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## POST OPINION

# Why can't they try the truth?

THE truth may be out there, except when dealing with Government or official departments adept in double speak or, sometimes more often, non-speak.

There are many people, not all of them obsessed with little green men or The X-Files, who saw something at least unusual in the skies on Thursday night.

Now, the more sceptical, perhaps sensible, among us might say the lights or objects may have had just a little to do with the meteorite showers forecast for West Wales on most weather updates hours before many eyes shot upwards.

However, other people with no time at all for the world of the paranormal, concede that what they saw bore no resemblance to any meteorite or shooting star they had ever seen or imagined.

At the root of the latest fuss and new conspiracy theories is the stubborn refusal of officialdom to come out with any sense or clarity in the face of another example of why West Wales is regarded as a hotspot among UFO watchers.

It will not shock many of us if, given Britain's stated position on the rising tensions and slaughter in Kosovo, there were a range of understandably covert exercises in this region on a given night.

Neither will thousands of us start digging huge bunkers in our gardens if someone were to admit that Thursday's dance of the light fantastic is unexplained.

Instead, the official line that is trotted out, just as it has been for years, is "it wasn't us, guv" or "why on earth does anyone take notice of someone patently unhinged?"

This attitude only serves to fuel the more sensational and paranoid among certain groups of people convinced the aliens have already landed and are running strategically important countries.

A little more openness would not go amiss. The idea that the public is not ready to digest certain concepts or possibilities becomes ever more silly.

When a respected scientist who has landed on the moon concedes, as reported in a more serious broadsheet newspaper yesterday, that *circumstantially* it is likely there are other life forms out there in the vast eternity, it indicates that an admission that some things cannot be explained may not force thousands of people to fear Armageddon is around the corner.

# Investigator says helicopters tried to intercept object UFO mystery is deepening

By RHODRI EVANS

REPORTS have been flooding in from people across Swansea who say they saw UFOs in the sky on Thursday night.

UFO investigator Neil Spring has had more than 40 calls about lights seen in the sky.

Mr Spring, from the Office for Global UFO investigation, said: "The phone has been red hot.

"The thread which appears to run through all the accounts is that there were lights travelling from east to west in the sky parallel to one another.

"There were helicopters in the area at around the same time and the reports indicate that the helicopters were attempting to intercept the object but it was travelling too fast."

People in Mumbles, Bishopston, Gorseinon and Port Talbot all reported seeing the object at about 8pm on Thursday.

Swansea Airport today confirmed a number of military helicopters had been in the area at the time but poured scorn on the idea of alien spacecraft flying over Swansea.

Alan Jennings, speaking from the airport's control tower, said: "No way was it a UFO.

"The RAF were night flying with Sea King helicopters and their search lights were on. I don't know exactly where they were from but it was probably RAF Chivenor.

"It's a fairly regular thing, it just so happened this one was at night."

But Mr Spring said: "It's an insult to our intelligence to suggest nothing happened. There were UFO sightings all last week, not just on Thursday.

"Sightings in Fforestfach, Kilvey and Loughor all occurred earlier in the week. I don't think the helicopters were from Chivenor because when I phoned them they said they weren't theirs.

"And I don't think the helicopters in the area gave rise to misidentifications because people are not stupid."

He said an angler had been heading home at 6pm when he saw grey objects, resembling jets without wings, head silently from Waunarlwydd out into the bay.

**Mr Spring is now asking anyone who has seen a UFO, especially if they have managed to catch it on film, to ring him on 01792 234766.**

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