

NORTHERN UFO NEWS

79



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ISSUE 79

 A very happy christmas to all those associated with NUFON, and to all UFO enthusiasts in general..... JENNY & PAUL

Subscriptions 1981... These are now due (if an "X" appears in this place) X (£330 due Jan)

We have maintained these at 1980 levels (£3.60 for 12 issues), despite massive inflation. Please support us by remitting this quickly. Cheques/POs to NUFON please.

 EDITORIAL: "The Mysterious World of Arthur C. Clarke"

What was the mysterious fall of bank-notes addressed to one A.C. Clarke by Yorkshire TV? What is the function of the strange umbrella-topped megalith which stood on our television screens each Tuesday night? Is there anybody out there (or are the TV audience ratings to be believed)? Mysteries from the files of Arthur C. Clarke, author of "2001" and inventor of the communication satellite, now in retreat in Sri Lanka. Hands up those who said he should have stayed there!

For thirteen weeks Yorkshire TV has seen fit to besiege us with such intrós to their MYSTERIOUS WORLD series - a project on which they have spent an amount of money they have asked me not to disclose (but it would keep you in report forms for a few millenia). Was it all worth it?

Nick Lord, one of the production team, first approached me in July 1979 along with several other paranormal researchers. Peter Warrington and I met with him a couple of times prior to the global tour and the filming of the programmes. Arthur, it seems, was lured from his mountain top merely as a figure head to sell the series to America (the only way to justify the cost of making it). Over there he is not just a sci-fi writer but a star, you see. (I wonder if anyone ever misidentified him as a UFO??) I remember saying to Nick, "But he doesn't know or care anything about these subjects" To which I was told, "Don't worry - we will be writing his scripts." Of course, so far as the public is concerned, Dear Arthur is the expert (as John Morris pointed out last month) Mind you he did not even write the book of the series himself, which must say something. Mysteries from the files of Arthur C. Clarke is so much old codswallop, but then I suppose minor considerations like 'source acknowledgment' never enters the media mind (not even a teletext line zipping by in the final credits), and mysteries from the files of FSR or FORTEAN TIMES does not sound quite so enthralling - does it?

I have found the series a bit of a bore, with each subject covered so superficially in the 25 minutes that it is little more than an expensive picture show. Arthur's 'investigations' make the Condon Committee look like the Spanish Inquisition. All the burning questions which were ripe for attack lay untouched. I doubt if anyone has learnt anything from the programmes, except that mysteries exist, which is hardly a revelation worth the sum spent on it.

The UFO programme went out on November 4. A few days before Nick Lord rang me up to find out what the pictures were they intended to use (who took them, where etc) After 15 months work I was given 2 hours to come up with the data! (Incidentally don't think any of that vast sum spent made its way towards Warrington - it didn't!) "I don't think you will like the programme much," Nick said to me, which was hardly the prediction of the century. Even Jeanne Dixon could have made that one.

Actually it was not too bad. Fortunately advice had been listened to and two cases of reasonable recommendation (the Jessie Roestenberg and Livingston events) were used as convincing evidence of something. So - one dubious piece of film was shown to look like an aircraft. So - Arthur has once been fooled by a weather balloon. So - there are logical arguments against UFOs coming from space. Oddly Arthur had more to say than he did in most of the other "epics". Yet he said nothing positive. He did not even begin to answer what Jessie or Bob Taylor had experienced. In fact he never even posed the question! And there was me thinking that was the whole point!

After the pictures and witnesses I, like everyone else, was none the wiser. There was no attempt whatsoever to get to grips with the phenomenon. The age old trap was fallen into... UFOs are spaceships, so if we argue spaceships are illogical we prove that UFOs don't exist. Even the witnesses spoke of their UFOs as spaceships with no apparant justification. We were not shown one actual expert. Not one sensible idea (or even nonsensical idea) was put forward about what UFOs might be. We were left to believe that UFOs might just as well be a Jimmy Carter election ploy as anything else (and we all know what happened to him!) It was totally apathetic (readers may choose whether to delete the "a")

After the Tunguska comet/meteor/black hole/UFO programme (one of the few which was instructive) I asked Nick about public reaction. "Its not been as big as what we expected. We slipped out of the top twenty after the first week," he said. "We are now trying to find out why" I could have told him - but what was the point?

It seems to me the biggest mystery of them all has to be how Yorkshire TV managed to spend so much money doing so little and making so many potentially mind-boggling enigmas about as exciting as the test card! Let's see Arthur tackle that one!

A STEERING COMMITTEE FOR NUFON? It has become increasingly evident, particularly in view of the need for direct relationships with MAUFOG (the southern network), that we need a team of administrative people (who will be vested with no authority). The purpose of a steering committee would be negotiative, administrative (ie to handle NUFON publications etc) and recommendatory (to plan and recommend helpful new proposals for voting, as is the practice, at a full meeting of all groups). This proposal emerges from discussions between NUFOIS and MUFORA (the two groups presently responsible for most NUFON administration). Les Hall and Syd Henley, of the former, and Jenny Randles and Peter Warrington, of the latter, have made known their willingness to act on such a body. This matter should now go to you (the groups) for consideration. Any objections must be raised in writing by January 10, otherwise we shall take the concept as acceptable. If there are any dissentors it will go to a full vote of all groups at the first opportunity. Any other person willing to help such a team may say so, in writing, and their name will be put forward to you all for consideration. Such persons must be prepared to take a positive, active role in NUFON matters. A second proposal, to be treated by you in the same way, is that as from the next NUFON conference (planned for around March 1981) this steering committee (along with representatives of the local group responsible) will have the task of organisation. In this way it is hoped even better standards may be achieved.

NEWS ROUND-UP

- !! Surprise, surprise... response to the theme for the January 1981 issue, "UFOs Exist Because..." has been very low. The concept of a competition has had to be abandoned because of this. Does this mean that all you active ufologists cannot justify your belief in UFOs? Next month's issue will certainly be worth seeing. Any last minute contributions can be accepted up to January 1st. How about it?
- :: There has also been almost nil response from groups updating their information for the 1981 Northern Groups Directory. Please forward the current status of your group a.s.a.p., viz membership, projects, equipment, working basis etc.
- :: More data is to hand on the BUFORA 1981 International Congress (a date not to be missed) It will be Bank Holiday weekend, MAY 24-25, at the Mount Royal Hotel in London. Speakers lined up include Dr Bruce Maccabee, Dr Allen Hynek, Dr Alaine Esterle (GEPAN), and Charles Bowen. Others will be announced shortly. Details from: 6 Cairn Avenue London W5 5HX (Tel: 01-629-6618, day or 01-723-0305, night).
- :: UFO PHENOMENA, the Italian publication, have announced preliminary plans for a two-day symposium for selected active ufologists on a set theme (to be chosen) somewhere in Europe next summer. More details when available.
- :: Jenny Randles of MUFORA addressed the House of Lords All-Party UFO group on December 2, at the House itself. A report on this will be given next month.
- :: UFO NETWORK, 2 St Ivian Crt, Colneyhatch Lane, London N10 have a directory at £1 of all UK groups, magazines, UFO booksellers etc. They admit they are a business venture and £2 for a few duplicated sheets of addresses is a "rip-off" but NUFON has worked with them to update their lists and it will be a useful asset to anyone wishing to expand their contacts in the UK ufo field.

Short of ideas for a Christmas Present? If so then look no further than a terrific new book, PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE UNKNOWN (New English Library, £7.95), by Robert Rickard (editor of Fortean Times, co-author of PHENOMENA) & Richard Kelly. This is 144 pages packed with large sized photos of all conceivable weird phenomena. You will find UFOs, ball lightning, ghosts, poltergeists, stigmata, simulcra and so on. The scope is endless. A collection of the best evidence for the existence of the paranormal. The text is fairly superficial, but then that is not what this book is about. If you want to convince a sceptic, or if you want to suggest someone buy it you, it is well worth the money. Highly recommended.

Next month there will be a review of the 1980 British UFO books with a look to 1981 where new works by Janet & Colin Bord, Paul Deveraux, Jenny Randles and Jenny (along with Paul Whetnall) are all in the offing.

ELSEWHERE THIS MONTH..... FSR are back on regular schedule now with Vol 26 No 4 Good international flavour this time but with a report on the Clifton Campville CE1 from our area...FORTHEAM TIMES has quite a UFO influence in its Autumn 80 issue Hilary Evans on abductions, plus Ufocals, the Enfield poltergeist and the usual news columns...MUFORA JOURNAL November 80 has a Raymond Drake article on UFOs in the past.(What has happened to CONTACT UKS publications these days?)...LEMR publish No of Lincolnshire Dragon features Bob Monell's "Paranormal or Normal?" critique plus Lincolnshire mysteries...East Anglian mysteries in BSIGs Autumn 80 LANTERN (inc leys & UFOs)...SIGAPs PEGASUS features several Surrey UFO cases (inc a CE3)...EARTHLINK Winter issue is as varied and interesting as usual including major reports and articles on animal mutations...QUEST from UFO International features a look at the links between UFOs and fairies...finally a new magazine to note SEARCH (West) (£2.20 for 4 issues,120 Savernake Ave,Melksham,Wilts SN12 7HQ) Good litho print + photos.Pieces on Warminster as a UFO "ghost-town" and UFO photography.

THE GREAT DEBATE by Jenny Randles

On Saturday November 8 Birmingham University staged a one-day seminar on UFOs & EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE - The facts and arguments.Putting the view forward that there was no evidence came Ian Ridpath,science journalist,author and noted debunker of UFOs.On the opposite side of the fence sat Peter Warrington and myself.

The course attracted about 80 people on a dismal,murky day and the time passed quickly in interesting debate.It was a pity to see so few ufologists there.A couple of MAUFOG groups had travelled north,but aside from this and the presence of the local group UFOSIS in some numbers,only a handful of MUFORA members and the odd UFOIN affiliate made the journey.Why I wonder? This was the perfect opportunity to see and challenge the arguments of the "opposition"..yet most shrank away from it.

Ian Ridpath was off first with a nicely illustrated 1½ hour paper concentrating on the search for alien life.He concluded that it ought to be abundant,but that we have no evidence for its existence,despite considerable efforts.He then expanded from this to show how he thought UFOs could not be extraterrestrial because of the distances involved and the simple physics.Then he argued that all classic UFO cases could be shot down with enough investigation and cited the Hill Abduction (which is regarded as identified by Phillip Klass as Jupiter) and the Travis Walton case, which he said was strongly indicative of a hoax.

Peter Warrington, in presenting the 1½ hour reply after lunch, chose not to challenge these identifications.He and I (working together in a kind of NEWS AT TEN partnership where I emphasised the important points with quotes and explanation of supportative research work) decided to show the ambiguity of the evidence,but the apparant presence of a signal in the noise.After discussing the problems of UFO evidence (media,witness and investigator bias) and the two-way split between objective and subjective phenomena,examples were given.Work by Phillips,Vallee, Guerin,Lawson,Haines and Jung was quoted showing that whilst much of the data was spurious and the rest ambiguous in its interpretation one fact did stand out.A phenomenon of some description existed.Even if there was no novel stimuli for this (and that remained a possibility, despite the challenge of some of the best cases) something of scientific interest was going on.

After tea there was a final 1½ hours of open debate.Questions ranged far and wide,covering most of the expected topics (cover-ups,abductions,crashed saucers etc)Interestingly only a handful of people claimed to have had a sighting and none were other than LOW or MEDIUM definition.

In summing up Ian said,"On Mondays,Wednesdays and Fridays I think its all nonsense,but on other days I think there just might be something in it!" Jenny and Peter reiterated that there ought to be a middle-ground,which they hoped they fell into.Not total acceptance of the evidence (per se), nor outright scepticism, but an open-minded approach coupled with a careful,almost pessimistic, optimism?

In the long run it seemed as if the two sides of the battlefield on the platform were closer together than might be imagined,even though Jenny and Peter affirmed their belief that certain cases presently remained unexplained (eg the Peter Day movie film) and Ian said he felt that all cases were potential identifications in due course.The gulf which existed seemed to be more between these three together and certain elements of the audience - who clung to beliefs which are both unprovable and impossible to disprove.That is a strange fact of life in the UFO world and perhaps an interesting pointer towards the way future research will go.If more ufologists are willing to be honest with themselves and the public and admit that they do not know for certain that UFOs represent novel phenomena,then maybe the sceptics will become more friendly and arm an arm the two groups can tackle some of the still unanswered questions.

THEORY OR OBSESSION? by John Morris (of MIGAP)

There is a danger in all types of investigation. We must, as Jenny has said, produce theories as to the possible explanation of the phenomenon. But in producing these theories, let us remember the dictionary definition...THEORY ("A supposition put forward to explain something; speculation; general idea; notion.")

There are, however, always some who become convinced that in their particular theory lies the answer to the problem. Conviction becomes obsession. As the trusty dictionary says...OBSESSION ("Complete domination of the mind by one idea") They will not accept, or even consider, any other theory put forward.

There is now a change in priorities. The theory has taken over. It becomes necessary to defend that theory at all costs, and by all means. Anything that challenges that theory must be attacked and destroyed.

One should bear in mind the fact that in our particular investigation, it is not finding the answer which is of paramount importance but what the result of finding that answer will be. It could well be the end of life on earth as we know it today!

In our investigation of the phenomenon let us search our consciences. Let us ask ourselves - What am I trying to serve? My own Ego, or the human race? On our answer be we judged.

LOW DEFINITION ACTIVITY

Ref.	Date	Time	Location	Level	Investgtn	Evlun
79-144	OCT 19	19.45	Gristhorpe, N Yks	D	MUFORA	Satlite

The witness finished reading UFOs: A British Viewpoint, being very impressed by it. That night he (a man in his twenties) saw his first ever UFO! About to get in his car he saw a brilliant white light move in a semi zig-zag fashion NE-SW. The sky was very clear. Duration 2-3 minutes. No sound. Almost certainly a satellite.

8024	MAY 17	23.45	Morecambe, Lancs	A	NLUFOIG	Insuff
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An elderly lady UFO enthusiast (who has seen many UFOs and psychic phenomena) saw an orange light surrounded by a halo of paler orange from her bedroom. It was in the NW, elevation 20 degrees, stationary but rose slightly until after ten minutes it went out of view at elevation 50 degrees. It was brighter than Venus (also visible)

8040	SEP 13	22.10	Kirton Lindsey, Lincs	E	SUFORS	Insuff
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Two brothers driving through village saw orange light over quarry which kept fading out. Last sighting (with them out of car and engine off) it moved towards them and went out again. No sound. In view a couple of minutes, off and on.

8042	OCT 19	20.00	Glasson, Lancs	B	NLUFOIG	Insuff
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20 yr old woman saw W pulsing LITS over docks. Moved from side to side in 10 degree arc. In view 10 minutes as she drove by. 3½ hours later on return with friend (after night out) saw same light in E doing same thing for 15 mins until they drove past. Main witnesses had seen UFO before (orange light) and was interested in subject.

AN INTERESTING MISIDENTIFICATION MUFORA Investigation by Jenny Randles (8044)

John Booth, his wife and their two sons (aged 24 and 20) were all witness to a phenomenon on November 12 1980 from their home in Birchwood, Cheshire. Time 18.00. When first reported to me (via a friend) on November 14 they claimed the sighting was on the Tuesday not Wednesday, but were persuaded later when weather records proved this impossible; (This confusion was just two days after the event!) They said their eldest son (who is in the army and skilled at aircraft recognition) first saw it and brought them to see a pulsing white patch of light through cloud. It moved across the sky SE-NW, towards St Helens before fading after 15 mins. Checks with Manchester Airport and Manchester Weather Centre revealed no explanation except that the big oil refinery at Carrington (8 miles SE) were burning off fuel and this was reflecting from clouds. This was clearly seen by myself just 1 mile from where the Booths were that night. It was spectacular but was decidedly orange or flame coloured and completely stationary. Certainly it did not cover 180 degrees of sky in 15 minutes. It was later possible to confirm the family did see this oil refinery reflecting from clouds, despite their testimony, and a clear warning of witness fallability was given. A full report on this important case study will be published in INVESTIGATION.

The effects of a belief system PARASEARCH Report by Stephen Banks (6509)

The witness is 26 yr old Karn Franck-Nye, an unmarried mother with a young child. At the time (September 1965 or 1966, at 18.00) she was 11. Her father and sister saw the phenomenon too. Basically this was two white blobs which hovered in the SW for 10 minutes, moving about in relation to each other and then moving off leaving a vapour trail. Several explanations are possible. Karn is a very emotional person, with a strong artistic background (now a drama student). She has had a traumatic home life and twice tried to commit suicide. Her belief systems centre on obscure religions and psychic phenomena. She has had the full range of these, OOBs, telepathy, precognition apparitions and poltergeists, to a marked degree. Although some things still occur they were most prominent around time of adolescence (ie. around the time of this UFO sighting) This summary is from Stephen's excellent 17pp UFOIN report on the case.

8041 OCT 14 09.15 Goole, Humberside B SUFORS (R. Addinall) Balloon

35 yr old postwoman Sheila Lefley was on her round on a clear morning when she spotted a round silver object at 2000 ft. It reflected light like a mirror, looked like a beachball and moved slowly SW for 5 mins until obscured by trees. A balloon from a local Air Force base was reported lost that day and this fits the facts.

8043 NOV 11 21.30 Flint, Clwyd B MUFORA (J. Randles) Meteor?

Karl Sunderland, the eldest child in the Sunderland family (16), saw his first UFO. It was a single blue/white light moving W-E along the Dee Estuary. He saw it for 10 seconds as it speeded up and shot away to the horizon. Following behind on the same path was a pink bar that streaked across - "like a meteor".

MYSTERIOUS PHENOMENON OVER CUMBRIA March/April 1951

Thanks are due to Australian Ufologist David Seargent (author of UFOs: A Scientific Enigma) for sending this report to us.

A man and his father touring England and Scotland were driving through the dark moorland roads of the Lakes between Keswick and Carlisle, where they were to meet a London train. It was cold and snow was on the ground. As they came a few miles from the city they saw an orange light in the SE which they took to be the engine of the train in the far distance. As it came closer they could hear the sound like steam. Shortly they realised this thing was heading towards them obliquely at a point where the father (a native) knew there were no roads or rail lines. The object came to hover above the road ahead, spanning across the width and that of the trees on either side. It was now shaped like an elongated cone of orange/red. Frightened they drove on and passed directly underneath the phenomenon with it still making its steam hiss noise. It then seemed to move off back the way it had come. It had been in view about 30 minutes. Shortly afterwards they arrived at Carlisle station. The train was not there yet and nobody could explain what they had seen. They thought it must be marsh gas, but this seems very unlikely considering the shape, sound and length of observation.

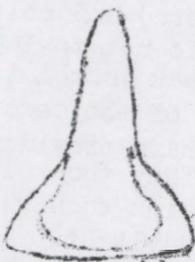


EAST COAST ENCOUNTER CEL Physio Report by Nigel Watson of SUFORS

August 8 1980 22.45 Humberston, Cleethorpes, Humberside Level A

The sighting took place on a dark footpath through open country that links the estate of Humberston with Cleethorpes on the east coast. There are small streams and electricity pylons in the area, which is used infrequently as a short cut. The witness was a 17 year old student who was running along the path in the direction of home when he spotted a light out of the corner of his eye and he turned back to have a look.

Looking to the west he noticed a tall cigar-shaped object standing in the vertical position. The end nearest to the ground was rather bulbous. It was estimated as hovering 50 ft from the ground about 150-200 ft away. To his senses it seemed 25 to 30 ft wide at the bulbous end and 50 ft tall. It was over an adjacent field. The whole thing was lit by a white incandescent glow, which was bright and yet did not seem to light up any of the surrounding countryside. At the right hand bottom edge there was a beam of light emitted from the object at a 45 degree angle, projecting towards the ground.



There is then an apparant time lapse (which may only have been seconds).The witness finds himself crouching by the bushes, absolutely terrified.He has no feeling in his legs and his hair is "prickling" (static electricity?).All he can remember thinking is that he must not be seen.After about 5 seconds the object vanished and he ran, stumbling into the bushes to gain cover rather than take the direct route in the open.He reported the incident on arrival to the local newspaper who came round to interview him.They attested to his shocked condition next morning.He looked as if he had not slept.Grimsby police were notified by the witness the same night and interviewed him immediately.They too testified to his traumatised fear.Two newspaper employees, on the same path, without knowing of the sighting saw a bright meteor exactly one hour later and reported it.The main witness was sceptical of UFOs, although he does claim some low-level psychic experiences eg precognition of personal things and a child experience (verified by his brother) when an amorphous mass was seen to rise out of his body!

CEL Psycho AUGUST 14 1980 04.00 Grimsby, Humberside Level E

Nigel also advises of the following case, in the same area as the one above. 21 yr old Mark Finning had fallen asleep downstairs when he awoke "for no reason" from a heavy sleep. Again for no reason he went straight to the window and saw a bright white scissor shaped object in the sky over Cleethorpes (SE). He watched it for 20 minutes until it vanished. It then reappeared and he watched it for 30 more minutes (waking his parents to show them). As daylight came it was rising, but faded out into the bright sky. The actual object bears all the hallmarks of Venus, which was bright in the early am sky at the time. Another close encounter induced by a misidentification? The witness does not report seeing venus and he could not have missed it!

Reports in this issue: LOW (5) MED (4) CEL (2) TOTAL 11
 Insuff data 4 Balloon 1 Meteor 1 Refelction 1 Satellite 1 Venus 1
 UFO 2 (18%)

Thanks to: MUFORA MIGAP NLUFOIG PARASEARCH SUFORS John Morris,
 Bob Rickard & David Seargent.

AT LAST - A CE 3!

After a year when things have been remarkably quiet we do, at last, have a CE 3 to report from our area. The case has received a little media publicity and at the moment details are scanty but a full scale investigation has been undertaken by Gordon Barraclough and Ian Cresswell on behalf of NLUFOIG and UFOIN. More data will be published when it is available.

The events appear to have taken place on or about November 20 1980, at night, in a remote area by the side of a river at Burnside, near Kendal in Cumbria. The witness was out with his dog at the time, although the dog does not appear to have shown any reaction whatsoever to the presence of the phenomenon.

Mario Luisi (aged 36) observed a strange object hovering just off the ground. It was not unlike a squashed-up airplane, covered in a kind of dark smoked-glass or perspex. It apparently had some strange markings on it. Mario heard slushing sounds

in the undergrowth beside him so he pointed a strong, square car-type lantern towards the sound.

It seems that two "entities", a

man and a woman, were heading in his direction. A pencil-like weapon that they were holding emitted a beam (or reflected the light from the lantern) and melted the front causing it to go out! (Despite the police advising Mario not to let the lantern out of his possession after their analysis of it he has loaned it UFOIN for analysis work) The entities, described by Marion as "two of the most beautiful people I have ever seen" told him he would come to no harm provided he did not talk about the markings on the craft or their clothing! They then climbed into craft and this rose into the sky. Sue Critchley, a farmer, claims to have seen a very similar object a few miles from Kendal 5 days later, in daylight. As explained the investigation is proceeding.

