

# MAPIT SKYWATCH

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M A P I T - T I P A M - M A P I T

Dear Sir,

Please send me a copy of Skywatch magazine as advertised in Foresight  
I enclose 10p PO.

Yours faithfully, I Mellor, Liverpool.

Dear Friend

Please send us your most recent "SKYWATCH" Magazine. We enclose a  
cheque for 10p for a single copy.

Best wishes, H.T.Pullen, Kendal, Cumbria.

Dear Mr.Rees,

Thank you for your letter. Though heavy involvement in other work  
prevents me, at the present time, from contributing to your magazine,  
you may, of course, re-print material from "Is anyone out there?" should  
you wish to do so. I have a follow-up book coming out around April or  
May this year. The format of this one is such that some of the self-  
contained sections of it might make interesting articles for Skywatch.  
The book's called CETI (Communication with Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence)  
I'll let you have a copy on publication.

Best wishes, Jack Stonley, Sale, Cheshire.

Author "Is anyone out there?"

Dear Dave,

Many thanks for sending a copy of Skywatch. I am not able to return  
the compliment at the present time. I am hoping the first edition of  
our magazine will appear during the first quarter of the year. It is  
always interesting to read what the rest of the country is doing and only  
through newsletters and magazines can we get the picture as a whole.  
Spring-Strange Phenomena Research, Investigation and Notation Group - is  
a new organisation; our inaugural meeting was held on September 23rd last  
year. The majority of our membership has little experience in field work  
but the enthusiasm is tremendous. Our basic difficulty is duplicating  
letters, newsletters, etc. Once this has been ironed out we should really  
start to swing (!). Since we are not a society a committee will not be  
formed and each member is paring with another in their own area for  
investigation and advertising. We have investigated two negative  
sightings to date but will be pleased to pass on anything of a more  
positive nature in the future.

All the best to you and MAPIT.

Peter J.Jackson, SPRING, Nottingham.

Recently, Mike Hodgetts, MAPIT member living in Radcliffe, Lancs, wrote to the magazine PLAIN TRUTH on the question of UFO's. His reply from PT was as follows: "Dear Mr.Hodgetts, You asked about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO's). There has been much speculation on the subject of UFO's, commonly referred to as "Flying Saucers". In 1947 the United States Air Force began an investigation of UFO sightings, known as Project Blue Book. This investigation was officially terminated in December of 1969. During its span of operation, more than 12,000 UFO sightings were examined. Most of these were shown to have a definite, physical explanation. But about 700 were totally unaccounted for. They were classified as bona fide Unidentified Flying Objects. Many theories have been advanced for their explanation - none really satisfactory. Certainly there is no proof or basis for wild speculation such as "Green Men from Mars", or physical beings from another solar system. We have not felt it necessary to publish a Plain Truth article on UFO's. However, there have been numerous articles and several books written on the subject. One such book is entitled "Mysteries of the Skies - UFO's in Perspective" by Gordon I.R. Lore, Jr., and Harold H.Deneasult, Jr. You can check with the staff of your local library for other sources of information on this subject.

Yours sincerely, William F.Lavers, Personal Correspondence Dept."

A most interesting programme was transmitted on the 4th February on ITV on the subject of Parapsychology which was featured in Skywatch No.17. The Good Afternoon programme hosted by Elaine Grand. The two people disagreeing were Prof. John "Uri Geller" Taylor and John L.Randall. Prof. Taylor stated "If life is found on Mars it will be found somewhere else in the Galazy - we are not unique". No need to say that UFO's weren't mentioned. It is hoped that 1976 will bring a bigger involvement to the subject by scientists throughout the World. This country is striving to form a bone fide co-operation network which has been long overdue; this effort must not dissolve. Also more Lectures/Meetings in the Provinces by Local Groups. The year 1976 could be the year in which our network systems gain a firm foothold, and also the respect of world UFOlogy.



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## GRIMES AND UFO'S - A Review

The fall of 1975 saw a number of UFO-related articles appearing in the Manchester Evening News, masterminded by Andrew Grimes. Some people may remember Mr. Grimes for his article concerning MAPIT on Wednesday, October 16th, 1974. Unfortunately the press would win first prize for mis-quoting people. As in the case of this article, such gems as: "They run a monthly magazine called The Skywatcher" and "Several people in the Altrincham area looked up and saw a spherical object". In fact it was a male aged 16 - one witness, not several. The Evening News promised in November 1975 - "Watch out for further articles from Andrew Grimes on UFO's and life on other Worlds and the people on Earth who believe in such things". In other words - EVERYONE mentioned in the forthcoming articles was a believer and not open-minded as in the case of MUFORA personnel.

### Saturday, November 15th 1975 - General Views/MUFORA

This, the first in the series, showed, unfortunately, the attitude to follow by Mr. Grimes. The "Snippet" concerning MUFORA was treated in a lighthearted way.

### Saturday, November 22nd, 1975 - Arthur Bloor

Why this person got a near full-page article and photo I will never know. Many people may remember Mr. Bloor from the 1974 Convention in Bebington, where everyone was treated in viewing a totally obsessed man. Such things as, "Oh the UFO's I have seen", he cried - "Many, many UFO's - wonderful UFO's - one was one-third the size of Liverpool - fantastic in its size!" Fantastic indeed, Mr. Bloor.

### Saturday, November 29th, 1975 - Aetherius Society

UFOlogists throughout the UK will perhaps be familiar with George King and his Prayer Machines - "The Largest Metaphysical Society on Earth". Meta-what?

### Saturday, December 6th, 1975 - Professor Kopal

Professor Kopal must get second prize for the UFO Stinkers award - (Thank Marg Proops) - behind Patrick Moore. I prefer Carl Sagan anytime; his "Withering advice to various UFO Societies. I would say to them: Can't you think of something better to do than flog dead horses? I know you want to believe in something, but can't you believe in something more interesting?"

### Saturday, December 13th 1975 - Letters

Well, not very good feedback, Andrew, going from your paltry showing of readers' letters on the subject. Only four letters and less than a quarter of a page taken up.

### Saturday, December 20th, 1975 - Earwig Article

The main character - an earwig out to make a point. Best left alone. Certainly Mr. Grimes finds eccentrics and members of the lunatic fringe.



SIGHTING6 SECTION:-

MYSTERY OBJECT OVER TOWN

The following appeared in the Stockport Express, December 11th, 1975. Under the heading "Glowing Red Ball could have been an Aircraft".

A glowing red ball that traced a comet-like path across the Eastern skies of Stockport on Monday and left observers openmouthed, remained a mystery this week. The object, which was seen independently by people in the town centre, made its curious flight seemingly above Woodley and Brinnington at about 2 p.m. Accounts given to the Stockport Express reported a slow-moving small red globe trailing a narrow white plume which glowed bright at one stage and then suddenly disappeared. Mrs. Jacqueline Cooper, who was shopping during her lunch break from work, had a sighting at Andrew Square. She said: "There was a group of us watching and it was a red ball that looked like a metal object on fire. It was fairly high up and it left a white trail in the sky, like a plane trail, but it didn't seem big enough to be a plane. I watched it for a few seconds and then it faded out. It was dropping out of the sky. Once it actually faded out there were some small objects which fell vertically - I saw them quite clearly - and then disappeared behind distant buildings". Mrs. Cooper, who lives at Buxton Road, New Mills, added: "The red ball itself was crystal clear, but what fell down to earth I don't know. For all the world, at that distance, it could have been parachutes". But stories of something going bump in the day were discounted by the experts. A spokesman at Jodrell Bank said that they had monitored nothing mysterious and discounted the possibility that the object could have been a meteorological balloon - they move very slowly. "It would appear to me", he said, "that it was a high-flying aircraft which had caught the sun's rays on a particular altitude and trajectory. That would account for it only having been seen for a few seconds as a red glow and then apparently "disappearing" when it passed that line, or marginally changed direction. However, I cannot offer a satisfactory explanation for the dropping effect". When told of the sighting, a spokesman for Manchester Airport agreed that it was most likely to be aircraft, the vapour trail or contrail of which had disappeared with a change in height or atmospheric. "The overall effect", he said, "can create illusions and people often tend to see more than is actually there". It is remotely possible that the object was a firework, but both would have to be very large to glow in daylight. No-one has mentioned Unidentified Flying Objects. Also the following appeared in the Express on December 18th, 1975, under the title "Another Theory": It was a good article in last week's Express about the mystery object over Stockport on Monday last. My wife and I saw it as we walked along Gt. Underbank and there was no doubt in my mind it was a Very light.

Though I fired plenty myself during War Service, its a strange sight to see one lazily descending over Stockport, when you consider that their main use is to light up a battlefield. Ernest Bradley, Stockport. The description of the area is as follows: Stockport lies at the base of the Pennines in Cheshire to the South East of Manchester. It is also in line with the flight paths leading to Manchester Airport (Ringway). So there is plenty of aerial activity day and night, which makes the local people knowledgeable in viewing aircraft. In fact, Stockport has been rather neglected as so far as recording sightings. Other areas - such as Hazel Grove, Marple, New Mills, Glossop and the Peak District - are also related. There may be many incidents occurring in these particular locations which are going unrecorded, and the potential must not be lost. MAPIT is working hard to start this important task in this large area.

We will print further details of this incident in a future issue.....

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UFO ORIGINS - A Private 'Think-in'

Jenny Randles.

All people involved closely within UFOlogy go through distinct phases. Once they are really immersed on the investigation side they realise that an 'open-minded' approach is the only way. It is no use whatever going along to see a witness convinced they have seen Spaceship QX123 on the 9.15 from Mars. You have to go along with a view that is possible they have seen anything, from a satellite to a mental delusion, AND you must not let your opinion of them, or Ufology, show. That is a very hard thing to do and it makes the seasoned investigator become hardened against speculation. However, after amassing case after case, an opinion of some sort is eventually formed - probably in one's private thoughts. I will hereby set out my current 'private thoughts', fully appreciating that my ideas are no more likely to be right than they are to remain static in the light of future information becoming known.

Firstly, what do I make of the ETH - or space visitors, idea? Not a lot, really. I don't say it is not right. just that it might be wrong. Too many people cling to the belief still that it is THE answer. On what evidence? Surely not the tesimony of the contactees? Oh, yes, they belief that what they are saying is true, but then, so do paranoics. I am not suggesting that contactees do not experience genuine events (though I am not always convinced these exist outside their minds). What I do feel is that what they are told is wrong - either a deliberate purposeful lie or a genuine misrepresentation. Alright - so we can discount the huge problems involved in inter-stellar travel. These could be overcome - but we cannot discount the obviously childish tales told by these 'spaceman' of the worlds they come from. Statements such as "I come from an 'outer galaxy'" are as meaningless as they are false. If one

thinks about it, there is NO factual basis for belief in ETH. Indeed, the very fact that the Ufonauts say that's what they are lends one to disbelieve it.

So what are we left with. Ultra-terrestrials? A parallel community living on this planet or in a closely adjacent dimension. To my mind this is more plausible, not proven. It explains the presence of these things as an integral part of our folklore (read Passport to Magonia by Vallee). It explains why they have manifested themselves regularly down the ages. It even explains why they take so much interest in us and our possessions. Would they do so unless they meant something important to them because they are co-existent with them, and us? Would alien visitors from some remote planet be so involved? People might say 'How can such a race co-exist without our detecting it?' But maybe we do detect it (and not just represented by the UFO's). Maybe we just don't believe it.

Could UFO's be a function of our subconscious? Do we simply 'conjure' them up? Would intensive study of witnesses (as is being done by several researches) reveal a pattern. Certainly, there does seem a link with another sub-conscious 'mental' phenomenon - that of the psychic world. Psychic people do see UFO's often. A psychic lady from near Manchester saw a marvellous display of two oval UFO's hovering over Werneth low in December 1974. One discharged half a dozen spheres towards Stockport during the course of half an hour - but nobody else saw this spectacle. Do we simply disbelieve her story or say that it was a subconscious impression? Very real to her none the less.

Yet we come back to multi-witness cases. On December 12th, 1975 at Swinton at least eight witnesses in four separate groups saw a lighted oval-shaped perform 'impossible' manoeuvres. It was no known physical phenomenon - but how could it be psychical. The witnesses were not together so it could not be attributed to mass hypnosis.

Turning to June 15th, 1975, we record an odd phenomenon seen at Stretford. This was a dazzling ball of light, hovering over a field, gliding around and streaking into a cloud. Weathermen say, despite thunderstorm activity, the duration was too long for ball lightning, but could it not be some very unusual natural phenomenon we just don't understand.

Finally, the wheel comes full circle and we return to Rainhill, Merseyside on May 18th, 1975. Here an object apparently landed. Odd looking footprints were found at the site. How can one reconcile that with other than a physical, manned craft?

Even from this brief summary of some of the cases investigated during 1975 by NUFON groups, the premise for my conclusion is shown. At present I think this:

1) The UFO phenomenon is not one. but several phenomena inter-mixed

- 2) Partly it is a socio-psychic factor, seen in terms of that day's Technology. Nowadays people 'see' spacemen. Yesterday they 'saw' demons or gods.
- 3) Partly it is an unknown natural phenomenon - akin to ball lightning or plasma.
- 4) Finally a very small proportion - smaller than we think - is due to a physical machine possibly from off the earth (in space) but more likely either off it in time or very nearly on it.

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U.F.O'S --  
CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE?

by  
DAVID GITTENS, N.A.P.R.A.

What constitutes conclusive proof of the existence of alien spacecrafts in our skies?

Can any U.F.O. Group in the British Isles (or anywhere) show conclusive proof to the earth's inhabitants?

Nearly everything that has been written or spoken on this subject has been hearsay -- circumstantial evidence.

The nearest we can come to positive proof of alien vehicles in earth's air space is the traces of unidentified flying objects which are recorded by radar technicians.

The most that any U.F.O. study group can hope to achieve with their limited time, money and resources is: To record the sightings of U.F.O's that have been made by reliable eye-witnesses, to correlate, classify and investigate the alleged sightings.

But just what 'are' the groups investigating?

Simply a statement made by one or more persons, who could have been hallucinating or devising an elaborate hoax. Even if what the witnesses claim was accepted as the 'Gospel Truth', the Ufologists are still only investigating 'hearsay'.

What else can the Ufologists do?

With the lack of the ultimate truth (the actual U.F.O), the investigator can only follow a set pattern, but it 'is' a pattern that most groups fail to carry out.

It has probably been noticed that, whilst under fire from sceptics, investigators reluctantly admit that they have not followed any set pattern of investigation and generally follow up with excuses like: "Well, we have interviewed the witness and obtained a completed sighting report form, but have been unable to follow this thing through as yet because....."

The excuses are many and varied and in all probability, quite justified, but prompt action by an investigator could bring many important facts to

light, which could have been lost or forgotten, following a delay in questioning. Therefore, it is imperative that reports of sightings and/or landings should be pursued without delay and with a purpose; a 'Set Pattern of Investigation'.

I have set out below a suggested pattern of procedure for the followup to U.F.O.sightings/landings and if this pattern is adhered to in its entirety, then investigators would have no fear of interrogation by the general public, sceptics, etc....

The suggested pattern:

1. Visit the home of the witness/witnesses.
2. Tape the ensuing conversation and have a sighting form completed.
3. Ask witness to show you the actual place of the sighting/landing and take photographs of the area, both by daylight and darkness.
4. Check for unusual stars and/or planets on an astronomical map of that area of the sky.
5. Check flight patterns, etc. with local airports.
6. Check orbits of satellites
7. Check with radar-control centres.
8. Sift through other sighting reports of that particular date for 'confirmation sightings'
9. Post details immediately upon completion of investigation to local Group.

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The above article was sent to MAPIT some 15 months ago. We found it at the back of a desk file and we must apologise to Mr.Gittens for not printing his contribution sooner. The full article is not reprinted owing to the fact that half of the content referred to UNO (now NUFON) The references on UNO are no longer valid as NUFON has put the suggestions into practice. So we have printed the above as a guide to all UFO groups on Investigation. We think it is worth printing even after a year, as many investigating standards at Local Groups are far from perfect (MAPIT included). Skywatch thinks the above will be helpful to all who do field work.