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"a huge thing 16—17 feet above their heads." It had three ball-bearing like castors.

"I remember it so well: it was the 17th of July, 1955," says Mrs Fry.

"The doctor said: 'It must be some sort of secret craft. I can't believe it. It's impossible. I don't care if I am seeing it, I still can't believe it.'

"As is common with many people who see UFOs, the doctor eventually died of a brain haemorrhage but I found out that he had reported the incident," says Mrs Fry.

"The spacecraft had nuts, bolts and rivets. But the colour was like nothing you see on this earth: a silver-blue with a pewter texture — a totally different hue."

When I visited Mrs Fry she was giving her home a good spring clean but once we started talking about UFO's, that was it...three hours later I emerged into the Llangernyw sunlight pretty well convinced that my own little 'experience' (a very peculiar darting star above Aberporth) was one of many sightings shared by a veritable horde of North Walian's.

Mrs Fry, I must point out, is the very picture of sanity.

She was born in British India, in the Punjab. Her father, William Arwyn Nagle, was with the CID in India but moved back to Britain when Margaret-Allen was 19 to become a scientist at Aldermaston; although he was not involved in nuclear work he was part of the team which split the atom and was later awarded the MBE.

Mrs Fry moved to Llangernyw about nine years ago with her disabled husband so that they could be near her daughter, who lives in Llansannan.

Although she experienced her first UFO sighting in 1955 she did not become a member of the British Unidentified Flying Objects Research Association (BUFORA) until 1965; she is also an investigator for the British branch of Contact International, which has 34 member countries.

Why, I ask her, has she seen so many UFOs?

"I think it has been a matter of being in the right place at the right time," she says in a matter-of-fact way.

"The area of Kent where I lived has three convergences of ley lines and I was not the only person to see UFOs: they were witnessed by lots of people.

"The other explanation is more mystic: there is a possibility that they single out a certain type of person.

"I don't want to be neurotic about it; I prefer the more prosaic explanation which is that I just happened to be there, and I would add that I have never seen one on my own."

UFO activity seems to happen in bursts; in 1978 there was a spate of sightings and she interviewed 246 people and watched some of the sightings with them.

The most remarkable sighting in her memory happened on July 26, 1978, at



Mrs Fry's picture of the UFO above her daughter's home at Llansannan (above), and two of her slides illustrating cases from her dossier



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Bexleyheath. She and a host of neighbours saw an 'awesomely beautiful' light show given by what appeared to be a giant cobweb in the sky controlled by two black cigar-shaped objects. The show lasted for an hour and 26 minutes.

Mrs Fry is reticent about discussing Ufology in public; she was in a group on the first of Terry Wogan's chat shows and his fun-making, although gentle, convinced her that she should never do the same again.

UFO spotting is a hobby for her, but she is careful not to take it too far: "It's not beyond the realms of possibility that people are bumped off — take Hilda Morrell," she says. "A lot of it's got to do with secrets, military etc., which we'll never know about."

At this point Mrs Fry's grandchild walks in and confirms that she once saw a UFO with her grandmother in Llansannan.

Although Mrs Fry is convinced that there are extra-terrestrial beings, she

has never seen one and has no firm theories about them. "I feel that they are probably indifferent to us: we are like animals in the zoo to them."

How is she treated in Llangernyw, I ask? Do the locals think she's a bit odd?

"The little boys used to laugh at me but they don't now, and as for the grown-ups, so many people have seen sightings locally that they take me for granted.

"These crafts tend to concentrate on rural areas and I suspect that they frequently concentrate on underground establishments."

Would she ever get into a spacecraft? "Oh no, I know too much...I'd run like hell!"

"Who knows what they are: in different universes there may be life in different molecular structures, with a dimension beyond our comprehension."

And with that intriguing thought, I headed back for Planet Earth. ■