

■ UFO expert excited by North-east sightings miles apart

Space ship vision shared

AN EERIE close encounter has been reported by a brother and sister watching the skies miles from each other.

A UFO expert says their chilling late night experience sound like the real thing.

Office worker Ethel Morrison got the shock of her life driving home to Cove from Newtonhill.

She was returning from her brother's house when she saw what looked like an enormous, luminous cloud — the only one in the night sky.

"There were white lights moving within it, going left and then right while opening and closing," said Ethel.

"I stopped the car and watched it for 10 minutes. It was absolutely amazing. It couldn't have been a helicopter or anything because there was no sound.

"I couldn't believe what I was seeing."

She called her brother David who observed the phenomenon with his family and a friend.

"They watched it from the Newtonhill flyover and then at the Loch of Loriston. David estimated it was about 500ft across."

"I phoned the meteorological office but they couldn't offer an explanation," she said. "It's a sight I'll never forget."

Ethel contacted local UFO expert Allan Brown, who is compiling a report for the British UFO Association.

"This sighting has all the hallmarks of a genuine UFO sighting — the misty cloud, the rays of light, the silence," he said.

"It is similar to sightings in the United States but this is the first such one in the North-east."

picture by DOUG MOIR



FLIGHT OF FANCY?: Ethel Morrison wonders just what she saw near Loch Loriston.

Sceptic spies UFO

A SOUTHEND woman is thrilled her doubting husband has at last seen for himself evidence that UFOs do exist.

Marcia Critchley, 44, and her husband Graham, 47, were sunbathing at home in Prince Avenue on Sunday afternoon when Mr Critchley saw a large silver object floating across the sky.

The couple say the craft was oval, probably about 30ft across, with a domed top and a flashing light underneath. They say it rotated slightly and was silent.

Mrs Critchley said: "It was my husband who saw it first and he doesn't believe in UFOs. I had my eyes closed when he first spotted it but when he pointed it out to me there was no doubt it was not a conventional aircraft. It must have been visible for about three minutes."

This is not the first time Mrs Critchley has seen a UFO. She saw a triangle-shaped object in the sky in Rochford 14 years ago.

She said: "People will probably think I'm a crank, especially as I've seen one before, but it was my husband who spotted it first."

This is the second UFO seen in Southend in the past month. In July the Echo reported that Anita Grant, 23, had seen a teardrop-shaped craft the size of a small plane near her Kursaal Way home.

Something fishy in the night sky

A COUPLE could not believe their eyes when they stepped out into their back garden to see a jellyfish-like UFO.

Mrs Irene Smith, a machinist with Prestfield Fashions, in Brunel Drive, Newark, was ready to settle down for an evening in front of the television.

Then, her husband, retired miner Mr Leslie Smith, shouted her from their back garden, where he was having a cup of tea.

Mrs Smith, of Nicholas Place, Tuxford, said: "It was unbelievable. It was a round circle with green and yellow lights round it. The inside was like a jellyfish."

Photograph

"There was a red and yellow light in the middle and when it became vivid it seemed to set all the outside lights off."

The couple watched the UFO for two hours through powerful Navy

binoculars, which belonged to Mrs Smith's father. Neighbours came out to join them, and one tried to take a photograph, but the mysterious object was too far away.

Mrs Smith said: "Without the binoculars it looked like the North Star. I had to lean against the wall to steady myself to watch it more clearly."

The UFO spent the time floating, almost still in the sky, which was very clear.

Weird

Phonecalls to the RAF, the police and the Meteorological Office all failed to explain the sighting. The night was warm, which is often the case when suspicious sightings are made, according to investigators from the Mansfield UFO group.

Eventually, the UFO-spotters went to bed but the bright light was still in the sky.

Mrs Smith told

fellow-staff about her experience the next day — and found varying reactions.

She said: "Some think it is a bit weird, some believe me and some don't — but everybody is interested. There's got to be more in the universe than just us."

However, one workmate recalled a story about a man who spotted a UFO, reported it, and then disappeared.

□ Yet another mystery sighting?

Neighbours spot UFO

THE spate of UFO sightings in Falkirk District has taken another twist.

Local people have reported a mysterious object over Westquarter.

Mary Higgins and her neighbour Kathleen Swanston claim to have watched "a shiny silver object shaped like a cigar" floating slowly across the village, as they relaxed one evening in their back garden. Mrs Higgins (69), of 5 Elm

By TOM HUNTER

Drive, told The Falkirk Herald: "I've seen the Northern Lights and Halley's Comet, but this was nothing like either of those."

"We were sitting out the back when we saw this thing floating low across the roof of the church."

"It was moving very slowly towards the high flats in Falkirk."

The Westquarter sighting was made just after 9 p.m. on

Monday, August 8 — almost exactly the same time as Falkirk pensioner William Bestall and his wife Mabel watched a mystery object from their home in Falkirk's high flats.

Now Mrs Higgins and Mrs Swanston are asking: "Did we see the same UFO?"

□ Airships

Mrs Swanston (31), who lives above Mrs Higgins at 7 Elm Drive, added: "It was a bit like the Good Year airship that you sometimes see on TV."

"Only it had no lights, no windows — nothing."

"It was really low in the sky but I couldn't hear any sound coming from it."

She added: "I'm normally the sceptical one — if anyone had said to me they had seen a flying saucer I'd have asked them what they were on."

"But I definitely saw something, and I haven't got a clue what it was."

UFO spotted at Canonstown

A UFO was spotted over Canonstown last week.

Amanda Wright, who lives in the village, said she was in her garden when she saw two bright lights flying from west to east in the night-time sky.

She said that the "Unidentified Flying Objects" did not look like aircraft lights and made no noise.

She telephoned the Ministry of Defence and reported the sightings to a department that deals with UFO reports.

"It is the second time I've seen a UFO," said Amanda.

"Last time was 12 months ago over Gulval."

She said that her Canonstown sighting took place 9.50pm.

CAN DAN DARE TO ZAP UFO CLAIMS?



I attended the recent UFO conference held in Cardiff. I do not wear beads nor is my hair tied in a ponytail.

I am, however, a qualified surveyor currently employed in the computer industry as an engineer.

As far as UFOs are concerned I have never seen anything unusual myself. I find it difficult to understand that in this age of modern technology and information we cannot confirm and resolve the mystery that surrounds this subject.

I believe the feature in the Times newspaper of August 25, highlights the reason why.

In this article, British born Professor Sturrock said: "Mainstream scientists too readily dismissed strange phenomena with giggles and sometimes violent opinions".

He suggested that we should be more open to the unknown, be open-minded not bloody-minded. With that in mind, my reactions to the conference were different.

Of the 300 people in attendance, 80-90 per cent appeared to be ordinary, intelligent people. More than half were young people, who listened quietly and attentively to the various presentations.

When asked if anyone had seen anything unusual or unexplained in the sky, almost 60 per cent indicated that they had.

It was obvious that some of the presenters were not professional lecturers and a couple of them did get carried away with their own thoughts and opinions.

But the investigators provided many examples of personal and reported sightings of possible UFOs, backed up with photographic and film evidence.

They also highlighted examples of elaborate hoaxes involving not only civilian but military personnel.

It is true that with the majority of sightings the investigators found a feasible explanation

Dan O'Neill's de-bunking of a recent UFO conference in Cardiff prompted many letters from readers - but none quite as convincing as this one. Mihangel Fychan attended the conference as an open-minded sceptic and left with a headful of unanswered questions.

which discounted any possible alien involvement.

But there were also multiple sightings by many witnesses; with hard evidence that the experts could not discount nor explain.

One example was of a British Government scientist, his wife and mother who had a "close encounter" which resulted in all three receiving medical treatment to surgically remove implants.

No one could explain the function nor the structure of these implants.

If this story is true, who carried out the operations and what conclusions were made?

I believe the investigators have a common goal, to try to sort out the truth of reported sightings. It is a pity they appear to have no support to achieve this.

Before I attended this conference I was not aware of the following "facts". I would like to establish from other sources, such as government and scientific establishments, whether these facts are true or just fabrication?

Looking at the world, it was stated that in the USA, there is a "Regulation 200" which implies there is intelligent life forms

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other than human. Also there is a law which forbids American citizens to communicate with alien beings.

Perhaps "an alien" is any person who is not an American citizen?

The government of Japan is releasing all information on UFOs to its public. The most senior officer in the Belgium air force has stated publicly that UFOs exist and there have been many confirmed sightings over Belgium.

Then there is the involvement of the film industry. *Close Encounters* was based on certain incidents provided by a NASA scientist, ie: during one night over the USA, five states were "blacked out" and at the same time air traffic controllers recorded the same sound that was used in the film.

Is it true, that Steven Spielberg has set aside \$50m to make a film of this incident? The film would be based on the reports and film footage from 1947, which have just been released to the American public. The incident also involved unknown craft crashing in New Mexico and aliens being taken to an air base.

And what about crop circles? They appear around the world in different crops.

There are 95 major circle patterns in the UK. One of these, which appeared overnight, was half a mile long with one circle 800 feet in diameter. Is it possible for a group of people to construct such a large pattern in one night without lights and special survey equipment?

Evidently, genuine circle pat-

terns have certain characteristics, the crops have been twisted 180/360 degrees and then bent over.

In one case, 70-foot pine trees were twisted and bent over. Exactly where and when did this occur?

And is it true that British farmers are being paid to immediately cut crops if any circles appear. If so, who is paying the farmers and why?

I have only summarised three areas covered during the conference.

As far as hard facts are concerned I would like briefly to mention the following incident which I find difficult not to believe. The details come from an American TV programme called *Sightings*.

In 1989, the space probe Phobos 2 disappeared from its orbit around Mars. Recently, Russian scientists have revealed that the last pictures transmitted from the probe, on the day it was due to descend to 15 metres above the surface of Mars, showed a Mars moon and a long oblong-shaped object.

The object was unidentifiable and calculated as being 23km (14 miles) long.

Later it was established that an

amateur astronomer from Japan had filmed the lunar surface of the earth's moon within a day of the disappearance of Phobos 2. On viewing the film, a long thin shadow was observed moving across the surface of the moon.

Experts agree that the shadow was cast by a vast object flying over the moon at 200km per second.

By putting these two separate pieces of evidence together, the Russians concluded that Phobos 2 was probably removed from orbit around Mars by a large unknown object.

Which leads to two main questions, by what and why?

I can only conclude by saying there is either more to this than we are led to believe or we are being deceived by the figment of people's imaginations.

Mihangel Tomos Fychan.

Mysterious flying objects

SKYGAZERS were urged today to help solve the riddle of mysterious objects seen flying in the night sky over Devon.

Serviceman turned UFO researcher Doug Cooper is trying to work out what the objects were by a process of rational elimination.

He said: "On Friday August 5 at 9.15pm, a couple saw a large spinning object hovering over North Exeter for about 20 minutes, before it sped off to the south west.

Then on the 6th, a daisy-shaped pattern of lights was seen by a man over Stoke Canning near Cullompton - exactly a year after a similar

display was seen over Stoke St Gregory in Somerset."

Honiton-based Mr Cooper, who claims to err on the side of caution, said: "We know that on August 6 there was a light show on at a village near Cullompton, but it was over by the time of the sighting."

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Unexplained evidence

I AM writing about the current debate in the Echo about UFO's.

An enormous amount of unexplained evidence still exists which people would rather brush under the carpet. For instance in a genuine crop circle the plants are bent over (not broken or buckled) just above the ground. Also they are found way out from tractor lines with no tracks where people

could have walked. Since 1991 UFO's have been filmed on a regular basis in Mexico where 1,000 items of footage have been shot. In an incident at Florida in March last year a UFO was filmed accelerating to more than 2,000 mph in under one tenth of a second.

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