by the Ballagawne Old School House. He turned onto a by-road which led down towards Garwick Glen, a small valley.

Suddenly, the invisible hosts seemed all around him as he continued down the road with the feeling of being prodded and pushed by invisible fingers. As he turned to mount the glen, a strange calmness came all over him and he felt he had broken free of whatever it was, and was able to continue on his journey to Douglas.

The Glen was known to be a place where the Guillyen Vegg'y (little boys or fellows fairy folk) were frequently seen and heard. When seen directly ahead of him, the figures he had encountered were the size of small boys.

Bob Curran's recent book 'The Creatures of Celtic Myth (2000) elaborates and enhances the original story with an abduction and rescue scenario in his interpretation and retelling of the original tale.

On a site visit, I tried to recreate the journey from the point where the traveller first encountered the fairy hosts. The exact locations and sites have proven to be somewhat elusive, as the position of the Old School House must be established prior to reasoning the route they would have taken, both up and down Garwick Glen. The Old School House (Ballagwane) road is where the fairy hosts had come from before they enveloped the witness in the original story. The alleged incident is supposed to have taken place around the turn of the last century and prior to the Manx Electric Railway being built.

The crossing of the Glen involved passing over a river, which in folklore terms acts as a natural barrier to any supernatural entity, which they cannot cross, so once crossed our traveller would be safe!

The Fairies are supposed to move from place to place on specific dates and times and along noted Fairy paths which may be paths between two ancient monuments. If any buildings were built over poltergeist activity etc this would ensure the property was altered, otherwise they would be unliveable in when the fairies were on the march between the sites!

Garwick Glen in particular is a special place because it's location involves a liminal meeting of boundaries where spirits are said to have a freer licence to roam. Here we have meetings of

crossroads, a river crossing and also where three parish boundaries meet!

While re-enacting the journey of the traveller, the stories description of the location seemed curiously out of sync with the actual topography of the area, unless some sort of time loss/ teleportation was involved which the traveller was unaware of until he broke loose and became aware of normal time.

It is almost impossible to do what the traveller did unless, of course, I got the paths wrong, and there aren't many to choose from going up and down the Glen on either side of the river!

The fairy paths (eg Ley Lines, Spirit Paths!) may have been the route the traveller wandered onto at a time when the fairy hosts were moving as previously suggested, and he may have been carrying no protection to counter the effects.

In the buildings, various protection devices could be employed as a counter measure, or if

not effective, a piece of the building could be removed by demolishing the corner that overlapped the fairy path or, in more extreme cases, the whole building demolished if necessary.



Fig.1. Garwick Glen Maze

It is noticeable that the Baldrine Post Office on the main road has a corner sliced off for no particular reason except to save on building materials or to provide aesthetic qualities! Could it be that the missing corner encroached onto a fairy path?

In a private garden next to the Post Office stands an ancient monument called 'The Cloven Stones'. This is an unexcavated Tumuli which has folklore stories attached to it. There is maybe one fairy association directly connecting the above story with the tumuli, an illusionary house in flames - The Ruby/Rheaby house with it's fairy shawl, now no longer in existence or perhaps lost?

The Cloven Stones

Nowadays only two stones are remaining from this small stone circle. It was said to have been complete less than a century ago!

One story relating to them says that the two remaining stones (see fig. 2.) clap together when they hear the church bells ring! Obviously the Christian church influence here being more powerful than the Pagan associations.

A second story is that the stones were split by a single blow of King Orry's magic Excalibur-like sword. The Cloven Stones were formerly part of a barrow, opened in 1815 by two miners and the landowner who found a human skull and thigh bones of uncommon size, thus making the barrow a 'Giant's Grave'

Survey plans, drawn in 1865, show the barrow to be a round, almost circular construction, with two compartments. On the North East edge are two pillars presumably the entrance approach to the chambers.

The taller stone is split from top to bottom along the cleavage, apparently in situ, which gave rise to the sword splitting story!

***'The stones were split
by a single blow of King
Orry's Excalibur-like
sword'***

The Manx Electric Railway (built in 1893 -1899) runs from Douglas to Laxey, and then on to Ramsey (with a spur up the Snaefell mountain summit at Laxey junction), also coming through Garwick Glen (and Baldrine). During its construction it was necessary to make a cutting in the area (between 1894-5). The cutting went behind the Old School House at Ballagawne (where the fairy hosts emerged from on the road!) where workers broke into a cyst (a burial site) revealing skeletal remains etc.

The Old School house in a further story has the Fairies, or little people, entering the school house on numerous occasions prior to the railway activity. This all seems to have halted after construction and the removal of the remains. Did the railway put up an Iron/Steel barrier also, which the fairies, ghosts etc would no longer cross and so put a stop to their

activity?

This presupposes a connection with the fairies as spirits of the dead or ancestors of the surrounding monuments. Did all the activity cease after the railway was built? Usually disturbances of ancient sites create paranormal activity shortly after, before eventually settling down after a period of time, or becoming periodic, according to other folklore research.

Moving further North, the next sites are on the B road, and are within the vicinity of Laxey.

Coming into Laxey itself there is an interestingly named Electric Tram stop called 'Fairy Cottage'. Here is where the railway goes up the mountain, and where one road goes to the beach and one goes into Laxey itself, following the rail route.

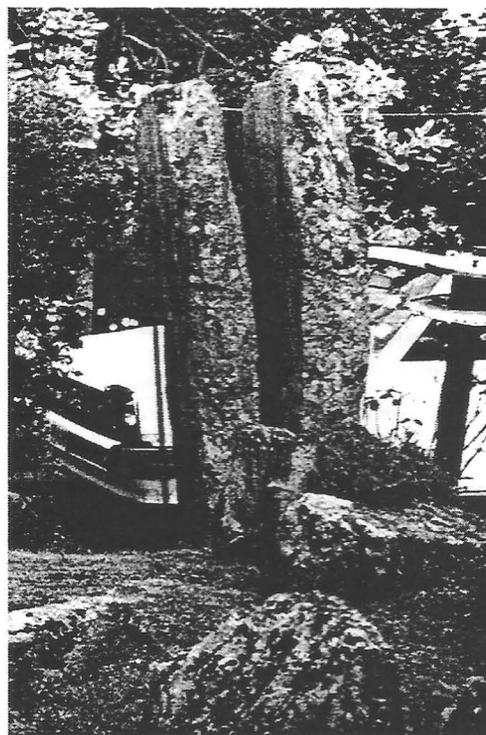


Fig.2. The Cloven Stones

At South Cape, on the downhill route into Laxey (on the A2), during the 1930's - 1940's, a witness encountered a special orange ball of light (BOL) which he had to avoid being hit by. The BOL then proceeded to bounce down the main road into Laxey. This took place during a winter night while the witness walked from one side of Laxey to the other. Describing the size of the BOL as football dimensions, could it have been ball lightning?

More recently, another witness sighted spherical silver objects above Laxey bay, at night while

After a long and terrifying night the farmer ventured out into the daylight to see the outcome of the battle. As he feared, the Spanish Bull was dead and no trace of the other creature could be found. This story is related as happening 60 - 70 years ago, putting it around the late 1900's.

The farm had remained empty and untenanted for many years when this account was written by Gill in his 'Manx Scrapbooks'. When I visited the farm last, it was reoccupied and refurbished. I wonder if the current owners know anything of it's notorious haunted past?

The 'Hollow of the disturbances' on the B12 road was still there on a zig zag of the road when I first visited the area in 1985 - 86, However on a more recent visit it was no longer there. In 2001, it was just part of the large field, the location now to consigned to history.

A further psychic defence that had failed, was a well dedication to St Patrick on the Mountain road, venerated at a sign post. St Patrick, besides being the patron saint of Ireland and the Isle of Man, had numerous well and other dedications to his name and was primarily known for his ability to be a 'Dragon Slayer'; that is, to upsurge the older religious beliefs and supplant them with Christianity. The well had a much older and no doubt pagan dedication, maybe to pacify the water Monster from the pool in Glen Roy.

The back road that skirts around Glen Roy has no designation but is just off the B12 and winds eventually back to Laxey village centre on the B1.

The link between luminous balls of light with orange tints or fireballs and strange water beasts or Fairies and the Old Gods of Man are

evident in the next story on this Ghost road.

On this back route, at a place called Ballaquine, lies an ancient Chapel and burial ground. Little remains of this, the oldest chapel in Laxey. A stream runs through the enclosing circle complete with stone lined graves and human remains.

There is a story that the first attempt to remove the remains of a Ballaquine Keeill prompted a wheel of fire to roll in front of the man who was digging up the stones which he stopped doing immediately and ran - no doubt.

Tales of Occult procedures of Dark Witchcraft being carried out at this ancient site are told in W Kennish's 'Old May Eve' treatise. Counter Spells at Ballaquine had to be carried out to dispel the atmosphere that pervaded the site.

The ancient chapel could have been built over an even older Pagan site dedicated to the Water Monster/Dragon/Light Ball worship.

It's not unusual for ancient sites, which are disturbed by digging etc, to have attendant Poltergeist/ Ghost activity, or for storms to break out while the dig continues. Even in archaeological circles this has happened more times than can be attributed to mere coincidence!

The 'Wheel of Fire' in the Manx context could have been a site guardian set by the occult practices or

been a by-product of them. The Wheel of Fire was also known as one of the shapes attributed to the Old Gods (in this form, Mannann).

Moving on to the Water Monsters lair, of which I am still trying to find, access to photograph this area in 2002 proved extremely difficult.

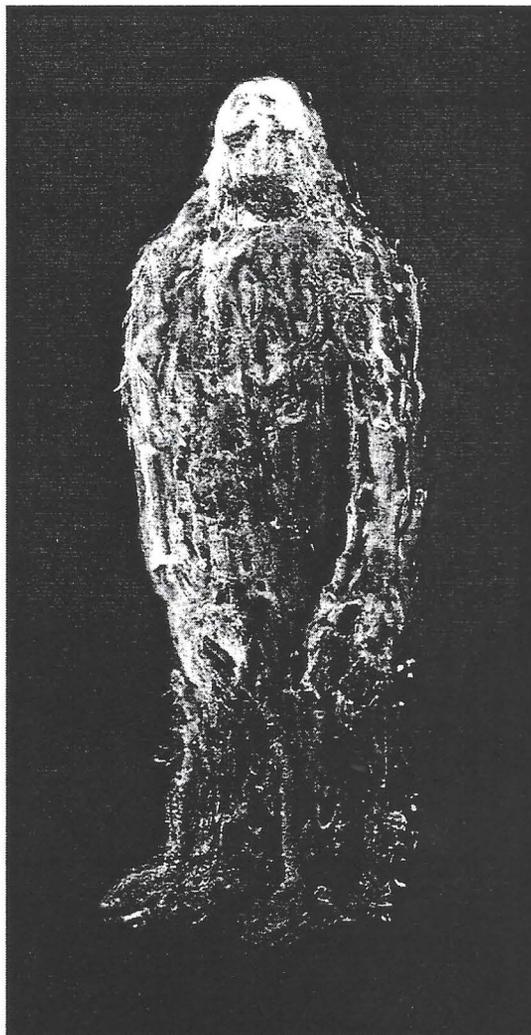


Fig.3. The Glashtyn

The Nikksen's Pool - description

The Nikksen has a German/Scandinavian influence. In Old Norse - Nídhugur, in Anglo Saxon - Níkar, it resembles a human being, though smaller, it has slit ears and feet resembling horses hoofs. It was often seen naked, draped in moss and sage.

The Nikksen is said to attempt to charm people with their own curiosity, using strange music as bait!

Manx Water Demon legends abound all over the island. Known as Cabbyl Vuuar -Big Horse, Cabbyl Ushtey - Water Horse or Glashtyn.

As previously stated, they were attributed to have the shape shifting ability to be human-like and were also seen on marshy places as handsome dapple grey horses, inviting people to mount them before bolting off to nearest water source to drown and devour their victims.

The riders were stuck to their backs by a mucus jelly which held them fast as the creatures transformed themselves into slimy worm like entities. Drawing young women was a particular trait attributed to them.

Bogs and pools were Celtic liminal places, where Ghosts etc could emerge and plague the living, so sacrifices were made to appease the Water Demons. In more recent times drownings (as accidents) have occurred in these very same locations.

The Nikksen (a water sprite) is located in the Awin Ruy 'ruddy stream' near it's junction with the Glen Roy river, at a pool on the river bend near the influx of the Awin Ruy.

It is shut on the North side by a high Concave wall of rock over which the stream tumbles into a pool screened by small timbers.

The Nikksen sometimes takes the form of a horse/pony, sometimes the form of a handsome young man, to attract women and take them to his watery domain. The traditional pathway to his pool was the streamlet which runs into the pool from the south.

The victims bodies were never found, but around the little green meadow below the pool,

on a full moon, he would lead his victims in a singing dancing procession. The ghostly company trooped round and round the field then danced in a circle, this bizarre sight supposedly witnessed by people from safe vantage points above the field.

The similarities between trooping and dancing Fairies in circular motion is too obvious. Were the people really the dead, or undead, trapped in the fairy circle of timeless void, cursed to re enact their misfortune forever, or until a way could be devised of finding escape?

The Nikksen was also seen roaming the Hazel woods of Glen Roy in his more Horse like form.

Stories of creatures luring mortals by magic or fascination was probably a warning to the curious, possibly told to children as Bogey Man tales to avoid drownings etc.

There is a strong resemblance between the Nikksen and Hom Mooar, Big Tom, The Glashtyn or Water Horse which can assume human shape to lure unwary listeners to their fate, from which they seldom returned. The Nikksen is also similar to the Irish Pooka, which is able to appear as Bull/Horse, looks like upturned boat or log etc and lives in Fresh/Soft water. This too is associated with ordinary cattle.

The Isle of Man has a whole series of tales which relate to Water Horses, which are deep rooted in Celtic tradition 

All photos/illustrations by the author.

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My UFO Sightings and other Paranormal experiences

By Sue Landor

One of the maxims on the front cover of this journal is that 'Interpretation is free, experience is Sacred'. MARA newcomer, Sue Landor, shares some of her own personal experiences of UFOs over Merseyside and things which literally go bump in the night.

I first became interested in UFOs in early 1994 and in the summer of this year began to see them. My first sighting was on the 16th July 1994 at 7:05pm. I was looking out of my south facing lounge windows of my flat in Broadgreen on a clear evening when I saw a silver, two-tiered dome saucer flying low over the rooftops. I watched it for about six seconds before it disappeared into the distance behind the rooftops. There had been no engine noise. It was this shape.



My second sighting was in July 1994 on a clear, sunny afternoon while I was in the front garden of the building where I live, at about 2pm. I looked up and saw eight elongated rectangles or cylinder type craft, some travelling in pairs, all a silver colour with no wings, tail, windows or engine noises. They were travelling from East to West, quite low, and I watched then for about five minutes before they disappeared from view into the distance. They were this shape.

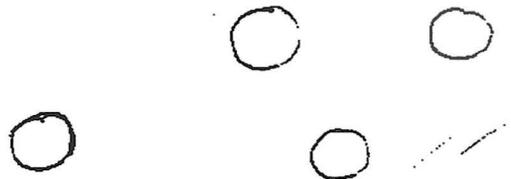


On the 27th August 1994 at 10.50 am I saw outside my lounge windows a silver grey saucer shape come out of a large fluffy cloud, cruising slowly forward. I saw it for about five seconds then it simply vanished. It did not go into another cloud. It was this shape, with the underside in shadow.



On the 1st April 1995 I was with two friends, a mother and her daughter, in the back garden of their home in Prescott, and from 11pm to midnight we saw the following:

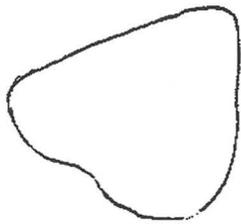
Many white discs, very high up, cruising slowly amongst the stars in a wonderfully clear night sky. As we watched them, they slowly faded out. Then we saw a large, star like light moving very slowly across the sky, very low. It flashed at us once then the light slowly faded out. There was no engine noise. We thought this might have been one of our planes but then thought that surely they kept their lights on. The most spectacular sighting that night were four orange balls that we all saw which travelled very high up and at a fantastic speed in formation. They whooshed across the sky and were gone in about two seconds.



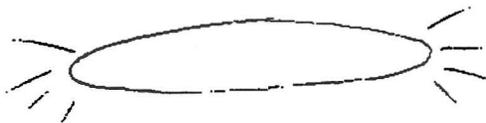
In the autumn or early winter of 1998 I got up one morning at 6:30am to feed the cat. Before going back to bed I felt like looking out of my bedroom window. It was not light yet and I saw two very bright stars in the clear sky. The one on the left was white and the one on its right had an orangey tint to it. As I looked at them, both stationary, I got a surprise when the orange one suddenly took off in a southerly direction and leisurely cruised out of my range of vision.

On the 10th February 1999 at 8.45pm in Knotty Ash, I had quite a spectacular sighting. I was at my mother's house and had to go over to the local shop for something. As I came out of the house some movement in the sky caught my

eyes. I looked up to see a greyish-white "spade shape" (as in the spade in the playing cards but without a tail). It seemed very large and low down in the sky; it darted in and out of thin, wispy clouds very, very fast, going round and round in a circle. It did this for about three minutes. I called my mum outside and she saw it too, for about the last minute of it's manoeuvres, after which it vanished. I thought at first that it was a laser light show, but this did not seem to be the case after this particular one. It had been fantastic to watch. It was this shape:



On the 28th May 2000 at 6:51pm I saw an oval silver shape while in the garden of my mum's house. It looked like a disc seen sideways on and it was flashing red and white lights. There was no engine noise and it was travelling low over the rooftops from South to North. I saw it for about thirty seconds before it passed out of sight.



Other paranormal experiences

From January 1997 to about Autumn 1998 I am pretty sure that I had a poltergeist in my flat. I was going through a difficult time and I think I may have attracted it unintentionally. It used to knock frantically on the ceiling and walls of my bedroom and in the walls in my hallway, in the early hours of the morning or late at night. At first I was rather scared but as time went on I tried to become less afraid and succeeded. The knockings sounded like a person knocking: they were in no way water pipes or like the regular beat of a hammer. I told a friend about it who regularly sees ghosts and she suggested I talk to it and help it to move on. So I did. It worked for it has not returned.

On 3rd June 2000, my friend and her daughter and I went to Speke hall. When we had

completed our tour of the house we went onto the grounds. As we approached a path through some trees and rising upwards we all saw a young looking man with a pale face and wearing a black jumper, black jacket, black trousers and shoes, dart in front of us and onto the path. At the top of the little rise we saw that this path ran along a ridge with sharp drops either side and the path itself was very long. We noticed that the man in front of us was nowhere to be seen, yet he should have been on the path, for there was nowhere else he could have gone. Even if he had gone down either one side or the other of the path we still should have been able to see him. Also he had been only a few seconds in front of us.

'The man in front of us was nowhere to be seen, yet he should have been on the path'

After our perambulations in the lovely grounds, we made our way back to the hall in order to ring for a taxi to take us home, and we approached the hall along a stone path in which were stone seats, one on either side. Before we had reached the path, however, we saw the black clad young man again sitting on the stone seats; but I cannot remember him being there when we went past the stone seats on the path. When we came out of the hall after ringing for the taxi he had gone.

We did not talk much about it until a few days later. At the time we had been preoccupied with the loveliness of the hall and grounds; so it was only when we recalled it and discussed it later that we realised the strangeness of it and the possibility that the black-clad young man was a ghost. I do remember that his clothes looked as if they were from the sixties, by their style.

These are some of my experiences and I hope to have many more, though not a frantically knocking poltergeist again! 

All illustrations by the author.



Paranormal News Round-Up by Mark Rosney

Computing power aids alien hunters

Our chances of getting in touch with ET are increasing due to the rapid advances in computer technology, say alien hunters.

Scientists at the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (Seti) Institute in the US are using powerful radio telescopes to listen to radio signals from space.

"The whole idea that we can prove that we are not alone in the universe by finding aliens in situ at home, by eavesdropping on their broadcast signals, is being made possible by the revolution in digital technology," said Dr Seth Shostak, senior astronomer at the Seti Institute.

"The chances that you'll hit the jackpot keep getting better thanks to this improvement in technology," he told the BBC programme Go Digital.

The prospect that we may not be alone in the Universe has captured the imagination of writers and scientists for decades.

So far the search for aliens has yielded little evidence that intelligent life exists in the stars.

At the Seti Institute, they have been listening to radio signals from the stars using large radio telescopes.

"You point them in the direction of nearby stars that are like our own Sun and if they are using radio technology then we should be able to pick up signals in this particular radio band," said Dr Shostak.

"But you have to monitor many hundreds of millions, if not many thousands of millions of channels because ET never sent us an e-mail saying where on the dial he might be broadcasting. "In order to be able to do that fast and with a great deal of sensitivity, you need computers," he said.

At the moment, the computer equipment used by the Seti Institute has been purpose-built by staff, since commercially available PCs are not powerful to process the data fast enough.

Seti scientists are optimistic that as computer get more and more powerful, their chances of stumbling across ET are increasing.

"The improvement in computer technology is so rapid that the experiment you are doing keeps getting better," said Dr Shostak.

Scientists are now working with the University of California at Berkeley Radio Astronomy Lab to build an inexpensive array of telescopes to listen to signals from space.

"We're building a new instrument that will consist of 350 souped up antennas linked up by digital technology," explained Dr Shostak.

"They will operate as one and that is the instrument that may put us in touch."

The Allen Telescope Array is due to come online in 2005.

BBC News Monday, 19 August, 2002

Cellphones spook British ghosts

Mobile phones are killing off ghosts, an expert who has spent years researching the occult has said.

Tony Cornell, of the Society for Psychical Research, told the Sunday Express newspaper that reports of ghost sightings had started to decline when mobile phones were introduced 15 years ago.

"Ghost sightings have remained consistent for centuries. Until three years ago we'd receive



The Paranormal News

Paranormal News Round-Up by Mark Rosney

reports of two new ghosts every week," said Cornell, of Cambridge in Eastern England. "But with the introduction of mobile phones 15 years ago, ghost sightings began to decline to the point where now we are receiving none." According to the paper, haunted tourist attractions in Britain could be under threat if the number of cellphones continues to grow from the present figure of 39 million.

Apparently paranormal events, which some scientists put down to unusual electrical activity, could be drowned out by the electronic noise produced by phone calls and text messages.

Reuters (LONDON)

'Meteorite' hits girl

The odds against being hit by a meteorite are billions to one - but a teenager in North Yorkshire may have had one land on her foot.

Siobhan Cowton, 14, was getting into the family car outside her Northallerton home at 1030 BST on Thursday when a stone fell on her from the sky.

Noticing it was "quite hot", she showed it to her father Niel. The family now plan to have the stone analysed by scientists at Durham University.

"I saw it fall from above roof height," Siobhan told BBC News Online.

"It looked very unusual, with a bubbled surface and tiny indentations like volcanic lava.

"It was shiny on one side and looked rusty as if it contained iron. I've seen shooting stars before - but nothing like this. This does not happen very often in Northallerton."

Mr Cowton, 45, told BBC News Online he would take the stone to be analysed himself.

"It is not going to leave my sight because it is a very rare find," he said.

"It is worth a lot to Siobhan.

"We will have it mounted in a glass presentation case so she can keep it for the rest of her life.

"After all it is not every day you get hit by a meteorite. The odds of winning the Lottery are better."

BBC News Tuesday, 27 August, 2002

Ghost capital's tourist hopes

York has been named Europe's most haunted city by a ghost expert.

Parapsychologist Jason Karl, president of the Ghost Research Foundation International (GRFI), said the city has more spooks than any other.

The organisation was founded by Mr Karl nearly 10 years ago and aims to research alleged ghostly phenomena worldwide. "We have travelled extensively working on research projects across the globe and nowhere have we found more ghosts than in York," he said.

One of the most famous phantom visitors in York is the Grey Lady, who is said to haunt the room behind the dress circle of the Theatre Royal. She is regarded as a good omen to any performers who see her.

To mark its paranormal status, York will be hosting GRFI's 10th anniversary celebrations on 6 and 7 September.

BBC News Friday, 9 August, 2002

Ground Zero.

What Really Happened On The 11th September 2001?

By Colin John Veacock

Over a year has passed since the terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre in the USA. However, several people think that there is much more to the attack than the accepted version of events, as reported in the media. Colin Veacock examines the evidence and asks the question: 'What really happened?'

New York, the city that never sleeps, is a sprawling metropolis, the centrepiece of which was the 110 storey twin towers of the World Trade Centre, owned by Silverstein Properties and Westfield America, which dominated the lower Manhattan skyline. Standing at 1,368ft (417 metres) and 1,362 ft (415 metres) high, the mighty towers were the first super tall buildings to be built without any masonry. When the towers opened on the 4th April 1973 their then owners, The Port Authorities Of New York And New Jersey, were inundated with enquiries from businesses eager to rent office space in this modern marvel. The World Trade centre symbolised Americas world dominance and power. Capitalism was king and Uncle Sam wore the crown with pride...

On September 11th 2001 the American dream literally came tumbling down. Almost immediately TV news companies began to mention a name which most people had never heard of before; Osama Bin Laden. In the hours following the crazed attacks on the towers and the Pentagon, film of Pakistani children dancing and cheering in the streets, chanting Bin Laden's name, was aired. The demonising of this little known multi millionaire had begun. Bin Laden, we have been repeatedly told, has a deep hatred of the west, especially America, but what part, if any, did he play in the tragic events of September 11th? And is, as an increasing number of people are theorising, there's a conspiracy and cover up of such enormity that the truth would topple the President and foreign dignitaries around the world....

September 11th wasn't the first time that the trade centre had been targeted by terrorists. On a miserable snowy Friday afternoon, February 26th 1993, a minibus hired by 26 year old Jordanian nationalist, Mohammed Salameh, packed with 500 kilogram's of high explosives entered the parking garage of the trade centre. minutes later the minibus exploded killing seven

people and seriously injuring dozens more. In February 1995 American authorities arrested and convicted the man they believed masterminded the attack, Ramzi Yousef ,aged 27. He was living in Pakistan at the time of his arrest and was deported back to the United States where he was sentenced to life imprisonment plus 240 years. More bombs followed in 1996 and 98 when the American Embassies in Nairobi and Dar-Es-Salaam were attacked, and then there was the suicide bombing of the USS Cole which killed seventeen US servicemen.

That fateful day in September was like any other in the Big Apple. A slight wind blew in from across the bay as the sun appeared over the horizon reflecting off the mirror like surfaces of New York's many skyscrapers. The time was 6.32am. The good people of New York were beginning to stir. Somewhere amongst them lurked at least fifty terrorists whose sole aim that day was to bring America to it's knees and strike fear into the heart of western democracy.

At 7.58am Flight 175, a Boeing 767 piloted by Navy veteran, Captain Victor Saracini, took off from Boston Airport bound for Los Angeles with 56 passengers on board. The plane took a west-south-west course into Connecticut airspace until something went terribly wrong. The transponder went dead but radar still tracked the plane which had now altered course to a south-west heading, heading straight towards Washington DC. A minute later Flight 11 took off from Boston, also bound for Los Angeles. The pilot Captain John Oganowski, flew west out of Massachusetts before turning north-west towards New York. At 8.01am United Airlines Flight 93 took to the air from Newark International airport destined for San Francisco, piloted by Captain Jason Dahl, which carried 45 passengers. This plane followed it's flight plan until it reached Cleveland, Ohio, at which point

flight 93 turned around and headed for Washington DC. The final plane involved in the terrible events of that day was American Airlines Flight 77 which took off from Dulles Airport carrying 64 passengers.

At 8.28am Flight 11 suddenly turned south heading into restricted airspace, and more importantly, heading straight for New York City. If air traffic control had acted the moment the transponders went dead and the planes diverted course the north tower of the Trade Centre could have been saved, but it was to be a full eleven minutes before two F-16 fighter jets were scrambled to intercept Flight 11. At 8.45am Flight 11 slammed headlong into the north face of the north tower. It was later revealed that Captain Oganowski had been pressing the "press-to-talk" button in the doomed airliners cockpit, allowing ground control to hear the hijackers, in an effort to warn the authorities. If this is true it makes it even harder to understand the delay in scrambling the two F-16s.... Among the last words air traffic control heard coming from Flight 11 was from a terrorist who warned, "We have more planes, we have other planes.."

As the TV networks focused their cameras on the north tower and various commentators theorised how such an accident could happen (at this point it was still deemed to be an accident) Flight 175 swooped into view and crashed into the south face of the south tower. As flames and smoke engulfed the towers the full enormity of what was taking place began to dawn on the American people. They were under attack...

President Bush was reading to school children in Florida when one of his aides told him the news. Immediately all airports, subways, tunnels and bridges were closed and public buildings which could have been future targets were evacuated. At 9.25am the President addressed the nation.

Many thought the worst was over as families huddled around their television sets watching the towers burn. Others who had family and

friends who worked and lived in New York frantically called the helplines fearing the worst. Then at 9.48am, Flight 77 dropped out of the sky and crashed into the Pentagon in Washington DC, causing a 60 metre wide part of the six storey building to collapse.

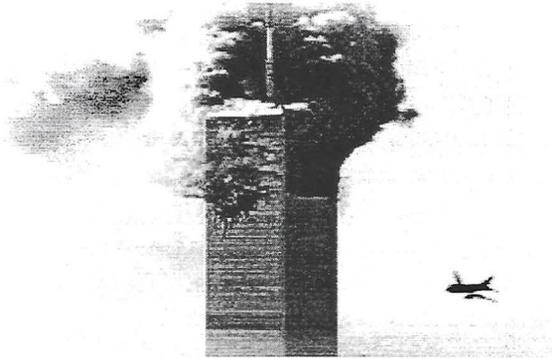
During Flight 77's final minutes a passenger named Barbara Olsen, a TV commentator who covered the Bill Clinton impeachment hearings, called her husband on her mobile. "What do I tell the pilot to do?" she asked her husband. Curious words for a woman on board a hijacked plane full of terrorists to speak. What could she have meant?

The panic in America was palpable. The White House was evacuated and the US Treasury and Capitol

Building were closed.

At 9.50am, as hundreds of terrified workers who were trapped in the upper floors of the south tower waved for help the building collapsed. As rubble, dust and twisted steel girders crashed down onto the surrounding buildings an emergency despatcher in Pennsylvania received a call from a passenger on board United Airlines Flight 93. "We are being hijacked, we are being hijacked", they repeated as other passengers who had heard of the attacks in New York and Washington DC prepared to try and take back control of the plane. We'll never know whether they were successful, as at 10.37am the plane hurtled out of the sky from 35,000ft, flew low over Shanksville and plummeted into a field near a lake 80 miles south east of Pittsburgh killing all on board. As the fight for control had taken place aboard the doomed plane, people watched as the north tower buckled and then slowly disappeared into a cloud of debris.

The dust hadn't even settled when the first people began to question what they had seen, and noticed flaws in the official description of events. Officially, the towers collapsed because the exploding planes had blown all the fire proofing off the weight bearing steel girders which had softened and weakened due to the intense heat of the burning aviation fuel.



A web page was opened almost immediately where people could swap views, pray for those trapped in the towers and give their condolences to the bereaved . At 3.12pm, 11th September 2001, David Rostcheck logged onto this site, USAttacked@topica.com and wrote;

“Important “L” supports that held up the floors had simply sheared off allowing the floors to fall in on one another. Finally the inner core of the building had buckled causing the towers to fall in on themselves. People watching around the world didn’t believe it”.

Okay, is it me, or did anyone else recognise that it wasn’t the aeroplane impacts that blew up the World Trade Centre. David goes on to describe his views on the attack before he ends; In summary, it looks exactly like a demolition- because that’s what it was. Van Romero, the Vice President for research at the New Mexico Institute for Mining and Technology agreed with him.

‘The collapse of the twin towers resembled those of a controlled implosion used in planned demolition’

“The collapse of the twin towers resembled those of a controlled implosion used in planned demolition.”

Could someone have planted high explosives at key stress points in the towers ensuring that they collapsed on queue. After all the towers were designed to survive an impact from a jumbo jet and it is extremely unlikely that the planes alone would cause them to fall. Video footage of the towers collapsing tends to support the view that the buildings were blown up as several explosions can be seen as the buildings implode and begin to fall. Amazingly, explosions were heard by those on the ground who were fleeing the area. Dana West aged 15 said she heard explosions as she was going to Lower Manhattan College and many firemen also described hearing a series of timed explosions. One piece of film taken during the collapse shows a man screaming, “I’m moving from this city”, as another man with blood pouring from a head wound carrying a briefcase

under his arm shouts, “Another explosion, another explosion.”

Could this horrific event possibly be staged? Could the world have been duped, and if so, by who and why?

Thierry Meysson certainly believes there has been a cover up which he describes in detail in his book, “L’Effroyable Imposture” (The Appalling Fraud) which has sold 20,000 copies and is number one in Frances Associated Press Weekly Top Ten. According to Meysson, America staged the September 11th attacks so it could legitimise going to war in Central Asia and the Middle East. Meysson also runs a web site called ‘ Find The Boeing’ in which he challenges people to find any remnant of the plane which supposedly crashed into the Pentagon. Although office furniture, filing cabinets etc, are clearly visible in the rubble there is no sign of Flight 77. Some have theorised that the damage to the Pentagon was caused by a missile fired from a F-16 fighter jet which was flying over head at the time. It is fair to say that conspiracy theorists the world over have had a field day with the September 11th atrocity’s, but none more so than in Pakistan where they have insisted that 4,000 New York based Jews were absent from work that day, that actors played the role of firemen and police officers and that US television new about the attacks in advance. While some of the questions that those conspiratorial minded people ask are clearly nonsense there are some who are asking questions about the attacks who know what they’re talking about .

Jean-Charles Brissard who wrote reports on Bin Laden’s finances for French Intelligence (DST) and who is co-author of Hidden Truth, said that the US State Department and an oil lobby made up of President Bush’s entourage continually blocked attempts to prove Bin Ladens guilt in the 1993 bombing of the Trade Centre. He even expressed his worries to John O’Neill who just happened to be the head of security at the World Trade Centre. He sadly perished in the attacks of September 11th. Brissard also requested to see state department evidence linking Bin Laden with the suicide attack on the USS Cole but was amazingly refused. The question has to be asked why? After all, a republican Senator, Orwin Hatch had already told CNN that he had high-level information from the FBI revealing that Bin Laden was behind the attacks. Why all the secrecy? Could

it be that the fit-up of Bin Laden hadn't been completed at that time, or that he still had some role to play... Perhaps the most scathing critic of America's resulting attack on Afghanistan comes from the renowned journalist, John Pilger who says that the Anglo-American action is not to capture a dangerous fanatic but the acceleration of western imperial power. It was not totally unexpected when lizard man, David Icke threw his weight behind those believing there had been a cover up. He believes that the WTC attack is the start of the next cycle of the Illuminati agenda.

Why the Americans chose to stitch up Bin Laden and blame him for the attacks is a mystery considering that the Americans were falling over themselves in praise for the Taliban (the protectors of Bin Laden) when they took over in 1996, and from February to August 2001 Bush's government had been in constant negotiations with Afghanistan officials in the hope of getting their hands on the massive oil reserves in Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Russia wouldn't allow America to use it's network of oil pipelines and Iran was considered too dangerous. That left Afghanistan... It is interesting to note that since the military action to find and eradicate Al Qaeda in Afghanistan has been a total shambles halting US plans to ship the oil through that country, Iran, the only other country that could possibly be used has become America's number one sponsor' of terrorism! Not Iraq as one would have imagined. Bin Laden had also been in touch with British Intelligence according to ex MI5 agent, David Shaylor. Bin Laden supported a fundamentalist group known as Al-Muqatila which was made up of Libyans who fought with Laden against the Soviets in Afghanistan. Al-Muqatila had joined forces with British Intelligence operatives in what turned out to be a botched assassination attempt on Colonel Gadafy in November 1996.

So far from being an enemy of the west, Bin Laden couldn't have been more helpful and friendly if he had tried.

As work began to remove the 795,763 tones of building debris, and the 148,429 tones of steel from ground zero, evidence began to *miraculously* appear which supported those who believed that Bin Laden and his Al-Qaeda terrorists were responsible. In response Laden

refused to accept that he, or any of his counterparts had played any part in the attacks. He denied it then and he still denies it now. On the 15th September, four days after the attack, amid the twenty storey high mass of debris that was once the World Trade Centre, workers found a solitary passport belonging to Muhammed Atta. This passport conveniently led the FBI to a hire car abandoned in Boston Airport where a suicide note written by Atta, a copy of the Koran, an instruction video on how to fly commercial jets and a fuel consumption calculator were found. Atta had purchased the plane tickets with a credit card which gave his then address as being a room in the Weston Hotel in Boston where three Arabs were arrested twenty nine hours after the attack. Think about it...The passport was found on the 15th September yet the arrest of the Arab gentlemen in the Weston Hotel happened twenty nine hours after the attack. Could someone have jumped the gun here? Suddenly every news report brought with it a new Arabic name for the vengeance hungry American public to mull over. Marwani Al-Shehhi and Hani Hanjour, along with Atta, were named as the pilots since they had been training as pilots while staying in America. We are being asked to believe that these men flew the planes into the buildings yet their flight instructors said that this was impossible as they weren't even competent to fly light single engined planes, never mind huge complex jumbo jets. The FBI's past attempts at producing the names of terrorists involved with the WTC attacks hadn't brought them any distinction. Within ten days of the FBI' suspect list being made public seven men on the list were still alive and well, five Saudi men were never on the planes, one was living in Tunisia and another had been dead for two years.

Then video was released showing the accused men wandering through the departure lounge at Boston Airport on the morning of the attack. People world-wide bought it. And then, just as the conspirators had achieved their aim in selling this ridiculous series of events to the general public, the Bin Laden video tapes began to appear.

The first tape to appear courtesy of the CIA, which supposedly showed Bin Laden talking to his followers is clearly not Bin Laden. In releasing this tape all the CIA accomplished was to advertise their own incompetence and

clearly exhibit the fact that that they were prepared to go to any length to heap blame on Bin Laden. Why? Only one in three Americans now believe the evidence and they have been living on a stable diet of anti Bin Laden propaganda.

‘Only one in three Americans now believe the evidence, and they have been living on a staple diet of anti Bin Laden propaganda’

Then another tape turned up, and give the CIA their due, this time it contained the right man. The video tape shows Bin Laden talking to an audience of supporters, possibly in Qandahar, Afghanistan. The tape is of poor quality and has sub titles which in itself is a mystery as fluent Arabic speakers cannot make out what he is saying. The subtitles are clearly meant to provoke an outcry from any peace loving individual.

“We calculated in advance the number of casualties from the enemy, who would be killed based on the position of the tower. We calculated that the floors that would be hit would be 3 or 4 floors. I was the most optimistic of them all (inaudible) due to my experience in this field, I was thinking that the fire from the gas in the plane would melt the iron structure of the building and collapse the area where the plane hit and all the floors above it only. This is all that we had hoped for.”

Perhaps the outspoken and critical Bin Laden brought this on himself. In May 1998, ABC reporter, John Miller interviewed Laden who said that he was singling out America as a target. He also said that he was ordering a Fatweh, calling on Muslims world wide to kill Americans, and called American soldiers who had died in action in Somalia, Paper Tigers. He had also declared a holy war, a Jihad, against the USA, yet none of this proves conclusively that he took an active roll in the planning and execution of the September attacks, although you could argue that his words may have provoked action in his followers. Yes, Bin Laden is a threat to world peace but there’s still something about the

attacks which causes suspicion. Some conspiracy theorists and writers have dismissed Bin Laden’s involvement altogether and have pointed accusing fingers in the direction of Israel, citing that Mossad carried out the attacks in an attempt to bring America and it’s allies into a war against the Arab nations. Victor Ostrovsky, a defector from Mossad agrees, claiming that the attack was a false flag exercise designed to discredit Libya and cause a US led attack on the Arabs, and retired Pakistani General, Hameed Gul thinks that Mossad backed up by renegade members of the US Air Force were responsible.

As I write these words the media is actively reporting the discovery of Chandra Levy’s decomposed body in a park in Washington DC. This is curious considering that the park, and more importantly, the precise area where her body was found by a dog walker, had been searched at least once, maybe twice, before. So where does Levy fit into all this?

Although the media only ever mention Chandra Levy’s disappearance in terms designed to blacken the name of US Congressman, Gary Condit, the truth of the matter is that Levy was working for Mossad. Only two months before she vanished Chandra and her mother, Susan, flew to Israel, supposedly on vacation. Time magazine (August 8 2001) printed her holiday snaps which show Chandra standing amid ancient ruins.

The stunningly good looking, twenty four year old Chandra Levy’s sole purpose was to collect as much sensitive information as she could, and to this end she befriended Karl Rove, the White House Senior Advisor, courted an FBI agent and struck up a controversial relationship with Gary Condit. Not long after she became an intern for the Bureau Of Prisons. Condit was a professional politician who is a senior member of the House Select Committee on Intelligence so being his lover would have allowed her access to confidential state secrets. It is thought that she accidentally stumbled across information concerning the WTC attacks and thus had to be eliminated before she could report back to her paymasters and warn them that the cat was out of the bag..

The last movements of Chandra Levy are well documented and raise more questions than they answer. She was last seen alive on 30th

April in a Washington DC gym. Later she surfed the internet and sent an email to her parents saying how much she was looking forward to returning home to receive her graduate degree in public administration from the University of Southern California. Amongst the websites she visited was GoFrance.About.com, a tourist and information site which is used by the French Secret Service, who are in turn, in collaboration with Mossad.

It is a fact that in the hours after the 11th September attacks 60 Israeli's, all on tourist visa's, were detained in New York. Some had been seen giving each other high-fives in Liberty State Park as the planes slammed into the towers, while others had been caught videoing the events from surrounding rooftops. Five Israeli's were picked up within eight hours of the attacks carrying maps linking them with the twin towers, and on December 11th 2001 Fox News's Carl Cameron reported that a handful of active Israeli militants were among those being detained. Names like Peer Segalovits, a military operative, Aran Ofek, the son of a two star Israeli

general, Yaron Ohana, Ronen Kulfan, Zeer Cohen and Naor Topaz were mentioned. Some of these Israeli's claimed to be art students

working for a company known as Universal Art which had premises in south Miami and Southrise, yet when the story began to break the company closed and it's officers, Yitzchak Shish and Charj Sagi disappeared without trace.

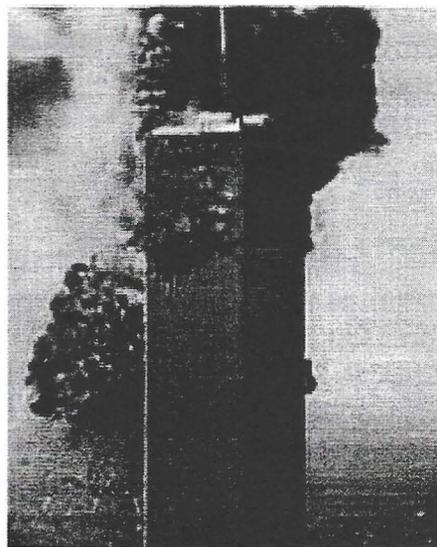
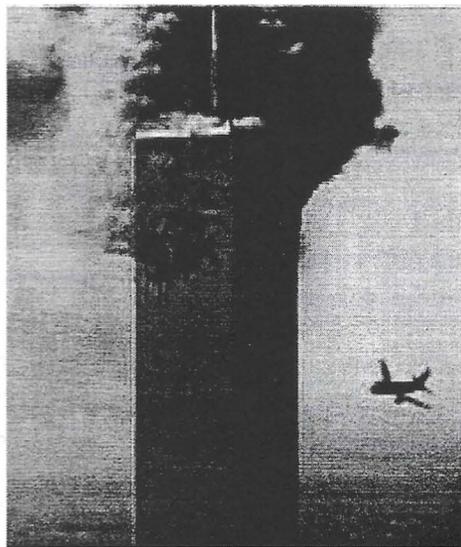
Of course, nobody in power is accepting responsibility. US tax payers pay 40 billion dollars a year on it's eleven intelligence gathering agencies. It is inconceivable that they didn't know, or at least suspect something was going to happen. They passed on their findings; they just weren't acted upon! Justice

Department Spokeswomen, Susan Dryden claimed that the stories surrounding Israeli involvement and American prior

'It is now a known fact that the President had been told at least five weeks before the event about planned terrorist attacks on America using passenger planes as missiles'

knowledge of the events as "Urban Myths". It is now a known fact that the President had been told at least five weeks before the event about planned terrorist attacks on America using passenger planes as missiles and yet he did absolutely nothing about it. On October the 24th

and 26th 2000, military planners even held an exercise to prepare for attacks including passenger planes crashing into the Pentagon. Republican Senator, Richard



Selby has actually said that he believes that if this information had been acted upon properly there may have been a different situation on September 11th. How long is this charade going to continue.

Thousands of people died on September 11th, including three hundred and forty three brave fire fighters who perished trying to evacuate the twin towers. If there's a cover up, and it's fairly obvious that there is, involving a conspiracy to throw the blame onto a little known Saudi millionaire, then the bereaved deserve to know and deserve to know now 



About MARA

Group Co-ordinators

Anthony Eccles
0151 727 4057
tonyeccles@yahoo.com

John L Hall
0151 475 7935

Paul Rogers
01695 729410

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:

Anthony Eccles
52 Hawthorne Avenue
Liverpool L26 9XD

**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.

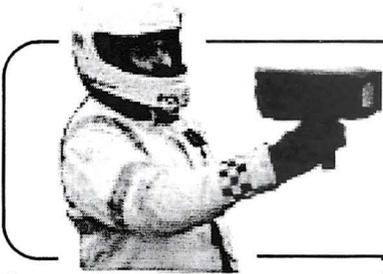
All members abide by a code of conduct, treating information pertaining to witnesses and cases with confidentiality.

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.

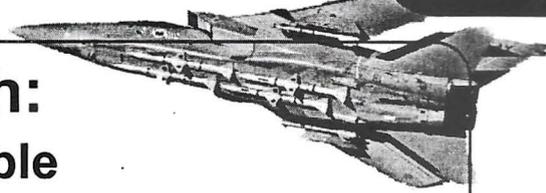
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**Join the MARA team.....
Fill in the application form today!**



An Urban Myth: 'Gunning' for trouble

By Mark Rosney



Sometimes things can go horribly wrong when you least expect it, especially for a couple of traffic cops. Well, that is if you believe everything you are told. Mark Rosney Doesn't.....

Since 1999 there has been an interesting story circulating around the UK that I feel is long overdue investigation. It concerns two North Berwick traffic patrol officers, a hand held radar gun and a Tornado jet fighter. The story goes like this:

Whilst checking for speeding motorists on the A1 road between Oldhamstocks and Grantshouse (in Scotland), one of the officers aimed his hand held radar gun at an approaching vehicle. Naturally, he was a bit surprised to find that the oncoming car was registering a speed of more than 300 miles per hour. He was about to attempt a second reading when the gun suddenly seized up and refused all attempts to be reset.

Instead of clocking the speed of a passing car, the officer had unwittingly latched on to a NATO Tornado aircraft over the North Sea, which was taking part in a low-flying exercise over the area.

Declaring the radar gun to be totalled, the officers headed back to base to report what had happened. As the gun cost over £5000, the Chief Constable of the Lothian & Borders Police force sent a letter of complaint to the RAF. It was only when they received a reply that the officers realised they had had a very lucky escape indeed.

The RAF revealed that the tactical computer on board the aircraft had not only detected and jammed the "hostile" radar source, but had also automatically armed an air-to-ground missile in order to 'knock out' the source of the radar signal. Luckily for the police officers, the pilot spotted that a missile had just armed itself and managed to override the automatic system just in time before the missile was launched. Phew!

An interesting story, but on this occasion one that can be safely consigned to the Urban Myth bin for a number of reasons.

Firstly, police radar is relatively weak. If it was strong then the police would be in serious danger of frying themselves, and any passing motorists, with high frequency radiation. Also, police radar guns do not have much of a range, about a mile or so at the most. This is because the police officer needs to be able to see the vehicle (s)he is pointing the gun at in order to obtain a speed reading.

Every Radar device has it's own unique characteristics, which fighter aircraft onboard systems have been programmed to recognise, ie the difference between the 'lock on' signatures from various air to air missiles etc, so that the pilot has some idea of what has been detected. It would be very unfortunate to have a police radar signature programmed in there as well, under the aircraft's 'threat list'.

Also, radar is in extensive use all around the world. For instance, there are ground based weather radar installations and Airport ground approach units dotted all over the UK, each of which pump out far more power than several thousand hand held radar guns put together, so it would be extremely unlikely that the signal from a police radar gun would even register on an aircraft's systems in the first place, as the feeble signal would be utterly swamped.

Finally, the automatic systems on modern fighter aircraft would not allow a weapon to automatically arm and fire itself. Human intervention is required at all times, especially in peacetime, as any pilot would have to have express permission from his superiors before firing at an 'enemy position'. If not, then imagine how many conflicts would have been started by now by trigger happy pilots!

So, once again, the gist of all of this is don't believe all you hear, especially just after last orders in a pub! However, if you ever pass a burning squad car on a Scottish coastal road, please let us know 