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—ARGUS—Diary—

'Buzz off' plea from UFO spotters

A CLOSE encounter of the third kind has resulted in the airways between Monmouth and the United States buzzing with encounters of the telephonic kind.

And now the officers based at Monmouth police station are so fed up with the deluge of transatlantic calls that they feel like shouting "Beam us up Scottie!"

The trouble began when two patrolling constables saw strange flashing lights over the town. They reported seeing a white light with blue and red flashes moving in circles.

The news spread, calls have come in from several UFO societies, including one from Los Angeles on the west coast. Several inquiries from American broadcasting companies have been made in the early hours of morning.

"Although we would like to help, we do feel that the police officers' time can be used more valuably," said Chief-inspector Keith Harris.

The two officers who made the sighting have been told that they cannot give in-depth interviews.

But their sighting was confirmed by several independent witnesses and now the British UFO Society intend to carry out a detailed study of the incident.