

"The Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena is affiliated to the 'British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association' and their united aims are to promote the unbiased investigation and research into Unidentified Flying Object Phenomena".

The Satellite Lecture.

Mr Tim Childerhouse of the Space Dept. R.A.E. Farnborough, gave a most instructive lecture during the SIGAP meeting at Plastic Coatings Ltd. canteen on the evening of Sept 5th. The talk included the demonstration of a solar cell as fitted to the U.K.3 satellite and working, scale models of the satellite complete with antenna various experiments attached.

From the U.F.O. point of view, Mr Childerhouse gave us several interesting pointers. These were such things as, satellites generally orbit from West to East or over the Poles, but they can rarely be seen moving from East to West as this is directly against the rotation of the earth and known as a retrograde orbit. It is also possible that a satellite with mirror reflectors could be possible for a flashing light seen in the sky and then disappearing, the rotation of a satellite could also account for a continuous flashing light moving across the sky.

Mr Childerhouse also showed large colour photographs taken in space from satellites and of excellent quality, a piece of material from the Echo satellites was also on show and proved to be an extremely thin section of silver plastic film. This was not of course taken from Echo 1. but was identical to the material used in that instance. Echo 1, we learnt was now more of a sausage shape than a globe and was riddled with meteorite particle holes. It is planned that American Astronauts will inspect Echo 1 in space as part of a future exercise and this may lead to the inspection of other satellites in space if it is successful.

An unexpected force came into play when the early satellites were launched and this puzzled the scientists for a time, for some reason the satellites were entering the earth's atmosphere before the calculated time and this was something of a mystery. It was then discovered that the light from the sun exerted a pressure on the satellite and slowly forced back into the earth's atmosphere before they were expected. The pressure involved could be likened to a sparrow settling on the roof of a nissen hut, but nevertheless this was enough to make all the difference.

When questioned at the end of the lecture, Mr Childerhouse admitted that there had been unexplained radar contacts, he described how a short time ago, an object the size of the Queen Mary at 160,000 ft and moving at 60 mph. had been picked up over Scotland. This had been traced on the radar for twenty minutes before it disappeared from the screen.....

Change of Address Note.

The Secretary Mr R. Beet has now moved to 195, Epsom Road, Guildford.

The new "Saucer Sighting" Telephone Number is :-

GUILDFORD 63381

Sightings in AUGUST.

Little need be said about the recent saucer hoax on Monday Sept 4th, other than the fact that it gave us an interesting exercise. Members of the group first heard the news about 4pm. and within 15mins a number of members were ready to move off and investigate. After contacting Ascot police station, we were told that we would not be able to see the objects and therefore there was little point in setting off

We then contacted B.U.F.O.R.A. and were told that the 'mini-saucers' had Ever-Ready batteries and contained 'porridge', we then called off any ambitious plans and shortly afterwards, the hoax was announced on the B.B.C.

The unfortunate thing about this, was shown almost immediately when a woman at Bromley gave an excellent description of a U.F.O. sighting and then followed this with "Of course now I can see that it was all a student hoax"...As a small consolation, we are hoping to obtain one of the 'hoax' saucers for future publicity.

On a more realistic note, the month of August yielded six investigations, two of them were July sightings and four during August.

We were quick to take advantage of Mr Childerhouse's offer of help and promptly passed on a sighting report sent in by the I.S.S. (International Sky Scouts) at Shepperton. They spotted a fast moving light travelling across the sky, while holding a Sky Watch at Whitmore Common near Guildford 28/7. The light was definitely identified as Beta Kappa 1. on a course N.N.W. to S.S.E. passing overhead zenith at 72 degrees. The stellar magnitude was ± 3 and the time at zenith was 10.22pm. The satellite Beta Kappa 1. was launched in Oct 1962 and is due to decay this month (Sept). This fact accounted for the brilliance and impression of high speed of the object.

On the 11th July a Mrs Strudwick saw a lemon coloured 'tennis ball' in the sky, it moved towards the East.

Mr G. Raine noticed what appeared to be a red ball in the sky, on August 5th during the afternoon. This was sighted at Aldershot and the object looped the loop performed other antics. This may have been a kite at some distance' commented Mr Raine.

The next sighting report also dated 5th August, concerns a 'double light' that hovered over Guildford in the Park Barn area at 9.30pm. This light was reported by five independent witnesses and was watched for three or four minutes, before it changed colour from White to Red to Orange and then shot skyward, disappearing into the streaky cloud overhead. The size of the twin light was described as being about the size of a golf ball at arms length and it is interesting to note that our SIGAP organisation is organised to such an extent, that two members phoned in the report, within minutes of the incident and both independently of each other, one had even watched the UFO through binoculars for several minutes.

Another extremely interesting report came from Mr M. Magnet of Farncombe, he was all night fishing at Broadwater Lake near Godalming, when at 2.30am. a cigar shaped object, glowing orangy/yellow crossed over the lake and disappeared in the distance. There was no noise and the thing was visible for about half a minute. Unfortunately Mr Magnet's friend was asleep a short distance away and did not hear Mr Magnet's shout, so there were no other witnesses, but we believe that other activity has been heard of in the area and we are now investigating.

The final report has been sent in from a new member at Bromley, Kent and while it is not strictly in our area, we are indebted to Richard Button (12 years old) who read the report in the local paper and promptly contacted the two witnesses, who in turn sent in their SIGAP 'Preliminary Sighting Form', with details as follows :-

Mr A. Northcott and Mrs. Baker, (two ambulance men) were on duty at their station when at 6.00am on 18th August they saw a U.F.O. for approx 15-20 seconds. It was travelling in a N.W. direction coming from Westerham and passed almost directly overhead. Mr Northcott climbed onto the station roof and saw the U.F.O. diminish in sound and size. The sound was similar to a heavy transport plane with engines unsynchronised - there were no aircraft about that could have produced the sound. The speed of the object was approx 300 mph (relatively slow) and the height was approx 3,500ft. The U.F.O. also pulsed with an orange and red light and did not waver from its course. Mr Northcott feels confident that the object was not man made.... He also drew a good 'saucer' sketch complete with colour details..... Thank you Richard.

A SURREY U.F.O. BOOK ?

Robert Couttie a 16 year old school boy and a member of the International Sky Scouts has decided to write a book on the subject of U.F.O. activity in Surrey, after reading the recently published "Scoriton Mystery" (this is in the SIGAP library).

One part of the book will contain information on sightings and the other section will express his own theories. We have made all reports held by SIGAP available to Robert, these number 45 to date. If anyone would like to contact Robert with any of their own theories, his address is 96, Oyster Lane, Byfleet, Sy.

The Woking Review has given publicity to the forthcoming book and we hope that it may bring forth some hitherto untold stories, or should I say experiences.

A SKYWATCH ON PEWLEY DOWNS, Sat. Sept 16th.

It is intended to hold a Skywatch on Pewley Downs next Saturday, from 7pm to 7am. This is at the request of several members and in view of the local activity, I think that it may be well worth while. We have arranged for a 240v generator to be on the site and this will be used to power Mr G. Raine's new super-sensitive 'magnetic field detector', this was recently demonstrated at the Tuesday meeting and will be fitted with a directional aerial.

I have no need to remind members that the nights are now very much colder than last June, when we had our last watch. We are not committed to any national hook up and therefore we will certainly be free to cancel the watch if the weather is not up to expectations. There is also one piece of disturbing news and that is, the wooden shelter on the downs has been burnt down by some and this will leave us with only the smaller shelter where the kitchen was positioned last time.

In spite of the latter calamity, we look forward to seeing as many members as possible turn out on the night. There is no need to steel yourself for an all night watch, we will be pleased to see you for even an hour and there will be coffee and biscuits available, as well as a little 'medicinal spirit', (this may assist U.F.O. spotting ?)

During the Sky Watch, we will polish up our watch procedure and this time set our watches to the correct time before we start, this caused a little spot of bother last time.