

Woman's UFO 'close encounter' claim

A MAGAZINE editor yesterday broke silence after 22 years about her "most wonderful" experience — a close encounter of the third kind and a flight in a UFO.

Kathryn Howard, 46, told the Sixth International UFO Congress in down-to-earth Sheffield, South Yorkshire, she waited so long to tell of the incident over

By **STEPHEN GUY**

Sweden in 1969 because she had no involvement in UFO research.

"I have kept myself isolated from being in the public eye but I felt the time is now right," she said.

Ms Howard, editor of *Florida Home and Garden*, who shared a platform with leading experts in

unidentified flying object research, said she was transported on a beam of light into the craft which was like "a giant helicopter with legs."

"I found myself inside a capsule the size of a large beer barrel," she said.

"But I sensed I was in a much larger craft. My wrists and ankles were held by something.

"There was a circular window. I could see the tree tops below. Then I saw the curve of the Earth's surface followed by the craters of the Moon."

Ms Howard said she did not see any aliens, but she could hear a voice in her head and was able to communicate that she wanted to return to Earth.

"It was the most wonderful

thing I have ever experienced in my life. I was only scared at the very beginning," she said.

But Britain's only full-time ufologist, Jenny Randles, among about 260 delegates from all over the world who are attending the congress this week, said, "I have seen 11 UFOs and all but one have an explanation."