

League soccer is under a real threat and the country would be very much the poorer without it.

Western Mail

So it is that they show their approval of the way in which the Queen has carried out her public

Queen and the Edinburgh, at Balmoral just before their silver wedding

But it was, surprisingly, Harold Wilson, who was to find this sup- head of

Friends from the fourth dimension

MARIO BASINI concludes his report on a Welsh family whose experiences with alien beings have just been released in book-form.

LIKE MANY intelligent non-scientists with a strong interest in their surroundings, North Wales housewife Mrs Sunderland is a strong believer in the laws of physics.

She has a hard time accepting anything which seems to transgress those laws. But Mrs Sunderland, the mother of five children, has a particular problem.

At least four of her children have had developing relationships with creatures from another civilisation whose very existence, as well as the ways they manifest themselves to humans, seem to deny all the rules of science.

And her difficulties do not end there. For she herself has glimpsed the aliens and undergone experiences which have taxed to breaking point her belief in logic.

Mrs Sunderland and her children form the centrepiece for a new book, *Alien Contact*, which has just been published.

Written by two investigators of unidentified flying objects, Jenny Randles and Paul Whetnall, the book describes in detail how Mrs Sunderland and her ordinary family living in a suburb of Flint became embroiled in a succession of events strange enough to make films such

as *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* appear mundane.

Four of her children, Gaynor, Darren, Barry and Nerys appear to have encountered alien beings at some time during the past four years.

In Gaynor's case, she became such close friends with two aliens they told her their names—Parz and Arna. And on a couple of dream-like occasions they appeared to transport her from her bed at night and whisk her off into outer space.

They showed her a city populated by aliens like themselves and a sort of menagerie of bizarre animals the population seemed to keep.

Darren, too, became so involved with his strange visitors that he became convinced they were seeking his help to pass on dire warnings about the future to mankind.

Mrs Sunderland herself seems to have spotted what might have been an alien standing by a window of her house and caught a brief glimpse of Arna and Parz as they chatted to Gaynor.

At one time she must have felt she was sharing her home and its immediate surroundings with enough strange creatures to have populated Mars.

Even now, more than a year after the last events recorded in the book, Mrs Sunderland says that her son Barry still has contact with the aliens and Gaynor also appears to get messages.

But, says Mrs Sunderland, life goes on as normal in her home in the suburbs of Flint. "We were never frightened by what was happening," she says.

"The events described in the book happened over a period of more



● February, 1979. There was an orange ball of fire. The dog lay flat, whimpering. Then among the bushes Gaynor saw two figures. The aliens had returned, their silvery suits reflecting the final traces of light in the sky.

than three years, although they appear to be telescoped into a shorter period. We never hung around waiting for the events to happen. They just did."

At one point, neighbours said they spotted an odd light hanging over the Sunderland home.

"I suppose the events did make us a little more reserved, thrust us back into the privacy of our own family. But then we discovered that many of our neighbours and lots of people in the area were having similar experiences.

"That allowed us to talk more freely about the things our children were telling us."

Mrs Sunderland has always been interested in astronomy. But her knowledge of science at first told her that what was happening to the family was impossible. "Logic said that these things could not be happening. Things from other planets just arriving on your doorstep were

not possible. Simply by thinking about the laws of physics you realised that.

"But the way we look at the physical world can change. Fifty years ago people would not have believed that man would ever walk on the moon, for example. So although I have a strong feeling that what has been happening to my family was not credible, well, we did see these creatures. They were there.

"So I try to keep an open mind on what they might have been." But Mrs Sunderland does now believe that the events described in *Alien Contact* might well constitute a Close Encounter of the Fourth Kind.

"I do honestly believe now in inter-dimensional travel. Carl Sagan in his television programme *Cosmos* showed that there was a fourth dimension. We could not understand it because we are people who live in three dimensions only."

Such things as time and space

could behave very oddly in that fourth dimension, as Mr Sagan showed in his television programme.

"Perhaps Arna and Parz were visiting us from our future," says Mrs Sunderland. "Perhaps they were us in our future. They chose to visit us now because they wanted to get a message through to us.

"Possibly they were warning us about something. If we approached a primitive tribe in Brazil who had no contact with civilisation and we showed them television, they would not believe us. They would want to know how we managed to squeeze a full-sized man into such a tiny box.

"Perhaps Arna and Parz look on us much as we would regard that primitive tribe. I believe that something real has been happening to my family.

"Absolutely rational people have observed similar events. They cannot all have suddenly gone mad. Just as they cannot all be ignored.

"I don't know exactly what has been happening. Perhaps these aliens have an extra channel of communication like an extra television or radio channel through which they can contact us."

Much of Mrs Sunderland's beliefs are echoed as possibilities by Jenny Randles and Paul Whetnall in *Alien Contact*. They point to things like premonitions as indications that we can look into our futures.

They claim that some of the children involved in the Aberfan disaster seemed to receive premonitions that something terrible was about to happen. They hint that perhaps Gaynor's and Darren's aliens were trying to warn us about a cataclysmic future event such as a nuclear holocaust.

If that is true then clearly we dismiss Arna and Parz as figments of a childish imagination at our peril.

● *Alien Contact* published by Neville Spearman, £5.25.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

For through faith you are all sons of God in union with Christ Jesus.

Galatians, Chapter 3, Verse 26.