

SKYWATCH is an informal publication devoted to UFOlogy and related subjects. It is published by the Manchester Aerial Phenomena Investigation Team at regular intervals. Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily shared by the group or editor. Items may be reproduced in full or part. It would be appreciated if copies of journals using material, or cuttings from them, were sent to the Editorial Address.....

# MAPIT SKYWATCH

## THE PUBLICATION OF THE MANCHESTER AERIAL PHENOMENA INVESTIGATION TEAM

MARCH - APRIL

1977

NO.23

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Dear Mr.Rees,

T hank you for your letter and MAPIT fact sheet. I found SKYWATCH a very good read. I shall place an advert for MAPIT in the next Skylook. We have not published one since November, since we are still collecting material for publication. When we do get it published we shall send you a cooy. We are involved in an interesting project, that is the compiling of a catalogue of UFO reports from East Anglia. Contact UK and BUFORA are helping us. I wish you and your group the best of luck in 1977.

Yours faithfully,  
John Coplesey, Secretary - Editor, Dereham UFO Study Group, Norfolk.

SKYLOOK.....The Spring-Summer issue has just been completed. If members would like to obtain copies, send an SAE to Mr.J.Coplesey, 67, Norwith Road, Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 3AL. The DUFOG is a NEW group having only been formed in August of last year. So Lets Support It.....

THE ESSEX UFO STUDY GROUP.

UFO's - Yew or NO?

by R.MARKWICK, Technical Advisor,  
Lecturer and UFO Investigator.

The following article is continued from the last issue.....

Many scientists are unhappy about Uri Geller, since he represents problems or unknowns which are against the scientific stereo-typed patterned views of scientific thinking. Uri Geller has the habit of making sophisticated scientific test equipment appear as unreliable, or that he is using magic (or trickery), and if Uri can do this, then it becomes evident that more advanced forms of space-beings are quite apt to, and are doing, likewise. Scientists have reservations about Uri's feats, since science has been tricked in the past and fallen victim to a hoax, as indeed they have also fallen victim to fact. Too often, science has been accused of being, generally, unwilling to face a serious challenge, just as they have shied away from UFO and other phenomena. From the scientists point of view, what are their reasons for shying away from UFO phenomena? They say, that Ufologists in general, jump to some of the most appalling conclusions - (meaning perhaps scientists do not). Surely even more so, it is of more importance that scientists should never have jumped to some of their appalling conclusions in which they could not have been more wrong if they tried?

They also state that the UFO business has been brought into disrepute and no self-respecting scientist will wish to become involved. Are we to assume from this that scientists are very fragile characters in a vicious, violent universe, and are easily deterred? Very unscientific, I'm sure! It is interesting to note, that when scientific statements were proven to be grossly inaccurate, they were not in disrepute, and carried on quite self-respectingly and unperturbed, as though they had never uttered such incorrect statements.

Is it any wonder, that scientists are none too pleased about 'open-minded' thinkers who allowed for alternatives "taboo" to general science, after all, scientists have been about the world's worst guessers? This analysis regarding

our learned scholars is of extreme importance, since they should be the ones with all the answers, and the public originally were brainwashed with the scientists unscientific answers such as: "balderdash, rubbish, and utter bilge", with respect to the existence of UFO's. In short, it has been the word from certain well-known scientists who have put the UFO business in disrepute. But since the saying: "You can fool some of the people some of the time, but not all the people all the time", came out on top, self-respecting Ufologists have carried on undauntingly.

Even space travel by earthlings was considered unacceptable by some eminent people, as little as 20 years ago, the Astronomer Royal said: "Space travel is utter bilge". He could hardly have timed his statement better, for shortly after, the Russians sent up the first lump of "utter bilge" into space; it was named Sputnik I, and since then of course, "utter bilge" has been put on the surface of the moon. Some astronomers I talked to felt obviously embarrassed and answered in defence of the Astronomer Royal, stating he knew nothing of space travel. As with scientists, who are supposed to be cautious folk, and who only issue statements derived from backed-up evidence - perhaps it better nothing had been said at all, then give such a wild bad guess.

Wrong about the surface of Venus, wrong about so many things; wrong about pollution blocking our atmosphere, resulting in less penetration of the sun's normal output through our atmosphere, thus heading earth on a course for an ice age. But an 'about-face' again states we're heading for warmer weather with more droughts, - they've apparently heard of the 'greenhouse' effect. It is quite understandable, that thinking members of the general public are a little uneasy and at times were calling for a curb on germ-warfare, nuclear arms, genetic engineering, etc., for it follows that if mistakes are made by scientists with the lesser important issues, how can they be trusted with the more important dangerous type of experiments?

In other writings, I have explained how science continually accepts non-proven facts, especially in the sub-atomic branch of nuclear physics, wherein they only "predict" an existence by associated effects and such like. Well, how about predicting what UFO's are, by their associated effects and such like? We cannot see a neutrino, but we can at least see a UFO, as we may also see the sun, just as likewise we do not have to catch a murderer to realise a murder has been committed. During the past, I have stated how scientists will not accept that of which they are suspicious or do not understand fully, yet they wholeheartedly accepted electricity (but they do not fully understand it), but have accepted it since they use it to "determine" things for them in research. They obviously think: "Does it matter what it is, so long as it works? Like acupuncture - unaccepted by science, it would be interesting to know from scientists why they admit acupuncture works when it is not a psychological or type of faith healing achievement, since it even works with the beasts of the fields,

Perhaps one of the most conceited statements by a scientist, was that other scholaristic groups all disagree among themselves, but top scientists do not. How strange then, when two scientists disagree with each other by as much as the two extremes, whereby one believes in a God creator of the universe 100%, yet his colleague disbelieves by 100%. Bearing in mind that belief is not proof, but rather that one only hopes (or believes) he has the proof, then if our two scientists arrived at their conclusions by true scientific methodology, then their contradiction requires some explaining. If not, then even scientists do believe in something without sufficient evidence, or "feel" their belief is correct. Here we must remember that human "feelings" alone, have let them down too many times, even to the point of death. Just as scientists have "felt" something to be correct, later proved incorrect, time has proved that they "felt" something one day, only to have lost it the next.

I agree with the famous saying that: "Science does not explain anything, it only describes", but I have reservations about the 'describing' part.

For the persistent who state UFO's to be no more than temperature inversions, Venus, etc., we might suggest they first study the characteristics and capabilities of that pertaining to their answer, and to that which occurred in reality.

Perhaps some of the worst offenders are some of the more notable astronomers, since they possibly watch the sky more often than anyone, they should know that the characteristics of a meteorite or Venus, do not allow for them to "beat-up" a car, nullify the ignition system, then zoom off into space, neither do we expect weather balloons and such to do likewise - please note, meteorological staff.

Please note, the Air Ministry, civilian aircraft do not hover for 20 mins., then zip off at high speed almost instantaneously. The USAF has been involved with ridiculous answers to the American public about UFO's, to such an extent that many members of the U.S. public insist that the USAF does not exist, but UFO's do. We do not have to leave these shores to hear unintelligent replies from eminent persons, regarding UFO's. It seems all nations are burdened with unknowledgeable people, who should possess a far more intelligent stock of answers, than those being handed out.

In this country, about 5 years ago, we recall how a low flying UFO over the Reading, Berkshire, area was picked up by London Airport Radar and classified as "solid hardware". Despite its low level flight there was no sound heard. Duration of observation: 6 hours (ample time for some form of detailed investigation). As in such cases, the police received thousands of 'phone calls from the inquiring public, and the press at the time gave considerable coverage to the case. The authorities said they did not know what it was; this was a pleasant change, for officials were not thanking their lucky stars (or should we say planet? - Venus) for an explanation; for they were at least non-committal. The only trouble with their 'didn't know' answer, is that it says little for the safety against any potential aggressor, or the millions spent annually on defence, when something can "creep in" over a town for 6 hours, and nobody knew what it was. There are still far too many persons in high positions, who have not the courage of their convictions after sighting a UFO, they keep it under their hat, the trouble is that so much will be hidden under their hat, that their hat will fall off, exposing everything.

R.D.MARKWICK.

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.....NEWSCLIPPING SECTION.....

.....GROUP NEWS.....

The group meeting on the 20th January was attended by one person. The reason for this LOW number was that many people had other commitments, i.e. Night School, working overtime, baby sitting, flu-illness and distance in travelling. The evening did prove interesting with the two of us consuming 15 cups of coffee and 30 sausage rolls (phew). A meeting during mid-summer is to be planned and more notice of the date will be given later.

Good to receive a copy of the Wirral UFO Society's publication Skylink, which had a good write-up of the recent BUFORA conference in Birmingham, amongst other items.

Through the letter box recently, UFO Appearance, Recognition and Identification Test Procedure by Richard F.Haines Ph.d. It is a 14 page paper which makes invaluable reading for the UFO Investigator wishing to learn more. Illustrations feature over 100 UFO shapes. For further information write to: 325, Langton Avenue, Los Altos, California 94022, USA.

Recently we have had a small increase in membership. Don't forget to tell your friends about MAPIT and the UFO subject - get them interested!

The youngest contributors to SKYWATCH are included in this issue: Stephen and John Bellis - the UFOlogists of tomorrow, both aged eleven.....

If there are any News Clippings you missed for your collection, contact the editorial address and we will try and find you the copy you require.

Don't forget SKYWATCH is YOUR publication! If you want it to continue you must support it by sending in any Newsclippings, Sightings, Articles, etc. Perhaps you have just read a UFO book, so why not write a review of it? I hope to hear from you ALL, soon.

DAVID L REES - EDITOR.

NEWSCLIPPING SECTION

REVEILLE November 12th 1976 - Riddle of the Fireball that came for Lunch:-  
 Rain pelted the windows as a family of six started their lunch. They chatted about the storm raging outside and were thankful for the warmth and protection of their home. Suddenly conversation stopped - a shining white ball appeared out of nowhere and hovered over their table. "Look at that!" shouted one of the family. But it was doubtful whether anybody heard him. For, with a bright flash the ball exploded. The diners were thrown back against their chairs. None of them was hurt, but one of the children's hair and clothes were singed. And for some time afterwards, they all felt as though they had been lamed. They've been witnesses to one of nature's most mysterious phenomena - a Fireball. The incident happened many years ago in Sweden, but all over the world, including Britain, reports of these balls have been regularly reported. Fireballs are usually seen during thunderstorms. Many witnesses have reported hearing the balls make a strange hissing sound. Despite investigations scientists have never been able to pinpoint the cause and nature of fireballs. One theory is that they are created by air or gas behaving abnormally. Neil Charman, a Lecturer at Manchester University's Institute of Science and Technology, is currently collecting eye-witness accounts of Fireballs. So if you ever see a ball of fire - drop him a line. You may be helping to solve a mystery that has been baffling mankind for hundreds of years.

THE SUN November 19th 1976 - Visit from a pink-eyed UFO Man:- A pink-eyed creature dressed in a silvery boiler suit left a glowing cigar-shaped spaceship and peered into a car, two terrified people claimed yesterday. As the strange creature approached, the car shuddered, seemed to leave the ground.... and then stopped. Motorist Mrs. Joyce Bowles screamed and grabbed her passenger, Ted Pratt, a 58 year-old retired farm manager, as the piercing pink eyes peered into the vehicle. "I was terrified. I thought we were going to be taken away by a Flying Saucer", said Mrs. Bowles. When 42-year-old Mrs. Bowles, of Quarry Road, Winchester, Hants, opened her eyes again, the creature and the glowing orange UFO had vanished. Both Mrs. Bowles and Mr. Pratt, who were travelling along the Marrow Road, off the Winchester By-pass, are convinced they came face to face with a creature from Outer Space. Their nightmare began just before 9 p.m. when they both saw an orange light in the sky. When their car shuddered to a halt, Mrs. Bowles claimed she could see the cigar-shaped object hovering only a few yards away. She added, "We could see three people inside it. Then this creature - he looked like a well-built man - left the object and came towards us. As he approached we heard a noise like a kettle whistling. Then he peered in the window with those horrible eyes. They were as bright as the sun". Mr. Pratt, of Church Road, Nether Wallop, near Stockbridge, Hants, said: "I was frightened when the car began to shudder, but when the creature looked at me, I suddenly felt very calm. I suppose he must have given me some power to look after Mrs. Bowles because she was in a dreadful state. I am convinced we saw a UFO. It was an unnerving experience".

SUNDAY MIRROR November 28th 1976 - Kop those Spacemen! - The eagle-eyed trio on the Kop were tense as Liverpool battled to stay on top of the First Division yesterday. But they didn't bother to watch the football.....they stared at the sky instead. For there just might have been some non-paying spectators - from Outer Space. The three were all members of the International Unidentified Flying Objects Research Council, and after a lot of research they believe Liverpool have a lot of faithful faraway fans. Chairman Alan Walsh - a 19 year-old Lab Technician, said, "It's not surprising that visitors from Outer Space should study a football match. It must seem extraordinary to something or somebody who doesn't understand human behaviour". The UFO researchers interview everyone who makes a serious report about seeing strange objects in the sky, and their statistics show an unusually large number of sightings in the Anfield district of Liverpool - especially on match days. The research council was founded three years ago and now has 250 members throughout the world.....and 7,000 unexplained reports. "There are at least 150 different categories of UFO", said Alan, of Tennyson Street, Liverpool.

THE SUN November 30th 1976 - A mysterious Unidentified Flying Object - like a "bright spinning star" - was reported speeding across the sky at Kingsdown, Deal in Kent, yesterday. Police are investigating.

DAILY MIRROR December 13th 1976 - Identified: "An Unidentified Flying Object" which landed in Henry Morans garden at North Wingfield, Derbyshire, was found by experts to be a "Weather Plane".

THE SUN December 18th 1976 - An Unidentified Flying Object like a "Flying Grapefruit" spotted over North Staffordshire by a pilot and an AA patrolman is being investigated.

THE SUN January 4th 1977 - Happy New Year.....From the UFO: Aliens from Outer Space have been first-footing Britain, claims a UFO expert. And he reckons the unearthly visitors have been paying regular New Year calls on the world every Ten years. In the past three weeks more than a score of people in North Staffordshire have reported sightings to the British Unidentified Flying Objects Research Association. The Flying Objects were similar to the ones which recently stunned people in the South of England. And the Association's Research Director, 36 year-old Tony Pace, said yesterday: "Experts had anticipated this latest spate of sightings. If we can start to predict visits then people will take us seriously as Scientists". Mr.Pace, of Eccleshall, Staffs, said there was a massive increase in UFO sightings every 10 years, usually within two months either side of Christmas. In 1947 the eerie visitors came to France, in 1957 to America, and in 1967 and 1977 to Britain.

DAILY MAIL FEBRUARY 7th 1977 - Police Spot UFO:- Four Police Officers saw an Unidentified Flying Object over Stafford early yesterday. They watched the bright fast-moving object for two minutes until it vanished over the horizon. Checks showed no aircraft were in the area at the time. One of the officers said: "As far as Flying Saucers are concerned I was a disbeliever - now I'm not certain". A Police spokesman said: "The object was reported as brilliant-white and long in shape - moving faster than any aircraft".

DAILY MIRROR February 8th 1977. - Terror of the UFO Children:- Fourteen children fled in terror from a mystery object they saw in a field near their school. And last night UFO experts were hailing the incident as one of the best sightings. The children attend a junior school at Broad Haven, near Havorford-west, West Wales. Their drawings of the 45ft-long, cigar-shaped object are to be sent to education chiefs. Randall Jones-Pugh, the British UFO Association man in South Wales, said: "It is one of the best sightings we have had".

DAILY MIRROR February 17th 1977 - Children in UFO Mystery: - Aviation experts were puzzled last night about a mysterious airborne "Spaceship" spotted by nine children and their Teacher. Drawings and a description of the digar-shaped UFO are to be sent to the RAF and British UFO Research Association. The strange object - "with a black dome on top" - was seen by girls playing netball at their village school in Rhosybol, Anglesey. Their teacher, 40-year-old Mrs.Mair Williams, said: "It was flying very high and fast and disappeared behind the only cloud in the sky. I seperated the girls and told them to draw what they had seen. All the drawings were alike". An RAF spokesman said later: Whatever it was, it had nothing to do with us".

MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS February 19th 1977 - Pilot spots bright UFO:- A Columbian airline pilot claims to have seen brightly lit Unidentified Flying Object three times larger than airliner, travelling at speeds over 28,000 mph.

SUNDAY MIRROR February 20th 1977 - Going round the bend - visitors from Outer Space:- The earth seems to hold a new attraction for visitors from Outer Space. The aspect of our planet which interests them most is.....our sewers. According to some observers, UFO's have been spotted over a giant sewage works being built at Telford, Shropshire. Altogether fifty sightings have been reported - twenty of them Council workers. Terry Billington, a top official in Telford's Engineering Department, said: "I saw a metallic saucer-shaped disc hovering. The only thing in view, apart from fields, was the sewage works. The UFO finally flew off much faster than any aeroplane. I'M not a UFO-addict, and wasn't interested in them until this happened". Alan Knight, principal Engineer in the Roads Department and an investigator for the British UFO Association, said: "I believe most of the sightings, including Mr.Billington's, to be genuine

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FORESIGHT: A bi-monthly magazine concerned with the spiritual aspect of man's being; seeking to bring about a greater awareness of life and its meaning; dealing in Mysticism, Philosophy, Psychic Development, UFO's and World Events. Subscription: 90p plus postage. Write to: Foresight Organisation, 29, Beaufort Avenue, Hodge Hill, Birmingham B34 6AU, England.

The following is taken from the newspaper "Clarín", September 16th, 1976.

Another UFO show in Latin America.

UFO's have once again appeared in our skies. According to the information from the Noticias Argentinas news agency, Walter Gallo and Edgardo Barbero, two meteorologists from the Gobernador Castello airport in Viedma, province of Rio Negro, have seen luminous discs several times since July 14th.

According to them, on that date, between 5.30 and 7.30 a.m., they watched two UFO's. Together with them were three other witnesses and they all noticed "an alteration in the Barometer which indicated a sudden and non-existent fall of atmospheric pressure".

That first sighting was followed by another, also in the vicinities of the airport. According to Gallo it was a "football-sized object which remained in sight for an hour".

And on Monday three UFO's were sighted. Again, according to the meteorologists, there were three other witnesses but their names were not provided. "They appeared after 8 p.m. One of them was bigger than the other two which escorted it at great speed and maintaining the distance between each other". After the sighting, Gallo and Barbero noticed with surprise that the barometers had detected two hours earlier "a violent and inexplicable descent of the atmospheric pressure which can only take place due to a storm, a squall or stability lines, nothing of which happened", they explained.

On Tuesday night, another sighting. A luminous body with flashing red and green lights, just like the previous one zigzagging at about 7.30 p.m. south of the Viedma airport. Always, according to the meteorologists, the control tower operator saw three objects towards the west, "two small and one big one, just as on Monday," they said. The sighting lasted about one hour.

On none of the occasions, although the UFO's manouvers lasted long, were photos or films taken. No other witnesses seem to have been present and the identity of the tower operator remains unknown.

Mystery continues to envelope this episode, but many will be the Viedmans who will watch the sky in search of the strange objects.

Translation by Alan D. March (Argentina). Donated by D.J.Parry.

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STAR TREK ACTION GROUP.

STAG has nearly 500 members including members in the U.S.A., Australia and West Germany. We also have Gene Roudenberry, James Doohan, George Takei, Majel Barrett and Gene's secretary, Susal Sackett, as Honorary Members.

The Club issues 6 newsletters a year. Through these we try to give members the latest news on the ST movie; info on what the cast are doing now; info on ST in general and on any new publications. We also print comments and articles by members.

STAG sells various fanzines containing ST fiction, a zine of tribble cartoons, photos, film clips, stickers, writing paper, etc.

We encourage members to submit articles, ST fiction, Poetry, art work, etc. for publication in both the newsletters and the zines. Contributors to zines get a complimentary copy.

Dues for STAG are £1.50 per year. Cheque/P.O.'s should be made out to STAG and sent to: Miss Janet Quarton, 15 Letter Daill, Cairnbaan, Lockgilthead, Argyll, Scotland.

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\*\*\* In the last issue of SKYWATCH an item titled "Project URD" was credited to Ken Stanley (FAPUFORG). This should have read BRYAN HARTLEY (FAP UFORG)

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Below you will find a survey on UFO beliefs and opinions. MAPIT Member, D.J. Parry would be most grateful if you would answer the questions and return them to him. The address to write to is: D.J. Parry, 132 Ramoth Road, Wisbech, Cambs. PE13 2JD.

SURVEY ON UFO BELIEFS AND OPINIONS

PLEASE ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW AS FULLY AS POSSIBLE. SHOULD YOU FIND ANY OF THE QUESTIONS OBJECTIONABLE, PLEASE DISREGARD IT/THEM. PLEASE ANSWER ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER.

- QUESTION ONE. Who are the best five UFO authors?
  - QUESTION TWO. What are the best five UFO periodicals?
  - QUESTION THREE. What are the ten best UFO books?
  - QUESTION FOUR. Do you support any theories on UFO's? Explain.
  - QUESTION FIVE. What are the ten most significant UFO cases ever? Why?
  - QUESTION SIX. What are the five potentially significant cases? i.e. cases where information is lacking. Explain.
  - QUESTION SEVEN. What is your reaction to occupants? Contactee claims? It should be noted that occupants refer to operators, and contactees are those who claim to have been abducted or to have communicated with the occupants.
  - QUESTION EIGHT. Do you belong to any UFO organisations? If so, which?
  - QUESTION NINE. Please provide the following information about yourself: CITY? STATE/PROVINCE? COUNTRY? AGE? SEX? OCCUPATION?
- YOU WILL BE INFORMED OF THE RESULTS OF THIS POLL WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

THANK YOU.

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WANTING TO KNOW

When I was asked to put down on paper my feelings towards UFOlogy today, I must admit that I was somewhat worried. The reason for my nervousness was that I feel that my own feelings will reflect a somewhat critical approach.

For five years now, I have been active in the field of UFOlogy, concentrating on the LANDING aspect of the subject. In 1976 I decided that I wanted to join a respectable UFO group and so I chose MAPIT. From that day I can safely say that I have become even MORE involved in the subject, thanks to our Editor, David Rees. Before I joined MAPIT I worked closely with many of the main groups NUFON (Northern UFO Network), etc., and many of the main publications, Flying Saucer Review, Contact, etc. I had, like many NEW UFOlogists, ideas of ways of pushing the study of UFO's forward, but found that there were many barriers to break through. Before I joined MAPIT I was constantly writing to groups with my idea of a "Super Conference". The idea centered around the bringing together of all the main UFO groups in England. The groups would try to move the study of UFO's forward at the Conference by examining the main reports and then adapting a main Public Relations programme. But I am sorry to tell you that I have met with great opposition from the group named NUFON. When I contacted the group with the idea, I had the feeling that no one wanted to help me in my idea. I must add that my own group has not yet shown its feelings towards the idea and so I would be pleased to hear them.

You must remember that whatever moves we agree to make must not HINDER the progress of UFO research but must HELP. You as the researcher must show me how YOU feel and if you are for or against a "Super Conference".

I feel that the study of UFOs is not progressing but is falling back to the situation we had many years ago - the situation being that of continuous report filing and no serious study of the subject.

I would like to know YOUR views on this subject - after all, if UFOlogy is not progressing, then it is your interest that will save it. I would like to

know the feelings of MAPIT members, so write to me here at: 36, Torkington Street, Edgeley, Stockport, England, OR telephone me at this number: 061-429-6583. After I receive your ideas and thoughts, then I will be able to prepare an article about how YOU feel about the future of UFOlogy.

D.G.Frost.

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ESSEX UFO STUDY GROUP: Formed in 1970, now produce a Bi-Monthly Journal: Recent and interesting UFO sightings, exclusive articles, Group activities, etc. 25p each plus postage required for a 90 gram package. Write to: Mr.D.J.Goring, 5, Carlton Terrace, Gt.Cambridge Road, London.N18 1LB.

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A MAPIT MEMBER WRITES.....

I feel I just had to put pen to paper to gell you of recent events since I arrived in Anglia, a little over two months ago. My full-time activity is a Bread-Baker in Ipswich, which involves, from Norwich, a round trip of 80 miles times six daily visits - equals 500 miles per week, approximately. One week I am on an early shift and alternate weeks on late shifts. So you can see that I am on the move, say, 4.30 a.m. earlies and 10.00 p.m. lates, returning here at 6.30 a.m. after lates and 2.30 p.m. after earlies. This past eight weeks or more, I can say that there is hardly a journey that passes without brilliant flashes across the flat horizon and many times behind trees in the not too far distance. When I have spoken to my colleagues at the Bakery about this, they say in such a matter of fact way, "Oh, its been going on for years!" I guess with so many Military bases of USAF that it is so. Let's take into account last night's brilliant "Flash" - just outside of LONG STRATTON where the whole horizon lit up at 10.15 p.m. - and yet it would be so hard to trace its existence because USAF are so secretive. A recent JETSTAR crash near Peterborough, causing 16 deaths was not even worth an investigation in a UK way. What chance of "Sky Flashes"? But more important, let me tell you of events the Saturday morning of the 16th October, 1976, between 4.40 a.m. up to 5.15 a.m. My work-mate, Bruce Carter, stated quite casually than an object was flying above Ipswich, say about 1 mile distant, and certainly below star level. I must remark that this illiterate person is a little strange in his behaviour because he spends an abnormal amount of time outside, preferring his own company to this workmates - that's his prerogative - his style! Anyhow, I went to a side door and looked and so did Herbert, a van driver, and there it was - a star-shaped hazy disc with one red light and one blue light. Here Bruce and I vary - he claimed a green light, but nonetheless it was there. No sound - just suspended there like as though on strings. Bruce said it had been there since 1.00 a.m. and may have been before. Bruce said it was watching the bakery directly, and it was so. I felt that. So what was it? It was still there when I hastily left to come home at 5.15 a.m., and needless to say I lockever my own front car door then, and so obviously now and every journey since. Why? Because in some strange crazy way I was being observed. Bruce says in 18 years at the Bakery, and so much sky observing, he has never ever seen such an object, and in Anglia, flying aircraft, civil and military, are commonplace.

ROY SIMPSON.

To be continued.

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WILLIAM SHATNER, you may remember, played Capt.James T.Kirk in the highly successful US TV series "STARTREK". Below is an article by him on UFO's, reprinted vfrom the STAG Newsletter No.20.

WHY I BELIEVE IN UFOs.

(reprinted from an American newspaper article sent in by Jeraldine Franz).

I believe in UFOs. The time is long past when the Air Force or the scientists or the government can say that what people are seeing in the sky are nothing but hot-air balloons or the Planet Venus.

That kind of double-talk won't wash any longer. There has been too much evidence over the years that UFOs exist. They have been seen by too many people in too many places for anyone to doubt that they are out there. Although I believe in UFOs, I must admit that I fail completely to understand what their purpose is. I just can't find the answers to the intriguing questions that they raise. For example, if these vehicles are piloted by intelligent beings from outer space then why have they made no effort to contact heads of government or other reasonable agencies. They have kidnapped farmers in a Gorgia swamp and a couple driving a car, but have made no effort to contact the people of earth on a large scale. Perhaps soon, they'll make their purpose known. Until then I've got to leave it up to ENQUIRER readers to speculate just where these objects come from and what they are doing here. During the making of the 'Star Trek' series, I spoke to many science fiction writers and technical advisers to the show. Almost to a man they were absolutely convinced that UFOs existed. These were well-informed and highly intelligent people. They were of the opinion that UFOs originated in outer space and carried intelligent life forms. One writer claimed he had seen a UFO. He said it was a hugh, cigar-shaped object very high in the sky. I had no reason to disbelieve him. Too many trustworthy, well-qualified people have seen similar objects for them all to be lying. I have never seen a UFO personally, but the evidence in their favour is so overwhelming that there is not the slightest doubt in my mind that they exist.

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SIGHTING SECTION

In the last issue of SKYWATCH we featured a UFO sighting in June 1974 at Penkridge in Staffordshire. Unfortunately no further information is forthcoming on this case at present.

NEW UFO SIGHTING REPORT BAFFLES POLICE AT CREWE: Police were still baffled today by a report of a UFO sighting on the Nantwich to Middleswich road, near Crewe, on Sunday, 2nd January. The report follows similar sightings in the Biddulph and Stoke on Trent areas at the weekend. State-enrolled Nurse, Mr. David Moses, was riding home from the Barony Hospital, Nantwich, when he saw a glowing object in the sky at 4.40 p.m. about dusk. A Crewe police spokesman said no reports had been made of such an incident. Mr. Moses told the Sentinel that he thought the object might just have been a reflection in his motorcycle visor, but when he removed the visor the shape was still there. "I saw it for about 10-15 seconds before it turned and disappeared and I was unable to get my camera out in time". Mr. Moses then continued his journey home at 205, Leighton Park. "I have never seen anything like this before and can't give an explanation. I don't think it was an aircraft and it was too high to be a building. I would be interested to hear from anyone who say anything," said 27 year-old Mr. Moses. (Staffordshire Sentinel) Sent in my J. Allen.

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UFO STREAKED PAST HER SKY FLAT WINDOW. Mrs. Ann Howe, a pensioner, was sitting in the lounge of her 19th floor flat at Hanover Towers, Lancashire Hill, when she saw a blinding light pass her window. She rushed to the glass in time to see a "spinning light" disappear across the skyline. The time was about 4.30 a.m. last Saturday (19.2.77). "I find it difficult to sleep at nights, so I spend my time reading and doing jigsaws", said Mrs. Howe. "I had just lit a cigarette and sat down when I glanced at the window. I saw something shoot past and I rushed over to have a look at what it was. It was like a bright white light which was rotating - it must have been travelling thousands of miles an hour. I ran to the kitchen window and it was just disappearing over Ashton". Mrs. Howe said she is convinced the object she saw was not an aircraft. "I spend a lot of time watching planes coming into Ringway and I am sure this wasn't one", she said.

"It was travelling much too fast and the light didn't look like aircraft lights. I couldn't hear a sound and because it was dark I couldn't make out how big it was - it passed by so quickly". Mrs. Howe said the object appeared to come from the direction of Bramhall. A spokesman at Jodrell Bank said there were no unusual recordings taken on Saturday morning. "Our equipment didn't pick up anything out of the ordinary", he said.....STOCKPORT EXPRESS, February 24th, 1977. THIS CASE IS BEING INVESTIGATED BY MAPIT.....

Also under investigation: UFO sighting in Offerton on the 15th February, 1977.

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If you know of anyone who has had a UFO sighting, and is apprehensive in coming forward, please advise them to ring the Editorial Address, or write explaining the incident. Witnesses who wish to remain anonymous can be assured their wishes will be carried out. Do not be afraid of ridicule, please come forward.

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ARE THERE MONSTERS AT THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH

A GROUP OF AMERICANS PLAN TO EXPLORE  
3,000 miles BENEATH OUR FEET

Could that fantastic journey to the centre of the earth dreamed of by an author a century ago now become a fact?  
A group of Americans think so; they believe the earth is hollow like a ball and that miles beneath our feet there is another world with its own plants, animals, insects, and perhaps people.  
They think it is possible to reach the interior through giant holes in the NORTH & SOUTH POLES. The fact that these holes so far have eluded discovery doesn't discourage the members of the Hollow Earth Society, who are planning an expedition to the underworld.  
They believe that polar explorers must have come close to openings, possibly even entered their outer rims, without knowing it.  
YOU may think that the Hollow Earth Society are just a bunch of people with hollow heads, but their strange ideas are not unique or new, even.  
Buddhists believe in an underground paradise called AGHARTA, ruled by the King of the World from his capital, SHAMBALLA.  
BUT the question that is being asked by most UFOlogy groups is: could this be the KEY TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE MANY SIGHTINGS OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS?

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Tests proved that a spate of UFO's had been sighted. It is a fact that there were many sightings soon after HIROSHIMA AND SUBSEQUENT EXPLOSIONS.

This article was sent into the latest edition of the magazine "Weekend" by reporter Raham Payne. This proves that UFO News can be found almost anywhere even in your weekly magazine and newspaper.

MY OPINION

An alien universe has now become one of my genuine beliefs as it is to most members of any UFOlogy group.

Since I started UFO spotting I have been given a great deal of help from a friendly neighbour, Mr. G. Thomas., who is also a UFOlogy group member, apparently the same group as I have recently become a member. After my first visit to the home of Mr. D. L. Rees, MAPIT Group Secretary, I have been spending the majority of my half-term holiday studying this interesting study of UFO's. But this is just my opinion of this subject which is ruling the minds of a certain percentage of normal everyday people.

By Stephen and John Bellis.

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COSMOLOGY NEWSLINK: UFO News, articles, letters, etc. a good read. 25p a copy. Write to CNK, 37, The Close, Dunmow, Essex, England CM6 1EW.

THE OFFICIAL ATTITUDE

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Have you ever considered writing to the Ministry of Defence at Whitehall in London to ask them their position regarding the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects? Well - one of MAPIT's members did write last year and below you will find the two replies he received. They make interesting reading:-

LETTER ONE. I am writing to thank you for your letter asking for information about Unidentified Flying Objects. The Ministry of Defence investigates UFO reports, which are received from various sources, eg. members of the public, Police, Service Units, etc., to see if there are any defence implications. Reports are examined in the Ministry of Defence by experienced staff. They do this with open minds. They have access to all information available to the Ministry of Defence. They call on the full scientific and professional resources of the Ministry of Defence and may, if necessary, call in expert advice from other Government and non-Government bodies. I should emphasise that, since the Ministry of Defence interest in Unidentified Flying Objects is limited to the defence aspect, investigations into the scientific significance of the phenomena are not carried out. You will no doubt wish to know, however, that from experience over a number of years, sightings are considered to originate, in the main, from aircraft or the lights of aircraft being seen under unusual conditions, balloons and various meteorological phenomena as well as astronomical sightings, space satellites and space "junk".

LETTER TWO. I will try to answer your questions in the order in which you put them. Examples of non-government bodies are the Royal Observatory who supply information about heavenly bodies and astronomical matters, and the natural history museum whom we might wish to consult about, for instance, a possibly meteorite striking the Earth's surface. We would not normally call upon civilian UFO societies since, as we have explained, the department's interest in UFO reports does not go beyond purely defence considerations and into the scientific significance of the phenomena. I am uncertain of the meaning of your question about objects seen on or near the ground. But I would stress that all the reports we receive from whatever source, including those from pilots both civilian and Military, are dealt with in precisely the same way, i.e. they are examined to see if there are any defence implications. Reports of UFO's are not in themselves regarded by the Department as necessarily classified material; reports are, however, in common with all correspondence received from the General Public, treated as confidential and are closed to public scrutiny until such time as they would become available in accordance with the public records act i.e. at the end of 30 years. However, no reports earlier than 1962 are held by the Department.

BOTH LETTERS signed by H.E. MACKAY.

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BACK ISSUES.....BACK ISSUES ..... of SKYWATCH: Issues No.1,2,3,15,16,17,18, 21 and 22 are still available. Send 20p for each issue required.

SKYWATCH SPECIAL ISSUE No.2 (just completed) UFO SIGHTINGS FROM 1963 INVESTIGATED BY MAPIT. 30p each.

Write to the Editorial address, enclosing an Open Postal Order.