

NORTHERN UFO NEWS



NORTHERN UFO NEWS is the publication of the NORTHERN UFO NETWORK (NUFON)
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SUBSCRIPTIONS.... We are now taking renewals for the period January to December 1981. Despite massive rises in cost and demon inflation it has proved possible to hold costs to £3.60 for the 12 issues of this and our companion, NORTHERN UFOLOGY. We hope you will respond to this gesture by helping us with an early renewal. As some groups like to keep a spare copy for their library, or to loan to members, we now offer TWO issues per month at the reduced rate of £6.... JR

EDITORIAL: The Ufologist Effect

Which comes first - the Ufologist or his UFO reports? Allen Greenfield (SKYWATCHER 37) speculates that both are part of a closed-loop system which (like the proverbial chicken and egg) has no true origination point. "One measures a circle, beginning anywhere", the intrepid researcher Charles Fort once said.

In psychic research a great deal is talked nowadays about the "experimenter effect", where the end results of a study are influenced subtly by the presence of the experimenter. Within our subject we have something of a "Ufologist effect", as I began to illustrate in my editorial "The Dallas Connection" (August 1980) Sightings tend to congregate around Ufologists and locations apparently become window areas (viz Warminster - Arthur Shuttlewood; Milford Haven - Randall Jones-Pugh, Newcastle/Stoke-on-Trent - Tony Pace, Stephen Banks/Martin Keatman) It seems logical to deduce that they produce the UFOCAL (with sociological factors and media catalysis stirring the pot). However, other Ufologists (even very active ones) do not precipitate effects of similar magnitude. This tends to point nasty fingers of suspicion towards the workers who do generate so much data. I have heard it said, more than once, that these people are "making up" sightings to keep themselves busy - or turning LITS into close encounters to boost their image. This is nonsense. It is a fact that they really are attracting more interesting cases than the rest of us. The question is why?

Often it seems that the cases these investigators trip over reinforce personal theories..to a greater extent than seems explicable simply by wishful thinking or subconscious manipulation of the data. Nigel Watson noted how, when interested in angels and winged beings, he suddenly found himself plagued with such cases. Peter Warrington and I mention in UFOs: A BRITISH VIEWPOINT how CE4 cases fell into our laps when we needed them. Some factor does seem to be at work here within the phenomenon itself.

Recently Geoff Falla brought to my attention some work he had done on the 1967 UK wave where he correlated sighting activity with population density. His work bore out that of Jacques Valee and the Swedish group AFU (see my RESEARCH REPORT column in FSR Vol 26 No 3). The greater the population density the less frequent the UFO observations, relatively speaking that is. In his work he had also found that 33% of the 1967 cases fell within close proximity of a line drawn between Heysham in Lancashire and Chipping Norton in Oxfordshire (like the similar famous French line DAVIC devised from the 1954 wave I will call this new feature HEYCHIP) This may offer a clue about the Ufologist effect.

If you plot HEYCHIP you will find that it passes through places which make it sound suspiciously like a ley (although it is not produced in ley fashion)... LEIGH LEYLAND HIGH LEY HINDLEY and HEATLEY are all on the line close to where I live (at RISLEY..scene of a 1978 CE4..within 3 miles of the line, in fact) To the south it passes the famous Rollright stones, near Stratford, and if one goes southwards still further it travels along an old Roman road east of Basingstoke! UFO cases of significance occur all over the line or within close proximity (the Gynthia Appleton 1957 CE4, the Janos People CE4, and an as yet unpublished CE4 from Warwickshire) Even as I write these lines I hear of a CE3 at Liss, Hampshire (on the line) Is this just coincidence?

When I looked at the list of UFOIN investigators I found, despite the line cutting just a small part of the NW and Midlands region, 6 out of 14 investigators live within 3/4 miles of it (thats 41%) and 71% within 10 miles. Another coincidence?

In UFOs: A BRITISH VIEWPOINT, playing with figures and not really being serious, we found we could plot a line between Oldham (our primary UFOCAL of the time... now superceded it seems by Leigh...see above!!) and Warminster. This OLWAR line dissected a number of important UFO locations (such as the tiny village of Ranton where the Roestenbergs had their classic 1954 CE3).

Now, suprise suprise, OLWAR and HEYCHIP intersect at Newcastle/Stoke and this point is surrounded by places such as Tittensor, Oulton, Chesterton etc (all on the lines and the scenes of close encounters pursued by messrs Banks and Keatman!) It could be that the two ufologists just happen to live in the right place, or is it yet another coincidence?

The whole question begs further exploration. Do Ufologists become Ufologists more often in such areas? Are they attracted to the lines or do they create them? Do other weird phenomena occur close to the lines? I suggest someone has a look!

 UFOs DO NOT EXIST?? This appears to be the conclusion likely to be drawn if the response continues to be NIL to the theme for the next NORTHERN UFOLOGY. The question posed is UFOs EXIST BECAUSE?, and you are asked to give (in under 1000 wds) up to three pieces of evidence which convinces you (and should convince others). One assumes all of you should be able to contribute to this debate - or else you would not be a Ufologist! And there is the added incentive of a prize for the best submission (which will only be valid if we get at least 3 entries) So get a move on and confound those sceptics ready to say I told you so! Closing date DECEMBER 1st

 BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE REPORT.... Thanks should go to PARASEARCH & UFOSIS for hosting an enjoyable (and exhausting!) one day conference on OCTOBER 11. The theme was essentially the CE4 experience and the talks had everything from research results to outright controversy. Some lively questions were fired from the crowded hall and some intriguing ideas flowed through. One was certainly left with an understanding of just how complex the contact phenomenon is and with a feel for the divergent interpretations of it and how they effect the results. The collated papers are to be published, and these should prove valuable. People are already asking when Andy Collins and Co are going to organise another venture and on what theme! Well Andy? The way is open, too, for any NUFON group to offer to stage the next one-day event early in the New Year. Any offers?

 NUFON - MAUFOG PLAN JOINT CONFERENCE.... One significant step forward taken at the OCT 11 event was an agreement by representatives of the NUFON and MAUFOG working parties to go ahead with the organisation of a one-day joint conference. The event will be hosted by UFOSIS in BIRMINGHAM and the date set aside is FEB 7 1981. This will be the first time all UK local groups will be invited to come together for a friendly gathering to discuss future cooperation; although there are no plans to merge the networks. It is mutually felt that regionalisation and independence is preferable provided we can be fully compatible. Specific details will be announced shortly but it is hoped all groups in the region will ensure they are represented. One possible plan is to use the meeting to attempt to draw up a code-of-ethics for UFO investigation. Such a thing, if we were to succeed, would be a marvellous step out of the present into a new future era of cooperation. Let us try.

NEWS ROUND-UP

- !! It is good to be able to announce that NUFOIS, having reconsidered their NUFON affiliation, have decided to remain associated despite their feelings on the question of the paranormal. Such a move, in the common interests of Ufology, must be applauded.
- !! MIGAP have an excellent idea for promotion - using the media in a very different way. They have produced some simple leaflets explaining the group, for display in factories, offices, community centres etc. Now, whenever there is a major UFO story in the local or national press, they have arranged for newsagents to deliver the next issue of that paper plus a MIGAP leaflet. Strike whilst hot! It works too, it seems.
- !! The Society for Psychological Research (SPR) has launched its UFO study team. Coordinated by Hilary Evans and Kevin McClure (EMPRA), both UFOIN members, it aims not only to provide advice and help on paranormal matters, to ufologists and groups, but also to use the SPRs noted ability at sceptical analysis to look dispassionately at certain pieces of our work. I am sure we would welcome this with open arms.
- !! Sad to record the demise of ALPHA, which has been popular in its year of life. As no doubt everybody knows, we have a new part-work by Orbis called THE UNEXPLAINED which covers UFOs and much more, and whose list of contributors includes most of the leading UK writers in the field eg Charles Bowen, Janet & Colin Bord, Hilary Evans, Bob Rickard and Jenny Randles. There are hopes of a lengthy run.
- !! Geoff Bird, of the BFSD (75 Cotham Brow; Cotham, Bristol, Avon BS6 6AW) would like any data you have on APEN, for an important new project on the mystery body.

:: BUFORA have announced more details of the second international congress to be held in London on May 24/25 (again at the Mount Royal) Many important speakers are to be invited (and anyone can submit a paper, for consideration, before January) To obtain details of cost etc write to 5 Cairn Avenue; London W5 5HX. We will keep you informed once more information is to hand from BUFORA.

:: Your up to date information is now required for the 1981 versions of two publications. All groups are asked to supply personal data (as with last year) for the group directory (none-NUFON groups in the region are asked to do so as well) Bob Morrell at Nottingham would also like data for the 1980 UFO Abstracts.

ELSEWHERE THIS MONTH.... Just two magazines to record... Northern Earth Mysteries 9 (30p., 61 Clumber St Hull HU5 3RH) articles on stone circles, leys etc....
Guernsey UFO Research Group Circular, Sept 80 (Highcliffe, Avenue Beauvais, Ville Au Roi, St Peter Port, Guernsey., 15p + SAE) Guernsey & Channel Isles news.

INTERSTELLAR REFUGEES? "The Janos People" by Frank Johnson Spearman 1980 £5.25

When I first heard of this case from Ken Phillips in August 1978 and decided to ask Frank to investigate what was a potential CE4 I never suspected it would end in a book, and one which portrays an incredible tale which is sadly not made any more believable by Frank's "face-value" hypothesis, as he calls it. He refuses to consider anything other than the fact that this story is the literal truth and he sets himself up as a cosmic go-between for the imminent mass-landing of the million strong "Janos People" (whose planet has been destroyed by a renegade moon and who now want to live on earth, from once they left millennia ago) The book is extremely well written, beautifully illustrated and tells what is undoubtedly an important CE4 story in typical abduction scenario fashion. It is just that it lacks all sense of overview. Every CE4 story is like this in principle yet totally different in internal detail. Yet reading this one would think this was the only contact ever to have happened. There is no justification for accepting it at "face value" and... rejecting everything else. We, as ufologists, will fortunately be able to see this and enjoy the easy presentation of the book using its "meat" (and there is plenty of that) for our own research. To that end it is strongly recommended. What bothers me is how the public, not aware of the true situation, are going to react. I doubt if it will be with sympathy and compassion, as they did with the Cambodian refugees. Rather, I suspect it will be more with mild amusement, suspicion and a knowing wink.

THE GOVERNMENT INTERVENES by Geoff Grundill of NLUFOIG

The government is certainly not totally ignorant of the UFO phenomenon, since we have already had a House of Lords UFO debate (1). No doubt this will have triggered interest in various governmental departments, including the CIA.

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) suppresses information from the public on various issues, possibly because they carry too much heat. This could be happening right now on the UFO issue. Some sighting reports may be classified as highly top secret for fear of panic if such reports leaked out. National security ensures nobody (including inquisitive reporters) can get to the data.

Look at the mysterious MIBs (Men in Black). They operate much like CIA agents, and are very real (if the claims of encounters with these gentry can be trusted). They may be just as real as the UFOs themselves so why should we brush all such cases aside? Any government determined to know more about UFOs will do all it can to obtain more data than just actual sighting reports. It could call on the CIA to plant agents into UFO organisations (under cover), and if they wanted to warn people off they could silence witnesses or researchers, or at least frighten them enough to drop their work. (2) With the aid of an informer inside a UFO group the MIB can reach witnesses very fast. (3) So if any files go missing at Nottingham it may be the CIA who possess them now!

The CIA are keen to lay false trails and this is one thing we notice in the MIB reports. Some may disagree with me, arguing that the MIB are disguised UFO occupants, but it could be that the CIA can make it appear that way! (4)

NOTES: (Jenny Randles)

- 1) Since I have been given the honour of being invited to lecture the House of Lords Study group, in London next month, I can bring you a report on the position.
- 2) The classic question is why do so many leading researchers become immune then?
- 3) It would have to be prominent ufologists for this to work. Is that feasible?
- 4) See Jacques Vallee's "Messengers of Deception" And/Or, 1979 for this theory.

THE EXPERT by John Morris of MIGAP

In several recent articles on investigation for the MIGAP newsletter (Mersey News) I have stressed the importance of accuracy, not only in relation to facts but also in the use of English language. I have pointed out how, by misuse of the language, statements can be included in UFO reports which can be misinterpreted and, in some cases, untrue. We have recently had a classic example of this.

For three consecutive weeks in September the SUNDAY MIRROR featured the story of the Mann family (subject of THE JANOS PEOPLE by Frank Johnson) ON the fourth Sunday we were given the experts views. Pride of place was given to Arthur C Clarke whose series MYSTERIOUS WORLD just happens to be running on ITV. His verdict was that the UFO phenomenon was a modern fairy tale, and he stated "I myself have seen five or six UFOs... but in every case there was a logical and rational explanation".

I wrote to the editor of the SUNDAY MIRROR and asked if I might put the record straight. Arthur C Clarke had never seen a UFO, because in his own words they all had logical and rational explanations and so were IFOs (Identified Flying Objects) and that it was only when NO such logical explanation could be found could the report be classified as a UFO. The statement by Arthur C Clarke was a contradiction in terms (his unidentified had been identified so was not unidentified!) Yet this was put forward as support for this "experts" views. One might be tempted to say, "Well, we know what he meant..." but that is not good enough. Similar errors creep into reports and in scientific work those who are studying and assessing them must be able to rely on the facts before them.

Now to Ufologists Arthur C Clarke's statement is understood but consider the effect on the readers. He says he has seen five or six UFOs and all had explanations. Erno UFOs probably do not exist. Yet suppose the SUNDAY MIRROR had printed the facts... "I myself have seen five or six objects which puzzled me at the time, but they all had logical and rational explanations" Hardly the same impact - nor does it carry the same weight as supporting evidence for the verdict given.

NOTE: (Jenny Randles) ... (Jean Carr of the Sunday Mirror spent an hour interviewing Charles Bowen and several hours talking to me about the case. She even, at my insistence, read back to me the final version of what she said she was going to use of my quotations. Whilst I would add that, in the main, I went along with much of what the experts did say the Ufologists viewpoint was a gross omission from this series, since in the end nothing at all was carried. The best thing one can say about Arthur C Clarke's knowledge of UFOs is that he writes excellent science-fiction)

A NEW UFOCAL? by Paul Sreeton (Author of "Quicksilver Heritage")

Between us the four members of my family have had nine significant UFO sightings I can easily recall. Of these only one was reported. If these form any meaningful statistic it could be startling how much aerial phenomena lies basically submerged.

The impetus to write a few notes on this for posterity is ambivalent. On the one hand I am aware that certain elements might accuse me of seeking publicity to further my own ends (and as an author that could be reasonable), while on the other I feel it is somewhat indefensible to ignore occurrences of the phenomenon, especially ones where (as a journalist) I am keen to see given widest possible coverage. The fact that it is one's children who seem to be "repeaters" further muddies the situation. Another disturbing factor is that the recent sightings do not accord well with the stance I have adopted as a working hypothesis for the phenomenon, in a forthcoming book I am engaged in writing.

The dilemma becomes further complicated by the father/child interaction. Maybe they are relating what they feel will be the most welcome exposition. Should children be exposed to possible mockery if they make a big issue of an event following a grown up's interest? Also my own preference is to keep so low a profile as to only reveal the events in this outlet, and thus avoid the intervention of other journalists

Before the children were born I saw an Adamski-type saucer at Redmire, Nth Riding in 1956. When 11 I saw two cigar-shaped craft over Hartlepool, Durham. When I was 15 my wife Pauline (then at school) saw a pink cigar over her school at Gildersome, West Yorkshire. We then both witnessed a silvery craft at Ordie, Aberdeenshire in 1971. My wife and daughter Kathryn saw a moonlike object over Hartlepool Bay in October 1977. Then all four of us saw a bobbing light over Berwick-upon-Tweed for half an hour. CHRYSIS did investigate that and a brief report appeared in the October 1978 issue of Northern UFO News (It was the same date as the Llanercymold

Now we come to 1980. In June our son Ian, then four, said that with his pal Paul he had seen over Brompton Walk, Seaton Carew (Cleveland) an object which sent out a lightbeam causing him to fall off his cycle with surprise. Then Ian, Paul, his sister Christy, and Kathryn (now seven) observed another UFO from the same place a few weeks later. This was yellow with a red rim and emitting red sparks. Both our children drew the last object in separate rooms and the results were the same.

There is no easy explanation as to what they saw. However others, including my wife and myself on one occasion, have seen eerie orange balls above the BSC plant, half a mile away. I mentioned this to a neighbour who said his father had seen an object in the area too. I am reasonably certain that the children have not made this up (and the drawings support this view). It leaves a disturbing question mark in my mind. Why should my young children share so many sightings at such a tender age? (2) NOTES: (Jenny Randles)

- 1) A survey some years ago showed that only 13% of sightings are reported in any way at all... a clear warning to us, as ufologists, to do something about it.
- 2) This question is the dominant theme of WINDOW ON ANOTHER WORLD, a study of the Oakenholt ufocal by Jenny Randles and Paul Whetnall (to be published by Neville Spearman in Summer 1981) Paul can take heart. His family is not alone!

 LOW DEFINITION

8035 AUG 22 00.15 Coldstream, Scotland Alan Price (SCUFON) A Moon??
 Wife of a PC with 15 yr old daughter took dog for walk and saw Yellow oval light, not moving for several minutes. Whispering noise and "burning" small came on. Left in panic. Moon was almost full and in precisely same position at time.

8036 AUG 22 02.15 Lennel, Scotland Alan Price (SCUFON) B Insuff
 PC, husband of above, was driving when he saw 2 green lights size of golf balls (like animals eyes) 5 ft from ground and moving along hedgerow. Accelerated and took bend at right angle before vanishing.

THESE REPORTS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN MORE DETAIL BY SCUFON

 FRIGHTENING CAR JOURNEY MUFORA investigation by Peter Hough
 Oct 5 1979 02.00 Golborne, Gtr Manchester MED Level B

Two men in their thirties were driving home when they saw a W lightball, just smaller than full moon and slightly dimmer than 100W bulb. Followed it and saw it stop. They accelerated towards it at 70MPH (passenger becoming so excited he stood on the seat and leant out of the window!) It resolved as a clear traditional saucer shape with a central row of orange lights which seemed to pass behind struts as the body of the object rotated. The top and underside were grey. Size was said to be about 30-35 ft diameter and height no more than 70-80 ft. Object moved away and changed back into ball shape (witnesses feel this was the light on top of the dome seen at different angle) Accelerated out of view. Witnesses frightened and reported encounter to local police station. A similar object has been reported in the area several times since (see below) and NUFON has several reports (inc a CE3) on file for the immediate area (around Leigh) for October 1978 (between Oct 3 and Oct 8 in fact) Case 79-143 Insuff data



 RETURN OF THE GOLBORNE THING MUFORA Investigation by Peter Hough
 Aug 31 1980 01.40 Golborne, Gtr Manchester MED Level A

Two independant reports of the same phenomenon. Edna Procter (49) and her daughter Edith (30) observed between 01.40 and 02.05. Through bedroom window in W saw a shower of red sparks coming from a rectangle/oval object. Presumed it to be a helicopter but heard no sound. An orange mist surrounded the rear, which reflected a curious orange colour on the clouds. A pulsing red light was seen through the mist. An orange window was seen on the sides and two yellow lights on the end. They left the object - still hovering - after 25 minutes of observation. Mrs B Harvey (43) was the other local

The PROCTER sighting

witness. She observed between 02.00 and 02.15 at which time the object shot over her head and out of sight at terrific speed. She seems to have seen the object end on NOT seeing the window, mist or lights but seeing the object as round with modules



The HARVEY sighting

It was also observed to lower something down towards a reservoir and then retract it up again. Subsequently she had several telephone calls from a mysterious man who claimed to be a scientist from Jodrell Bank. He said he had been with President Carter when he saw his "UFO". This man arranged a "debriefing" at Jodrell Bank but never showed up to collect her. Jodrell Bank deny all knowledge of this man and in fact have forwarded all witnesses to NUFON for several years now, having no study project into UFOs of their own. Case 8037 UNKNOWN

 THE NASTY SIDE OF A UFO ENCOUNTER - Parasearch investigation by Martin Keatman
 Feb 21 1967 23.00 Stafford, Staffs CE 1 An Physio Level A

This case came to light by virtue of a casual question to a witness to the re-entry of COSMOS 1068 in December 1978. She (37 yr old Patricia Blake) recounted an earlier nasty encounter.

It was a cold clear night after a blustery day. The family's 3 yr old labrador started to growl and bark. Thinking it was thirsty she got out of bed and gave it a drink (her husband was on nightshift). It did not drink and started trembling. A little bothered she returned to bed, hoping it would calm down, and a few minutes later she heard a high pitched hum which emanated from outside. It gradually increased in volume until it started to throb and hurt her lower ears and jawline. The effect was much like a change in pressure as noticed when climbing steeply. Sitting up in bed her 2 yr old son also sat up, apparently aware of the noise.

Throwing back the curtains they were both entranced by a large object apparently hovering over the opposite rooftops. It had an orange bar light and a grey dome with five windows on it. These flashed in a continuous fixed sequence with a blinding white glare and the witness had to shut the curtains because of the effect of these lights (hypnotic?) (NOTE the remarkable similarity with the 1974 case from Stoke reported in NUN APRIL 1980)



The object was still visible through the thick curtains and they continued watching for 5 minutes (the object did not move) Then it made a change in sound - high to low and back to high pitch, before vanishing. The object now vanished. A musty smell pervaded the bedroom (so strong that an air freshener was needed) and Mrs Blake found it very hard to sleep because of the pain in her ears/jaw which still persisted. The dog remained fretful and had to sleep in the bedroom although this behaviour was/is uncharacteristic (it is still alive).

Her son and the dog were off food for the next day. She had to take two days off work because of the pain (which gradually subsided) She was also abnormally tired for two days, sleeping during the day. Her husband advised her not to report the sighting unless it was mentioned in the press. It was not and so Mrs Blake has kept this to herself. Her husband confirms the after affects but her son does not recall the sighting, although he has seen a ghostly figure in the house. CASE 6725 UFO

 A POSSIBLE CE3 CAR-STOP EMPRA investigation by Mark Brown
 July 17 1980 00.25 Ellistown, Leicestershire CE3(?) EM (?) Level A

Mr White was driving home after visiting his girlfriends when his car (a 1973 Hillman Avenger) flattered and stopped. The petrol gauge showed empty. He decided to walk into the village where he knew he could wake the owner of a garage. After a few yards he noticed his watch had just stopped (it was an LCD) Then he passed a strange man - very tall (about 7 ft) just wearing a polo neck jumper despite the cold. He had a long, thin, pale face with thin lips and long dark hair. He said nothing. The police later affirmed that they had had reports of this strange man in the area and he had not responded to people. Continuing Mr White passed a field and saw a dark object like an upturned pudding basin in it with a beam of light projecting into the sky from the top. He connected this with the man and, worried, proceeded on.



He got some petrol but would not walk back past the field to the car. Instead he walked on a further 3 miles to stay the night at his grandparents. Next morning he returned to the car. The gauge now showed $\frac{1}{4}$ full and the car started first time. Analysis by EMPRA suggests that a petrol gauge failure might have occurred and that in any case it is most unlikely an EM field would effect the kind of gauge carried on the car. The watch still does not work, but the type of failure also seems unaccountable by an EM field (continuous fixed display of 12.25) The case has more questions about it than answers!