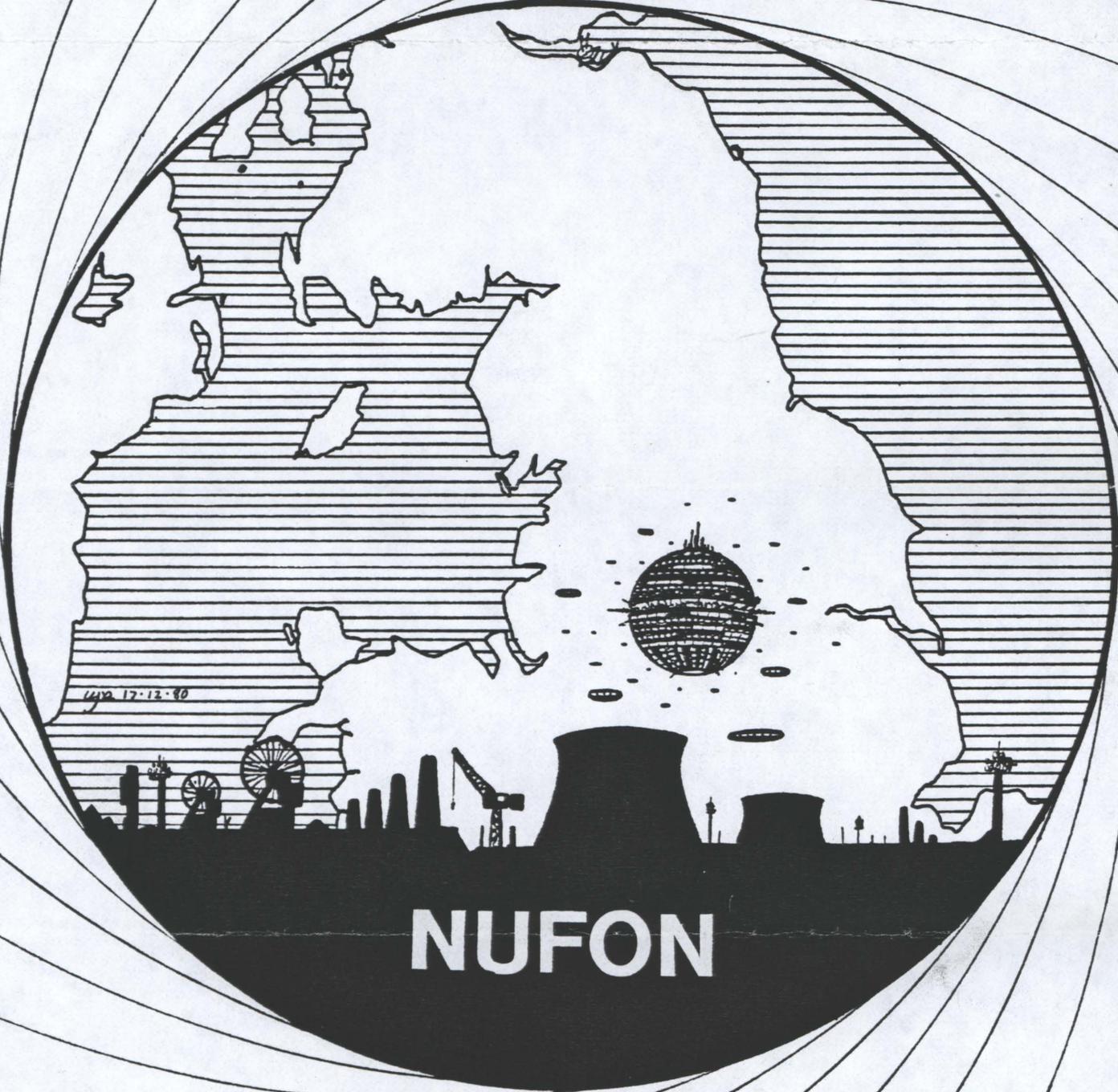


NORTHERN UFO NEWS



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A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND ALL THE BEST FOR '82. TO ALL READERS OF THE N.U.N.

Editorial: "Home truths that hide behind the smiles"

Nigel Kneale, creator of Quatermass, is clearly a UFO fan. His six-part series KINVIG (ITV), whose screening has just ended, made this rather obvious.

Kinvig was a mild mannered comedy which poked gentle fun at us UFO fan-atics, but almost as an aside put many telling points about the presumptions we make. Des Kinvig and his mate Jim are the kind of ufologists we prefer to think do not exist (except that we all know most of our societies consist of folk like them!) They read all the latest "gen" in their "club newsletter" and swop sighting reports like stamps. To them it is all literal truth. There is never any need to question the substance. If Harvey Rutter says he met an alien with "inter-species confusion" (trying to hold a conversation with a cow because it couldn't tell the difference!) then it happened. No doubt about it.

But Des and Jim take their enthusiasm a little further than most (or possibly a little further, that is!) For they leave the humdrum modern world (where Des is a lazy, unsuccessful backstreet shop owner and Jim an unemployed layabout) to enter into "Star Wars" against the Gzugs, an alien race trying to infiltrate the local borough council and thus take over the world. Des has the apparant ability to make "astral projections", in the true sense of the word, projecting himself at will into a CE4 encounter with friendly aliens who live on Mercury (including the seductive Miss Griffin...a grumbling regular customer who has a spare time job as intergalactic warrior queen). He gained this ability after a UFO landed near his shop whilst he was taking "Cuddly" the dog out for an early am walk. He was invited aboard to fix it (sound familiar?) and "it", of course, was made up of old fashioned valves without a trace of the microchip. (Again, sound familiar?)

Each storyline was full of such gems, clever parody that would pass over the heads of most. This might explain why KINVIG was not a success, being shunted all over the schedules, from mid evening to childrens time to approaching midnight! It was a specialist "in joke" at a time when UFOs were not very popular, but for us it was surely quite timely.

Kinvig's wife, Netta, decides to get interested in UFOs and reads the mag which they buy (called - would you believe - UFO NEWS) She sees a picture of a supposed UFO and says, "Ooh, look at that," comments on how poor it is, but then on seeing it was taken by a single ten year old witness adds "Oh, but its not bad then considering, is it?" Then ponders, "Aint it funny how these pictures all look like lampshades or pietins. I reckon we must get our ideas for lampshades and pietins from space." Kinvig, half asleep, murmurs "I expect you're right."

This relation between fact and fiction was the whole point of the story. Kneale has seen clearly how in ufology one blends into the other. Jim gets his ideas on how to defeat the "humanoids" by reading old sci-fi books, "But that was fiction not meant to be real," Kinvig tells him. "Authors", Jim cries, "They think they're writing fiction, but we know different."

It is obvious to the discerning viewer that the CE4s which Des undergoes are a dream/hallucination. But he believes them, even though all the evidence to the contrary stares him in the face. And he can so easily persuade others like Jim. They want to believe. And they gain something from this belief. They escape.

I suspect there were far more home truths lurking in this short series. Whilst you and I realise that UFOs are more than just a joke, as I think Kneale might well do too, a parody like this can be of great benefit if we sit up and listen. Of course, the least likely people to do that are the ones concerned. The point of characature is rarely seen by the characters being characatured!

Netta summed it up when asked by Des if she believed in flying saucers, "Of course I do...everyone does. They're like drainpipes." "Drainpipes?" Kinvig intones. "Yes, just because you don't see them doesn't mean they aren't there."

I don't expect a sequel or repeats, but if there is watch it - and learn!

Apologies are due to this issue being a little smaller than normal. This is due to unforeseen difficulties, which are temporary. NEXT MONTH the first issue of NUFON CASE HISTORIES will be distributed to those who have ordered it. It is expected to contain a review of what we know about the Woodbridge Air Base military contact. The next NUN will appear in February. If an "X" appears here X your subscription is expired. NUN (All eight 1982 issues) costs £2.80. £4.20 will bring this and Issues 1 to 4 of CASE HISTORIES (when they appear). Cheques & POs made out to NUFON please. Thank you.

NEWS:: :: It is sad to have to announce the death, on November 10, of Dr Geoffrey Doel, vice-president of BUFORA and a leading member of that society for sometime. I am sure I echo all your feelings in expressing sympathy to friends and family.

:: CHRYSIS announce a change in secretarial address, It is now:

E.Ollis 7 Cotswold Drive Redcar Cleveland TS10 4AD

:: MADABOUT, the Children's TV series hosted by Michael Bentine which has been mentioned in this column before, is to feature UFOs in his programme "Mad-about Mystery" The show will be ITV networked at 4.20 on Wed, Feb 17 1982.

:: Christmas promises a TV treat for UFO fans. ITV have the premier of CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND, which I am sure we have all seen at least once. Meanwhile BBC also premier the classic movie 2001-A Space Odyssey. They do not clash. Arthur C Clarke has, incidentally, been paid "rather a lot" to write the sequel for 2001, to be published in 1983 and eventually filmed. Carl Sagan has also earned himself around half a million dollars for the screenplay to a new movie about "man's first contact with alien beings". No doubt these will signal a new wave of interest in UFOs, so I doubt if we will begrudge our (allbeit richer!) colleagues.

:: A new book catalogue doing the rounds is full of old hardback and soft back UFO bargains, and some classic mags too (like old FSRs) Available from MIDDLE EAST BOOKS 16 Brockenhurst Gardens Mill Hill London NW7 2JX (01-959-7615). SAE.

:: On November 26 the Aetherius Society won its battle against the Warrington Borough Council, through a government enquiry. After complaints WBC tried to stop the UFO group (registered as a church and able to conduct marriages!) from holding services in a garage amidst a housing estate. Certain restrictions were placed on this "church" building and the congregation is limited now to seven. I suppose that if God does drive a flying saucer he has to have somewhere to park!

MAGAZINES... COMMON GROUND (3) features ghost trains, coincidences and a piece by Nigel Watson on the 1909 phantom airship wave in the UK. Plus much more. Good stuff. Bill Gibbons has issued No 2 of SUFONs News Circular, keeping readers up to date on Scottish news between the quarterly Scottish Bulletin. ASSAP produce their first n/1. Nicely laid out but mainly launching ASSAP and introducing its aims. Common Ground will supplement ASSAP News as the journal of record. CONTACT are back with us with an AWARENESS (inc chemical substances involved in UFO sightings) & the 1979 (!) UFO REGISTER (inc an important paper on prediction of the geographical and temporal location of future waves and a HAPI report on Leicestershire cases) Finally, NUFOIS, publish part one of a valuable index to FSR articles Vol 20 to 26 (1975-1981). It costs 50p (plus post) from NUFOIS HQ.

REVIEW: RESEARCHING THE IMPROBABLE "Diseases from Space" Sphere 241pp £1.50

This book by Professors Fred Hoyle & NC Wickramasinghe is nothing to do with UFOs. You may not even be convinced by its thesis, that diseases such as 'flu are not transmitted from person to person but fall (en masse), in patches, from space. The meteors and comets take the blame for our misery. The reason why I do strongly recommend that you read it is that it represents exactly the kind of problems we face and precisely what to do about them. The authors had a suspicion that the "obvious" answer, which 99% of scientists cling to, had to be wrong, even though nobody had even thought to seriously question it. So they set about designing experiments to test their unconventional idea. This book chronicles how they challenged convention, but more importantly how they collected their data, tried to avoid pitfalls and designed experiments to answer the right questions. It is a model of how Ufology might conduct itself with scientific dignity. Whether they are right or wrong about their inferences, and they do make out a good case, the real value is not in the results but the method. We should all try to learn from it.

BUFORA PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Last month I mentioned that exciting new plans were afoot in British ufology. Whilst there is much still to be done I will give a progress report on what is happening. The final draft of the CODE OF PRACTICE was agreed in Nottingham on November 14, with several NUFON groups attending, several southern groups, and representation from BUFORA, and UFOIN. BUFORA have already accepted the code. It's exact wording is presently being tightened up by a lawyer before it will be issued to the UFO community and the general public. This is a significant step into the light. A provisional committee to administer the application of the code has been formed by those who have devised it. A first meeting will be held on JAN 30 in Bristol. This will decide how it can be ensured the code will work. Any other group interested in being represented should contact PROBE at 16 Marigold Walk, Ashton,

Bristol, BS3 2PD. ASSAP also continues to develop with approaching 200 national members (many qualified, including PhDs). At the Manchester launch meet, Nov 21, it was advised that its investigation team is being organised regionally, and is being rationalised with Ufology's approach. ASSAP will work with Ufology on cases where this will be advantageous, but will not be creating a rival investigation team. Meantime, BUFORA and UFOIN are bringing themselves into closer alignment, and this "new alignment" will also be aligned with ASSAP (providing a truly unified system). BUFORA investigations are being severely tightened up. Investigators must now be accredited, and be subject to a regionally based National Investigations Committee. In return they will receive cash subsidies (eg a 50% reduction on BUFORA membership and a 20% additional reduction on members publication costs). Jenny Randles has been given the task of coordinating this reformation and will leave her job as UFOIN secretary at the Jan 9 meeting. However, as 60% of UFOIN members are also BUFORA members it is felt that UFOIN may now agree a phased merger with BUFORA and this plan is to be given serious consideration, by UFOIN's full membership. All in all, UFO investigation in the UK is undergoing a dramatic and much needed facelift. The prospects for the near future look rosey. Much better standards. More regionalisation. Better services to active ufologists. More respect for the public. And, above all else, a bringing together of previously divisive elements. This has to be both significant and very, very welcome. More news in the next issue.

PROGRESS IN WEST YORKSHIRE..... Following comment in the October issue regarding the death of Mr Adamski and Alan D's contact experience (or alleged contact) five months later the matter has once more hit the national press headlines. Indeed as I write MUFORA is having to battle off the press from all over the world, as we are still very unhappy about media coverage of this case. After readers inquiries a few facts must be pointed out. In JUNE 1980 the Adamski disappearance and death received substantial local publicity. Nigel Watson and Paul Bennet have supplied information on UFOs cited by the media as having been seen in the vicinity between the 7th (when Adamski vanished) and the 11th (when his body was found) (June 7 - huge orange ball over Bradford; June 8 - similar objects over Todmorden & Halifax, and after this an apparant spate in South Bradford) From this it is hardly suprising that the "Adamski was killed by UFOs" rumour spread. Why the national press did not latch onto this then is unknown. In NOVEMBER 1980 Alan D had his experience and this was featured in the local paper, including his real name. MUFORA investigated this, and also the Adamski story, with preliminary conclusions as stated in FSR. There is nothing but speculation to link Adamski with UFOs, and nothing at all to link his death with Alan's sighting. Because of the nature of the case when publishing in FSR a pseudonym was given to Alan D (although he had not requested this). In this way it was hoped to control the situation. The resultant publicity (which still seems baffling in the light of the facts) led to the official ban on Alan D, and MUFORA's regression hypnosis sessions stopping midtrack. The origin of the recent SUNDAY MIRROR "exclusive" on these sessions is not known, nor how they overcame the ban. Certainly MUFORA has not cooperated, as a group, with the press, and we are trying hard to sort out what is occurring. Ufologists are advised not to accept what they read in the papers but await, when the time is right, for MUFORA to follow the FSR article "A Policeman's Lot" with the true facts, as they appear to stand. The situation remains highly confused, and I am as confused as most of you are!

NEWS FROM SCOTLAND... Stuart Campbell, BUFORA's Scottish Area Representative, has just completed a report (with Drs Alan Robertson & Tom Straiton) into the Aug 30 1980 (01.00) events at Dumfries. This incident offers some correlation with the NUFOIS Ashbourne case. Four police officers and 16 local residents were witness to stationary lights for an hour. A full report is to be published in JOURNAL TAP.

LOW DEFINITION

8079 SEPT 18 23.30 Walsall, W. Mid File forwarded from British UFO Society. Two white lights, with a red and blue light to either side. Stationary at first then moved off revealing row of "porthole" lights. In view 2 mins. Probably Aircraft, but none-traced witnesses allegedly saw it hover for 30 mins. Elmdon approach is near.

8139 SEPT 24 22.35 Glenluce, Scotland Bill Gibbons (SUFON) Level B Man & dog observed large orange ball at 500', moving at 200 mph. Object estimated as 50' diameter. Moved very fast. Local RAF said they had no flights.

8141 OCT 28 19.30 Stranraer, Scotland Bill Gibbons (NUFON) Level B
Flashing W LITS stationary over Loch. Moved away slowly and hovered several other
times during 3 mins sighting. RAF denied all knowledge of it

8142 NOV 3 19.45 Stranraer, Scotland
As B.G. was talking to the above witness about his sighting along the shores of the
loch a v. bright W LITS was seen over the centre of the lake. It moved east across
the surface for 30 secs and then disappeared. Helicopter??

WEST YORKSHIRE BUZZES AGAIN NUFON 8140 Nigel Mortimer MED Def Level B
Late October saw yet another burst of UFO activity in the Leeds/Bradford area, which
is fast becoming a new Warminster. One of several reports under investigation is
this, dating from OCTOBER 26 1981. At 03.40 garage worker Eric Booth awoke for no
obvious reason (how often have we heard that one!) at his home in Nab Wood, Shipley,
to see an object with flashing lights hovering behind trees close to the ground.
After 10 mins he awoke his wife and they watched it for 30 mins until "it clouded
over and disappeared" (that suggests, to me, that it was not near the ground but a
distant stellar object close to the horizon?..JR) However, a while later (at 06.45)
Mrs Betty Banks of Keighley was making an early morning cup of tea. She is 69. Low
in the sky were two "plank shaped objects" with a bright light at the top end of
each. She felt mesmerised by them and watched for quarter of an
hour to half an hour until they started to "cloud over" and curl
up on themselves "like hedgehogs rolling into a ball". This slow
process was quite majestic, leaving the two balls of light still
remaining and Mrs Banks feeling "deprived", as if she had lost
something wonderful by their disappearance. The objects faded out into the sky as
it brightened with the arrival of daylight. Readers might be reminded of the case
two years ago where an old couple saw "coffins" in the early dawn sky of Nottingham-
shire. Arguments then suggested this was an optical distortion of stellar objects
but nothing was ever proven. Any thoughts on these flying hedgehogs?

IT CAME FROM THE SKY! NUFON Report 8143 Jenny Randles (NUFORA) Level B
Mr M Bond works in a glass fibre factory on an industrial estate beside the
banks of the River Mersey in Runcorn, Cheshire. It was NOVEMBER 9 1981 and the time
was 19.00. The sky was almost completely overcast, and no moon or stars were visible.
Mr Bond was using the payphone in the canteen, which was dark and deserted. The
window was open and he was actually half leaning out of it as he spoke. The factory
was fairly quiet and all he could hear was its usual quiet hum. Suddenly he was
aware of a bright patch of lights illuminating the cloud from above it. It seemed
to be caused by more than one light and was growing noticeably brighter, as if the
object were actually descending towards the cloud ceiling (which he estimates to
have been about 2000 feet, although it was more like 3500 in Warrington) He says
that the effect was similar to looking at a car with headlights on approaching you
through a patch of mist. The level of brightness was similar. At no point was there
any sound. It came down in this way for about a minute and then seemed to recede,
although remaining almost stationary in horizontal location. The lights dimmed, as
if the object were now climbing, and then vanished. Total duration was 2 minutes.
Mr Bond is positive it was not an aircraft, whose searchlight beams were playing
on the clouds from above. I have discussed this with him, although inbound flights
to Liverpool Airport do regularly pass over. There are no ground based searchlights
in the area which could have reflected off the underside of the clouds. The only
option he might accept is that of a helicopter with searchlight hovering just above
the clouds, but he does not think this is very likely, especially as he heard no
sound.

THE IMPORTANCE OF IFOs... In their latest journal the excellent southern group PROBE
almost have to apologise for including Identified case studies in their publication.
This is something they and fellow group SCUFORI do excellently well. They are even
considering a full magazine devoted to "selected IFOs". It is a sad reflection on
some ufologists that we should have to explain an interest in IFOs. A read of Allan
Hendry's superb UFO HANDBOOK is all one needs to confirm their significance. NUN will
continue to publish details of all reports, IFO or not, and CASE HISTORIES might well
use the occasional instructive IFO. Meanwhile PROBE have completed a marvellous case
study into a UFO seen at Warminster (a two tone flattened disc). Extensive re-
construction and analysis of the case seems to have shown it was a new type of toy
balloon (gas filled), and their photographic evidence is quite impressive. They feel
the recent spate of "minidisc" UFOs might be explicable in terms of the arrival of
this new toy. A copy of the PROBE report/analysis is to enter the UFOIN files.