NORTHERN UFO NEWS

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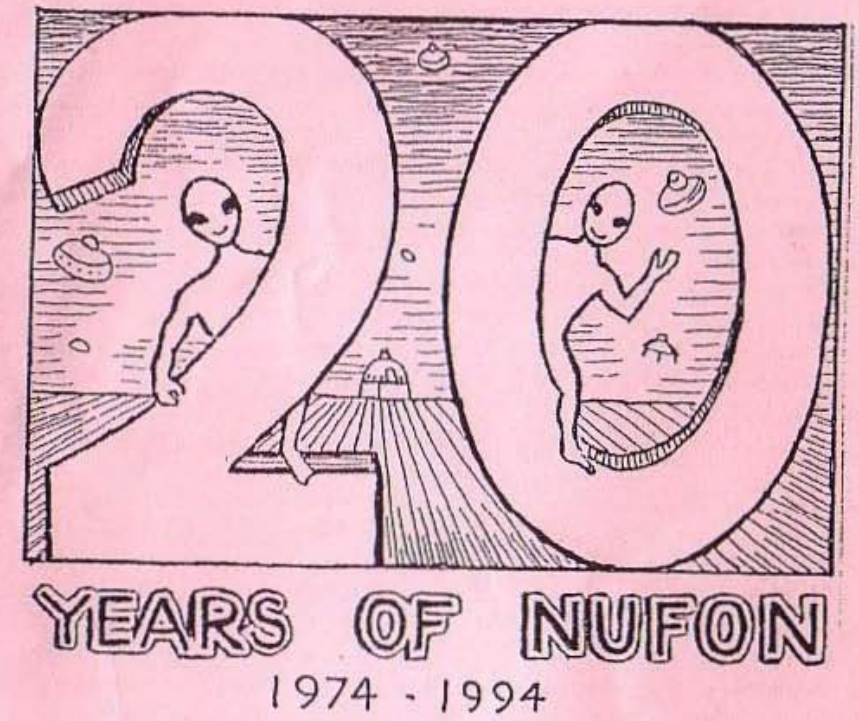

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J.R.Comments...

Welcome to the first Northern UFO News of a new year. Although this is published during 1995 the cover indicates that its real home is the now historical past of 1994! My efforts at creating time travel (see recent writings on that theme) take a new step forward. But,seriously, I wanted to include Roy Sandbach's little picture - drawn when both he and I expected to celebrate our 20th anniversary issue last Summer when it actually occurred (but then everybody does that - so we are being different). We seem to be slipping inexorably backwards and (if my memory stretches that far) this is what should have been the October 1994 edition. That was the month of our house move to the wild and windy Wyre coast when, after consulting hundreds of leaflets describing houses in glowing terms that served to 'tell me lies,sweet little lies', we decided to inform the estate agency - 'you can go your own way' found ourselves tied up in 'the chain' and got to Fleetwood in the rain without a mac. (You may need help to decipher that lot). When we get back on schedule remains to be seen (we will,we will!) - but readers will still get all the issues paid for - just later,rather than sooner!

Following on from the last editorial it has been interesting to see the response to *Star Children.* I had a fascinating chat with Kevin McClure who had just been discussing my book with someone at *Magonia* magazine.I will not say who until they put what they feel in print,but it seems that my writings are now the subject of intense analysis in the corridors of neo-ufology. Frankly I cannot wait to discover whether I am sane or mad and am sure *Magonia* will be the first to tell me.

In fact,what I reported in the last editorial was my real motive for writing this book - and,if I really do have to say it again,it was not to proclaim myself an abductee or star child (in the sense that most people would take such an admission). Let me stress this unambiguously before *Magonia* (or anyone else) overcommit themselves.Yes,I have gone public with some strange things which did all happen and I do not pretend to understand them.But I do not believe that I have been on an ET spaceship.Indeed,if I did I would not be delightedly telling everyone about it because it appears to be a pretty negative factor in ones continued wellbeing.

Let me assure you,if I wanted to make up a story or wish-fulfill myself into the fantasy abduction league I would have told it in gorey detail and sold it to the highest bidder.I may not be very interested in making money but I am not an idiot either.

On the other hand,I have had some intriguing letters - not only from people who find that odd events in their lives might now make some sense,but from responsibly cautious researchers who have told me that they are now giving the question of abductees and contactees a new appraisal.

This is not a book commercial so I will reitterate one theme of the book then you don't have to go out and buy it!

I fear UFOlogy may have overemphasised the differences between fifties style contactees and modern day abductees.We often hear of how these are completely separate issues - the latter involving forced entry and kidnap,the former being more spiritual and voluntary in nature.Yet there is more of a continuum than you might imagine when you assess the evidence.

This poses significant questions about the way we interpret alien contact in todays UFO world.. To some extent Whitley Strieber with his talk of a spiritual *communion* may be nearer the mark than the general image of interfereing extraterrestrial scientists .

When I did the *Jamesons* talk show on BBC Radio Two just after Christmas this was an illuminating experience.I had met Derek (and Ellen) Jameson before and knew of his abiding interest in the subject.He was,as then editor of the *News of the World* responsible for the front page coverage he afforded us on the Rendlesham Forest case in October 1983.

That coverage,perhaps more than anything,influenced public perception on the case and had its culmination in the *Strange but true?* episode about the incident,shown in December and gaining amazing ratings and much media praise.I also felt it showed the baffling reality of the UFO phenomenon better than any words might do.

Anyhow,the Jamesons and I had a long chat (set for 20 minutes but it ran for double that) and at the end he told me that he was glad to see that I was no longer a sceptic.

I pondered that outcome from *Star Children* and I will not try to refute it. But then I do not think I ever really was a sceptic.It is easy to assume so because I endorse earthlights and other UAP.

It is true that I believe that 95% of all sightings are IFOs (misperceptions) and that many of the residual 5% relate to UAP - assorted natural phenomena on the fringes of scientific knowledge.But accepting these facts - which I think any honest appraisal of the data must make one do - is not inconsistent with the possibility of something more.

I have always felt that there seems a good chance of an alien component behind a few cases.Look at my book *Abduction* from 1988 if you don't believe me. However,I guess that I have drawn back from turning possibility into probability and taking that last step.

Yet,in truth,the baffling reality of our best evidence must surely make any honest sceptic wonder just a little.Certainly we could (indeed should) try to reduce everything to brain waves and psychological phenomena,but it still leaves nagging doubts when you look at Trindade Island, McMinnville, Roswell, Rendlesham Forest, Trans-en-Provence,the Ros Reynolds abduction case etc.

Then there are the threads that weave these cases together around the world - plus the persistence of governmental interest which suggests they may suspect (even if they do not know for sure) that something truly strange may be going on.

I think I now see some of the reasons why I ran from openly admitting what I probably knew all along - that there is a good case to be made for an alien component behind some of our data.At least,I no longer feel ashamed of acknowledging such a thing.

Others will no doubt perceive this as a sell out.That I am frustrated or sense greater riches in proclaiming the arrival of ET.But it is not that at all.I will not suddenly lose my caution or willingness to speak out when data falls short of proof.Nor can you simply discard years of training which teach that most of our data has nothing whatsoever to do with alien visitations.

I do not think that an intergalactic fleet is encircling the earth.I do not feel that beings from another dimension are teleporting here every five minutes.But I do suspect a profundity to the UFO field which is nothing to be frightened of.

Frankly,I am not about to write trailblazing books proclaiming mass cover ups and ET landings.So I don't expect I will be getting rich after all.Nor,does it bother me a jot if evidence surfaces tomorrow that shows how all cases are explicable in mundane terms (*a la* Michael Persinger,for instance)

In fact,I would be pleased with any answer to appear because truth is what matters - not which brand of truth it is that emerges.

However,it is well to remember that having an open mind to all possible truths cuts both ways .It includes the acceptance that there could well be something 'alien' behind the strangest of our evidence.

Indeed,if you free yourself from the need to have to support one view above all,then it is surprising how it transforms your enthusiasm for this baffling mystery of ours.

Televisual UFOlogy

Since just before Christmas we have seen a TV blitz of unprecedented proportions.

It began with the last in the series of *Strange but true?* which was the fulfillment of a 14 year long ambition I have had since 1981.Then Brenda Butler,Dot Street and I were struggling to convince even fellow UFOlogists that there was something important behind the Rendlesham Forest case.The way documentary series sniffed,then dropped it, had us musing about conspiracies.

Over the years following the case has had good coverage in the USA.Germany and Japan.But here we have just had a few minutes on Sky TV and that awful debacle on Channel 4 where a sceptic proclaimed the 'lighthouse and police car' theory without even interviewing a single witness or researcher.

I was surprised when I had dinner with Budd Hopkins in Boston a year or two afterwards.He told me the psychologist presenter of that Channel 4 programme was a good ally. Budd had not seen the hatchet job that his friend had done on one of UFOlogy's best cases.

Anyhow,at last,thanks to being consultant to *Strange but true?* it was possible to persuade them to take on this case and do it justice.We were lucky to be able to get many key witnesses together and the early decision to devote the full programme to the case rather than dilute its impact in fifteen minutes (as with other stories) was proved correct.

I had direct association with about half a dozen of the stories in the TV series and I feel this was the best.We covered a great deal and fimed far more than we used.In our book of *Strange but true?* (Piatkus) some of the additional material is included,taken from hours of filming and hundreds of pages of interview transcripts.Yet still one magazine has criticised us for not mentioning the aliens! In fact there was a reason for that.

None of the witnesses we got on film (and that included Colonel Charles Halt and John Burroughs) claim that there were any aliens present.The story that there was chiefly rests on the testimony of Larry Warren and the anonymous source who approached Brenda Butler very early on.So we decided not to complicate the film by discussing elements which no on camera witness would endorse.

I believe that this film shows the reality behind our truly baffling evidence better than anything so far put on TV.The production team were excellent and the whole thing came together. Evidently the media agreed, giving it a big thumbs up.Ratings were amazing as well.This programme got almost 12.5 million viewers - the best of the series.

To put that into context,it means the programme made the top 20 for the week (something very difficult for a documentary to do).It beat soap operas and became the best watched factual programme about UFOs ever seen on British TV.Its audience share was 50%,which means half of every person watching TV that evening (via any of the four terrestrial channels or the dozens of cable and satellite ones) had tuned into this true UFO story.Who said that ours was a minority topic?

In January the long awaited *Network First* on UFOs finally appeared.This was all down to producer Lawrence Moore (a founder of BUFORA long ago) and Tim Good who served as his consultant.That pedigree shone through and *Network First* was probably the most pro UFO hour ever put onto British TV.

I was slightly disappointed by it,I have to say. Tim did not appear himself,possibly for the same reason I was not on *Strange but true?* We agreed that being linked as consultant and co-writing the book of the series with Peter Hough could have led to viewers having doubts about the bias of the item had I also appeared on camera.

On *Strange but true?* we overcame that problem by filming Brenda Butler. *Network First* lacked the same direct input of any UFOlogists and suffered badly,I felt,from Tim not speaking out in persuasive fashion.

Equally,I was not overly impressed with the choice of case material.I felt too much time was spent in Russia,not enough space was devoted to Roswell and the Gulf Breeze affair not a good way to kick off.

The inclusion of Rendlesham (allbeit from a different perspective) was a shame,as it inevitably suffered from *Strange but true?* having covered the case more completely on the same channel just four weeks beforehand.In a sense the fact that they had a witness (Larry Warren) who was not on *Strange but true?* worked to the case's advantage and gave the programme a new angle.It also emphasised just how rich in testimony is this amazing affair.

I would not be over harsh on *Network First* despite my reservations.It served as a good introduction to UFOlogy with media attention and doubling typical series ratings to around 6 million. This once again proves just how powerful a draw is the UFO mystery.

Sandwiched in between was the BBC and *Weird Night* - six hours akin to a visual Fortean Times.There was little UFO data.In fact some filmed interviews with abductees were announced in TV listings magazines and then not screened without any explanation given; although I know they were filmed and the witnesses got paid.

I appeared on a zzz-inducing debate about *the nature of the weird* to round the night off.This was from Ripley's Believe it or Not (sadly the one on a frozen Blackpool pleasure beach rather than Fishermans Wharf in San Francisco!) At least I got a couple of swipes in through sceptic James Randi about how debunkers had claimed credit for good work done by serious researchers (eg on crop circles). Bob Rickard and Lynn Picknett took part as well,but we had to contend with strange co-presenters - a pink cat and blue chicken - not to mention Anthony Wilson.

Following this barrage Sky TV began January with a new import from the USA (*The Extraordinary* - worth watching as LA Laws Corbin Bernsen is host!) They also repeated *Intruders* (the mini series based on Budd Hopkins research) and premiered *Fire in the Sky* (the movie about the Travis Walton abduction). Late February sees the start of the second series of the enigmatic *X-Files* (a drama with heavy UFO content).Then in April Discovery on satellite has a new 13 part *Mysterious World of Arthur C Clarke* - including abductions (ie Alan Godfrey again!)

This bombardment of programming owes a good deal to the fact that they are cheap to make and that police are refusing to support crime dramatiation shows these days fearing they glorify violence.Paranormal shows may well kill one another off though!

Still a new series of *Strange but true?* is coming and here is your chance to recommend that case (UFO or otherwise) which deserves the full Rendlesham Forest treatment. Let me know and you could end up on TV discussing it....Bet you can't wait!

NEWS ROUND UP

:: There have been two tragic losses by the UFO movement since the last issue.

Firstly,on 20 December Len Stringfield,the noted American investigator of crash-retrieval cases died at the age of 74. Len was less well known in the field over here than he deserved to be,but he was a truly nice man and a dedicated recorder of material. I was lucky enough to have spent some time talking with him on a long *Greyhound* bus trip from Washington and I never forgot that day and night.By irony I had dedicated my next book (*UFO Retrievals* - due to be published in May) to Len and I know what a debt I owe to his research and his always unselfish work.

Then,in late January 1995,came the loss of Vlad Godic at age 69 in Cairns,Queensland. Vlad was a mainstay of the serious Australian UFO movement and his publishing,along with wife Pony,has kept a generation informed about activities on that island continent. The extent of the loss is shown by the tributes pouring in over the computer nets from leading UFOlogists.

Both these men will be irreplacable.

:: UFO investigators led by Margaret Fry and Gary Rowe have decided to launch the *Welsh Federation of Independent UFOlogists*. Reasons cited in the local press refer to dissatisfaction with national group BUFORA and the enforced departure of myself as.director of investigation in late 1993. NUN readers will know all about these problems,which I will not reitterate,but which also led to BUFORAs Irish branch taking a similar breakaway stance last year. Oddly BUFORA members have not been told about these major rifts within their own magazine. Margaret tells me that the *Federation* intends to develop postal training for investigators.I have offered my support. The contact address is: **PO Box 43. Rhyl Clwyd LL18 1YW**

:: The AAC (Alien Acknowledgment Campaign) have announced big plans for 1995. These include more petitions - including one to the United Nations - all aimed at ending UFO secrecy,plus demonstrations outside the MoD in London and the Houses of Parliament to hand letters to every MP.A national UFO awareness day - when the media will be blitzed - is again set for October,and a new plan to push the UK government to release data on the Rendlesham Forest case (via a London demonstration - on 20 March). For details write to the AAC at:-
20 Newton Gardens Ripon HG4 1QF

:: At last proceedings of the June 1992 symposium at MIT (organised by Dr John Mack and others) are to appear. This week long gathering of researchers into alien abductions (including psychiatrists who had not been openly associated with the field before) thrashed things out in more depth than imaginable before or since.There were over 100 papers,many of which were built around research projects newly prepared for this (special invite/no press) event. It took time to bring to fruition because a massive task was involved editing papers and the discussions that followed. The resultant book (due in March) is far from cheap but runs to nearly 700 pages and will probably be the most comprehensive ever to appear on the abduction subject. I hope to review next issue but if you want to order an advance copy - its title is *Alien Discussions* and its cost is £50 (by airmail) ($65 by slower post) - cheques to *Proceedings:North Cambridge Press* PO Box 241 North Cambridge PO Cambridge MA 02140 USA. T:(617) 354-6007

:: Paul Davids,producer of the movie *Roswell* (due for UK release this spring and based on Kevin Randle and Don Schmitt's book *UFO Crash at Roswell*) has responded to the recent Air Force revelations damning the case as a secret balloon launch. He has produced two videos - each an hour long. Vol 1 includes movie outtakes and TV footage about the case (including also original 1947 radio broadcasts) and Vol 2 directly responds by presenting interviews with high ranking officers claiming the USAF position is false;eg (quote) 'Brigadier General Exon - base commander of Wright Patterson - confirming that Roswell was ET craft with alien bodies' and 'Brigadier General DuBose (*one of those involved in the cover-up in 1947 -JR*) saying coverup orders came from President Truman'. Sadly these videos are far from cheap - at $48.95 each or $73.95 for the two (inc postage) - thats around £33 and £50 respectively. These are also NTSC standard that will play on very few UK VCRs.For PAL versions that <u>will</u> play you have to add another $30 (or about £20) each! If you think it worthwhile pay cheques to *Paul Davids* at:-
Coverup Video 1107 Fair Oaks Ave #261 South Pasadena CA 91030 USA

:: The latest catalogues to hand come from Arcturus Books (*1443 SE Port St Lucie Blvd. Port St lucie FL 34952 USA Fax:407-337-1701)* which covers all the latest UFO books released in the USA.Also I note there is a 46 piece 'trading cards' set called 'Aliens and earthlings' (guess it had to happen sooner or later - I can still remember 'Mars attacks' cards in bubblegum when I was at school!!) These UFO Cards cost $16 to buy as a set.

Over here the new winter sale catalogue is out from Midnight Books (*The Mount Ascerton Rd Sidmouth Devon EX10 9BT - Tel 01395:515446,afternoons and evenings only Mon-Sat)* A large SAE will bring the 40 page catalogue with many second hand and new paranormal books and seven pages of UFO titles,including - at £15 - a copy of Gerald Heard's *Riddle of the Flying Saucers* - a 1950 original - the first UFO book to be published in the UK and only the second anywhere in the world by a mere few weeks.

NEW UFOLOGIST

The second edition of *New UFOlogist* has been published. Its a definite improvement on the first. Included is a piece by Albert Budden assessing a Wiltshire case in connection with his environmental health theory, my article on a strange close encounter from Todmorden (no - *not* Alan Godfrey !) ,a fine look at the UFO cover up and the media and UFOs from Neil Nixon,Paul Fuller's detailed appraisal of the Project Mogul report about the Roswell crash and other features eg reviews,letters and brief reports. A 4 issue subscription costs £8 (UK) - £12 (Europe) and $20 (US and world) from :- *New UFOlogist 71 Knight Avenue Canterbury Kent CT2 8PY Fax: 0122 - 776 - 4589*

The magazine held its first open forum in Birmingham on 19 November when progress was made planning for 1995 issues and some real UFOlogy was discussed as well. The second meeting is set.All are welcome to come and talk format and content for future issues of the worlds only democratic, non group linked UFO journal as well as to discuss with colleagues whats new in the UFO field:- *Date* **Saturday 18 March 1995** *Time* **2 - 6 pm** *Venue* **Friends Meeting House,near Albert Square,Manchester.**

This venue is in the city centre by the main library and a 1 min walk from the St Peters Square tram station.**Please confirm details via Rod Haworth on** *01282 - 451315.*

CIRCULAR LOGIC

Thanks to reader Nick Redfern for reporting on his recent meeting with the outgoing officer at Air Staff 2A (Nick Pope). In a tape recorded interview that Pope granted Nick asked the MoD man to comment on the widespread cerealogical rumours about a cabinet level meeting in autumn 1990 which supposedly discussed crop circles and set strategies afoot. Heres what Nick Pope replied:

I have never seen anything like that.What I suspect lay behind it was - when we first got letters from the public about (circles) - I suspect they went off - some to the MoD,some might have gone to the department of the environment,some might have gone to the Ministry of Agriculture,Fisheries and Food.I suspect what happened is that various people there were just trying to say 'Hey,who should be doing (dealing with) this,you or me?' and that there was a degree of talking to each other amongst officials and perhaps ministers offices (if someone had written to the secretary of state). Now I have never come across anything to indicate that meetings occurred at a high level...You know,as far as I am concerned,it just didn't happen.'

Nick Pope was always a helpful ally during his term at Air Staff 2A and had a good track record of being straight with UFOlogists.I accept that is telling it exactly as he sees it.In the absence of any positive evidence to the contrary perhaps this will scupper more tales about a crop circle cover up from the British government.

Or,then again,,little pink animals keep flying past my window going *oink*!

The latest circle magazines to report are Autumn 1994 (they seem to be running as far behind as we are!)

The CCCS offering - *The Circular* No 18 (£12.50 for 4 from *The Circular 13 West Parade Norwich NR2 3DN)* has 36 pages and a number of b & w photos of 1994 patterns.As daft as ever (the patterns,not the mag,that is!) you can see diagrams of the variety of imagination some folk put into their human engineering during 1994 (sorry - that must sound rather sceptical to many cerealogists,but surely its accurate as well) The wonderfully artistic 'scorpion' is just one of the latest animals to appear - one wonders what 'they' will think of creating during 1995

The Circular is a terrific mix of field reports and speculations from the moderately sedate to the giftedly imaginative. Worthy fun for all who still quest the 'truth'..

Of course,the dastardly *Crop Watcher* 23 (£6 for 4 from *Paul Fuller 3 Selborne Court Tavistock Close Romsey SO51 7TY)* is another matter entirely. It is out to spoil everybody's fun by exposing oodles of hoaxers, debunking the dafter theories and attempting to prove that a natural phenomenon explains a few of the simpler circle patterns.

This 28 page issue is typical. Fuller is a statistician by trade and takes apart the latest lab research findings from an American scientific team investigating circles. Then there are the hoaxing sagas (eg *hoaxers confess in a pub* - where else?) But - in sharp contrast - an investigation of newly reported accounts of what seem to be crop circle phenomena dating way back to the 1920's when Doug and Dave were still in nappies! Its sharp,satirical,downright irreverent and you either applaud its intentions loudly or you stick pins in an efigy of the editor.

FOR YOUR PERUSAL

Major articles elsewhere

Lots of magazine news to rush through this issue. Firstly sad. The superb *BAE (Bulletin of Anomalous Experience)* is taking 1995 off as its editor is getting married and moving to the USA.I trust David Gotlib will return as this is by far the best review of abductions and UFOlogy needs its presence.I gather the psychological literature abstracts - one of the many useful features - may appear elsewhere until BAE is back. But return soon,please,David.

However,a promising newcomer is also with us.This is *ELF Infested Spaces ($15 US - dollars only - for 4 from Stephen Miles Lewis PO Box 33509 Austin TX 78764)* ELF is pretty weird,blending altered states of consciousness,morphogenesis, psychotronics, UFOlogy and more into a fascinating cocktail. Only two issues have appeared so far but it is finding its feet.This is most unlike the usual fare from American UFO journals and will be of real interest to UK researchers.I'm hooked.

Albert Budden has also started to produce a newssheet to report on research into his environmental polution theory,as in *Allergies and Aliens* and a full size book this spring.If like me,you see merit in what Albert is doing then you must read his updates in *The Steady Signal.* Not planned as a subscription mag he thankfully was persuaded otherwise and it costs £1.50,$2 US (in bills) or 6 x 1st class stamps (each issue) from:- 17 Brook Rd South Brentford Middlesex TW8 ONN.

There are also some local group mags in the UK to report.*The UFO Network Nationwide UK* is the title of a new Yorkshire group and attendant magazine .Apparently it will be published on the third Wednesday of every third month. I wish I could be that sure! Cost is £1.75 per issue from Peter Cliffe at 88 Whincover Drive Old Farnley Leeds LS12 5JT. Issue one is mostly introductory;although there are a couple of press cuttings inside.

Longer established is *EMUFORA (East Midlands UFO Research Association Quarterly).* which is a traditional local group mag with articles,east midlands sightings etc. It has 4 issues behind it now and costs £5 for 4 from EMUFORA 8 Roosa Close Hempshill Vale Bulwell Nottingham NG6 7BL

Finally,five issues in and well bedded in is *SUFORIN Newsletter* - SUFORIN being the Somerset UFO Research & Investigation Network. The mag has lots of articles,humorous letters,good local cases and is the first I have seen to include one of those wretched 3D pictures which I presume is somehow UFO related (wouldn't know as I can never see a thing in any of them). Subscription is to the group at £12 (for 6 mags I think) via SUFORIN 50 Polkes Field Stoke St Gregory Taunton Somerset TA3 6EX

UFO Times (BUFORA) with BUFORA sub
BM BUFORA London WC1N 3XX
I have to say recent issues have been dire,but from No 33 a big improvement is in evidence.A few glitches still but progress. Reviews Col Halt 'in concert' lecture last year.

OVNI (PRA) £1 each
12 Tilton Grve Ilkeston Derbyshire DE7 4GR
Jan - John Mack gives his exclusive vuews on the recent BBC Horizon programme (see last issue).He was unimpressed by Sue Blackmore.

Pegasus (SIGAP) £2 each
126 Grange Rd Guildford GU2 6QP
A real assortment of articles on Roswell, MIBs,ancient astronauts,face on mars,etc.The best UK mag on the ET hypothesis.

Magonia 51 £5 for 4
5 James Terrace London SW14 8HB
Psycho-social UFOlogy with deep and sometimes penetrating (or waffling) articles - exposing ritual abuse and tales about trams!

IUR Nov/Dec 1994 $30 US for 6
2457 W Peterson Ave Chicago IL 60659
Top US mag.Kevin Randle on Project Mogul

MUFON Journal $30 US for 12
103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin TX 78155-4099
Wide ranging...Oct: Look at analysis on sounds recorded from UFOs...Nov:Latest Gulf Breeze photos assessed...Dec:Keith Basterfield on the paranormal within close encounters.

Just Cause Sep 1994 $20 US for 4
Box 176 Stoneham MA 02180 USA
The best mag for US cover-up and document retrieval work.Healthily cautious too.This issue debates a recovered Roswell memo.

Swamp Gas Journal Fall 94 No price given
Box 1918 Winnipeg Manitoba R3C 3R2
Canadian mag presents 6 pages of editor Chris Rutkowski's always intertesting thoughts on latest UFO and crop circle happenings.

World UFO Journal 7 No price given
16 Newton Green Gt Dunmow CM6 1DU
Ed Harris with the best old style UFO mag in the UK - hardly changed in 25 years.Lots of obscure article reprints,press cuttings and photos.Always something to read.

The Skeptic Vols 8-4 & 8 - 5 £12 for 6
Dept B PO Box 475 Manchester M60 2TH
Organ of the UK and Irish skeptics catches up a bit with two near simultaneous issues.Not much of direct relevance this time,but - despite pigheadedness - should be monitored.

PSI Researcher Winter 94 £7.95 for 4
SKS 20 Paul St Frome Somerset BA11 1DX
Probably the most accessible UK mag on serious psychic research,this SPR offering has a nice blend of articles,abstracts and cases.

Fortean Times 78 £2 in shops or £12 for 6
Box 2409 London NW5 4NP
Only UK newstand mag on the paranormal worth the money - with humour too!.Here Dennis Stacy reviews the Roswell evidence.

The Ley Hunter 122 £5.25 for 3
PO Box 92 Penzance Cornwall TR18 2BX
Paul Devereux is an important figure in UFO research,even though his main forte is earth mysteries.TLH is a must read magazine as it addresses the link between earth energies and consciousness.For example,Albert Budden reviews another classic case via his theory.

Strange Fall 94 £13.50 for 4 *(M.Chorvinsky)*
PO Box 2246 Rockville MD 20847 USA
Great mag - sort of American FT. Cases, articles,glossy too.Here a time travel special.

Fate Feb 1995 $29.50 US for 12
Box 1940 170 Future Way Marion OH 43305
The worlds oldest journal with monthly UFO column.An amazing 539 issues behind it! Always has interesting articles,letters and readers stories on all aspects of the paranormal.A great way to keep in touch and not expensive either. *Excalibur Books (Tel 01247-458579) sell issues in UK at £2.75*

HORIZON: The response

I am very grateful to psychologist Sue Blackmore who took time out from her busy schedule to respond to my disappointed comments in the last NUN.

If you recall these were about her presentation of the BBC *Horizon* programme reporting alien abductions in November 1994. I was disturbed that such a fair minded sceptic as she appeared to ignore serious UFOlogy (especially in the UK - where the series was made) and put across - on air and in attendant publicity - an image that to my mind implied that all UFOlogists were devoid of rationality.

Moreover,the programme suggested to many reviewers that only this trail blazing show had found some sensible answers via science,for which she received considerable media plaudits. Problem was this was research many UFOlogists had done themselves and written about for more than a decade - but for which zero credit was actually given.

To be fair to Dr Blackmore I will summarise her side of things here.

She tells me that when she was invited to front the programme the entire concept,layout and its participants were already set by the production crew.It was decided that there would be two weeks filming and that all of this would be done in the USA. She notes that she was just the presenter.

Sue adds that she wrote her own words and directed her interviews but had no control over later editing of the programme. Indeed, she mentions the final scene.This has created some curious ripples and appeared to backtrack from scepticism with an out line that almost supported the reality of aliens after doing a good job of dismissing them in the previous 50 minutes. Sue says she was just told what to say here and so she said it.

I do appreciate her admission to having done no reading on the subject until just before work began and,importantly,that she does think British UFOlogists were sold short by the programme but is not clear why.

I thank Sue for the fairness of these comments. She also notes that I ought to understand TV better having been involved behind the scenes myself. That may be true,and I did say in the last NUN that I appreciated where some of the blame must lay. However,I fear that Dr Blackmore's response has not entirely left me satisfied

Accepting,as she does,that *Horizon* sold UFOlogy short,could she not have made more of an effort to put this into her script? If she wrote what she said,surely it could have been made clear at some point by her own words that British UFOlogy had supported research into those key ideas that were here being presented as if newly discovered?

I fear that Dr Blackmore has to take some responsibility that this did not occur. Also she had opportunities to set the matter straight - eg in her *New Scientist* article previewing the series.

Certainly one cannot blame Dr Blackmore for the inadequacies of the production team. Presumably,their choice to present things as *science versus the UFO buffs* was a conscious one.However,in making that choice they missed out much vital data that serious UFOlogy has uncovered,rejected perhaps because nobody with a PhD had suggested it. The creative visualisation,early life recall,ESP track records,temporal lobe epilepsy,migraine history,Oz factor,bedroom lightball clues, etc, are but some examples of nuggets the programme missed by pretending that UFOlogy was *only* about the ETH.

What if Sue had *insisted* to the production team that the programme was unfair to serious UFOlogy,as she now says it was? I have sympathy for the problems that Dr Blackmore faced.But one is left feeling that she maybe could have done a bit more.

Sorry,but that is my opinion. To her it was a TV opportunity. To UFOlogists it was a programme with long term repercussions that will effect scientific attitudes for years. *Horizon.* has credibility in many eyes.This programme took decades of struggle by serious researchers, effectively hijacked that work and put it across as the discovery of sceptical science. It created an illusion that UFOlogy is no more than people with very strange ideas.

Like it or not Dr Blackmore was an integral part in such an erosion of our efforts to achieve respectability. Much as I respect her work and personal integrity there are some of us who will take a long time to forget her hour of TV glory. To her perhaps it *was* just a job. But to us it was a great deal more than that.

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT

Staffordshire:Its magic and mystery
Cheshire: Its magic and mystery
184 pp illus Sigma,1994 ..Doug Pickford

Sigma have produced quite a number of books about mysteries around Britain in recent years.Often the authors are well known to UFOlogists (eg Paul Devereux,David Clarke,Peter Hough and myself). These latest two were released together at £7.95 each from the founder of the Green Dragon investigators.

By trade Doug is a newspaper editor in Macclesfield and so the writing is top notch.He is also an expert in local legends and these books are strong on that aspect of the two counties.Indeed,that is really what these volumes are all about.There is rather less in the way of modern day mystery in their pages.

The Staffordshire book does,however, have a 12 page chapter on UFO activity (of which there has always been plenty in this area).This includes a full report on the baffling abduction case from near Leek (briefly summarised last issue). This is an important case and well worth your attention.

Overall,these books are a good read and a fine addition to Sigmas series.Anyone researching the history of the supernatural in the north Midlands will want to own them.

Fortean Studies Vol 1 (1994) Ed:Steve Moore
350 pp illus £19.99 (Overseas £22/ $44 US)

A new venture from Fortean Times is a year end annual which promises much..Mail order is your only source via:- 'Fortean Times' at *20 Paul St Frome Somereset BA11 1DX* or *Box 754 Manhasset NY 11030-0754 USA.*

So what do you get for your money? A dozen,self contained research articles varying in size from a few pages to Mike Dash's brilliant 80 page review of everything you ever needed to know on the 'Devils Hoofprints' found in the snow across large parts of Devon during 1855 - a mystery as big in its day as crop circles and still unresolved.

There is more directly relevant UFOlogy in here as well.Anne Silk has a curious piece linking abductions with eye anomalies,well researched despite its oddity value.There are also reports on the 1909 airship wave in New England and luminous flying owl sightings in Norfolk.

With fabulous cross referenced indexes - including for all 1993 issues of FT - this is a great first effort. Dont miss out.Buy it.

Supernatural Britain by Peter Hough
216 pp illus £12.99 Piatkus Books,1995

Peter described this to me as a sort of supernatural version of the AA book of the road.Indeed it is a tourist guide to the castles,haunted houses,ancient sites,window areas and the like throughout Britain.

Lots of stories associated with these areas are briefly recapitulated and,given Peter's background, you will not be surprised that UFOs figure prominently.Bonnybridge, Warminster, Dyfed, Rendlesham Forest, Ilkley Moor and others all appear. In some respects this parallels books by Janet & Colin Bord,but wheras their titles tend to focus on stone circles and earth mystery sites,Peter really looks at more obviously paranormal matters.

There may be little that you will not be familiar with in these pages - as it is probably more directed at casual day trippers and tourists and so its cases are old favourites. However,its strength lies in the information it provides about the various sites - with sketch maps,route references, accessibility, opening times , phone numbers,etc. All useful stuff.

If you want to spend a few weekends seeing the supernatural sights of Britain this book would be the ideal guide to take along.

MEDIA MATTERS

I got a bit worried when I saw the *Sunday Telegraph* (15 Jan 1995).In a huge feature on what they appeared to consider the eight oddest magazines on sale in Britain I found that I read two of them! Seeing *Classic Bus* listed was no surprise.People tend to think that no buses - let alone old ones - can be interesting. However,BUFORAs *UFO Times* stood alongside *Funeral Service Journal* and *Beer Mat magazine* and so made it into the charts as well - which given the contents of issues around time of this report may not be such a big surprise. The paper had to mention that tosh BUFORA published about the secrets of free energy - which I just knew would return to haunt them one day.That day just came rather sooner than expected.

We should not be shocked,therefore, that the *South Wales Echo* (2 Jan 1995) carried a dramatic piece entitled 'count me out if its UFOs' - in which a cynical reporter explained why he wont be at the Cardiff conference in August (see page 16). He calls UFOlogists 'celestial trainspotters' who *know,really KNOW,that flying saucers haven't only landed but are still landing.*

In the rest of his tirade this journalist terms UFOlogy *gibberish* and says that if you are looking for Barnums *one born every minute* (ie a sucker) then go to a UFO conference. He ridicules a local 'UFO expert' (a term reporters use,not we) as *a phrase with no meaning at all.* As for *UFO* magazine he says the real conspiracy is not a UFO cover up but one by UFOlogists *keeping the pot boiling,'cos theres gold in them thar aliens.*

If you want to send him a bouquet this writer was Dan O'Neill.Maybe you can ask how he tells readers he has *seen* 'the famous tape of the alleged UFOs hovering in the woods near a US airbase in Suffolk" This is quite clever as there is no video of the Rendlesham case only an audio tape - which I've *seen* too - but it doesn't do very much expect go round and round in my hi-fi.

Are you surprised,therefore,that in an interview for *The Times* (6 Jan 1995) to promote the *Network First* programme Tim Good tried to disown the UFO community, saying *Don't call me a UFOlogist. I'm a researcher.* Sorry - Tim - like it or not you're a UFOlogist too. We all are..

Five days later this paper attacked TV for taking pseudo-science too seriously.Of the *Horizon* episode (see report earlier) it says;this *gave too much time to people who believe they have been abducted by aliens and much less to the dull conclusions of the British psychologist that none of the fantasies could be supported by fact.* Which was not exactly what Sue Blackmore said,was it?

Even the *Financial Times* (23 Nov 1994) attacked TVs obsession with the paranormal,citing *Schofields Quest* and *Strange but True?* These they liken to *old weekly tabloids...designed to make the onlooker say fancy that! AAAh or possibly OO-er...even when it could be called journalism there is a distinct lack of ideas.*

Of course,science has an answer to this.*Worcester Evening News* (28 Dec 1994) amongst others explained that *viewers of Michael Aspel's recent TV programme Strange but True? are more likely to believe a supernatural event if they see a televised representation.* Professor Glenn Sparks came up with this finding in the CSICOP mag *Skeptical Inquirer* it seems.

I see now what Sue Blackmore meant earlier.It was considered Michael Aspels show because he *presented* it. Those of us working on it for six months know he only spent a few days to record his links.He was not involved in any of the research or the filming of the cases.

BRIEF CASES

As last issue here are some more recent reports from the media which I hope groups are even now scuttling around to follow up.

9418 4 November 1994 Seaton Ross,N.Yorks

A roadsweeper was driving his truck between Sutton on Derwent and Melbourne at 10.30 am on this day when he spotted a huge white light below low cloud. He moved on and it resolved into two adjacent lights *20 times the size of an aircraft light* These hovered at the base of very thick cloud.He found somewhere to stop but by then they had disappeared.

9419 17 November 1994 York,North Yorks

A pensioner saw a blue ball of light in the sky through her peephole at 02.00. She watched it hover over the building for some time mystified by its brilliance but went to bed shaking with fear.I suspect this was mistaken identity for venus which caused many encounters this winter when very bright.

In a possibly related *Case 9420* three witnesses at Edwinstowe,Notts on the same night as above saw an object over the Center Parcs leisure site.This was described as a bright light that kept changing shape.

9421 27 November 1994 Old Swan,Liverpool

This case caused some national interest as Merseyside police were quoted as being baffled.But it appears less mysterious when you assess it in detail.At 20.00 a man working outside called his wife out to see a *spaceship* . It was *an oval shape shooting around surrounded by lights.* This is intriguing,but across Old Swan another couple independently told police of the same event.They were stargazing and saw *about 20 lights which seemed to be stuck together then separated at high speed...(then) they seemed to be separating,then coming together,lots of little lights as if they were baby spaceships surrounding a bigger one.* Seasoned investigators should spot the signs of a laser light display in this classic account.Its identity is unknown,but it could have been miles away.The description seems clear to me.

9422 29 November 1994 Barnoldswick,Lancs

Afraid you dont have to be a genius to work this one out. A woman waving a friend off to work at 7 am saw a large white disc that hovered for ages and faded as the sun rose and sky brightened.Next morning it was in the same spot.Hands up all who **didnt** say venus.

9423 15 December 1994 Bakewell,Derbyshire

A truck driver reported a *rocket* crashing from the sky over Hardwick Hall near Bakewell in the early hours.Eight officers searched the area around junction 29 of the M1 but nothing was found.There were other reports of meteors that night (see also later Cheshire sighting report for two or three hours earlier) and this sounds very much like a fireball meteor.

9424 20 December 1994 Warrington,Cheshire

A white light was seen to hover over the roof of a retired man as he got up at dawn to talk to his bird! The local press say aliens have visited Thelwall.I reckon it was venus again.

9425 31 December 1994 Bradley,Derbyshire

Man visiting his daughter saw round object with 50 green lights on the side. It was the size of the full moon.A yell - ow glow surrounded it. After 2 / 3 mins it shot away in the direction of Belper at 2000 ft high

MORE WELSH WONDERS

Investigations by Margaret Fry

Dog burnt by UFO... In this remarkable sighting (*Case 6409 March 1964)* a severe form of animal interference is recorded.

The witness,Ms W,was living in council houses on a steep hill beside Denbigh Castle in Clywd. She was up late studying when at about 1.30 am she heard her terrier dog yelping .She knew it was on the back patio and looked through the kitchen window to see him cowering beside a bush in clear distress.

Rushing out,Ms W saw that a beam of light was coming from the sky and enveloping the dog.She could see no source.

Reacting instinctively the woman picked up her pet and immediately felt a burning sensation as she touched the beam. Without looking upward she fled indoors with the animal and noticed that her arm was burnt and remained in pain for some time. The dog also suffered discomfort from what she took to be skin burns that persisted a short time.

Any ideas on this one? I dont have a clue,but it reminds me of the *hot dog* case from Oswestry,Shropshire,see *Crop Circles.*

Case 6735 is even more remarkable and is ***a possible abduction.***

Mr E was 19 at the time (unknown date in 1967).At 19.20 he was returning from work over Hiraethog Moors,a very remote area of Clwyd. His walk normally took half an hour for the couple of miles between the tiny villages of Bontuchel and Clocaenog.

This stretch,in fact,has many supernatural traditions. There are repored instances of cars ending up in ditches without any memory by the driver as to how this has occurred.There are also reports of ghostly horse riders and phantom coaches well known to the locals.

Mr E spotted a red blotch in the sky that puzzled him,but it then came down to tree top level and resolved into a disc with a flat base which Margaret describes as *an Adamski type craft.*

As Mr E watched in fear a beam of light emerged and he also heard a humming sound.There was an acrid smell like sulphur too. The man looked all around him for somewhere to hide,but luck was on his side.A vehicle was heard coming over the lonely and narrow B5105 heading towards Cerrigydrudion.

Mr E recognised the driver of what turned out to be a pick-up truck.He did not know him except by acquaintance but he lept into the back and they drove off. The driver saw the UFO,which now headed towards them displaying a rocking (or *falling leaf)* motion. In a moment it was directly overhead and the two men were screaming at it to go away.

Almost as soon as they were aware of the object being overhead,the scene changed. Now the truck was on a different part of the road and they were driving slowly.The object had gone.

Back at Mr Es home his mother was worried.It was now 8.45 pm and he was about an hour late.She thought he must have had an accident.They both told what they had seen upon arrival but this was the first awareness the two men had that there was a time lapse.

Margaret first heard this story from Mr E in 1989 via his stepdaughter who worked at her hairdressers,but has tracked him down as she can now fulfill his desire for regression hypnosis. He believes this may help unravel what took place,which all these years later still bothers him.If it does,we will publish Margarets report,of course.

UFO photographed over Boggart haunt
9426 1 March 1994 Blackley,Manchester

Margaret Fry sends this report which I gather originates with a local man.I hope that NARO will pursue it in detail.

It seems that at 19.30 on this evening a disc-like object was seen by dozens of people who stopped their cars as they passed by Boggart Hole Clough,a wooded valley and park in north Manchester.Several children and nurses in a ward at Booth Hall Hospital observed it too,as did residents of an old peoples home by the park.The warden here and a nurse at the hospital took photographs of the UFO but what these show is unknown.

Boggart Hole Clough is allegedly haunted.Indeed the name Boggart derives from the ancient Lancashire term for a ghost or demon.The UFO was stationary above the Dargons Tooth - apparently an ancient marker stone reputed to be part of a ley system

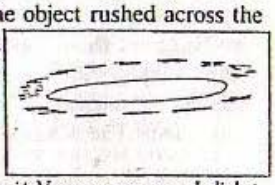
Clearly more work needs to be done on this promising case. Vic Sleigh is investigating.

9427 24 October 1994 Burnley,Lancashire

Jonathon Dillon reports that a man was in his kitchen when multicoloured lights were seen moving over Scots Park.It was 60 feet up but as he went into his yard to look further the object drifted over woodland and disappeared silently SW toward Rose Hill.

9428 22 November 1994 Birkenhead,Mersey

Mr H told Wallasey investigator Mark Andrews that at 23.40 he was looking at the stars when he spotted a *spaceship* emerging from within their midst. This made him feel *very happy inside my body when I saw this happen.* The object rushed across the sky silently and it disappeared. Only a few seconds seem to have been involved. Mr H says *this is true because I saw it.No one can say I didnt*

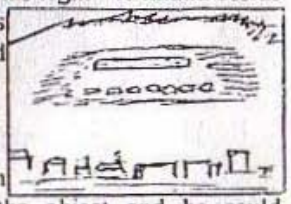


The Helsby Hill collosus

9429 2 December 1994 Helsby,Cheshire

Mr T had been in Chester working at the records office and was late for tea so was hurrying home to Sale (at 90 mph he admits!) He was on the M56 at about 17.05 and approaching the Helsby Hill area,a craggy rock on the estuary visible to all passers by with its resemblance to a human face.

Suddenly he spotted a saucer shaped object ahead and to his right - ie inland beside the hill itself.He was immediately puzzled by what he was seeing - slowing down to keep an eye on it. There was a thickish mist surrounding the object and he could make out no fuselage,just two lines of light.



At first he took this to be a very low flying aircraft,perhaps going to Speke just across the Mersey estuary.But as he closed in and passed by the object it was clearly stationary. He could make out one big oblong window coloured blue and others that were neon coloured. Light from the object seemed to be illuminating the ground below.

Mr T kept looking in his mirror and hoping that other traffic would notice the object,but nobody seemingly did. Yet,he says,it was *a colossal spaceship*. As he drove past he lost it and considered turning off at the nearby Preston Brook interchange to go back,but decided his wife would not appreciate it if he was any later.

At first this case suggested an airship but none were in the area and it is unlikely they would hover so close to the hill in the dark. One possibility is that there is a restaurant atop the hill.Whilst the lights from this would not normally be either big or puzzling,if seen through mist and magnified (as mist can do) it is possible that they could have created a UFO like shape.

Indeed, the UFO picture taken by Roy Sandbach in Stockport and included inside *UFOs and how to see them* (and in colour on the cover of the softback and the US editions) shows this effect very well. That is,in fact,a hilltop hotel in very similar conditions and you can see how UFO like it appears.

The witness to this case however was certain that he saw something truly unusual.

UFO CALL 0891 - 12 18 86

39p per min off peak.UK only.Updated by Jenny Randles Saturdays with latest news.

9430 7 December 1994 Blackburn,Lancs

A couple getting ready for work at 7am saw two lights like car headlights in the sky.They rushed out onto the lawn in time to see one fly silently over their rooftop and accelerate away towards Billinge Wood at speed. Mr R is a former RAF serviceman and was baffled by what these objects might be.

Mersey rock group in UFO shock

9431 9 December 1994 Rainhill,Merseyside

Mr L is a member of a Merseyside rock group (sorry I have been asked not to say which one!) He called the other day to report this encounter.

He was returning from a gig with a guitarist of the group who was in the back of his car. It was about 04.00 when they suddenly had a surprise. Looking left over Hough Green as they passed on the M62 near Rainhill they saw a *weird looking plane*.

At first it was assumed that this had taken off from Speke Airport in that direction. Indeed it climbed away NW conventionally. However,as it came near to them they rejected this conclusion when it changed appearance quite drastically.The object altered from an oblong shape to become a huge circle of lights which flashed in sequence red and white. The craft was now enormous and silent (although they continued driving all the time so sound may have been obscured).

Mr L lost the UFO as it passed above but the other man in the back seat says that he continued to watch and it vanished suddenly as if all the lights just switched off.

9432 14 December 1994 Burnley.Lancashire

Mr H spotted a vapour trail descending vertically out of the NW sky at 03.30 and went outside to investigate.At 04.00 another appeared crossing the sky and remained until pre dawn clouds were visible. Then he saw a spear head shaped object coloured burnished orange streak along this trail NW in a few seconds.Possibly a meteor?

9433 14 December 1994 Handforth,Cheshire

Mrs B was driving to the brow of the hill on Wilmslow Road at 22.25 when she saw two white lights separated by a blue shadow dead ahead in the north.These shot across the sky in seconds. Manchester Airport is 2 miles west and a fireball meteor is also an option.

Case Histories

There's an alien at my window

Time was when a photograph supposedly depicting an alien entity was very rare indeed.One can think of some dubious 1950's shots (actually German press April Fools hoaxes) and the police officer Jeff Greenhaw case from Falkville,Alabama which appears to be someone in a silver suit trying to set up the unfortunate witness - indeed,he was later driven out of town.

Then,in December 1987,along came the still contentious Ilkley Moor *little green man* abduction case (see the six-part series of reports in NUN during 1988 and 1989 - despite which,unbelievably,Peter Hough, NARO and myself were accused of covering it up!)

More recently still has been the even more controversial case from Canada where the anonymous 'Guardian' sent in video footage of a UFO along with dubious looking freeze frame shots of a *grey* .

However,early in 1995 *two* new British cases surfaced via the local press. Whilst neither of these has yet been followed through it is worth presenting a report.

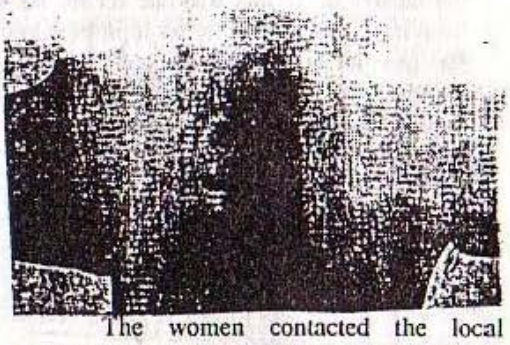
The first was forwarded to me by local reader Zena Williams on Humberside:-

An elderly lady and her 38 year old daughter live at Withernsea,a remote spot on the Humber estuary.They were staying at a bungalow in Sproatley,a village north east of Hull - date unclear but around October 1994.

During their stay in this cottage numerous strange things reputedly happened. These included the sound on their hi-fi system turning up and down on its own and an unexplained fire that seriously burnt the property not long after one of the many light in the sky type UFOs had been spotted. Other members of the family saw some of these UFOs when they stayed at the bungalow .

The strangest sighting involved huge orange balls that hovered above the house.Then a white ball with a 'shutter' on it appeared overhead.The women - who were then outside - fled indoors. The sky reputedly changed colour,a loud noise like a jet aircraft on take-off filled the air and all the local burglar alarms were set off (presumably by the vibration). The women were too frightened to look outside but the daughter pointed a camera through the window and just took a picture. Indentations were found in the grass outside the bungalow the next day and these are considered to be possible landing marks.

I cannot,of course,reproduce the photo itself,but the image below is a good likeness of the print - which only shows areas of light and dark that one could interpret as a 'face'.



The women contacted the local military and the police,but neither had any explanation to offer.Early in 1995 a giant white light was seen from their Withernsea home hovering over the sea for *two hours*. This could have been venus - but they called the police again,who just told them to take more photographs.

According to the local paper these photographs are being sent to NASA experts by UFOlogists who think they are *some of the most exciting taken in Britain.* If so then the originals presumably look more impressive.

Chris Lawson,a BUFORA investigator unknown to me,is said to be investigating. The photos are to go to the USA for *light blasting* (a method used on the infamous 'road shot' at Gulf Breeze) and MUFON are also said to want to study them.

In addition,Mr Lawson is quoted as saying *I intend to have (the daughter) go through a hypnothereapy session* . BUFORA is supposed to have a moritorium effectively *banning* this method (and - despite my enforced departure from BUFORAs investigation team - I was assured this policy was still in effect).No time lapse appears in evidence in the testimony that I have seen.

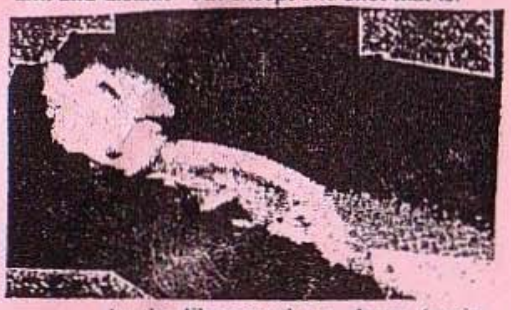
Obviously,this is a case that deserves much more study and we will no doubt here a lot more about it from BUFORA in due course.I am prepared to be convinced that the photograph *does* show 'an alien face peering through the window' ,but no such thing can be argued with conviction as yet,I suspect.

The second case *might* prove a little more straightforward but has a strangely similar genesis.

The events began in October 1994 at Tovil,Maidstone.Kent when a man and his girlfriend spotted strange lights in the sky.These will sound familiar to investigators.

The woman says that they were pale and like a lot of circles joined together and that these were hovering.They moved back and forth across a small part of the sky for many minutes,and ,here is the big clue,*over the next few weeks the lights came back nearly every night that the sky was overcast.*

After many sightings the man,a keen amateur photographer,fixed a telephoto lens to his camera and took several shots of the lightsource.This was on one unrecalled night in November 1994 at some time after 10 pm.All the pictures were returned blank - unsurprisingly as the lights seem to have been dim and distant - All except *one* shot that is!



As the likeness above shows (again not the picture,itself,sadly, of course) this was anything but blank,depicting a mans face in shadow with eyes looking downward. Had the pilot of the UFO been captured on film?

To be fair , the photographer gave the picture to *Kent Today* and asked readers to come up with an alternative rational solution. You might be able to offer thoughts via the paper as well,if they are still interested.

The medias own photographer noted that the image appeared to resemble a screen shot from a TV set.The angled illuminated strip was characteristic of the effect when the camera shutter speed and sweep rate of the TV were not synchronised.Anyone who has tried to film a TV picture with their camera will know the problem of this effect.You must set the shutter speed to a certain level to avoid it.

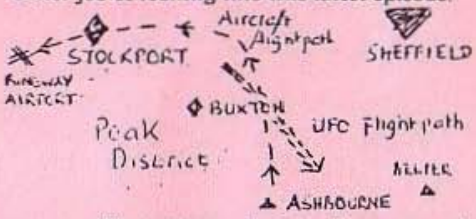
The witness wants to believe this theory,it seems,but is adamant that he never took pictures of a TV screen.He was *outside* filming the sky,he insists. One reader wrote in to suggest that the shot was actor Raymond Massey in the SF movie *Things to Come*.

A local UFO group and ASSAP have both offered to study the case.But nobody seems to have yet pointed out that the UFO ***surely*** was a distant laser display reflecting off cloud.The description and longevity of sighting is too identical to be otherwise. So could a stray shot of a TV screen from another film have got mixed up during processing?

Another mid-air encounter
9501 6 January 1995 Peak District Hills

Regular readers will need no reminding that I have on severeal occasions referenced the dramatic spate of mid air encounters between British jets and UFOs.A report in *The Times* (2 Feb) states that there have been 4 of these since 1987.In fact,there have been more than twice as many - involving *Dan-Air,Alitalia,British Airways* and *Britannia*.In at least two radar trackings of lozenge shaped objects were reported.

There is no doubt that this is a worrying trend. A pathetic report from hatchet man sceptic Peter Brookesmith which *Magonia* printed in issue 50 (and I replied to in issue 51) spuriously attacked me for my report on a few such cases in *The Paranormal Year* - even though I think that account was an accurate summation. He evidently feels there is nothing in these events but I hope he does a better job of looking into this latest episode.



The above sketch illustrates the approximate course of a British Airways Boeing 737 on flight BA 5061 - inbound from Milan to Manchester Airport and carrying 60 passengers and two cockpit crew.Only the pilot (Roger Wills) and copilot (Mark Stuart) appear to have been witnesses.

Whilst NARO investigations are continuing I thank Roy Sandbach for discovering that on the night in question the flight was four minutes early and landed at Ringway at 19.01.The encounter took place when the jet was heading north over the south Derbyshire Pennines and about to start a descent from 13,000 feet at about 18.44.

Suddenly a bright light appeared dead ahead and seemed to streak towards the jet.The crew admit that they ducked instinctively,fearing an impact,but none followed and looking up they were just in time to watch as the brilliant object shot past their right hand side on a south easterly course.They made out a vague triangular shape and from these estimates we could argue that the duration of the encounter was about 5 seconds . They thought that the object was at about their height only yards away from them - subjective and unlikely estimations.

It is difficult to be precise as to where the aircraft was,but it would not have been far from Ashbourne on its flight north across the southern Peak District. This area has generated various ground-based UFO sightings of triangular and manta ray shaped craft in the past decade or so! There was also a mini flap of sightings around nearby Belper during the first couple of days of January 1995 and a sighting at Bradley - just outside Ashbourne - only seven days before the aircraft encounter (see case 9425 - this issue).

The pilot contacted Manchester air traffic control immediately after the sighting but they only had the Boeing 737 on radar.No other nearby aircraft was tracked.The crew nonetheless decided to file a report - after initial reluctance for fear of ridicule.The civil aviation authority in late January were said to be holding an official air-miss investigation,as was launched into several of the earlier cases - none of which were resolved by it. However, bizarely,when asked to comment the CAA claimed to have been *unable to trace the aircraft involved.* Given that we know the date,time,airline,flight number and names of the crew involved this seems ludicrous!

Obviously,at this stage the object is a UFO which *may* be explained. The CAA are contemplating a stealth jet - although *Janes Defence Weekly* repudiated that idea .The *Times'* suggest a *'high flying radio controlled model aircraft'* (at 13,000 feet?),which seems a little unlikely.

My main caution here would be that,as reports in NUN show,there have been an unusual number of bright fireball meteors between late November and late January (see examples this issue on 14 & 15 December and more for January will follow in the next issue).

This mid-air encounter could have been another example;with the shape caused by the near head on approach of the aircraft. However, we have no other sightings for that night,which given the time of day (early evening) seems hard to imagine - except,of course,that the Boeing was above low cloud and ground observors simply might not have been able to see any meteor as this would inevitably have been far above this blanket.

This theory cannot be a certain explanation,but it is a possibility that does not seem to have been considered by the investigating authorities. Time,no doubt,will tell us how viable it is,particularly if the crw can be interviewed. In addition,if we can get the official CAA report we will let you know what it has to say.

STOP THE PRESS

Sat 18 March 2 - 6 pm Friends Meeting House,Manchester - *New UFOlogist* open to all free gathering - *see page 6 for details.*

Sat 22 April 10 am - 5 pm St Mary Abbots Church ,Vicarage Gate, London W8 - *SPR study day on alien abductions* - Sue Blackmore, Manfred Cassirer,Hilary Evans, Kevin McClure,Ralph Noyes,Jenny Randles & John Rimmer. *£18 (deduct members £3, OAPs £2,Students £4)*via 49 Marloes Rd Kensington London W8 6LA Tel: 0171-937-8984

Sat 22 /Sun 23 April 10 am - 6 pm University Union, Malet St, London W1 - *Fortean Times Unconvention* - full debates UFO Crash/retrievals (Sat), Near Death (Sun) - many lecturers inc Dr Sue Blackmore,Jerome Clark,Loren Coleman, Andy Collins, Paul Devereux, Kevin McClure, Lynn Picknett, Jenny Randles, Colin Wilson & George Wingfield *£10 per day,£15 both (£2.50 per day extra after 31 March)* via Unconvention FREEPOST SW6096 Frome Somerset BA11 1YA Credit card bokings Tel : 01373-451777

Sat 26 / Sun 27 August Power House,Cardiff - *South Wales UFO Group ' conference of the century' (!)* David Icke, Proffesor John Mack, Reg Presley,Michael Roll,Jenny Randles,Busty Taylor and others. *Full weekend booking only at £25 (all sales close 30 June)* via: K.Blower 10 Glaslyn Ct Croesyceiliog Cwmbran Gwent NP44 2JE Tel: 01633 - 874983

Local groups in the north

Scotland

SPI 41 The Braes Tullibody Scotland FK10 2TT
SRUFO 129 Langton Vw East Calder EH53 0RE
SEMR 35 Fountain Rd Bridge of Allan FK9 4AU

North East

NUFORI 14 Longhirst Drve Newcastle NE13 6JW
CONECT 5 Stocks Hill Menston Ilkley LS29 6ND

North West

NLUFOIG 89 Bare Lane Morecambe LA4 6RN
LAPIS 293 Devonshire Rd Blackpool FY2 0TW
NARO * 2 Grosvenor Rd Congleton CW12 4PG
*(*NUFON files - for access call 01942-604265)*

North Midlands

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GRN DRAGON 24 Nab Hill Dr Leek ST13 8EE
EMUFORA 8 Roosa Close Nottingham NG6 7BL

South Midlands

PARASRCH 79 Sandringham Rd StourbridgeDY7
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