

30 DEC 1995

Were they flying saucers... or was it just Venus?

FANS of television's 'X Files' will be pleased to hear that unidentified flying objects have once again been spotted in Gwent.

UFO fanatic Martin Tolley, of Laurel Road, Bassaleg, in Newport, is convinced something strange was going on up at Twm Barlwm mountain on Christmas night and Boxing night.

"It was about 8.30-9pm and I was standing in the kitchen looking out of the window when I saw three coloured lights in the shape of a triangle revolving and hovering above the mountain opposite," he said. "It was unbelievable. It almost looked like they were talking to each other."

Police at Risca said they

By Alyson Price

had received no other sightings but investigated anyway and found nothing suspicious.

Martin swears that what he saw was not the result of a festive tippie or two.

"I'd had a couple of cans but I wasn't drunk. I went back an hour later and the lights were still there," he said.

"The next night I saw them again. They were moving in a different way this time and gradually, over the course of about three hours, they moved from one side of the mountain to the other, then disappeared.

"My brother-in-law,

who's in the RAF and works with planes everyday, said he'd never seen anything like it.

"I've got lots of books on UFOs and they say first encounters always involve lights. They were so bright they could not have been torches."

UFO expert Kerry Blower, of Croesycelliog, Cwmbran, said she had not heard of any sighting recently on Twm Barlwm, but there had been rumours in the past.

"At this time of year Venus is predominant in the sky and at the moment it's very low as well. Last night it was incredible. "I'm not saying that's definitely what Martin saw, but a lot of people do confuse Venus with UFOs."

Previous unexplained activity:

Sept, 1980 - mysterious lights spotted in the sky over Cross Keys

Nov, 1981 - blue lights in sky over Oakdale

Feb 25, 1982 - family terrified by lights above their car on lonely mountain road, near Blackwood

Feb 25, 1982 - two men driving through Trinant see strange lights in the sky

Feb 25, 1982 - Newport family see coloured lights in the air

March 17, 1982 - Blackwood policeman reports blue and white flashing lights in the sky

March 17, 1982 - Newport man confirms Blackwood sighting

March 18, 1982 - Grey cone-shaped object seen in the sky over Cwmbran

March 18, 1982 - Newport mother and

daughter spot an unidentified flying object

August, 1982 - a brightly coloured moving object seen over Markham

Sept, 1982 - four sightings made over a two-week period. One in Abergavenny, one in Monmouth and two in Cwmbran

Oct, 1982 - three sightings in the Cwmbran/Pontypool area. An investigator from the National UFO Laboratories spends three weeks in the area in a bid to solve the mystery

Dec, 1982 - UFO spotted by Cwmbran man

Jan, 1983 - Ministry of Defence announce they will look into the sightings

February, 1983 - Cwmbran woman claim to see a spaceship

April, 1983 - rugby ball shaped UFO seen in Cwmbran