

Bonnybridge sets out to make first contact with alien twin town

By **Stephen Naysmith**

ONE of Scotland's most colourful councillors will today launch a plan to twin the central Scotland town of Bonnybridge with Roswell, New Mexico, famed as the alleged crash site of an alien spacecraft in 1947.

William Buchanan, independent councillor for Bonnybridge, has often been branded a crank for his enthusiastic promotion of the town as Scotland's UFO capital.

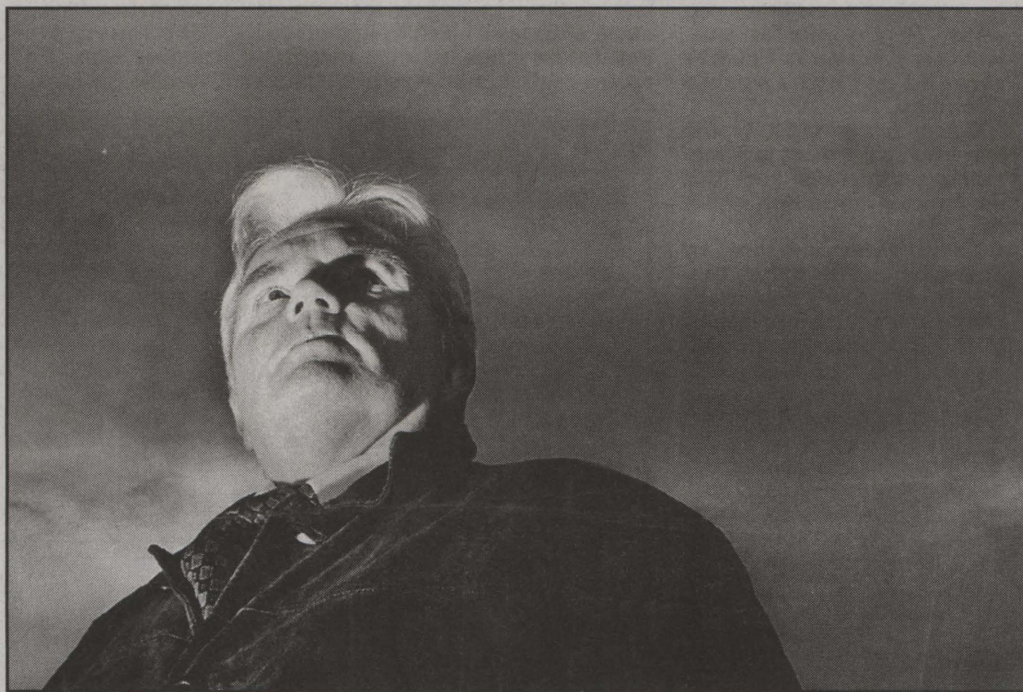
He travelled to London yesterday to take his views to the heart of the Establishment – with an appearance at the British Library.

This morning he is scheduled to appear at the library's new St Pancras building to make a permanent contribution to the National Sound Archive.

As part of a project by artists in residence at the library, the Ken Stanton Archive, he will be recorded as he speaks about sightings of unidentified flying objects in the town, his own experiences, and his failed attempts to get successive governments to take the issue seriously.

"I will be talking about Bonnybridge, and my involvement with John Major, Tony Blair and the Scottish parliament," he said. "I'm very honoured. The British Library is a prestigious place and I'm glad that they are not too 'arty-farty' to look at the phenomenon.

"I am trying to twin Bonnybridge with Roswell, New Mexico," he added. "A UFO crashlanded in Roswell in 1947, but we have sightings every week.



down
Champion of the unexplained William Buchanan

Photograph: Stewart Attwood

"I aim to go over to America shortly and make what is known in the field as 'first contact'.

"I plan to set up a twinning group – it makes a lot of sense.

"Twinning would be to the benefit of both communities. We share a common bond. Bonnybridge is very special, and may be a window to another dimension."

Twinning would create jobs, Buchanan added, stimulate the local economy, and could lead ultimately to UFO theme parks.

A spokesman for the Ken Stanton Archive said Buchanan's appearance was the third in a series of multimedia events they

are staging at the library.

"The NSA is a museum of sound, but until now their collection has mostly consisted of wildlife recordings and political speeches," he said. "This is new territory.

"Rather than collecting existing recordings we wanted to create new works.

"William Buchanan and the phenomenon of the Bonnybridge UFO sightings will be one of the subjects."

Buchanan's contribution will be combined with a specially recorded piece of music and a "strong visual entitled Blue Cylinder."

bridge and Cumbernauld, a huge object like a blue cylinder. Another 50 people watched it with me – there were three small aircraft round about it.

"I also have taken video footage that cannot be denied. This isn't a case of 'hubcaps over Rio de Janeiro,'" Buchanan said, in a reference to other well-known UFO fakes.

Buchanan claims the so-called "Bonnybridge triangle" has witnessed 60,000 sightings of extraterrestrial craft over the decades.

The town has also found fame for the uncanny ability of its residents to pick winning numbers in the National Lottery – eight winners are supposed to have shared £30 million in a zone centred on Bonnybridge since the lottery began.

Buchanan admits he has faced a good deal of ridicule for his views, but insists he and other Bonnybridge residents are talking about genuine experiences.

"I've been put up as a lunatic, but answer this – why would anyone invite public ridicule?"

"I've had people putting up posters saying 'Would you vote for a Martian?' but people still vote for me because I'm a man of the people. I've got a cult following in Japan."

His plan for twinning has not yet been put to the council, he admits.

"It is only at the preparatory stages and I haven't put it forward yet. But like Martin Luther King, I have a dream.

"The truth is in Bonnybridge."

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