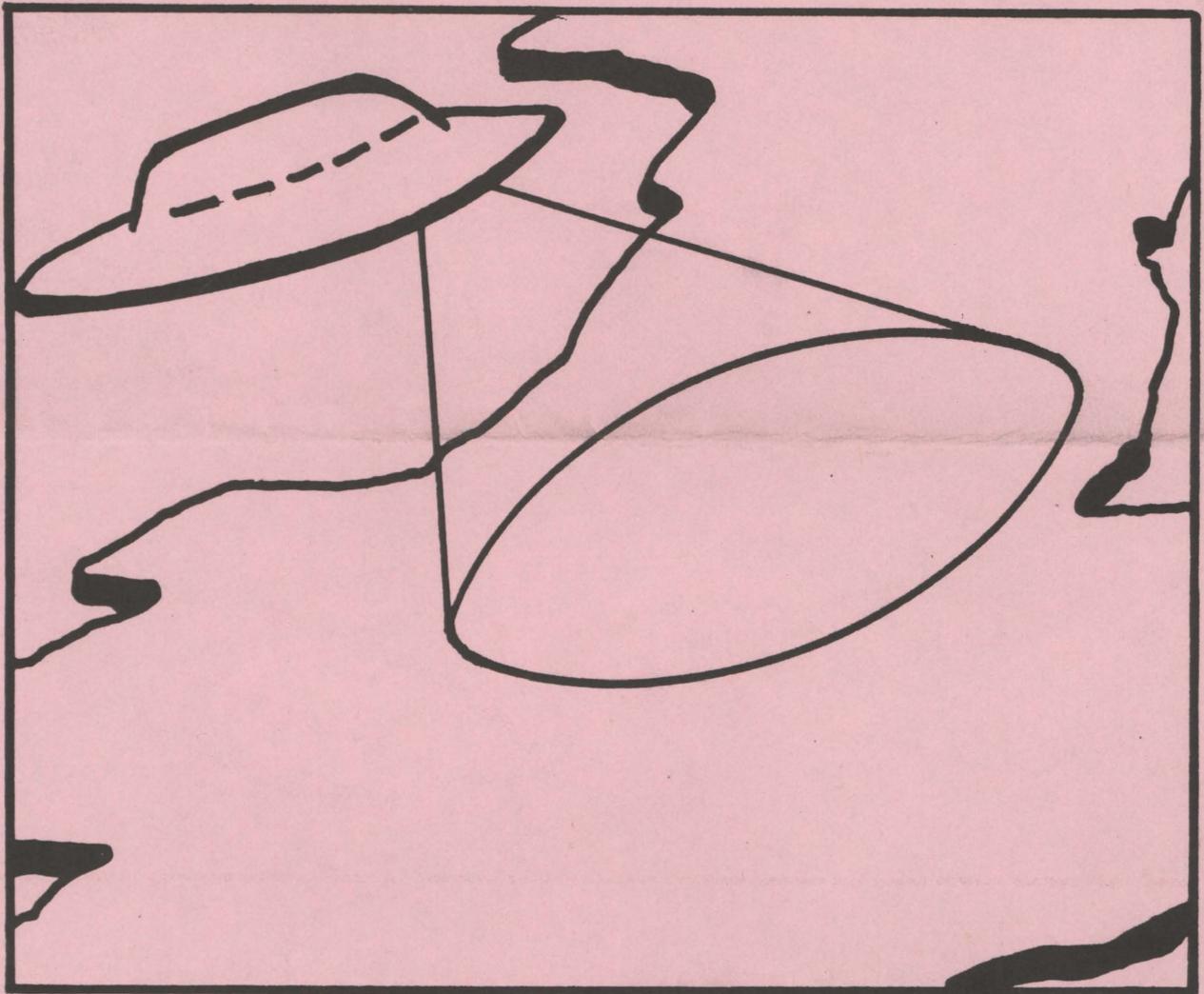


NORTHERN UFO NEWS



NEWSLETTER of the NORTHERN UFO NETWORK (NUFON)

23 SUNNINGDALE DRIVE, IRLAM, LANCASHIRE, M30 6NJ

Edited by: Jenny Randles and Paul Whetnall.

"NUFON is a liaison system for independant UFO organisations and researchers in Northern Britain. It acts as a co-ordination centre for investigation, research and general information".

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EDITORIAL: 'On the Fourth Day of Christmas the Telly gave to me'

This Christmas the magic box brought us its usual mixture of old films, Morecambe & Wise, more old films, more Morecambe & Wise and, of course, 'The Wizard of Oz'. But there were a couple of very welcome new additions.

One was the screening of two unusually good science fiction movies where the fantasy world of Trash Gordon and the Giant Tomatoes from Mars was superceded by some really believable futuristic stories. This set the atmosphere right for 1978... the year when CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND will hit our screens at the cinema. There are a lot more goodies in the pipeline (including a serious one about the USAF cover-up operations against UFOs... provided someone doesn't cover it up!) The cinema is waking up to the fact that UFOs spell intrigue spell interest spell dollars. No doubt we shall see the inevitable sequel to CE3 (Its easier to call it that!). If they call it CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE FOURTH KIND after the innovation of several NUFON personnel I wonder if we shall get any credit. No prizes for an accurate guesstimate on this.

The other telly treat was the repeat on consecutive days of the Hugh Burnett trilogy of documentaries on strange phenomena. The fourth day of Crimbo saw the return of 'Out of this world' like an evil demon from the tomb of hell. Another torturous hour of trying to decide whether to laugh, cry or commit Hari Kari. Sadly, it got no better second time round, and I shall always be mystified why it was such a flop. Having seen it grow from a twinkle in Hughies eye I still cannot understand why it failed so miserably to compare well with his other offerings. It gave ufology about one, low definition, sighting and a thousand high definition sneers and insults.

The fifth day, and not five gold rings (only one this Christmas). Instead we were transported to the shores of Loch Ness where experts argued if Peter Scott was extinct or not. Then Burnett completed his hat trick with a programme on ghosts. The evidence in both these latter programmes did not crumble away like my mince pies, as did the ufo evidence. As an unbiased observer I think I would have ended up believing in long lived Pleisiosaurs and spirit world entities, but thinking that ufologists and ufo witnesses, to paraphrase the classic Daily Mail review, were 'aimable and harmless enough.... but daft as brushes!'

Now, I don't believe I am that! (You are entitled to your own opinion, of course) Nor are most ufologists. I have to qualify this statement having seen some of our colleagues perform before the cameras. No names mentioned... but I hope I never end up praying to a box on a tripod in Ancient Hebrew text at the House of Lords!!!

So why did this happen? Our evidence is contradictory and tenuous. We don't agree as ufologists on what it means, yet rather than admit this we produce fantastic and highly speculative ideas. Murderous aliens conducting vampire impersonations, or theories about holes in the head.... er sorry, holes in the poles. The precise uncertainty that faces us is a clue in itself, if we could but see it. A clue that seeds of confusion are being deliberately sewn amongst us (see Ron Sargeant on P.2)

Apart from this fact, what stood out to me was the unity of paranormal events. A thread of truth interlinking them all. Nessie, ghosts, UFOs... they sound so different and may be different in detail. Yet a dispassionate look such as Hugh Burnett provided shows that they may not be so different after all... at least in investigation analysis and acceptance. The vital clue could come in the link. So rather than decry too broad an interest accept it as necessary. Specialise by all means, but do not forget..... You may study one grain of sand for as long as you like, but you still end up knowing nothing about the beach of which it forms just a tiny, tiny part.

Once upon a time, many thousands of years ago, the earth may have been visited by an extraterrestrial race. A lifeform not unlike our own. Their world was many light years distant from our star, the sun. They had travelled the Milky Way in search of something. For lifetimes they had looked until that day, so long ago in our reckoning of time. Perhaps then they found that thing... our earth, and then maybe they thought of home.

The first probes to this new world sent back results across the light years which aroused considerable interest. Perhaps, since that time, this other race of people with varying size, appearance and colour had become increasingly interested in our life abundant planet. Therefore, began a continued series of communications between the two planetary systems.

There were still unsolved problems despite the advanced technology of this alien lifeform, and the communication with their home world so very, very distant was quite sporadic. As this race came to use our world they found themselves behaving in harmony with its patterns. Our periods of intellectual development became important to them. They followed a policy of total non interference, with only very infrequent contacts being made. They had noted the aggressiveness of man, the dominant species.

With time their abilities increased. Technology gave to them more reliable communication with their home planet. The widespread industrialisation of modern times, the inclusion of atomic technology into mans steady evolution and the massive conflagrations of two world wars must have made an impression on our visitors. Then came our intrusion into our upper atmosphere and finally into space itself. We were becoming too advanced!

A decision was needed. Some form of safety valve, a control mechanism to gain control of this world before we made it undesirable to them. They viewed it as their world now and we as their creatures, but we could make possession impossible for them. In the past camouflage for their actions within our environment had been provided unwittingly by our own fellows. The priestly worship of space gods, the condemnation of witchcraft... all provided cover for their true purposes. Their increased activity as they prepared for the necessary invasion led to further projections of false truths. People were seeded with wrong ideas. Confusion spread to all corners of the globe whilst they carry out an intelligence survey of our ways.

Since the start of the invasion plan they had set up a base on earth's satellite -- the moon. Here the aliens build up supplies needed for the strategic war against earth.

Fantastic and ridiculous it can be said. But then UFOs are fantastic, and the human race has always behaved ridiculously. Logically speaking this picture here painted is as sound as any military operation planned by earthmen. A long term plan is needed for a successful war, and you need to know the opposition well. This applies even more so if you are an alien race. Perhaps they were working not for their present needs when they first arrived, but for future ones.... needd which may now have become a reality. With increased technological capabilities they are ready to begin their campaign. Have they already begun?

A war of the worlds may not be like an earth war. It may not be a military invasion at all, but an invasion of our psychic faculties. Perhaps it is these which are being interfered with. We could be subtly being moulded into another shape or form, better suited to the interests of these alien possessors. When the invasion reaches its peak we may not even know about it. What will we be? Will we be better or worse? Will the result be good or bad for us? Are the aliens out to destroy us or to save us? We can, of course, speculate, but it seems that there is little we can do about it. We may well just have to wait and see.

One writes for various reasons: to record, to entertain, to communicate. One reads for various reasons also. I will leave it up to you to decide what manner of reading this is meant to be.

MAGAZINE ROUND-UP

I thought the time was appropriate for another review of magazines received by NUFON as regular exchanges. I have here excluded publications of local groups in the north. These were reviewed in the July 77 issue, and I will update this at some time in the near future:

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW FSR Publications West Malling Maidstone Kent

Undoubtedly the most important reference source on world wide ufo data. Now the outlet for detailed case studies on UFOIN investigations which are only referred to in brief in NUN. Essential to all serious ufologists. £4.20, 6 issues, 32p full glossy

MUFOB 11 Beverley Rd New Malden Surrey Kt 3 4AW

Essential because of its standpoint on ufos as human experience. Gives you the other side of the ufo picture as opposed to the pure 'nuts and bolts'. £1.25 16p litho, 4 issues

FORTEAN TIMES PO Box 152 LONDON N10 1EP Quarterly litho £3, 4 issues

A miscellany of all paranormal phenomena, including ufos. If you believe there is a connection, or if you are just interested in all kinds of Fortean, this is essential.

SPACEQUEST PO Box 400 Kings Langley Herts Semi-glossy, bi-monthly

Britain's only popular sale ufo magazine. Brings in space phenomena etc, but mostly UFOs. Readable but not sensationalised. Much better than the US mass circulation magazines. £4.50 for a years subscription. 60p for a single copy.

COSMOLOGY NEWSLINK 37 The Close Great Dunmow Essex Quarterly, duplicated

General news and articles of an international scope.

UFO BOOK INDEX 1977 34 Elm Grove LONDON N8 9AH 12p + postage.

This is an excellent little publication. 11 pages, full litho with a semi stiff cover. Reviews the years books and a listing by author of all ufo books in print and their publishers. Very useful. Hopefully an annual event. Strongly recommended.

NUFON DETAILS

- SIGHTING DATA NUFON Files 443 Meadow Lane Nottingham NG2 3GB
- Newsletter material Jenny Randles 23 Sunningdale Drive Irlam Salford M30 6NJ
- Group News Paul Whetnall 18 Buckingham Avenue Vicars Cross Chester CH3 5JR
- Foreign Data Library Bryan Hartley 23 Hastings Rd Thornton Le Fylde Lancashire
- Lecture tape library Ken Green 21 Cunningham Drive Bromborough Merseyside
- North west Ian Cresswell 12 Newlands Rd Morecambe Lancashire
- North east CHRYSIS 7 Cotswold Drive Redcar Cleveland TS 10 4AD
- West Lancs PULSE 95 Ripon Street Preston Lancashire
- South Lancs DIGAP 24 Bent Fold Drive Unsworth Bury BL9 8NG
- Yorkshire BUFORA YORKSHIRE 8 Central Park Wellhead Halifax HX1 2BT West Yorks
- South Yorks UFORUM 40 Badger Rd Woodhouses Sheffield 13 South Yorks
- Merseyside WUFOS 21 Cunningham Drive Bromborough Merseyside
- Grtr M/Cr MUFORA 125 Beresford Street Manchester M14 4RY
- Cheshire FUFOR 2 Acer Avenue Crewe Cheshire
- E. Cheshire MAPIT 92 Hillcrest Rd Offerton Stockport Gtr M/Cr SK2 5SE
- Humberside Derick Shelton 8 Moorhouse Rd Willerby Rd Hull HU5 5PW
- Lincs SUFORS 1 Angerstein Rd Scunthorpe South Humberside DN17 2LZ
- S. Cheshire CUFORT 8 Barton Rd Congleton Cheshire CW12 3HB
- Staffs UFORA 10 Bullockshouse Rd Harriseahead Stoke on Trent
- West Midlands UFOSIS 136 Cleveland Tower Holloway Circus Birmingham B1 1UE
- East Midlands NUFOIS 443 Meadow Lane Nottingham NG2 3GB

Northern Ireland Irish UFO Research Centre
John Hind 19 Cairnshill Rd Belfast N. Ireland BT8 4NR

The Scunthorpe UFO Research Society was born in May 1972. We started weekly meetings at the Grange Farms Hobby Centre, and for the next two years had a regular and loyal membership. After this a couple of key members left to explore the world and finally the group eroded away.

During the active period the group visited Warminster twice and Banbury once (sites of high focus ufo activity). We had a constitution, a small library of books and a committee of sorts. The main problem in keeping the group going was finding new members. This was a problem because of several factors, and the weekly meetings became a strain. So, after not having met for more than a year or so, the group was officially dissolved at the end of 1976. My thoughts were published in NUN issues 33 and 37. However, like some mythical being, SUFORS rose from the ashes in mid 1977.

SUFORS rose from the ashes because of new ufo sightings in the area (see for example Burringham UFO encounter in FSR Vol 23 No 2). This led to several people wanting such a group.

Since May 1977 we have held monthly meetings at the Central Community Centre in Scunthorpe. This location we hoped might encourage a larger membership. However, we had and still have quite a few problems with the renewed group. Effort has to be put into advertising the meetings. The environment of the new HQ is rather clinical, whereas the Grange Farm Centre had a lot better social environment. Most importantly, though, we do not have a large enough core of regular members.

For the beginning of 1978 we have several guest speakers lined up, and we are to hold the NUFON Spring 78 conference. With these events we hope to encourage a larger and more stable foundation of members for the group.

Personally, I regard a ufo group as merely a social endeavour. Sometimes you hear of ufo sightings you would not have known about otherwise, but besides discussion and debate the group does not serve any really useful function. As can be seen from my article in NUN 41 (Ufology is the curse of punk rock) that doesn't mean we don't have any fun!

SUFORS was a founder member of NUFON in 1974 (then UNO), but the research part of our name has always been a misnomer. From the very start I found that very few of our members were interested in investigating local ufo sightings. However, I have always kept a record of sightings made in Lincolnshire and south Humberside, and these records are passed onto NUFON and UFOIN (I personally am an investigator for this FSR linked organisation). Any record of unusual events is also passed onto Fortean Times. A lively communication is also kept with Peter Rogerson and John Rimmer of MUFOB.

SUFORS is an absurdity, along with every other so called 'ufo group'. My maintenance of such an entity can only be regarded as an anachronism or a bizarre attempt at creating a novelty in Scunthorpe!

(Goodness knows, it needs one! - Editor)

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NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND, the Columbia film, is to be the Royal Film this year! The premiere in London is to be on March 13 1978. Already it is smashing records in the USA following its general release on December 14th.

A sequel to the 'Humanoids', edited by Charles Bowen, 'Encounter Cases from Flying Saucer Review' has been released in America to coincide with the film. It is hoped it will be published in Britain shortly.

The NUFON Meeting in Crews on February 4th (see December newsletter for details) will run from 1pm to 5pm. The programme will start with a talk by JENNY RANDLES entitled 'Come Fly With Me'. This will be a discussion of ufo abduction cases. This will be followed by the meeting concerning the Investigators course and the 78 conferences, and the afternoon will close with a pictorial talk by PETER WARRINGTON on ufo photographic cases.

NO MORE ISSUES OF NORTHERN UFO NEWS WILL BE SENT OUT AFTER THIS TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT RENEWED SUBSCRIPTIONS. SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1978 ARE £3 FOR ONE, £4 FOR TWO ISSUES

UFOIN PROGRESS REPORT

UFOIN has continued to investigate high strangeness cases for FSR, and all of the reports outlined briefly here will be covered in detail in the near future in the pages of this magazine. Some truly fascinating events have been followed through, including two abduction cases (one of which has involved extensive investigation by means of regression hypnosis). However, three cases are of interest to the NUFON region.

Case 7201 (U) occurred on September 9 1972 at 04.30 and involves a single witness in suburban Glasgow. He saw an object like a black metal spinning top with lights flashing underneath and rows of windows along the edge. Inside one window was an entity with blond hair and a silver suit with stripes on the arms. This was staring out of the window at the witness. The object hovered low over a street and then accelerated into the sky. Investigation has been severely hampered by the witness having subsequently had a nervous breakdown. Preliminary analysis only was possible.

Case 7302 (U) occurred on a date in May or June 1973 at 23.00 on a lonely moor in North Yorkshire. Two army personnel were taking part in a large exercise in a land rover, parked in a desolate spot with lights and radio on. When about to contact base the radio broke up and lights went out. Then a rugby ball shaped object with a row of small windows and vapour underneath came towards them and hovered just above the ground close by. A herd of cows were transfixed to the spot staring at the object. After about five minutes it flew off. The next day the two men returned to the spot and found a 30 feet wide circle of burnt grass.

The first case was investigated by Jenny Randles, the second by Barry King (witness now lives in the Essex region)

Case 7201 (U)



Case 7302 (U)



NUFON case 77/200 (see Dec 77 NUN) has been the subject of a UFOIN investigation by Nigel Watson. It occurred on NOVEMBER 18 1977 at 14.45 at Wawne Primary School in North Humberside. A group of children, probably 20 or more, aged about six saw an object like an upturned plate or dish with a row of small windows on top. It was shining silver reflecting sunlight and was silent. It made erratic movements then flew off. Because of the fast thinking of the headmaster and teachers (whom the children told immediately) probative evidence in the form of plasticine models (made immediately and independently) was obtained. These are very similar indeed.

77/201 Late June 1977 Coppenhall, Cheshire (22.45) MED Lev A FUFOR

A lady saw a fast moving light in the far distance NNW. It was approximately round but mishaped and diffuse so that the light seemed to spread over a wide area of sky. It was in view about seven seconds. The sighting probably occurred on June 25th.

77/202 August 1977 Wawne, Nth Humberside (18.00) MED Lev B SUFORS

A fat silvery cigar shaped object was spotted by a single witness in a patch of clear sky. It had bulges on the back similar to tail fins on aircraft, and bulges on the front also. There were no wings or such protruberances, and the object seemed aerodynamically unstable. It flew slowly into a cloud and was in view about one minute making no sound at all.

77/203 September 23 1977 Redcar, Cleveland (14.55) MED Lev B SHRYSIS

Mrs L Bavin of the Lakes Estate observed five extremely bright flat discs in the sky below a layer of high cloud. They were stationary and remained in view for about two minutes before vanishing suddenly from view.

77/204 October 2 1977 Ormesby, Cleveland (19.45) MED Lev A CHRYISIS

Mr Michael Stalker, a student of Netherfields Estate, was walking to a friend's house when he observed a small, sharply defined disc which appeared suddenly in the sky before him. It had a glowing red light at the rear and made what sounded like a mechanical whirring noise. It moved suddenly towards a block of flats where it stopped and hovered for a few seconds and then moved away to the west. It then simply vanished as suddenly as it had appeared.

This report can be compared with the object seen and heard in Cumbria (see later this page). Refer also to the other October 2 sightings (see Dec 77 NUN)

77/205 September 28 1977 Sheffield, Sth Yorks (19.10) MED Lev A UFORUM

Steven Brammer is a member of the local Astronomical Society. He was walking down the road when he noticed a cigar shaped object moving across the sky in a SE direction towards the Rivelin Valley. It was in view two minutes before disappearing behind the hills. In size it was about the same as $\frac{1}{2}$ cm held at arms length.

THE WARTON MYSTERY OBJECT AND SOUND Ian Cresswell (See 77/177 Nov 77 NUN)

The small town of Warton, near Carnforth, on the Lancashire/Cumbria border was the scene of quite a flap on October 12 1977. Probably about 20 people claim to have seen the 'UFO' and NUFON has reports from the four best witnesses. Three teenage girls travelling to a disco by car at 19.20 had been alerted by a woman who had seen the thing flying about. They looked at the sky as they drove and saw a grey oval shape with three lights, one red and two white. The object made a droning noise or a faint buzz and flew quite low by the side of the car. They had it in view five minutes. The droning noise was only heard when they stopped the car and got out. The object disappeared southwards heading towards Lancaster. The best sighting was made by 20 year old Gardener, Kevin Preston. Out in the garden with his dog and tape recorder he saw the object come down low and hover (he thinks within 50 - 100 feet away). He was able to gain a clear impression of the blue/grey dish with a dome on top and blue and red flashing lights. Underneath was a kind of hole. A short tail protruded from the rear of the object. The sound caused the dog to howl and was described by Kevin as a quiet 'bumping'. He was able to tape record a few seconds of this before the object flew away over the hills. This faint noise is unusual and most certainly does not sound like an aircraft. In size Kevin likened the object to a light aircraft. There is a conflict over the time when Kevin saw the object, as it seems he felt it was 21.30 and not 19.30. Descriptions, as can be seen in the drawings opposite do agree quite well.



77/206 November 3 1977 Betley, Cheshire (00.30) LOW Lev A FUFOR

Four witnesses (two men, two women) were travelling by car from Betley to Nantwich. At OS Ref 731512 Sheet 118 they saw a vivid bright light with rainbow colours to the south. This lit up the immediate area but was hazy in shape. Driving along to OS Ref 726514 they kept it in view, duration 3 to 4 minutes, and it seemed to be descending towards Nantwich. It was last seen at 30 degree elevation in the SW. The area is agricultural with fields but very few houses.

77/207 November 8 1977 Winsford, Cheshire (00.13) LOW Lev A FUFOR

An amateur astronomer confined to a wheelchair saw a small point of orange light travelling due south at elevation 18/20 degrees. It was distant and fluctuated twice during the four minutes of observation. The witness claims to have seen many 'UFOs' but investigators were not convinced that he had seen anything unusual at this time.

77/208 November 16 1977 Idle Moor, West Yorks (19.05) MED Lev C Ian Cresswell

Our old friend Paul Bennett spotted another UFO on this date. It was seen for about 8 seconds as a white ball which moved towards Ilkley Moor leaving a trail, turned brown and disintegrated. It was probably some meteoric phenomenon.

ANOTHER NIGHT OF THE UFOs!!! November 18 1977

Another date has produced a concentration of ufo activity throughout the region, with cases from four different sources... one of which is the Wawne report (see P.6)

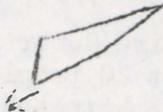
77/209 November 18 1977 Carnforth, Lancashire (07.40) MED Lev C Ian Cresswell

Two women were admiring the beautiful sunrise when they saw a conical object glinting dilver in the sun. It was south above Ingleborough and moved very slowly. It trailed a pinky orange vapour (they think this was coloured by the sun). This did not alter shape during the sighting. It passed behind two clouds but entered a third and did not reappear. It seemed to float sideways. Duration ten minutes.



77/210 November 18 1977 Middleton, Nth Humberside (19.02) MED Lev C Derick Shelton

A mother and her 7 year old son were going to a youth club when a brilliant cone of flourescent blue appeared in the sky to the NE. It was silent and moved very fast travelling in the direction of the base of the cone not the apex. As it moved it elongated and grew in size until quite large. Her son described it as a rocket. It was in view no more than a few seconds. Neither witness saw it disappear. This village is but a few miles from Wawne.



77/211 November 18 1977 Clotton, Cheshire (18.15) MED Lev A UFORA Staffs

What may be a cooberative report from many miles away comes from Alan Pepper, a draughtsman, his wife and their two daughters (aged 12 and 7). They were driving from their new home in Clwyd towards Stoke passing this village some 7 miles SE of Chester. They saw a bright white light keeping pace with the car in the NE low down. It was followed for several miles, before Mr Pepper stopped the car and wound down the window. They all now saw at first two and then three white lights in a triangle which moved away into distance after a few seconds. From just behind, a tube of flourescent blue light was seen to fall to earth into a field. It was long and narrow. Total duration ten minutes. It is possible that the Peppers saw an unusual light, and the blue tube was a fireball (seen also by the witnesses on Humberside). In other words, the two were unconnected



77/212 November 21 1977 Sheffield, Sth Yorks (12.30) LOW Lev A UFORUM

A housewife in her early thirties was driving home through Dronfield. The sky was overcast and it was windy and trying to snow. As she pulled out to overtake a parked car she saw a bright yellowish light in the sky directly in front. It was moving horizontally to the S. It did not flash and there was no noise. She stopped the car to watch and after ten seconds it vanished. It was round, the size of a pea at arms length and sharply defined.

77/213 November 26 1977 Grasscroft, Gt Mcr (02.30) LOW Lev A MUFORA

Janet Bentley and her boyffiend saw a strange light low down in the S. It was at first pinhead size and followed a line of streetlights. It then became brighter and apparantly larger. Leaving the line of strætlights it moved east and hovered returning to its original brightness. It then accelerated away westwards and they ran outside but lost sight of it. The Bentley home looks down from a hill over a broad valley. The light was at first in the sky, but may have later been in front of the hillside.

77/214 December 3 1977 Diggle, Gtr Manchester (18.20) MED Lev A MUFORA

Mrs Brown and her son had parked their car outside their home. To the NE over a dark moorland area they saw a purple rugby ball with a white light inside or on top. It moved slowly west, hovered and swayed from side to side for a few seconds, and then accelerated away westwards, descending behind a hill. Other witnesses have since come forward to cooberate the story. One sighting could be a close encounter with the object and MUFORA are investigating further.