

# Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena

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1977

THE NEW SIGAP BULLETIN

2# SEPTEMBER

## STRATEGY FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS

Ten years in ufology is a long time. In ten years, ten hypotheses can be considered and thrown out of ten different windows for ten different reasons. Out of ten 'experts', perhaps only one survives after ten years - and out of ten groups, perhaps only one survives.

One of those survivors is the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena. The reasons for its survival are harder to ascertain than the fact of its existence. But Sigap has played a major role in both the local and national ufological scene. It has investigated local sightings with an enthusiasm undampened by the prevailing winds of public opinion and political expediency.

Much of the group's success has been due to the loyalty and strength of those who have supported the group since its inception in 1967. Under the chairmanship of one man for eight of those years, it has weathered the storms of public ridicule, and private power struggles within the existing organisations in this country.

It is inevitable that in studying a subject as elusive as ours, personalities play an important part in the organisational structure. Unfortunately, the pursuit of this charismatic form of leadership often ends suddenly, and leaves a bitter taste in ones mouth. Many of us have seen the demise of many a group because of the inflexibility of its representatives. More sadly, the cause of ufology has been advanced not one iota.

The strength of Sigap lies in its flexibility of approach. It floats with the tide and drifts with the wind. It does not commit itself to rigid policies which could later prove embarrassing. It co-operates with those who wish to co-operate. After all, its primary purpose is to investigate reports of unusual aerial phenomena - and this it has done steadfastly for over ten years. Let's hope that in ten years time, ufologists have ironed out many of their differences - differences which, if channelled in the right direction, could be utilised for the good of our cause.

Richard Beet (0483 37322)

## NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on 21 September (Wednesday) at 8.30 pm in the Prospect Country Club, Prospect Road, Ash Vale, Surrey. Those of you who attended the tenth anniversary celebrations will remember the cordial and intimate atmosphere of this club.

The subject of the meeting will be *Strategy for the next ten years*, a subject discussed in this issue's editorial. Bring along your ideas and proposals - after all, Sigap is your group.

## MEMBERSHIP

If you have still not re-applied for membership, please do so as soon as possible. The costs of producing and dispatching information is being met out of the pockets of a few.

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Please regard this notice as your personal invitation to join Sigap. The annual fee of £3 ( recalculated by the committee in June to take account of inflation over the past five years) is designed to cover administrative costs, postage and investigation costs. Please write, enclosing cheque, postal order or money order, to:

Michael Prewett FBIS, 65 Cheyne Way, Farnborough, Hants.

Michael Prewett

## UFO ACTIVITY IN THE BASINGSTOKE AREA

We have recently received a number of reports from the Basingstoke, Hants area, the latest one being from Yateley on the night of Friday 9 September. This report, of a golden disc with a flashing light, is currently being investigated by one of our local members. We hope to publish details in the next Bulletin.

Over the last few years, there has been a noticeable increase in UFO activity around the Reading/Basingstoke area. This has included a disc-shaped object hovering near a school, and an object, described as a 'half-ball bearing' shooting across the sky from east to south west. This object was traced from Andover through to Fleet on 24 May this year. One witness, a Mr Dooley, was cycling home through Fleet at 10.50 pm when he saw the object and nearly fell off his bicycle as the object zoomed overhead.

Our main interest however, has been at Basingstoke, where on the night of 27 August, Mrs Hilda Downes of Winklebury Estate saw a bright star-like object, described as being six inches in diameter, split into two. This sighting, which occurred just before 11.00 pm, astounded Mrs Downes, who had gone outside to put her milk bottles on the step.

A section "split" from the main star-like object, zoomed across the sky and disappeared in the direction of the Lancing Bagnall factory half-a-mile away. Mrs Downes described the object as at first appearing like a ball of condensed smoke, and then appearing as a large dinner plate or disc. The object's silver colour was described by Mrs Downes as being like "the wartime Barrage balloons. The event had taken place in just a few seconds from start to finish.

As this was not the first time Mrs Downes had seen something strange in the sky she was curious, and decided that this time she must do something about it. When a neighbour suggested looking in the telephone directory for a UFO investigation group, the problem was solved, an Sigap were quickly on the scene.

Mrs Downes has previously seen a bright 'star' that shone a beam of light to the ground. She described the light as being bluish-green, and was emitted from a very bright 'star' with six or seven points of light.

An interesting postscript was when Mrs Downes mentioned the sighting of a local farmer who delivers potatoes to the estate. He had told her that one night on his way home to the farm, about two miles away, his van was followed by a very bright light. This incident occurred while he was driving along what is known to be an old Roman road. We are hoping to contact this farmer, and aim to report on this investigation in the next issue of the Bulletin.

Omar Fowler (0252 41012)

## WHAT IS THE MOON?

By now we know that the moon is not just a romantic golden disc in the night sky. It would seem that the moon is not a fragment of the earth but probably came from outside the solar system.

This is the astounding theory recently produced by two Soviet scientists, Michael Vasin and Alexander Shcherbakov.

Information from the Apollo manned landings shows that the age and composition of rock samples on the moon are totally different from those on earth. Does this mean that the moon is an artificial satellite sent to orbit the earth millions of years ago by alien beings? If this is not the case, why did the moon vibrate for 3½ hours when a rocket booster was deliberately crashed into it?

The scientists have an answer to this. They maintain that the moon is a hollow sphere with a soft outer shell two miles deep. They also believe that there is an impenetrable hull which even meteorites cannot pierce. The types of metal found in lunar rock suggest that they may be the remains of the outer skin of an artificial satellite. These were chromium, titanium and zirconium.

If modern scientists were to duplicate this feat, these are the metals they would use.

Perhaps the man in the moon is not so far fetched after all!

*Credit: 'Mysterious Spaceship Moon' by Donald K Wilson*

Michael Mercer (04866 5234)

## THE STRANGE CASE OF THE MOTORWAY, THE WANDERER AND THE UFO

It all started at the end of June. Omar Fowler was contacted by Bufora's national co-ordinator, Ken Phillips, who in turn had heard a strange story, related to him third hand.

Apparently, at about 13.00 hours on 23 June (this time and date was confirmed later) a man was found wandering on the M3 between junctions 1 and 2 by the motorway police. He was taken to Ascot Police Station where he claimed to have met beings from an unidentified flying object.

The police, thinking he was under the influence of drugs, sent him to Heatherwood Hospital - however this test proved negative. Following extensive enquiries, we established that in fact a man had been found on the motorway, was taken to the police station, and subsequently transferred to Heatherwood Hospital.

The 'witness' was detained at Heatherwood for one night and was then moved inexplicably to Fairmile Hospital at Wallingford in Oxfordshire. We wrote the following letter to the Medical Director of the hospital, in fact, a mental institution.

"...We have been informed that a man was apprehended by the Police after being found wandering along the M3 on 23 June last. This man claimed that he had seen a UFO and that he had met people from this craft...We are most anxious to interview this man if it is possible. We appreciate that he may be undergoing some form of treatment and that this would not be advisable.

"However, we would assume that just because someone says he saw a UFO that he would not automatically be admitted not related to the sighting of a UFO and that it would not interfere with his treatment, we wonder whether we would be able to interview him.

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