

EDITORIAL

The aim of this little periodical is simple. It is to investigate, record and comment upon UFO manifestations in the area of Southern England known as Wessex.

So far as I am aware the UFOs of Wessex have nothing unique about them. They are part and parcel of a worldwide pattern of aerial phenomena of unknown origin and purport. Our modest hope is that our reporting of Wessex sightings may prove of some slight value to students and may bring a little nearer the day when the solution of the UFO enigma will be in sight.

Wessex is, of course, a somewhat amorphous entity. Its boundaries varied considerably over the centuries. We shall confine ourselves to reporting UFO visitations in the Wessex heartland, comprising Hampshire, Wiltshire and Somerset.

In so doing, we shall be reversing a rather too prevalent tendency among UFO-researchers, which is to accept uncritically UFO reports emanating from obscure localities in Peru, while denouncing as spurious precisely similar reports from places much nearer home. Distance lends enchantment, no doubt, but if UFOs exist it is irrational to assume that their operations are confined to areas remote from the observer. It may be, of course, that Peruvian researchers deride their local sightings while hugging reports from Bournemouth or Warminster to their bosoms!

We cherish no preconceptions concerning UFO nature or origin. Hypotheses ranging from interplanetary spaceships to psychological aberrations are a dime a dozen. At present there simply is not enough

evidence to establish any one of them on a firm foundation. All we can safely assert is that there is a UFO phenomenon, global in scope.

Warminster, perhaps Britain's premier "ufocal" or UFO-haunted area, falls within the boundaries we have adopted as marking the limits of our reporting area. It is perhaps apposite that we conclude by stating our attitude towards the claims and counterclaims which have for years bedevilled research in this Wiltshire town.

We believe that Warminster is indeed a "ufocal," (to employ a term I coined nearly a decade ago), or a "window area," (to use one invented more recently by U.S. investigator John Keel). That is, UFO phenomena are more numerous and persistent there than in most other parts of the Country. It is our view, however, that exaggeration and falsehood have often marred the Warminster UFO scene and we shall, when necessary, have no hesitation in debunking spurious sightings, faked photographs and cultist absurdities emanating therefrom.

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"WARMINSTER UFO NEWS"

In the Spring of this year I issued a circular letter to subscribers to the above periodical, (founded and edited by Mr. Ken Rogers), stating that I was assuming the editorship. Subscribers were also given to understand that Mrs. Sally Pike would be acting as recipient of subscriptions and correspondence for the publication.

Regrettably, for reasons on which I do not propose to dilate, these arrangements fell through. Will readers please note that I have no current responsibility for "Warminster UFO News" and that no correspondence or subscriptions for it should be sent to Mrs. Pike. I am happy to state that Sally, with her husband Neil, are

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER OF OBJECTS.</u>	<u>DATE AND TIMES.</u>	<u>WITNESSES.</u>
Starr Hill.	1	17/6. 1.55am	Self & seven others names unknown.
St. Johns Rd. (Home)	1	do 2.25am	Self & wife.
Starr Hill	7	23/24/6 11.00pm 11.45pm, 12.01am, 12.10 am, 12.25am, 12.37am, 1.17am	Self, wife, A. Shuttlewood & six members of the Royal Observer Corps.
St. Johns Rd.	2	11 .29/6. 11.05 pm 11.12pm	Self & wife.
Starr Hill	3	night commencing 30/6. 11.00 pm 11.15pm, 11.49 pm, 11.52pm, 12.05am, 12.15am, 12.30am, 12.38am.	Self & wife together with approx. 30 other watchers.
do	4	1/7. 10.55pm, 11.09pm, 11.21pm, 11.47pm.	Self, wife & 7 others.
St. Johns Rd.	2	2/7. 11.00pm, 11.12pm.	Self & M. Robinson of Beacon View Warminster.
do	2	3/7. 11.13pm, 11.45pm.	Self, M. Robinson & Miss B. Shergold, Weymouth St. Warminster.
do	2	4/7. 11.02pm 11.12pm.	Self, M. Robinson, B. Shergold.

An unusual feature with regard to these sightings is the fact that the objects were clearly visible from different observation points in the town and that in the cases of Mr M. Robinson & Miss B. Shergold that they have no interest whatsoever in U.F.O's and were therefore at a total loss to understand what it was they had seen.

The almost regular appearances of these lights terminated as quickly as they commenced. The evenings of the 5th and 6th of July being cloudy skywatching was terminated until the Saturday when ideal conditions prevailed. Unfortunately although many persons were assembled at Starr Hill no objects were seen and to the best of my belief have not been observed at all since July 4th.

"Wessex Ufo Record" will be published quarterly and at a cost of £1-50 for each annual quota of four issues. Subscriptions should be addressed to Mrs. Sally Pike, "Poco," 14, St. John's Road, Warminster, Wilts. (Telephone: Warminster 2820. SDF Code 098-52).

General correspondence and UFO reports from the Wessex area should be sent to Mr. Neil Pike, address as above.

Items and articles for publication should be addressed to the Editor, J. Cleary-Baker, Ph.D., at 2, Devonish Road, Woke, Winchester, Hants. (Telephone: Winchester 2691. SDF Code 0962).

All unsigned items and articles are by the Editor.

Advisory Panel:

Dr. G.G. Doel, MRCS, LRCP, DMRE.

Captain E.I.A. Mackay.

Hon. Brinsley Le Roer Trench.

Norman Oliver.

A. West.

co-founders with me of this periodical.

I would wish to state also that we do not regard ourselves as in any way in conflict or competition with "Warminster UFO Newsletter." We wish Mr. Rogers well in his UFO activities.

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LET US ALL GET TOGETHER ON UFO
RESEARCH

The Country is full of little UFO study organisations, all seeking answers to the queries prompted by the mysterious aerial visitations which have plagued our skies in large numbers since the close of World War Two. Is it too much to ask that there should be a move towards greater unity? We are not foolish enough to visualise any vast, monolithic Society controlled from a central office. What we CAN and in our opinion SHOULD work towards, is a sort of central exchange bureau for UFO information.

As a matter of fact there is really no reason why some at least of the smaller societies should not seek absorption into BUFORA or CONTACT U.K., the two major UFO groups in this Country. It is a pity that BUFORA, at anyrate, is all too often portrayed as a great hairy monster, seeking, for reasons never clearly defined, to "gain power" over all the independent groups. As a matter of fact, BUFORA's Constitution is so framed as to exclude the possibility of any person or persons obtaining dictatorial control over it or any body associated with it. I should know - I wrote every word of the said Constitution. I may add that I have recently written a Constitution for Contact International which is similarly designed to ensure autonomy to the many groups, in many lands, operating under CONTACT's banner.

Do let us substitute mutual co-operation for mutual suspicion.

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NOCTURNAL LIGHTS AT WARMINSTER. 1974.

The following account of Nocturnal Light Phenomena is based solely on observations made by myself at Starr Hill, Warminster and from my own home in the town, sometimes in the presence of other witnesses. Unfortunately during the period of these occurrences I was able to indulge in lengthy skywatches only at weekends and therefore in all probability the number of objects observed during weekdays falls far short of the true numbers.

During the first five months of the current year from personal observations it appeared that a sharp decline in the U.F.O. activity at Warminster had taken place. As in previous years various sightings filtered through the grape-vine but it was not possible to trace their source and hence their accuracy and therefore the sudden arrival of Nocturnal Lights on June 17th dispelled my conclusions and gave me the opportunity to observe and record events for myself.

The period covered extends from Sunday June 17th until Wednesday 4th July. During this time 29 objects were observed all moving in a West to East direction and all having the appearance of an object slightly larger than Venus, emitting an intense white light source from a basically spherical nucleus although the outer perimeter was greatly blurred. These objects would first appear approximately 30 degrees above the Western horizon and would be visible for 5 to 6 minutes before merging into the night sky above the Eastern horizon. The speed gave the impression of being very leisurely but as it was impossible to ascertain the height this could be most deceptive. At no time did the speed or direction fluctuate, the only change during the weeks of their visibility being a gradual movement of the arcs made towards the Southern horizon although on the last occasion they were observed they had reverted to being directly overhead, as on their first appearance. The only other feature worthy of note is that they did not appear to be arcing over the Earth rather they appeared to travel horizontally but as mentioned previously without knowledge of their height this fact is of very little practical use.

The conditions of the sky during the period in question did not vary, a clear sky together with moonlight and on some occasions a little high cloud which caused the intensity of the light source to vary.

At this stage perhaps it would be best to list the sightings as they occurred;